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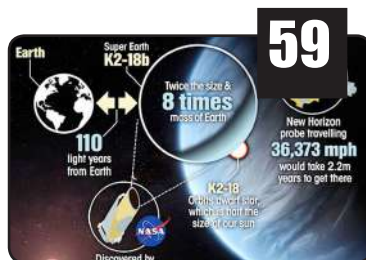
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1.1 Important Days

Date	Day	Theme
25-9-2019	Antyodaya Diwas	To commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a noted philosopher, historian and political activist.
25-9-2019	World Pharmacists day	"Safe and effective medicines for all".
	President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurates India Water Week	"Water cooperation-coping with 21 st -century challenge"
26-9-2019	International day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons	
26-9-2019	World Environmental Health Day	"Climate change challenges, time for global Environmental Health to act in unison".
26-9-2019	World Maritime Day 2019	"Empowering women in the maritime community"
26-9-2019	World Contraception day	
27-9-2019	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Jobs: A Better Future For All.
28-9-2019	World Rabies Day	"Rabies: Vaccinate to Eliminate".
28-9-2019	International Day for Universal Access to Information	The theme "Leaving No One Behind!".
29-9-2019	World Deaf Day	World Deaf Day (WDD) which is usually observed every year on the last Sunday in the month of September, was observed on September 29, 2019.
29-9-2019	World Heart Day	The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness on Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures.
30-9-2019	International Translation Day	"Translation and Indigenous Languages".
01-10-2019	International Day of Older Persons	The theme for the year 2019 is "The Journey to Age Equality".
01-10-2019	International coffee day	

01-10-2019	World Vegetarian day	
02-10-2019 to 08-10-2019	Wild Life week	
01-10-2019	94th Raising Day of MNS celebrated	The 94 th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) is being celebrated on 1 October 2019.
02-10-2019	150th Gandhi Jayanti	
04-10-2019	World Space Week	"The Moon: Gateway to the Stars"
04-10-2019	World Animal Day	
05-10-2019	World Teachers' Day	'Young Teachers: The future of the Profession'.
2 – 8 October	Wildlife week celebrated all over the country	"Life Below Water: For People And Planet"
07-10-2019	World Habitat Day	The theme is built on last year's theme "Municipal Solid Waste Management.
08-10-2019	Indian Air Force celebrated 87th Air Force Day on October 8, 2019 in Uttar Pradesh	The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 87 th anniversary on Air Force Day at Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
	WTO to host first World Cotton Day celebrations in Geneva	World Trade Organisation, WTO will host the first World Cotton Day (WCD) celebrations in Geneva. This event stems from the application by the Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali) to the United Nations General Assembly
09-10-2019	World Post Day	The day aims to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives.
10-10-2019	World Mental Health Day	"Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention"
10-10-2019	World Sight Day	The theme for the year 2019 is "Vision First".
11-10-2019	International girl child day	Girl force – Unscripted and unstoppable
11-10-2019	World Obesity Day	Aims to raise awareness on obesity and ways to prevent them and also maintaining a healthy weight and reverse obesity crisis.
11-10-2019	World egg day	"Eat your egg today and every day."
12-10-2019	World arthritis day	Time2Work
13-10-2019	International day for disaster reduction	Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services".
14-10-2019	World standards Day	Video Standards Create a Global Stage"

15-10-2019	International Day of Rural Women	Rural Women and girls building climate resilience
15-10-2019	Global Handwashing Day	Clean Hands for All
16-10-2019	World Food Day	Our Actions are our Future Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World
20-10-2019	World Statistics Day	Better Data, Better Lives
20-10-2019	National Solidarity day	It aims to remind people on the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty
20-10-2019	World Osteoporosis Day	The purpose is to create awareness for the prevention, treatment and diagnosis of osteoporosis.
21-10-2019	Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day	The aim of this day is to create awareness on iodine deficiency which leads to many health problems and also on the adequate use of iodine in day to day life.
21-10-2019	National Police Commemoration Day	On 21 st October 1959, 20 Indian Police personnel were attacked by Chinese troops in Ladakh. Since this incident, the 21 st October is celebrated every year as Police Commemoration Day in remembrance of Martrys.
22-10-2019	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Growth through Speaking
23-10-2019	International Snow Leopard day	
October (20 to 26)	7th International lead poisoning prevention week	Learn the risks, Join the Action, Eliminate Lead Paint
23-10-2019	National Mole day	The day recognizes a special number in chemistry. The day is celebrated, especially by the Chemists and chemistry students across the world. The celebrations take place between 6:02 AM and 6:02 PM.
24-10-2019	World Development Information Day	To draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
24-10-2019	World Polio Day- October 24	To raise awareness and resources to support the polio eradication effort.
October 24 to 30	Disarmament week	
25-10-2019	India to celebrate Ayurveda Day	The day is being celebrated by Ministry of AYUSH as Dhanvantari Jayanti falls on the day. Dhanvantari is a Hindu god who cures diseases.

1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

23rd Edition Of "Malabar 2019" Naval Joint Exercise of India, Us And Japan Commenced At Sasebo, Japan

- The 23rd Edition of the trilateral maritime exercise of India, Japan and the United States (US) named "Malabar 2019" exercise begun at Sasebo, Japan.

Key Points:

- **Indian Participation:** India fields 6,100-tonne stealth frigate Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sahyadri. Anti-submarine Warfare corvette INS Kiltan along with first time deployment of Poseidon-81 long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

About Malabar Exercise:

- It originally began as a bilateral exercise in 1992 between India and China until Japan joined as a permanent member in 2015.
- **Previous non-member participants** – Australia Singapore.
- **Previous Edition** –Malabar 2018 took place in coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea.

Website of 11th DefExpo launched

- The 11th DefExpo is scheduled to be held for the first time in Lucknow between 5th and 8th February 2020. It is an exhibition where the Indian Defense industry showcase its capabilities and promotes its export potential. It is a biennial exhibition. The last DefExpo was held in Chennai in 2018.
- **Theme:** The Emerging Defense Manufacturing Hub.

Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh commissions ICGS Varaha at the Chennai Port Trust

- Defence Minister of India, Mr Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varaha at the Chennai Port Trust, Tamil Nadu in the presence of ICG Director General (DG) Krishnaswamy Natarajan and others.
- ICGS Varaha, designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Kattupalli ship building yard in North Chennai, will be based at New Mangalore Port, Karnataka under the administrative and operational control of Commander Coast Guard region

4th edition of KAZIND-2019, a joint military exercise between India & Kazakhstan begins at Pithoragarh

- 4th edition of KAZIND-2019, the joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan commenced in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand on October 2, 2019, which will continue till October 15, 2019 with the involvement of 100 soldiers from both the armies. It aims to carry out counter-terrorism operations in hilly areas.



Indian Army inducts Israeli Spike anti-tank guided missiles

- The Indian Army inducted limited number of small Spike anti-tank guided missiles(ATGM) of Israel in order to currently meet the operational requirements till the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) develops indigenous man portable ATGM (MP-ATGM).

Indian Army begins its first mountain combat exercise 'Him Vijay' in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Indian Army will begin its first ever mountain combat on October 7. The exercise is to test the mobility, coordination and communication of the troops in difficult terrain. The exercise is to be conducted in two phases.

Highlights of the exercise

- The exercise will include three battle groups, each comprising of 4,000 soldiers. This is the largest military exercise in the history of Indian defense. The exercise includes mountain assault and air assault as well.
- The exercise is done more than 100 km in the Indian Territory from the Line of Actual control.



14th Indo – Mongolian joint military training exercise, the 2019 Nomadic Elephant-XIV begun in Himachal

- The 14th edition of the Indo – Mongolian joint military training exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV for the year 2019, has begun at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh. This 14-day exercise will continue till October 18, 2019.
- The aim of the exercise is to train both the armies in counter terrorism and counter insurgency (counter revolt) operations thus enhancing defence cooperation.

Key points

- Army representation: The Indian Army is represented by battalion of Rajputana rifles while the Mongolian Army is represented by elite 084 airborne Special task battalion.
- Exercise to be conducted: Various drills are to be conducted like convoy protection drill, room intervention drills, ambush /counter ambush drills etc. to create interoperability.

Goa Maritime Conclave 2019 inaugurated

- The Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)-2019 was inaugurated by the National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Kumar Doval, at Goa.
- This conclave was conducted by the Naval War College. The subjects of the conclave are Opportunities and Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, Forging Common Maritime Priorities, Regional Constructs and Strategies in the region.
- The theme for the conclave is "Common Maritime Priorities in IOR and need for Regional Maritime Strategy".

Indian Army organizes Veer Kutumb Rally in Jammu and Kashmir



- Jammu and Kashmir, Crossed Swords Division organized a **VEER KUTUMB RALLY** at Tanda, Akhnoor

Aim:

- To reach out to veterans, veer naris, widows and their families. The Rally was organised by the Indian Army as part of its activities to observe 2019 as the 'Year of the Next of Kin'.
- General Officer Commanding (GoC) Crossed Swords Division, Maj Gen R. Dewan, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Sangam Youth Festival organized by Indian Army

- More than 1,500 students from 32 different colleges and universities participated in the 'Sangam Youth Festival' held at Bhadarwah, Jammu and Kashmir. The festival is being organized from 11 October to 15 October 2019.

About Sangam Youth Festival:

- The event was inaugurated by the Northern Army commander Lt General Ranbir Singh. The 5 day festival was organised by Indian Army in collaboration with Jammu University with the aim of spreading message of peace, prosperity, communal harmony and national integration.

Defence Minister on a 2-day visit to France

- Defense minister Raj Nath Singh to visit France on 7th October, 2019. He will receive the Rafale Fighter Jets manufactured for India. He will meet French President Macron the next day. He will also hold annual defence dialogue with his counterpart.

The Rafale Issue

- The IAF – Indian Air Force announced Rafale fighter jets as preferred bidder in 2012. The proposal was that 18 Rafales would be supplied in fly away condition while remaining 108 would be manufactured by HAL-Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under transfer of technology agreements.
- The contract negotiations begun but were stalled due to lack of agreement terms. Reasons of stalling were RFP compliance and cost-related issues. In 2016, issue rose when the stalled deal was provided to a private party (Anil Ambani).

Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2019' begins in Seattle, US

- The joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between **India and the US** (United States) begins at **Seattle's** (in Washington, US) Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). This is the 10th edition of the joint exercise, which will run until 28 October, 2019. It is held alternately in India and America. In 2018 the practice took place in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- A 45-member Special Forces contingent of the Indian Army has reached the US to participate in this military exercise on behalf of India.

2nd version of the India- Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) 2019 held in northern part of Bay of Bengal

- The 2nd edition of Indian Navy (IN) - Bangladesh Navy (BN) Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) 2019 has been held in Northern Bay of Bengal from October 10-11, 2019 with the participation of INS (Indian Naval Ship) Ranvijay, a guided-missile destroyer and INS Kuthar, an indigenously built missile as well as BNS (Bangladesh Naval Ship) Ali Haider, a Type 053 frigate and BNS Shadinota, a Type 056 stealth guided missile corvette.

Key points:

- This 2-day CORPAT will be followed by the maiden edition of bilateral exercise between the navies at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from October 12 to 16, 2019, which would additionally embrace air familiarization of Bangladesh Navy aircrew and a 10-day training exercise between Indian Navy Marine Commandos and BN SWADS (Special Warfare Diving and Salvage).

Indo-Japan joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian 2019" to be held in Vairengte, Mizoram

- The 2nd joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian-2019' to promote military cooperation between India and Japan will be held in Mizoram. The event is being held from 19, October - 2, November 2019 at Counter Insurgency Warfare School located in Vairengte, Mizoram.

Key Points:

- Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with the aim to share their views on various aspects related to the work of the army.
- This joint military exercise will improve mutual relations between the two countries and will help in fighting against terrorism.
- 'Dharma Guardian exercise is an annual training event, which is being held in India since 2018.

35th Raising Day of National Security Guard (NSG)

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah presided over as Chief Guest on the 35th Raising Day Ceremony of National Security Guard (NSG), at NSG HQ in Manesar, Gurugram.
- The National Security Guard (NSG) is a counter terrorism unit under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was raised in 15th October 1984, following Operation Blue Star, Akshardham Temple attack and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances.

India, Japan to begin joint Air Force exercise 'ShinyuuMaitri' from Oct 17

- The Indian Air Force will be carrying out a joint military exercise 'ShinyuuMaitri' with Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from October 17 to 23.
- The exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town in West Bengal.
- C-130 J aircraft of the Special Operations Squadron of IAF and C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron of JASDF will participate in the exercise.

Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 (Danx-19)

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the 2nd edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19).
- The components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilization and field maneuvers to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring the territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.
- In addition to internal forces from ANC, accretional forces from Mainland comprising ships and aircraft, Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.

IMNEX-2019: India Myanmar Naval Exercise

- The India Myanmar Naval Exercise called IMNEX-2019 is being organized in Visakhapatnam from 19 to 22 October in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The opening ceremony of the second edition of Indo-Myanmar joint naval exercise was conducted onboard INS Ranvijay.

About IMNEX-2019

- Myanmar naval ships UMS Sin Phyu Shin (F-14) and UMS Tabinshweti (773) arrived at Visakhapatnam and would engage in professional interaction with Indian Navy personnel for sharing of expertise on various maritime issues between both the navies.

Army Commanders Conference

- The October 2019, iteration of the Army Commander Conference was conducted between October 14 and October 18, 2019. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the conference.
- All important issues such as operational readiness of the field formation, issues related to higher defence management, aspects of organizational restructuring and reforms were debated in the conference

About the conference

- The Army Commanders conferred in New Delhi to procure slow moving UAVs. These vehicles are known as loiter munition drones to counter threat from across the border.

Defence Minister approves admission of girls in Sainik Schools from 2021

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for admission of girl children in Sainik schools across the country.
- These admissions will start from next academic session (2021-22) in a phased manner. For the smooth implementation of this directive, Defence Ministry has directed all concerned authorities for ensuring availability of necessary infrastructure as well as sufficient female staff in Sainik schools.

About Sainik Schools

- These are a system of schools in India established and managed by Sainik Schools Society under Union Ministry of Defence.
- These schools were conceived by V. K. Krishna Menon (then Defence Minister) in 1961.



Siachen base camp to Kumar Post opened for tourism purposes

- Government of

India has decided to open the entire area from **Siachen base camp** to **Kumar Post** for tourism purposes. The step has been taken to **boost tourism in Ladakh**.

- The Siachen Glacier at the height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where the soldiers have to battle frost bite and high winds.
- The Glacier came under the strategic control of India in 1984 following 'Operation Meghdoot'.

Sudarshan Chakra Vahini War exercise begins in Jaisalmer

- Two-day long manoeuvres by Sudarshan Chakra Vahini of Indian Army Started at Jaisalmer, field firing range in Rajasthan.
- In this war exercise, the army is going to exhibit its strength regarding Agni Missile and artillery.
- Artillery, Arms and mechanized forces, Army air defence and helicopters of army aviation are participating in this exercise to test mutual coordination.
- Endogenously manufactured light helicopter Rudra and self-propelled artillery gun system K-9 vajra are also taking part in this exercise.

India's Next-Gen Hypersonic Missiles: DRDO begins manufacturing

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) begins manufacturing of hypersonic missiles.
- These missiles are five times faster than the speed of sound. DRDO is set to operate a wind tunnel to test and fine tune the technology

Hypersonic Weapons

- The Hypersonic weapons are capable of carrying conventional and nuclear payloads at extreme speeds.
- This technology increases the survival against modern ballistic missile defence system.
- Though, the existing ballistic missile systems deliver loads at extremely high speeds, the hypersonic glided vehicles make tracking and interception impossible.

Sindhu Sudarshan: Indian Army's exercise in deserts of Rajasthan

- Indian Army to conduct exercise codenamed as 'Sindhu Sudarshan' in the deserts of Rajasthan from 29 November to 4 December 2019.
- More than 40,000 troops will be participating in an all-arms battle array of Divisions and Brigades carrying out offensive operations in deserts.
- The exercise will showcase a high degree of synergy between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

About Exercise 'Sindhu Sudarshan'

- The Exercise underscores **Indian Army's** resolve to implement integrated launch of **Strike Corps** in developed and desert terrain in unison with its clear pro-active strategy using **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** along the Western Front.
- The IBGs are the new formations being raised by force for war fighting in future.



IAF test fires 300 km range BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles



- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has carried out successful firing of two BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles from a mobile platform at **Trak Island in Andaman Nicobar** group of islands.
- The drill was conducted to check IAF's capability to hit targets with '**pin-point**' accuracy at designated mock targets close to **300 km** and a direct hit on the target was achieved in both the cases.

About BrahMos Missile

- It is a 2.5-tonne ramjet supersonic surface-to-surface missile with a medium-range of nearly **300 km**.
- The missile is produced by **BrahMos Aerospace**, an **India-Russian joint venture (JV)**.
- The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft, or from land platforms. It is world's fastest supersonic cruise missile

FIFA rankings: India slips to 106th position

- The Indian football team has dropped two spots to 106 in the latest FIFA rankings.
- Blue Tigers have been playing regularly since the 2019 Intercontinental Cup in July.
- The side last played its 2022 Qatar World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup joint preliminary qualifier.
- In the qualifying tournament, India has played three matches so far. The side lost the opening match against Oman 1-2 and drew its next two games against Qatar and Bangladesh.
- Belgium has managed to maintain its top sport and they are followed by France and Brazil.
- England is placed at the fourth spot while Portugal is at the sixth place.
- Uruguay and Croatia have also moved one spot each in the latest ranking.

1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

BRICS culture ministers' meeting 2019 held in Curitiba, Brazil

- **Prahlad Singh Patel**, the Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent charge) has participated in **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Culture Ministers' meeting 2019 held in Curitiba, Brazil.**

Key points:

- BRICS for India is a valuable platform for consultation, coordination and cooperation on contemporary global issues of mutual interest and the member countries have witnessed cultural cooperation reach new heights.
- A similar program called 'Bonding Regions & Imagining Cultural Synergies' is being organized by the National Gallery of Modern Art of India during November-December, 2019 under the aegis of BRICS Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries.
- About BRICS:
- BRICS as an idea was coined in Foreign Ministerial meeting of Brazil, Russia, China and India in New York, United States (US) in September, 2006. BRIC officially came into existence in 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia. South Africa became its member in 2010.

16th Global SME Business Summit for 2019 held in New Delhi

- The 16th Global SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) **Business Summit** for 2019 was held in New Delhi under the theme **"Making Indian MSMEs Globally Competitive"** on September 24-25, 2019. The summit organized by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) was inaugurated by union minister for MSME and Road Transport & Highways **Mr Nitin Gadkari** in the presence of Arun Kumar Panda, Secretary, MSME and others.

7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- A 3-day event of **7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019** held at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Mumbai, Maharashtra from 27- 29, September, 2019 with the theme **"Prosperous Society: Stronger Society"** to bring together financially successful members in Hindu society such as such as traders, bankers, technocrats, investors, industrialists to share business knowledge, expertise and resources with their fellow brethren.

50th Edition of WEF Annual Meeting for 2020 to be held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

- The 50th Edition of **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting** for 2020 will be held in **Davos-Klosters, Switzerland** from January 21-24, 2020.
- The Chief Minister of Punjab **Captain Amarinder Singh** will be attending the meeting as he has accepted the invitation of WEF president Borge Brende which was issued on behalf of the Forum Board of Trustees.

India ranked 4th in GFP Index 2019; US tops

- In the Global Firepower Index (GFP) / Military Strength Ranking 2019 of the Global Firepower which ranks each nation's potential war-making capability across land, sea and air with conventional weapons, **India** was ranked 4th with the PowerIndex (PwrIndx) score of **0.1065** and in South Asia, it stood at the No 1 position.

Rank List:

Rank	Country	PwrIndx score
1	United States	0.0615
2	Russia	0.0639
3	China	0.0673
5	France	0.1584
15	Pakistan	0.2798
17	Israel	0.2964
37	Myanmar	0.6162
45	Bangladesh (from 57 th rank of 2018)	0.7156

Key Points:

- Globally, the list was topped by the **United States**.
- The military strength of 137 countries was taken into consideration.
- The top power index score is 0.0000, which is "realistically unattainable," according to Global Firepower.
- More than 55 individual factors of each nation were assessed.

Global Summit on 'Spirituality for Unity, Peace and Prosperity' held in Mount Abu, Rajasthan

- The Vice President of India, Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Global Conference-cum- expo on '**Spirituality for Unity, Peace and Prosperity**' organized by Prajapita Brahma KumarisIshwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at the Shantivan Campus in **Mount Abu, Rajasthan**. It was held from September 28 to October 1, 2019.

Key Points:

- It promoted the connection between one's consciousness, thoughts and action and their impact on the world.
- The delegates from across 140 countries had participated in the event.

Global Competitive Index, 2019

- India ranked 68th in the annual global competitive Index. It is the worst performing among the BRICS nations along with Brazil that is ranked at 71. The global competitive Index is compiled by World Economic Forum. The Forum has mapped 141 countries using 103 indicators.
- India had dropped 10 places. A number of similar economies like South Africa, Turkey and Colombia have improved over the past year and have overtaken India.

Drone Innovators Network Summit-2019 by WEF held in New Delhi

- **Drone Innovators Network Summit-2019** focusing on the governance of drones was held in New Delhi. The summit was organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Minister of State (MoS-Independent charge) for Civil Aviation, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addressed the event.

5th World Parliament of science, religion and philosophy 2019 held in Pune, Maharashtra

- A 3-day event of 5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy 2019 with the theme of 'Role of Science, Religion and Philosophy for World Peace and well-being of Mankind' organised by MIT (Maharashtra Institute of Technology) World Peace University in association with World Peace Centre, Alandi, MAEER's MIT Group of institutions and MIT ADT University, was held at the world's largest dome philosopher Saint Dnyaneshwara World Peace Prayer Hall, LoniKalbhori in **Pune, Maharashtra** from October 2-4, 2019. The primary objective of the event was to create and promote interfaith and inter-religious movement for World Peace.

Key points:

- The 3-day event also witnessed award presenting ceremony. The list of Awardees are as follows,

S.No	Award Name	Winner of the award	Conferred by
1	Vishwa-Vigyan-Darshanik Award	Prof Dr Vishwanath D Karad	Sumitra Mahajan (Former Union Minister and Ex Lok Sabha Speaker)
2	Dnyaneshwara World Peace Prize 2019	Former union minister Padma Bhushan Dr Karan Singh	Arif Mohammad Khan (Governor of Kerala)

UN Day

- The **UN Day** marks the entry into force of the **UN Charter in 1945**. However, the day is being commemorated since 1948.
- In **1971**, UN recommended that the day be observed as public holiday by member nations.
- Next year, **October 24, 2020** UN completes its journey of successful 75 years. In order mark the anniversary, UN has launched "UN75: 2020 and Beyond-Shaping our future together".



Technology summit, 2019

- The 25th Technology Summit is a bilateral platform that provides opportunities to industries, government agencies and institutes from India and other countries to interact with each other. In 2017, Canada participated in the Summit and in 2018 it was Italy. This year Netherlands has been invited. The summit acts as a forum to forge partnerships, explore new avenues and to create joint ventures to explore new avenues of collaborations to boost trade and investment. The summit is to be held in New Delhi between 15 and 16 October. It is being organized by Minister of Science and Technology.

WB released a report titled “WDR 2020: Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains”

- World Bank (WB) released a report titled “World Development Report (WDR) 2020: Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains”. According to the report, Global value chains (GVCs) can help the developing economies to enhance growth. GVC describes the people and activities involved in the production of a good or service and its supply, distribution, and post-sales activities when activities must be coordinated across geographies.

Key Points:

- The reforms can help developing countries expand from commodity exports to basic manufacturing.
- GVCs account for nearly 50% of trade worldwide.
- Creation of the European single market (Along with China, India, and the Soviet Union) created a huge new product and labour markets, increasing the scope of GVCs.

Health minister Harsh Vardhan launched WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023 in New Delhi

- The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched ‘The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition’ in New Delhi. This Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) paves the way for World Health Organisation (WHO) to work with the Indian govt. in achieving the goals of health sector.

Key points

- Strategic cooperation areas: 4 areas for strategic cooperation were identified. They are accelerating Universal Health Care (UHC), promoting health and wellness, protecting the population against health emergencies and enhancing the nation’s leadership in health.

7th edition of C40 world mayors Summit 2019 held in Copenhagen, Denmark

- C40, the group of major international cities that have banded together around making sustainable changes in transportation, energy use, and consumption held its **7th edition of C40 world mayors Summit 2019 at Copenhagen, Denmark** from October 9- 12, 2019 with the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience.
- **Kolkata** state Government has received the prestigious “**6th C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards 2019**” for the city’s **green mobility** at C40 World Mayor Summit held in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal has attended the C40 Cities Summit 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark through video conferencing after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denied approval to him for attending the summit on climate change.

WHO Launches its First World Report on Vision

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first report on vision. According to the report, nearly 2.2 billion people live with vision impairment or blindness globally, in which over one billion cases could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed.

Key Points

- **Other reports on vision:** the vision impairment was mainly due to ageing populations, changing lifestyles with limited access to eye care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Globally, 65 million people are blind or have impaired sight when their vision could have been corrected by just a cataract operation, and over 800 million people lack access to a pair of glasses.
- **NPCB:** The National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) of India in 2016-17, has provided cataract surgery to a total of 6.5 million people in India, achieving a cataract surgical rate of over 6,000 per million population and also 1.5 million management / treatment procedures were performed for other eye conditions.

Global Passport Index 2019

- The latest Henley & Partners Global Passport Index 2019 was released. In the report, **India** is currently ranked at **82nd place** in 2019, which is one place down from its previous rank of 81 in 2018. Japan and Singapore both hold the most powerful passport by ranking 1st in the list.

Rank	Country
1	Japan and Singapore
2	South Korea, Germany and Finland
3	Denmark, Italy and Luxembourg
4	France, Spain and Sweden
5	Austria, Netherlands and Portugal
82	India

About Henley Passport Index:

- It was started in 2005 as Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI).
- It was then modified and renamed in January 2018.

India ranks 7th in Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019; USA tops

- An annual report on the most valuable and strongest nation brands named **Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019** was released by **Brand Finance** in which **India** was ranked 7th from 9th rank of 2018 with **18.7%** growth in brand value to **\$2,562 bn**. The list was topped by the **United States of America (USA)** with 7.2% growth in brand value to **\$27,751 bn**.

Key Points:

- Developing economies grew 31.3 times faster in growth than the developed economies
- **Singapore** emerged as the world's strongest nation brand with the Brand Strength Index (BSI) score **90.5** out of 100.
- Only India jumped to the 7th spot whereas no new countries made it to Top 10

World Bank's Ease of Doing Business

- India was ranked 63rd in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking released on October 24, 2019.
- The ranking comes when the leading financing institutions including RBI, World Bank and IMF are slashing country's growth forecasts.
- In 2014, India was ranked 142 among 190 countries. As compared to 2018, India moved up 14 places in the ranking mainly due to several reforms in the trade and commerce sector.

Ease of Doing Business

- The ranking is framed based on 10 indices.
- It includes starting a business, registering a property, dealing with construction permits, getting credit, paying taxes, enforcing contracts, trading across borders, protecting investors, etc. The first set of ranking was prepared by the World Bank in 2003.

Global Bio-India Summit, 2019

- The **Global Bio-India** summit is to be held for the first time in India between **November 21 and November 23, 2019**.
- It is being organized by **BIRAC and DBT of Ministry of Science** and Technology.
- The purpose of the summit is to attract investments, showcase the country's indigenous strengths and aspirations.

Key Objectives of the Summit

- To identify funding and collaboration opportunities for research and Development
- To attract major projects from international companies
- To discuss policy interventions and key trends across the sub sectors like bio-agriculture, bio-energy, bio-industrial, bio-manufacturing, bio-services, etc.

World Bank: Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate resilient Agriculture in Odisha

- The **Government of Odisha and the World Bank** have signed 165 million USD loan agreement to strengthen smallholder farmers. The aim of the loan is to implement "**Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture**".
- The loan will help strengthen the resilience of the farmer production and to improve the marketing of their produce.
- The scheme will be implemented in rural areas that are largely rain fed and vulnerable to droughts.

Key Features

- The scheme is to benefit 125,000 smallholder farmers from 15 districts of Odisha.
- It aims to cover 128,000 hectares of land.

1.4 Places in News

Bhopal metro will be named after Raja Bhoj : Kamal Nath

- Chief Minister (CM) Kamal Nath-led **Madhya Pradesh** government has announced that the name of the metro of its capital Bhopal will be '**Bhoja Metro**' after the late king Raja Bhoj. CM Kamal Nath laid the foundation stone of the Bhopal Metro Rail Project to be built at a cost of about **Rs 6,941.4 crore rupees**.

Scientists discover 8th continent, "Greater Adria" hidden under Europe

- Geologists under the principal researcher Douwe van Hinsbergen, Professor at Utrecht University, Netherlands, have discovered a new continent named "**Greater Adria**" in the mediterranean region under Europe, after successful analysis of mountain ranges from Spain to Iran in detail for 10 years. The discovery of this continent is published in the journal '**Gondwana Research**'.
- Greater Adria:** This Greater Adria island is a piece of continental crust in the size of Greenland. It once separated from North Africa and plunged into the Earth's mantle under Southern Europe. It took Greater Adria 120 million years to be found by mankind. The only remaining part of this continent is a strip that runs from Turin, Italy via the Adriatic Sea in the Italian peninsula, hence the name "Greater Adria".

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019 held in Penang

- 4 heritage landmarks from India were chosen for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019. The awards were announced at a ceremony held in Penang, Malaysia. Renewal of Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts in Hong Kong received the Award of Excellence, which is the highest award among all categories.

The 4 sites are as follows

Heritage landmark	Place	Award category
Vikram Sarabhai Library from Indian Institute of Management (IIM)	Ahmedabad	Award of Distinction
KenesethEliyahoo Synagogue	Mumbai	Award of Merit
Our Lady of Glory Church	Mumbai	Award of Merit
Flora Fountain	Mumbai	Honourable mention

About UNESCO Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- The year 2019 marked the 20th year of UNESCO Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation conceived in Penang, Malaysia during UNESCO's landmark 'Economics of Heritage' regional conference held in 1999. During the award ceremony the UNESCO also co-organised Asia-Pacific Heritage 20/20 Forum and 2019 Awards Ceremony with Think City in Penang.

1.5 Eminent Persons

India's former athlete PT Usha honoured with Veteran Pin by IAAF in 52nd IAAF Congress in Doha, Qatar

- Indian track and field former athlete **PT Usha** was presented with **Veteran Pin** by the world athletics governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), in recognition of her contribution to the growth of sport. The award was given by IAAF chief Sebastian Coe at the 52nd IAAF Congress held in Doha, Qatar.



Key Points:

- Familiarly known as 'Payyoli Express' and 'queen of track and field', PT Usha was one among the three persons from Asia to receive the Veteran Pin.

Palestine issues commemorative stamp to honour Gandhi's legacy and values

- Palestine has released a commemorative postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his legacy and values, to mark the 150 birth anniversary of the world leader.
- Palestinian Authority's (PA) Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Ishaq Seder released the stamp in the presence of Representative of India in PA **Sunil Kumar** at a ceremony held at the ministry in **Ramallah**.

International Astronomical Union names asteroid after Pandit Jasraj

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an **asteroid** after Indian classical singer **Pandit Jasraj**. The asteroid formally known as a **minor planet** is located between **Mars and Jupiter**.
- Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj is an exponent of Indian classical vocal music. Jasraj is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

The Gandhian Challenge': launched by AIM, Atal Tinkering Labs and UNICEF India

- On the occasion of 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, launched 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children. This innovation challenge provides a platform for school children.

UK to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary

- The United Kingdom's (UK) Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr Sajid Javid (Pakistani-origin British finance minister) notified that the **UK government** will issue a **commemorative coin** to mark the 150th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The announcement was made at the **21st Edition of annual GG2 Leadership Awards ceremony 2019 in London** hosted to celebrate the British Asian success. UK's Royal Mint will work on the coin.

India's Most Powerful Women in Media

- Indian magazine **India today's** Vice Chairperson (VC) **Kallie Puri** was honoured with 2019 "India's Most Powerful Women in Media" award at famed Confluence Excellence Awards at the British Parliament in London, United Kingdom.



UNESCO, DD Join Hands for TV Show on Gandhi's 150th Anniversary

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Doordarshan, country's public service broadcaster have joined hands to telecast TV bilingual programme '**Mahatma Lives**' or '**BapuZinda Hain**' on 1-2 October 2019.
- UNESCO and Doordarshan will telecast TV bilingual programme to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
- The objective of the programme is to celebrate his ideas and teachings and how it has shaped the lives of people in India as well as around the world.

PV Sindhu named as brand ambassador of Visa for 2 years

- An Indian professional badminton player, **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu)** has been named as the brand **ambassador of Visa, Inc**, an American multinational financial services corporation for two years.

Arjun bansal and Ankit bose of Indian origin included in Fortune's 2019 "40 Under 40 list"

- Indian-origin **Arjun Bansal (35)** and **Ankit Bose (27)** have made it to **Fortune's 2019 "40 Under 40 Global List"**.



- Arjun is the Vice President of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Software and AI Lab of the US (United States) tech company Intel. Ankiti is the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and co-founder of the fashion platform Zilingo.

Key Points:

- There are 100 people in Arjun's team who deal with Intel's AI work in US (United States), Israel and Poland. Intel's major AI projects also include a special computer chip designed by Arjun's startup Nervana. Intel bought Nervana in 2016 for \$ 350 million.

Gorakhpur's Ayesha Khan wins High Commissioner for a Day competition in UK

- A 22-year-old woman from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh won the '**High Commissioner for a Day**' competition and the chance to be the UK's top diplomat to India.



- The 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition is a celebration of the October 11 'International Day of the Girl Child' and is open to Indian women aged 18-23.

Forbes India Rich List 2019



- The business magazine **Forbes** has released “**The Forbes India Rich List 2019**” which has been topped by Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** with net worth of **\$51.4 billion**.
- Mukesh Ambani remained the richest Indian for the 12th year in a row.
- Industrialist Gautam Adani jumped 8 spots on the list to become the 2nd richest Indian with net worth of 5.7 billion.
- The magazine stated that it was ‘a challenging year’ for the Indian economy.
- **5 of the Richest Indians** in Forbes India Rich List 2019 are:
 1. Mukesh Ambani with net worth of \$51.4 billion
 2. Gautam Adani with net worth of \$15.7 billion
 3. Hinduja Brothers with net worth of \$15.6 billion
 4. Pallonji Mistry with net worth of \$15 billion
- Uday Kotak with net worth of \$14.8 billion

PM Modi becomes most followed leader on Instagram

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has become the most-followed elected world leader on **photo-sharing app Instagram**.
- He is ahead of US President Donald Trump, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and former president Barack Obama.
- With **30 million followers**, PM Modi leads the list of world leaders on Instagram, with Joko Widodo coming in a close second with 25.6 million followers on the popular app.
- Barack Obama comes in third with 24.8 million followers while, Donald Trump, trails behind with 14.9 million followers.

Kerala’s nun Mariam thresia receives the title of ‘Saint’, 93 years after her death

- **Indian nun Mariam Thresia of Kerala** and **four others** (English Cardinal John Henry Newman, Swiss laywoman Marguerite Bays, Brazilian Sister Dulce Lopes and Italian Sister Giuseppina Vannini) declared **Saints** by Pope Francis (head of the Catholic Church) at a grand ceremony at the Vatican City, a city-state surrounded by Rome, Italy. The title was conferred on Thresia 93 years after her death.

Key Points:

- She founded the ‘**Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family**’ in Thrissur in May 1914. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned Sister Maryam Thrasia in his ‘**Mann Ki Baat**’ program on 29 September, 2019 as it is a matter of pride that she will be given the title of ‘Saint’.

Nation pays homage to former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam

- The nation pays homage to former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam on his 88th birth anniversary and remembered his contributions to the country.
- The birthday of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam the most popular President of India is celebrated as World Students Day.



Mohun Bagan confers life membership to Abhijit Banerjee

- The Mohun Bagan Athletic Club has conferred life membership to Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee.
- The club handed him the First Day Cover of 1911 and the maroon green jersey with his name written on it. He was also given a book on the history of the club.
- In 1911, Mohun Bagan became the first Indian club to win the Indian Football Association (IFA) Shield beating the East Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army in the final.



NAM Summit, 2019

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit is to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The summit is to be held between October 25 and October 26, 2019.
- The 18th NAM summit will be preceded by Ministerial meetings and senior official meetings.

NAM

- The **Non-Alignment Movement** was founded in **1961**. It was based on Bandung principles that was adopted at the **Belgrade Summit (an Afro-Asian Conference)** in **1955**.
- It was founded during the collapse of colonial system and independence struggles of Asia, Africa and Latin American countries.

World Intellectual property indicators 2019 report

- According to “World Intellectual Property Indicators 2019” report for 49 countries released by the United Nations **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, India has emerged as a **top 10 nation (Ranked 7th)** in the ranking of the **total** (resident and abroad) **IP** (Intellectual Property) **filling activity** by origin & its patent filings rose to **7.5% to 3,476 in 2018**.

Deepika Padukone, PV Sindhu flag-bearers of PM Modi's Bharat Ki Laxmi initiative

- Bharat Ki Laxmi is an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that aims at bringing commendable work done by women across the nation to light ahead of the Diwali festival.
- Actor Deepika Padukone and shuttler PV Sindhu were named the ambassadors for Bharat Ki Laxmi, an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that aims at bringing commendable work done by women across the nation to light ahead of the Diwali festival.

1.6 Sports and Games

Shafali Verma became the youngest women player to play T20I for India

- Shafali Verma, 15, became the youngest women player to play Twenty20 International (T20I) for India. She achieved the feat at the age of 15 years and 239 days.
- She played the T20I for the first time against South Africa at Lalabhai Contractor Stadium, Surat. Shafali is also the second youngest to play an international match for the Indian team after Gargi Banerji.



Deepak Punia Clinched Top Spot In Uww's Rankings- 86 Kg Category

- Indian wrestler Deepak Punia, aged 20, clinched the top spot in the rankings released by United World Wrestling (UWW), an international federation for wrestling, in the 86 kg category with 82 points. He had recently won silver in the World Wrestling Championships 2019 held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Iran's Hassan Aliazam Yazdanicharati was ranked second.



Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta clinched IBSF World Snooker Team Championship 2019

- The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta clinched International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Snooker Team Championship 2019 held in Mandalay, Myanmar by defeating Thailand's C.Pongsakorn and D.Poramin by 5-2.
- Myanmar Open Billiards 2019 which consisted of the 150 Up World Billiards Championship and World 6Reds, World Team Snooker championships 2019 was held from September 9-25, 2019 and was hosted by Myanmar Billiards & Snooker Federation (MBSF).
- It was the 23rd world title for Advani and the first title for Mehta.



Lakshya Sen wins maiden BWF World Tour title

- Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles at Almere in the Netherlands.
- He rallied from a game deficit to defeat Yusuke Onodera of Japan 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in a final.



2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships held in Pattaya, Thailand

- 2019 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Weightlifting Championships was held at Eastern National Sports Training Center in Pattaya, Thailand from September 18-27, 2019. It was organized by Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association and it was a qualifying event for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.



India lift 2019 SAFF U-18 football C'ship title for first time defeating Bangladesh in Nepal

- India won the 2019 South Asian Football Federation Under-18 (SAFF U-18) football Championship title for the first time by defeating Bangladesh in the finals held in the host country Nepal, in Kathmandu's Halchowk Stadium.

Australia's Alyssa Healy creates world record becoming highest scorer in women's T20I

- Australian cricketer Alyssa Healy created world record for the highest individual score in women's T20I (Twenty Twenty International) by scoring 148 runs off 61 balls against Sri Lanka in the third and final match at the North Sydney Oval in Australia. She surpassed teammate Meg Lanning's previous world record score of 133 runs.

PV Sindhu slips to number 6th, Kashyap rises to 25th position: BWF Rankings 2019

- As per the recently released BWF (Badminton World Federation) Rankings 2019, World Champion women's shuttler PV Sindhu (24) has slipped a rank to 6th due to poor performance in the last two weeks but Parupalli Kashyap (33) has benefited from a good performance and is in 25th position.



Indian women chess player Koneru Humpy ranked world no 3 in FIDE 2019 rankings

- Indian woman chess player Koneru Humpy, aged 32, from Andhra Pradesh was ranked world number 3 in the 2019 rankings released by Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) or World Chess Federation. She recently won the FIDE Women's Grand Prix tournament 2019 held in Skolkovo in Russia and accumulated 17 ELO points to rise to the third spot with a global rating of 2,577.

International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI (One Day International) Player Rankings 2019

- Indian captain Virat Kohli and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah have retained their top positions. This ranking has been released after the recently played one-day series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Niklas Kaul became the youngest world decathlon champion

- Niklas Kaul set a record by becoming the youngest world decathlon champion in history at the World Athletics Championships 2019 held at Doha, Qatar. Kaul progressed steadily through the field after each of the 10 events. He started off in 20th place after the 100m, ending the first day in 11th place and then breaking into the top three following a monster 79.05m throw in the javelin.



India to host 3×3 basketball qualifying tournament for Tokyo Olympics in march 2020

- As per the world governing body of the sport FIBA (International Basketball Federation), India will host the Tokyo Olympic Games 3×3 basketball qualifying tournament in March 2020 with a total participation of 40 teams (20 male and 20 female teams). The location of the event will be announced later.

Key points:

- The competition will be organized under the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).
- Six places (3 each in both women and men) will be at stake for the Olympic 2020 in the FIBA 3×3 Olympic qualifying tournament.

10th Asian Age Group Championships for 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- The 10th Asian Age Group Championships (AAGC) for 2019 was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from September 24-October 2, 2019.
- It was organized by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) through the Asia Amateur Swimming Federation (AASF).
- It was the first time India hosted the international Championship in swimming, diving, water polo and in Artistic swimming events.

Venues:

Event	Venue
Swimming	Padukone-Dravid Center for Sports Excellence
Water Polo & Diving	Sports Authority Of India
Artistic swimming	Kensington Swimming Pool

Medal tally:

- India finished with a total medal tally of 64 medals (20 gold, 24 silver and 20 bronze).
- It stood at the 4 spot in Swimming event and second spot in the diving event.

Manju Rani wins silver medal in World Women's Boxing C'ships

- Manju Rani settled for silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude in Russia. Russian Ekaterina Paltceva defeated Rani 4 -1 in the 48-kilogram category in the final match of the tournament.

India maintains second position in latest ICC women's ODI rankings, Australia tops the list

- In the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) women's One Day International (ODI) rankings, **India** has maintained its **second** position and has also increased its points lead over England which is ranked at the 3rd position. The list was topped by Australia.

Key points

- In the women's T20 (twenty-twenty) rankings, India currently ranks at the 5th spot and the list is topped by Australia. England and New Zealand ranks 2nd and 3rd respectively.

India batsman, Rohit sharma attains career best 17th In ICC Test player rankings 2019

- As per the recently released MRF (Madras Rubber Factory) Tyres International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Test Player Rankings" as of October 7, 2019, Indian batsman Rohit Sharma, who became the first cricketer to score a century in both innings of his first test as an opener, reached a career-best 17th position. He jumped from the 54th position to the 17.

XLIX World Artistic Gymnastics Championships for 2019 held in Stuttgart, Germany

- **XLIX (49th) World Artistic Gymnastics Championships** for 2019 are being held at the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle in **Stuttgart, Germany** from October 4- 13, 2019. They are organized by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and the German Gymnastics Federation (GGF). These are held annually in non-Olympic years.

Key Points:

- **50th Edition:** The **2021 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships** (50th Edition) will be held in **Copenhagen, Denmark** on October 18-24, 2021.

M C Mary Kom wins bronze in World Women's Boxing Championships

- **M C Mary Kom** has won the **bronze medal** in the **51kg** event of **World Women's Boxing Championships** held in **Ulan-Ude, Russia**.
- She lost in an intense semifinal bout to Turkey's BusenazCakiroglu. This bronze is her first world medal in the 51kg category.

Fraser-Pryce wins World Championship 100m gold

- Jamaican sprint legend **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** won gold medal in 100m race of 2019 IAAF World Championships held in Doha.



Mary Kom assured of 8th World Championships medal

- India's Mary Kom assured a bronze medal in the 51kg category of Women's World Boxing Championships in Ulan Ude by reaching the semi-final.
- 3rd seed Mary defeated Rio Olympic bronze medalist Ingrit Valencia of Colombia 5-0 to reach the semi-final.
- Mary Kom also became the first boxer in the history of World Championships to win 8 World meet medals.
- This will also be Mary Kom's first World Championships medal in the 51kg category as the Indian Olympic medalist looks to seal a Tokyo Olympic Games berth in the new weight category.
- Mary has **6 gold medals** and a silver at the World Championships so far.

'India Sports Summit – Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' held in New Delhi

- The 'India Sports Summit- Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs **Mr Kiren Rijiju in New Delhi**. It was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), Sportscom, and Sportskeeda.

Key Points:

- The first India Sports Summit 2019 was also inaugurated at this event.
- Aim: To achieve the objective of 'Sports and Industry' through various initiatives.
- Honours: Indian shooter Heena Sidhu, Khelo India athletes Esow Alben (cycling) and Esha Singh (Shooting) were felicitated for their achievements.
- 'Fit India' mission office will be established with the help of the CII to achieve the goals.
- India is striving to get Kabaddi a place in the Olympics in 2024.

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge becomes first person to run a marathon in under 2 hours

- An Olympic champion and world record holder from Kenya **Eliud Kipchoge**, aged 34, became the first person to run a marathon in under 2 hours by finishing the INEOS 1:59 Challenge in 1 hour 59:40 minutes in Vienna's Prater Park.



Key Points:

- The marathon was organised and funded by the British chemical company INEOS.
- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will not recognise the run as an official record because it was not in open competition.

World Youth Chess Championship 2019

- The World Youth Chess Championship concluded in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 12 October 2019. India ended the World Youth Chess Championship by bagging 7 medals including 1 gold and 3 silver and 3 bronze medals. Only the Under-16 Girls category proved to be elusive for India in the chess championship.
- The 14 year Old R.Praggnanandhaa of India emerged as unconquered king in World Youth chess Championship by claiming the coveted gold in Under-18 Open category.
- **Note:** The World Youth Chess Championship is a chess competition for boys and girls under the age of 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18. Every year 12 world champions are crowned.



Prithvi Sekhar wins gold in World Deaf Tennis Championship

- Prithvi Sekhar beat third seed Jaroslav Smedek of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-3 in the men's final of the World Deaf tennis championship in Antalya, Turkey.
- It was a dominant performance from the 26-year-old Prithvi, who is trained in Chennai by coach Sureshkumar Sonachalam, as he did not drop a set in the tournament while beating four seeded players, including the top seed Gabor Mathe of Hungary.



Ronaldo Singh wins gold medal in Asian Track Cycling Championships

- Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh bagged a gold medal in the men's junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships being held at Incheon in South Korea.
- James Singh also brought laurel for the nation as he clinched a bronze medal in the event.
- The men's and women's junior sprint team won two bronze medals.

Raunak at 13, becomes India's 65th Grand Master

- Raunak Sadhwani will be the 65th Indian Grand Master (Chess) at the age of 13 years.
- The youngster drew with Gabriel Sagrissian to take four points from seven rounds. Sadhwani is from Nagpur and is an international master.
- He got his first master title at Aeroflot Open 2019 and second title at Poticcio Open 2019. He was trained by the former world champion Vladimir Kramnik.



About Grand Master

- Grand Master is the title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.
- FIDE is Federation Internationale des Etheics or International Chess Federation. It connects various national chess federations all over the world.
- It is the governing body of the international chess competition. It was founded in Paris.

India's blade runner Anandan wins gold in Military World Games

- **Anandan Gunasekaran** has emerged victorious in the **Disabled Men's 100m IT1 event**.
- The Indian national bagged the nation's first gold at the **Military World Games 2019**, held in the capital of **Hubei Province in Wuhan, China**.
- The seventh **Military World Games** is being held in China for the very first time and it is also the largest military sports event to be held in China, with over 10,000 athletes from over 140 countries participating in 27 different sports.
- The games are organized by the **Military Sports Commission of China, Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China** and the military commands Army in accordance with CISM regulations and the rules of the International Sports Federations.



Praveen Kumar Bags Gold in Wushu World Championship

- **Praveen Kumar** became the first Indian man to win a wushu **World Championships gold**, beating Russel Diaz of the Philippines in the **48kg category**.
- The Indian saw off his Filipino opponent 2-1 in the men's sanda event of the **15th World Wushu Championships**.
- Praveen had earlier defeated **Uzbekistan's KhasanIkromov 2-0** in the semifinal.



Rohit Sharma set a record of highest average in Test cricket

- Indian cricketer **Rohit Sharma** smashed the former **Australia cricketer Don Bradman's** record of highest average in Test cricket on home soil.
- He set the record on day two of the third Test match against South Africa.
- He broke the **71-year-old** record that was previously held by Bradman by scoring an average of **99.84**.
- Bradman, the legendary Australia cricketer had an average of **98.22**.



2024 Olympic Games logo unveiled in Paris

- The logo for the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games** unveiled at a ceremony in the French capital.
- The circular design with Paris 2024 in the **art deco style**



which was in vogue in 1924 when Paris last hosted the Games also incorporates the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789.

1.7 Books & Authors

'Professor Ayushman' Comic Book Released By Ayush Ministry In New Delhi

- A new comic book series '**Professor Ayushman**' conceived by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) was unveiled by the Ayush ministry in New Delhi. This book will raise awareness in children about the importance of medicinal plants and their usage.

Key Points:

- ▶ This book is available for free and could be bought by schools approaching NMPB.
- ▶ During the event the Ayush minister **Shripad Yesso Naik** announced the target set to operationalise 4,200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat (AB) scheme during 2019-20.

Pranab Mukherjee launches the book titled 'Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy' written by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy

- **Pranab Mukherjee**, the Former president of India has released a book entitled '**Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy**' penned by BJP MP (Bharatiya Janata party -member of parliament) **Subramanian Swamy** in New Delhi.



Book "Game of Votes: Visual Media Politics and Elections in the Digital Era" penned by Farhat Basir Khan discovers the evolution of campaigning in Indian elections

- The seniormost faculty member at the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre at the Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi), **Farhat Basir Khan's** new book "**Game of Votes: Visual Media Politics and Elections in the Digital Era**" details the evolution of election campaigns in India. It has been published by **SAGE Publication**.

Key Points :

- ▶ The book focusing key leaders of political parties & role of modern mass media platforms (beginning with the elections of the 1950s to the feverish social media-driven elections of the 21st century), and emergence of fake news that impacting poll result in India & across the world.

Bill Gates' new book "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" to release in June 2020

- The founder of Microsoft Corporation and American philanthropist **Bill Gates'** new book titled "**How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need**" will be released in June 2020. It will be published by UK-based **Allen Lane** publishers. The book is about climate change and the possible solutions to prevent an environmental crisis.

Award-winning author Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi comes out with a new book titled "Loss"

- Mumbai based Indian author **Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi** (42) is coming back with a new book entitled **"Loss"** which is a record on death and grief, drawing on a stock of personal losses of his parents and a beloved pet (Bruschetta). The book has been published by **HarperCollins India**.

India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future

- India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, **Venu Rajamony**, authored a book titled **"India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future"**. The first copy of the book was received by Dutch King Willem-Alexander in presence of all high officials. The book has been published by **Bombay Ink**.

A new book entitled '150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy', by Fakir Hassen launched in Johannesburg

- Author and journalist **Fakir Hassen's** new 160-page coffee table book entitled **'150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy'** launched on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Key Points:

- The book chronicles commemorations of Gandhi's activities, including his birth and death anniversaries & his visit in South Africa, which was stifled by the apartheid-era minority white government and revived after former president Nelson Mandela.

A new book titled "The Tech Whisperer" penned by digital transformation expert Jaspreet Bindra launched

- A new book entitled **"The Tech Whisperer"**, written by digital transformation expert **Jaspreet Bindra**, features a chapter on ai (artificial intelligence). The book has been published by **Penguin India**.

Book titled 'The RSS: Roadmaps for the 21st Century', written by Sunil Ambekar released

- The book titled **'The RSS: Roadmaps for 21st Century'**, written by **Sunil Ambekar**, the organising national secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), was released in New Delhi by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Book "Carpenters and Kings: Western Christianity and the Idea of India" by Siddhartha Sarma released

- Book titled **"Carpenters and Kings: Western Christianity and the Idea of India"** written by **Siddhartha Sarma** was released. It is published by **Penguin Hamish Hamilton India**. It examines the history of Christianity in India in the context of local and global events.

Michelle Obama's book "Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice" set to release

- Former First Lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama's second book titled "Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice" is set to release on November 19, 2019.



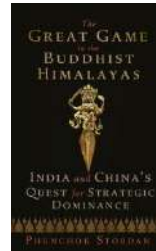
- It is published by Clarkson Potter, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House. The journal will be published in more than 20 countries.

Book titled "Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond" authored by Sandeep Shastri set to be released

- Book titled "Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond" authored by political analyst Sandeep Shastri commemorating Late Shastri's 113th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019 is set to be released. It is published by Rupa Publications.

Book titled, "The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China's Quest for Strategic Dominance" penned by Phunchok Stobdan released

- A distinguished academician, diplomat, author and foreign policy expert, Phunchok Stobdan's new book "The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China's Quest for Strategic Dominance", published by Penguin Random House India, describes the several unknown insights into the India-China, India-Tibet and China-Tibet relationships.



Key Points:

- The author describes the dalai Lama factor which caused the Buddhist Himalayas to be in a state of flux, especially in the current India-China relationship.

Book on political, historical events from 1947-2019 in J-K released

- A new book looks at the riveting history of Jammu and Kashmir from the time of its political and geographic consolidation to the abrogation of the state's special status.
- 'Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics' by educationist and Padma Shri recipient Prof K N Pandit was released at a function at the Jammu University.
- The book, which comes after the scrapping of Article 370 provisions in August, will shed light on the happenings from 1947 till the revocation of special status of the state.

British economist Tony Atkinson's final book

- The final book by British economist **Anthony B Atkinson**, popularly known as **Tony Atkinson**, which he was unable to finish due to his death from cancer in **2017**, is now being **published Penguin Random House**.
- Titled "**Measuring Poverty around the World**", the book, as requested by the author, has been edited for publication by two of his colleagues **John Micklewright** and **Andrea Brandolini**.



"Gully Boy" & "Delhi Crime" wins at Asian Academy Creative Awards

- "Gully Boy" & "Delhi Crime" have won awards at the Asian Academy Creative Awards.
- Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt-starrer "Gully Boy" won the best film from India award in the regional finals at the Asian Academy Creative Awards ceremony.
- Netflix series "Delhi Crime" has won in a number of categories at the Asian Academy Creative Awards. Delhi Crime won for Best Actress, Best Direction, Best Drama Series, Best Editing and Best Original Program.

Panchayati Raj Minister confers National Panchayat Awards 2019

- Minister of Panchayati Raj **Narendra Singh Tomar** conferred the national **Panchayat Awards, 2019** at a function in **New Delhi**.
- 246 Awards were given to awardee Panchayats and States in various categories for their best performance at different levels, including the delivery of services.
- 195 awards were conferred under **DeenDayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar** category, **20 Gram Panchayats** in **Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar** category and **3 Gram Panchayats** in **Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award category**.
- Panchayati Raj Ministers from **Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Assam and Tamil Nadu** along with representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country took part in the award ceremony.
- The Minister also launched an App called '**Gram Manchitra**' which is a Geo-Spatial based decision support system for panchayats.

1.8 India and its Neighbours

Nepal's biggest hindu festival named BadaDashain begun

- The greatest and longest hindu festival of Nepal named as **BadaDashain** formally began. The first day of this Dashain marks the beginning of Navaratri festival too.

Key points

- ▶ Seeds of maize, wheat, barley, etc are sowed in a "Ghada" (earthen pot) and kept in houses are temples as part of the vedic tradition. The sprouts are taken on 10th day which is observed as vijayadashami.
- ▶ This festival is also simply called as Dashain.

India to have first Olympic Hospitality House in Tokyo

- JSW and the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** announced the launch of the India House that will be constructed in **Tokyo** for the 2020 Olympics.
- The media persons here that the initiative is aimed at creating a home away from home for Indian athletes and fans who will be travelling to Japan during the multisport event.
- The construction of India House will get underway soon on a plot of land that has been rented in the Japanese capital.

India trains Nepali officers in AML and CFT

- Government of India is training officers of Government of Nepal on 'Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT)' in India at the **Regional Centre of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Bengaluru**.
- The course is divided into three batches. This is the second group of 18 Nepali officers that are undergoing training.

About National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN)

- It is a premier training institute of Government of India with state-of-the-art learning facilities in field of financial investigations and anti-money laundering matters.
- It is an accredited Regional Training Centre of World Customs Organization (WCO) for Asia/Pacific Region.

1st India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' meet in Guwahati

- The **1st India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' meet** was held in **Guwahati**. Bangladesh was represented by Commerce Minister **Tipu Munshi**.
- India is the second-largest trading partner of Bangladesh. A 70-member delegation from Bangladesh is participating in the meet, while a similar top-level team will represent the host nation.
- The idea of the meet is to put Assam at the focus point of India's trade expansion with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

1.9 Awards & Honours

Greta Thunberg, 16 Year Old, Won Alternative Nobel Prize

- Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg was named as one of four winners of the 2019 Right Livelihood Award. The award is also known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize. She was awarded for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts. The award was announced by the Right Livelihood Foundation. The awardees triggered a thirst to strive for a liveable future for all on planet Earth.



Amitabh Bachchan To Be Awarded The Dada Saheb Phalke Award

- Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for the Dada Saheb Phalke award for the year 2018. The award recognizes his contribution to the Indian film industry.
- The announcement was made by the Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar. The delay in the announcement of the award was because of the Lok Sabha elections 2019.

Tapan Mishra honoured with the National Tourism Award

- Odisha's Tapan Kumar Mishra has been honoured with the National Tourism Award for the Category of "Best Tourist Guide" for the year 2017-18 during celebration of the World Tourism Day.

Pooja Desai from Gujarat crowned as Mrs India 2019

- Pooja Desai from Gujarat has been crowned as Mrs India - Pride of the Nation 2019 (a beauty pageant for married women that celebrates and admires the accomplishments and achievements of a wife, daughter and a mother) in grand finale at The Leela Ambience Gurgaon, Haryana.



PM Narendra Modi receives Global Goalkeeper Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the 2019 Global Goalkeeper Award.
- He received the award for Swachh Bharat Mission from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on October 2, 2014, aims to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage in the country.
- Global Goalkeeper Award is a "special recognition" by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- The award celebrates a political leader who has "demonstrated their commitment to the Global Goals through impactful work in their country."



Shanti Raghavan & Dipesh Sutariya felicitated with 10th India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2019

- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (IC) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of State of Commerce and Industry of India presented the 10th Edition of India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019 to Shanti



Raghavan & Dipesh Sutariya of Enable India alongside the 33rd India Economic Summit for 2019 in New Delhi for building an ecosystem of skilling, employment and entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities (PwDs).

Archeologist Dr.G.B.Deglurkar conferred with 31st Punyabhushan Award for 2019

- The Vice President of India Mr Venkaiah Naidu presented 31st Punyabhushan Award for 2019 to eminent Archeologist, Dr. G.B. Deglurkar in recognition of his immense contribution in the field of Archaeology during the ceremony held in Pune, Maharashtra. The event was organised by Pune based Punyabhushan Foundation.

Key Points:

- ▶ The award comprised of Rs.1 lakh cash and a memento showing young Shivaji Maharaj ploughing the land in Pune with a gold hoe.

About Punyabhushan Award:

- ▶ It is awarded every year to an eminent personality from the field of art, music, culture, science, industry, social service, or sports. It was first awarded in 1989.

Rajasthan's Payal Jangir becomes the First Indian to receive the Changemaker Award 2019

- Rajasthan's Payal Jangir, aged 17, became the first Indian to receive the



Changemaker Award 2019 at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019 presented by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at a ceremony held in New York, United States.

Infosys receives UN global climate action award 2019 in 'climate neutral now' category

- The Indian multinational corporation, Infosys Limited has won the United Nations (UN) Global Climate Action Award 2019 in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category for its efforts to combat climate change.
- It will be given this award during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Santiago, Chile in December 2019.

Key Points:

- ▶ Infosys is the only company from India in whose name the award has been announced by UN Secretary General Antnio Guterres after the UN Climate Summit in New York convened.

Indian writer, V J James's novel 'Nireeswaran' wins Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literature Award 2019

- An Indian writer who primarily writes in Malayalam language, **V.J.James's** novel '**Nireeswaran**' (Atheist, a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God) has been selected for the **Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literature Award 2019**.
- The author would be presented with this award at a function held in Thiruvananthapuram on October 27, 2019, the death anniversary of the late Ramavarma.

Writer Caroline Criado Perez wins Royal society science book prize 2019

- A British feminist, activist and journalist, **Caroline Criado Perez** has won the **Royal Society Science Book Prize 2019** (sponsored by Insight Investment) for her 2nd book '**Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men**' at an awards ceremony at the Royal Society, London, United Kingdom (UK). She also received a cheque amounting £25,000.



Key points:

- She became the 32nd winner and the fifth woman to be awarded the Royal Society Science Books Prize & her book was chosen from a shortlist of 6 to win the award. Caroline's 1st book 'Do It Like a Woman' published in the year 2015.

Venkaiah Naidu conferred Telugu poet K Siva Reddy with 28th Saraswati Samman award

- The Vice President, **Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu** has honored the Telugu litterateur **Dr.K.Siva Reddy** with the **28th Saraswati Samman** for the creation of his famous poetry collection '**Pakkaki Ottigilite**' (Turning aside while lying down) in 2018 during an award giving ceremony organized by the **KK Birla Foundation** in New Delhi.

About Saraswati Samman:

- The prestigious Saraswati Samman instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation, is awarded every year for significant contribution in the field of literature related to any of the 22 languages of India included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 15lakh, a citation and a plaque.

About KK Birla Foundation :

- It was established in 1991 by Krishna Kumar (K K) Birla in Delhi. It has instituted three awards in the field of literature to honour writers.

UK Mathematician Adam Harper Wins the 2019 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- Mathematician and assistant professor of the University of Warwick, England, **Adam Harper**, from the United Kingdom(UK) won the **SASTRA Ramanujan prize** for 2019. He will be awarded with a citation and an award of \$10,000. The award is given to people under the age of 32 working in the area influenced by mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Swachhta Ambassador award to Sachin Tendulkar in New Delhi

- The occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the president of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented 2019 **Swachhta Ambassador** award to former Indian cricketer Shri **Sachin Tendulkar** during the 5th edition of India Today Safaigiri Summit held in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- ▶ While the United Nations (UN) had set sustainable development goals (SDG) to be achieved by 2030, India would be achieving it 11 years ahead of the schedule.

About Safaigiri Awards:

- ▶ It is an initiative of the India Today Group
- ▶ The awards are given to felicitate individuals and organisations leading the change in cleanliness.

Kayakalp Awards: AIIMS Delhi wins top cleanliness award, bags 3 crore

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences bagged the first prize from the Centre for maintaining cleanliness within the institute premises and showing dedication towards the mission of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'.
- The premier medical institute has bagged the first prize of 3 crore under the government's Kayakalp scheme for 2018-19.
- The Kayakalp Award was instituted on 15 May, 2015.

Kyrgyz lawyer Azizbek Ashurov wins 2019 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- Human rights lawyer from Kyrgyzstan **Azizbek Ashurov** was awarded the 2019 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prestigious **Nansen Award**.



- He was awarded for ending status of stateless people through his organisation Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders (FVLWB) in Kyrgyzstan which thus became the world's first country to end statelessness.

About the Nansen prize:

- ▶ The prize is awarded annually after Norwegian polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first high commissioner for refugees for the League of Nations from 1920-1930, the precursor of the United Nations.

Scientist Thanu Padmanabhan receives 2019 MP Birla Memorial Award

- Scientist **Thanu Padmanabhan** (Physicist) received 2019 **M P Birla Memorial Award** for his contributions in the field of cosmology. The award was given in M P Birla Planetarium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Key Points:

- ▶ During the event, Thanu Padmanabhan also gave a lecture on 'Gravity and the Cosmos', about the role gravity has played in shaping the Universe.

"Spirit Of Kerala" wins People's Choice Award

- Short film from Kerala "Spirit Of Kerala" has won the People's Choice Award at the recently concluded My Rode Reel film competition.
- The film won the honour beating 1,680 entries. The short film is based on a boat race and directed by Arun Joseph.
- My Rode Reel film competition is touted as the 'world's largest short film competition'.

PM Modi releases postage stamp in honor of Marshal of IAF, Arjan Singh

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has released a commemorative stamp of **Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) late Arjan Singh** in honor of his exemplary service to our nation. The stamp was issued at an event of 'at home' programme of the IAF to mark its 87th raising day in New Delhi.

Key Points

1. Modi also witnessed IAF exhibition on 'Self Reliance Through Innovation and Indigenization' at Air Force Chief RKS Bhaduria's residence in New Delhi.
2. Arjan Singh DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) was the senior most Indian Air Force officer who served at various key positions, namely, Chief of the Air Staff from 1964 to 1969 & India's Ambassador to several countries.

Greta Thunberg & Divina Maloum to receive the 15th International Children's Peace Prize for 2019

- The international organisation for the defence of children's rights KidsRights Foundation will felicitate Sweden's climate activist Greta Thunberg, aged 16, and peace campaigner Cameroon's Divina Maloum, aged 14, with the 15th International Children's Peace Prize for 2019 on November 20, 2019 at a ceremony in The Hague, Netherlands on World Children's Day.

About the prize:

- The International Children's Peace Prize worth €100,000 or \$123,000 is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously for children's rights

Chandi Prasad Bhatt to get Indira Gandhi award

- The 31st **Indira Gandhi Award** for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018 will be awarded to the pioneer of the **Chipko Movement Chandi Prasad Bhatt** for his services in promoting and preserving the national integration.
- The award consists of a citation and cash of Rs 10 lakh to be given to the awardee by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on October 31, the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- The 85-year-old Bhatt is an eminent Gandhian environmentalist and was associated with the Chipko Movement in Uttarakhand.

GOPIO honoured 3 Indian-Americans with Health Council Award 2019 for contribution in health sector

- International body named Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), presented the Health Council Award 2019 during the GOPIO health summit in New Jersey, United States (US), for people who have contributed in the health sector. The summit aims at improving the health of Indian diaspora people across the world. Among other awardees, 3 Indian Americans were awarded with the Health Council Award.

Key points

- Firm awarded: The GOPIO also honoured US-based firm Sabinsa Corporation, by Indian-origin Muhammed Majeed, for its achievement and contributions in the health supplements sector.
- Indian-American Awardees:

Name	Field	Awarded category
Rahul Shukla	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of S S White Technologies and Shukla Medical, US.	Manufacturing of latest medical equipment.
Hitesh Bhatt	CEO of Bhatt Foundation Inc, US.	Healthcare technology category.
H R Shah	Chairman and CEO of TV Asia,	Promoting health awareness among the Indian diaspora.

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu conferred highest Civilian Honour of Comoros

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu conferred the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros **The Order of the Green Crescent**.
- The honour was conferred by the President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani in Moroni. He is on a first-ever high-level visit to Comoros.
- India and Comoros signed six agreements on defence, health and culture. The countries decided to exempt each other from Visa for diplomatic and official passport holders for short visits.
- India as a maritime neighbour is ready to share the experience of its progress with the people of Comoros.
- The Comoros and India have a commonality of approach on most of the important issues facing the world community and have consistently supported each other in different multilateral forums.
- India's trade with Comoros was at USD 47.11 million for 2018-19.

Ashleigh Barty wins 'The Don' Award

- Ashleigh Barty has been awarded **Australian sport's** highest individual honour 'The Don' Award at the annual Sport Australia Hall of Fame. With the award, she has joined legends like Cathy Freeman and Ian Thorpe in lifting the prestigious prize.
- Barty was the first Australian to win the French Open in 46 years and is now aiming to become the first Australian woman to end the season with the No.1 ranking since Margaret Court in 1973.



Nobel Prize 2019



Field	Winners	Description
Physiology or Medicine	William G. Kaelin (USA)	For their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability
	Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (United Kingdom)	
	Gregg L. Semenza (USA)	
Physics	James Peebles (Canada)	For theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology
	Michel Mayor (Switzerland)	For the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star
	Didier Queloz (Switzerland)	
Chemistry	John B. Goodenough (Germany))	For the development of lithium-ion batteries
	M. Stanley Whittingham (United Kingdom)	
	Akira Yoshino (Japan)	
Literature (2018)	Olga Tokarczuk (Poland)	For a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life
Literature (2019)	Peter Handke (Austria)	For an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience
Peace	Abiy Ahmed Ali (Ethiopia)	For his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation
Economics	Abhijit Banerjee (India)	For their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty
	Esther Duflo (France)	
	Michael Kremer (USA)	

Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo jointly win Booker Prize

- Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have jointly won the 2019 Booker Prize after judges flout the rules by declaring a tie.
- The Booker rules say the prize must not be divided, but the judges insisted they could not separate Atwood's - 'The Testament' and 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Evaristo, who is the first black woman to win the prestigious award since its creation in 1969.
- This was the fifth time that the Mumbai-born novelist was shortlisted, including the 1981 win where he bagged the award for "Midnight's Children".



Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award

- The Vice President Shri Venkaiyah Naidu presented the "Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award" to scholar, legal luminary and former Attorney General of India Shri K Parasaran.
- He was honored with the award on the occasion of Elder's Day celebration organized by Age Care India.

About Parasaran

- K Parasaran was born in 1927.
- He is an Indian lawyer. He was Advocate General of Tamil Nadu in 1976 and Attorney General of India under former PMs Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.

MS Swaminathan's Tamil Ratna Award

- Agriculture scientist **MS Swaminathan** has been awarded the **Tamil Ratna Nomination Award** on behalf of News-7.
- The award was presented by Chief Minister, Edappadi Palanisamy.

Award	Awardees
Art Ratna Award	Architect Rajagopal
Literary Ratna Award	Dr. Parama Sivan
Drama Ratna Award	Pralayan
Sports Ratna Award	Satish Sivalingam
Service Ratna Award	Ravindra Kumar
Shakthi Ratna award for transgender	NalanaPrasheeda
Music Tina Award	'TheCastless Collective' was given the Ghana team song.

1.10 Appointments – Who is who?

Justice Vineet Kothari of Rajasthan appointed as the Acting CJ of Madras

- According to law and justice ministry's notification the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Vineet Kothari of Rajasthan, the senior-most judge of Madras High Court (HC), as its Acting Chief Justice (ACJ). He replaces Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani who recently resigned her post.



About HC

- ▶ The ACJ is appointed by the president under article 223 of the Indian constitution.
- ▶ The Calcutta High Court is the oldest high court in the country, established on 2 July 1862 in West Bengal.

Ashok Malik appointed MEA policy advisor

- Ashok Malik, former press secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind, has been appointed policy advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs with the rank of additional secretary, an order by the Department of Personnel and Training.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Malik, a distinguished fellow in the Observer Research Foundation on contract basis.

Suresh Chitturi becomes the first Asian to be appointed as chairman of the International Egg Commission

- Suresh Chitturi, Vice Chairman (VC) and Managing Director (MD) of India's poultry firm Srinivasa Farms was appointed as the new Chief of the International Egg Commission (IEC) for a 2-year tenure.

Key points:

- ▶ He is also the first chair from Asian region. He also served as the vice chief of IEC for 2 years since 2017.

About IEC:

- ▶ It is a membership organisation dedicated to the global egg industry.
- ▶ World Egg Day is celebrated on the second Friday of October and was constituted by IEC at a conference held in Vienna in 1996.

Economist Surjit Bhalla appointed as the Executive Director for India at IMF

- The government has appointed economist Surjit S Bhalla as the Executive Director (ED) for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Surjit succeeds former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who passed away recently in July 2019 due to illness.

Key points:

- ▶ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Bhalla as the ED for a three-year tenure.

UNESCO appoints Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as goodwill ambassador for indigenous people

- A specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has appointed Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as its goodwill ambassador for indigenous people.



Key Points:

- From her new investiture, Aparicio nominated for a best actress honor at the Academy Awards for her performance in the multi-award-winning film Roma, will promote initiatives that claim indigenous peoples rights and that promote greater social awareness on the subject.

Anoop Kumar is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary

- Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary. This is the first time such an appointment has been made.

KS Dhatwalia appointed as PIB's Principal DG

Senior Indian Information Service officer, KS Dhatwalia, has been appointed as the Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau.

K Satish Reddy got appointed as Indian pharmaceutical alliance president

- Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) has appointed Chairman of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited, K Satish Reddy as its President of the for 2019-2021. He succeeds Glenn Saldanha. Rajesh Jain, Managing Director of Panacea Biotec Limited will continue as Vice-President of the company.

Key points

- Satish Reddy, the past president of IPA (2013-2015), played a major role in shaping policies concerning the pharmaceutical sector and the economy.

Sourav Ganguly set to be new BCCI president

- Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to become the new president of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) with elections unlikely to be held at BCCI's Annual General Meeting on October 23. He defeated Brijesh Patel in a see-saw battle and is expected to be the only presidential nominee.
- The 47-year-old Sourav Ganguly currently holds the presidency of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). He will have to demit his post in September 2020 due to a compulsory cooling-off period.



Pankaj Kumar appointed CEO of UIDAI

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of IAS Pankaj Kumar as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar.



About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- It is a statutory authority under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), with the mandate to issue UID or Aadhaar, a 12-digit random number to all residents of India to eliminate duplicate and fake id entities.
- It is founded by on Government of India 28 January 2009 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

1.1 Cultural Panorama

Telangana begins to celebrate the Floral Festival, Bathukamma for the year 2019

- Bathukamma, a 9-day wonderful festival of flowers celebrated by the women on a grand scale has commenced in the Warangal city of Telangana on September 28, 2019 & will conclude on October 6, 2019.



Key points:

- ▶ The festival is celebrated for the entire 9 days of Navratri (begins on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and ends on Saddula Bathukamma festival on Durgashtami, two days before Dussehra).

Tribal Affairs Ministry inaugurates National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav 2019" in Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Shri Renuka Singh has inaugurated the National Tribal Festival, 'Aadi Mahotsav 2019', which focuses on rich tribal culture, crafts, food and commerce, at India Expo Centre, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Key points:

- ▶ Organized by the tribal ministry, the Festival has 70 stalls of the exhibition cum-sale center, where tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, textiles, jewelry has been displayed. About 200 tribal artisans from all over the country participated in this festival.
- ▶ Tribal garments manufactured in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South and Gujarat in the West to Nagaland /Sikkim in the East available at the festival.
- ▶ For the first time tribal artisans received credit / debit card payments through Point of Sale (PoS) machine. For this, State Bank of India (SBI) has provided special training.



2.1 India's Foreign Policy

Assam launches of 2 public welfare schemes called 'aponar apon ghar' & 'abhinandan'

- The Assam state Government has launched twin schemes for the public welfare called 'Aponar Apon Ghar Scheme' (a home loan subsidy scheme) and the 'Abhinandan' (an Education Loan Subsidy scheme).

Key Points:

- ▶ **Aponar Apon Ghar:** It is an upgraded version of the previous Apon Ghar home loan subsidy scheme, which will provide a subsidy of up to Rs 2.5 lakh on home loans up to Rs 40 lakh to all citizens of the state.
- ▶ **Abhinandan:** It is a Education Loan Subsidy scheme, under this every student in the state of assam with having active education loan account regardless of the amount for pursuing higher education can get benefitted. The assam government will provide a one time subsidy of upto Rs 50,000 to all educational loans

2.2 Political parties and Political system in India

Meghalaya tribes: Stop Excluding us from Schedule VI

- The minor tribes of Meghalaya Hajong, Bodo – Kachari, Mann, Rabha are together put under the category of "unrepresented tribes" for nominations in the state's autonomous councils. They are in the name of Garo, Khasi and Jaintia.
- These tribal groups have now asked the CM to exclude them from their provisions of VI schedule of the Constitution. The State Government deciding to recommend to the Standing Committee of the Parliament to remove the word 'unrepresented tribes' from the amended special provision. This will deprive certain democratic rights of the communities in the district councils according to MHWA – Meghalaya Hajong Welfare Association.

Sixth Schedule of Constitution:

- The Schedule - VI in the constitution makes provisions for the administration of Tribal areas in 4 states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- It is different from Schedule V that discusses administration of Scheduled areas and Scheduled tribes of other parts of the country.

2.3 Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

Gujarat launches India's First 'Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)' to Combat Particulate Air Pollution

- The State Government of Gujarat has launched India's 1st trading program called "Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)" in Surat, Gujarat to combat particulate air pollution.

Key Points:

- **About ETS:** ETS, an initiative of Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), is a market-based system where the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits (in kilograms) to stay below the cap.
- **Cap-and-trade market :** Under this, the GPCB initially determines the total mass of pollution that can be put into the air over a fixed period by all factories/Industries as a whole. A permit is then created in which each is allowed some degree of pollution emissions and the total permit is equal to the maximum fixed pollution emissions. This permit is usually a number/unit that can be bought or sold.
- **Why Surat:** Surat is a densely populated industrial center where textile and dye mills emit large amounts of air pollution & it is equipped with Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems already which makes it possible to predict the mass of Particulate Matter (PM) being released.

President of India to confer 'Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019'

- President Ram Nath Kovind will be conferring 'Vayoshreshtha Samman - 2019' on Eminent Senior Citizens & Institutions on recognition of their services towards the cause of elderly persons on 3 October 2019. The awards will be conferred at a function organized by union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot will preside over the function.

About Vayoshreshtha Samman:

- It is a scheme of awards which was instituted by Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (D/o Social Justice & Empowerment) and gradually upgraded to status of National Awards. These awards are presented as part of celebration of International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) on 1st October. The day is celebrated every year on 1st October since the year 2005.

Gujarat, Tamil Nadu top performers under PM-JAY health scheme

- Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have emerged as the top performing States with free secondary and tertiary treatment worth nearly Rs. 7,901 crore availed under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the flagship health assurance scheme of the Government in just over a year.

AP Chief minister launches 'YSR Vahana Mitra' in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh state government **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched 'YSR Vahana Mitra scheme' in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh (AP), under which the government will provide a financial assistance of **Rs 10,000 per annum to owner-driver of an auto-rickshaw, or taxicab** with the aim to meet their insurance premium, licence fee and other recurring expenses.

NHA and Google partners together to strengthen Ayushman Bharat scheme

- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the American multinational company, Google partnered together for strengthening the implementation of the national health protection scheme, Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

Key Points:

- Both the organisations will work together in increasing process efficiencies of day to day applications thus improving quality healthcare. Google will help in digital presence of the Ayushman Bharat scheme showcasing relevant content to the 50 crore entitled beneficiaries and also provide training to NHA personnel in enhancing digital skills.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath introduced Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana

- To poor girls for marriage was increased from Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000 Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) **Yogi Adityanath** introduced the **Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana** which aims to empower the girl child. If a girl child is born, that family will receive Rs 15,000.
- Under community marriage scheme, the support amount

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- Ayushman Bharat Yojana, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), is a scheme that aims to help economically vulnerable Indians who are in need of healthcare facilities.
- The PMJAY scheme aims to provide healthcare to 10 crore families, who are mostly poor and have lower middle income, through a health insurance scheme providing a cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family.
- The 10 crore families comprise 8 crore families in rural areas and 2.33 crore families in urban areas. Broken into smaller units, this means the scheme will aim to cater to 50 crore individual beneficiaries.



Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan launched

- SUMAN scheme – Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan scheme was launched by the Union Minister Dr Harsha Vardhan at the conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. The scheme provides free medicines for pregnant women.
- It focuses to bring down the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country.

Key Points:

- Under the scheme the mother up to 6 months after delivery and the sick new born will be able to avail free health care benefits. All the beneficiaries visiting the health care under the scheme are entitled to free services.

UNICEF ropes in Ayushmann Khurrana to raise voice against child sexual abuse

- Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has joined hands with UNICEF and Ministry of Women and Child Development to raise awareness and speak up against sexual abuse of children.
- Ayushmann has boarded the ministry's key initiative, the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)**, with an aim to make people aware of the protection and legal support that the Act offers against child sexual abuse.
- The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)** is a hugely important step taken by the ministry to make people aware of the protection and legal support that the act offers against child sexual abuse.

Centre Plans to launch Vigyan Jyoti

- Centre is to launch Vigyan Jyoti, a program to help girl students inculcate interest in areas like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Aim:

- Vigyan Jyoti initiative aims to stir up interest among the Indian girl students to get into the STEM educational areas. The initiative will be launched in October 2019.

Vigyan Jyoti:

- Vigyan Jyoti program aims to pick out 100 girl students in 550 districts from 2020-2025.
- The program will be headed by Sanjiv Mishra, Scientist with the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The students will be chosen based on the merit list.
- Under the program science, camps for the girl students will be held nearby IITs, NITs, and national laboratories.
- The program will cover girl students from 9 to 12 grade.
- Under the program, the girl students will be given a modest financial incentive to cover their additional expenses like travel to camps.



3. GEOGRAPHY



3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

New species of snakes found in sahyadri tiger reserve of Maharashtra, named after Tejas Thackeray

- A new species of snake called **Thackeray's Cat Snake** (scientific name **Boiga thackeray**) named after Tejas Thackeray, younger son of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, has been found in **Sahyadri tiger reserve** in Koyna area of Satara district in Maharashtra after 125 years.



Key Points:

- ▶ **Genus:** This species usually falls in the category of cat snake or cat-eyed snakes and belongs to the genus **Boiga**.
- ▶ **Reason for the name:** Tejas Thackeray first observed this species in 2015 and studied its behavior in detail. He handed over the details to the Pune-based Biodiversity Conservation Foundation and helped in further research.
- ▶ **Habitat:** These snakes belonging to this genus are found all over India, but some species are found only in the Western Ghats.

77 new patch reef areas and 62 new marine species found in Gulf of Mannar

- During a recent baseline study of biological resources in the **Gulf of Mannar**, 62 new species and 77 new patch reef areas were discovered. This was recorded by the **Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI)**, Tamil Nadu.

Key points

- ▶ The study, held from May 2017 to March 2019, was conducted as part of National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and was done under the supervision of Environment and Forest Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ▶ The number of species recorded in the Gulf of Mannar increased from 4,223 to 4,285.
- ▶ The 62 newly recorded species in the study includes 14 species of hard corals (the number of coral species identified has increased from 117 to 131), 17 species of soft corals, 11 species of sponges, 16 species of mollusks and 2 species of seaweeds and fish each.

India records highest monsoon rains in 25 years

- The IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) said that Indian received 10% above average monsoon rains in 2019. It is the highest in 25 years. States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka received 35% more rainfall than the the normal. It is the highest recorded rains in the history of these states.
- Heavy rains damaged the summer sown crops like pulses, soybean and cotton that were close to harvest

Ganges Dolphin census begins

- The annual Ganges river Dolphin census is conducted by the World Wide Fund in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. The census is undertaken along the 250 km stretch of Upper Ganga between the Hastinapur Wild life sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site.
- The year tandem boat survey method is being used, Previous years, direct counting was done. This is because, the tandem boat survey method is accurate where in the officials use two boats that move in tandem to count the dolphins. Also, this year the upstream of Bijnor Ganga Barrage has also been included.
- In 2015, the count was 22 an has so far remained stable. AS the animal is a mammal, it certainly has to come to the surface for breathing that helps the census to count. They are also spotted by their strange sounds when they breathe. They are also identified by detecting their high- frequency ultra sound waves.

KUFOS scientists discover first species of eel-loach in the world named 'Pangiobhujia'



- The scientists of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) have discovered a 1st & unique eel-loach species of miniature well-dwelling subterranean fish named 'Pangiobhujia' (due to its resemblance to the North Indian snack, bhujia) in Cherinja village, Kozhikode district of Kerala.

Key Points:

- The eel, lives in deep subterranean aquifers, is about 3 centimetres in length, pinkish-red in colour& belongs to the genus Pangio. Generally, eel-loaches are found in fast-flowing streams in the south and the south-east Asia.
- It has several unique characters including the absence of dorsal fin and pelvic fins. It also differs from other species of the Pangio genus due to the presence of long nasal barbels.
- The study has been published in **Zootaxa journal** & lead author of the study was Rajeev Raghavan, Assistant Professor at the Department of Fisheries Resource Management, KUFOS.

A new mobile app “mHariyali” launched for environment protection

- Minister of State (Independent charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs **Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri** launched a new mobile app named “**mHariyali**” which encourages people to plant trees and other such Green drives. It provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants, is user friendly and works on any android mobile phone.
- The public can upload any information related to their actions on environment protection which will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in.

3.2 Natural Disasters – Safeguard Measures

Government launches GEMINI, a disaster warning device

- Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a disaster warning device named **Gagan Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI)**.
- It will help provide information related to disaster warnings when fishermen move away from the coast beyond 10 to 12 kilometers, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen.

Key Points:

1. GEMINI is developed by **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, along with **Accord**, a private company in Bangalore.
2. It utilizes the **GAGAN** (GPS- Global Positioning System Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system to transmit information to fishermen which is developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Typhoon Hagibis strikes northern Japan

- **Typhoon Hagibis** strikes **Tokyo**, capital of **Japan** after fierce rain and wind paralysed the capital.
- The cyclone Hagibis which caused floods, landslides and emergency disaster warnings, could be the **strongest to hit Tokyo since 1958**.
- Authorities issued evacuation advisories and orders for more than 6 million people across the country as the storm unleashed the heaviest rain and winds in years. Train operators has suspended bullet train services extensively.
- “**Hagibis**” means “**speed**” in the Philippine language Tagalog.





4. ECONOMICS

4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

Government reconstitutes EAC-PM till 2021

- Union Government reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of 2 years with effect from September 26, 2019. Dr. Bibek Debroy will continue as Chairman and Mr Ratan P.Watal will continue as the Member Secretary. These are the 2 full time members.

Key Points:

- ▶ The strength of the EAC-PM was reduced to 4 from 5, with 2 full-time members and 2 part-time members.
- ▶ **Part-Time Members:** Dr Sajjid Chinoy, Indian economist at JP Morgan is the new part-time member and Ashima Goel of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) will continue to be the Part-Time Member.

About EAC-PM:

- ▶ It is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister on key economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.

PNB launches 1st of its kind Preventive Vigilance portal to facilitate all staff to contribute towards arresting procedural lapses

- In order to promote vigilance awareness, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced 1st of its kind Preventive Vigilance (PV) portal to facilitate all staff members to contribute towards arresting procedural lapses and unhealthy practices at a function held at PNB Corporate Office, chaired by Sharad Kumar, Central Vigilance Commissioner.

Key Points:

- ▶ In a bid to promote a central theme of 'Integrity - A way of Life', the bank introduced e-pledge mission, social outreach through technological platforms & modern technology based solutions through the Preventive Vigilance (PV) portal. Research (IGIDR) will continue to be the Part-Time Member.

Nepal Central Bank issued 3 coins bearing Sikh emblem to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

- The Governor of Nepal's Central Bank 'Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB)', Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal & Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri have jointly released three coins (100, 1000 and 2500 Nepali rupees) bearing the Sikh symbol to commemorate the **550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev**. These coins will be available in the market from September 30, 2019.

Key Points:

- ▶ A book titled "Sikh Heritage of Nepal" based on Sikh heritage of Nepal was also launched in the program. This book has been published by BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation in association with the Indian Embassy in Nepal.

Guru Nanak dev :

- ▶ He was Nirguna Bhakti saint and social reformer was born at Nankana Sahib (formerly known as Rai Bhoi Di Talwandi) near Lahore, Pakistan in April 15, 1469. He was the first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism. The verses composed by him were collected in Adi Granth, written in Gurmukhi script. Guru Nanak Jayanti festival celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak.
- ▶ He is said to have visited Balaju area on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal five hundred years ago.
- ▶ The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev will be celebrated on 12 November, 2019.

SEBI relaxes norms to allow smart cities raise funds through 'Muni Bonds'

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** eased its norms to allow smart cities raise funds through '**Muni Bonds**'. The entities working in areas of city planning and urban development work, including municipalities, special purpose vehicles (SPVs) set up under the central government's ambitious 'Smart Cities Mission' can also raise funds through debt securities.
- **Background:** SEBI had issued its Issue and Listing of Debt Securities by Municipalities (ILDM) Regulations nearly 5 years ago and since then 7 municipalities have raised nearly Rs 1,400 crore by issuing their debt securities, which are commonly known as 'Muni Bonds'.

About Muni Bonds/Municipal Bonds:

- ▶ It is a debt security issued by a state, municipality or county to finance its capital expenditures, including the construction of highways, bridges or schools.

Government reduces interest on house building advance to 7.9%

- To overcome the sluggishness of the real estate sector & boost housing demand, the government has reduced the interest rate on **House Building Advance (HBA)** from 8.5% to 7.9% for one year.
- As per the **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry**, the new interest rate was effective from October 1, 2019 & will apply to all loan amounts.

DGTR launches online filing system 'ARTIS'

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched an online system **Applications for Remedies in Trade for Indian Industry and other Stakeholders (ARTIS)** for filing anti-dumping applications by the domestic industry for speedy resolution of dumping issues.

Key Points:

- ▶ It has invited the applications to file the process to be followed by Domestic Industry for anti-dumping investigations under Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended and the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-Dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995.

RBI reduces repo rate by 25 basis points in 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy

- In its 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting, the Reserve Bank of India has reduced the policy repo rate by **25 basis points (bps)**.
- The MPC has also decided to maintain the **accommodative stance** of monetary policy. The main decisions taken in the 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:
- The **repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was reduced from **5.40%** to **5.15%**.
- The **reverse repo rate** under the LAF stands revised to **4.90%**.
- The **marginal standing facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate** is revised to **5.40%**.
- RBI has also reduced the real **GDP growth** for 2019-20 from **6.9%** to **6.1%**.

CBDT launches unique DIN for taxpayers

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched a computer-generated unique **Document Identification Number (DIN)** to ensure greater transparency and accountability in tax administration for taxpayers. It was created as per the direction of Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and was made operative from **October 1, 2019**.

Key Points:

- ▶ It is applicable to all kinds of communications from the income tax department related to assessment, appeals, investigation, penalty, and rectification among other things.
- ▶ 17,500 numbers were generated on the first day.
- ▶ Any communication from Income Tax Department without a computer generated DIN is treated as invalid.

SBI becomes first Indian bank to have office in Australia's Victoria

- The State Bank of India opened its Melbourne office and becoming the first Indian bank to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria.
- The Melbourne office will assist the growing trade and investment relations between Victoria and India and is the outcome of the state's 10-year India Strategy.

Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Army for customised services

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian Army under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders.
- The MoU includes handsome free personal accident insurance cover, free air accident insurance cover of **Rs 15 lakh to Rs 50 lakh** and an overdraft facility up to three times of monthly net salary.
- The features are also applicable for pensioners of Indian Army up to the age of 70 years.

Kerala govt gets RBI's nod for formation of Kerala Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its final nod to Kerala Government for the formation of Kerala Bank. The final nod by RBI was subjected to certain conditions.
- RBI's approval is valid only till 31 March 2020.

GST Council forms a panel of officers to suggest measures to increase GST revenue

- The GST Council has formed a 12member high-level committee of officers with members from Centre and commissioners from state GST council of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab to suggest measures to increase the revenue from Goods and Service Tax (GST) and to administer it.

Key Points:

- ToR: The Terms of Reference (ToR) of panel includes making suggestions about systemic changes in GST; to give inputs on measures for the expansion of the tax base; Policy measures and relevant changes needed in the law; improved compliance monitoring and anti-evasion measures for better administrative coordination.
- It will submit its first report within 15 days to the GST Council Secretariat.

India gets first details of accounts of Indian citizens in Swiss banks

- In the matter of getting information about black money from foreign land, India has got the first details of accounts of Indian citizens in Swiss banks under the new regular system of automatic exchange of information (AEOI). However, the exchange of information is done with the condition of confidentiality.

Key Points:

- The Federal Tax Administration (FTA) of Switzerland has exchanged details of financial accounts under 75 global standards of AEOI to 75 countries. India is also included in them.

AEOI:

- In Switzerland, AEOI was first implemented on January 1, 2017 on legal grounds. Under this arrangement, for the first time information exchange was done with 36 countries in September 2018. The Global Forum of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reviews the implementation of AEOI.

Kolkata, Bengaluru to be included in World Bank's doing business report

- The World Bank include **Kolkata and Bengaluru, besides Delhi and Mumbai**, for preparing ease of doing business report to provide a holistic picture of business environment of the country.
- The country of the size of India was not properly represented by just two cities, and now with the inclusion of Kolkata and Bengaluru, Indian ranking in the World Bank's report will present a much better picture.
- The report ranks 190 nations based on ten parameters, which includes ease of starting a business, construction permits, getting electricity, getting credit, paying taxes, trade across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.
- India improved its ranking on the **World Bank's 'ease of doing business'** report for the second straight year, jumping 23 places to the **77th position** on the back of reforms related to insolvency, taxation and other areas.
- India was ranked 100th in the World Bank's Doing Business 2018 report.

IMF cuts World and India growth rates

- The World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings kicked off with the IMF downgrading global growth in 2019 to 3%, the slowest since the global financial crisis.
- India's growth projections have also been downgraded to 6.1% and 7.0% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, down by 1.2 percentage points and 0.5 percentage points relative to April projections, owing to weaker than expected domestic demand.

IMF says global economy to grow at slowest pace since 2008 financial crisis

- The International Monetary Fund is growing even more pessimistic about the global economy, as higher import tariffs are strangling manufacturing activity and international trade.
- Global economic growth is expected to fall to 3% rate this year, the slowest pace since the 2008 financial crisis and down from a 3.8% pace seen in 2017.
- If global growth slows below a 2.5% rate, that would mean a recession.
- At 3% growth, there is no room for policy mistakes and an urgent need for policymakers to cooperatively de-escalate trade and geopolitical tensions," said Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist

Post Office Kisan Vikas Patra Plan guarantee to double the money

- The post office scheme- Kisan Vikas Patra is probably the only thing that can guarantee to double the money.
- The interest rate on KVP is 7.6 per cent. This is higher than the interest rates offered on 10-year FDs by SBI and HDFC Bank.
- Currently, if someone invests Rs 50,000 in KVP, it will mature and double in 113 months, or 9 years and 5 months. The minimum amount one can invest in KVP is Rs 1000 and thereon in multiples of Rs 1000.

4.2 Current Socio-Economic Problems

PIO cards along with foreign passport will continue as valid travel document till March 31, 2020

- The Indian Consulate in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) stated that, the **Bureau of Immigration (BoI)** will now accept **Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)** cards as valid travel document till **31 March 2020** along with valid foreign passport. The Immigration Check Post(s) in India will continue to allow all PIO cards valid for exit/entry into India till 31 March 2020.

Key Points:

- ▶ The extension of time limit is subject to the condition that if in the meantime any deadline is notified by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) thereby making handwritten PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain an appropriate visa from the Indian missions/posts.
- ▶ **Background:** GoI (Government of India) had earlier advised that the conversion of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cards to Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards had to be done by September 30, 2019.

About PIO card:

- ▶ It was a form of identification issued to a Person of Indian Origin who held a passport in a country other than Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was first implemented in 2002 as a benefit to foreign nationals who could establish at least a third generation tie to Indian origin.

OCI card :

- ▶ It was implemented in 2005, carried more expansive benefits than the PIO card, and was valid for the holder's lifetime. In 2014, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi had announced that the two types of cards would be merged and the Indian diaspora would be given the maximum possible benefits.

UNCTAD estimates India's economic growth rate at a 7-year low of 6% in CY 2019 from 7.4% in 2018

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** in its **Trade and Development Report 2019** forecasted India's economic growth rate at a 7-year low of **6%** in calendar year (CY) 2019 from **7.4%** in 2018.

CBDT signs 300th APA by signing 3 APAs pertaining to United Kingdom

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** signed the **300th Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)** in September 2019 by signing 3 APAs pertaining to United Kingdom (UK)-2 Unilateral and 1 Bilateral APA. It is considered as a significant landmark of India's APA Programme which is in the seventh year now.

WTO cuts Global Trade Growth Forecast to 1.2% for 2019 from 2.6%

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) in its report reduced the global trade growth forecast to 1.2% for 2019 from 2.6% growth forecast made in April 2019 due to trade tensions and sluggish global economy. It is the weakest level in a decade. The global trade growth forecast for 2020 was reduced to 2.7% from 3%.

Key Points:

- ▶ In August 2019, India's exports dropped by 6.05% to USD 26.13 billion and Imports declined by 13.45% to USD 39.58 billion. The trade deficit stood at USD 13.45 billion.
- ▶ Among the 30 key sectors, 22 showed negative growth in August 2019.



EXTRA News

Stable form of Plutonium discovered accidentally

- Scientists led by Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf have found new compound of Plutonium unexpectedly in France.
- The team was actually trying to create plutonium dioxide nano particles using different precursors.
- In the process, the plutonium at its pentavalent state showed a peculiar behavior.
- The scientists then learnt that the strange behavior of Plutonium at its pentavalent state was because it was stable.
- The team confirmed its stability using Pu M4 edge technology.

World Bank slashes India's growth projection to 6 % for 2019 , down from 7.5%

- World Bank in its report, "South Asia Economic Focus, Fall 2019: Making (De) centralization Work", has lowered India's growth forecast to 6 % for 2019 (down from 7.5 %) for the second consecutive year, after a wide decline in the initial quarters. In 2018, India's GDP (Gross domestic product) growth stood at 6.8 %, down from 7.2 % in 2017.

Key points:

- **Expectation:** As per the report, if monetary policy is moderate then it is expected to grow gradually to 6.9 per cent in 2021 and 7.2 per cent in 2022.
- **CAD:** The current account deficit (CAD) had increased to 2.1 percent of GDP in 2018-19 from 1.8 percent a year earlier (i.e 2017), reflecting a mostly deteriorating trade balance.

About CAD:

- It is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of the goods and services it imports exceeds the value of the products it exports. The current account includes net income, such as interest and dividends, and transfers, such as foreign aid.

5. SCIENCE



5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

Japan Launches World's Biggest Transport Spaceship For Space Station

- Japan launched an unmanned spacecraft towards the International Space Station after a fire early this month delayed the mission. The H-2B rocket lifted off at 1:05 am local time (1605 GMT Tuesday) with cargo vessel Kounotori8, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The launch took place from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan.
- Public broadcaster NHK cited Mitsubishi Heavy as saying the fire was likely ignited by static electricity generated when liquid oxygen from the rocket came into contact with heat-resistant material on the launch pad.

Antonov An-225 Mriya

- ▶ It is strategic airlift cargo aircraft designed by the Antonov Design Bureau in the Ukrainian SSR within the Soviet Union during the 1980s.
- ▶ The single example built has the Ukrainian civil registration UR-82060. A second airframe with a slightly different configuration.

Second interstellar object 2I/Borisov discovered in the solar system

- According to the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, a **s e c o n d** interstellar object

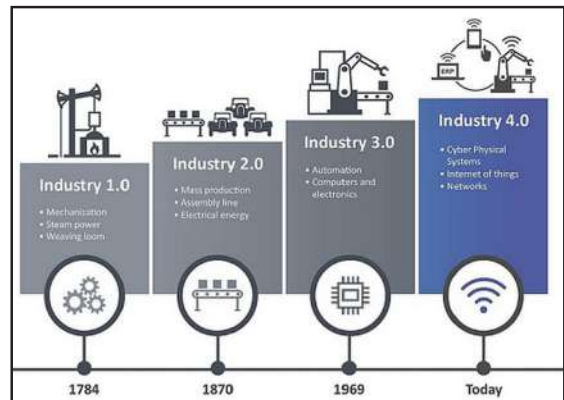


named **2I/Borisov** has been discovered in the solar system. It was discovered by amateur astronomer **Gennady Borisov** from MARGO observatory, Crimea on August 30, 2019 which looked like a comet from a 0.65-metre telescope built on his own. The first interstellar object was 1I/"Oumuamua.

- ▶ An interstellar object is an astronomical object- an asteroid, comet or possibly planet, but not a star or substar, that is located in interstellar space and is not gravitationally bound to a star. Interstellar space is the physical space within a galaxy beyond the influence each star has upon the encompassed plasma.

Pilot Project for 'Industry 4.0' launched at the Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli

- The Ministry of Railways and Department of Science & Technology in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Kanpur launched a pilot project for implementation of, 'Industry 4.0' which is a subset of the 4th industrial revolution, at Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh (UP). This launched project, would be undertaken under the aegis of "Technology Mission for Indian Railways" (TMIR).
- **Industry 4.0:** It is the name given to current trends in automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies for productivity increment. Industry 4.0 makes use of Internet of Things(IoT), Artificial Intelligence(AI), Big Data & Analytics, Machine Learning and Cloud Computing. As Industry 4.0 is a complex system, the architecture will have to be gradually expanded in phased manner only inorder to achieve Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE).



ISRO initiated 'Project NETRA'- A space situational awareness step to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated 'Project NETRA' in the middle of its Chandrayaan campaign last month, in-order to detect debris in space and other hazards in Indian satellites which would act as a step for Space Situational Awareness(SSA). The project is estimated to be worth of Rs. 400 Crore.
- **SSA:** India will have its own SSA like other space powers in predicting debris to Indian satellites and this SSA will be the first for low-earth orbits (LEO). It will have remote-sensing spacecraft.
- **NETRA:** ISRO plans to add observational facilities like connected radars, telescopes, data processing units and a control centre under NETRA which has the ability to track objects/debris as small as 10cm upto a range of 3400km and also equal to space orbit of 2000km.

NASA launched ICON space weather satellite to study earth's ionosphere

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) space weather satellite from Northrop Grumman's L-1011 Stargazer aircraft, with the company's Pegasus XL rocket attached beneath, from the Skid Strip runway at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, United States. Ionospheric is the layer of the earth's atmosphere that contains a high concentration of ions and free electrons and is able to reflect radio waves.

A new mineral 'Goldschmidtite' discovered inside a diamond

- Nicole Meyer, graduate student at the University of Alberta's Diamond Exploration Research and Training School, Canada and the lead author of the research, discovered a new mineral named 'Goldschmidtite' inside a diamond from a mine- Koffiefontein pipe in South Africa run by De Beers. It is named goldschmidtite in honor of Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the founder of modern geochemistry.

Bellbirds have the loudest avian mating calls in the world

- Bellbirds have the **loudest bird calls** yet documented in the world, according to a study which found that their mating songs pack more decibels than the screams of howler monkeys, and the bellows of bison.
- According to the study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, the male white bellbird's mating call is about three times louder than screaming phias the previously loudest bird singer.



China unveiled DF-41 the most powerful intercontinental-range ballistic missile on the planet



- On the 70th National Day of China which was observed on October 1, 2019, it launched DF-41 (Dongfeng-41) the most powerful intercontinental-range ballistic missile on the planet during the National Day parade at Chang'an Avenue in Beijing. It made its first appearance along with a clutch of new military hardware.

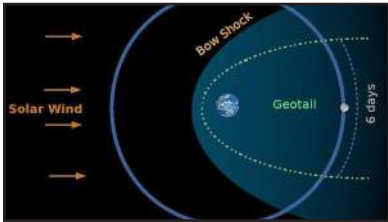
Key Points:

- DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), capable of carrying 10 independently targeted nuclear warheads and flying at 25 times the speed of sound, could theoretically, hit the United States in 30 minutes.

First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR Foundation Day

- The President of India **Ramnath Kovind** unveiled the **first Indigenous High-Temperature Fuel Cell System**.
- This system is developed by **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named "**New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)**" on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day in New Delhi.
- The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products for further use; amounting to greater than 70% efficiency, which otherwise may not be possible by other energy sources.

Chandrayaan-2's Orbiter detects charged particles and its intensity variations on Moon



- Chandrayaan-2's Orbiter payload, in its first few days of observation, detected charged particles, and its intensity variations, the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- Chandrayaan-2's Orbiter payload, in its first few days of observation, could detect charged particles and its intensity variations during its first passage through the geotail during Sept.
- The CLASS instrument on Chandrayaan-2 is designed to detect direct signatures of elements present in the lunar soil

SpaceX to launch private moon lander Nova-C in 2021

- The robotic Nova-C lander, built by Houston-based Intuitive Machines, will launch atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on a NASA-sponsored flight in 2021.
- Nova-C can carry at least 100 kilograms of cargo to any spot on the lunar surface toting five NASA CLPS payloads and beam back data for 13.5 Earth days.
- The NASA-payload will include instruments that will conduct science investigations as a part of the Artemis program.

Scientists develop strongest silver ever, 42 % sturdier than the previous world record

- A team of scientists from Vermont University of the United States(US) has developed the strongest silver ever – 42 % stronger than the previous world record.

Key points:

- The team has mixed a trace amount of copper into the silver, that transformed two types of inherent nanoscale defects into a powerful internal structure, due to the impurities are directly attracted to these defects. It also helps in maintaining its electrical conductivity.

Indian scientists discover two strains of 'plastic-eating' bacteria in Greater Noida wetlands, UP

- A team of researchers at Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) have discovered two 'plastic-eating' bacterial strains namely *Exiguobacterium sibiricum* strain DR11 and *Exiguobacterium undae* strain DR14 from the wetlands of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points:

1. The strains have the great potential to decompose polystyrene (a synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymer), which is a key component in Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items such as disposable cups, cutlery, toys, packaging materials etc.
2. Due to its high molecular weight and long chain polymer structure, Polystyrene is quite resistant to degradation.

India's first special Aircraft 'Air Force One' will arrive by June 2020

- India's first dedicated two long-haul special **Boeing 777-300ER aircraft** equipped with missile defence systems that will serve Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu is likely to reach New Delhi, India by **June 2020**. It will be kept under control by **Indian Airforce rather than AirIndia**.

Key Points:

- The aircraft equipped with Special Protection Suite that can jam enemy radar frequencies, divert heat-seeking missiles and intercept advanced intermediate range missile systems without intervention by the crew.
- An agreement of about US \$ 190 million has been made to deploy anti-missile technology in the new aircraft

For the First time, researchers see individual virus formation

- The researchers, including those from Harvard University in the United States (US) have captured images of the **formation of individual viruses**. The study was published in the journal **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)**.

Key Points:

- It provided a detailed view of mechanism with which the particles self - assembled to form a parasite which may help to find new treatment approaches for viral diseases.
- The viruses when formed were of 30 nanometers in diameter and had one piece of RNA (Ribo - Nucleic Acid) about 180 identical proteins.

NASA gets it first all electric experimental aircraft X-57 Mod II, codenamed Maxwell

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA)** Armstrong Flight Research Center (AFRC) in Edwards, California received its first all electric experimental aircraft (X-plane) **X-57 Mod II (Modification II)** codenamed **Maxwell** from Empirical Systems Aerospace (ESAero) of San Luis Obispo, California, United States (US).

Key Points:

- The X-57's Mod II vehicle replaces the traditional combustion engines on a baseline Tecnam P2006T aircraft, with electric cruise motors and weighs approximately 3,000 pounds.
- It can hit a cruising speed of 172 mph at 8,000 feet.
- Approximately 860 pounds are its lithium-ion batteries.
- A goal of the X-57 project is to help develop certification standards for emerging electric aircraft markets, including urban air mobility vehicles (UAMs).

Solution for disaster relief operations

- Four students of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras have built drones that can identify people trapped in disaster-hit areas and communicate the information to relief task forces for action.
- The 'Eye in the Sky' drones are artificial intelligence and computer vision enabled and can detect persons partially buried in debris using swarm intelligence modules. The technology was developed based on the experience of past data on disaster management.
- The team won the finals of Indian Innovation Growth Programme University Challenge held at IIT-Bombay recently and was among the top 18 innovative startups from across the country.

India receives 1st Rafale fighter jet built for Indian Air Force

- **India** has got the 1st **Rafale** fighter jet "RB-001" built for the **Indian Air Force** (IAF) in France. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the 1st Rafale combat jet aircraft at Production Unit of **Dassault Aviation in France**.
- However, the first batch of jets will arrive in India only in May 2020. Defence Minister also held the **Annual Defence dialogue** with his French counterpart Florence Parly.
- The **RB** in the aircraft designation stands for IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal **R.K.S. Bhadauria** who as then Deputy Chief of IAF led the Indian negotiation team and had a major role in the contract negotiations.

20 new moons orbiting saturn discovered



- A team of researchers led by Carnegie's Scott S. Sheppard from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) discovered 20 new moons orbiting Saturn, increasing its tally of moons to 82. It surpassed the number of moons orbiting Jupiter planet which stands at 79. This was announced by the International Astronomical Union's (IAU) Minor Planet Center (MPC), France.

Key Points:

- They were discovered using the Subaru telescope atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii (a state in the Pacific United States) and were about five kilometers in diameter.
- 17 moons were found orbiting the planet backwards, in a direction opposite to that of Saturn's rotation around its axis while 3 moons orbited in the same direction as Saturn's rotation, which is called prograde motion.
- 2 prograde moons were closer to Saturn, and took about 2 years to revolve around the planet and 1 prograde moon took more than 3 years to complete its path around Saturn.
- 1 of the newly discovered retrograde moons is the farthest known moon around Saturn.

Air India becomes world's first airline to bring aircraft to runway using taxibot technology

- Air India has become the first airline in the world to use taxibot on an A320 aircraft with passengers onboard at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The taxibot is a pilot-controlled semi-robotic aircraft tractor, bringing the aircraft from the parking bay to the runway and vice versa.

Key Points:

- The engine of the aircraft remains shut while using the taxibot, which saves fuel & also reduces carbon emissions. The engine is switched on only when the aircraft reaches the runway. Taxibots will only be used for departing flights. Its use will reduce fuel consumption by 85% compared to bringing the aircraft engine on.
- Air India CMD (Chairman and Managing Director) started the use of a taxibot for commercial flight with the departure of AI 665 flight, which was carried to runway using Taxibot at terminal 3 of the Delhi airport – to Mumbai.

IIT Madras to collaborate with ExxonMobil for research in Energy and Biofuels

- IIT Madras will collaborate with ExxonMobil on Research in Energy and Biofuels. The 5 year joint-research agreement focuses on biofuels, data analytics, gas conversion and transport, and is intended towards finding low-emission solutions.
- ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company (EMRE) for research on energy and biofuels is the research and engineering arm of ExxonMobil Corporation, a leading global oil, natural gas, and petrochemicals company. ExxonMobil works with over 80 universities around the world.
- India is the 3rd highest producer of agro-residues globally with the surplus potential of over 230 million tonnes per year after China and Brazil.
- India's huge biofuel potential is expected to get realized shortly with the 'new biofuel policy' of Government of India, which targets to convert the country's biofuel industry into a \$15.6 billion economy.

2nd phase of LOTUS-HR launched in New Delhi

- The second phase of an Indo-Dutch project called Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse, or LOTUS-HR was launched at Barapullah drain in New Delhi by Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan and the Dutch Royal couple. Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima.
- The Dutch Royal couple is on a five-day visit to India at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind. This trip will be King Willem-Alexander's first state visit to India following his ascension to the throne in 2013. The visit is expected to boost political and economic cooperation between two countries.

World's largest Face Recognition system in India to track criminals

- GoI has asked the IT companies across the world to send proposals to **NCRB (National Crime Record Bureau)** to install world's largest facial recognition system.
- The winner of the bids will create **National Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)**.
- The step is an effort towards information gathering, police force modernization, criminal identification and verification.



About AFRS

- The System will match images from India's CCTV camera network. The network will include data from various government agencies.
- This will help to create a robust system to identify criminals, missing children, unidentified dead bodies, etc.

Ozone Hole: Smallest on record

- NASA reported that ozone hole near south pole is in its smallest size since it was discovered. In 2006, the hole was 10.3 million square miles. However, recently it has reduced to 3.6 million square miles.
- Scientists say that the hole is smaller than it was found in 1985. Every year, the ozone hole reaches its peak in September and October and disappears by late December.

Significance

- Earth's ozone layer shields life from harmful solar radiation. The man-made **chlorine compounds** that can last in air for 100 years nibbled at the Ozone particles.
- This led to thinning of the **Ozone layer** in the Southern Hemisphere. After it was found in **1985**, the **International Montreal Protocol** was framed in **1987**.
- It is the only protocol ratified at the United Nations that bans chlorine compounds in refrigerators and aerosols. The reason for the reduction of ozone hole is not the steps to reduce the usage of chlorine compounds.

Researchers developed renewable energy storage device

- The researchers, including those from Queen Mary institute of London in United Kingdom (UK) have developed a new dielectric capacitor, a device that stores energy (like battery).
- The study was published in journal Nature Communications.

Key Findings about Device

- The researchers found that by pressing and folding a polymer film capacitor, they were able to store 30 times more energy than best-performing commercially available dielectric capacitor.
- The researchers took the inspiration for this new energy storage device from a French pastry called croissant which is made by folding multiple layers of dough.

5.2 Latest Discoveries in Health Science

New Antibiotic discovered in Mexican forest

- The properties of newly discovered antibiotic have specific application in agriculture greatly. It is a soil bacterium and is known as "phazolicin". This compound was unknown previously and was recently isolated in the tropical rain forests of Mexico.
- The antibiotic is found in the root nodules of wild beans. They have their application both in medicine and agriculture. This antibiotic is fixed in the nodules by the symbiotic soil bacterium.
- The antibiotic is a peptide. These peptides can bind to the ribosomes of the bacteria and are capable of messing with the protein synthesis.



5.3 Mass Media & Communication

Railways launches Sahyatri mobile app and a new website for online complaint registration

- The **Indian Railways** launched a **Sahyatri** mobile app and a website www.railways.delhipolice.gov.in through which the passengers can register their complaints online. It was launched by Union Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Mr Nityanand Rai at the NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) Convention Centre on Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

Key Points:

- **Benefits:** Railway police can address the complaints of passengers from across India, provide information on various issues and help in crime detection by integrating the criminal database online.
- Delhi GRP has uploaded 6171 data on the website and only the authorized Government Railway Police (GRP) officers can access the entire website.

A new website and mobile application for IPRs "L2Pro India" launched

- Mr Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) which works under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched the website and mobile application for **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)** named **L2Pro India** (Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation) in New Delhi. They were developed by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)- DPIIT along with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi.

Key Points:

- The 11 modules for 3 different levels: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced of L2Pro India IP e-learning Platform and the L2Pro India Mobile App will help youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and small and medium industries (SMEs) in understanding IPRs. Globally, L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom (UK), Italy and France.

Agriminister Narendra Singh Tomar Launches CHC Farm Machinery And Krishikisan App In New Delhi

- The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched 2 mobile apps named CHC Farm Machinery and Krishi Kisan App for geotagging purposes in New Delhi for easy access of technical agricultural equipment at farmers' doorstep.

Key Points:

- ▶ **CHC Farm Machinery App:** Narendra Singh Tomar launched the CHC Farm Machinery App for the farmers to connect with the Custom Hiring Centers(CHC) located within 50km radius. So far, more than 40,000 custom hiring service centers have been registered on this mobile app with over 1,20,000 agricultural machineries & equipment rented. This app is already available to the custom service provides for registration and uploading purposes. **KrishiKisan App:** Through this app, farmer will be provided with information about high-yielding crops and seeds in their nearby area. It helps in geo-tagging and geo-fencing of crop and also gives weather forecast messages to farmers.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched 'Consumer App' in New Delhi

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched 'Consumer App' in New Delhi inorder to redress public grievances and provide valuable solutions on consumer related issues. The app, which strengthens 'digital India' objectives, provides a one stop solution to the consumer grievances via mobile devices.

Key Points:

- ▶ **Resolution:** The grievances will be resolved in a time bound manner within 20 days. It takes 2months/60days to resolve a grievance incase of eliciting feedback from companies or further enquiries. The consumer can proceed to consumer fora, in case a grievance isn't resolved for more than 60 days.

G Kishan Reddy launched street crime patrol van 'prakhar' and emergency response number '112'

- The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri G Kishan Reddy, flagged off "Prakhar" street crime patrol vans in New Delhi in order to control crimes in the city and also launched single emergency helpline number 112 for immediate assistance. The main call centre has been set up at Shalimar Bagh in New Delhifor this purpose.

Key Points:

- ▶ About helpline no: Emergency Response Support System no 112 (ERSS-112) will be a common helpline no. for all emergency services to approach police, ambulance, fire brigade and others.

Tourism Ministry launches "Audio Odigos" app for 12 sites of India in New Delhi

- The second day of nationwide 3rd edition of "Paryatan Parv 2019", the tourism ministry secretary Shri



Yogendra

Tripathi launched an audio guide facility app "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India inclusive of iconic sites in New Delhi for benefiting tourists.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Delhi's GolGumbad (15th century domed tomb from the Lodi dynasty period) with Government of Delhi and Resbird Technologies were signed in developing the tourism amenities in presence of Director General (DG) of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Smt. Usha Sharma.

Govt. launches PRAKASH Portal for monitoring coal supply to power plants

- Union Power Minister (Independent charge) Raj Kumar Singh and Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi have jointly launched PRAKASH - Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony Portal in New Delhi.

About PRAKASH Portal

- Objective of Portal: To bring better coordination for coal supplies among all stakeholders.
- Need: After rainy season in 2019, coal stocks are higher at 17 million tonne (MT) as compared with over 11 MT in 2018 due to work done by the ministry in this direction. Also the coal production has increased 165 MT in past five years.
- Developed By: The portal is developed by NTPC (Electric power Distribution Company). It sources data from differed stakeholders such as CEA (Central Electricity Authority), Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and coal companies.

BSNL, MTNL to be merged

- In order to revive loss-making telecom PSUs BSNL and MTNL NSE 4.27%, the government today decided to merge the two ailing firms as part of a revival package that includes raising sovereign bonds, monetising assets and **voluntary retirement scheme (VRS)** for employees.
- As part of the revival package, MTNL will be merged with BSNL. Pending this, MTNL will act as a subsidiary of BSNL. MTNL is listed but has its net worth already eroded. BSNL is unlisted.



6. NATIONAL DIARY OF EVENT



Pink tickets for women for free travel in DTC and cluster buses

- **Pink tickets** will be issued to women passengers under the **Delhi government's scheme** for free travel in **DTC and cluster buses** which was approved by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) board.
- The scheme has been approved till March 2020 and it will be rolled out on Bhai Dooj on October 29. Women travelling in DTC and cluster buses will be given pink tickets having a face value of ₹10 each.
- The government will then reimburse the transporter based on the number of such tickets issued.

Centre organized an exhibition of ITM 2019 in New Delhi

- Government organized an exhibition of **India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2019** in New Delhi on 24 September.
- The exhibition was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**.

Aim:

- ▶ The exhibition aims to position the tourism destinations and products of the country in international source markets.
- ▶ This is the **2nd edition** of the Mart. It is organized in line with the major international travel marts held annually in countries across the world.

Organized by:

- ▶ The exhibition was jointly organized by the **Ministry of Tourism** and the **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH)**.

Participants:

- ▶ In this exhibition, over 240 international delegates from 51 countries and 160 exhibitors from across the country will be participating.

5th Indian International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata

- The Union Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced to organise the 5th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) that is to be held in Kolkata from November 5 to 8. The theme for 2019 is "RISEN India - Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation". The event will be held at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Science City, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Bose Institute and Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) in Kolkata.

Key Points:

- **Aim:** The aim of this festival is to celebrate India's scientific and technological advancements with the participation of students, innovators, scientists, craftsmen and farmers.

Madhya Pradesh government launched a month long "Swachhata hi Seva Abhiyan"

- The government of Madhya Pradesh launched a month-long "Swachhata hi Seva Abhiyan" against the single-use plastic which will be observed till October 25, 2019. It will also coincide with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Key Points:

- It has an aim to administer oath to at least 50 lakh citizens against the use of single-use plastic and targets to reach 2 crore urban population.
- In order to collect waste, a total 2000 km long plog run will be organised in 378 cities of the state.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' campaign & National TB Prevalence Survey 2019

- Union minister for Health and Family Welfare (HFW) Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' campaign & National TB Prevalence Survey 2019 in New Delhi.
- He flagged off a van for the National TB Prevalence Survey 2019 (25 vans will be part of the survey for 6 months) and unveiled TB India Report (2019).
- 21.5 lakh TB cases were reported in 2018 compared to 18 lakhs in 2017 (increase of 17%).

Key Points:

- **Target:** India aims to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, ahead of the United Nations (UN) deadline of 2030 in its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Haryana had the highest number of dry districts: IMD data

- As per the recently released report, "2019 Southwest Monsoon Season Rainfall and IMD's Long Range Forecasts" by IMD (India Meteorological Department), Haryana had the highest number of dry districts, 19 out of 21, including three where rainfall was scanty.

Key points:

- State wise: Haryana was the 2nd most rain deficit state in India after Manipur (the most rain deficit with a recording of 56%). Haryana recorded rainfall of 255.2 mm against a normal of 438.6 mm, results to a deficit of 42 percent.

6th edition of MASCRAGE for 2019 held in New Delhi

- The 6th edition of International Conference **Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade (MASCRAGE)** for 2019 was held at the Hyatt Regency, New Delhi on September 26-27, 2019 under the theme **"Containing Counterfeiting, Smuggling and Piracy: A Winning Strategy"**. This annual flagship event was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FICCI) Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD).
- A detailed report titled - **Invisible Enemy - Impact of Smuggling on Indian Economy and Employment 2019** was released. The study was commissioned by FICCI CASCAD and conducted by Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI) for the first time in India.

IIT-Bombay again tops this year's QS India University Rankings 2020

- The latest 2 edition of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) India University Rankings 2020 released.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)** has again topped all Indian Institutes in the list with an overall score of 88.5 followed by **IISc-Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore** (ranked 2 with 84.7 score) & **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)**, which has improved a notch to rank 3 with 82.2 scores.

Quacquarelli Symonds

- **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** is a British company specialising in education.
- The company was founded in **1990** by **Nunzio Quacquarelli**.

NITI Aayog releases School Education Quality Index (SEQI) 2019

- A policy think tank of the Government of India (GoI) , **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)** has released its first edition of **School Education Quality Index (SEQI) 2019** with the aim to evaluate the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in the school education sector with the reference year 2016-17.

Overall performance for large and Small states & UT

- ▶ **Large states category:** As per the Index, **Kerala** has emerged at the top with 76.6 percent points in overall performance in large states category in 2016-17. **Uttar Pradesh** ranked at the bottom with 36.4 % points.
- ▶ **Small states category:** Among Small States , **Manipur** has claimed the top spot with 68.8% & **Arunachal Pradesh** ranked at the bottom with 24.6 percent points.
- ▶ **UT (Union Territory) category:** In UTs list, **Chandigarh** got 1st place in the overall performance with 82.9 percent & **Lakshadweep** is at the bottom position with 31.9 %

CIAL ranked as the best airport in terms of customer satisfaction: ACI Survey

- In a survey conducted by **Airport Council International (ACI)**, **Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)** at Kochi, Kerala was named as the **best airport** in terms of services it offered to passengers. It stood at the top spot in 5-15 million passenger category among the airports in the Asia-Pacific region.

21st session of FAO-WHO Coordinating Committee of Asia for 2019 held in Panaji, Goa

- The 21st session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) Coordinating Committee of Asia for 2019 was held at the Double Tree by Hilton Goa - Panaji, Goa from September 23-27, 2019. It was the second session of the Coordinating Committee in Asia, organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in collaboration with the WHO and FAO of the United Nations (UN).

Key Points:

- ▶ The aim of the session was to identify issues and explore best practices in food safety at primary production in the region and delegates from 18 member countries participated in the session.
- ▶ The committee was initially elected in July 2015 and was re-elected in July 2017 by the Codex Alimentations Commission (CAC).

Rs.6000 Rupees will be given Annually to Women Suffering from Triple Talaq: UP Govt.

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government led by its Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath will provide an annual assistance of ₹6,000 to the triple talaq victims till their rehabilitation and also they will get free legal aid.

Triple Talaq:

- ▶ It is a personal practice followed by Muslim communities in the country as a form of divorce wherein a man can unilaterally and arbitrarily end his marriage by merely pronouncing the word Talaq thrice. The man pronouncing the divorce may deliver it through a letter, text message, email or even through a video recording.

Odisha unveils mascot "TikkiMausi" to combat malnutrition among women and children

- The Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Department of Odisha unveiled a mascot named "TikkiMausi"



in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition awareness purpose. A state-level communication strategy in partnership with UNICEF was also launched to make the public aware of nutrition in child and women for development.

Key Points:

- ▶ The mascot and the state level communication strategy was unveiled by Odisha's Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu and UNICEF's state chief Monika O Nielsen.
- ▶ The mascot was named as "TikkiMausi" with reference to second mother of a child

Country's top three cleanest railway stations are from Rajasthan: Survey

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'Stations' Cleanliness Survey Report' (Cleanliness assessment of Non-suburban and Suburban Stations 2019).
- The highlight of the report was that the top three cleanest railways stations are from the western state of Rajasthan.
- Jaipur was on the first position, Jodhpur on second followed by Durgapura in third position.
- The total score is out of 1000 and each component (Process Evaluation, Direct Observation, Citizen Feedback) weighs 33.33% of the total score. Jaipur scored 931.75, Jodhpur scored 927.19 and Durgapura 922.50 respectively.

Exhibition of India Tourism Mart 2019 inaugurated

- The Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), inaugurated the exhibition of **India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2019 in New Delhi**.
- The Ministry of Tourism and the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (**FAITH**) have jointly organized this Mart. Over 240 international delegates from 51 countries and 160 exhibitors from across the country are taking in the part in the second edition of ITM.

A 2-day national workshop 'Arogya Manthan' held in New Delhi

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a 2-day national workshop 'Arogya Manthan' in New Delhi which was held on September 30-October 1, 2019. It was organized by the National Health Authority (NHA) to mark the first anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which was launched on September 23, 2018 at Ranchi, Jharkhand by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The names of 111 hospitals found involved in corruption and fraud were put up on NHA's website as part of the government's "Name and Shame" initiative to create deterrence among healthcare establishments.

About NHA:

- ▶ It is the successor of National Health Agency.
- ▶ It is the apex body responsible for implementing 'Ayushman Bharat (AB)- PMJAY.

About AB- PMJAY:

- ▶ It is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India. It aims at making interventions in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both preventive and promotive health, to address healthcare holistically by providing coverage up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year.

PM Modi Inaugurates Gandhi Solar Park at UN Headquarters



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 50 kilowatt 'Gandhi Solar Park' at the UN headquarters.
- PM Modi and other leaders also released a commemorative postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi, at the programme "Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World" at the UN headquarters.
- The event was hosted to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which will underline the continuing relevance of Gandhian thoughts and values in today's world.

National Tribal Dance Festival to be held in Raipur from December 27

- Chhattisgarh is going to hold its first National Tribal Dance Festival in Raipur between Dec 27 to 29.
- All the states and neighbouring countries are being invited to this festival. It is expected that around 2,500 dancers will perform at the event.
- The festival will showcase traditional tribal dances performed on weddings, crop harvesting, festivals, and on other occasions.

DDWS, Jal Shakti Ministry and GoI launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India (GoI) launched 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) to focus on sustaining the change in sanitation behaviour that has been achieved under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G). This is done to dedicate the Swachh Bharat to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary by ensuring increase in access to solid and liquid waste management and also ensuring no one is left behind. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, launched the strategy book.

International conference on drug situation held in Imphal, Manipur

- A 2-day "Regional Conference on Developing a Comprehensive Approach: Combating Illicit Trafficking of Afghan Opiates and Drug Situation in the Northeast (NE)" held in Imphal, Manipur from September 30-October 1, 2019. Manipur Chief Minister (CM) N Biren Singh was the chief guest for the event.

Key Points:

- **Organizers:** The conference has been organized by the Manipur state Government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office, South Asia (UNODC-ROSA).

Telangana becomes fully electrified state in India

- Telangana became one the fully electrified states in India after providing 100% electricity coverage to over 5 lakh 15 thousand households, especially those in the remote areas under the Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Soubhagya). Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.

About Soubhagya scheme:

- It is an Indian government project to provide electricity to all households. The project was announced in September 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Uttarakhand CM launches awareness campaign called 'Urjagiri'

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand, **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has launched a public awareness campaign called 'Urjagiri' to stop the electricity theft and saving in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Key points:

- The CM also directed to strengthen UPCL(UttarakhandPowerCorporation) Vigilance Cell to ensure effective action on power theft.
- Uttarakhand is second only to Gujarat in preventing line loss and power theft. After the formation of the state, distribution losses have been brought down from 29.52 percent to 14.32 %.

India achieves one-crore LED street light mark installed under the Street Light National Programme



- India has achieved **one-crore LED** (Light Emitting Diode) street light mark with the 1crore LED street light switched on by union Power Minister **R K Singh** by a remote switch. The lightings are installed under Street Light National Programme (SLNP) implemented by state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) and are to achieve 1.34 crore LED street lights installation by March 2020.

About NHA:

- The EESL plans to bring Rs 8,000 crore investment by 2024 to cover entire rural India in next 4-5 years. Currently 1,502 urban local bodies (ULBs) across India have enrolled in the programme where work of 900 ULBs have already been completed.

Inter-state ration portability launched between the states of Rajasthan & Haryana

- An **Inter-state ration portability** has been implemented for distribution of ration to the beneficiaries of the National Food Security Scheme of the states of **Rajasthan and Haryana**. Under this, the beneficiaries of these 2 states can take wheat from any ration shop.

Paryatan Parv 2019 launched

- Center has launched the nationwide **Paryatan Parv 2019** on 2 October. It was inaugurated by the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** in New Delhi.

Organized by:

- Paryatan Parv 2019 was organized by the **Ministry of Tourism**.

Aim:

- Paryatan Parv aims to propagate the message of **Dekho Apna Desh** with the objective to encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations of the country. It also spread the message of Tourism for All.

Paryatan Parv 2019:

- Paryatan Parv 2019 will be held from 2nd to 13th October 2019 across the country. Paryatan Parv 2019 is dedicated to the **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. Paryatan Parv is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country.

Odisha CM launched "Mo Sarkar" initiative for transparency in governance

- The Chief Minister of Odisha **Shri Naveen Patnaik** launched the "Mo Sarkar" initiative for ensuring transparency in governance focusing fully on the common public. It was formally launched at the Capital Hospital and Saheed Nagar police station of Odisha. The initiative will be completely implemented in all departments dealing with the delivery of public services by March 5 2020.

Telangana Peddapalli district tops in 2019 rural Swachhta survey

- Peddapalli** district of **Telangana** became first in the **2019 rural Swachhta survey** (sanitation survey) to become the cleanest district in India. The most improved district in the list was Haryana's Faridabad, which moved to second place in 2019 from its previous rank of 71 in 2018. Haryana's Rewari district ranks 3rd in the list.

Key points:

- Survey reports:** 83% of the citizens were able to manage liquid wastes, 84% were able to manage solid wastes, 72% districts claimed to have maintained ODF (Open Defecation Free) sustainability cell.

Smriti Irani Inaugurates India's Largest 'Charkha' Made of Waste Plastic in Noida

- Union Minister **Smriti Irani** Inaugurates India's Largest 'Charkha' made of Waste Plastic in Noida. This 'charkha' (spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- The 'charkha', which symbolises Gandhi's dream of Swadeshi (self-sufficing and self-reliance), measures **14ft, 20ft and 8ft** and is made of **1,250 kg of used plastic**.



NSE to delist 9 companies from October 17

- NSE will delist nine companies including Lanco Infratech NSE -14.29 % and Moser-Baer from its platform from October 17. Besides, Lanco Infratech and Moser-Baer, the other seven firms that will be delisted are -- Amar Remedies, Supreme Tex Mart, Samtel ColorNSE 0.00 %, Hindustan Dorr-Oliver, Servalakshmi PaperNSE 7.69 %, LML and Hanung Toys and Textiles.
- According to the National Stock Exchange (NSE), these nine companies are "under liquidation".
- In September, NSE has delisted as many as 14 companies under the the compulsory delisting regulations.

Railways renamed the New Delhi-Lohian Khas New Delhi Intercity Express as 'Sarbat da Bhala Express'

- Railway Minister Mr Piyush Goyal flagged off the newly renamed 'Sarbat Da Bhala Express' at New Delhi Railway station along with the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Minister for Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal. It was previously called **New Delhi-Lohian Khas New Delhi Intercity Express** and was renamed as a tribute to Guru Nanak Dev on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations (November 12, 2019).

First of its kind Village Secretariat system launched in Andhra Pradesh

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** of Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) launched the first of its kind **Village Secretariat system** at Karapa village near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It has set up village and ward secretariats which act as a bridge between the government and the people by rendering over 500 types of services at their doorstep.
- Grievance lodged or petition from the people would be addressed within 72 hours.

Other schemes

- ▶ 'YSR RythuBharosa scheme' will also be implemented from October 15, 2019 under which Rs 15,000 per annum will be given to families of farmers in the state.
- ▶ Under 'YSR Vahan Mitra' scheme, auto-rickshaw and cab owners will be provided Rs 10,000 per annum as financial assistance.

Gadkari to inaugurate conference on 'One Nation One Fastag'

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate a conference on 'One Nation One Fastag'.
- The conference will see the signing of MoUs with state departments and other agencies for bringing in a unified electronic tolling solution across the country.
- Another MoU is expected to be signed between the Indian Highways Management Company Limited and Goods and Services Tax Network for the integration of Fastag with GST E-Way B

Rajasthan becomes first Indian state to launch policy on Pneumoconiosis

- Chief Minister of Rajasthan Mr **Ashok Gehlot** launched 'Policy on Pneumoconiosis Detection, Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation'. With this, Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch such a policy and in January 2015, it had become the first Indian state to notify Pneumoconiosis as an epidemic.
- Pneumoconiosis is a disease of the lungs due to inhalation of dust, characterized by inflammation, coughing, and fibrosis.
 - ▶ People having pneumoconiosis will be declared permanently disabled, and all benefits under the Persons with Disability Act, 1995, will be accrued to them and their families.
 - ▶ A standing committee under the chairmanship of Rajasthan's chief secretary **D B Gupta** has been formed to monitor and periodically review progress of implementation of the policy.

India's first floating basketball court opens in Arabian Sea in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- For the first time a **floating basketball court** was brought to India in the **Arabian Sea near the Bandra Worli Sealink in Mumbai, Maharashtra**. It has been brought for the National Basketball Association (NBA) game 2019, which features the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers, who plays two pre-season games on October 4 & 5, 2019 at the Dome, NSCI (National Sports Club of India), Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Indoor Stadium in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key points:

- ▶ On 20 December 2018, NBA India has announced the first NBA game in the country would be held in Mumbai in October, 2019.
- ▶ It's the first time teams from a North American sports league have ever played in India.

Oracle opens first India data centre in Mumbai

- Oracle unveiled its first India data centre in Mumbai followed by another one in Hyderabad early next year. This aggressive expansion is in line with Oracle's plans to add 20 new Gen 2 Cloud data centres globally by the end of 2020.

Gen 2 Cloud

- Gen 2 Cloud is the only modern, secure, enterprise-grade cloud that provides customers with a strong foundation to unlock innovation faster and drive new business growth.
- The Oracle Cloud seamlessly as they look to scale their business for the experience economy. The 100 customers have already signed up for the new cloud region, signifying the rising adoption of Oracle Cloud in India.

Dr Harsh Vardhan launched FSSAI's 'Trans-Fat Free' logo in New Delhi

- The union health & family welfare minister shri Harsh Vardhan launched "Trans Fat Free" logo of Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) during the 8th International Chefs' Conference of 2019 (ICC VIII) held in New Delhi. The logo was launched to boost the 'Eat Right Movement' of FSSAI.
- Slogan released: Shri Harsh Vardhan also released a slogan 'Chefs 4 Trans Fat Free' at the event, in which more than 1000 chefs pledged to use trans-fat free oils in their recipes and also work together to help achieve govt's plan to eliminate trans-fat by 2022 having the motto 'India@75; Freedom from Trans Fats'.

50th IFFI for 2019 to be held in Goa

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Mr Prakash Javadekar notified that the 50th, the Golden Jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019 will be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2019 with Russia as the partner country.



NITI Aayog's AIM and UNDP India jointly launched Youth Co:Lab for youth entrepreneurship & innovation

- The Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) of NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India of United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) launched a youth lab programme, Youth Co:Lab by signing a Letter of Intent(LoI) in-order to empower innovation and social entrepreneurship to the youths of India. By this initiative entrepreneurs and innovators will connect with govt, mentors, incubators and other investors to gain entrepreneurial skills.

Key points

- Youth Co:Lab benefits : This initiative will bring together, a series of youth dialogues across cities like New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai etc. and will also help to spread awareness on issues pertaining to youth and the future work on Sustainable Development Goals(SDG).

About Youth Co:Lab :

- Creation: Co-created in 2017 by UNDP and the Citi Foundation.
- Operational areas: 25 countries across the Asia Pacific region.

About AIM:

- AIM including Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.
- Objective: To promote world class innovation hubs, startup businesses, self-employment activities especially in technical areas.
- Director: Ramanan Ramanathan.

India's 1st plant to produce diesel from plastic waste opened in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

- India's 1st plant to produce diesel from plastic waste in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh has been soft launched by Mathura MP (Member of Parliament) Hema Malini with the aim to fulfill Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's dream of a Swachh Bharat Mission.

Key points:

- The plant, working on a full scale at the Mathura Municipal Corporation (MMC), built on public-private partnership (P-P-P) model for which the MMC has signed a contract of ₹9.5 crore with Paterson Energy Private Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The specialty of this plant will be that 6 tons of plastic will be used to make diesel every day.

About Swachh Bharat Mission:

- It was launched on 2nd October 2014 by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation. It consists of two sub-missions Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)-(SBM-G) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Hyderabad tops Indian cities in 1st citizen-centric IMD Smart Cities Index 2019, Singapore tops overall

- In the first ever conducted International Institute for Management Development's (IMD's) Smart Cities Index 2019, Hyderabad topped among the Indian cities with the rank of 67. It was followed by New Delhi at rank 68. Mumbai and Bengaluru were ranked at the 78th and 79th positions respectively. The list was topped by Singapore.

Key Points

- A total of 102 cities were estimated for the ranking. The report was presented by IMD World Competitiveness Center's Smart City Observatory in partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

Ranks:

Rank	City name	Country
1	Singapore	Singapore
2	Zurich	Switzerland
3	Oslo	Norway
4	Geneva	Switzerland
5	Copenhagen	Denmark
67	Hyderabad	India
68	New Delhi	India
78	Mumbai	India
79	Bengaluru	India

Angikaar"- 'A campaign for change management

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura state Government Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated 3-month "Angikaar"- 'A campaign for change management' at Agartala town hall, Tripura. The aim of this campaign is to bring the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) under one fold of other central government implemented scheme. This initiative is also in line with the goal set by the central government of providing affordable house to everyone by 2022.



India's First e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- The first e-waste clinic of India will be set up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have tied up to set up the clinic.

Key Points:

- It will be formed in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or can be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.
- Initially, it will be launched as a three-month pilot project and would be implemented in India, if successful.

20th Annual National Conference Medrecon 2020 to be held in Kochi, Kerala

- The 20th Annual National Conference on Health Informatics Medrecon 2020 will be held in Kochi, Kerala on February 7- 8, 2020 under the theme 'Value of Data in Health Care Ecosystem'. It will be jointly organised by the Health Informatics and Information Management Association (HIIMA), Kerala, and the Health Records Association of India (HERAI).
- Over 700 delegates from the healthcare sector in India and abroad will participate in the event.
- Lorraine Fernandes, president of the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) in the US will be the keynote speaker.

Government launches eDant Seva

- The eDant Seva was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. It is an initiative under the National Oral Health Program. The initiative aims to sensitize the importance of maintaining oral health. It provides information about nearest oral health service facility. It also provides information about nearest oral health service facility. It also provides oral health information collected from authentic scientific sources.

Objectives of e-Dant Seva

- To improve determinants of oral health. It includes oral hygiene improvement, healthy diet and also to reduce disparity in oral health accessibility. It intends to integrate oral health promotion and preventive services of the general health care systems.
- It aims to promote PPP-Public Private Partnership to achieve public health goods.

First government operated day care recreation centre for senior citizens inaugurated in Leh

- Supreme Court judge, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer inaugurated the first Government-sponsored and operated day-care cum recreation centre for senior citizens in Leh, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in presence of Chief Justice J&K, Gita Mittal. It is co-sponsored by Government and the District Legal Service Authority of J&K.
- It is a one-stop-shop for entertainment, medical services and legal aid for the aged people of the region.

India calls for increased cooperation between FATF and UN

- To deal with the nexus of terrorist groups India called for increased cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Speaking at the General Assembly the first Secretary to India's Permanent Mission said that the activities of terror groups Boko Haram, ISIL, AI Shabab has increased in recent days. In these situations, UN should cooperate with other bodies like FATF to prevent terrorism.

FATF:

- The Paris based FATF –Financial Action Task Force is an international organization developed to combat terrorism and money laundering. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards, regulate and combat money laundering. It is basically a policy making body. It works to bring about national legislation and regulatory reforms.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched 'Ganga Aamantran' Abhiyan in New Delhi

- The Union minister of Jal Shakthi shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched 'Ganga Aamantran' abhiyan, a month long open-water rafting and kayaking expedition in New Delhi. The expedition which begins from October 10- November 11 2019, will cover an area of 25,000kms Devprayag in Uttarakhand to Ganga Sagar in West Bengal.

Key points

- It is the first of its kind effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) to raft across the entire stretch of the river.It is also the longest ever social campaign undertaken through an adventure sporting activity in spreading the message of river rejuvenation and water conservation on a massive scale.
- States included: The expedition will encompass 5 Ganga basin states. They are Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

HP CM Jai Ram Thakur flags off 'Pragati Rath' of HDFC bank in Shimla

- Himachal Pradesh (HP) Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur flagged off one-month program 'Pragati Rath' of HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) bank in Shimla , Himachal Pradesh (HP) to make people aware of financial and digital literacy.

Key points:

- The Pragati Rath is undertaken by special van , which is equipped with LED (light-emitting diode) and through this, customers will be made aware of digital banking.
- On this occasion, HDFC Bank presented a check of one crore rupees for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, which will provide relief to poor and needy people.
- The HDFC bank will adopt of 15 villages in the state under the Holistic Rural Development Program and will introduce Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative Scheme in the state.

October is observed as the Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- The month of October is observed as the Breast Cancer Awareness Month every year. The annual campaign aims to raise awareness of the disease. It also helps to increase attention and support for awareness, early detection, and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease.
- World Health Organization (WHO) aims to promote breast cancer control programmes as part of national cancer control plans.
- IARC Globocan 2008 reports say that about 1.38 million new cases and 4,58,000 deaths from breast cancer every year. It is most common in both developing and developed countries.

Environment ministry approves Rs 1,400 crore airport project in Kutch, Gujarat

- The union environment ministry has given its approval for airport project in developing a commercial airport in Kutch, Gujarat worth Rs 1,400 crore. This proposed project which is expected to be commissioned in 2021-22, is to be developed by Mundra International Airport Pvt Ltd, Gujarat.

Key points

- An aerospace manufacturing facility will also be part of the project. The project developers were asked to obtain clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for safety and project facilities.

EAM minister S Jaishankar inaugurated e-Vidyabharti, e-ArogyaBharti for African countries in New Delhi

- The External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar inaugurated e-Vidyabharti (tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Tele-Medicine) projects for all the 54 African countries in New Delhi on the 55th anniversary of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) which is India's flagship capacity building programme.

Key points

- Other initiatives launched: Capacity building initiatives like e-ITEC and ITEC executive were launched to meet the demand for innovative courses for users and professionals.
- The projects will enhance access to Indian education and offer medical expertise to African students and doctors respectively.

About ITEC:

- It is a bilateral assistance programme run by the Indian government. It offers 12,000 scholarships to professionals across fields like Information Technology (IT), Agriculture etc.
- Over 200,000 government officials and professionals from 160 partner countries have been trained under ITEC.
- Launched- 15 September 1964.

DHRUV-Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program launched

- The Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal will launch DHRUV, Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Program (PMILP) from ISRO. The main objective of the program is to allow students realize their complete potential and contribute to the society.

Key Points

- It is named after a pole star called DHRUV TARA.
- The program is to cover two areas namely Science and Arts.
- The program is to be launched from ISRO
- Around 60 students are selected broadly from Class 9 to 12 all over the country.
- The target of the program is to help the nation achieve the target of 5 trillion Dollar economy.

National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey, 2019

- On October 10, 2019, at the **Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare**. Union Minister Harsha Vardhan released National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy survey, 2019. The survey was conducted between 2015 and 2019. Diabetes and Diabetic retinopathy have been emerging as significant non-communicable diseases that lead to ocular morbidity.
- The survey was conducted by Rajendra Prasad Center for Ophthalmic sciences and AIIMS, New Delhi

CBDT launches Faceless e-Assessment scheme

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes has launched "Faceless e-Assessment scheme" that eliminates physical interface between an assessing officer and an assessee. They also inaugurated the National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC).
- The "Faceless e-assessment scheme" is expected to bring in a "paradigm shift" in taxation by eliminating human interface in the income tax assessment system. A total of 2,686 officials of the I-T department have been deputed for implementation of the scheme. With NeAC, there would be no physical interface between the tax payers and the tax officers.
- There would be a NeAC in Delhi to be headed by Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax. There are 8 Regional e-Assessment Centres (ReAC) set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad which would comprise Assessment unit, Review unit, Technical unit and Verification units.

India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express flagged off

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off country's first private train **Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express** started its maiden journey from Lucknow. It will be the first train of **Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**. The new Tejas Express will cover the distance between Delhi and Lucknow in six hours fifteen minutes. All passengers travelling by Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be provided free insurance of up to ₹25 lakh by IRCTC.

MSDE along with IIM Bangalore to launch MGNF

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in partnership with the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIMB) will launch a new 2 year programme called 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship' (MGNF). It will be delivered by IIMB's Centre of Public Policy (CPP).

Key Points:

- Objective: To identify and train a group of young, committed and dynamic individuals.
- Coverage: It will be launched on a pilot basis in 6 states namely Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Eligibility: Graduates from a recognized university and Indian citizens in the age group of 21-30 years will be eligible to apply.
- The MSDE for their skill components would support a total of 75 districts.

Goa government replaces traditional 'dial 100' with new integrated emergency number 'dial 112'

- The government of Goa replaced the traditional 'dial 100' with new integrated emergency number 'dial 112' for police, fire and medical emergencies with the help of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The new Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) was launched by the Goan Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Along with the dial number 100 (Police), it also replaced dial number 101(Fire) and 108 (Ambulance Services).

Key Points:

- In the first phase, the dial "112" service will cover only police department and in the second phase, fire and medical services will be brought under the new dial number.
- 2 centres are set up at Panaji and Margao as a part of the new integrated service.
- To ensure women's safety, a 'SHOUT' feature has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app to seek immediate assistance.

India International Cooperatives Trade Fair held in India

- The First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will commence from 11 October 2019 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The three day fair is scheduled from 11-13 October 2019. It is unique initiative that provides single platform to farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to global trade arena.

Key Highlights of IICTF:

- It is conceived as a major platform to promote exports of Indian cooperative produce and is packed with exhibitions, B2B/C2C meetings, conferences, cultural programmes etc.

Objective:

1. To double farmers' income by promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad
2. To promote exports of key agriculture commodities and products leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.

13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare for 2019 held in New Delhi

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHWF) for 2019 in New Delhi.
 1. Objective: To build a consensus on National wealth priorities.
 2. SUMAN: A new initiative – ‘Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)’ for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths, its website and the grievance redressal portal was launched on the occasion.
 3. The goal of healthcare spending of the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 is to reach 2.5% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2025

Key points:

- SUMAN: A new initiative – ‘Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)’ for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths, its website and the grievance redressal portal was launched on the occasion.

New ‘Aarogyasri’ health cards from December 21

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the government would bring treatment of 2,000 types of diseases and procedures under the ambit of its flagship programme ‘Aarogyasri’ from April next on a pilot basis in West Godavari district.
- He also announced that seven new government medical colleges would be established in different parts of the state.

38th India Carpet Expo, Varanasi

- The CEPC – Carpet Export Promotion Council is organizing 38th India Carpet Expo between October 11 and October 14, 2019.
- The aim of the expo is to promote cultural heritage and weaving skills of handmade Indian carpets. It acts as a platform for international carpet buyers, architects, exporters to meet and establish business relationship.
- It is organized twice in a year, once in Delhi and once in Varanasi.

Highlights of the Expo:

- It is one of the largest handmade carpet fairs in Asia. The unique capability of the fair is that it adapts any type of design, quality, color and size according to the specifications of the carpet buyers

SARAS Aajeevika Mela begins in New Delhi

- SARAS Aajeevika Mela has begun at India Gate Lawns, in New Delhi. It has been organized by the Ministry of Rural Development under the initiative of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
- It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.
- Over 200 stalls have been set-up at the Mela venue, where nearly 500 rural SHG craftswomen from 29 States and UTs will show-case varied range of products like handicrafts, handlooms, natural food products and a food court with regional cuisines at India Gate Lawns.

India becomes the member of G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance

- India became a member of Group of 20 (G20) Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance which works towards advancing the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies. The World Economic Forum (WEF), the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation serves as secretariat for the Alliance.

Key Points:

- It will constitute global regulations and policy standards for the use of connected devices in public spaces.
- The founding set of institutional partners of the group include the presidents and host nations of the Group of 20 (G20) in 2019 and 2020; Japan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the Smart City Mission of India; Cities for All; Cities Today Institute (CTI); Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF); Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN) among others.

About G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance:

- It is a league of 16 (after India joined) of the world's leading city networks and technology governance organisations.
- It was established in June 2019, in conjunction with the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan

India International Science Fest in Kolkata from November 5



- The India International Science Festival (IISF)-2019 will be held at Kolkata from November 5 to 8 this year.
- It is one of the biggest platforms in the country for bringing together students, researchers, innovators, artists and the general public for celebrating India's achievements in science and technology (S and T).
- The theme of this year's event is 'RISEN' India - "Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation"

1st National Hindi Science writers conference begins in Lucknow

- The first National Hindi Science writers conference 2019 started in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with an aim to promote the use of Hindi and other Vernacular languages in science writing.
- The conference is organised at Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University was inaugurated by the speaker of the state assembly Hriday Narayain Dixit.
- A dedicated website WWW.VIGYANLEKHAN.COM has been prepared for this event.

Government to introduce POSHAN atlas

- The government is to introduce **POSHAN atlas** under **POSHAN Abhiyan**, a mission introduced to ensure the attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022. The announcement was made by Union Minister of WCD Smriti Irani at the 5th National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges.

Developed by:

- POSHAN atlas is developed by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)** in association with the Government to introduce POSHAN atlas POSHAN atlas:
- POSHAN atlas aims to **tackle malnutrition**. The government is developing the Atlas to map the crops and food grains that are grown in different regions of the country so that nutritious protein-rich food in local areas can be promoted.
- POSHAN Abhiyan focuses to ensure the nutrition of children, women, and pregnant mothers in impoverished areas.

Rashtriya Sanskrit Mahotsav

- The flagship and premier festival of ministry of Culture, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Mahotsav is to be conducted in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on 14th October, 2019. It is a part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative that is being organized between 14th October, 2019 and 21st October 2019.

Significance of the mahotsav:

- The aim is to promote engagement of different states and UTs to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse culture. This will secure stronger unity and integrity of India.

Chhattisgarh launched the first Garbage Cafe in Ambikapur

- Chhattisgarh State government has launched India's first-of-its-kind Garbage Cafe in Ambikapur, North Chhattisgarh. The cafe was inaugurated by State Health Minister T S Singh Deo. The Cafe was set up by the Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh.

Aim:

- The initiative aims to make the state plastic-free. With this initiative the poor people and rag pickers will be fed.

Garbage Cafe:

- The Garbage Cafe will provide food to the citizens in exchange for plastic waste.
- Citizens will get free food in exchange for 1kg of plastic while breakfast will be provided in exchange for half a kilogram of plastic.
- The Cafe will sell the collected garbage at Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre.
- The plastic waste will be turned into granules and used in the construction of roads in the city.
- Note: Ambikapur is Chhattisgarh's first dustbin-free city.



Animal ambulance service in limbo in Tiruchi

- The **Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance (AMMA)** service, introduced in the district nearly two years ago remains suspended for the past few months.
- The AMMA ambulance project was launched at a cost ₹7 crore with 10 vehicles, two each for **Tiruchi, Madurai, Kancheepuram, Namakkal and Thanjavur**. The vehicles were stationed at the borders of the districts so that local residents and neighbouring districts could be accessed. A call-centre with the number **1962** was set up on the **TANUVAS** campus in **Chennai** through which the calls were directed to the ambulances, which also had a full-time veterinarian.
- The **Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS)**, the nodal agency says the project is to be handed over to the **Department of Animal Husbandry**.

Modi-Xi 'Informal Summit' to be held in Chennai

- Chinese President Xi Jinping will arrive in Chennai for the second "informal summit" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on October 11-12 in New Delhi and Beijing. The forthcoming Chennai Informal Summit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to continue their discussions on overarching issues of bilateral, regional and global importance and to exchange views on deepening India-China Closer Development Partnership.

Deadline to generate 175 GW renewable energy by 2022 in the country: MNRE

- As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the target date for achieving the cumulative 175 GW (gigawatt) renewable power installed capacity is December 31, 2022, with 100 GW of solar, 60 GW of wind, 10 GW of bio-power and 5 GW of small hydro power.

Key Points:

- This clarification given by the government comes after Crisil (formerly Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) report, which highlighted that the country is likely to miss the renewable energy target of 175 GW by 2022 by a wide margin of 42 % due to many a regulatory challenge, policy flip-flops and also a steep fall in tariffs.
- The country has an installed capacity of 81.3 GW of power generation.

10th National Cultural Festival begins in Madhya Pradesh

- 10th edition of the RashtriyaSanskriti Mahotsav-National Cultural Festival is being organized by the Union Ministry of Culture from 14th to 21st of October under the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' campaign in Madhya Pradesh.
- The National Cultural festival will display diverse forms of folk, art and culture of 22 states. The concept of National Cultural Festival was conceived in the year 2015.

Rozgar Mela in Bikaner concludes

- The Skill India Rozgar Mela is conducted by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. It was recently organized on 12th and 13th October, 2019. 100+ corporate participated in the event and 2000 youths were shortlisted.

About Rozgar Mela:

- The program is one of the key initiatives of the NSDC. NSDC intends to provide vocational training and job opportunities to the youth through the program. In the last 18 months more than 1088 Roz Melas have been organized.

New 'Aarogyasri' health cards from December 21

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the government would bring treatment of 2,000 types of diseases and procedures under the ambit of its flagship programme 'Aarogyasri' from April next on a pilot basis in West Godavari district.
- He also announced that seven new government medical colleges would be established in different parts of the state.

Make in India: Diagnostic kits released

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) have developed two diagnostic kits under Make in India initiative. The kits are called Blue tongue sandwich ELISA (sELISA) and Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA.

Key features

- The kit helps to assess the active infection of the Japanese-Encephalitis virus in the swine population.
- These kits are highly inexpensive as compared to the commercial kits that are available in the market at price of Rs.52,000/-. These kits cost Rs.5,000/- only.

Blue tongue virus

- The Blue tongue virus is an insect-transmitted viral disease that is common among domestic animals. It is widespread among sheep, cattle, goats, camels and buffaloes. The vaccination, early diagnosis and isolation of infected animals will also help control spreading of the disease. The sELISA kit helps to identify the Blue Tongue Virus.

YSR RythuBharosa-PM Kisan Yojana

- YSR RythuBharosa - PM KisanSamman Yojana was launched at VikramaSimhapuri University in Kakturu village of Nellore district to reduce the debts of the farmers by providing a sum of Rs 13,500 per annum in 3 installments in which the contribution of the State Government is Rs 7,500 and the Centre is Rs 6,000.

Key Points:

- The amount was increased to Rs 13,500 from Rs 12,500 and the state budget allocation for the scheme is Rs 5,500 crore.
- Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Classes (BC) and minority families, tenant farmers will get a total investment of Rs 67,500 for 5 years.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal officially launched an initiative called 'FarishteDilliKe'

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal of the AamAadmi Party (AAP) officially launched an initiative called 'FarishteDilliKe' (Angel of Delhi, in English) under which citizens who take accident victims to the hospital are felicitated.
- Entire costs of treatment for all road accident victims will be borne by the Delhi government. It was initially launched in February 2017 on pilot basis.

Key Points:

- Rs 2,000 and a certificate is provided to a good Samaritan for taking the accident victims to a hospital.
- The minister also honoured people who had helped other fellow citizens in need.
- The private hospitals are required to display boards within its premises to inform that they offer free treatment to medico-legal victims of road accidents, acid attack and burn injuries.

9 'Sewa Service' trains connecting small towns to major cities launched

- Railways Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off nine trains connecting small towns to major cities and announced one of those, the Vadnagar -Mehsana train, was the railways' gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who sold tea at the Vadnagar station during his younger days.
- The trains are - Delhi to Shamli, Bhubaneswar to Nayagarh town, Murkongselek to Dibrugarh, Coimbatore to Palani, Coimbatore to Pollachi, Vadnagar to Mehana, Asarya to Himmatnagar, Karur to Salem, Yesvantpur to Tumkur

PM Modi to inaugurate Kartarpur corridor on November 8

- On November 8, PM Modi will inaugurate the Kartarpur corridor to Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. The opening is being done on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

About the corridor:

- Kartarpur Sahib is located in the Narowal district of Pakistan across the Ravi river. It is about 4 km from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India. As a major initiative India and Pakistan agreed to set up the Kartarpur corridor that will connect the holy shrines.
- The corridor will connect Dera Baba Nanak Shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab and Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur. The corridor will facilitate visa free movement of Indian pilgrims to the shrine.

Significance of the Shrine:

- The Gurudwara was built to commemorate the place where the Sikh founder Guru Nanak settled after completing his missionary works. He lived at the site for around 18 years till his death in 1539. The shrine is build where Guru Nanak is said to have died.

3rd India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK held in New Delhi

- The third India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK was held in New Delhi from 13-15 October 2019. At the forum the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan called for the inclusion of petroleum products under GST regime and urged Union finance minister to at least begin by including natural gas and ATF (aviation turbine fuel) in GST.

India International Science Fest in Kolkata from November 5

- The India International Science Festival (IISF)-2019 will be held at Kolkata from November 5 to 8 this year.
- It is one of the biggest platforms in the country for bringing together students, researchers, innovators, artists and the general public for celebrating India's achievements in science and technology (S and T).
- The theme of this year's event is 'RISEN' India - "Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation".

Indian Railways installs most advanced Electronic Interlocking System

- Indian Railways has installed the most advanced Electronic Interlocking System on the Grand Chord route, one of the busiest section of railways.
- This most advanced and safer Electronic Interlocking System was installed at Tundla Junction in Uttar Pradesh by railways as part of upgradation process.

Key Highlights

- This new Electronic system has replaced outdated 65-year old Mechanical Signalling System at Tundla Junction in UP on the route.

About Grand Chord route

- Grand Chord is part of Howrah-Gaya-Delhi line and Howrah-Allahabad-Mumbai line.
- It acts as a link between Sitarampur in West Bengal and Pt. DeenDayal Upadhyay Junction in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Gadkari to inaugurate conference on 'One Nation One Fastag'

- Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate a conference on 'One Nation One Fastag'.
- The conference will see the signing of MoUs with state departments and other agencies for bringing in a unified electronic tolling solution across the country.
- Another MoU is expected to be signed between the Indian Highways Management Company Limited and Goods and Services Tax Network for the integration of Fastag with GST E-Way B

National Tribal Dance Festival to be held in Raipur from December 27

- Chhattisgarh is going to hold its first National Tribal Dance Festival in Raipur between Dec 27 to 29.
- All the states and neighbouring countries are being invited to this festival. It is expected that around 2,500 dancers will perform at the event.
- The festival will showcase traditional tribal dances performed on weddings, crop harvesting, festivals, and on other occasions.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference for 2019 held in Kampala, Uganda

- The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) for 2019 was held in **Kampala, Uganda** from September 22- 29, 2019 under the theme '**Adaption, engagement, and evolution of parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth**'.
- It was organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Uganda Branch and the Parliament of Uganda and hosted by the CPA President Designate (2018-2019), Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

About CPA:

- ▶ It was previously known as the Empire Parliamentary Association.
- ▶ **Chairperson:** Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka.

31st International Conference on Sindh held in London

- The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) hosted a 31st international conference on **Sindh** in London.
- In WSC the participants highlighted issues such as enforced disappearances of activists, human rights violations and forced conversion of religious minorities in Pakistan.
- The 31st International Conference on Sindh slammed Pakistan over its failure to respect democratic rights and curbs on by the country's military and called on the need to tackle growing religious extremism.

PM Modi and PM Jugnauth jointly inaugurate phase-1 of Metro Express in Mauritius

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius, The Hon'ble Mr. Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the Metro Express and new ENT Hospital in Mauritius.



Ecuador to withdraw from OPEC in January 2020

- Ecuador will withdraw from 14-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from 1 January 2020. The country stated its internal fiscal problems as the reason for the withdrawal from the group.

Key Highlights:

- ▶ The Andean nation (i.e. a group of nations in South America connected by Andes mountain range) is attempting to increase its production of crude oil in a bid to raise more income. On multiple occasions Ecuador has not complied with the output quota fixed by OPEC.
- ▶ This measure is also in line with national government's plan to reduce public spending and generate new income. Despite leaving OPEC, the country will however continue to support efforts to stabilize the world oil market.

9th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting to be held in Thailand

- The 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial meeting will be held in Bangkok in Thailand.
- India will be represented by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. This will be the last Ministerial before 3rd Leaders Summit to be held on 4 November 2019 in Bangkok.
- It also comes at a crucial stage where RCEP is scheduled to be announced as concluded in November 2019.

About Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- It is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between 10 member states of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its six free-trade agreement (FTA) partners- India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea.
- RCEP negotiations were formally launched in November 2012 at 21st ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Mumbai 12th wealthiest city in the world New York won 1st place with 65 billionaires

- According to a report by New World Wealth Mumbai is the 12th richest city in the world with a total wealth of \$960 billion, It is the only Indian city to feature in the top 20 list of wealthiest cities in the world. Delhi is on 22nd position and second Indian city after Mumbai on the wealth intelligence firm's The Wealthiest Cities Worldwide in 2019 list. Bangalore is on 26th spot while Hyderabad came last at 28.
- Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad were expected to grow strongly over the next 10 years. The three cities have been named under the 'cities to watch' category in the report.

New World Wealth

- New World Wealth is a global market research group, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. They provide management consulting and public relations services to our clients.
- Our research covers 90 countries and 150 cities worldwide. They are the researchers behind the Africa Wealth Report and the Global Wealth Migration Review.

Remains of 5,000-year-old city unveiled in Israel

- Archaeologists of Israel have unveiled remains of a 5,000-year-old city believed to be the biggest in the region from the Bronze Age. The site known as "EnEsur" included fortifications, a ritual temple and a cemetery. An even earlier settlement, believed to be 7,000 years old, was discovered beneath the city.

Key Points

- Nearly 4 million fragments were found at the site which has been excavated since the past 2.5 years, and the site included rare figurines of humans and animals, pieces of pottery and various tools, some of which came from Egypt.

Singapore set to become the first country to ban ads for unhealthy sugary drinks

- The health ministry of Singapore notified that it will ban ads for unhealthy sugary drinks to combat rising diabetes rates. Thus, it will become the first nation in the world to do so.

Key points:

- It has requested the SSB (sugar-sweetened beverages) manufacturers to reformulate the drinks with less sugar content.
- As per the data from International Diabetes Federation (IDF), 13.7% of adults suffer from diabetes in Singapore.
- IDF has estimated that the number of people suffering from diabetes in the world is expected to rise to 629 million by 2045 from 420 million people at present.

Scotland becomes the first country in the UK to ban the smacking of children

- Scotland has become the first part of the United Kingdom to ban the smacking of children. The country introduced a law that makes smacking the children a criminal offence for parents and carers to use physical punishment against a child.

Aim

- The law change is aimed to give children the same protection from assault as adults. This law has brought Scotland into line with United Nations recommendations. Currently, the parents and the carers are allowed to use reasonable physical force in order to discipline children.

World's longest double-deck suspension bridge opens to traffic

- A double-deck suspension bridge with the longest span in the world opened to traffic in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province.
- The first double-deck road bridge over the Yangtze River, with a 1,700-meter-long main span, stretches 4.13 km in total length.
- The top deck of the 10th Yangtze River bridge has six lanes with a designed speed of 80 kph while the bottom deck also has six lanes but with a designed speed of 60 kph. On the top deck there are also two sightseeing sidewalks and on the bottom deck there are two cycleways together with two sidewalks.
- The Yangsigang Yangtze River bridge is the world's longest-spanning double-deck suspension bridge.

8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS



Keezhadi excavation in Tamil Nadu leads to a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age

- As per the report, Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai 'published by the TNAD (Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department), One of the 6 samples from cultural deposits unearthed during excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu (TN) at a depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S (United States) ,goes back to 580 BCE (Before the Common Era).



Key points:

- ▶ Inference: Urban settlement on the banks of river vaigai (in Tamil Nadu) had happened in TN around the 6th century BCE as happened in Gangatic plains around the same time.
- ▶ The fourth excavations (2018) findings pushes back the date of Tamil-Brahmi script to 6th century BCE.
- ▶ Background: In 2017, carbon dating of charcoal found at Keeladi had established that the settlement there belonged to 200 BC. This was the concurrence with established time period of sangam age (300 BCE-300 CE).
- ▶ Significance of Keezhadi: It is the 1st intact habitation centre to be unearthed in Tamil Nadu . Urbanization of Tamil land had begun to happen by the sangam era(sophistication of tamils depicted in the sangam literature).
- ▶ History of excavation: In 2014, ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) conducted a survey of the banks of river vaigai & Archaeological evidence were discovered at 293 location. Of those about 90-100 sites showed signs of habitation & of these 3 were chosen & studied(One was excavated i.e. Keezhadi).

RupaGurunath appointed as first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association

- RupaGurunath was appointed as the first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) at the 87th Annual General Meeting of TNCA held at Chepauk MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, TamilNadu. With this appointment she also became the first woman to head a state level cricket body in the country.



Governor Launches 7th Economic Census in T.N.

- Governor Banwarilal Purohit launched the seventh economic census in Tamil Nadu. The Economic census is organised by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The data on employment, various industrial activities, the size of the establishments, investment in machinery and equipment and annual turnover are collected, compiled and documented in the census.

3D Animation Theater opens at Guindy

(3D animation theater, Guindy children's park, environment)

- The 3D Animated Movie Theater opened at the Guindy Children's Park in Chennai for the first time in the country.
 - ▶ Wild life weekend has been celebrated in Guindy Children's park
 - ▶ Minister of Forest Dindigul Srinivasan and Fisheries Minister T. Jayakumar were also present at the function.

PMJAY in First Year Funded 90,000 cancer claims; Tamil Nadu tops the list

- The Union Health Ministry's data showed that in its first year of the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the treatment of 90,000 cancer patients was funded through 1.8 lakh hospital admissions. Tamil Nadu emerged as the top state where the most cancer patients availed treatment under PMJAY with 40,056 cases. It was followed by Kerala (22,000), Madhya Pradesh (19,455), Chhattisgarh (15,997) and Gujarat (14,380).

Key Points:

- The National Health Authority (NHA), the nodal agency for implementation of PMJAY has sanctioned Rs 321 crores for cancer care so far.
- Every year there are 11.57 lakh new cancer patients in India and 7.84 lakh cancer deaths.
- There is a rise in cancer claims from 906 claims in September 2018 to 87,832 in September 2019.

About PMJAY:

- Ayushman Bharat (AB) Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) or National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched on 23 September 2018, under the Ayushman Bharat Mission of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in India. The scheme aims at making interventions in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both preventive and promotive health, to address healthcare holistically.

10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. When is International Translation Day observed?
(A) September 28 (B) September 29 (C) September 27 (D) September 30
2. What is the Theme of the Day 2019 edition of World Rabies Day?
(A) Rabies-Educate, Vaccinate, Eliminate (B) End Rabies by campaigning
(C) Rabies: Vaccinate to eliminate (D) Rabies: Defeat this horrring
3. What is the theme of the International Day for the Elderly persons 2019?
(A) Promoting Society for all (B) Take a Stand Against Ageism
(C) The Journey to Age Equality (D) Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions
4. When is the International Day for the Elderly observed?
(A) March 23 (B) October 1 (C) May 15 (D) November 19
5. When is National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed?
(A) October 1 (B) October 2 (C) October 3 (D) October 4
6. When is the 94th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service Observed?
(A) October 1 (B) October 2 (C) October 3 (D) October 4
7. Where is the Headquarters of World Trade Organisation (WTO) located?
(A) New York (B) Geneva (C) Malaysia (D) Singapore
8. How many Member states are in World Trade Organisation?
(A) 163 (B) 166 (C) 164 (D) 165
9. What is the rank of India in Global Firepower Index?
(A) 3rd (B) 5th (C) 4th (D) 6th
10. When was the United Nation Human Rights Council (UNHRC) formed?
(A) 2000 (B) 2002 (C) 2004 (D) 2006
11. What is the Maximum speed of Rafale jet?
(A) 2222 km (B) 2322 km (C) 2102 km (D) 2156 km
12. What is the meaning of "Rafale"?
(A) Strong winds (B) Speed (C) War (D) Valor
13. Where was 87th Air force foundation day celebrated?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Uttara Khand (C) Jharkhand (D) New Delhi
14. Where is Indian Army Organized Veer Kumb Rally?
(A) Hyderabad (B) Kerala (C) Jammu & Kashmir (D) Andhra Pradesh
15. What is host country of the Exercise MALABAR 2019?
(A) USA (B) India (C) China (D) Japan
16. Recently the Mazagon Dock Ship Builders Ltd handed over which scorpene submarine to Indian Navy?
(A) Velu (B) Kalvari (C) Khanderi (D) Shankul
17. Where was 22nd India International Security Expo-2019 held?
(A) Chennai (B) New Delhi (C) Lucknow (D) Jaipur
18. Bhagat Ram Vats, who passed away recently, related to which of the following field?
(A) Science (B) Politics (C) Sports (D) Journalism
19. Madhav Apte, related to which of the following sport?
(A) Cricket (B) Wrestling (C) Hockey (D) Chess
20. Which country launched three commemorative coin to mark the 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak?
(A) Pakistan (B) Myanmar (C) Nepal (D) India
21. What is the name of India's first female graduate for whom google was recently dedicated a doodle?
(A) Avantika Deshbandhu (B) Kamini Roy
(C) Sapna Verma (D) Payal Trivedi
22. Which country's parliament was passed a resolution to celebrate Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary in honour of his teachings?
(A) China (B) India (C) America (D) South Africa

23. Where 270 Acre city is going to setup to commemorate Guru Nanab Dev's 550th Birth Anniversary?
(A) Mohali (B) Jalandhar (C) Amirtarus (D) Sulthampur Lothi
24. Which of the following state's National Highway named as Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg?
(A) Gujarat (B) Meghalaya (C) New Delhi (D) Punjab
25. What is the name of the first person who did spacewalk in 1965 died recently?
(A) Fyodor Gorbachor (B) Alexei Leonor (C) Joseph Huston (D) Mark Elliot
26. D28 iceberg seen frequently in news is found in which of the following region?
(A) Iceland (B) Artic region (C) Antartica (D) Alaska region
27. Where was Drone Innovators Network Summit – 2019 held?
(A)Cochin, Kerala (B)Chennai, Tamilnadu (C)New Delhi (D) Bangalore, Karnataka
28. Scientists excavated ancient river in which state that linked the Ganga and the Yamuna river?
(A) Uttarpradesh (B) Uttarakhand (C) West Bengal (D) Bihar
29. Which state is going to set up India's first sports university?
(A) Punjab (B) Uttar Pradesh (C) New Delhi (D) Madhya Pradesh
30. Where is "Khao Yai National Park" located?
(A)India (B)Myanmar (C)Thailand (D)Srilanka
31. In which of the following countries, 5000 – year old city – "EnEsurthy" recently discovered?
(A) Iran (B) China (C) Egypt (D) Isreal
32. Who secured the top rank in the World Wrestling Ranking in 86 kg category?
(A) Yogeshwar Dutt (B) Deepak Punia (C) Bajrang Dunia (D) Sushil Kumar
33. Which country clinched SAFF U-18 Championship title-2019?
(A) Bangladesh (B) Nepal (C) Myanmar (D) India
34. Sumit Nagal recently won south American clay court, who is belong to which of the following state?
(A) Assam (B) Haryana (C) Odisha (D) Madhyapradesh
35. N Wilson Singh is associated with which of the following sports?
(A) Chess (B) Swimming (C) Boxing (D) Wrestling
36. Which Indian Cricketer attained his career best 17th In ICC Test Player rankings recently?
(A) Rohit Sharma (B) Virat Kohli (C) Dinesh Karthik (D) Hardik Pondiya
37. Who was the first Indian Captain to score 40 century?
(A) Rohit Sharma (B) M.S. Dhoni (C) Ravindra Jadaja (D) Virat Kholi
38. Where is India sports summit-Fitness \$10 Billion opportunity held?
(A) Mumbai (B) New Delhi (C) Raipur (D) Patna
39. Who is the author of the book "Girl power: Indian women who Broke the Rule"?
(A) Neha J. Hiranandani (B) Roopa Bai (C) Paro Anand (D) Amish Tripathi
40. Who is the author of the book "The RSS: Roadmaps for the 21st century"?
(A) Mahesh Kale (B) Arvind Gupta (C) M.S. Khol Valka (D)Sumit Ambedkar
41. Who is the author of the book titled "The Tech Whisperer"?
(A) Rohinton Mistry (B) Jaspreet Shenoy (C) Nirad C. Chandhuri (D) Preeti Shenoy
42. Who is the author of "India and the Netherlands – past, present and future"?
(A)Venu Rajamone (B) Sanjay Verma (C) Manjir Singh (D) Rajesh Kumar
43. Who is the author of the Book "A Sorrow Beyond Dreams"?
(A) Kazuo Ishiguro (B) Peter Handke (C) Olga Tokarczuk (D) Bob Dylan
44. Who is the author of "Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy"?
(A) Subramanian Swamy (B) Pranab Mukharjee
(C) Varun Thomas Madev (D) Ashok K. Banker
45. Which of the following book is not written by the Abdul Kalam?
(A) Failure to success: Legendry Lives (B) You Are Born to Blossam
(C) Ignited Minds (D) A House for Mr. Biswas
46. Who is the author of "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life"?
(A) Abhinav Bindra (B) Anju Bobby George (C) Viswanathan Anand (D) Jeev Milkhl Singh

47. Who wrote the book "Dewas Ki Sanskrit Parampara"?
(A) Jeevan Singh Thakur (B) Pragalath Singh Patel
(C) R.K. Narayan (D) Mulk Raj Ananth
48. Which Indian Corporate won UN Global Action Award in the "Climate Neutral Now" category?
(A) Birla (B) Infosys (C) Reliance (D) Tata
49. Which state bagged the Best Award for overall growth in tourism category?
(A) Maharastra (B) Madhyapradesh
(C) Tamilnadu (D) Andhra Pradesh
50. Who is awarded 31st Punyabhushan Award?
(A) Pratap Godre (B) Sudhir Godgil (C) G.B. Degluskar (D) H.V. Sardesai
51. Dr. K.Siva Reddy who has been awarded the Saraswathi Samman 2018 is associated with which language?
(A) Tamil (B) Telugu (C) Marathi (D) Malayalam
52. Who was conferred India's most powerful women in media award at influence excellence awards?
(A) Kalli purie (B) Kumud Srinivasan (C) Naina Lal Kidwai (D) Roshini Nadar Malhotra
53. Which state topped the 'School Education Quality Index' released by NITI Aayog in large state category?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Bihar (C) Kerala (D) Punjab
54. Which of the following institutions won the India Research Excellence - Citation Awards 2019?
(A) IIT-Madras (B) IIT-Roorkee (C) IIT-Delhi (D) IIT-Bombay
55. Who won gold in the 100m event in the World Athletics Championships 2019?
(A) Fraser-Pryce (B) Asher-Smith (C) Marie-Josee Ta Lou (D) Allyson Felix
56. Choose the correct answer
1. Bathukamma festival celebrated in Andhra Pradesh
2. Bathukamma festival is a festival of flowers
(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 2 (C) 2 only (D) None of the above
57. Who was appointed as the Vice Chief of Indian Air Force?
(A) H.S. Arora (B) Raghunath Nambiar (C) Madhukar Kamath (D) S.S. Deswal
58. Who appointed as the First Women President of Tamilnadu Cricket Association?
(A) Neetakadam (B) Rupa Gurunath (C) Chandramukhi Devi (D) D. Soso Shaiza
59. Who was appointed as the Secretary of the Central law Department?
(A) Sunil Kumar (B) Rajendra Menon (C) Alok Mittal (D) Anoop Kumar Mendiratta
60. Who is appointed as a member of the National Medical Commission?
(A) C. Nataraj (B) Mangut Ram Sharma (C) Dr. Sudha Seshayyam (D) Sudha Bharatraj
61. Who is nominated as 47th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India?
(A) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (B) Justice S.A. Bobde (C) Justice N.V. Ramana (D) Justice Arunkumar Misra
62. Who is appointed as Director General of the National Security Guard?
(A) Anup Kumar (B) Ajay Kumar (C) K.M. Abraham (D) Rajiv Khel
63. Who is appointed as new Second Women Chief of IMF?
(A) Christine Lagard (B) Kristalina Georgieva (C) Geetha Gopinath (D) Luzil George Wout
64. When was the Champaran Satyagraha held?
(A) 1917 (B) 1919 (C) 1921 (D) 1924
65. When year Mamallapuram announced as a World Heritage Site?
(A) 1956 (B) 1968 (C) 1975 (D) 1984
66. Which scheme introduced to encourage female students to continue S.T.E.M. education?
(A) Nahri Kalyan Yojana (B) Vigyan Jyoti Yojana (C) Jyoti Anandh Yojana (D) Kanyashree Yojana
67. When was the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana launched?
(A) 5 June 2014 (B) 2 October 2015 (C) 25 June 2015 (D) 5 October 2017
68. HRD Minister launched program DHRUV from which of the following organisation?
(A) ISRO (B) CSIR (C) DRDO (D) IIS

69. Which of the following state launched "Plants for Plastic" campaign?
(A) Assam (B) Tripura (C) Nagaland (D) Kerala
70. Which of the following company opens first India data centre in Mumbai?
(A) Hyperion (B) Google (C) Oracle (D) Netsuite
71. Which of the following denomination of Indian note's printing in stopped by RBI?
(A) ₹ 100 (B) ₹ 200 (C) ₹ 2000 (D) ₹ 10
72. When wholesale price Index was published for the first time?
(A) 1900 (B) 1902 (C) 1947 (D) 1991
73. Who launched 'Team Cashless India' to push digital payments?
(A) Rohit Sharma (B) M.S. Dhoni (C) Virat Kohli (D) Sachin Tendulkar
74. What is the rank of India in the list of largest economies in the World?
(A) 5th (B) 6th (C) 7th (D) 9th
75. Where was Gandhi Film Festival held?
(A) Bengaluru (B) Surat (C) Mumbai (D) Kolkata
76. Which country recently affected by Typhoon Hagibis?
(A) Phillippines (B) China (C) Thailand (D) Japan
77. What is the meaning of Hagibis?
(A) Time (B) Distance (C) Speed (D) Force
78. Which Ministry launched the 'm Hariyali' App recently to encourage public engagement in planting trees?
(A) Ministry of Commerce (B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(C) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (D) Ministry of Home affairs
79. Pangio bhujia, is associated to which kind of spices?
(A) Tortoise (B) Fish (C) Tiger (D) Lion
80. In which of the following city the World's oldest known matured pearl was discovered?
(A) Male (B) Jakarta (C) Abu Dhabi (D) Yaman
81. With which of the following institution USA's Exxonmobil collaborated for energy and biofuels research?
(A) IIT Kharagpur (B) IIT Delhi (C) IIT Guwahati (D) IIT Madras
82. Which airline became the world's first airline to use Taxibol?
(A) Alaska Airlines (B) Air India (C) Nikko (D) Hawaian Airlines
83. Which of the following Indian Institution has discovered the Bio Bricks from agriculture waste?
(A) Hyderabad (B) Chennai (C) Mumbai (D) Guwahati
84. In which of the following institution 2nd Singapore-India Hackathon held recently?
(A) IIT Mumbai (B) IIT Kolkata (C) IIT Bombay (D) IIT Madras
85. Who released School Education Quality Index?
(A) Ministry of Human Resource Development (B) NITI Aayog
(C) Council of Science & Industrial Research (D) UGC
86. What is the base year of NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI)?
(A) 2015-2016 (B) 2016-2017 (C) 2017-2018 (D) 2018-2019
87. Which Indian State launched the World's first trading programme to reduce air pollution?
(A) Haryana (B) Kerala (C) Gujarat (D) Odisha
88. Choose the correct answer? 1. School Education Quality Index (SEQI) released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2. Tamil Nadu ranked 7th place in this index.
(A) 1 only (B) 1 and 2 (C) 2 only (D) None of the above
89. Which of the following tribe started to returning Mizoram from Tripura?
(A) Mizo (B) Bru (C) Santhals (D) Bodo
90. Which country plans to conduct first global DXB challenge 2019?
(A) USA (B) India (C) Dubai (D) Bangladesh
91. In which country will be first to get Mylan's pretomamd, the new TB drug first?
(A) USA (B) UK (C) India (D) Canada

92. What is the rank of india in Global Hunger Index 2019?
 (A) 99 (B) 94 (C) 102 (D) 105
93. What is the rank of India in World Giving Index?
 (A) 92 (B) 102 (C) 72 (D) 82
94. Which of the following organisation announced that India halved its poverty rate since 1990's?
 (A) RBI (B) World Economics Form
 (C) World Bank (D) World Health Organisation
95. Where is the Cavay Disciplinary Committee meeting going to be organized for the first time in Tamil nadu?
 (A) Madurai (B) Trichy (C) Kovai (D) Chennai
96. Where is Asia's largest modern livestock park going to setup?
 (A) Madurai (B) Trichy (C) Salem (D) Karur
97. Where is India's first e-waste clinic, going to be set up?
 (A) Chennai (B) Bhopal (C) Pune (D) Chandigarh
98. Who heads National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)?
 (A) Cabinet Secretary (B) Prime Minister (C) President (D) Home Minister
99. The first Tejas train of India connects Which of the following cities?
 (A) Satrapathi Sivaji Station - Karmali (B) Lucknow - Delhi
 (C) Mumbai - Surat (D) Delhi - Jammu
100. When was the International Social Security Association (ISSA) formed?
 (A) 1915 (B) 1927 (C) 1935 (D) 1946

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31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
D	B	D	B	B	A	D	B	A	D
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
A	A	B	A	D	C	A	B	D	C
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
B	A	C	B	B	B	B	B	D	C
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
B	A	B	A	D	B	C	A	A	C
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
C	B	B	B	C	D	C	C	B	C
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
D	B	A	D	B	A	C	D	B	C
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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