

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2019

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Important Days

Date	Important days	Theme
July 1	Chartered Accountants Day (CA Day)	-
July 1	National Doctors' Day	"Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment"
July 1	GST Day	-
July 2	World UFO Day	-
July 4	Independence Day USA	-
July 6	World Zoo noses Day	-
July (First Saturday in July)	International Co-operative Day	Coops 4 Decent Work
July 7	World Chocolate Day	-
July 7	International Day of Cooperatives (IDC)	-
July 11	World Population Day	-
July 12	National Simplicity Day	-
July 12	International Malala Day	-
July 17	World Day for International Justice	-
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	-
July 22	Pi Approximation Day	-
July 23	National Broadcasting day	-
July 24	National Thermal Engineer Day	-
July 25 (fourth Thursday of July)	National Refreshment Day	-
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas or Kargil Memorial Day or Kargil Victory Day	Remember, Rejoice and Renew
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	-
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	"Invest in eliminating hepatitis"
July 28 (fourth Sunday in July)	National Parents Day	-
July 29	International Tiger Day	-

July 30	World Ranger Day	-
July 30	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	Human Trafficking: Call Your Government To Action"

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI launches medium-term strategy framework Utkarsh 2022

- RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, launched 'Utkarsh 2022', the Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework.
- It has launched the framework to achieve excellence in the performance of statutory and other functions, strengthening the trust of citizens and other institutions in the RBI, enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles, best-in-class and environment-friendly digital as well as physical infrastructure, and innovative, dynamic and skilled human resources.
- In April 2015, a formal strategic management framework was launched. The framework contains the mission of the RBI, the central purpose, the values(public interest, integrity and independence, responsiveness and innovation, diversity and inclusiveness, and introspection and pursuit of excellence) and the declarations of the vision and the bank's commitment to the nation.

RBI relaxes leverage ratio for banks to boost their lending capacity

- The Reserve Bank relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks to help them boost their lending activities.
- The leverage ratio stands reduced to 4 per cent for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5 per cent for other banks effective from the quarter commencing October 1, 2019.
- The leverage ratio, as defined under Basel-III norms, is Tier-I capital as a percentage of the bank's exposures. The framework is designed to capture leverage associated with both on- and off-balance sheet exposures.

RBI sets up working group to review regulatory norms for core investment companies

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CICs).
- Over the years, corporate group structures have become more complex involving multiple layering and leveraging, which has led to greater inter-connectedness with the financial system through their access to public funds. Further, in light of recent developments, there is a need to strengthen the corporate governance framework of CICs
- The six-member working group, which will be headed by Tapan Ray, Non-Executive Chairman, Central Bank of India, and former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, will examine the

current regulatory regime for CICs and suggest changes to the current approach for their registration, including the practice of multiple CICs being allowed within a group.

- The working group shall submit its report by October 31, 2019

Cost of Rs 2000 note falls 65 paise per piece in 2018-19

- The cost of a Rs 2000 currency note fell 65 paise or 18.4 per cent in 2018-19 compared to the year-ago period.
- Introduced after demonetisation in November 2016, Rs 2000 notes are printed only by the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt Ltd (BRBNMPL) -- a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- The selling price of Rs 2000 note from the BRBNMPL was Rs 3.53 apiece in 2018-19. It declined 65 paise from Rs 4.18 apiece in 2017-18.
- The selling price of a Rs 500 note was Rs 2.13 in 2018-19, lower than Rs 2.39 in the same period a year ago.
- The selling price of Rs 200 note per piece declined to Rs 2.15 in 2018-19 compared to Rs 2.24 in 2017-18.
- The expenditure incurred on printing of currency notes rose to Rs 7,965 crore in 2017-18 (July-June) from Rs 4,912 crore in 2016-17.

RBI slaps Rs 7 crore fine on SBI for non-compliance of directions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has penalised State Bank of India and Union Bank of India for violating certain regulatory guidelines
- SBI was fined Rs. 7 crore for non-compliance with the directions issued by the RBI on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, code of conduct for opening and operating current accounts and reporting of data on Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC), and fraud risk management and classification and reporting of frauds
- The central bank also imposed a Rs. 10-lakh fine on Union Bank for non-compliance with the directions on the cybersecurity framework in banks issued by the RBI.

World Bank

World Bank to offer \$250 million to Kerala for disaster management

- The World Bank has cleared the first tranche of \$250 million of the \$500 million fund for the Resilient Kerala Programme (RKP) to help improve the state's resilience against natural disasters and climate change. Kerala has become the first Indian state to get this fund

Asian Development Bank

ADB sanctions about Rs 2000 Cr for power projects in Tripura

- Asian Development Bank has sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for upgradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura.
- The amount was recently sanctioned to the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited.
- The project has been sanctioned for upgrading capacity of 63 MW Rokhia Project to 120 MW at an estimated cost of over 699 crore and modernising Gumti Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of nearly 1225 crore rupees.
- Rokhia project is located at West Tripura district whereas Gumti project is in Gomati district.

ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent for FY20

- Asian Development Bank has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent for the current year
- India is expected to grow by 7 per cent in 2019 (FY20) and 7.2 per cent in 2020 (FY21), slightly slower than projected in April
- For the south Asian region growth projected at 6.6 per cent in 2019 and 6.7 per cent in 2020

Other Banking News

IBBI sets one-year timeline for liquidation process of insolvent companies

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has changed the process of liquidation to make it time-bound. The new rules say that the process must be finished within one year of its commencement.
- The new regulations also say that a compromise between the stakeholders must happen within 90 days of the liquidation order.
- The amendment requires the financial creditors to contribute towards the liquidation costs, when the company does not have resources. This can be recovered with interest later.
- For these changes, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 have been notified.

SEBI fixes minimum staggered delivery period of 5 days for commodity futures

- Capital markets regulator SEBI fixed the minimum duration of the staggered delivery period at five working days for all commodity futures in order to bring uniformity in the timeline across exchanges.
- Staggered delivery period is the duration during which sellers or buyers having open position may submit an intention to give or take the delivery of the contract.

- At present, there is no uniformity in the length of staggered delivery period for commodity futures contracts across exchanges even for the same commodities.
- It clarified that the exchanges shall have the flexibility to set higher duration of staggered delivery period for a commodity futures contract after taking into account factors such as historical open interest, volume near expiry etc.

Nilekani-Backed Sahamati Account Aggregator Could Solve Fintech's Data Problem

- Infosys cofounder and its former chairman Nandan Nilekani brought a phase of disruption for digital India with the work on Aadhaar and the subsequent push from IndiaStack.
- Nilekani has now introduced a new model which could change the game for the fintech ecosystem in India in the form of account aggregator.
- Nilekani debuted Sahamati, a collective of account aggregator focussed on fintech data and addressing the friction in accessing this data.
- The Sahamati framework addresses pain points and provides a digital platform for easy sharing and consumption of data between its partner entities, with user consent.
- Sahamati claims that it has in-principle approval from RBI, while other financial services regulators (FSRs) are providing the required regulatory support and guidance for the rollout.
- Sahamati's data empowerment and protection architecture (DEPA) enables the collection and use of personal data to improve access to financial, healthcare, and other socio-economically important services in real-time. DEPA also claims to preserve the safety, security and privacy of users.

India to be first recipient of AIIB local currency funding

- India is set to be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB).
- AIIB president Jin Liqun had announced the bank's intention to roll out local currency financing to provide more options to borrowers.
- India, which is the second largest shareholder of Beijing-based AIIB with a 7.5% stake, has received about \$2-billion funding for various projects so far. China holds 20.06% in the over-three-year-old bank.

Aditya Birla Payments Bank shuts operations 18 months after launch

- Aditya Birla Payments Bank, a venture between Idea Cellular and Aditya Birla Nuvo, has shut down its operations.
- The payments bank that was only 18-month old has asked its customers to transfer their balances before July 26.
- It was a venture between Aditya Birla Nuvo (51%) and Idea Cellular (49%).

- Stringent KYC norms and stiff competition were some of the key reasons that led to the winding up of the payments bank.

Karnataka Bank launches a Digital Recovery Tool

- Karnataka Bank has launched a web tool named VASOOL SO-Ft (VASOOL SOFAST) for digitalising NPA recovery process.
- As part of Transformation journey, a digital tool for recovery of stressed assets is launched which will provide end-to-end digital solution.

Punjab & Sind Bank sets up centralized MSME & Retail Group for credit approval

- Punjab & Sind Bank has set up the Centralized Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) & Retail Group (Cen-MARG) for credit facilities at its head office in the national capital.
- At this centralized set up, now all MSME and retail credit approvals will be performed. This will not only help branches focus better on lead generation for retail and MSME lending but also enhance customer service.
- The Cen-MARG would be linked with pan-India branches in a phased manner.

IMF approves USD 6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan

- The IMF approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of three years for cash-strapped Pakistan, aimed at returning sustainable growth to the country's fragile economy and improve the standards of living.
- The USD 6 billion financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion while, the remaining amount will be phased over the duration of the programme.

YES Bank acquires 9.47% stake in Eveready by invoking pledged shares

- YES Bank has acquired a 9.47 per cent stake in Eveready Industries India, part of the B M Khaitan group, by invoking pledged shares.
- It had acquired 6,880,149 shares having a nominal value of Rs 5 per share constituting 9.47 per cent of the post-issue paid-up share capital.
- The B M Khaitan group has been in troubled waters for the past one year and its major firms — Eveready, McLeod Russel India and McNally Bharat Engineering — have been trying to bring down the group level debt.

SEBI's 75 per cent cash surplus to go to government

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India will now have to transfer 75 per cent of its surplus from the general fund every year to the Consolidated Fund of India that is managed by the Central Government.
- An announcement to this effect was made in the Budget via a proposed amendment to SEBI Act 1992.

- SEBI has a surplus of ₹3,170 crore as per its 2017 balance sheet, which is the latest available in public domain. The surplus could go up by several hundred crore rupees once its 2018 balance sheet is out.
- The Budget has proposed that SEBI should constitute a reserve fund and 25 per cent of the annual surplus of the general fund should be credited to this reserve fund. Moreover, the transfer to the reserve fund every year should not exceed the total annual expenditure of the preceding two years.
- A gazette notification to this effect will be issued after the Budget is passed in Parliament.

Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs 1 lakh crore

- Deposits in bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan scheme, launched about five years ago by the Modi-government, have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 36.06 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts was at Rs 1,00,495.94 crore as on July 3.
- The deposits in the account of the beneficiaries, which has been steadily rising, was Rs 99,649.84 crore on June 6 and Rs 99,232.71 crore in the week before.
- The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014, with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.
- Accounts opened under PMJDY are Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts with additional feature of RuPay debit card and overdraft.
- The number of zero balance accounts under PMJDY declined from 5.10 crore (16.22 per cent of the total accounts) in March 2018 to 5.07 crore (14.37 per cent of the total accounts) in March 2019.
- There is no requirement of maintaining minimum balance in BSBD accounts.
- Enthused by the success of the scheme, the government enhanced the accident insurance cover to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh for new accounts opened after August 28, 2018.
- The overdraft limit has also been doubled to Rs 10,000.

Nabard to raise Rs 60,000 crore via non-convertible debentures this year

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) will raise long-term funds of Rs 60,000 crore through nonconvertible debentures in the current financial year.
- Its own requirements have been assessed at Rs 30,000 crore and the balance would be for the Centre to cover the shortfall in various schemes in rural development and sanitation in FY20.
- NABARD has already raised Rs 11,000 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2019.

Exim Bank inks USD 124 million loan pact for infra, health projects in Papua New Guinea, Senegal

- Exim Bank has signed agreements with Papua New Guinea and Senegal governments for providing USD 124 million (over Rs 850 crore) loans to finance infrastructure and health care projects in these countries.
- The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has entered into an agreement with Papua New Guinea for Government of India supported line of credit of USD 100 million for financing infrastructure projects in the country.
- Of the total soft loan for the country, USD 60 million is to go for Bayer-Madang road project and USD 40 million for Hoskins-Kimbe road project.
- Besides, an agreement was signed with Senegal for USD 24.5 million line of credit for financing upgradation and rehabilitation of health care system in the country.

L&T Finance arm gets \$100m from AIIB for green energy funding

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced that it will provide \$100 million in loans to L&T Infrastructure Finance Company for on-lending to wind and solar power infrastructure projects in the country.
- This deal with the arm of L&T Finance Holdings marks the bank's first loan to a non-banking finance company.

HDFC Bank, CSC launch credit card for small traders, village entrepreneurs

- HDFC Bank launched a co-branded "Small Business Money Back Credit Card" for small traders and village level entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- The credit card is specifically designed for CSC's VLEs, and VLE-sourced customers, and will give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses.
- The card was launched by HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri and CSC Chief Dinesh Kumar Tyagi.
- At present, as much as Rs 70,000 crore worth of business is transacted through the network of Common Services Centres (CSCs), which apart from providing a platform for essential government and public utility services also deliver a range of social welfare schemes, financial services, education and skill development courses, healthcare, agriculture services and digital literacy.

Government cuts interest on GPF by 10 bps to 7.9 per cent

- Government cuts interest on General Provident Fund (GPF) by 10 bps to 7.9 per cent from 8 per cent for the period starting July 1 and ending on September 30.
- This interest rate will be applicable on provident funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces. The rate is in line with that of Public Provident Fund.

Andhra Bank unveils AI chatbot ABHi in Telangana

- Andhra Bank launched its Artificial Intelligence (AI) interactive assistant – ABHi.

- Bank Managing Director and CEO, J Packirisamy has unveiled the Chatbot - ABHi at a function held at Bank's Head office
- The Bank's AI powered chatbot-ABHi uses latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithm to understand the customer query and fetch the relevant information from possible knowledgebase in a matter of milliseconds.

ICICI Bank launches digital banking platform 'InstaBIZ' for MSMEs

- ICICI Bank announces the launch of a new digital platform curated specially for MSMEs and self-employed customers to enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly. Called, 'InstaBIZ', it allows customers to avail as many as over 115 products and services in a digital and secure manner on their mobile phone or internet banking platform.
- Many of the services are first-in-the-industry and are available instantly. With this, MSMEs can now enjoy enhanced convenience and productivity, as they can complete their banking transactions 'on-the-go', without visiting a bank branch.
- This first-of-its-kind comprehensive digital platform for businesses enables them to experience the convenience of a range of services completely digitally --- instant overdraft facility (upto Rs 15 lakh) & business loans, easy bulk collection & payments of funds through multiple digital modes, automatic bank reconciliation and undertake largely all of the export-import transactions like inward and outward remittances among others.
- It is the first digital banking platform to enable instant payment of GST using the challan number in a single click payment. Additionally, they can instantly apply for a Point-of-Sale (PoS) machine as well as instant marine insurance policy—both industry first services.

IRDAI tweaks norms for life insurance products

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has tweaked some of the key norms pertaining to life insurance products.
- As per the Gazette notification, issued by the regulatory, the minimum death benefit in the non-linked policy has been decreased from 10 times to seven times. In the non-linked policy, policyholders will get a fixed amount if the policy is surrendered after two years.
- The revival period for this policy has been increased from two years to five years.
- In the Unit-Linked Policies, if it has a surrender value during the first five years, it will become payable only after the completion of the lock-in period. After the lock-in period, the surrender value shall be at least equal to the fund value as on the date of surrender.
- With regards to pension products, policyholders can withdraw 25 per cent of the insured during an emergency, including a serious illness, marriage and the education of their children.

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

IMF cuts India's FY20 growth forecast by 30 bps to 7%

- The IMF projected a slower growth rate for India in 2019 and 2020, a downward revision of 0.3 per cent for both the years.
- The GDP Growth rate for India at 7.0% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020.
- This was announced in the World Economic Outlook, July 2019 released by IMF. The global GDP growth rate is predicted at 3.2% in 2019 and at 3.5% in 2020.

Government reduces interest rates of Small Saving Schemes by 10 bps

- The Finance Ministry said that interest rates for small savings schemes will be reduced by 10 basis points for July-September quarter of the on-going financial year. Schemes that will fetch lower interest are Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Public Provident Fund (PPF), among others, barring interest on savings deposits that has been retained at 4%.
- PPF and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will yield 7.9% annual interest from the earlier 8%. KVP will fetch 7.6% with maturity of 113 months as compared with 7.7% with maturity of 112 months.
- The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Account will fetch a lower return of 8.4% as compared with 8.5%. Similarly, term deposits of 1-3 years will fetch interest rate of 6.9%, to be paid quarterly, while the five-year quarterly pegged at 7.7% and for recurring 7.2% from existing rate of 7.3%.

Morgan Stanley India's GDP at 6.2% in 2019 and 7.1% in 2020

- America based Investment Bank, Morgan Stanley has predicted the GDP growth rate for India at 6.2% in 2019 and 7.1% in 2020.
- For 2018 it was 7.4%. Morgan Stanley has also cut the global growth estimate at 3% and 3.2% for 2019 and 2020.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 Series II Opens For Subscription

- According to a latest update from the RBI, the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 - Series II will be opened for subscription for the period from July 08 - July 12, 2019.
- The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price [published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA)] for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription period, i.e. July 03 - July 05, 2019 works out to Rs 3,443/- (Rupees Three Thousand Four Hundred Forty Three only) per gram.
- Denomination: Minimum investment in the Bonds shall be one gram with a maximum limit of subscription per fiscal year of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg for trusts

PAN not linked to Aadhaar card will become invalid from September

- The government will invalidate all PAN cards that are not linked to Aadhaar by September 1.
- At the moment 180 out of the existing 400 million PAN cards are not linked to Aadhaar.
- To validate and continue using the existing PAN cards, citizens will have to link them to Aadhaar. Or else, they will be permitted to use Aadhaar instead for filing returns and while making other high-value transactions, specified under the Income Tax Act.
- Those who cite an Aadhaar number, which is not already linked to a PAN number, for tax returns and other specified transactions after September 1, will get a fresh one from the Income Tax Department.
- This is how the Aadhaar-PAN linkage, proposed in the Finance Bill, 2019 will be rolled out.

UBS pegs down GDP growth to 6.7%

- Swiss brokerage UBS has lowered the country's real GDP growth forecast to 6.7 percent from 6.9 percent earlier in FY20 citing the continuing slowdown in consumption demand and warned that a revival is unlikely before FY21.
- The brokerage expects the Reserve Bank to ease the policy rate by another 75 basis points as against its previous forecast 25 basis points in FY20.

Important Business News

Apple buys 'majority' of Intel's smartphone modem biz for \$1 billion

- Apple has announced the acquisition of "majority" of chipmaker Intel's smartphone modem business in a deal valued at \$1 billion, which "is expected to close in fourth quarter of 2019".
- Apple will intake 2,200 Intel workers along with equipment, intellectual property and leases.
- Notably, Intel had cancelled plans for 5G modems after Apple settled its 2-year-long dispute with Qualcomm.

Voda's M-Pesa shuts shop in India

- Vodafone's mobile phone-based banking service M-Pesa has shut down operations in India with effect from July 15.
- M-Pesa is one of Vodafone's success stories in countries such as Kenya, where it is hugely popular. It launched in India in 2013 and had received good response initially, but tough market conditions seem to have done it in.

LIC offering Rs 1.25 trillion by 2024 for highway projects

- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways stated that Mumbai headquartered Indian state-owned insurance group, LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) has agreed to offer Rs 1.25

trillion (Rs 1.25 lakh crore) line of credit by 2024, to fund highway projects for timely execution of the Rs 8.41 trillion ambitious Bharatmala project.

- Bharatmala program will be funded through cess, toll revenue, market borrowings, private sector participation, insurance fund, pension funds, masala bonds, and other initiatives and the LIC credit line was one such initiative(bonds).
- LIC offered Rs 25,000 crore in a year and Rs 1.25 trillion in five years for highways construction.
- The budget allocation for Road Transport and Highways ministry has also increased by about Rs 5,000 crore.

L&T Infotech to Take Over AI Firm Lymbyc Solutions for Rs 38 Crore

- Larsen and Toubro Infotech Ltd, the technology services arm of Larsen and Toubro, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Bengaluru-headquartered Lymbyc Solutions Pvt. Ltd for Rs 38 crore.
- Lymbyc is a Bengaluru-based specialist artificial intelligence (AI) machine learning and advanced analytics company with customers in the US, the UK, Africa and India. Its acquisition will further strengthen L&T Infotech's digital and analytics offerings. Before Lymbyc's acquisition, both companies had worked as strategic partners for a year.

Ebix buys Yatra online for Rs 2,323.6 crore

- Ebix Inc, the US-based supplier of on-demand software and e-commerce services to the insurance, healthcare, financial and e-learning industries, has acquired Yatra Online Inc, for an enterprise value of \$337.8 million (Rs 2,323.6 crore) in an all-stock deal
- The transaction will create India's largest and most profitable travel services company. However, Yatra will continue to operate independently and also retain its brand and status in India.

Airtel becomes first telco to shut down 3G network

- Bharti Airtel switched off its 3G network in Kolkata and has refarmed the 900 MHz band spectrum to further strengthen its 4G network. This is one of the first phase-outs of 3G technology globally.
- Airtel mobile broadband services in the city will now be available on high-speed 4G.
- The telco is deploying state-of-the-art L900 technology in the 900 MHz band to complement its 4G services in the 2300 Mhz and 1800 Mhz bands.

Delhi Airport becomes first airport to operationalise Transshipment Hub Centre

- Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure, announced that it is the first Airport in India to operationalize a dedicated Transshipment Excellence Centre (TEC) that will simplify and expedite the procedure for transfer of Transshipment cargo.

- This initiative has been taken by DIAL as per the guidelines of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) under National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 to develop Air Cargo Transshipment Hubs at major airports of India.
- All the EXIM shippers and the airlines will now have an opportunity to carry more and more volume of Air Cargo across the world by leveraging the TEC facility at Delhi Airport for handling their transshipment cargo.

ICICI Bank, IndoStar Capital join hands for commercial vehicle financing

- ICICI Bank has tied up with non-banking financial company IndoStar Capital for vehicle financing for small and medium fleet owners to buy new as well as old commercial vehicles.
- Under this partnership, IndoStar will originate and service the customers through the entire loan life-cycle including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing
- ICICI Bank will provide funding to these customers
- IndoStar will originate customers in tier-II, III, IV cities where it has a branch network of 322 branches.

IndusInd bank buys 2.58% in satin Credit care

- IndusInd Bank Ltd. has picked up a 2.58 percent stake in microfinance firm Satin Creditcare Network Ltd., by converting debentures which the private bank had subscribed earlier.
- IndusInd Bank has been allotted 13,43,283 equity shares of Satin Creditcare, representing 2.58 percent stake in the microfinance firm

Tata Steel Kalinganagar joins WEF's Global Lighthouse Network

- Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) has been included in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, a community of manufacturers showing leadership in applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to drive financial and operational impact.
- TSK in Odisha's Jajpur district is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.
- The WEF announced the addition of 10 new factories, including TSK, to its Global Lighthouse Network .
- The factories join a network of 16 existing lighthouses across multiple geographies and industries.
- They serve as beacons to guide others to overcome challenges in upgrading systems and applying cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics and 3D printing.

Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be Indian Railways 1st 'private' train

- The Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is set to be the first train to be operated by private players .

- The train that is being considered for Indian Railways experimental initiative is the Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express.

Govt task force to draw up \$110-bn mobile export business blueprint

- To figure out how to create a \$110-billion mobile phone export business from India, the government has decided to set up a secretary-level task force at the Centre to be steered by NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant.
- The push to set up the task force has come from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The PMO has suggested the secretaries should form a policy that eliminates India's weakness vis-à-vis other Asian countries.

Flipkart Co-Branded Credit Card Launched in Partnership With Axis Bank, Mastercard

- Flipkart is getting in on the co-branded credit card game with the launch of its first credit card in partnership with Axis Bank and Mastercard.
- Although this is the first co-branded card for the e-retailer, Flipkart had earlier partnered with Axis Bank back in 2016 for the launch of the Axis Bank Buzz credit card, which offers 5 percent discount on Flipkart purchases and other benefits. The Flipkart-Axis Bank Credit Card will be offered to select users in July.
- Other benefits of the Flipkart-Axis Bank Credit Card include welcome offers from number of merchants, up to 20 percent discount at over 4,000 restaurants, airport lounge access, and fuel surcharge waiver up to Rs. 500 per month. There is a joining and annual fee of Rs. 500, which can be waived on spends of Rs. 2 lakh.

YouTube introduces 'Learning Playlists' for educational videos

- Targeting teenagers, Google-owned content sharing app YouTube is bringing a new education feature called Learning Playlists with dedicated landing pages for educational videos on topics like math, science, music and language, free from algorithmic recommendations.
- Removing recommended videos from Learning Playlists shows that YouTube is not taking any chances when it comes to getting educational content right.

The world's biggest diamond mine is closing after almost four decades

- The world's biggest diamond mine, Argyle Diamond Mine is being shuttered after almost four decades.
- It is run by Rio Tinto Group and is located in Western Australia. It will close its working by the end of 2020 due to exhausting of its supply of economically viable stones.
- It is the largest diamond producer in the world by volume. Argyle is best known as the source of about 90% of the world's prized pink diamonds.

India to overtake Japan to become 3rd largest economy in 2025

- India will this year overtake the UK to become the world's fifth biggest economy, and is poised to surpass Japan to be the third largest in 2025.
- The key goal is to transform India from a \$3 trillion economy in 2019 to a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, lifting India into the ranks of the world's upper-middle-income countries.
- IHS Markit estimates that India will overtake the UK to become the world's fifth largest economy in 2019, and forecasts that Indian GDP will reach \$5.9 trillion in 2025, surpassing Japanese GDP to make India the world's third-largest economy.

Important Cabinet Approval

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Maldives in Health Sector

- The Union Cabinet has given ex-post-facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Health.
- The Memorandum of Understanding covers the following areas of cooperation: -
- Exchange & Training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts; Medical and health research development;
- Regulation of medicines and medical products, and exchange of information thereon;
- Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases;
- E-Health and Telemedicine;
- Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

Cabinet approves proposal for Grant of Organized Group 'A' Service (OGAS) to Group 'A' Executive Cadre Officers

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for Grant of Organized Group 'A' Service (OGAS) to Group 'A' Executive Cadre Officers of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and extension of benefit of Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU) and Non-Functional Selection Grade (NFSG).
- This would result in grant of NFFU to eligible Group 'A' Executive Cadre Officers of CAPF; and
- The decision would also benefit Group 'A' Executive Cadre Officers of CAPF for availing the benefit of NFSG at an enhanced rate of 30% as per guidelines.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Maldives for Shipping

- The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea, which was signed on June 8, 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Maldives.

- India is a leading development partner of Maldives and has established many of the leading institutions of Maldives. Currently, India has provided US \$100 million Stand-by Credit facility (SCF) to Maldives, including long-term loans and revolving credit for trade.
- With a view to harness the potential opportunity that lies in passenger and cargo transportation by sea between the two countries, this MoU with Maldives has been signed. The proposed ferry service would contribute in a big way to promote people to people contact and to boost bilateral trade.

Cabinet approves MoU of Cooperation between India and Morocco

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the MoU between India and Morocco for developing, promoting and strengthening mutual cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries.
- The approval will promote cooperation between India and Morocco in judicial and other legal areas and enable exchange of knowledge in infrastructure and information technology.

Cabinet approves proposal for leasing out of three airports viz. Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru of Airports Authority of India through Public Private Partnership

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for leasing out of three airports viz. Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Public Private Partnership (PPP) to the highest bidder i.e. M/s. Adani Enterprises Ltd. who quoted the highest bid for these airports, for operation, management and development under PPP for a lease period of 50 years as per the terms and conditions of the bid documents.
- These projects will bring efficiency in delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the needed investments in the public sector. This will also result in enhanced revenues to the AAI, which may lead to further investment by AAI at Tier II and Tier III cities and economic development in these areas in terms of job creation and related infrastructure.

Economic Survey

Economic Survey projects 7% GDP growth in current fiscal

- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2018-19 in both Houses of Parliament.
- The survey projects GDP to grow at 7 per cent in 2019-20. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.8 per in 2018-19 while maintaining macro-economic stability.

- The fiscal deficit has been pegged at 3.4 per cent of GDP for 2018-19. The survey has provisionally estimated 2.9 per cent growth rate for the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.
- 283.4 million tonne foodgrain production has been projected. Imports are slated to grow at 15.4 per cent while exports are projected to grow at 12.5 per cent for the year 2018-19.
- It has put forex reserves at 412.9 billion dollars for fiscal 2018-19.
- The survey also lays down the strategic blueprint for fructifying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025.
- To achieve the vision, India needs to shift its gears to accelerate and sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8 per cent.
- India is working seriously to meet its commitments towards Sustainable Development Goals 2030.
- The expenditure on Social Services by the Centre and States increased from 7.68 lakh crores in 2014-15 to 13.94 lakh crore in 2018-19.
- The expenditure on education increased from 2.8 per cent to 3 per cent and expenditure on health increased from 1.2 per cent to 1.5 per cent from 2014-15 to 2018-19.
- Under the PM KISAN 2019, around 3 crore 10 lakh small farmers have received the first tranche of two thousand rupees and two crore 10 lakh farmers have got the second instalment, as on 23rd April this year.
- The survey highlights need for a robust and resilient Infrastructure to Create a \$10 trillion economy by 2032.
- The Economic Survey highlights the immense potential of data of societal interest and says data should be of the people, by the people and for the people. Demographic trends suggest the need to prepare for the ageing population, which necessitates more healthcare investment and increasing retirement age in a phased manner.
- From 'Beti Baco Beti Padhao' to 'BADLAV' (*Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi*).
- From 'Swachh Bharat' to 'Sundar Bharat'.
- From 'Give it up' for the LPG subsidy to 'Think about the Subsidy'.
- From 'Tax evasion' to 'Tax compliance'.

Important State Wise National News

Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

Supreme Court extends Assam NRC deadline to August 31

- The Supreme Court extended the deadline for publication of final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam by a month to August 31 while rejecting the pleas seeking permission for 20 per cent sample re-verification.
- The Centre and the Assam government sought permission for sample re-verification to find out wrongful inclusions and exclusions of persons in the NRC.
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) for the state of Assam has been taken as the exercise to enumerate citizens in Assam. The exercise aims at identifying illegal immigrants in the state of Assam that borders Bangladesh.

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Hyderabad (Amravati); CM – YS Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor - Biswabhusan Harichandan

Andhra Pradesh Becomes First State to Reserve 75% Private Jobs for Local Youths

- Andhra Pradesh became the first state to reserve jobs for local youth after the assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019, which reserves 75 per cent jobs in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised to provide quota in local jobs during his 'padyatra' in the state. It was also an election promise.
- While the step is positive in that it promotes local hiring, the state will also have to focus on skill development of the youth to ensure their employability.

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital – Itanagar; CM – Pema Khandu; Governor - B. D. Mishra

Arunachal CM launches state wide tree plantation programme

- Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the state wide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar.
- The campaign under the State Forest department will plant 1-lakh tree saplings in the next 24 hours.
- The campaign is being held as part of Van Mahotsav celebration and has set the target of planting 1 Crore tree within the next five years.

Chhattisgarh

Capital – Atal Nagar; CM – Bhupesh Baghel; Governor - Anusuiya Uikey

CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurates 'Jan Choupal' programme in Raipur

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated 'Jan Choupal' programme.

- Under this programme, public meetings will be held once every week to discuss the issues of the people.
- The concept of 'Jan Choupal' has been taken from the practices of our ancestors in the village, who used to gather and solve the issues faced by them.

Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani; Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat

India's first Design Development Centre 'Fashionova' launched in Surat, Gujarat

- India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in the Textile city Surat recently to promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.
- The main objective of this studio is to provide a strong platform to all those who have a flair of the apparel business.
- It fulfills, on a large scale, all business needs from co-working space, technicians, expert advises to cognitive workshops and exposure to the industry. Surat is renowned for its textile and the city had to be dependent on Mumbai or Delhi for unique and latest design trends. This design development center will bridge this gap.

Goa

Capital – Panaji; CM - Pramod Sawant; Governor - Mridula Sinha

Health plan for heart patients to cover entire Goa by Aug 15

- Entire Goa would be covered under an ambitious health programme of the state government for heart patients by August 15.
- STEMI (ST segment elevation myocardial infraction) programme was launched in Goa last year under which patients suffering heart attack are thrombolysed before bringing them to hospital for further treatment to save their life.
- Thrombolysis is a treatment to dissolve dangerous clots in blood vessels, improve blood flow and prevent damage to tissues and organs.
- STEMI programme was launched by the state health department Vishwajit Rane in December last year.

Haryana

Capital – Chandigarh; CM - Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Satyadev Narayan Arya

Haryana launches 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal for farmers

- The Haryana government announced the launch of 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal whereby farmers can avail benefits of several government schemes directly after uploading their crop-related details.
- This simple system will enable farmers to self-report their land and crop details and help them receive benefits of several government schemes directly.
- The portal -- www.fasalhry.in -- has brought the departments of agriculture and farmers welfare, revenue, food civil supplies and consumer affairs and science and technology on a single platform for the betterment of the farmers.
- A financial incentive of Rs 10 per acre or part thereof, subject to minimum of Rs 20 and maximum of Rs 50, would be provided to each farmer for registering on the portal.

Haryana to set up Sports University near Sonipat

- Haryana sports and youth affairs minister Anil Vij announced that the Sports School, Rai (Sonipat), will be upgraded to a Sports University, the State Cabinet approved the proposal. To be named the Sports University of Haryana, this will be the first full-fledged sports university in the state.
- The Sports University of Haryana will be the third sports university established by a state government in India after Swarnim Gujarat Sports University (Gandhinagar) and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Chennai). In 2018, the union cabinet had given the go ahead to set up the country's first National Sports University in Imphal, Manipur.

Jammu & Kashmir

Capital – Jammu (winter) Srinagar (summer); CM - Vacant; Governor - Satya Pal Malik

Anganwadi Centres to get transformed into Model Community facilities in Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir Government rolled out an ambitious plan to transform the Anganwadi Centres into state-of-the-art Model Community Facilities for children and mothers in the State.
- As a part of this programme in the first phase, 50 existing Anganwadi Centres in each district would be transformed through convergence with MGNREGA into Model Anganwadi Centres.
- They will be equipped with upgraded infrastructure and improved amenities like toilets, drinking water and hygiene.
- It will be then replicated at other Anganwadi Centres in the State to change the face of Government's children and women-oriented program for efficient delivery of Integrated Child Development Scheme.

Operation Khumaar launched to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free in J&K

- In Jammu and Kashmir a campaign has been launched in Rajouri, a border district of Jammu division called “Operation Khumaar” to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free. The programme is run by the district administration to make panchayats free from tobacco and tobacco-based products.
- Under this programme, even the headmaster of the schools have been authorised to impose a fine on the sale of tobacco within 100 yards of school limits.
- Block Medical Officers have been directed to set up counselling centres at all Community Health Centres (CHCs) to help tobacco consumers to quit this habit.
- The district officers have been urged upon to work in a mission mode so as to make the society free from the injurious tobacco and tobacco-based products.

J-K government approves Aadhaar-linked payment mode for disbursal of pension

- The Jammu and Kashmir government approved Aadhaar-linked payment mode for disbursal of pension to beneficiaries under various central and state sponsored schemes in order to ensure transparency and avoid delays
- The decision was taken by the State Administrative Council (SAC) which met under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik

Kerala

Capital – Thiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – P.Sadasivam

India's first elephant rehabilitation centre in the works at Kerala's Kottor

- The Kerala government is working to set up the country's first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. The first phase of the Rs 105 crore-project was launched last month by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The centre, expected to have an elephant museum, mahout training centre, super-specialty hospital, a retirement home and crematorium for the animals, will house orphaned, injured and older elephants. It is being planned on the lines of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka.
- While the centre has only 15 elephants so far, officials expect the numbers will go up once work on the infrastructure is complete.
- The centre has set up with 65 hectares of natural forests area will have elephant safari and other activities to attract tourists.

Kerala to set up India's first space tech park in Thiruvananthapuram

- The Kerala government will set up the country's first space tech park at Thiruvananthapuram's Knowledge City. The move is aimed at making the city a manufacturing hub for space-related technology.
- A space museum named after former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will also be a part of the infrastructure. The state government has issued orders to allot the land required for the facility.
- The entire investment will be made by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Santhosh Kurup, has been appointed as the special officer of the space park project.

Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Chinamani Vidyasagar Rao

Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog's ease of doing farm business

- Maharashtra achieved first rank in NITI Aayog launched “Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI), which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- Gujarat ranks second with a score of 71.5 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- NITI Aayog launched in 2016 an index to rank States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act like joining e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.

Maharashtra raises aid for martyrs' kin to ₹1 crore from ₹25 lakh

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved a four-fold increase in the financial assistance given to families of martyred and disabled soldiers hailing from the state.
- Kin of martyred soldiers will now get ₹1 crore as opposed to the current ₹25 lakh. The government will provide ₹60 lakh to soldiers left 51-100% disabled, instead of the current ₹15 lakh.

Maharashtra police to launch high-tech biometric scanning system

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched the Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) which is a special digitized policing system to identify and track down criminals.
- Under AMBIS, a digital database of criminals consisting of their fingerprints, irises, palms and facial features will be prepared, which will help to track a criminal having a single criminal record.
- The system is said to be first-of-its-kind in the country and Maharashtra.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital – Bhopal; CM – Kamal Nath; Governor – Lal Ji Tandon

India's first cow sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh to be privatised

- India's first cow sanctuary, set up by the previous BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government in September 2017, will be privatised by the Congress-led government.
- Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya in Agar Malwa, 190 km north west of Bhopal, was developed by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board by spending about Rs 32 crore.
- Around 4,000 cows are living in the sanctuary which is spread across 472 hectares.

1st international flight from Indore leaves for Dubai

- The first international flight from Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport of Indore in Madhya Pradesh left for Dubai
- Air India is operating 162-seater A-320 Neo aircraft on this route, which will fly directly to Dubai on every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday while the return flight from Dubai will be on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

Meghalaya

Capital – Shillong; CM - Conrad K Sangma; Governor – Tathagata Roy

Meghalaya becomes first state to have water policy

- The Meghalaya cabinet became the first state to approve a draft water policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state.
- The policy intends to achieve sustainable development, management and use of water resources with community participation.
- This will improve health and livelihood and reduce vulnerability among the people.
- This will also assure of good governance for present and future generations through integrated water resources management and environmental sustainability.

Odisha

Capital – Bhubaneswar; CM - Naveen Patnaik; Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra begins

- Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra dedicated to Lord Jagannath, brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra begins. Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra started with early rituals in the morning.
- The Rath Yatra marks the journey of Lord Jagannath along with his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple. This journey covers a distance of around 17 km in Puri.

Odisha rasagola gets Geographical Indication tag

- The rasagola, a popular dessert of Odisha, has received the geographical indication tag from the Registrar of Geographical Indication
- The GI number 612 has been registered in favour of the Odisha Small Industries Corporation Limited (OSIC Limited), a government of Odisha undertaking and Utkal Mistanna Byabasayee Samiti, a traders' organisation, in the foodstuff category

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Ashok Gehlot; Governor - Kalyan Singh

Walled City of Jaipur makes it to the UNESCO World Heritage list

- The walled city of Jaipur, known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, made its entry into the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, becoming the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition.
- The decision was taken at the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) in the historic city of Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Some other places included in the list are: Dilmun Burial Mounds (Bahrain), Budj Bim Cultural Landscape (Australia), Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (China), Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto, (Indonesia), Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan (Japan), Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhouang — Plain of Jars (Lao People's Democratic Republic), French Austral Lands and Seas (France), Vatnajökull National Park – dynamic nature of fire and ice (Iceland), Paraty and Ilha Grande – Culture and Biodiversity (Brazil), Ancient Ferrous Metallurgy Sites of Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso), Babylon (Iraq), Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania), Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) (China) and Hyrcanian Forests (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Tamil Nadu

Capital – Chennai; CM – Edappadi Palanisamy; Governor – Banwarilal Purohit.

Tamil Nadu will become first state to manufacture electric cars

- Korean automobile giant Hyundai's plans for its Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.
- The Tamil Nadu Industries Development Corporation (TIDCO), a government agency, is selecting a consultant for preparing a report on developing a greenfield airport near Chennai--the second airport in the city.

- Tamil Nadu ranks third in the amount of invested capital in the industrial sector, at Rs 4.02 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 8.14 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 5.02 lakh crore). The State ranks third in terms of total industrial output, with Rs 7.66 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 12.22 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 10.74 lakh crore).

Tamil Nadu Now Has 35 Districts as CM Palaniswami Announces Two New Districts

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami announced that Tenkasi and Chengelpet districts would be carved out of Tirunelveli and Kanchipuram respectively, taking the total number of districts in the state to 35.
- In January, the government had announced Kallakurichi district, the 33rd in the state, by bifurcating regions from Villupuram district.

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; CM – Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor – ESL Narashiman.

Bonalu festival kicks off at Golconda Fort

- The annual Bonalu festival kicked off in the city at the historic Golconda Fort, Telangana.
- Bonalu is celebrated every year in a grand manner in the state during the first month of the monsoon season.
- Bonam means Meal in Telugu, and denotes offering to the Mother Goddess as a form of thanksgiving after the fulfillment of vows.

Uttarakhand

Capital – Dehradun; CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor – Baby Rani Maurya U'khand CM accepts proposal to establish Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines & High Altitude Rescue

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat agreed to a proposal to establish Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue at Rudraprayag.
- This mountain institute will create 1,200 employment, Specialised healthcare, advance education and Rescue Training in the Uttarakhand.
- Medical screening of Yatris and Empanelment of the Hospitals across the country for medical checks. Establishment of Bhandara for better food services in the Kedarnath Yatra. Provision of Air Ambulances for Emergencies. Increase of the Hospital bed strength at Kedarnath and Permanent Medical Post at Tungnath and Madhymaheshwar.

West Bengal

Capital – Kolkata; CM – Mamta Benerjee; Governor - Jagdeep Dhankhar

WB government observes Save Water Day on July 12th

- 'Save Water Day' was observed by the West Bengal government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participated in a march in the city to raise awareness on conservation.
- To raise awareness on rain water government would observe July 12 as Save water day.

Other National News

Indian Railways' NFR zone introduces new 'pink coaches' for women passengers

- Indian Railways' Northeast Frontier Railway zone has started a unique initiative to earmark a special portion of the SLR coach with pink colour. This is done to specially help the women passengers with better safety and security.
- This special colour will help the women passenger to easily identify the coach in the platform even during rush hours.
- Eight trains in Rangiya division of the Northeast Frontier Railway have begun operations with some pink coaches, exclusively for women.
- In some trains depending on the nature of the coach the same has been earmarked both for lady passengers as well as Divyangjan.

GST rate on EVs cut from 12% to 5%; reduced rate effective from August 1

- 36th Goods & Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting was held in New Delhi Via Video Conference under the chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The GST Council made the following changes in the GST rate on supply of goods and services which will be effective from August 1, 2019.
- The GST rate on all Electric Vehicles (EVs) was reduced from 12% to 5%.
- The GST rate on charger or charging stations for EVs was reduced from 18% to 5%.
- Hiring of electric buses (of carrying capacity of more than 12 passengers) by local authorities was exempted from GST.
- The last date for filing of intimation in FORM GST CMP-02, for availing the option of payment of tax under notification No. 2/2019-Central Tax (Rate) dated 07.03.2019 (by exclusive supplier of services) was extended from July 31, 2019 to September 30, 2019.
- The last date for furnishing statement containing the details of the self-assessed tax in FORM GST CMP-08 for the quarter April, 2019 to June, 2019 (by taxpayers under composition scheme) was extended from July 31, 2019 to August 31, 2019.

Railway's first printing press heritage gallery opened

- Western Railway has opened the first of its kind printing press heritage gallery at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai. This unique heritage gallery was inaugurated by V P Pathak, member (Materials Management) of the Railway Board during his recent visit to Mumbai.
- Western Railway Mahalaxmi General Stores Depot (GSD) has become the first in Indian Railways to portray a heritage gallery of the printing and allied machines used in the Western Railway Printing Press.

Govt sets target for installation of solar projects of 40,000 MW by 2022

- The government has set a target for the installation of Rooftop Solar projects of forty thousand MegaWatt by 2022 in the country.
- The projects include installation of solar panels on the rooftop of houses.
- An average it is estimated that 1.5 million units per MegaWatt per year are generated from solar rooftop plants.

Punjab, Haryana High Court bans live shows of songs promoting liquor, violence

- Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered a ban on celebratory firing and live shows of songs glorifying liquor, drugs and violence in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.
- It also banned the use of loudspeakers or public address systems in private or public places without written permission

Amit Shah to head panel on sexual harassment at workplace

- Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a panel of four cabinet ministers to examine ways to prevent workplace sexual harassment.
- The new panel, which includes Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was set up last week.
- The other members of the reconstituted GoM are: FM Nirmala Sitharaman, HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani
- Shah replaces his predecessor Rajnath Singh

Indian Railways launched 'Operation Thirst' to crack down selling of unauthorised packaged drinking water

- As many as 1,371 people were arrested and over 69,294 bottles were seized by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under 'Operation Thirst', an all India drive to crackdown the selling of unauthorised packaged drinking water.
- According to RPF, the operation was launched in all major railway stations across the country to curb the menace of unauthorised packaged drinking water on railway stations.

- During the operation, which was carried out on July 8 and 9, a total fine of Rs 6,80,855 has been realised from these offenders. Four pantry car managers involved in the selling of spurious mineral water were also arrested.
- Stalls on platforms were also found selling packaged drinking water bottles of brands which are not authorised by the Indian Railways.
- The bottles were seized under the sections of 144 and 153 of the Railway Act.

File tax returns if you have foreign trips, steep electricity bills

- The government has made income tax return filing mandatory for high spenders even if their taxable income is below the threshold exemption limit of ₹5 lakh.
- Those mandated to file returns include people spending more than ₹2 lakh on a foreign trip or depositing ₹1 crore in a year in a bank account or paying electricity bill of more than ₹1 lakh in a year.

Smt. Renuka Singh to Launch 'Go Tribal Campaign' by Tribes India

- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh will launch the "Go Tribal Campaign" by Tribes India at an event.
- TRIFED has organized this event to institutionalize collaborations and partnerships with different organizations to promote tribal products.
- "Go Tribals Campaign by Tribes India" will be launched under which a number of innovative activities have been planned to be undertaken to promote use of tribal handicrafts, handicrafts and natural products.
- Global Launch of "Tribes India" through Amazon Global Selling, under which Tribes India and Amazon Global Marketing will launch TRIBES India products globally through Amazon.com. With this collaboration, tribal products shall be available in the US and will help establish export market with tribal products.
- Collaboration of Tribes India with Central Silk Board for development, promotion, marketing of tribal silk products and empowerment of tribal weavers.
- TRIFED joins the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi by introducing Khadi Kurtas and Jackets to its products range in association with "I Am Khadi" foundation.

'One nation one ration card' scheme from July 1, 2020

- 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme, which will allow portability of food security benefits, will be available across the country from July 1, 2020.
- This means poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country, so long as their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.

- All the States have been given one more year to use point of sale (PoS) machines in the ration shops and implement the scheme.
- Already, 77% % of the ration shops across the country have PoS machines and more than 85% of people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have their cards linked to Aadhaar

Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat to launch Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will launch the Jal Shakti Abhiyan in Delhi, amidst rampant water scarcity prevailing in many parts of the country.
- The scheme aims to make water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a mass movement.
- The Jal Shakti Abhiyan has been launched in two phases. The first phase is 1st July to 15th September and is for all participating States and the second phase will be between 1st October to 30th November for States with retreating monsoon.
- Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, focus will be on 256 water stressed districts and 1,592 water stressed blocks.
- There are five key intervention areas under the movement including water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse, borewell recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

NRC deadline extended by 1 month; final list to be published on July 31

- The Centre has given one month extension to complete the enumeration process for updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam by July 31.
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) for the state of Assam has been taken as the exercise to enumerate citizens in Assam. The exercise aims at identifying illegal immigrants in the state of Assam that borders Bangladesh.
- When the draft NRC was published on July 30 last year, there was a huge controversy over the exclusion of 4 million people from it. The draft NRC included the names of 29 million people out of the total 32.9 million applications. The names of over a lakh more people were also excluded in a list published last month.

Export-promotion forum, trade fair to boost farm cooperatives

- The government has announced that an export-promotion forum for the cooperative sector will be created soon. An international trade fair will also be organised on October 11-13.
- The forum will be set up under the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), after consultations with 20 states and three Union territories.

- The government hopes this will work as an exchange platform for the cooperatives. Both ministries have committed to establish a framework to double farm exports from Rs 2.75 trillion to about Rs 7 trillion by 2024-25.
- The government had unveiled an ambitious agriculture export policy that seeks to double agriculture exports to \$60 billion by 2022.
- Aiming to push India into the list of the top 10 agri export nations.

Government sets up high-powered committee of CMs to 'transform Indian agriculture'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted a high-powered committee of chief ministers for the transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income.
- The nine-member committee, headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, will suggest policy measures, attract investments and raise growth in food processing.
- Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand will be the members of the committee.
- The panel will examine various provisions of the Essential Commodity Act (ECA), to attract private investments in agricultural marketing and infrastructure. It will also suggest a mechanism for linking of market reforms with e-NAM, GRAM and other relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- The committee will further suggest policy measures to boost agricultural export, raise growth in food processing and attract investments in modern market infrastructure, value chains and logistics, besides making other key suggestions.

UGC launches STRIDE scheme with view to boost research culture in universities

- University Grants Commission launched STRIDE scheme aimed at strengthening research culture and innovation in universities and colleges of the country.
- STRIDE scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges and universities and help students and faculty to contribute towards India's developing economy with help of collaborative research.
- Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE), aims to "identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.
- The scheme also seeks to fund high impact research projects in Humanities and Social Sciences.
- The scheme has three components- first is to identify young talent and providing research capacity building in diverse disciplines by mentoring, nurturing and supporting young talents to

innovate solutions for local, regional, national and global problems. This component is open to all disciplines for a grant up to Rs 1 crore.

- The second component of the scheme is to enhance problem-solving skills with the help of social innovation and action research to improve wellbeing of people and contribute to India's developing economy. Collaborations between universities, government, voluntary organisations, and industries are encouraged under this scheme. This component is also open to all disciplines for grant up to 50 lakh-1 crore.
- The final component involves funding high impact research projects in the field of identified thrust areas in humanities and human sciences through a national network of eminent scientists from leading institutions. This component is only open to specific disciplines with a possible grant of up to Rs 2 lakhs to developing a proposal.

India-assisted IT-biotech park inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire

- The Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park in Cote d'Ivoire, a dedicated free trade zone built with India's assistance to build development capacities, has been inaugurated.
- MGIT-BP is a dedicated Free Trade Zone (FTZ) for IT and Biotechnology.
- MGIT-BP is being built with the Indian assistance through EXIM Bank Lines of Credit of USD 20 million

Govt hikes Minimum Support Price of Kharif crops for 2019-20 season

- In a major boost to the farmers' income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices, MSP for all Kharif crops for 2019-20 Season.
- MSP of paddy has been increased by 65 rupees per quintal, Jowar by 120 rupees and Ragi by 253 rupees per quintal.
- MSP of Tur has been raised by 125 rupees, Moong by 75 rupees and Urad pulses raised by 100 rupees per quintal.
- MSPs of soyabean increased by 311 rupees, sunflower by 262 rupees and sesamum by 236 rupees per quintal which is a major step towards increasing the income of farmers.
- The increase in MSP for Kharif Crops for 2019-20 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all India weighted average Cost of production, which was announced in the last budget 2018-19.

First UIDAI-run Aadhaar Seva Kendra operational in Delhi, Vijayawada

- The UIDAI has operationalised the first 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' in Delhi and Vijayawada, setting in motion an ambitious plan to set up 114 such centres by the year-end.

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is in the midst of setting up 'Aadhaar Seva Kendras' (ASKs) - similar to the concept of Passport Seva Kendras - covering 53 cities across India at an estimated project cost of Rs 300-400 crore.
- The new centres are functioning on a pilot basis, the source said adding that Delhi centre - located at Akshardham metro station premises - has a capacity to handle 1,000 enrolment/update requests a day. It comes equipped with 16 workstations and will be operational six days a week including weekends

IRFC raises Rs 2,120 crore through bond issue

- Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) stated that has raised Rs 2,120 crore via issuance of 15 years bonds through book building process.
- The issue consists of 21,200 secured redeemable non- cumulative taxable bonds of Rs 10,00,000 each at a coupon of 7.85 per cent per annum. The allotment of bond was done on July 1, 2019.
- The issue received a total 85 bids for an aggregate sum of Rs 4,940 crore.
- The base issue size was Rs 500 crore and was oversubscribed by 9.88 times.

Indian Railways commissions longest electrified tunnel between Cherlopalli-Rapuru Station

- South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel, measuring 6.6 Kms between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations and is part of the recently completed Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam new railway line.
- The tunnel has been completed in a record time of 43 months.
- Two freight trains have successfully run marking the full-scale Operation of the newly built electrified railway line between the two stations, thereby opening up viable rail connectivity between Krishnapatnam Port and its hinterland for Goods train services.
- The construction of this tunnel paved the way to operate freight trains in Obulavaripalli - Venkatachalam - Krishnapatnam Port new railway line for a distance of 113 Kms. The section is now notified for commercial freight operations as well.

Central Government to set up three CoE in Sports at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has informed that central government is going to set-up three Sports Centre of Excellence in Itanagar
- The three centre of excellence will be for Martial Arts, Weight Lifting and Boxing.
- These centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with residential facility.
- The government will also set up 12 to 15 football stadiums with Astro-turf football pitches across the state in the next three years.

- Mr. Rijiju further announced that this year Arunachal Pradesh will host the North East Youth Festival

Centre launches fertiliser DBT 2.0 initiatives

- The Centre launched three new technology initiatives to transfer over Rs 70,000-crore fertiliser subsidy directly to farmers' bank accounts.
- These initiatives are -- a dashboard with details of fertiliser supply, availability and requirement at national, state and district level; advanced version of point of sale (PoS) software and a desktop PoS version.
- These are part of the government's effort to transfer the fertiliser subsidy directly to farmers' bank accounts in the second phase of direct benefit transfer (DBT).
- In October 2017, the first phase of fertiliser DBT was rolled out, under which subsidy is being transferred to companies after checking retail sales data captured through the PoS machines.
- The government has developed the 'PoS software version 3.0' has a multi-lingual facility with a provision for Aadhar virtual identification option during use for registration, login and sale activity in the DBT software.
- Whereas the 'DBT dashboard' provides accurate information about the position of supply, availability and requirement of various fertiliser at national, state and district level. Even general public can access this and get the details.
- The Centre bears over Rs 70,000 crore annually as fertiliser subsidy to give cheaper farm nutrient to farmers.

Govt to launch 6th tranche of CPSE ETF on July 18; raise Rs 10,000 cr

- The government is planning to raise up to Rs 10,000 crore from the sixth tranche of CPSE ETF which would be launched on July 18.
- The CPSE Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) tracks shares of 11 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) -- ONGC, NTPC, Coal India, IOC, Rural Electrification Corp, Power Finance Corp, Bharat Electronics, Oil India, NBCC India, NLC India and SJVN.
- The follow-on fund offer (FFO) 5 will have a base issue size of Rs 8,000 crore with an option to retain over subscription of another Rs 2,000 crore.
- Through the earlier five tranches of the CPSE ETF, the government has already raised Rs 38,500 crore -- Rs 3,000 crore from the first tranche in March 2014, Rs 6,000 crore in January 2017, Rs 2,500 crore from the third in March 2017, Rs 17,000 crore in November 2018 and Rs 10,000 crore in March 2019.
- The government aims to raise a record Rs 1.05 trillion through disinvestment in 2019-20, up from Rs 85,000 crore raised last fiscal.

ICMR launches Mission SHAKTTI

- To commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has launched Mission SHAKTTI (School based Health Awareness, Knowledge Test and Training Initiative) in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum and Directorate of Education, Govt. of Delhi. This initiative is to create awareness among school children about health.
- Under this program ICMR scientists and officers are visiting schools for active interaction with the school kids to aware them regarding value for good health.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched 'LaQshya' (Labour room Quality Improvement Initiative)

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India launched 'LaQshya' (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) Initiative to improve quality of care in labor room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.
- It aims to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity, and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in the Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care.
- It will be implemented in government Medical Colleges (MCs), District Hospitals (DHs), high delivery load Sub- District Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) with over 100 deliveries/month (60 in hills and desert areas).

Over 30 lakh persons enrolled under PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme till July 10

- Union Government said that total thirty lakh 85 thousand 205 persons have been enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme, PM-SYM, till 10th of this month.
- PM-SYM a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the benefit of unorganized workers in February this year in the country.
- The minimum monthly pension of three thousand rupees to the beneficiaries after attaining the age of 60 years.

12 Indian beaches in the race to crest the 'Blue Flag' challenge

- The Union Environment Ministry has selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a 'Blue Flag' certification, an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety.
- These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).

Cabinet extends 15th Finance Commission's term up to November 30

- Cabinet has approved the extension of the term of Fifteenth Finance Commission up to 30th November 2019 and mandated the panel to suggest ways for allocation of non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security.
- It will enable the Commission to examine various comparable estimates for financial projections in view of reforms and the new realities to finalise its recommendations for the period 2020-2025
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission was, constituted by the President on 27th November, 2017, headed by N K Singh.
- It was to submit its report on the basis of its Terms of Reference by 30th October this year covering a period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2020

Cabinet approves Rs. 1,600 crore for Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh

- Union Cabinet has approved 1,600 crore rupees for Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh
- Dibang Multipurpose Project (Dibang MPP) is envisaged as a storage based hydro-electric project with flood moderation as the key objective.
- The Project is located on river Dibang, in Lower Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh. The project envisages construction of a 278 m high Concrete Gravity Dam
- The project shall generate 2880MW (12x240MW) power to produce 11223MU of energy in a 90% dependable year.
- This is the largest ever Hydro Electric Projects to be constructed in India. The dam is 278 metres high and will be the highest dam in India once completed

Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme expanded to Punjab, Odisha

- Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme aimed to empower rural women on how to use the Internet has now added two more states -- Punjab and Odisha.
- With this, the programme has now reached 2.6 lakh villages in 20 states.
- Launched as a pilot project in 2015, along with Tata Trusts, 'Internet Saathi' programme focuses on educating women on how to use the Internet.
- In Punjab, the programme will cover around 5,000 villages. In Odisha, it will cover over 16,000 villages.

Supreme Court forms panel to frame emergency plan for the protection Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican Bird

- Supreme Court of India has constituted a three member high powered committee to frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of two Indian birds species namely Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican
- The panel comprising
- Dr Deepak Apte – Director of Bombay Natural History Society;
- Dr Asad R Rahmani former Director of Bombay Natural History Society and member of governing body of Wetlands International South Asia
- Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Chief Conservator of Forests of Uttarakhand.

Ambikapur launches India's first garbage café

- By launching India's first garbage cafe, Ambikapur, a city in the state of Chhattisgarh, is bringing out the 'best out of waste'.
- This innovative idea birthed by the Municipal Corporation will not only tackle the ever rising problem of waste management but will also address the issue of food access to the poor and homeless.
- Under this program, any person fetching a kilo of plastic waste to the garbage cafe will be assured of a full meal while those collecting at least 500 grams will benefit from a substantial breakfast.
- The city of Ambikapur ranked second cleanest city in India after Indore.

Harsh Vardhan launches public awareness campaign to control of vector-borne diseases in Delhi

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan emphasised on the need of community efforts in the right direction to help in preventing Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) such as Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya.
- Vardhan launched the 'Jagrukta Abhiyaan', a three-day public awareness campaign on prevention and control of VBDs.
- A total of 286 ward-wise teams have been constituted with 20-25 members per team including officers of the Municipal Corporation along with the officers from Central Government and government of NCTD (National Capital Territory of Delhi).

Flight operations start on 8 more routes under regional connectivity scheme UDAAN

- Eight more routes have started operations under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN.
- The scheme seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines.
- The routes are Mysore - Hyderabad, Mysore - Goa, Mysore - Cochin and Kolkata - Shillong.
- The total UDAN routes that are now operational has increased to 194.

CRPF unveils country's first body protector for women personnel in combat

- The CRPF unveiled the country's first prototype of a body protector for women personnel which it has jointly developed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- The "gender-specific protective gear" weighs 6 kg and has a different design and layout from the regular fibre-made black coloured body protector which is worn by both men and women police and paramilitary personnel during riot-control duties and regulation of public protests.
- One such female body protector, that would protect an individual from the neck to the toe with chest, hand, legs, shin and thigh guards, is estimated to cost ₹9,000.

All lanes at toll plazas to be 'FASTag lanes' from December 1

- To ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas, the government has decided to declare all lanes at toll fee plaza on national highways as 'FASTag lanes' from December 1.
- However, among all lanes, one 'hybrid lane' will be allowed at every toll plaza to facilitate and monitor over-dimensional or oversized vehicles, where FASTag and other modes of payment will be accepted.
- After December 1, non-FASTag users will be charged double the fee if they pass through FASTag-only lanes.

HRD Minister launches UGC scheme Paramarsh, Quality Assurance in higher education in focus

- The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" launched the University Grants Commission's (UGC) scheme named 'Paramarsh' on July 18, 2019 in New Delhi.
- The Paramarsh scheme has been launched for mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- The scheme will target 1000 Higher Education Institutions for mentoring with a specific focus on quality as enumerated in the UGC "Quality Mandate".
- Initially 71 universities and 391 colleges having NAAC score of 3.26 and above will mentor five colleges each.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates two bridges in J&K

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 1000 meter long Ujh Bridge in Kathua district and 617.40-meter Basantar Bridge in Samba district.
- Terming construction of Ujh and Basantar bridges a great achievement by Border Roads Organisation.
- The roads and bridges are the lifeline of any nation and play a vital role in the socio-economic development of far-flung regions and population.

- Project Sampark was launched on January 1, 1965 to develop and maintain the operational road infrastructure of Armed Forces in Border Areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Norms for PM-KUSUM scheme

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued guidelines to roll out the Rs. 34,422-crore PM-KUSUM scheme, which would encourage farmers to generate solar power in their farms and use the clean energy to replace their diesel water pumps.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme entails setting up of 25,750-MW solar capacity by 2022 with the total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the launch of the scheme with the objective of providing financial and water security.

Important International News

BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2019 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- BRICS Foreign Ministers Meet was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- India was represented by Gen. (retd) VK Singh who is the Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.
- The meeting focused on the importance of upholding and supporting the objectives of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and intensifying cooperation to implement and improve its Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation.
- The Ministers emphasized the importance to comply with and strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC), including by adopting a Protocol to the Convention that provides for, inter alia, an efficient verification mechanism.

New India-UK scheme to fund students from UK to visit India

- A new India-UK bilateral pilot scheme has been launched to support Britain's universities to collaborate with Indian partners to send UK students to India during their studies.
- The "UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India", an initiative of Universities UK International (UUKI) and British Council India.
- It aims to generate up to 200 opportunities for undergraduate students at UK universities to visit India by March 2021.
- Priority for the programme to visit India during their courses will be given to students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

- The Study in India programme will support national and institutional-level objectives to increase the levels of outward student mobility from the UK to 13 per cent by 2020, as set out in UUKi's "Go International: Stand Out" campaign.
- The programme will be funded by the UK and Indian governments as part of Phase 3 of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI) and delivered by the British Council, Universities UK International and EdCIL in India.

India, Saudi Arabia discuss bilateral hydrocarbon cooperation

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held discussions with Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia Khalid Al-Falih to further enhance bilateral hydrocarbon cooperation.
- Both the Ministers discussed further enhancing India-Saudi Arabia hydrocarbon cooperation to become a strong pillar of the existing overall strategic partnership between the two countries.

London to become first 'National Park City'

- London will be officially confirmed as the world's first National Park City.
- Along with the Mayor of London, organizations and individuals will sign a London National Park City Charter demonstrating their support for making the city greener, healthier, and wilder.
- The National Park City Foundation (NPCF), in partnership with World Urban Parks and Salzburg Global Seminar, created the first International Charter for National Park Cities (NPC).
- While London is the first, NPCF is aiming to name at least 25 National Park Cities by 2025 and is already in discussion with other UK and world cities to help them gain NPC status.

Duty Free shops at Dubai airports to accept Indian currency

- Dubai Duty Free has announced that Indian Rupee will now be an accepted currency at all the retail outlets of the Dubai airport.
- Stores at the Dubai Airport will accept notes of various denominations, including 100s, 200s, 500s and 2000s. The move makes the Indian rupee the 16th international currency to be accepted at Dubai's airports.

World's first floating farm in operation in Rotterdam

- The world's first ever floating farm has been built in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.
- The aim of the initiative, said designer Peter Van Wingerden, was to shorten the distance between the production and consumption of food. With the majority of the world's population now living in urban areas, the demand for fresh food in cities is on the rise
- This, combined with the farm's vast array of solar panels, makes the floating project an eco-friendly alternative to current farming methods. The farm has also been designed to desalinate seawater.

Sri Lanka Inaugurates First Model Village Built With Indian Assistance For War-Affected People

- A model village has been inaugurated in Sri Lanka as a part of housing project meant for civil war-affected people and estate workers with Indian assistance.
- A total of 2,400 houses all across Sri Lanka are to be constructed by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs and India has partnered with the ministry and is providing grant of Rs 1,200 million (USD 17.5 million).
- The former President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Bandaranayke Kumaratunga, Sajith Premadasa, the Minister of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs, and Shilpak Ambule, the Acting High Commissioner of India, inaugurated the first model village at Ranidugama in Gampaha.

World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute started in Dhaka

- The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute in Dhaka started functioning.
- About 6 lakh people suffer burn injuries in Bangladesh every year who will benefit from the institute.
- Named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, the 500-bed hospital with 50 ICU and 12 operation theatres will provide advanced treatment to burn patients in Bangladesh.
- The institute has been built at a cost of over 500 crore Taka.

UAE's Sharjah issues first gold card permanent residency to Indian expat

- UAE-based Indian business tycoon Lalo Samuel has become the first expat in Sharjah to get the gold card permanent residency.
- Unlike the long-term visa of 5-10 years for businessmen and talented individuals, the gold card gives permanent residency of the UAE to the holder.
- Samuel, who was selected as one of the top 100 Most Influential Indian Business Leaders in the Arab World by the Forbes magazine continuously for 2013, 2014 and 2015, became one of the 6,800 investors with total investment exceeding USD 27 billion to receive the gold card under a scheme announced in May by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai.

UNESCO Recognizes Heritage Sites, Ancient to Modern, Around the World

- 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which was held from June 30 to July 10, 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added 29 sites into the list of the World Heritage Sites 2019.
- Australia: Budj Bim Cultural Landscape
- Azerbaijan: Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace

- Bahrain: Dilmun Burial Mounds
- Brazil: Paraty and Ilha Grande — Culture and Biodiversity
- Burkina Faso: Ancient ferrous metallurgy sites of Burkina Faso
- Canada: Writing-on-Stone/Áísínai'pi
- China: Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City
- China: Migratory Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, Phase I
- Czech Republic: Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem
- Czech Republic/Germany: Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region
- France: French Austral Lands and Seas
- Germany: Water Management System of Augsburg
- Iceland: Vatnajökull National Park
- India: Jaipur City, Rajasthan
- Indonesia: Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto
- Iran: Hyrcanian Forests
- Iraq: Babylon
- Italy: Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano a Valdobbiadene
- Japan: Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan
- Republic of Korea: Seowon, Korean Neo-Confucian Academies
- Lao People's Democratic Republic: Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhuang — Plain of Jars
- Myanmar: Bagan
- Poland: Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region
- Portugal: Royal Building of Mafra — Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park, Tapada
- Portugal: Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga
- Russian Federation: Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture
- Spain: Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains of Gran Canaria Cultural Landscape
- United Kingdom: Jodrell Bank Observatory
- United States: The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright

WHO declares Sri Lanka 'measles-free' nation

- WHO declared that measles disease has been eradicated in the island nation of Sri Lanka.

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. It remains an important cause of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.
- Sri Lanka is the fourth country in the WHO South-East Asia Region, after Bhutan, Maldives, and Timor-Leste, to eliminate measles and control rubella. Last year, Sri Lanka achieved rubella control, along with five other countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Timor-Leste.

France to impose green tax on flight tickets from French airports from 2020

- All tickets for outbound flights from French airports will include a green tax from 2020.
- France will introduce an eco-tax of up to €18 (\$20) on all tickets for flights flying out of French airports to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
- The tax, estimated to raise around €180 million a year, will come into effect in 2020 and calls for a fee of €1.50 on economy-class tickets for domestic flights and those within Europe. The highest tariff of €18 per ticket will be applied to business-class travelers flying outside.
- It will only be applied on outgoing flights and not those flying into the country

Tropical Storm Barry hits Louisiana in United States

- Tropical Storm Barry began hitting Louisiana in the United States
- President Donald Trump has declared a state of emergency in Louisiana

France Becomes One of the First Countries to Introduce Digital Tax on Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon

- The French Parliament adopted by a final vote of the Senate, the introduction of a tax on GAFA, making France one of the first countries to impose a tax on digital giants.
- The GAFA tax refers to an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.
- The digital tax is endorsed by the opposition-controlled Upper House, paving the way to the Eurozone second largest power to unilaterally tax internet giants by three percent on much of their digital sales in France.
- GAFA targets digital companies with global annual sales of more than 750 million euros (\$845.6 million) and sales in France of at least 25 million euros.
- This 3 per cent tax on digital gross sales would help to collect 400 million euros this year and 650 million euros by 2022.

Palau signs International Solar Alliance Framework agreement

- Palau signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement here, lauding India for its efforts in promoting sustainable development projects through South-South cooperation.
- Palau became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement, which till date has been ratified by a total of 54 of the 76 countries.

- Palau President Tommy Remengesau signed the ISA Framework Agreement during a special ceremony at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. Remengesau recognised the ISA as a key initiative for promoting sustainable energy.
- The partnership between India and Palau, Remengesau praised India as an important partner for South-South Cooperation and commended the positive role being played by the India-UN Development Fund in promoting sustainable development projects in partner countries.
- Palau will host the 2020 edition of the 'Our Oceans conference', which will focus on issues such as climate change, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution.

Over 820 million people suffering from hunger

- A UN report has said, more than 821 million people suffered from hunger worldwide last year. It is the third year in a row that the number has risen.
- 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World', produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies, including WHO, was released.
- It noted that the number of people without enough to eat had risen from 811 million in 2017 and getting to a world where no one is suffering from hunger remains an immense challenge.

China gifts warship to Sri Lanka

- China has gifted warship frigate P625 to Sri Lanka
- The frigate was commissioned into the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy as Tongling in 1994.
- The warship was decommissioned in 2015 and has been gifted to Sri Lankan Navy after a refit.
- The 'P625' frigate will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats

New 'rhino bonds' to allow investors to help with wildlife conservation

- Investors will be able to buy bonds that aim to increase the population of the endangered black rhino, and reward investors only when the numbers of these animals rise.
- The \$50 million Rhino Impact Bonds (RIB) will be the world's first financial instrument working toward the conservation of a species at the risk of extinction.
- The Rhino Impact Bond (RIB) is the world's first financial instrument for species conservation, transferring the risk of funding conservation from donors to impact investors by linking conservation performance to financial performance.
- The bond, expected to launch in the first quarter of 2020, looks to boost the black rhino population by 10% globally.

Important Appointments

National Appointments

S. No	Person	Designation
1.	Karnam Sekar	MD and CEO of IOB
2.	N.S. Vishwanathan	Reappointed as RBI deputy governor for one year
3.	V K Tyagi	Chief Vigilance Officer of Punjab National Bank
4.	P.K. Purwar	Chairman and Managing Director of BSNL
5.	Nalin Shinghal	Chairman and Managing Director of BHEL
6.	Manoj Kumar Nambiar	Chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)
7.	B Harideesh Kumar	Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)
8.	A K Misra	Additional director on J&K Bank board
9.	Rajni Saraf	Chief financial officer (CFO) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank
10.	Ashutosh Gupta	LinkedIn country manager for India
11.	Rahul Dravid	Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy
12.	Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar	Force Commander of UN mission in South Sudan
13.	M Nageswar Rao	director general of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guard
14.	Arun Kumar	Chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
15.	Katrina Kaif	Brand ambassador of Reebok
16.	Vikas Swarup	Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs
17.	Kalraj Mishra	Himachal Pradesh Governor
18.	Acharya Devvrat	Governor of Gujarat
19.	Anshula Kant	Managing director and chief financial officer (CFO) of the World Bank
20.	Chandrakant Kavlekar	New Deputy CM of Goa
21.	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan	Governor of Andhra Pradesh
22.	Anusuiya Uikey	Governor of Chhattisgarh
23.	Anandiben Patel	Governor of Uttar Pradesh
24.	Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar	Governor of West Bengal
25.	Ramesh Bais	Governor of Tripura

26.	Lal Ji Tandon	Governor of Madhya Pradesh
27.	Phagu Chauhan	Governor of Bihar
28.	R. N. Ravi	Governor of Nagaland
29.	Amita Prasad	Chairperson of Inland Waterways
30.	Vivek Kumar	Private secretary to PM Narendra Modi
31.	Varun Dhawan	Reebok India brand ambassador
32.	M.M. Naravane	Next Vice-Chief of Army Staff
33.	Ajay Bhadoo	Joint Secretary to President
34.	Dejan Papic	India's table tennis head coach
35.	Sunil Kumar (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Director)	Additional charge of chairman and managing director of the MTNL
36.	BS Yediyurappa	Karnataka CM
37.	Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
38.	Priti Patel (Indian Origin)	UK Home secretary
39.	V.K. Johri	Director General (DG) of Border Security Force
40.	Meenakshi Lekhi	Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee On Public Undertakings
41.	Girish Bapat	Chairman of the Estimates Committee
42.	Kirit Solanki	Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Welfare of SC/ST
43.	Ganesh Singh	Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes
44.	Siddhartha Sanyal	Bandhan Bank chief economist
45.	Justice A.K. Sikri	Ombudsman and ethics officer of Indian Federation of Sports Gaming

International Appointments

S. No	Person	Designation
1.	Kyriakos Mitsotakis	Greece's new prime minister
2.	Gitanas Nauseda	President of Lithuania
3.	Justice AK Sikri	Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) judge
4.	Ursula von der Leyen	female president of European commission

5.	Sanjeev Kumar Singla	India's Ambassador to Israel
6.	Upender Singh Rawat	India's next Ambassador to Panama
7.	Vivek Kohli	Chairman of Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation
8.	Kiran More	Interim USA Cricket Coach
9.	Sarvita Sethi	Coca-Cola Vice-President (VP) for Merger and Acquisitions (M&A) for India & South West Asia
10.	Boris Johnson	UK's new Prime Minister
11.	Ehsan Mani (Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman)	Chairperson of the ICC Financial and Commercial Affairs Committee
12.	Mark Esper	US Secretary of Defence

Important Awards and Honours

Sl.No	Winners	Awards
1.	NALCO	President's award for excellent CSR in social development
2.	Sir Mark Tully (Veteran British journalist)	Lifetime Achievement Award in London for his contributions to the UK-India relationship
3.	Ajay Banga (Mastercard CEO and President) Azim Premji	2019 Global Excellence Awards at its Second Annual Leadership Summit in Washington.
4.	Genesis Foundation	CSR Implementation Partner Award in the leadership category for 'Project Little Hearts'
5.	'Gully Boy' Movie	NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea
6.	Isha Kanth (Delhi)	International Court of Justice (ICJ) Internship Programme
7.	P Raghu Ram	Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand
8.	Thich Nhat Hanh (Zen Master)	First Gandhi Mandela Peace Medal
9.	'Nagarkirtan' (Bengali) by Kaushik Ganguly's	won four awards (Best Director', 'Best Actor' and 'Best Original Score') including 'Best Feature Film' at the 9th edition of the SAARC film fest
10.	Shah Rukh Khan	Honorary Doctorate from La Trobe University, Melbourne
11.	"Find the Incredible You"	Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019

	campaign of the Tourism Ministry	
12.	Kapil Dev	Bharat Gaurav award
13.	Repco Micro Finance	Nabard's award for outstanding performance in terms of self-help group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for 2018-19.
14.	Hilary Swank	Leopard Club Award 2019 at Locarno Film Fest
15.	S. Sowmya (Carnatic vocalist)	Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2019
16.	Keshav Dutt and Prasun Banerjee	Mohun Bagan Ratna
17.	Priya Priyadarshini Jain	'Indian Woman of Influence' award at the House of Lords, the United Kingdom Parliament
18.	Vidisha Baliyan (Uttar Pradesh)	Miss Deaf World 2019 (held in Mbombela, South Africa.)
19.	Meryl Streep	Tribute Actor Award at Toronto International Film Festival.
20.	Sudarsan Pattnaik	People's Choice Prize at Boston International Sand Art Championship
21.	Tiruchy airport terminal	Leading European Architecture Forum (LEAF) awards under the category of 'Best Future Building Under-construction Project.
22.	Sathyamangalam tiger reserve (Tamil Nadu)	Best managed Tiger reserve award from the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change

Sangeet Natak Akademi awards for 2018 announced

- Eminent artists Zakhir Hussain, Sonal Mansingh, Jatin Goswami and K Kalyanasundaram Pillai have been chosen in the Akademi Ratna category by the Sangeet Natak Akademi for the year 2018.
- The General Council selected 44 artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018.
- Diwan Singh Bajeli and Puru Dadhich have been selected for the Akademi Award 2018 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship in the Performing Arts.

- Eleven eminent artists have been selected from the field of Music including Mani Prasad for Hindustani Vocal, Madhup Mudgal - Hindustani Vocal, Tarun Bhattacharya - Hindustani Instrumental - Santoor, Tejendra Narayan Majumdar - Hindustani Instrumental - Sarod. Other sub-categories include Carnatic Instrument, Other Major Traditions of Music-Sugam Sangeet and many more.
- Nine esteemed artists have been selected in the field of Dance including, Radha Sridhar for Bharatanatyam, Ishira & Maulik Shah (Joint Award) for Kathak, Akham Lakshmi Devi for Manipuri, Pasumurthy Ramalinga Sastry for Kuchipudi.
- The honour of Akademi Fellow carries purse money of Rs.3,00,000/- (Rupees three lakh) and Akademi Award carries Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh), besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

Important MOU's

Google partners with Cisco to roll out free high-speed Wi-Fi zones in India

- Cisco and Google announced plans to roll out free high-speed Wi-Fi zones across India with Google's gStation.
- Cisco will work with gStation platform to provide communities around the country access to a free, open, high-quality public Wi-Fi.
- The service is already live in 25 locations in Bangalore. According to Google, it will be available in 500 locations in Bangalore over the next few months.

NPCI ties up with JCB for global RuPay card

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and JCB International, along with domestic banks, have launched RuPay JCB Global Cards.
- Banks including State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, Union Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank, City Union Bank, and TJSB Bank will issue these cards, which will be accepted in India at all POS terminals and ATMs that accept JCB cards.
- It will be accepted in India at all Point Of Sale (POS) terminals and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) that accept JCB cards.

India, Indonesia set USD 50 billion trade target by 2025

- India and Indonesia set an ambitious USD 50 billion target for bilateral trade over the next six years as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joko Widodo discussed ways to deepen cooperation in a number of key areas including economy, defence and maritime security.
- The two leaders, who are in Osaka, Japan for the G20 Summit, met in the morning and discussed ways to boost bilateral ties and enhance cooperation in trade and investment.

- According to Ministry of External Affairs, India and Indonesia set a USD 50 billion target for bilateral trade by 2025.

India signs Rs 200-crore deal with Russia to acquire 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers

- India has signed a deal to acquire 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile from Russia for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers.
- The deal for the missiles is worth around Rs 200 crore and would give an added capability to the Mi-35 attack choppers to take out enemy tanks and other armoured elements.
- The Mi-35s are the existing attack choppers of the Indian Air Force and are set to be replaced with the Apache gunships being acquired from the US and slated to be delivered from next month onwards.
- India has been trying to acquire the Russian missiles for a long time but the deal has been signed under the emergency provisions after more than a decade.

India pledges to contribute USD 5 million in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency

- India has pledged to contribute 5 million US Dollars in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency.
- The Government has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the UNRWA core budget, from 1.25 million dollars in 2016 to 5 million in 2018.
- Under an India-Palestine development partnership, agreements have been signed including in agriculture, healthcare and youth affairs in the last five years.

AYUSH ministry inks MoU with MeitY

- The Ministries of AYUSH and Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) inked an MoU to collaborate on the digitisation of the AYUSH sector.
- MeitY has agreed to give technical support to the AYUSH Ministry for planning and development of AYUSH GRID Project.
- In pursuance to the National Health Policy 2017 and e-governance initiative, the ministry aims to digitize the entire AYUSH, leading to transformation in field of healthcare delivery at all levels, in addition to greater research, education, delivery of various healthcare programmes and better drug regulations

SBI inks MoU with NIIF to boost capital availability for infrastructure projects

- State Bank of India (SBI) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost the availability of capital for infrastructure projects.

- The scope of the MoU includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets, according to the joint statement issued by SBI and NIIF.
- The objective of this initiative is to aid in filling the gap at a time when the availability of equity and debt financing for infrastructure has moderated

NHAI inks deal with NIIF for funding of highway projects

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) inked a deal with quasi-sovereign wealth fund National Investment Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to fund large greenfield road projects, which will be executed by the highway authority in the future.
- The MoU with NIIF will provide innovative financial models including for the 24,000 km Rs. 7.5 lakh crore Bharatmala Pariyojana.
- The road sector can contribute in a big way in achieving Prime Minister's vision to make India a \$5-trillion economy in the next five years.

BCC signs MoU with BRICS chamber to promote trade

- The Bharat Chamber of Commerce, (BCC) and the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, signed an MoU for promoting trade and investments between the BRICS countries and the eastern part of India, in particular.
- The MoU was signed by BCC president Sitaram Sharma and BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General B B L Madhukar.
- The MoU will enable both the BCC and the BRICS chamber to share trade related information and exchange trade delegations among the five countries of the group.
- Members of the BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with IIT Kanpur for research collaboration

- Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur for research collaboration in various areas, including Direct to Mobile Broadcasting, Convergence with 5G, Rural broadband, Artificial Intelligence and Next Generation Broadcasting Standards.
- Prasar Bharati CEO, Shashi Shekhar Vempati exchanged the MoU with Director, IIT Kanpur, Abhay Karandikar in New Delhi.

Samsung ties up with Paisabazaar to offer financial products on Samsung Pay

- South Korean tech giant Samsung announced its partnership with Paisabazaar.com, an online marketplace for financial products in India.
- Paisabazaar.com will now support Samsung Pay to provide users with a one stop solution to their financial requirements.

- Users can apply for credit cards and personal loans from the platform. The move will enable existing and potential users to get the benefit of opting for a host of financial services.
- Samsung Pay has been designed to be the smartest and most convenient method to make digital payments almost everywhere. Our partnership with Paisabazaar.com has helped us create a holistic platform that gives them the comfort of opting for various financial products besides using it as a payment platform.

Israel Aerospace signs \$50 million follow-up deal with Indian Navy

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has inked a follow-up deal worth USD 50 million to supply complementary Naval MRSAM (medium range surface-to-air missile) systems to the Indian Navy and the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.
- The agreement involves a range of maintenance and other services for sub-systems of Israel Aerospace's naval medium range surface-to-air missile.

Telangana, World Economic Forum sign agreement on drone deliveries

- The World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced that it will embark on an innovative drone-delivery project called Medicine from the Sky.
- The project will run in partnership with the State Government of Telangana and HealthNet Global and will include a comprehensive study of drone-based deliveries for blood, vaccines, medical samples and organs.
- The project will help facilitate better decision-making in healthcare supply chains, focus on "last-mile" deliveries to augment national healthcare programmes and address issues that affect the medical distribution system.

Important Summit & Conference

Global Ayurveda Summit 2019 to be held at Kochi, Kerala

- The Global Ayurveda Summit Kerala features four components: an international conference, exposition, Start-up contest and a focused business to business meeting platform and the exposition and business to business meetings will enable key players in the Ayurveda and related sectors to exhibit their products and services.
- The event will ensure the participation of all stakeholders to share their views and jointly take action towards the upliftment of Ayurveda in India and globally.
- Theme of Global Ayurveda Summit 2019: 'Mainstreaming Ayurveda Startups, Innovation and Branding.'

International shark meet to be held in Kochi

- Eminent researchers from across the globe working on shark trade and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations will meet here to discuss the priorities in monitoring shark and ray fisheries, trade and market chain assessment.
- The four-day international panel discussion is being organised at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- The meet, which is a first-of-its-kind event in India, would set up a platform for researchers from across the globe working on shark and ray trade to share their experience in the field.

NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Caracas, Venezuela

- Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) was held at Caracas, Venezuela. The theme of the event was: "Promotion and Consolidation of Peace through Respect for International Law".
- Now the Presidency of NAM will be given to Republic of Azerbaijan that will host the 18th Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in October 2019.

First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) to be Held in New Delhi in October 2019

- The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) is going to be held from October 11 to October 13, 2019 at Pragati Maidan.
- The Trade Fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.
- The fair will provide an immense opportunity to the participants to collaborate and explore business opportunities with the Cooperative Organizations from India and abroad.

India to host 3rd global sunflower seed meet on July 19

- After China and Ukraine, India will host 3rd International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 on July 19 and 20 in Mumbai.
- The conference, hosted by Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), will see participation from global industry leaders, experts, researchers, and government representatives
- India is the largest importer of sunflower oil with imports of about 2.8 million tonnes. The global imports of sunflower oil is around 9.6 million tonnes. This shows significance of India in the global sunflower seed and oil market as every producer or exporting country in the world looks to India for a market.
- The first International Sunflower Oil Symposium and ISOA launching ceremony was held in October 2015, in Shanghai, China and the second conference was held in July 2017 in Odessa, Ukraine.
- The global sunflower seed production in the year 2018-19 is estimated at 51.41 million tonnes, sunflower oil at 19.45 million tonnes & sunflower meal at 20.90 million tonnes.

10th edition of World Tamil Conference held in Chicago

- The 10th World Tamil Conference (WTC) will be held in Chicago for four days from July 4-7
- The conference was sponsored by International Association of Tamil Research (IATR), Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) and Chicago Tamil Sangam (CTS),
- This is the first time a world Tamil conference is being held on the American soil.
- The ninth edition was held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 2015
- Tamil Nadu Minister for Tamil Official Language and Culture K Pandiarajan released 'Sootti Magizhvom Thamizh Peyargal', a book containing 46,000 Tamil names
- The book was edited by S. Parthasarathy, founder of Valaithamizh and writer Pavala Shankari. Poet Ve. Pathumanar is the publishing editor

Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue held in New Delhi

- The Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and Mr. Timur Maksimov, Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
- The Second meeting of the IRSED focussed on six core areas of cooperation, namely, Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies; Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector; Small and Medium Business support; Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies; Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry; and Tourism & Connectivity.

Kerala Startup Mission to host Women Startup Summit in Kochi on August 1

- Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is hosting the Women Startup Summit on August 1, in association with the Indian Women Network floated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), at the Integrated Startup Complex, Kochi.
- The 'Women Startup Summit 2019' aims at encouraging aspiring women professionals to take up their entrepreneurial journey and developing an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem in the State

Global Conference on Media Freedom held in London

- First of its kind Global Conference for Media Freedom 2019 was held on 10 – 11 July 2019 in London.
- The event was organised by the UK government and the government of Canada
- The Indian delegation attending the Conference included Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament and journalist Swapan Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member, Press Council

- The UK government has committed 18 million pounds towards improving the media freedom across the world and announced the creation of a new Global Media Defence Fund.

Himalayan conclave to be held in Mussoorie on July 28

- A conclave to deliberate on the problems faced by Himalayan states will be held in the queen of hills on July 28.
- States to attend the conclave include Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.
- The conclave will discuss methods to protect the Himalayan eco system from global warming, water conservation measures to be adopted besides working out an action plan for sustainable development in the Himalayan region and submitting its draft to Niti Ayog.

11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting

- The 11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting (11th MGC SOM) was held in New Delhi.
- They also discussed the Draft MGC Plan of Action (2019-22) for adoption in the 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok on 1 August 2019.
- India's assistance to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) under the MGC Quick Impact Project Scheme (QIPS) since its inception in 2014 is moving at a steady pace. A total of 24 projects have been completed so far, including 15 in Cambodia and 9 in Vietnam at a cost of USD 1.2 million, generating significant positive impact among beneficiary communities. In addition, currently one project in Cambodia and 3 projects in Lao PDR are under implementation.
- Other notable initiatives under Mekong Ganga Cooperation include the MGC Asian Traditional Textile Museum (MGC ATTM) in Siem Reap, Cambodia and the Common Archival Resource Centre (CERC) at Nalanda University, Rajgir.

Fuzhou (China) to host 2020 session of World Heritage Committee

- The 43rd session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- 29 new sites were added to the list during the recent session, including two in China: a series of migratory bird sanctuaries in China's Bohai Gulf, and the archaeological site of Liangzhu in modern-day Zhejiang province, whose ruins date back more than 5,300 years.
- At the conclusion of the 43rd session, it was also announced that Fuzhou, the capital of the south eastern coastal province of Fujian, will host the committee's 44th meeting next year.
- Fujian province currently has three sites on the UNESCO list: Wuyi Mountain, added in 1999; Fujian tulou, a distinctive type of roundhouse architecture characteristic of the region's Hakka people; and danxia, a unique petrographic landform concentrated in southern China. Sanfang

Qixiang, a network of lanes and alleys in central Fuzhou dating to the Tang dynasty, was added to the World Heritage Site's Tentative List in 2013, and given an Honorable Mention in 2015.

IFFI's Golden Jubilee Edition to be held from Nov 20 till 28 in Goa

- The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 20th Nov till 28th November 2019 in Panaji, Goa.
- President of Oscar Academy John Bailey and other eminent cinematographers and producers have been invited for the event. Russia will be IFFI partner in this edition.
- On the occasion, Union Minister Javdekar and Goa Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant released special IFFI Golden Jubilee poster.

Joint Statement of 13th Meeting of India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal and Secretary of State for International Trade of the UK, Dr Liam Fox, met in London for the 13th meeting of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).
- India and the UK agreed to set up three new bilateral working groups to tackle barriers in specific sectors including food and drink, healthcare and data services.
- India-UK JETCO was established in 2005 for a strategic economic relationship with the UK and to nurture business and enhance bilateral trade and investment.

DefExpo India-2020 to be held in Lucknow

- The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020.
- The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 will be -- India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub and the focus will be on Digital Transformation of Defence.
- The exhibition will also highlight the emergence of Uttar Pradesh as an attractive destination for investment in the defence sector and act as a platform for alliances and joint ventures in the defence industry.
- The DefExpo will provide an opportunity to the major foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers to collaborate with the Indian defence industry and help promote Make in India initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Science and Technology

5th Dharma-Dhamma conference to be held in Rajgir

- The fifth international Dharma-Dhamma conference was inaugurated on by Union Minister of State Kiren Rijju in the presence of Sri Lanka's Home Minister Gamini Jaikwickrama Perera,

Bhutan's Home and Culture Minister Lyonpo Sherub Gyeltshen, senior BJP leader Ram Madhav and Juna Akhada's Awadheshananda Giri Ji Maharaj.

- The main purpose of this conference is to address people about the terror, violence and global warming prevalent in the world.
- This two-day conference will address the subjects of Sat-Chit-Ananda and Nirvana which are the pivotal topics of Buddhism. This conference is being hosted by Rajgir for the second time.

IIT Kharagpur team develops app CARE4U for elderly people

- In a move to help geriatric care, students of IIT Kharagpur have built an app which will inform the caregiver when the elderly person falls down with the exact location.
- CARE4U' the android-based app will connect the caregiver to the elderly person. The app has been built by an interdisciplinary team of the second year B-Tech students of the institute.
- The app has a record of medical histories, allergies' account, an SOS button, real time location tracking and so on.

India Successfully Launches Chandrayaan-2 from Sriharikota

- India successfully launched its second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 from its most powerful rocket GSLV-Mk0III-M1 with a plan to land the rover on September 7 in the unexplored lunar south pole, exactly a week after the liftoff was aborted due to a technical snag.
- The total cost of the 3,850-kg Chandrayaan-2 mission is Rs 978 crore.
- Once Chandrayaan-2 reaches to south pole region of lunar terrain, India will become the fourth ever nation to have a soft-landing on the moon.
- Other three nations are United States, China and Russia.

IIT Madras students develop 'Agricopter' to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural farms

- Students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a "smart agricopter" to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields and help identify crop health by using a imaging camera.
- The innovation will allowing spraying pesticides ten times faster and with 100% precision at the same cost as manual spraying.
- Students at the Centre For Innovation, IIT Madras, identified manual pesticide spraying as an extremely hazardous activity as it endangered farmers' and labourers' health and resulted in a massive overuse of toxic chemicals.
- The advanced multispectral imaging camera allows the hexacopter drone to make smart maps of farmland based on crop health and its completely autonomous pesticide refilling system ensures entire spraying is completely autonomous.

Japan's Hayabusa2 probe touches down on asteroid

- Japan's Hayabusa2 probe made a "perfect" touchdown on a distant asteroid Ryugu, collecting samples from beneath the surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on the origins of the solar system
- This is the second time Hayabusa2 has touched down on the desolate asteroid Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres from Earth.
- Ryugu, which means "Dragon Palace" in Japanese, refers to a castle at the bottom of the ocean in an ancient Japanese tale.
- The Hayabusa2 mission was launched in December 2014, and has a price tag of around \$270 million.

Indian scientists develop wonder material 'black gold'

- Indian scientists have tinkered with the chemistry of the yellow metal and have turned it into 'black gold'.
- They claim that it can be potentially used for applications ranging from solar energy harvesting to desalinating seawater.
- Scientists at the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) used gold nanoparticles and by rearranging size and gaps between them developed a new material, which has unique properties such as capacity to absorb light and carbon dioxide.
- Gold does not have these properties, therefore 'black gold' is being called a new material. In appearance it is black, hence the name 'black gold.'

Russia Launches Spektr-RG, a New X-Ray Observatory, into Space

- A Russian and European all-sky-survey satellite is safely in space following a successful launch on a Proton rocket.
- The Spektrum-Röntgen-Gamma mission, also known as Spektr-RG, is a joint project between the Russian space agency, Roscosmos, and the German space agency, DLR. Spektr-RG launched to space from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- The spacecraft is expected to detect 100,000 galaxy clusters, 3 million supermassive black holes, tens of thousands of star-forming galaxies, the presence of plasma (superheated gas) and many more types of objects.
- The observatory includes two X-ray mirror telescopes, called ART-XC and eROSITA. ART-XC (a Russian payload) will examine the higher energies of X- rays, up to 30 keV, while eROSITA (Extended Roentgen Survey with an Imaging Telescope Array) is optimized for an energy range of 0.5 to 10 keV.

Startup iSpace achieves China's 1st private satellite launch

- Chinese aerospace startup iSpace has successfully launched two satellites into space, marking the first successful orbital launch by a privately funded firm in China.
- The satellites were carried aboard the startup's Hyperbola-1 rocket.
- Earlier, Chinese aerospace startups LandSpace and OneSpace had attempted orbital launches in October 2018 and March 2019 respectively but were unsuccessful

Important Defence News

LCU L56 commissioned into Indian Navy

- The sixth of eight indigenously built Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class ships 'LCU L 56' was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command, at Visakhapatnam.
- The LCU L56 is an amphibious ship with its primary role being transportation, deployment and recovery of main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore and vice-versa
- Indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata
- GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers) become the first shipyard in the country to have built the 100th warship.

India all set to launch first-ever space war exercise 'IndSpaceEx'

- India is all set to launch first ever space war exercise months after success of Mission Shakti. Joint Space Doctrine can also be launched after space war exercise. This exercise will help India to prepare for future space wars. The entire program has been prepared according to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Ministry of Defence will organize exercise with all three forces together and draw up future plans of any such eventualities. As per a media report, this exercise has been named 'IndSpaceEx'.
- After Mission Shakti India had become fourth country in the world after Russia, USA and China to have ASAT power

User-Friendly Interface Defence Production Dashboard Launched

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled a Dashboard of Department Defence Production (DDP) for effective monitoring of various initiatives and schemes taken up by the Ministry of Defence.
- Rajnath Singh launched Department of Defence Production Dashboard - <http://ddpdashboard.gov.in> for effective monitoring of various initiatives and schemes of the department.

- The dynamic online dashboard shows all key data of the nation's defence manufacturing sector.

HAL delivers Chetak helicopter to Indian Navy

- State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) delivered a Chetak helicopter to the Indian Navy, with the latest communication and navigation systems.
- The HAL entered into a contract with the Indian Navy in the year 2017 to supply 8 Chetak helicopters by August 2020, with the first two by August 2019.
- The remaining seven helicopters will be delivered by August 2020.

INS Sagardhwani embarks on mission Sagar Maitri

- INS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, embarked on a two-month-long Sagar Maitri Mission-2 from Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- Sagar Maitri is a unique initiative of the DRDO which aligns with the broad objective of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy declaration 'Safety And Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR) to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction, especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.
- The other IOR countries include Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Myanmar.
- The programme also aims at establishing long-term scientific collaboration with these countries in the field of 'Ocean Research & Development' and data collection with a focus in the Andaman Sea.

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

- The first edition of the joint security exercise of International Security Alliance (ISA) named ISALEX19 kicked off in Abu Dhabi, UAE on June 30, 2019 to test the readiness of the different teams and to evaluate the tools, strategies and procedures developed jointly between member countries.
- The International Security Alliance was launched in Abu Dhabi in 2017
- The alliance now comprises nine countries, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.

India successfully tests vertical steep dive version of Brahmos missile

- India has successfully test-fired a vertical deep dive version of the indigenous BrahMos supersonic missile
- CEO of BrahMos Aerospace, Sudhir Kumar Mishra, stated that the upgraded version of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile which has an enhanced range of up to 500 km was also ready.

- India has attained the status of becoming the only country in the world to integrate long-range missiles onto fighter jets with the test-firing of the BrahMos missile from a Sukhoi 30 aircraft of the Indian Air Force

BSF launches operation 'Sudarshan' to fortify Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named 'Sudarshan', to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu
- The operation was launched on July 1 and will cover the entire over 1,000-kms length of the India-Pakistan International Border.
- While Jammu shares about 485-kms of the sensitive IB with Pakistan, about 553-kms of the front is in Punjab.

Indian Army to buy American howitzer ammo for long-range accurate strikes

- Indian Army is in the process of acquiring Excalibur guided long-range artillery ammunition which can strike targets more than 50 km away.
- It can be busted in the air and after its penetration into bunker-type structures by using its different fuses.

DRDO carries out three successful Nag missile tests in one day in Pokhran

- The Defence Acquisition Council has last year approved the procurement of DRDO's designed and developed NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs 524 crore.
- The system includes a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA). The NAG missile is a third generation anti-tank guided missile, which has top attack capabilities that can effectively engage and destroy all known enemy tanks during day and night.
- The successful induction of the NAG missile into the Army is expected to give a quantum boost to the Army's capability against enemy armour.
- Nag was one of the first five strategic missiles planned to be developed under the Integrated Missile Development Programme initiated in the 1980s.
- The other missiles developed under the project include the Agni, Prithvi and Akash and all three of them have been successfully developed and inducted into the armed forces.

Indian, Chinese Army To Conduct 'Hand-in-Hand' Military Drills In Meghalaya

- The military drill between the two countries according to North East Now, was resumed last year post a freeze over the Doklam stand-off. The joint military exercise "Hand-in-Hand" will be held at Umroi near Shillong in Meghalaya.
- The last exercise, which was the seventh edition, was held at Chengdu in December 2018.

- The hand-in-hand joint exercise was started in 2007 in Kunming but was halted after the Chinese troops came to Belgaum in Karnataka for the second edition.

Important Ranking and Indexes

Index	India's Rank	Top	Least	Based on
Money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks	74th	UK	-	-
Henley Passport Index 2019	86 th	Japan Singapore	-	-
Global Innovation Index 2019	52nd	Switzerland	Yemen	Released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

MP tops country with 526 tigers: All India Estimation report

- The All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 revealed that Madhya Pradesh was the country's "tiger state" with 526 of the big cats.
- The tiger population in the country has grown from 1,400 in 2014 to 2,977 in 2019.
- MP had lost the coveted "tiger state" status to Karnataka in 2011. As per the 2018 report, Karnataka is a close second with 524 tigers, followed by Uttarakhand with 442.
- The data was collected using an Android-based application- M-STRIPEs (Monitoring system for Tigers' Intensive Protection and Ecological Status).
- The Prime Minister also released report of the 4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR) with Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh scoring the highest and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu showing the highest increment in management since the last cycle for which the latter was awarded

San Francisco Bay Area tops Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019

- The San Francisco Bay Area has overtaken New York City as the most accommodative place in the world to be a female entrepreneur.
- The Bay Area's progress this year saw New York to drop to second place, followed by London (3rd), Boston (4th) and Los Angeles (5th). The top 10 was rounded out by Washington D.C. (6th), Seattle (7th), Paris (8th), Toronto (9th) and Stockholm (10th).

- Singapore is the top Asian city at 21st rank. Bengaluru ranked at 43 is top Indian city followed by Delhi at 50.

Uttar Pradesh becomes No. 1 in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna

- Uttar Pradesh has become number one in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country.
- As per the statement released by state government 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019.
- Implementation of this ambitious central government scheme started in state from January 2018 under which people between age group of 18 to 70 get accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying a nominal premium of 12 rupees annually.
- Information provided by department of institutional finance of state also says that Uttar Pradesh stands second in the country in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana, another flagship scheme of the Union Government.

RIL overtakes IOC as highest ranked Indian company on Fortune 500 list

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has jumped 42 places to become the highest-ranking Indian firm on the Fortune Global 500 list.
- State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) had been the top-ranked Indian company on the list and was first on the Fortune India 500 list which was started in 2010.
- This year, ranked 106, Reliance Industries (RIL) has replaced IOC (117) as the top-ranked Indian company on the Global 500 list.
- US giant Walmart continues to top the Fortune 500 list followed by Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group, which moved one rank up. Dutch company Royal Dutch Shell was ranked third followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid.

Maharashtra tops in ATM frauds, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka follow

- Maharashtra reported 233 cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19, the highest in the entire country, Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) data.
- The data showed that Delhi grabbed the second spot with 179 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu with 147 cases of ATM fraud.
- In Maharashtra, people lost Rs 4.8 crore to bank fraud, while in Delhi people lost Rs 2.9 crore. The country witnessed an increase in ATM fraud cases in general (up from 911 to 980).
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura were the only three states that didn't report a single incident. However, the money lost came down from Rs 65.3 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 21.4 crore in 2018-19.

Switzerland takes top spot from Singapore as best place for expats to live and work

- Switzerland has dethroned Singapore as the best place for expats to work and live, according to the HSBC Global Report.
- Singapore, who has remained top of the rankings for the last four years, has dropped to second while Switzerland climbed seven places to number one overall.
- According to the HSBC survey, Switzerland offered "the complete expat package" where expats enjoyed "an improved quality of life to complement impressive pay and swift career progression".

'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme: U'khand among best performing states

- Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country's five best performing states in 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', a central scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.
- The state will be felicitated, along with the other selected states, in recognition of its consistent performance in respect of sex ratio at birth, according to a letter from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- In addition to Uttarakhand, Haryana has bagged three awards, including one state-level and two district-level awards, for consistent performance in respect of the sex ratio at birth (SRB).
- The two districts of Haryana which won the award are Bhiwani and Mahendragarh.

Connaught Place 9th most expensive office location; Hong Kong tops chart

- New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) is the ninth most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly \$144 per sq ft.
- CP, located in the heart of the national capital, was at the ninth position even last year.
- For the second year, Hong Kong's Central district retained the top spot as the world's most expensive market for prime office rents, with the prime occupancy costs valued at \$322 per sq.ft.
- Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and Nariman Point CBD slipped to 27th and 40th positions, respectively.

Chandigarh ranked among best performing states in education

- Chandigarh has been ranked best among states and Union territories in the field of education and is followed by Kerala and Gujarat.
- As per the Performance Grading Index 2017-18, Arunachal Pradesh is the least performing state and has been ranked 36 on the index.
- Delhi was ranked ninth, behind Rajasthan (8), Punjab (7), Tamil Nadu (5) and Haryana (4), according to it.
- Arunachal Pradesh (36), Nagaland (35) and Meghalaya (34) held the lowest ranks, as per the index.
- Kerala is the state with highest literacy rate followed by Lakshadweep and Mizoram.

Jeff Bezos world's richest person in Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos is the world's richest person with a total net worth of USD 125 billion
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person, is world's 13th wealthiest person with a net worth of \$51.8 billion in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's wealthiest 500 individuals.
- Microsoft Corp co-founder Bill Gates, who has never been ranked below the second spot on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index has been pushed to the Number 3 rank by Bernard Arnault, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH oët Hennessy Bernard Arnault

Important Books and Authors

Author	Book
Sushil Kumar (Former Navy Chief)	'A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief'
Dr Krishna Saksena	'Whispers of Time'
Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai	"Chandra Shekhar: The Last Icon of Ideological Politics",
Devika Sethi	'War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960'
Rachna Bisht Rawat	"Kargil: Untold stories from the War"
Sunil Mishra	'Who Stole My Job'
Shri Harivansh and Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai	"Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics."
Narendra Jadhav	'New-Age Technology and Industrial Revolution 4.0'

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launches AIFF Golden Baby Leagues handbook

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20 on the sidelines of the Intercontinental Cup in Ahemadabad.
- The launch marked the renaming of the 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to under 12 both for girls and boys.

- The handbook is a guide to help the stakeholder to organise the Golden Baby League. The Leagues aim to provide access to football in localities irrespective of gender, religion, economic background, or ethnic origin.

Important Sports News

Cricket

Solomon Mire announces international retirement

- Zimbabwe all-rounder Solomon Mire has announced his retirement from international cricket across all formats.
- He currently holds the record for the highest score for Zimbabwe in a T20I for the 94 he scored against Pakistan in 2018.

Ambati Rayudu announces retirement from all forms of cricket

- India middle-order batsman Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, including the IPL.
- In 55 ODIs, Rayudu scored 1694 runs with three centuries and 10 half-centuries.
- In the six T20Is he played, the middle-order batsman scored 42 runs. Rayudu never got a chance to represent India in Test cricket.

England wins ICC Cricket World Cup 2019

- England defeated New Zealand to win the ICC Cricket Men's World Cup 2019. England won the World Cup on account of more number of boundaries as even the super over resulted in a tie. Both teams made 241 runs in the match and 15 runs in the super over.

Here are some major highlights of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019:

- Venue: England and Wales (In 2023- India is the host country)
- Official Song: 'Stand By' (a collaboration between new artist LORYN and one of the UK's most successful and influential acts, Rudimental)
- Player of the tournament: Kane Williamson (Captain Newzealand)
- Golden Bat award: Rohit Sharma (Highest run scorer in the tournament- 648 runs)
- Golden Ball award: Mitchell Starc (Australia)- Highest Wicket taker- 27 wickets
- Rohit Sharma became the only player to hit 5 century in a single edition of World Cup. He broke the record of Kumar Sangakkara of 4 century.
- Shakib Al Hasan first to 500 runs and 10 wickets in single World Cup
- ICC Team of the Tournament- ICC has also announced the team of the tournament with players from all the country. Two Indians have been listed in this team. They are Rohit Sharma and

Jasprit Bumrah. The team is selected on the basis of performance of the players in the tournament.

ICC suspends Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect

- The International Cricket Council, ICC has suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention

Sachin Tendulkar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- Sachin Tendulkar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald
- He was 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame. Rahul Dravid was the previous Indian to be inducted on the list in 2018
- Joining Tendulkar and Donald in the Hall of Fame was two-time World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick.
- Tendulkar, the most prolific batsman in history, was inducted immediately after becoming eligible for induction, which requires that a player should have played his last international match at least five years before.

Byju's replaces Oppo as Team India's official sponsor: BCCI

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Bengaluru-based education and learning app Byju's, which is owned by Think and Learn Private Limited, has replaced Oppo India as the official Team India sponsor.
- The deal period will begin from 5 September, 2019 until 31 March, 2022.

BCCI approves Indian Cricketers Association

- The BCCI has approved the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA), the body formed as per the board's new constitution to look after the interest of former players.
- The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers, unlike the players' associations in most countries.
- The functioning of ICA will be independent of BCCI's functioning and the association will have to generate its own funds even though the board will provide some initial grants.
- Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA.

Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20Is

- Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry became the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.

- A four brought up the 1000-run milestone for the all-rounder, who had picked up her 100th wicket by dismissing England's Nat Sciver in the World T20 final in November last year.

Football

India slips two places to 103 in FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the FIFA rankings released on Thursday.
- India lost two matches and drew one in the Intercontinental Cup earlier this month in Ahmedabad. It had lost 2-4 to Tajikistan and 2-5 against eventual winners DPR Korea before playing out a 1-1 draw against Syria.
- India has 1214 ranking points in its kitty, down by five points from the previous chart issued last month.
- The Indian team now lies at 18th among Asian countries. Iran (23rd) is at the top among Asian countries, followed by Japan (33), Korea (37), Australia (46) and Qatar (62). At the top of the rankings, Belgium leads the chart, followed by Brazil, France, England and Uruguay.

Dutch star Arjen Robben announces retirement from football

- Former Bayern Munich and Netherlands forward Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from football.
- The 35-year-old has played in over 500 matches for the club and his country in the entire career.

Brazil beat Peru 3-1 to lift the title in Copa America

- Brazil have defeated Peru 3-1 to win their first Copa America title since 2007.
- Gabriel Jesus and Richarlison also scored a goal each for Brazil, who have won the title every time they hosted the tournament.
- Everton was named player of the final and also finished as one of the tournament's top scorers with three goals.
- Brazil's veteran right-back Dani Alves was player of the tournament.

USA beat Netherlands to win the FIFA Women's World Cup

- The United States won the Women's World Cup for a record fourth time as they eventually overpowered the Netherlands in Lyon.
- But the USA, playing in their third consecutive final, continued their reign as the world's finest side as they added to their titles of 1991, 1999 and 2015.
- Victory for the USA saw their English-born boss Jill Ellis, from Hampshire, become the first coach to lift the trophy twice.
- Golden Boot (top scorer) – Megan Rapinoe (6 goals)
- Golden Ball (best overall player) – Megan Rapinoe (USA)

- Golden Glove (best goalkeeper) – Sari van Veenendaal (Netherlands)

Mexico beats US to lift 8th Gold Cup

- The 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup was the 15th edition of the biennial international men's football championship of the North, Central American, and Caribbean region organized by CONCACAF.
- Mexico's men's soccer team have won their record eighth Gold Cup by defeating the United States in the final.
- The loss for the US men came hours after the women's team lifted its second consecutive World Cup title.

Sunil Chhetri and Ashalata Devi bag top honours in AIFF awards

- Indian men's footballer Sunil Chhetri and women's footballer Ashalata Devi won the biggest prizes in their respective categories as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced awards for the 2018-19 season.
- Chhetri was declared as the men's footballer of the year whereas in the women's category Devi bagged the award.
- This is the third consecutive footballer of the year win for Chhetri and his seventh honour in men's category.
- Best grassroots development programme: Jammu and Kashmir FA
- Best assistant referee: Joseph Tony (Kerala)
- Best referee: R Venkatesh (Tamil Nadu)
- Emerging women's footballer of the year: Dangmei Grace (Manipur)
- Emerging Men's footballer of the year: Sahal Abdul Samad (Kerala)
- Women's footballer of the year: Ashalata Devi
- Men's footballer of the year: Sunil Chhetri

Others

Tamil Nadu girl wins gold at World Deaf Youth Badminton Championship in Taiwan

- 15-year-old Jerlin Anika from Tamil Nadu's Madurai has won the gold medal at the 2nd World Deaf Youth Badminton Championship in Taipei, Taiwan.
- Anika won a total of four medals including two silvers and a bronze.

Verstappen wins German GP, Vettel second and Hamilton 11th

- Max Verstappen wins the German Grand Prix 2019. He is a Belgian-Dutch who drives for Red Bull.
- This is his second win in this season after Austria Grand Prix.
- Sebastian Vettel was on the second spot while Daniil Kvyat was on third.

Mary Kom, Six Other Indians Clinch Gold Medal In 23rd President's Cup

- MC Mary Kom, the six-time world champion, defeated Australia's April Franks in the 23rd President's Cup to clinch the gold medal in a one-sided 51kg category final in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.
- The Indian boxers finished their campaign with nine medals, including seven gold and two silver, helping the contingent win the 'Best Team' award.
- The women boxers had a flawless record in the finals, winning all the four gold medals on offer, the men had mixed fortunes and had to settle for two silver along with three gold.

Ashish Kumar clinches gold as India grab eight medals at Thailand Open

- Asian Championships silver medallist Ashish Kumar bagged his first international gold, even as Indian boxers finished their campaign with a rich haul of eight medals at Thailand Open International boxing tournament in Bangkok.
- India finished with a gold, four silver and three bronze.
- Silver: Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Deepak (49kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg), and Brijesh Yadav (81kg).
- Bronze: Manju Rani (48kg), Ashish (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)

Caeleb Dressel Breaks Michael Phelps' 100m Butterfly World Record

- American swimmer Caeleb Dressel set the new world record in the men's 100 meter butterfly during the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.
- Dressel came in at 49.50 during the second semi-final in the event, breaking the old record of 49.82 set by Michael Phelps in August 2009.
- It's the second world record once held by Phelps to be broken this week.

Isner Makes History With Fourth Newport Title

- John Isner lived up to his top seed status at the Hall of Fame Open, becoming the first player to win four titles in Newport with win over seventh-seeded Kazakh Alexander Bublik.

Adam Peaty wins 100m breaststroke gold at world championships

- Adam Peaty claimed the 100m breaststroke title at the world championships for a third time but was unable to break the record he set 24 hours earlier.
- Peaty became the first man to go under 57 seconds when he shattered his own world mark with a time of 56.88 in the semi-finals in Gwangju, South Korea.

Manny Pacquiao Beats Keith Thurman to Take WBA Super Welterweight Title

- Filipino professional boxer, Manny Pacquiao, claimed the WBA Welterweight Super Championship title after securing a split decision victory over Keith Thurman of America in Las Vegas.

- The 40-year-old Pacquiao has now become the oldest welterweight champion in history to lift the title.

Harmeet, Ayhika win as India complete golden sweep in C'wealth TT

- Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee won the men's and women's singles titles as hosts India completed a clean sweep, claiming all the seven gold medals on offer at the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.
- Harmeet made a valiant comeback to outwit Sathyan in a marathon seven game contest.
- Anthony Amalraj and Manav Thakkar claimed the men's doubles gold by stunning top seeds Sathyan and Sharath Kamal .
- Ayhika won her maiden gold in the championships, thrashing former national champion Madurika Patkar
- Pooja Sahasrabudhe and Krittwika Sinha Roy defeated compatriots Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul to claim the women's doubles crown.

Brilliant Lowry wins The Open at Royal Portrush

- The Republic of Ireland's Shane Lowry won the 148th Open Championship at Royal Portrush in a six-shot romp over runner-up Tommy Fleetwood.
- The 32-year-old is the only second player from Ireland after Pádraig Harrington (2007 and 2008) to lift the Claret Jug, or win any of golf's four majors.

Hima Das Wins Gold, Tajinderpal Singh Toor Bags Bronze at Poznan Athletics Grand Prix

- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won the women's 200m gold, while national record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland.
- Hima, the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m who has been struggling with a back problem for the past few months, on her way to the 200m gold.
- Muhammed Anas, the 400m national record holder, was third in the men's 200m race with a timing of 20.75 seconds. K S Jeevan won the men's 400m bronze in 47.25s.

Karolina Pliskova Destroys Angelique Kerber to Win 2nd Eastbourne International Title

- World number three Karolina Pliskova cruised to her second Eastbourne International title with a 6-1, 6-4 destruction of Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber.
- Taylor Fritz finally earned his maiden triumph, defeating compatriot Sam Querrey 6-3, 6-4 in 61 minutes to win the Nature Valley International in Eastbourne.

Max Verstappen wins Austrian Grand Prix

- Red Bulls' Max Verstappen overtook Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with three laps remaining to win his second consecutive race at the Spielberg circuit. This is Verstappen's sixth career win

- Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas came home third ahead of Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and defending five-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes

Veer wins U-19 Asian Squash title

- Veer Chotrani won the Asian junior Individual squash championship in the U-19 category with a win over Yash Fadte in an all-India final in Macau
- Veer is now the third Indian to win this prestigious title after Ravi Dixit and Velavan Senthilkumar
- In the other two finals, India bagged two silver medals through Neel Joshi in the boys Under-17 category and Yuvna Gupta in the girls Under-15 section

ITBP DIG Aparna Kumar becomes first civil servant to summit Mount Denali in North America

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Aparna Kumar has become the first civil servant to scale Mount Denali, the highest peak in North America.
- This was her 7th summit in her '7 Summits' challenge.
- She also became the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition.

Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav wins WBC Asia title

- Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the WBC Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand.
- The fight was conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the World Boxing Council (WBC).

Dean Mascarenhas wins the South India Rally of 2019 INRC

- The 2019 Indian National Rally Championship kicked off with South India Rally in Chennai.
- Dean Mascarenhas won the South India Rally beating the late resurgence from ARRC champion Gaurav Gill.

Odisha to host 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis C'ship

- Odisha Government is set to host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, scheduled for July 17 to 22.
- The government of Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and Odisha State Table Tennis Association (OSTTA) to host the event.

Jio Digital Udaan Literacy Programme Launched in Partnership with Facebook

- Reliance Jio has launched a new digital literacy programme, aimed at first time internet users who are using the connected internet ecosystem and apps for the very first time.
- The programme, which will primarily focus on people using JioPhone and make use of Facebook and its ecosystem to demonstrate the advantages of connectivity and information availability.

- The Jio Digital Udaan programme is being launched across 200 locations in 13 states, with over 7,000 locations in India earmarked for future release.

Pakistan beat India to lift IBSF Snooker World Team Cup

- Pakistan defeated India 3-1 to lift the IBSF Snooker World Team Cup 2019 title in Qatar.
- The Indian team was outplayed by Pakistan who won the first two frames. The Indian team, however, bounced back to win the third frame before Pakistan made a comeback to take the crown home.

China's Li Shi Feng wins the Canada Open Badminton

- India's Parupalli Kashyap lost to Li Shi Feng of China in the men's singles title clash of the Canada Open
- Kashyap entered the final, defeating Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei in a semi-final encounter at Calgary

Hima Das clinches gold in Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland

- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland
- National record holder Muhammed Anas also won the gold in men's 200m race with a time of 21.18 seconds.
- MP Jabir won the gold in men's 400m hurdles in 50.21 seconds while Jithin Paul was third in 52.26 secs.

Marc Marquez wins seventh consecutive German MotoGP

- Honda rider Marc Marquez extended his lead at the top of the championship with a seventh consecutive victory at the German MotoGP
- He has won every MotoGP in Germany since 2013.
- It is Marquez' fifth victory in nine races this season which takes him to 185 points in the championship standings

Vinesh Phogat, Divya Kakran wins gold at Grand Prix of Spain

- India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal after shifting to 53kg category while Divya Kakran claimed the top honours in the 68kg category at the Grand Prix of Spain.
- World Championship bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda (57kg) had to be content with a silver after losing the title clash to Russia's Veronika Chumikova.
- India finished second with 130 points in team championship behind Russia (165).

Magnus Carlsen wins the Croatia Grand Chess Tour and his eighth consecutive tournament

- The World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen has really been showing phenomenal dominance over the current chess scene with his back-to-back tournament wins.

- He put another feather in his cap by winning the second leg of Grand Chess Tour 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia.
- India's Viswanathan Anand ended up with 4.5 points and finished 11th.

Dutee Chand wins 100m gold in World Universiade

- Dutee Chand is the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win a 100m gold in a global event.
- National record holder Dutee Chand became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m dash event in Napoli.
- The Universiade is an international multi-sport event, organized for university athletes by the International University Sports Federation (FISU). It is held once in every two years. This year it is being held in Naples, Italy.
- Headquarters of International University Sports Federation (FISU)- Lausanne, Switzerland

Meet Toran Yadav, a para-athlete silver medals winner World Wealth Yoga Festival and Championship

- Meet Toran Yadav, a para-athlete from Khatti village of Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. He represented India at 4th World Wealth Yoga Festival and Championship in Europe.
- Yadav won three silver medals in the championship. Indeed, Toran Yadav is an inspiration to all the youth.

G. Sathiyar, Anthony Amalraj win bronze at World Tour Platinum Australian Open

- Indian Table Tennis pair of G. Sathiyar and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open
- This was India's first ever medal in the Australian Open

Vinesh Phogat clinches gold in Yasar Dogu tourney

- Vinesh Phogat added to India's medal tally in Yasar Dogu 2019 Ranking Series tournament in Istanbul, by clinching gold medal in the 53kg category.
- Earlier, Seema and Manju Kumari won a gold medal each in the 50kg and 59kg category respectively.
- In men's wrestling, Rahul Aware won gold in the 61kg freestyle category, while Utkarsh clinched the bronze in the same weight division.

Amir Khan wins WBC international welterweight title

- Olympic silver medallist Amir Khan clinched the WBC international welterweight title after knocking out Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League.
- The event was held at King Abdullah Sports City, Saudi Arabia.

Vijender Singh beats Mike Snider to clinch 11th consecutive victory

- Indian boxing star Vijender Singh Beniwal (Haryana) clinched his 11th consecutive win in US professional Boxing (United States) against Mike Snider of US in Newark, New Jersey.
- Vijender recently fought and lost in the Indian general elections from the South Delhi seat.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 British Grand Prix for record sixth time

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes – Britain) has won the Formula One 2019 British Grand Prix. It is the sixth time that he has won the British Grand Prix. He thus overtakes Jim Clark and Alain Prost, who both had five wins, and now has the greatest record of all in this race.
- Valtteri Bottas was at second followed by Charles Leclerc at third.
- Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel had a crash during the race

2019 Summer Universiade

- The 2019 Summer Universiade, the XXX Summer Universiade was held in Naples, Italy, between 3 and 14 July 2019.
- Japan won the top spot with 82 Medals (33 Gold, 21 Silver, 28 Bronze).
- India got 29th place in the list with the total medal tally of 4 (1Gold, 1Silver, 2 Bronze).
- Dutee Chand, hailing from Jajpur district of Odisha, became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the event.
- She is the current national champion in the women's 100 metres event. She is the third Indian woman to ever qualify for the Women's 100 meters event at Summer Olympic Games (for 2016 Rio Olympics).
- The Indian shooter Elavenil (Cuddalore, Tamilnadu) got 225.2 points in the final round to finish second behind Brazdova Lucie (Czech Republic) with 250.3 points.
- The women's team comprising Nina Chandel, Elavenil Valarivan and Aayushi Gupta got their Bronze medal with 1866.2 points.
- Angad Vir Singh Bajwa (24) shot 44 in the final & got Bronze medal. He had made it to the finals with the third-best of 122/125 score. The gold was won by Nicolas Vasiliou of Cyprus with 56 hits.
- Angad represented India in his first senior world cup in Acapulco 2015.

India to host ISSF World Cup from March 15-26 2020

- The capital will be hosting next year's International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Combined World Cup from March 2020 to be held in New Delhi, India
- The Combined World Cup involves events in rifle, pistol and shotgun.

21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship begins in Cuttack

- The 21st edition of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship began at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack
- Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal inaugurated the event.

Anish Bhanwala claims gold medal in 25m rapid fire pistol in ISSF Junior World Cup

- Anish Bhanwala won his second ISSF Junior World Cup gold in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol
- While Esha Singh bagged a silver in women's 10m air pistol, consolidating India's top position in Suhl, Germany.
- Anish had won his first Junior World Cup gold in the event in Sydney last year.

Intercontinental Cup 2019: North Korea Beat Tajikistan to Win Title

- North Korea triumphed in the second edition of Intercontinental Cup football tournament beating Tajikistan by a solitary goal in the final.
- Both finalists were the two lowest-ranked teams of the four-nation tournament, the other participants being hosts India and Syria.
- The champions got richer by USD 50000 while the runners-up received USD 25000.

Indian Men & Women's teams win Commonwealth Table Tennis title

- In Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held in Cuttack, India made a record by winning gold in both men's and women's category.
- The Indian men won the final match defeating England 3-2. The Indian women team defeated England 3-0 in final match.
- The Indian women team won the gold for the first time in the history in the commonwealth games.

Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Malik clinches Mr South Asia title

- Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
- Malik, the winner of 80 kg category, was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories.
- Afghanistan won a total 15 medals including six gold, four silver and five bronze. Nepal bagged three gold, seven silver and six bronze and India claimed four gold, five silver and one bronze medal.
- The Maldives won three gold and two bronze medals, Pakistan bagged one gold, two silver and two bronze, while Bhutan finished last with a bronze medal.

Shiva Thapa Becomes India's First Gold-medallist in Kazakhstan President's Cup

- Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the final in Astana, Kazakhstan.

- Making his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury.

2019 Wimbledon Championships

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	Roger Federer
Women's Singles	Simona Halep	Serena Williams
Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastián Cabal and Robert Farah	Nicolas Mahut and Édouard Roger-Vasselin
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei and Barbora Strýcová	Gabriela Dabrowski and Xu Yifan

Yonex Canada Open

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER
Men's Singles	Li Shi feng (China)	Parupalli Kashyap(India)
Women's Singles	An Se-young (South Korea)	Wang Zhiyi (China)
Men's Doubles	Mathias Boe & Mads Conrad-Petersen(Denmark)	Hiroki Okamura & Masayuki Onodera(Japan)
Women's Doubles	Setyana Mapasa & Gronya Somerville(Australia)	Chang Ye-na & Kim Hye-rin(South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Ko Sung-hyun & Eom Hye-won(South Korea)	Guo Xinwa & Zhang Shuxian(China)

Important Obituaries

Person	Field
Abburi Chaya Devi	Noted Telugu writer
Rakesh Shukla	Former India Cricketer
Keshav Rout	Odia film producer
Carlin Dunne	Renowned Motorcycle Racer
Momir Bulatovic	Former president of Montenegro
BK Birla	Veteran industrialist
Lee Iacocca	US Automobile industry legend

Sudarshan Agarwal	Former Uttarakhand Governor
Joao Gilberto	Brazilian musician and songwriter
A. U. Celestine	Former Indian football team goalkeeper
Wilfred Mesquita	Former Goa minister
Soumendranath Kundu	Former Bengal and Railways leg-spinner
H.M. Ershad	Bangladesh's former military dictator
Fernando Corbató	Computer password inventor
M J Radhakrishnan	Renowned cinematographer
Lt Gen JS Gharaya	1971 war hero
Pernell Whitaker	American boxer
Swarup Dutta	Bengali actor
Johnny Clegg	South African singer and songwriter
Marc Batchelor	Former South African footballer
P Rajagopal	Saravana Bhavan restaurant founder
Sheila Dikshit	Former Chief Minister of Delhi
Peter McNamara	Former Australian Tennis player
Yukiya Amano	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general
Ram Chandra Paswan	Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) MP from Bihar's Samastipur
Maxim Dadashev	Russian boxer
Indraganti Srikanta Sarma	journalist, writer and lyricist
Russi Taylor	Voice actor and Disney Legend
S. Jaipal Reddy	Former union minister and senior Congress leader from Telangana
Donkumar Roy	Meghalaya Assembly Speaker
Attoor Ravi Varma	Eminent Malayalam poet and translator