

## Important Monthly Current Affairs – September 2019

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## Important Days

Date	Important days	Theme
September 1	National Nutrition Week	-
September 2	World Coconut Day	Coconut for Family Wellness
September 5	International Day of Charity	-
September 5	National Teachers' Day	-
September 8	International Literacy Day	Literacy and Multilingualism
September 8	World Physical Therapy Day	-
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)	Working Together to Prevent Suicide
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	From Commitment to Action — Follow up to Buenos Aires Plan of Action+40
September 14	Hindi Diwas	-
September 15	International Day of Democracy	"Participation"
September 15	Engineers Day	"Engineering For Change"
September 16	World Ozone Day	32 Years and Healing
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	"Speak Up for Patient Safety"
September 18	World Bamboo Day	-
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	-
September 21	International Day of Peace and Non-Violence	-
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	-
September 22	World Rose Day	-
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	"Safe and effective medicines for all"
September 26	World Contraception Day	
September 26	World Maritime Day	"Empowering women in the maritime community"
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Climate Change Challenges, Time for Global Environmental Health to Act in Unison
September 27	World Tourism Day	"Tourism and Jobs — A Better Future For All"
September 28	World Rabies Day	Rabies: Vaccinate to Eliminate
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information	"Leaving No One Behind!"
September 29	World Heart Day	'My Heart, Your Heart'

## Important Banking News RBI

### RBI sets timelines for reversal of failed electronic transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for turnaround time (TAT) for failed transactions and compensation for customers, saying this will bring in uniformity in processing of the failed transactions.
- The central bank also prescribed auto reversal timelines for failed transactions. In cases where a customer's account has been debited but cash not dispensed from an automated teller machine (ATM), the bank will have to pro-actively reverse failed transactions within a maximum of T + 5 days or within five days of the failed transaction. Failing to reverse within five days will lead to the bank paying ₹100 per day to the account holder.
- In the case of point of sale (PoS) transactions and including cash at PoS, where account is debited but confirmation not received at merchant location or charge-slip not generated, the same five-day reversal period has been granted.

- For Immediate Payment System (IMPS) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, the central bank has asked banks to reverse it within a day of the failed transaction.
- Failed transactions shall also include the credits which could not be effected to the beneficiary account on account of lack of full information or lack of proper information and delay in initiating a reversal transaction.

#### **RBI makes it mandatory for banks to link retail loans with external benchmarks from October 1**

- The RBI has made it mandatory for banks to link all new floating-rate loans for housing, auto and MSMEs to external benchmark like repo from October 1, a move aimed at ensuring faster transmission of policy rate cuts to borrowers. Industry and retail borrowers have been complaining that banks do not pass on the entire RBI's policy rate (repo rate) reduction to them.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been observed that due to various reasons, the transmission of policy rate changes to the lending rate of banks under the current marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) framework has not been satisfactory.
- In 2019, the Reserve Bank has already reduced the repo or short-term lending rate by 110 basis points, but the banks have reportedly passed on only up to 40 bps to borrowers. The external benchmarks, to which the banks will be required to link their lending rates, could be repo, 3-month or 6-month treasury bill yield, or any other benchmark published by the Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL).
- The banks have also been asked to reset the interest rate under external benchmark at least once in three months.

#### **RBI to launch mobile app for visually impaired to identify banknotes**

- RBI to launch mobile app for visually impaired; it'll help them identify banknotes
- Reserve Bank of India has selected Daffodil Software Pvt Ltd to develop a mobile phone based application for them
- Internet connection would not be required for its proposed mobile application
- The app will also generate "audio notification" intimating the currency note denomination to the user if image is captured correctly
- The proposed mobile app would be able to identify the denomination of notes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of mobile camera

#### **RBI increases banks' loan exposure limit to single NBFC**

- The RBI increased loan exposure limit of banks to a single NBFC (excluding gold loan companies) from 15% to 20% of its capital base, a move that will help increase credit supply to the crisis-ridden shadow banking sector.
- According to the extant 'Large Exposures Framework (LEF)', banks' exposure to a single non-banking financial company (NBFC) is restricted to 15% of their available eligible capital base, while general single counter-party exposure limit is 20%, which can be extended to 25% by banks' boards under exceptional circumstances.
- It has been decided that a bank's exposure to a single NBFC (excluding gold loan companies) will be restricted to 20% of that bank's eligible capital base.

#### **RBI cuts risk weight on consumer credit, including personal loan, to 100%**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the risk weight requirement for consumer loans to 100 per cent, a move that will reduce cost of such loans. Currently, the risk weight requirement for such loans is 125 per cent. The relaxed requirement would not be applicable to credit cards.
- Risk weight refers to the capital banks keep aside as provisioning to cover any loan defaults.
- It has been decided to reduce the risk weight for consumer credit, including personal loans, but excluding credit card receivables, to 100 per cent.

#### **RBI allows payment of all recurring bills through BBPS**

- In a consumer friendly initiative, the RBI expanded the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to cover all repetitive bill payments, which may include school fees, insurance premiums and municipal taxes.
- Currently, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS is available only in five segments -- direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, telecom and water.

- BBPS functions under the aegis of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- BBPS is an integrated bill payment system which offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground. The system will provide multiple payment modes and instant confirmation of payment.

### **RBI increases sanctioned limit for Classification of Exports under priority Sector to Rs 400 million**

- Enhance the sanctioned limit, for classification of export credit under PSL, from ₹ 250 million per borrower to ₹ 400 million per borrower.
- Remove the existing criteria of 'units having turnover of up to ₹ 1 billion'.

## **ADB**

### **India & ADB sign \$200 million loan to improve rural connectivity in Maharashtra**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$200 million loan to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra
- The project will improve the condition of about 2,100 kilometers (km) of rural roads to all-weather standards, with climate resilience and safety features
- Provision of contractual maintenance for 5 years following construction has also been provided under the project

## **World Bank**

### **World Bank to fund pro-poor tourism development projects worth \$57 mn**

- World Bank will fund 'pro-poor tourism' (PPT) development projects worth more than \$57 million in top tourist hotspots of Agra and Braj-Mathura regions in Uttar Pradesh.
- While the World Bank will incur 70% of the project cost, the remaining 30% will be borne by the UP government.
- According to UP tourism directorate, the World Bank and the union finance ministry have already signed loan and project agreements for the proposed PPT projects.
- Pro-poor tourism is a holistic tourism concept aimed at poverty alleviation in the periphery of selected tourism hubs through interventions pertaining to the economic, social and cultural aspects of the area.

### **World Bank to sanction Rs 3,000cr for food parks**

- The World Bank will provide Rs 3,000 crore funds to finance mini and mega food parks across the country, particularly in Northeast, and help boost farmers' income.
- 15th Indo-US Economic Summit organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce- North India Council (IACC- NIC).
- The World Bank has agreed to sanction Rs 3,000 crore for the Ministry of Food Processing to enable it finance mini and mega food parks across the country.

## **Other Banking News**

### **PNB launches Preventive Vigilance portal**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a Preventive Vigilance portal to facilitate its staff members to check procedural lapses and promote good practices.
- Besides other activities, such as inauguration of e-pledge mission, social outreach through technological platforms for promoting the central theme of 'Integrity - A way of Life', the bank introduced technology based solutions through the Preventive Vigilance (PV) portal.
- The PV portal will facilitate all staff members to contribute towards arresting procedural lapses and unhealthy practices, and will usher in a coherent climate conducive to banking for the modern age.

### **BIS launches green bond fund for central banks**

- The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has launched an open-ended fund for central bank investments in green bonds.
- Responding to a growing demand for climate-friendly investments among official institutions, the BIS's green bond fund initiative helps central banks to incorporate environmental sustainability objectives in the management of their reserves.
- With the support of an advisory committee drawn from a global group of central banks, the fund pools BIS client assets to promote green finance through sizeable climate-friendly investments and support the adoption of best market practices to deepen the green bond market.
- The open-ended fund, denominated in US dollars, is structured according to Swiss law and belongs to the BIS Investment Pool (BISIP) family, a format commonly used by BIS Asset Management for its fixed income investment products.
- It is managed in-house by BIS Asset Management. Eligible bonds have a minimum rating of A- and comply with the International Capital Market Association's Green Bond Principles and/or the Climate Bond Standard published by the Climate Bonds Initiative.
- The BIS offers financial services to a broad client base comprising some 140 central banks, monetary authorities and international organisations worldwide, and has a long-standing experience in managing fixed income portfolios.

#### **Bank of Baroda launches agri digital platform**

- Bank of Baroda launched its agri digital platform “Baroda Kisan”.
- The platform can also be accessed on mobiles by farmers.
- The web-based portal will cater to all the needs of farmers, including weather forecasts, crop conditions, the moisture levels of the soil, information on crop worms, market prices, special crop-related consultation.
- Further, it will also help farmers with inputs related to the purchase of different products, (For example - seeds, fertilizers, pesticides), agricultural equipment on rent, consultancy services and innovative financing options for the sale of agricultural products.
- The Bank also launched centralised processing hubs at Gandhinagar and Hyderabad of agriculture proposals. It also introduced two loan schemes.
- One of the schemes was meant for the construction and renovation of toilets as well as domestic drinking water facilities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, while the would help the people with the construction of houses in rural areas.

#### **Max Bupa and Indian Bank ink bancassurance tie-up to offer health insurance solutions**

- Max Bupa, a standalone health insurance player, has announced a bancassurance corporate agency agreement with Indian Bank, a state-owned bank.
- Under the agreement, Max Bupa will provide comprehensive health insurance solutions and services to over 40 million customers of Indian Bank spread across 2800 branch network, through a slew of digital touch points.
- As part of the tie-up, Max Bupa’s offerings will include both retail and group health insurance products besides Indemnity and Fixed Benefit products.
- Max Bupa has designed a digital ecosystem for Indian Bank customers to enhance their overall experience and avail health insurance solutions at their convenience.
- Max Bupa will install ‘Infinity’ - its proprietary digital platform that integrates with the bank’s systems, to provide a seamless buying journey for all the bank’s customers. Through this digital solution, the customers can purchase the health insurance product of their choice instantly and access their policy documents at the bank branch itself.
- Max Bupa’s digital seller application - InstaInsure, will allow Indian Bank to sell Max Bupa products securely via handheld devices, making the health insurance journey further simplified, with the aid of a streamlined

and interactive support system. The relationship managers can use the app to complete the policy sale process, including the collection of payment from customers electronically.

#### **IDBI to launch co-branded credit card with LIC**

- To further strengthen its relationship with parent Life Insurance Corporation of India, IDBI Bank is planning to launch a co-branded credit card, which will be marketed to customers, agents, and employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
- The co-branded credit card will be launched in association with LIC's wholly-owned subsidiary, LIC Credit Cards Services (LIC CSL), before the festival season of Diwali gets underway.
- Currently, IDBI Bank offers five credit card variants. LIC CSL, which has a tie-up with Axis Bank and Corporation Bank for issuance of credit cards under co-branded/white label agreements, provides credit card services to LIC employees, club member agents, and policyholders.

#### **IPPB rolls out of Aadhaar-enabled payment services (AePS)**

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has rolled out Aadhaar enabled payment system (AePS) services.
- IPPB has now become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank.
- Union Minister for Communications and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad today announced the rollout of AePS services on IPPB's first anniversary.
- With AePS services, any person with a bank account linked to Aadhaar can perform basic banking services such as cash withdrawals and balance enquiry irrespective of the bank they hold their account with.
- To avail these Aadhaar enabled payment services, a customer can simply authenticate his/her identity with fingerprint scan and Aadhaar authentication to complete a transaction.

#### **Edelweiss Group, Central Bank of India partner to co-lend to MSMEs**

- ECL Finance, a subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services, and government-owned Central Bank of India have signed an agreement for priority sector lending to micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) customers.
- The partnership comes after the Reserve Bank of India announced a progressive co-origination policy in September last year, allowing banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to co-lend to a wider set of enterprise owners. This is the first such co-origination partnership of Central Bank of India with an NBFC.
- Last month, the Edelweiss group signed an agreement with Bank of Baroda for a strategic co-origination partnership. The partnership with Central Bank of India comes in quick succession at a time when access to credit is a crucial catalyst for the continued growth of the MSME segment.

#### **Irdai sets up panel to revisit 3-yr old trade credit insurance guidelines**

- Insurance regulator Irdai has decided to review its three-year old guidelines on trade credit insurance in line with the changing requirements of the market.
- Trade credit insurance policy provides coverage to supplier of goods and services against delay in payment or non-payments of trade credit.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has set up a nine-member working group headed by New India Assurance CMD Atul Sahai with an aim to review March 2016 guidelines.
- The panel, which has been asked to submit its report in three-months, would study the need and scope for changes in the current guidelines keeping with the times and requirements of various segments of market.

#### **ESIC Signs Agreement with SBI for Payments to ESIC Beneficiaries on Real Time Basis**

- Employees' State Insurance Corporation has partnered with State Bank of India for direct transfer of benefits electronically into bank accounts of all stakeholders.
- SBI will provide e-payment services directly to bank accounts of all ESIC beneficiaries and payees without any manual intervention as an integrated and automated process.
- The bank would provide e-payment integration with the enterprise resource planning processes of ESIC through its cash management product e-payment technology platform.



- The e-payment integration would effect statutory benefit payments to ESIC beneficiaries as well as other payees on real time basis, reducing time lags and delays and at the same time, help eliminate mistakes and errors caused by repetitive and manual data entries.

#### **ICICI Bank deploys 'robotic arms' to count currency notes**

- The robots are taking over one more function at the country's second largest private lender. ICICI Bank announced the deployment of industrial 'Robotic Arms' to digitise operations at its currency chests.
- With this move it has become India's first commercial bank - and among a few across the globe - to customise and deploy industrial robots to automate repetitive high volume steps in handling cash processing on high-end note sorting machines.

#### **Sebi sets up panel to suggest norms for social stock exchanges**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has constituted a working group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSE) under the chairmanship of Ishaat Hussain, Director, SBI Foundation.
- The working group shall examine and make recommendations with respect to possible structures and mechanisms, within the securities market domain, to facilitate the raising of funds by social enterprises and voluntary organizations.
- In Budget in July, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed a social stock exchange for social enterprises and voluntary organisations working for social welfare to help them raise capital through debt, equity and mutual fund.

#### **IMPS rated world's best in real-time payment service**

- India's Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) has been rated as the world's best real-time payment service in an analysis of 54 countries that have similar facilities.
- India received the only 5+ rating, and remains the global leader in real-time payments usage," according to the sixth annual Flavours of Fast report by FIS.
- Real-time payments systems are also gaining popularity around the world, and their use has increased 35 per cent globally over the past year and nearly four-fold since 2014.

#### **GST Revenue collection in August stands at Rs 98,202 crore**

- GST collection in the month of August stood at 98,202 crore rupees.
- The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of July up to 31st of August is around 76 lakh.
- The government has settled 23 thousand 165 crore rupees to CGST and 16 thousand 623 crore rupees to SGST from IGST as a regular settlement. The total revenue earned by the Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of August 2019 is 40,898 crore rupees for CGST and 40 thousand 862 crores for the SGST.
- 27,955 crore rupees have been released to the states as GST compensation for the months of June and July this year.

#### **Cabinet approves Rs 9,300 crore capital infusion in IDBI Bank**

- The government has approved Rs. 9,300 crore fund infusion in IDBI Bank to help improve the bank's capital base and turn it profitable
- Out of Rs 9,300 crore, the government will infuse Rs 4,557 crore, and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) will invest Rs 4,743 crore.
- IDBI Bank's gross bad loan ratio stood at 29.12% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the highest among all Indian banks
- The shareholding of the government was reduced to 46.46 per cent from 86 per cent while LIC stake in the bank increased to 51 per cent in January this year

#### **Banks start approving retail loan proposals on 'PSB Loans in 59 Minutes' portal**

- Public sector banks (PSBs) have started giving in-principle approval of home and personal loan applications on the 'PSB Loans in 59 Minutes' web portal, launched last year to facilitate quick loans for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- Applicants can now get in-principle approvals from 19 PSBs, including the State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India.
- "59 Minutes" scheme uses advanced algorithms to analyse data points from several sources such as income tax returns and bank statements.

#### **CARE cuts India's GDP growth to 6.4-6.5% for FY20**

- The rating agency CARE cut the GDP estimate downward from 6.7-6.8 per cent earlier to 6.4-6.5 per cent for FY20 with the underlying GVA growth of 6.3-6.4 per cent.
- The cut in GDP rate is due to sharp economic growth slowdown in Q1 of the FY20.

#### **Standard Chartered Bank launches DigiSmart Credit Card**

- The Standard Chartered Bank, a British multinational banking and financial services company has launched its "DigiSmart" credit card primarily focused on the ever-growing segment of millennials.
- The new credit card is available for a nominal monthly fee of only Rs 49. However, this fee will be waived off if the spends of the customer are Rs 5,000 or above in the previous month.
- Standard Chartered Bank has partnered with several companies such as Myntra, Grofers, Yatra, Zomato, Ola and INOX in the initial phase to offer customers with discounts and other benefits.

#### **NDB to provide Rs 6,000 crore loan to Andhra Pradesh for social infrastructure projects**

- New Development Bank (NDB) will provide a loan of Rs 6,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh for various social infrastructure projects in the state.
- The amount will be utilised for road development and other infrastructure projects in rural areas. Out of the total Rs 6,000 crore, 30 per cent has to be borne by the State government and the loan has to be repaid in 32 years
- The New Development Bank was set up in 2015 by BRICS nations. The Shanghai-based Bank has lent over Rs 75,000 crore to various project till date all over the world and Rs 25,000 crores in India alone.

#### **Centre to infuse Rs 12,000 crore in state general insurance firms**

- The Department of Financial Services has approved capital infusion worth Rs.12,000 crore in National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance in order to boost their capital base and meet regulatory norms
- The Budget had provisioned Rs 70,000 crore for PSB recapitalisation and last week a Rs 55,250-crore infusion was announced in several PSBs for regulatory and growth requirements.

#### **PMC Bank customers can not withdraw more than ₹1,000 from their accounts, says RBI**

- The Reserve Bank of India has put restrictions on the amount depositors of Mumbai-based Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank) can withdraw from their accounts with the urban co-operative bank.
- The issue of the directions to PMC Bank should not be construed as cancellation of banking licence by the central bank. PMC Bank can continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till further notice/instructions from RBI.
- As on March 2019, PMC Bank had business of Rs 20,000 crore consisting of Rs 11,617 crore deposits and Rs 8,383 crore advances. The bank will do business with restrictions till further notice or directions by RBI.
- The bank has 137 branches in 6 states including those in New Delhi. It had 3.76% gross non-performing assets (NPAs) and net 2.19 % NPAs as at the end of March 2019.

#### **SBI Life signs corporate agency pact with Repco Home Finance**

- SBI Life Insurance has signed a corporate agency agreement with city-based Repco Home Finance Ltd to offer the company's range of products to RHFL customers.



- According to the agreement, the partnership would see over 148 branches and 27 satellite centres of RHFL spread across the country to offer SBI Life Insurance products to its customers.
- Through this partnership, SBI Life Insurance will reach more new customers across geographies to meet their diverse insurance needs.
- The corporate agency agreement was signed by RHFL CFO T Karunakaran, General Manager K Prabhu and SBI Life, Regional Director, E Thirumudi Pandian in the presence of Repco Home Finance Ltd MD and CEO, Yashpal Gupta and others.

#### **Pine Labs and Federal Bank join hands to offer EMIs**

- Merchant focussed company, Pine Labs announced that it has entered into a strategic alliance with Federal Bank to offer equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on debit card-based offline transactions to all the bank's customers.
- The objective of this association is to provide affordability solution to debit card-holders of Federal Bank by way of POS-based EMI solutions.
- The tie-up focused on technology and analytics to deliver customer-centric digital services.
- Pine Labs currently offers credit and debit card EMI services in over 1.20 lakh stores across 85,000 merchants in India. It has created a network of 90 brands and 19 banking and financial institutions.

### **Important Financial & Economy Affairs**

#### **37th GST Council Meeting For 2019 Held in Panaji, Goa**

- The 37th Good and Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman was held in Panaji, Goa.
- It was attended by Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Thakur, Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant, Finance Ministers of States & Union territories (UTs) and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance.
- GST Council recommends lower 12% cess on 1,500 cc diesel, 1,200 cc petrol vehicles with capacity to carry up to 13 people.
- Group insurance schemes for paramilitary forces under the Home Affairs ministry to be exempted from GST.
- GST rate on caffeinated beverages raised from 18% to 28% with 12% compensation cess.
- Uniform GST rate of 12% to be levied on polypropylene bags and sacks used for packing of goods
- GST exempted on specified defence goods not manufactured in India.
- Rate levied on cut and polished semi precious stones has been dropped from 3% to 0.25%.
- Jewellery exports to now attract zero GST.
- GST on fishmeal used by fishermen being exempted from July 2017 to September 30 this year. There was lack of clarity on their GST coverage and no tax was collected so that has been resolved.
- Aerated drink manufacturers shall not be under the composition scheme anymore.
- Uniform GST rate of 12% to be levied on polypropylene bags and sacks used for packing of goods.
- GST rate hiked on railway wagon, coaches from 5% to 12%.
- Rate reduction on hotel accommodation services.
- For Transaction value per unit per day of ₹1000 or less, will attract nil GST. For ₹1001 upto ₹7500, now the tax rate will be 12%. Anything above ₹7501 will attract 18%. It was 28% till now.
- Job work services related to diamonds reduced from 5% to 1.5%. For machine job works in engineering industry, GST down from 18 to 12. But bus body building works still taxed at 18%.
- All these rate changes will be effective from October 1 2019.

#### **Government reduces corporate tax rate to 22%**

- The Government of India has announced a significant reduction in corporate tax rate for domestic company to 22%. Earlier it was 30%.

- Effective Tax Rate would be 25.17% inclusive of all surcharges and cess for such domestic companies. Such companies are also not required to pay Minimum Alternative Tax.
- Any new domestic company incorporated on or after 1st Oct 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing will have an option to pay income tax at rate of 15%. Effective tax rate for new mfg cos would be 17.01% inclusive of surcharge and cess.
- The government has announced relief to listed companies which have already made a public announcement of buy-back before 5 July 2019. No tax on buy-back of shares in case of such companies will apply.
- In order to provide relief to companies which continue to avail incentive or exemptions, even for them the government has provided a Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) relief, and the MAT rate has been reduced for them to 15% from the existing 18.5%.
- Total revenue foregone for the reduction of corporation tax is Rs 1.45 trillion per year.

#### **Govt notifies 8.65% rate of interest for over 60 mn EPFO subscribers**

- The government approved 8.65% interest rate on employees provident fund for 2018-19, which will now be credited into the accounts of over 60 million subscribers of retirement fund body EPFO.
- The EPFO has been settling EPF withdrawal claims at 8.55% interest rate, approved for 2017-18. Now, the EPFO will settle accounts on higher rate of 8.65% for 2018-19.
- The Labour Ministry will soon notify 8.65% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19 as the Finance Ministry does not disagree on this rate.

#### **London overtakes India's financial capital Mumbai in rupee trading**

- London has overtaken India's financial capital Mumbai to become the top center for trading the nation's currency.
- Average daily volumes for rupee in the UK soared to \$46.8 billion in April, a more than fivefold jump from \$8.8 billion in 2016, according to the latest survey from the Bank for International Settlements released this week. That exceeded the \$34.5 billion recorded in India. Trading in dollar-rupee offshore non-deliverable forwards increased threefold over the three-year period.

#### **Government waives three-year lock-in period on investments made by NRIs in IDFs**

- The government has waived the three-year lock-in period on investments made by non-residents in infrastructure debt funds (IDFs), to promote funding in the infrastructure sector.
- A notification had been issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- To attract off-shore investments into IDFs, any amount of interest received by non-resident or foreign company from investment in such IDFs is charged at a reduced tax rate of 5 per cent.
- IDFs are investment vehicles to accelerate the flow of long-term debt to the sector.

#### **Income tax department relaxes time for applying for compounding of offences**

- The income tax department has relaxed time for applying for compounding of income tax offences by launching of a one-time facility.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a circular relaxing the 12-month time limit for compounding application, as a one-time measure.
- The step has been taken to mitigate unintended hardship to taxpayers in deserving cases and to reduce the pendency of existing prosecution cases before the courts.
- A taxpayer or an assessee, in order to avail the facility, will have to file an application for compounding a tax offence before the competent authority, that is a Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner, Principal Director General or Director General of Income-tax department "on or before December 31, 2019".

#### **MFIN, Sa-Dhan jointly launch 'Code for Responsible Lending' for microfinance industry**

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan, the Reserve Bank of India recognised self-regulatory organisations and industry associations for the microfinance industry, along with Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), have jointly unveiled the 'Code for Responsible Lending' (CRL) for the micro-credit industry.

- The launch was done at Sa-Dhan's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference in New Delhi. The CRL, aims to ensure uniform principles for customer-conduct in micro-credit. It is sector-specific and entity agnostic.
- Both CRL and CoC are focused on highlighting and advancing 'responsible lending' practices in microfinance. A microfinance customer as defined by the RBI (for NBFC-MFIs) is one that holds an annual household income of Rs 1 lakh in rural India and Rs 1.6 lakhs in urban India.

### **Saving Deposits of Banks Rose to Rs. 39.72 Lakh Crore in 2018-19**

- The aggregate saving deposits of public and private sector banks (PSBs) stood at Rs.39.72 lakh crore as on March 31, 2019, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data published in Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy 2018-19.
- On the other hand, foreign banks had a share of Rs. 58,630 crore in terms of savings deposits in the same fiscal, the data showed.
- The total savings deposits with commercial banks, including foreign ones, in 2018-19 stood at Rs. 40.31 lakh crore, up from Rs. 36.55 lakh crore in 2017-18.
- The public sector bank's credit growth was up 8.7 per cent, while the aggregate deposit growth was 6.7 per cent at the end of the first quarter ending June.
- The foreign banks' credit growth was 5.4 per cent and the aggregate deposit growth was 19.3 per cent, according to the quarterly data on deposits and credits of commercial banks released earlier this month.
- Bank credit between April and June this year grew by 11.7 per cent, against a growth of 11.1 per cent in the same period last fiscal.
- Private banks registered a growth of 16.3 per cent in aggregate deposits and of 17.5 per cent in bank credit in the first quarter of the fiscal. The public sector banks had a deposit growth of 6.7 per cent and bank credit growth of 8.7 per cent in the same quarter.

ORGANISATION	GDP RATE	
	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
DBS	6.2 %	-
CRISIL	6.3 %	-

### **ADB predicts Indian economy to grow 6.5 % in FY19, 7.2 % in FY20**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised its outlook (Asian Development Outlook 2019) for India's economy with growth now expected at 6.5 per cent in fiscal year (FY) 2019 and 7.2 per cent in FY20
- In July, ADB had forecast 7 per cent growth for FY19 and 7.2 per cent in FY20.
- India's fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends March 31 of the next calendar year

### **India's GDP growth rebound expected to be weaker: Fitch Solutions**

- Fitch Solutions said as it trimmed GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.4 per cent from 6.8 per cent previously.
- India's real GDP growth slumped further in Q1 of FY2019/20 (April-March) to 5 per cent year-on-year, from 5.8 per cent in Q4 (January-March) FY2018/19 due mainly to a sharp slowdown in private consumption growth.

### **UNCTAD sees India growth moderating to 6% in 2019**

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has projected India's GDP growth rate at 6% in the calendar year (CY) 2019.
- As per UNCTAD, India's economy grew 7.4% in CY18.

## **Important Business News**

### **Airtel Payments Bank launches Bharosa savings account scheme**

- Airtel Payments Bank has launched 'Bharosa savings account' which enables customers to withdraw cash, check their balance or access a mini statement of their account at over 6,50,000 Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AePS) enabled outlets across India.
- These services have been designed for deepening financial inclusion in the country.
- Airtel Payments Bank has launched 'Bharosa savings account' which lets you open a savings account with just ₹500 minimum monthly balance.
- Along with convenient banking services, Bharosa savings account offers ₹5 lakh personal accident insurance on maintaining balance of ₹500.
- Airtel Payments Bank Bharosa Savings Account will allow you minimum one debit transaction per month.
- Customers would also be eligible for cashback, if they decide to receive government subsidies in their Bharosa account or if they make cash deposits in it.
- Airtel Payments Bank offers digital banking services through a network of 5,00,000 neighbourhood banking points spread across India.

#### **Tata firm launches India's first maritime broadband**

- VSAT solutions provider Nelco, a Tata enterprise, announced the launch of maritime communication services, becoming India's first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, and Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, inaugurated the services.
- Nelco, through global partnerships and infrastructure, including transponder capacity on the satellite of ISRO and service portfolio, will help energy, cargo and cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency.
- The in-flight and maritime communications (IFMC) licence has not only enabled connectivity for on-board users on ships but also brings operational efficiencies for shipping companies which were less evolved until now.

#### **ZestMoney partners with PayU for cardless EMI payment**

- Digital lending platform ZestMoney has joined hands with payment gateway, PayU.
- The merchants can now offer the convenience of the cardless EMI payment option to consumers and increase their overall conversions. ZestMoney has already partnered with Billdesk, Cashfree and Razorpay as a payment method.
- The lender aims to provide loans of amount starting at Rs 1,000 and going up to Rs 5 lakh as per the need of the customer in any location.

### **Important State Wise National News**

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

**Capital – Hyderabad (Amravati); CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Biswabhusan Harichandan**

#### **Visakhapatnam railway station sets up 'fun zone' for kids**

- In a first of its kind in the Indian Railways, a paid gaming zone has been provided at Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh. The facility was set up at the platform number 1 for public.
- It is an innovative initiative by the Waltair division of East Coast Railway (ECOR) under non-fare revenue for entertaining waiting passengers/kids

#### **Arunachal Pradesh**

**Capital – Itanagar; CM – Pema Khandu; Governor - BD Mishra**

#### **Arunachal Pradesh CM dedicates Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to people of state**

- Arunachal Pradesh, CM Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state. The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District. It was constructed on the river Phudung by Devi Energies Private Limited.
- It was completed in a record time of four years with an investment of about 430 crore rupees.

## **Assam**

**Capital – Dishpur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor - Jagdish Mukhi**

### **Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Cane and Bamboo Technology Park at Burnihat, Assam**

- The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Cane and Bamboo Technology Park-cum-Office Premises of Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) at Burnihat, Assam
- The Bamboo Technology Park has been developed to exclusively deal with Bamboo & Cane, catering to the needs of the industries, entrepreneurs, designers, crafts persons, rural people, teachers, policy makers, technicians and technologists
- The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) was established in Guwahati as a centre for “Cane and Bamboo Technological Up gradation and Networking Project” implemented by NEDFi under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) country program for India

### **Assam Government launches housing loan subsidy scheme**

- The Assam Government has launched a housing loan subsidy scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase or construction of the first house for a family.
- Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the scheme - Aponar Apon Ghar in Guwahati. The subsidy up to 2 lakh 50 thousand rupees will be provided for loan amounts from five lakh to 40 lakh rupees.
- This initiative would provide impetus to the economy and led to the expansion of real estate in the state.

## **Gujarat**

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

### **Gujarat Govt, Delaware State of America sign MoU for sister state**

- Gujarat Government and Delaware State of America signed MoU -Memorandum of Understanding for sister state. MoU was signed in Gandhinagar, when a delegation of Delaware State of America called on Gujarat Chief Minister Delaware’s Vijay Rupani. MoU was signed by Gujarat Chief Minister and Delaware’s Secretary of state.
- Sectors like Biotechnology University, bio sciences, financial services, animal husbandry and dairy, port services have been short listed for future cooperation. The American delegation has also invited Gujarat Chief Minister to visit Delaware State.

## **Haryana**

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

### **Haryana government waives ₹4,750 crore interest, penalty on crop loans**

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced ₹4,750-crore interest and penalty waiver on crop loans taken from cooperative banks
- Around 10 lakh farmers, who had borrowed from Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCB) and Land Mortgage Bank (LMB) -- would be benefitted.

### **Gurugram Police ties up with Google for traffic updates**

- The Gurugram traffic police have tied up with Google maps for dissemination of traffic related information in real time for public use
- Information such as planned road closures, diversions and traffic alerts will now be shared by the Gurugram traffic police through Google Maps
- The basic idea behind this arrangement is to prompt commuters to make intelligent choices in order to make their commuting experience hassle-free

### **Haryana CM launches two insurance schemes for traders**

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched two insurance schemes for traders.



- An insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh would be provided under the 'Mukhyamantri VyapariSamuhikNiji DurghatnaBeemaYojana', while an insurance cover ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh would be provided under the 'Mukhyamantri VyapariKshatipurti Beema Yojana'.
- The premium of Rs 38 crore for both the insurance schemes would be paid by the state government.
- Under the 'Mukhyamantri VyapariSamuhikNiji DurghatnaBeemaYojana', 3.75 lakh registered traders would be provided an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.
- The benefit of insurance would be admissible in case of an accidental death, permanent disability and damage to two body organs, or eyes or one organ or one eye.
- Haryana is the first state in the country to implement 'Mukhyamantri VyapariKshatipurti Beema Yojana' under which insurance benefits ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh would be provided to the traders on the basis of their turnover to compensate for loss of stock due to fire, theft, flood and earthquake, and damage to furniture and other goods.
- Khattar also announced that all the families in the state having an annual family income of Rs 1.80 lakh would be covered under the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' under which they would be provided free annual medical treatment for up to Rs 5 lakh.
- He also announced enhancement in monthly wages of 'Safai Karamcharis' working in urban areas to Rs 15,000 from Rs 13,500 and in rural areas to Rs 12,500 from Rs 11,000.
- About 39,000 'Safai Karamcharis' would benefit from this decision.

### **Himachal Pradesh**

**Capital – Shimla; CM - Jai Ram Thakur; Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya**

#### **HP CM launches helpline for speedy redressal of public grievances**

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline '1100' for speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances.
- The helpline will function six days a week (Monday-Saturday) from 7 am to 10 pm.
- Himachal Pradesh is now become the fourth state in the country to have such a helpline after Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

### **Jammu & Kashmir**

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

#### **First women marathon organised against drug addiction in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir**

- In an innovative initiative, a women-only marathon with the aim of spreading the social message regarding drug addiction was organised in Udhampur district.
- The marathon was dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has recently kick-started the Fit-India campaign. It was attended by chief patron Dogra Kranti Dal and former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Balwant Singh Mankotia and others.

#### **J&K becomes first state to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat scheme**

- Jammu and Kashmir has become the first state in the country to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).
- Over 11 lakh golden cards have been generated within first 90 days of the launch of the scheme with 60% families having at least one golden card which is highest in the country.
- This was stated by Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, Bhupinder Kumar at a function in Jammu, organized to mark the first anniversary of the launch of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in the State.
- Under the scheme, 155 Hospitals including 126 public and 29 private hospitals have been empanelled to provide free and cashless treatment to the entitled beneficiaries while as per Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 6.30 lakh poor and vulnerable families of J&K are entitled for it.



## **Karnataka**

**Capital – Bengaluru; CM – B. S. Yediyurappa; Governor - Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala**

### **Hyderabad-Karnataka region renamed as Kalyana Karnataka**

- The Karnataka government has approved to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka region of the state as Kalyana Karnataka to do away with any remnants of colonial nomenclature or connection with the Nizams to refer to the six districts on the north eastern part of the state.
- The Hyderabad-Karnataka Regional Development Board (HKRDB) will now be renamed as Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board.
- The government will now initiate a process to change the name in all government records to wipe out references to the region as Hyderabad-Karnataka.
- The HKRDB was set up on 6 November, 2013 under the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka. The board spreads over six districts-Bidar, Bellary, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir-- and 40 assembly constituencies.

## **Kerala**

**Capital – Thiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan**

### **Kerala to set up country's first global trade centre for women**

- In a major initiative to accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity, Kerala will set up the country's first International Women's Trade Centre (iWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in Kozhikode.
- A key project of the state's Gender Park under the Department of Social Justice, it is envisaged as a safe space away from home for women to harness their entrepreneurial capabilities, set up or expand their businesses and get their products marketed globally.
- The first phase of iWTC, being executed under the Gender Park's "Vision 2020", is scheduled to be completed by 2021.
- While creating a safe and sustainable environment for the growth of industry, business, trade and lifestyle, iWTC will also have a dedicated space for cultural expressions of women to promote and showcase performing arts and cultural forms like dance, music and theatre.

### **Kerala to host country's first-ever 'trans art festival'**

- "Varnapakitt-2019", the two-day event is considered to be the first such state-sponsored art festival to be organised exclusively for transgenders in the country.
- Kerala is the first state to unveil a 'Policy for Transgenders', in the country.

## **Madhya Pradesh**

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

### **Madhya Pradesh's Happiness Dept. to open Time Bank**

- The Madhya Pradesh government's Happiness Department is planning to set up a Time Bank that would lend currency to an hour, which could be exchanged to learn a new skill without the need for any paper money.
- In Madhya Pradesh, time banks will enable person-to-person, person-to-agency and agency-to-agency transactions. Members will start with zero credits, which they could gradually acquire by imparting skills.
- As the bank would measure all kinds of skills and services through a common denominator — time, members would view them, and those offering it, as an equal.
- Whenever a bank member needs to get a skill or service, for example gardening, playing guitar, by knowing the particular skill, the member could exchange an hour of credited money to another bank member. The member can start with zero credit.
- At the start, the 50,000 volunteers registered with the department through local networks will form community-level banks and list skills they could impart or services they could offer. An experienced volunteer will induct new members and keep a record of all the transactions.

## **Maharashtra**

**Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari**

### **Centre approves Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur**

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the approval for the new Gorewada International Zoo to be inaugurated in Nagpur district of Maharashtra.
- According to Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (FDCML), the Government of Maharashtra has already issued its Government Resolution, for establishing International Standard Zoo and Rescue Centre at Gorewada village, Nagpur District on 1914 hectares of Forest Land through FDCML.

### **India's first 'water-grid' in Maharashtra**

- The country's first-ever 'water-grid' costing Rs 3,50,000 crore will come in the parched Marathwada region of Maharashtra in the next five years as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM).
- The Marathwada region will benefit in a big way from this as it will increase water availability for the people. It will free women from the hassles of having to toil hard to fetch water.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the country's first greenfield industrial smart city, Auric City [Aurangabad Industrial City] at Shendra in Aurangabad. It is India's first 'Walk-to-Work' Smart City. It is projected to attract around Rs 70,000 crore in investments on completion.

### **Maharashtra Government to Set up Swachh Bharat World University in Wardha**

- The Government of Maharashtra has decided to set up 'Swachh Bharat World University' in Wardha to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. The University will focus on research studies in sanitation, cleanliness and environment.
- The State has formed a seven-member committee headed by the Minister of Education Vinod Tawde.
- The committee will conduct a study on the requirements of the University, including land, basic infrastructure and manpower and submit a report in two months.
- The government wants to establish the University, which will focus on cleanliness and sanitation research.

## **Meghalaya**

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

### **Meghalaya CM launches 'walk to work' Fit India campaign in the state**

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, has launched 'walk to work' campaign in state as a part of Fit India Movement. The campaign is named #WalktoWorkMeghalaya.
- CM urged the citizens to walk to the work at least once in a week. The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO2 emission, reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness.

## **New Delhi**

**Capital – New Delhi; CM - Arvind Kejriwal; Governor – Anil Baijal**

### **Delhi Police launched 'Tatpar' app to facilitate delivery of citizen-centric services**

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal launched 'Tatpar' app, developed by the Delhi Police
- The app amalgamates over 50 services of Delhi Police, classified in three categories home, information and social. The app will make easy to file an online FIR (e-FIR) or pay traffic challans easily from their mobile phones. The app also helps you to locate your nearest police station and call helpline various numbers

### **Delhi to include OBC, General category students in Jai Bheem Mukhyamantri Yojana**

- The Delhi Cabinet, decided to include other backward class (OBC) and general category students in its 'Jai Bheem Mukhyamantri Yojana', and enhance financial assistance from Rs. 40,000 to Rs.1 lakh for coaching for various competitive exams.
- Earlier, the scheme was only for the scheduled caste category students under which financial assistance of up to Rs. 40,000 would be provided.

- A civil service aspirant will be provided Rs. one lakh financial assistance for 12-month coaching, whose annual family income is less than Rs. eight lakh will be able to avail the scheme.

#### **International Ramayana Festival to be inaugurated by Amit Shah**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the International Ramayana Festival to be organized by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Delhi. It will be a three-day event spanning across September 17-19.
- Apart from New Delhi, the festival is going to be organized in Lucknow, Ayodhya and Pune.
- Eight countries from across the world will take part in the festival including Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Indonesia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Fiji.
- The International Ramayana Festival has been organized annually for the last 15 years by ICCR.

### **Odisha**

**Capital – Bhubaneswar; CM – Naveen Patnaik; Governor – Prof Ganeshi Lal**

#### **‘One nation-one ration card’ scheme commences in Odisha capital**

- Central Government’s ‘One nation-one ration card’ scheme was today implemented on a pilot basis in the areas under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).
- The scheme will be rolled out in other parts of the state in phases, said Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain.
- The ‘One nation-one ration card’ scheme enables Food Security Act card holders to collect their ration from any PDS shop across the state.
- Beneficiaries need to link their ration cards with Aadhaar cards to avail the facility, a deadline for which has been extended by the State Government till September 15.

#### **Nuakhai: The greatest harvesting festival of Odisha**

- Nuakhai, as the name suggests that nua means new and khai means food. So, the festival of nuakhai is a festival to celebrate newly harvested food by the farmers.
- One day after the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi it is celebrated especially in the Western part of Odisha with much pump and jubilation.
- People staying in distant lands come back to their native places, wear new clothes and offer prayers before the God and eat delicious foods prepared from the newly harvested crops.

### **Punjab**

**Capital – Chandigarh; CM – Amarinder Singh; Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore**

#### **GeM and Punjab Government sign MoU for Setting up Project Management Unit**

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Government of Punjab, signed MoU to set up a GeM Organizational Transformation Team (GOTT) Project Management Unit (PMU) in the state.
- GOTT will assist the Buyer Departments and agencies to transform their business activities, competencies & models to fully leverage the opportunities of an open market based procurement.
- Government e Marketing (GeM), is a public procurement portal launched by Government of India in August 2016, comes under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

### **Rajasthan**

**Capital – Jaipur; CM – Ashok Gehlot; Governor – Kalraj Mishra**

#### **UNESCO, Rajasthan government join hands to promote state's intangible cultural heritage**

- UNESCO New Delhi signed a partnership agreement with the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, to promote community-based responsible tourism based on the rich Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of the state.

- The project will be implemented in the districts of Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner and seeks to spur the socio-economic growth of selected artist communities.
- The project will focus on cultural heritage and traditions, such as pottery, weaving and other crafts, as well as music traditions, in order to create community-led and community-benefitting tourism opportunities
- The project plans on developing 10 cultural hubs across the four districts of the state
- Rajasthan is also home to 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites in India. The Walled city of Jaipur was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, last July.

#### **Rajasthan Health minister launches app to connect with people**

- Rajasthan's Health Minister Raghu Sharma launched a personal website and a mobile app to stay connected with the public. Details of the programmes of the minister and other important information will be updated on the platforms on a real-time basis.

#### **Rajasthan government launches 'Jan Soochna' Portal**

- Rajasthan government has launched 'Jan Soochna' public information portal was launched
- The portal promising to provide information about government authorities and departments to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the portal at B.M. Birla Auditorium
- The State government has collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal, the first of its kind in the country, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform.

### **Tamilnadu**

**Capital – Chennai; CM – Edapadi Palanisamy; Governor – Banwarilal Purohit.**

#### **Srivilliputtur 'Palkova' set to Get GI Tag**

- The famous Srivilliputtur palkova, a sweet made from cow milk and sugar, is set to get the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- The GI application for this product was filed by the Srivilliputtur Milk Producers' Co-operative Society, and was facilitated by the Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli.
- The palkova is manufactured in and around the municipality of Srivilliputtur in Virudhunagar district. Apart from the Society which has filed the GI application, a number of small- and large-scale private dairy organisations as well as individual entrepreneurs are producing the sweet in the district. Considering the demand for the product, several food startups in the State have begun selling it online under the 'native sweets' category.

### **Telangana**

**Capital – Hyderabad; CM – Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan**

#### **2020- "Year of AI" for Telangana**

- The Telangana government has decided to declare 2020 as Artificial Intelligence year by organising various activities related to the emerging technology.
- The year 2020 is going to be celebrated in Telangana as AI year.
- The state government has signed up with NITI Aayog, which has come out with the 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' to run pilot projects in Telangana.
- IT industry body NASSCOM is setting up a Centre of Excellence in Data Sciences and AI here, which is expected to start its activities in 2020.
- IIT, Khargapur, which is coming up with its regional centre, would take up the first programme in AI.

#### **Telangana Set for Nine Days of Color, Joy & Culture as Floral Festival 'Bathukamma' Begins**

- India's youngest state gets together and celebrates the floral festival, 'Bathukamma' – an embodiment of Telangana's rich cultural identity. The nine-day festival, which began on Sept 28, will continue till October 6.
- The entire state of Telangana, particularly the capital city of Hyderabad, is lit up to become a part of grandeur celebrations, which are held for nine days.

- 'Bathukamma' is a floral festival celebrated particularly by the women of Telangana. The festival takes place towards the end of the monsoon season, just before the onset of winter.
- The festival begins a week before the 'Saddula Bathukamma' (the finale of the Bathukamma festival), which falls two days before the Dussehra.

### **Tripura**

**Capital – Agartala; CM – Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor – Ramesh Bais**

#### **Traditional Neermahal Jal Utsav concludes in Tripura**

- In Tripura, the three day long traditional Neermahal Jal Utsav concluded with eye catching boat race and swimming competitions at Rudrasagar lake.
- Neermahal is a water palace built at the middle of Rudrasagar lake by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya in 1930 as his summer resort being inspired by Mughal style of architecture

### **Uttarakhand**

**Capital – Dehradun; CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor – Baby Rani Maurya**

#### **Rawat launches Dal Poshit Yojana**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a scheme under which ration card holders in the state will get two kgs of pulses at subsidised rates every month.
- Launching the 'Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana' by distributing pulse packets among the beneficiaries.
- 23.32 lakh ration card holders of the state will benefit from the scheme.
- They will get two kgs of Chana dal (chickpeas split) at the rate of Rs 44 per kg this month. Chana dal comes at Rs 65-Rs 70 per kg in the open market.

### **Uttar Pradesh**

**Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Anandiben Patel**

#### **UP Police Launches New 'C-Plan' App To Aid Community Policing**

- The Uttar Pradesh Police has launched a 'C-Plan' smartphone application that will help them keep a tab on anti-social elements to counter their nefarious designs in time.
- The app, launched at the new police headquarters in Lucknow, will not only help police to be informed of simmering communal tensions or other disputes taking place even in far-flung villages by common people, but also help them verify the received information.
- The department has identified 10 people in every village, known as Sambhrant-10, across the state who will inform about anti-social elements, simmering communal tensions or land disputes taking place in their respective villages through the app.
- The app is an initiative aimed at assisting better community policing in the state and bringing down the crime rate by improving the police-public partnership with the help of technology.

#### **Council of Ministers including Chief Minister to pay their own income-tax**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and all members of the council of ministers will be paying their own income taxes, as per an order issued by the state government.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered to abolish a provision of Uttar Pradesh Ministers' Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Act, 1981, according to which the Income-Tax of ministers was being paid by the state treasury.
- Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna stated that till now the state treasury was paying the Income-Tax of all ministers, however, as per the orders of the Chief Ministers, all ministers will be paying their own income taxes from now onwards.

#### **Children's week organized in Anganwadi centers of Uttar Pradesh**

- Children's week celebrated from September 16- 21, 2019 at Anganwadi centers in Uttar Pradesh.



- As September is named as Nutrition Month, a variety of activities are taking place at the Anganwadi centers across the state.
- Mamta Day was organized on the first day of children's week as a part of bal suposhan utsav. Mothers cooked food from their homes and brought them to the Anganwadi centers and fed the children in groups.
- On the second day of the week, the Suposhan goonj was organized, that was started with Nutrition Ferry. Children, adolescent girls and women participated to take pledge of giving proper food to children.

#### **India's first central police university to come up in Greater Noida**

- The country's first Central Police University will be established in Greater Noida near the Yamuna Expressway. Centre had given in-principle approval for the university and a 100-acre plot has been identified in Sector Techzone for it.
- The university will offer undergraduate and post-graduate courses on policing, internal security, cybercrime and forensic sciences

#### **UP govt. announces Rs. 6,000 annual aid for triple talaq victims**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an annual support of Rs. 6,000 to the victims of triple talaq till their rehabilitation and said they will get free legal aid.
- The victims of triple talaq under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) and such women should be given rights over waqf properties and also called for several welfare measures that should be undertaken for their rehabilitation
- Educated women should be absorbed in government jobs as per their qualifications while arrangements should also be made for providing them shelter and education under various schemes

### **Other National News**

#### **Railways launches pilot project to promote production with AI, big data**

- The Ministry of Railways and the Department of Science and Technology have joined hands in partnership with IIT Kanpur for taking up a unique project on 'Industry 4.0'. They launched the pilot project for implementation at the Modern Coach Factory
- A pilot project for ushering in Industry 4.0 in the country has been launched at the Modern Coach Factory in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli district.
- Industry 4.0, commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution, is a name given to the current trend of automation, inter-connectivity and data exchange in manufacturing technologies to increase productivity.
- Industry 4.0 is a complex cyber-physical system which synergies production with digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Analytics, Machine Learning and Cloud Computing.

#### **National Launch of 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)**

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029), which focus on sustaining the sanitation behavior change that has been achieved under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), ensuring that no one is left behind, and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.
- Since the launch of the SBM-G in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas; over 5.9 lakh villages, 699 districts, and 35 States/UTs have declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF). This strategy has been prepared by DDWS, in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders, and it lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy makers, implementers and other relevant stakeholders in their planning for ODF Plus, where everyone uses a toilet, and every village has access to solid and liquid waste management.
- The 10 year strategy focuses on the need for States/UTs to continue their efforts to sustain the gains of the mission through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, education and communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, grey water management and black water management.



- The strategy also speaks about potential collaborations with development partners, civil society and inter-government partnerships. It also highlights innovative models for sanitation financing.

#### **PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to December 31**

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extended the deadline to link permanent account number (PAN) with Aadhaar till December 31. The earlier deadline was September 30.
- This is the seventh time that the government has extended the deadline for linking of PAN with Aadhaar. It is now mandatory to link the two unique IDs for income tax purposes.
- Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act says that every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and eligible to obtain Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to tax authorities.
- Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to a resident of India and PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the IT Department to a person, firm or entity.

#### **'Tiki Mausi' to teach about women, child nutrition**

- The department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti has unveiled a mascot and a comprehensive communications strategy to provide information about child and women nutrition in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- The mascot 'Tiki Mausi' or the campaign #TikiMausiKuhe (Tiki Mausi says) will be used to ensure last mile penetration in every corner of the state through social media, folk media, radio jingles, animated videos, wall paintings and hoardings.
- Tiki Mausi will help give difficult information to the people in rural areas in a simple manner. With the help of panchayat representatives and women self help groups, this will turn out to be an effective move.

#### **Bhopal Metro to be named after Raja Bhoj**

- Bhopal metro will be named after 'Raja Bhoj' and known as 'Bhoj Metro', announced the Chief Minister Kamal Nath.
- The first phase of the metro rail network Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal and Indore will be operational by the beginning of 2023.
- CM Kamal Nath laid the foundation stone of the Bhopal Metro Rail Project to be built at a cost of about Rs 6,941.4 crore rupees.
- The project will be executed under a partnership between the central and Madhya Pradesh governments in 50:50 ratio and will connect all nodes of the city.
- Both Bhopal and Indore metro corridors will have multimodal integration with railway and Bus Rapid Transit System stations and feeder network of buses, intermediate public transport and non-motorised transport.

#### **India Tourism Mart exhibition inaugurated in New Delhi**

- Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel inaugurated the exhibition of India Tourism Mart (ITM), 2019 in New Delhi
- Over 240 international delegates from 51 countries and 160 exhibitors from across the country are taking in part in the second edition of ITM
- The Ministry of Tourism and the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality have jointly organized this Mart.
- The event will provide a platform at the national level for trade and hospitality service providers in the country to interact and conduct business with their counterparts from overseas.

#### **Govt reconstitutes EAC-PM till 2021, Bibek Debroy retained as chairman**

- The government reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister for a period of another two years.
- Rathin Roy from the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and Shamika Ravi of Brookings Institution have been dropped as part-time members. Sajjid Chenoy, India economist at JP Morgan is the new part-time member.

- Part-time member Ashima Goyal of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research and full time members Bibek Debroy of Niti Aayog and Ratan Watal will continue to be part of the EAC-PM. Debroy retains his role as chairman of the EAC-PM while former Finance Secretary Watal will continue being the member-secretary.
- The strength of the reconstituted EAC-PM has been reduced from five to four, comprising of two full-time members and two part-time members.

#### **First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR Foundation Day**

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day in New Delhi
- The System was developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)"
- The 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol / bio-methane, with heat and water as bi-products. The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology.

#### **APEDA holds International Conference-Cum-Buyer seller meet in Agartala**

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in cooperation with government of Tripura organised an International Conference-cum-Buyer Seller Meet in Agartala
- The meet was organized to showcase the export potential of agricultural products from North East Region (NER) and Tripura in particular.
- Twenty international buyers from 8 countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Greece participated in it.

#### **Centre amends pension rules to benefit family of government servant**

- The Central government amended pension rules to extend benefits to the family of a government servant at an enhanced rate of 50 per cent of last pay drawn, for a period of 10 years even if he dies within seven years of joining service.
- The Central government amended Rule 54 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972.
- As per the amended Rule 54, the family of a government servant, who dies within seven years of joining service, will also be eligible for family pension at an enhanced rate of 50 per cent of last pay drawn, for a period of 10 years.
- On the death of a government servant while in service, the family is entitled to a family pension in accordance with Rule 54 of the pension rules.
- In case the government servant had rendered service of fewer than seven years before his death, the rate of family pension was 30 per cent from the beginning and family pension at an enhanced rate of 50 per cent of last pay drawn was not payable to the family.
- The amendments would be effective from October 1, 2019. However, the families of government servants who died before the completion of service of seven years within 10 years before October 1, 2019, will also be eligible for family pension at enhanced rates with effect from October 1, 2019.

#### **Gandhi Solar Park inaugurated at UN headquarters on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his thoughts on Mahatma Gandhi at a programme hosted by India in New York.
- Mr Modi along with others world leaders also inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters and released a commemorative stamp issued by the UN on the occasion of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres and a number of heads of state were present on the occasion.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the "Global Goalkeeper" award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by his government.

### **Govt launches 'UMMID' initiative to tackle inherited genetic diseases of newborn babies**

- Science and Technology and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'UMMID' initiative to tackle inherited genetic diseases of newborn babies.
- Congenital and hereditary genetic diseases are becoming a significant health burden and there is a need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services.
- The Minister also inaugurated NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendras.
- The new initiative aims at creating awareness about genetic disorders amongst clinicians and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the benefits of developments in medical genetics could reach patients.

### **National centre for I-T e-assessment to be based in Delhi**

- A national e-assessment centre (NeAC) will be set up in the national capital as part of the government's ambitious plan to launch faceless and nameless assessment for income tax payers from next month.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), that frames policy for the Income-tax department, has issued an order for the creation of the Centre.
- The Centre will have 16 officials and will be headed by a Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax (PCCIT) K M Prasad as its chief.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 6th India Water Week – 2019**

- The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 6th India Water Week-2019, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The theme of the India Water Week-2019 is 'Water Cooperation – Coping with 21st Century Challenges'
- This event was organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Japan and European Union have been associated as partner countries for this mega event.

### **NTPC to build 5GW solar park in Gujarat**

- NTPC Ltd. plans to set up a 5 gigawatt solar park in Gujarat, which would be the biggest in the country, as the top electricity generator shifts toward cleaner energy.
- A site has been identified for the project, which is expected to cost as much as ₹25,000 crore (\$3.5 billion) and begin operations by 2024.
- The plan is part of the NTPC's aim to build 32 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2032 and reduce the share of fossil fuels in its energy mix to 70 per cent from about 96 per cent now.
- Government regulations to cap emissions from coal-fired power plants, which increase the costs of building such projects, have also prompted NTPC to turn to green energy for growth.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is targeting 175 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2022.

### **India Post expands speed post service to six new foreign countries**

- India Post expanded speed post service to six new foreign destinations in Asia, Europe and South America. India Post currently provides speed post service to 100 countries.
- The Department of Posts has announced commencing of International Speed Post (EMS) Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia.

### **Indian diaspora, at 17.5 million, is the largest in the world, says UN study**

- The count of the Indian diaspora has increased 10% from 15.9 million in 2015, making it the largest in the world, according to the UN's International Migrant Stock 2019.
- It now comprises 6.4% of the total global migrant population.
- In 2019, Russia fell to the fourth position behind Indian, Mexico and China with 10.5 million migrants.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the top destination of Indian migrants followed by the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Oman, as per the data set compiled by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division.
- Bangladesh was a top source of migrants to India, followed by Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and China.

- In China's case, the top source of migrants were from South Korea, Brazil, Philippines and Indonesia. The number of migrants from India was not given by the UN though Indian ministry of External Affairs pegs the number at 35,500.
- The ministry also puts the numbers of non resident Indians and people of Indian origin around the world at 31 million.
- Globally, in 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide was nearly 272 million, up from 221 million in 2010 and 174 million in 2000. More than half of all international migrants lived in Europe (82 million) or Northern America (59 million).
- In 2019, 38 million international migrants, equivalent to 14% of global migrant population, were under 20 years of age. Three out of every four international migrants are of working age (20-64 years) In 2019, 202 million international migrants, equivalent to 74 % of the global migrant population, were between the ages of 20 and 64. More than three quarters of international migrants were of working age in Eastern and South Eastern Asia, Europe and Northern America.

### **MHRD announces NEAT scheme for better learning outcomes in higher education**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) announced a new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme- National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) aimed at using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- MHRD has proposed to create a National Alliance with such technology developing EdTech Companies through a PPP model.
- MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students. MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage the registration of learners through the NEAT portal. They would be free to charge fees as per their policy.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for the NEAT program. The scheme shall be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD.

### **Union Minister Gehlot launches MIS portal under Accessible India Campaign**

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Management Information System (MIS) portal for stakeholders of the Accessible India Campaign (AIC).
- The MIS has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- The MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries, and states and Union Territories on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of Accessible India Campaign (AIC)

### **Government constitutes Company Law Committee to improve ease of doing business**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has decided to constitute a Company Law Committee for examining and making recommendations to the Government on various provisions and issues pertaining to implementation of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.
- The committee has formed in line with the Government's objective of promoting Ease of Living in the country by providing Ease of Doing Business to law abiding corporates
- The company 11-member law committee will be chaired by Injeti Srinivas, secretary of the corporate affairs ministry
- The committee to look at recategorization of certain offences under the Companies At as civil offences as well as review other provisions of the Companies Act and the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2008.

### **National Centre for Clean Coal Research & Development inaugurated at Bengaluru**

- The National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru has opened.
- The Central Government through Department of Science & Technology, has set up the the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development as a national-level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by IISc.
- Dr Vardhan also opened an Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) equipped with facilities for conducting a wide spectrum of energy research by knowledge network of elite researchers.

#### **ECGC introduces Nirvik to enhance loan availability for exporters**

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.
- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) provides credit guarantee of up to 60 percent loss. Under the new 'NIRVIK' (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojna) scheme, the insurance cover guaranteed will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest. The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.
- The main aim behind introducing the scheme was to enhance accessibility and affordability of credit for exporters. The decision will help make Indian exports competitive and make ECGC procedures exporter friendly, benefiting MSME exporters with a new scheme for reimbursing taxes, reduced insurance cost and ease of doing business.
- The insurance cover is expected to bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims and will ensure timely and adequate working capital to the export sector.
- The Finance Ministry has decided to increase the insurance cover for banks up to 90 percent for working capital loans and moderation in premium incidence for the MSME sector to provide additional support to the banks in the wake of a global slowdown and rising NPAs.
- The enhanced insurance cover will ensure that foreign and rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4 and 8 percent respectively for the exporters.
- The existing insurance covers issued by the ECGC will continue for the existing customer banks and similar covers will also be made available to all other banks. All standard accounts covered under ECGC on the date of transition shall be eligible for the insurance cover under the ECIS.
- The coverage has been increased to 90 percent from the present average of 60 percent for both principal and interest.
- It will also cover both pre-shipment and post-shipment advances unlike the present system, where two different documents are issued by the ECGC.
- The scheme also aims to simplify the procedure for settlement of claims and provisional payment of up to 50 percent within 30 days on production of proof of end-use of the advances in default by the Insured Bank.
- The scheme will be in force for a period of 5-years and on the conclusion, the standard ECGC covers will be made available to the Banks with its regular features.

#### **Shri Amit Shah launches Emergency Response Support System (ERSS- Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and 'E-Saathi' App**

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh. The services include the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App'.
- ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund. It has been designed to play a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime, especially against women and children. ERSS provides a single emergency number (112), computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. Citizens can send their emergency information through call, sms, email and through the 112 India mobile app.



- The 'E-Beat Book' is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time.
- The E-Beat Book would be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), which would help in a real time updation of crime/criminal data. The citizen can directly approach the 'Atal Sehbhagita Kendra' for redressal of their grievances and can render their suggestions too.
- The 'E-Saathi' App would help the general public, including senior citizens, to remain in touch with the police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing ('Your Police at Your Doorstep' initiative). The beat officer would be able to provide services like passport verification, tenant verification, servant verification, character certification etc. at a click of a button through the app, without the people needing to visit the police station.

### **NGT forms committee to stop illegal groundwater extraction**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a committee to formulate steps required to prevent its unauthorised extraction.
- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the committee to evolve a robust mechanism to ensure that groundwater is not illegally extracted and to monitor manning and functioning of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
- The committee comprises joint secretaries of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Central Ground Water Board, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, National Remote Sensing Centre and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

### **Indian Railways signs MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for facilitation of green initiatives**

- Indian Railways have undertaken some major Green initiatives as part of India's contribution towards mitigation of global warming and combating climate change. To carry forward this green initiative, an MoU was signed between Ministry of Railways and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for facilitation of green initiatives in Indian Railways at New Delhi.

The objectives of the MoU:

- Energy efficiency in manufacturing facilities and railway workshops.
- Greening of Railway properties.
- Demonstrative pilots of 'net-zero energy buildings/ railway stations'.
- Capacity and skill development by continuous sharing of best practices on energy and environment through training programmes.
- Development of Green procurement policy, waste management policy, solid waste disposal, carbon neutrality, phytoremediation.

### **Centre to set up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country**

- Union Government has set a target of setting up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country. Out of which 4,000 will be set up during this year
- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik announced this during inauguration of a Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.

### **Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launches Maritime Communication Services in Mumbai**

- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the maritime communication services at Mumbai
- Maritime Connectivity will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology.
- Nelco, India's leading VSAT solutions provider is the first Indian company that will now provide quality broadband services to the maritime sector.
- He also launched a web portal for reporting stolen mobiles to help trace them.

### **India joins global antimicrobial resistance R&D hub**



- India has become a member of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub. The announcement was made by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi.
- The partnership works to address challenges and improve coordination and collaboration in the global antimicrobial resistance research and development. The issue of antimicrobial resistance requires global action with active participation from all world regions and One Health sectors.
- The Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development hub now has 16 member nations. The hub also has the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations as members and four international organisations as observers.

#### **Union MoS for tourism launches projects under Swadesh Darshan scheme in Goa**

- The Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel applauded the state of Goa for utilising central funds under the first phase of Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Minister assured that further financial help will be provided to Goa.
- Coastal areas of Sinquerim-Baga, Anjuna, Vagator, Morjim-Keri, Aguada Fort and Aguada jail will be developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- On the occasion, the Union Minister also highlighted the achievements of the NDA government in the last 100 days.

#### **PM Modi launches pension schemes, inaugurates Jharkhand**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was in the Jharkhand capital, launched ambitious pension schemes for farmers, shopkeepers and self-employed persons.
- The prime minister also inaugurated a new building of the Assembly and a multi-modal cargo terminal, which is expected to ease transportation in the region.
- The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana' will help small and marginal farmers by providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month, on attaining the age of 60 years.
- Farmers who are currently between 18 and 40 years of age can apply for the scheme.
- The 'Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan Yojana', a pension scheme for shopkeepers and retail traders was also launched.
- Another 'Swarojgar' pension scheme was also rolled out for self-employed persons.
- Under both the schemes, beneficiaries between 18 and 40 years will get Rs 3,000 per month after completing 60 years of age. The three-storey building has been constructed at a cost of Rs 465 crore.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stones online for 462 Eklavya Model Schools across the country, of which 69 will be established in 13 of Jharkhand's 24 districts.
- The new secretariat building in the state capital will come up at an estimated cost of Rs 1238.92 crore.

#### **Government to develop 3 Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), foundation stone laid for ISS Mumbai**

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has commissioned setting up of Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Kanpur. These institutes are being developed on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and in not-for-profit basis.
- MSDE Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Skills (IIS), Mumbai. At the ceremony, Pandey said that the idea of Skill Institutes was envisioned by PM Modi during his visit to the Vocational Education and Training Center in Singapore.
- Indian Institute of Skills being developed by the Government will transform his vision into reality by being a world class skill training institute.
- ISS will focus on technology driven innovations in new-age domains such as automation, Artificial Intelligence and machine learning, cyber technology, energy conservation etc.

#### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2019**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2019, a massive countrywide awareness and mobilization campaign on Swachhata at Mathura.

- SHS 2019, with special focus on 'plastic waste awareness and management' is being organized from 11th September to October 2nd 2019, as the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is poised to dedicate an ODF India to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.
- The launch of SHS was organized jointly by the central Departments of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Prime Minister also visited the Pashudhan Arogya Vigyan Mela, where he saw cows being operated upon to remove plastic waste from their stomachs.

### **September month to be celebrated as 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah'**

- The entire month of September beginning will be celebrated as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah.
- This year the theme is Complementary Feeding.
- Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment - POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to address malnutrition with a targeted approach by 2022.

### **Vice President inaugurates India's longest electrified rail tunnel in Andhra Pradesh**

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the country's longest electrified rail tunnel between Cherlopalli and Rapuru and the electrified railway line between Venkatachalam and Obulavaripalli.
- Besides inaugurating the remodelled yard at Guduru railway station, the Vice President also flagged off a new inter-city superfast express train between Guduru and Vijayawada.
- The tunnel, built at a cost of ₹437 crore, has 44 trolley refuges and 14 cross-passages in a horseshoe design. The 112-km new line reduces travel time from 10 to five hours for a goods train from Krishnapatnam Port to Obulavaripalli.
- It was completed at a cost of ₹1,993 crore, with nine railway stations along the route, 146 bridges, 60 road-under-bridges and two tunnels

### **EC launches Electors Verification Programme**

- The Election Commission launched new mega Electors Verification Programme (EVP) across the country. The programme, which seeks to electoral rolls through crowdsourcing, will go on till 15th of October.
- Under the programme, a voter from each family will get a username and password, allowing a person to upload all documents related to electoral registration and tag similar details about his or her family members.
- These details will then be verified by block-level officers. It will be done by 36 CEOs at the state headquarters level, by 740 district electoral officers at the district level and by BLOs and electoral registration officers in around one million polling stations.
- The EVP programme can be effected both online and offline.
- On the occasion of the nationwide mega million launch of Electors Verification Programme, a special camp was held at Election Commission Headquarters in New Delhi.

### **KVIC launched 'Terracotta Grinder' at Varanasi to re-use wasted pottery**

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi. This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.
- This Terracotta grinder will make grinding of wasted pottery items faster than the traditional mortar and pestle. It will lessen the cost of production, and will also help in solving the problem of shortage of clays
- The grinder was designed by KVIC Chairman - Vinai Kumar Saxena and fabricated by a Rajkot-based engineering unit.

### **Prakash Javadekar Unveils New Logo, Certificate Design of CBFC**

- Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled the new logo and certificate design of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) at a function in Mumbai.
- The launch took place during a special interaction event between the film industry and board members

- The design was designed by designer Rohit Devgun with technical support from National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)
- Introduction of a QR code in the new certificate design is in sync with the world of digital technology and will bring in greater transparency and provide information to filmmakers in a better way,

#### **Cultural event 'Namaste pacific' held in Delhi**

- The High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea jointly organised "Namaste Pacific", event in Delhi
- The event was organized to showcase in India the culture of the Pacific countries.
- There was also showcase of the International Solar Alliance and Pollinate Energy based in Australia, Nepal and India, and solar lanterns from Barefoot College in Rajasthan

#### **Harsh Vardhan inaugurates 72nd Session of WHO Regional Committee of South-East Asia meet**

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a week-long meeting of WHO Regional Committee of South-East Asia in New Delhi
- Dr Harsh Vardhan was also unanimously elected as Chair of the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.
- Eight Ministers of Health from the 11 countries of the WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR), Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW), Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region were also present at the inaugural session.
- This is the second time that India is hosting the Regional Committee meeting; the previous one was also hosted by India in New Delhi.

#### **Delhi's IGI Airport gets India's tallest ATC Tower**

- The tallest ATC tower in the country which is expected to enhance safety and efficiency of air transport management services over the capital's skies was inaugurated at the IGI Airport.
- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Delhi Air Traffic Service Complex, which is the tallest Air Traffic Control tower in India with a height of 102 metres.
- The new complex comprises of three buildings - the Aerodrome Control Tower, Area & Approach Control Services Building and the Administrative Block - constructed at the cost of approximately ₹250 crore while the equipment cost ₹100 crore.
- The commissioning of the new tower is expected to enhance the efficiency of air traffic management services at the IGIA which is the busiest airport in India.
- At a height of 102 meters, the tower enables air traffic controllers to have better visibility of all the three runways, apron area and taxiways.

#### **India to contribute USD 22 mn to Global Fund for AIDS, TB, malaria**

- India has announced a contribution of USD 22 million to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) for 2020-22 as part of its commitment towards eliminating these diseases.
- India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since 2002, both as recipient and as a donor.
- An increase of 10 per cent over the amount contributed by us in the fifth cycle.

#### **Tinsukia Junction becomes India's 4000th railway station to get free public WiFi**

- Tinsukia Junction in northeast region (Assam) has become the 4000th railway station in the country to have free public WiFi.
- RailWire WiFi will be available to any user who has a smartphone with a working mobile connection.
- Free WiFi is a pro-passenger initiative of the Ministry which in line the Prime Minister's 'Digital India' programme.

#### **Overseas Citizen of India investment platform launched**

- B K Modi, chairman of Smart Group and Singapore-based Spice Global, announced the launch of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Forum with a proposed fund size of USD 100 billion, with a focus on promoting global economic investment by OCIs into various sectors in India.

- The OCI platform has the potential to increase India's GDP by 50 per cent and it is undertaking large-scale investment in Kashmir as one of its first projects.
- OCI investor forum will undertake investment in the region of Kashmir to develop 100 global wellness hotels in Kashmir estimated at a gross investment of Rs 1,000 crore.
- The OCI initiative will aid the development of a 'New India' as a USD 5 trillion economy by acting as a bridge to allow global Indians an opportunity to give back to their homeland.

#### **Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged as Best Swachh Iconic Place in India**

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged as the 'Best Swachh Iconic place' in the country in the 'Swachh Iconic Places' list
- The list was released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- The shrine has been adjudged on the basis of the overall improvement in sanitation.
- The President will confer the prestigious award to the Shrine during the Swachh Mahotsav to be organized by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on the 6th September.

#### **Rs 125 crore allotted to IIT-Kharagpur for Centre's SATHI initiative**

- An amount of Rs 125 crore has been earmarked for the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute) Centre at IIT-Kharagpur for three financial years starting from 2019-20.
- IIT-Kharagpur has been selected for the SATHI Centre initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian government.
- The initiative will be developed as a state-of-the-art shared, professionally managed science and technology infrastructure facility
- The primary objective of the centre is to extend help to the neighbouring academic institutes, research establishments and the industries, particularly the start-ups and manufacturing units for using sophisticated instruments, which do not exist anywhere else, in a few selected areas.
- The SATHI Centre will run 24x7 round the year.

#### **Government will prepare master plan for tigers at high altitudes**

- The central government will prepare a master plan for tigers at high altitudes, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar after releasing a report which revealed that big cats have been found in high altitude regions.
- India has already become the capital of tigers with 70 per cent of its population here. It is an exciting study as it reveals that even ecology at high altitude is compatible for the tiger growth and we will take inputs from this study to have a high altitude tiger master plan.
- Tiger habitats in high altitude require protection through sustainable land use, as they are a high value ecosystem with several hydrological and ecological processes providing ecosystem services and adaptation to mitigate the ill effects of climate change.
- As per the latest tiger census report, their number stood at 2,967 at last count in 2018, a 33 per cent jump from 2,226 in 2014.

#### **Food ministry to ban single-use plastic bottles from Sep 15**

- Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry has decided to ban single-use plastic in its various departments as well as the public sector units under its administration from September 15.
- The decision was taken at a meeting held by Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. The decision was taken during a high level meeting in the ministry with all high officials from FCI, consumer affairs and food ministry and Bureau of International Standards (BIS).

#### **Government launches updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for MSMEs**

- The government launched the updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) to allow micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) access to capital.

- MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the government would prepare a final report on the recommendations of the U K Sinha committee, which had been set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest expeditious ways to strengthen MSMEs, within the next eight days.
- CLCSS scheme would be crucial in raising MSME contribution to gross domestic product from the current 29 per cent to 50 per cent, in addition to increasing exports from the sector to 50 per cent from 40 per cent now.
- The scheme provides an upfront subsidy of 15 per cent on institutional credit up to Rs 1 crore for MSMEs in the specified 51 sub-sectors.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an outlay of Rs 2,900 crore for the scheme. Now, it is a demand-driven one without any upper limit on overall annual spending on the subsidy disbursal, a senior official said. In the relaunched scheme, there is an additional 10 per cent subsidy for SC-ST entrepreneurs while special provisions have been made for 117 'aspirational' districts, hill states and the northeastern region.

### **WHO South-East Asia Region sets 2023 target to eliminate measles, rubella**

- The resolution was made at the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi
- Member Countries of WHO South-East Asia Region resolved to eliminate measles and rubella by 2023, to prevent deaths and disabilities caused by these highly infectious childhood killers diseases.
- The new target to eliminate both the diseases will leverage the existing momentum and strong political commitment which is being demonstrated through unprecedented efforts, progress and successes in recent years.
- Measles elimination and rubella control has been a regional flagship priority since 2014. Five countries have eliminated measles – Bhutan, DPR Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Six countries have controlled rubella - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.
- All countries pledged to mobilize political, societal and financial support to ensure interruption of transmission of indigenous measles and rubella virus by 2023.

### **PM inaugurates Mumbai Metro's first coach built under 'Make in India'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first coach of Mumbai Metro built under the 'Make in India' programme. He took a tour of the new coach and the train with Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnavis and Mumbai Metro officials

### **I&B Ministry decides to discontinue single-use plastic**

- Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has reportedly decided to do away with single-use plastic inside the premises of units under it and is encouraging staff members to turn to recycled paper.
- "Implementing a clean and green environmental initiative was the need of the hour which was a collective responsibility," an official statement stated.

### **Govt constitutes task force to identify infrastructure projects worth Rs 100 lakh crore**

- The Modi government has set up a task force to draw up plans for building infrastructure worth Rs 100 lakh crore (\$1.4 trillion) over the next five years.
- To achieve the GDP of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion (Rs 100 lakh crore) over these years on infrastructure.
- The task force will be headed by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Secretary, Atanu Chakraborty.
- The task force will submit its report on the pipeline for FY 2019-20 by October 31, 2019, and on the indicative pipeline for FY 2021-25 by December 31, 2019

### **Free LPG Ujjwala scheme achieves 8 crore target before schedule**

- The government will achieve the target of giving 8 crore free cooking gas (LPG) connections to the poor nearly seven months ahead of schedule with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to handover the 8-croreth connection.



- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on May 1, 2016, with a target to give 5 crore connections to women members of poor households by March 2019. The target was later raised to 8 crore connections by March 2020.
- The scheme, together with the government's push to replace polluting firewood in kitchens, has led to LPG coverage rising to about 95 per cent of the population from 55 per cent in May 2014.
- The Scheme aims to provide clean cooking fuel to poor households and replace the unhealthy conventional cooking fuels such as firewood, cowdung, etc. The use of LPG has its benefits on the health of women and children, environment and economic productivity of women.
- Top states in the implementation of Ujjwala Yojana are: (1) Uttar Pradesh (1.46 crore), (2) West Bengal (88 lakh), (3) Bihar (85 lakh), (4) Madhya Pradesh (71 lakh) and (5) Rajasthan (63 lakh).

#### **Project 'Bal Basera' at AIIMS Rishikesh to be inaugurated**

- A creche or 'Bal Basera' built with the support of CPWD at AIIMS Rishikesh will be inaugurated on September 9.
- Bal Basera, a project for the welfare of Children of Construction Workers deployed at the site will be inaugurated by Deepa Singh, President CPWD Officers' Wives Association (OWA).
- It will accommodate about 35 children and shall be run by the CPWD OWA. The AIIMS Rishikesh Project is being executed by CPWD.
- It is providing monetary help to the families of CPWD employees in distress, donating funds for organisations engaged in the humanitarian causes, managing a large number of Bal Baseras and organising health camps at construction sites, running a Vocational Training Centre, a Day Care Centre and a Pre nursery School in New Delhi.

#### **PM Modi, Nepal PM to jointly inaugurate Motihari-Amlekhganj cross border petroleum Pipeline**

- PM Modi and Nepal's PM K.P.Sharma Oli will jointly inaugurate Motihari-Amlekhgunj cross border petroleum products pipeline through video conference
- The 69 kms-long pipeline is the first-ever cross-border petroleum product pipeline in the South Asia region
- The pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India in just 15 months. It has been constructed at the cost of around 350 crore rupees which are entirely borne by Indian Oil Corporation.

#### **'Economic census to be held every three years'**

- To assess the country's economic performance, economists and statisticians had to depend on data which was dated. But now, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has taken upon itself to make available the latest data and come out with the economic census every three years.
- The data being collected in the economic census undergoes three levels of scrutiny, all of which is through the mobile application developed exclusively for the economic census.
- It is a periodic exercise conducted by the MoSPI to collect disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all economic establishments in the country.
- It is meant to provide insights into geographical spread of economic activities, ownership pattern, persons engaged, and sources of finance of the establishments engaged in economic activities across the country.

#### **Govt sets up 3-member committee to look into assets, liabilities of JK to be given to 2 UTs**

- The Centre has constituted a three-member committee to look into distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories, which will come into existence on October 31. While former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra will be the chairman of the committee, retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta will be its members.
- On August 5, the Centre announced the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into the two UTs.

#### **PM Modi announces target revised from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has raised by 10% the amount of degraded land India has agreed to rehabilitate by 2030.
- India would raise its ambition of the total area that would be restored from its land degradation status, from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares between now and 2030.
- He made the announcement at the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- India has the presidency of the COP for two years. Shri Prakash Javadekar is the President of this COP.

#### **PM Modi launched National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)**

- PM Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for eradicating the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis in the livestock from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh
- The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 Million Livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the disease.
- It will be implemented for a period of five years till 2024 at a cost of 12, 652 crore rupees.
- The objective of the programme is to control Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by 2025 and their eradication by 2030

#### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's second Multi-Modal Terminal in Jharkhand**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India's second multi-modal terminal built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand
- This is the second of the three Multi Modal Terminals (MMTs) being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- Earlier, in November 2018, Modi had inaugurated the first Multi Modal Terminals (MMTs) at Varanasi.
- The Rs. 290 crore-multi-modal terminal at Sahibganj implemented by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The Terminal will open up industries of Jharkhand and Bihar to the global market and provide Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through waterways route

#### **Government announces new measures to boost exports and realty sector**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the government's third set of measures to revive the economy with a renewed focus on exports and realty sector.
- A new scheme for Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) to replace the current Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) from next year. However, the existing dispensation in textiles of MEIS and old Rebate on State Levies (RoSL) will continue up to December 31.
- Textiles and all other sectors which currently enjoy incentives up to two per cent over MEIS will transit into RoDTEP from January 1, 2020.
- Adding the revenue foregone projected is about Rs 50,000 crore.
- The Finance Minister also announced a fully automated electronic refund route for input tax credit in Goods and Services Tax by September-end to monitor and speed up the refunds.
- The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) will expand the scope of export credit insurance service and will offer higher insurance cover to banks lending working capital for exports. The move will cost Rs 1,700 crore per year to the exchequer.
- Additional Rs 36,000 crore to 68,000 crores will be released for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to ensure higher credit availability for exports.
- An action plan to reduce turnaround time at airports and ports benchmarked to international standards will be implemented by December.
- India will hold an annual mega shopping festival like the one held in Dubai. It will happen by March 2020 and themes will vary from textile, handicraft, yoga and others.
- For the housing sector, the Union Budget 2019 had announced additional deduction of up to Rs 1.5 lakh on interest paid on loan borrowed for the purchase of house valued up to Rs 45 lakh.

- There will be a relaxation in external commercial borrowing (ECB) guidelines to facilitate the financing of homebuyers eligible under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- To increase liquidity measures for housing finance companies and repo-linked lending rates.
- To encourage government servants to buy new houses, the interest rates on House Building Advance will be lowered and linked with 10-year G-sec yields. For home buyers, government has set up a stress fund of Rs 20,000 crore for completion of stalled projects. However, the fund will not cover the projects affected by NPA and NCLT issues. Home buyers of the national capital region are most affected with developers like Jaypee Infratech, Amrapali and Unitech defaulting in completing their housing projects on time.
- Govt to launch Free Trade Agreement utilisation mission.
- To launch origin management system to improve ease of doing business for exporters.

### **Government sets up new house committees**

- The government has announced the formation of different parliamentary panels including the standing committee on finance, external affairs and Information technology.
- BJP MP PP Chaudhary has been made the chairman of foreign affairs committee and Congress MP Anand Sharma has been appointed as the chairman of the Home Affairs committee.
- BJP's TG Venkatesh has been appointed as the chairman of committee on transport, tourism and culture. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and Jairam Ramesh has been given the responsibility of the Information technology committee and science, technology, environment and forest committee respectively. Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav has been appointed as the chairman of Health and Family Welfare committee.

### **Javadekar flags off 'Jaldoot' water conservation initiative**

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar flagged off a vehicle 'Jaldoot' to spread the message of water conservation.
- Jaldoot, a travelling exhibition arranged by Pune-based Regional Outreach Bureau of I&B ministry, will tour eight districts of Maharashtra in the next two months.
- It will take the message of water conservation to the masses and highlight work done in this connection by the Narendra Modi government in the first 100 days of its second term.
- Water was top priority for the Centre and it had set up a separate ministry called Jalshakti for the purpose, adding that it was committed to provide piped water to every household by 2024.

### **Indian govt forms committee to recommend governance norms for non-personal data, Infosys' Gopalakrishnan to head it**

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has formed a new Committee of Experts to focus on non-personal data, and to come up with a related data governance framework. Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan will head the committee.
- The idea is to have a separate and independent consultation on non-personal data, and decide the contours of how it should be regulated.

The members of the committee (listed below) can co-opt other members for specific inputs.

- Kris Gopalakrishnan, Infosys Co-Founder (Chairperson)
- Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary, DPIIT
- Debjani Ghosh, NASSCOM President
- Neeta Verma, National Informatics Centre, DG
- Lalitesh Katragadda, Avanti Finance, CTO
- Dr Ponnurangam Kumaraguru, IIT Hyderabad
- Parminder Jeet Singh, IT for Change
- Gopalakrishnan S., MeitY, Joint Secretary (Member Convenor)

### **White Water Rafting Expedition – 'Rudrashila' Flagged off at Jaisalmer**

- The white water Rafting Expedition christened 'RUDRASHILA' being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off at Jaisalmer Military station

- The expedition christened 'Rudrashila' has been organised to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion.
- 'Kalidhar Batttalion' was raised on 01 November 1943 and has participated in all major operations of the Indian Army
- The expedition team led by Major Ravi Kant Gaurav comprising of two Officers, Four Junior Commissioned Officers and 18 Soldiers will cover a total distance of 140 kilometers from Rudraprayag to Rishikesh over some of the most difficult and dangerous rapids in mighty Ganges River

#### **India joins global research hub on antimicrobial resistance**

- India, which is among countries with the highest bacterial disease burden in the world, has become a part of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub.
- The hub, which was launched during the 71st session of the World Health Assembly in 2018, is aimed at helping countries decide the allocation of resources for research and development (R&D) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by identifying gaps and overlaps. It will also promote coordination among governments in the fight against AMR.
- The global partnership now includes 16 countries, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers). With India as a member, the Hub now represents more than half the world's population.
- The membership to the Hub, headquartered in Germany, is open to countries as well as philanthropic foundations.

#### **India offers 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students at IITs**

- The government launched a major programme offering 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students at IITs in India. Jointly inaugurating the programme with HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India's partnership with ASEAN is based on shared values.
- The funding will cover the entire cost of study and living expenses for up to 5 years of a PhD programme. The admission portal for the programme is being executed by IIT Delhi.
- The total budget outlay for the fellowship programme is Rs 300 crore (approximately US \$ 45 million).
- Fellowship programme is the single-largest capacity development initiative of India in its partnership with ASEAN.

#### **Railways to conduct "Massive Shramdan" drive, focus on collection of plastic waste**

- Indian Railways will undertake one more drive of "Massive Shramdan" with main focus on "Collection of Plastic Waste".
- This drive with its main focus on the collection of plastic waste aims to create awareness for a greater impact against single-use plastic. Also aims at enhancing cleanliness, through the collection of plastic waste from all railway premises.
- To mark the Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019, Railways also undertaking various activities relating to Swachhata Pakhwada from September 11 – October 2, 2019.

#### **Exhibition 'Shashwat Maharathi : The Eternal Seeker' on Chitracharya Upendra Maharath Inaugurated in New Delhi**

- Union Minister of State for Culture& Tourism (Independent Charge), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the exhibition 'Shashwat Maharathi : The Eternal Seeker' on Chitracharya Upendra Maharath at newly renovated Jaipur House in National Gallery of Modern art New Delhi
- The Exhibition showcases more than 1000 works of art, design, and woven objects of art by Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi. Exhibition will be remained open for general public from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Tuesday to Friday. On weekends people can visit exhibition till 8:00 pm.

## **Important International News**

### **India announces 12 million dollar grant for high impact developmental projects in Pacific Island countries**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met leaders of the Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) on the sidelines of the UNGA session in New York.
- Prime Minister highlighted the need for development policies to be inclusive and sustainable to reduce inequality and contribute to empowerment and improvement of the quality of people's lives.
- India was equally committed to tackle the impact of climate change and supported the efforts of the PSIDS to achieve their developmental goals through necessary developmental and technical assistance.
- PM Modi announced allocation of 12 million US Dollar grant towards the implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice.
- In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of 150 Million dollars which can be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects based on each country's requirement was announced.
- Mr Modi along with others world leaders also inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters and released a commemorative stamp issued by the UN on the occasion of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

### **Sri Lanka unveils South Asia's tallest tower, funded by China**

- Sri Lanka unveiled South Asia's tallest tower, costing over \$100 million, 80% of which has been funded by China under the controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- The 350-metre-tall 17-storey Lotus Tower, located in the heart of Colombo city, comprises a television tower, a hotel, a telecommunications museum, restaurants, auditorium, an observation deck, a shopping mall and a conference centre.
- The tower, spread over an area of 30,600 sq. metres, was constructed at a cost of over \$100 million, 80% of which was funded by China.

### **UK launches biggest peacetime operation after Thomas Cook collapse**

- The UK government launched Operation Matterhorn, its biggest peacetime repatriation in British history, after the collapse of tour giant Thomas Cook that left tens of thousands of tourists stranded abroad.
- UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced that the government and UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has hired dozens of charter planes to fly nearly 150,000 customers home free of charge after the 178-year-old travel firm went into compulsory liquidation and all its flights stood cancelled.
- The government said all travellers abroad with Thomas Cook who are booked to return to the UK over the next two weeks will be brought home as close as possible to their booked return date.

### **St. Vincent and Grenadines, 79th country to join India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- Saint Vincent and Grenadines became the 79th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ISA is an initiative by India aimed at combating the threats of climate change and global warming.
- The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **Sri Lanka flags off Pulathisi Express, a 'Make In India' train**

- The strong ties between India and its southern neighbour Sri Lanka received a boost when a newly 'Make in India' train rake was flagged off from Colombo Fort Railway station. The rake of the train was manufactured in the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.
- The train which has been inducted under an Indian Line of Credit has an on-board entertainment system, modular interiors and fully-rotating seats in Air Conditioned Chair cars for passenger comfort.

- ICF will manufacture six DEMU rakes consisting of 78 coaches in five variants. The order is being jointly executed by RITES and ICF under the India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation agreement.

#### **Thailand first in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging**

- Thailand becomes the first country in Asia to introduce rolled out plain cigarette packaging
- Activists say that plain cigarette packaging is an effective way to reduce the appeal of smoking.
- In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos
- Singapore is set to implement similar restrictions on packaging next year

#### **Nepal inaugurates educational institution built with India's assistance**

- Nepal's Attorney General Agni Prasad Kharel and Ambassador of India to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri jointly inaugurated a school building constructed with India's assistance in Jhapa District
- The new building of Shree Schoolchaun Higher Secondary School has been built with Government of India's grant of 35.70 million Nepali Rupees.
- The two story building comprises 25 classrooms, laboratory, library, multipurpose hall, rooms for principal, staff and accounts section and separate toilets for boys and girls on each floor.
- Shree Schoolchaun Higher Secondary School is an educational institution of repute in Jhapa district of Nepal.

#### **India-Australia to enhance cooperation on cyber security**

- The 3rd India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue for the year 2019 was held in New Delhi.
- Shri Upender Singh Rawat, Joint Secretary in charge of e-Governance, Information Technology and Cyber Diplomacy at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation and Australian delegation was led by the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs Dr. Tobias Feakin.
- India and Australia affirmed commitment to ensure security and stability in cyberspace underpinned by their shared commitment to the implementation of the UNGGE reports of the 2013 and 2015 on the application of international law.
- The two countries further agreed to work towards the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Cyber Security Cooperation and to commence negotiations for a Framework Agreement on Cyber Cooperation.

#### **India announces \$ 1 Mn Disaster Relief Aid for Bahamas**

- India announced a humanitarian assistance of USD 1 million to help people in The Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian.
- The death toll from the calamity has risen to over 40 and is likely to increase even more, even as search and rescue teams are still trying to reach out to Bahamian communities isolated by floodwaters and debris in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

#### **India Pavilion inaugurated at 44th Toronto International Film Festival**

- The High Commissioner of India to Canada Vikas Swarup inaugurated the India Pavilion at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2019
- The inauguration of India Pavilion at TIFF will provide a platform to showcase Indian Cinema in the overseas market and facilitate new business opportunities.
- TIFF provides the ideal platform for the global outreach of the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019

#### **Typhoon Faxai hits Tokyo, Japan**

- Typhoon Faxai has hit Tokyo, Japan. There were winds of up to 216 kilometres (134 miles) per hour. Authorities have issued non-compulsory evacuation warnings to more than 390,000 people.
- About 100 bullet trains connecting Tokyo with central and western Japanese cities were cancelled.
- The Rugby World Cup 2019 (9th Edition) is scheduled to be held in Japan from September 20 and the typhoon has affected the preparations.

#### **Vietnam opens Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm**



- Vietnam has inaugurated Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm which has the capacity to produce 688 million kWh of electricity annually.
- The Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex, a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B.Grimm Power Public Company, occupies 540 hectares in Tay Ninh province, some 100 km from Ho Chi Minh City, and has an investment of more than \$391 million.

### **UK announced 2 year post study work visa for all foreign students**

- The UK government has announced a two-year post-study work visa for all international students who will be coming into the country from the academic year 2020-21.
- Currently, graduates with bachelors or master's degrees are allowed to look for work for only four months.
- Under the new policy, the visas would have no cap on numbers and would allow graduates to apply for jobs regardless of their skills or the subject they studied.

## **Important Appointments**

### **National Appointments**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Tamilisai Soundararajan	Governor of Telangana
2.	Arif Mohammed Khan	Governor of Kerala
3.	Kalraj Mishra	Governor of Rajasthan
4.	Bandaru Dattatreya	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
5.	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari	Governor of Maharashtra
6.	Vivek Kumar Johri	Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF)
7.	Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane	Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCAS)
8.	Lt Gen Anil Chouhan	Eastern Army Commander
9.	Sunil Arora ( Chief Election Commissioner)	Chairman of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) for 2019-21
10.	Justice Harish Chandra Mishra	Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court
11.	Vijay Kumar Chopra	Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI)
12.	Vineet Jain	Press Trust of India (PTI)'s vice-chairman
13.	Rajiv Kumar	Managing director of Microsoft India R&D
14.	Justice Vikram Nath	Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court
15.	Ranveer Singh	global brand ambassador of JBL
16.	Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra	Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India
17.	Hima Das	Brand ambassador for Gatorade (Sports drink of PepsiCo)
18.	Kapil Dev	Chancellor of Haryana Sports University
19.	Ambati Rayudu	Hyderabad Captain for Vijay Hazare Trophy

20.	Justice P Lakshmana Reddy	First Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh
21.	RKS Bhadauria	Next Air Force Chief
22.	Madhukar Kamath	Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)
23.	Shyam Srinivasan	Reappointed as Federal Bank CEO
24.	Govinda (filmstar)	Brand Ambassador of Madhya Pradesh (to promote traditions and tourist places of the state)
25.	Nilesh Shah (Kotak Mutual Fund's MD)	Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
26.	Saurabh Nanavati	Vice-Chairman of AMFI
27.	PV Sindhu	brand ambassador of Visa
28.	Madhuri Dixit	Goodwill ambassador for Maharashtra Assembly polls
29.	Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat	New Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

### Supreme Court gets four new judges

- The central government has cleared the appointment of four new judges as Supreme Court judges and President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed them as judges of the top court
- Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Krishna Murari, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat and Kerala High Court Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy have been elevated
- The names were recommended by Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi
- The Supreme Court vacancies had increased its judicial strength from 31 to 34 following the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019 into law.

### Karnataka Bank chief becomes Indian Banks' Association committee member

- Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank, has been inducted to the managing committee of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). This was announced during the annual general meeting of IBA in Mumbai.
- Mahabaleshwara has been elected unopposed from the private sector member banks' category.

### Wing Commander Anjali Singh becomes India's first military diplomat

- Anjali Singh has become India's first female has joined the Indian Embassy in Russia as the Deputy Air Attache.
- Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become India's first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad. Singh is an AE(L) officer with 17 years of service. She is trained on MiG-29 aircraft.

### International Appointments

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Oleksiy Honcharuk	Ukraine's new Prime minister
2.	Jaideep Sarkar	Next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho
3.	B Bala Bhaskar	Next Indian Ambassador to Norway
4.	Abhijit Guha (retired Indian lieutenant general)	head of the UN mission in Hodeida, Yemen
5.	Alison Rose	CEO of Royal Bank of Scotland
6.	Sebastian Coe	re-elected as president of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)
7.	Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas	Next Ambassador of India to the Guinea Bissau

8.	Kristalina Georgieva	New IMF chief
9.	Suresh Chitturi	chairman of International Egg Commission
10.	Rupa Gurunath	President of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association
11.	Air Marshal HS Arora	Vice Chief of Indian Air Force

### Resignation

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani	Chief Justice of Madras High Court
2.	Jack Ma	Chairman of Alibaba
3.	Takehiko Nakao	President of Asia Development Bank (January 16, 2020)

### Important Awards and Honors

Sl.No	Winners	Awards
4.	PM Modi	'Global Goalkeeper Award' by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Swachch Bharat Abhiyaan
5.	John Mondal	CSIR Young Scientist Award 2019 in the field of Chemical Sciences (cash prize of ₹50,000 and a plaque)
6.	Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh Professor)	'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis ' award by the Vatican (for his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony)
7.	Lata Mangeskar	Daughter of the Nation title ( on her 90th birthday )
8.	Pradeep Dash (Odia writer)	40 <sup>th</sup> Sarala Puraskar Award for his poetry work Charu Chibar O Charjya (cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation)
9.	Pandit Harmohan Khuntia	'Ila Panda Sangeet Samman' (cash award of Rs 1,50,000)
10.	Lalat Mohan Patnaik	'Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman' (cash award of Rs 1,50,000)
11.	Geoffrey Boycott & Andrew Strauss (England cricketer)	Knighthood Award by Theresa May
12.	Navdeep Singh Suri (outgoing Indian Ambassador to the UAE)	Order of Zayed II
13.	Usha Khanna	"Lata Mangeskar Award" for 2019-2020 by Maharashtra government (cash reward of Rs 500,000,)
14.	Chhaya Sharma (IPS officer)	2019 Asia Society Game Changers Award (for redefining the role of female police officers)
15.	Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh PM)	Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019
16.	Anand Kumar (Super 30 founder and mathematician)	Education Excellence Award 2019 by Foundation For Excellence
17.	Ravish Kumar	First Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award (cash reward of Rs 1 lakh)
18.	Amitabh Bachchan	Dada Sahab Phalke award (Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a shawl and a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000)
19.	Pooja Desai (from Vadodara)	Mrs. India – Pride of Nation 2019 and Mrs. India – Most Beautiful Hair Event organized by Glamour Gurgaon
20.	Adam Harper (Mathematician)	SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019 (carries a citation and an award of \$10,000)
21.		

22.	Payal Jangid (17-year-old girl from Rajasthan)	Changemaker Award from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
23.	PT Usha	International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Veteran Pin Award
24.	Journalist Paolo Borrometi (Italy)	2019 Peter Mackler Award for Mafia Coverage in Italy
25.	Infosys	United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category
26.	Dr. G.B. Deglurkar (Archeologist)	Punyabhushan Award

### **Cochin International Airport wins international award for passenger satisfaction**

- Airport Council International (ACI) has recognised Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) as the best airport in terms of services it offered to passengers
- CIAL was ranked amongst the best airports in the 5-15 million category in the Asia Pacific region for the year 2018 based on annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey conducted by the ACI.
- AAI airport Indore figures in the best airport in 2-5 mn category
- ACI ASQ survey is world-renowned and established airport service quality benchmarking programme measuring passengers' satisfaction and is designed for airports to understand the importance of monitoring and improving passenger service.

### **Andhra Pradesh bags top honour at National Tourism Awards**

- Andhra Pradesh bagged the top honour at the National Tourism Awards 2017-18.
- A total of 76 awards were given under various categories this year.
- Andhra Pradesh bagged the Best State award for overall growth in tourism category.
- Goa and Madhya Pradesh were the joint winners in the Adventure Tourism category and Uttarakhand won the award for the Best Film Promotion-Friendly State.
- Telangana won the award for the Best State for the innovative use of IT.

### **CSIR announces the winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize for 2019**

- Twelve scientists from different institutions across the country have been chosen for the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize for 2019.
- The award winners include Kayarat Saikrishnan of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune and Soumen Basak of National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi for biological sciences, Raghavan B Sunoj of IIT, Bombay and Tapas Kumar Maji of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru for chemical sciences, and Dishant Pancholi of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, and Nina Gupta of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata for mathematical sciences.
- The other winners are Dheeraj Kumar of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi and Mohammad Javed Ali of LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad for medical sciences, Aninda Sinha of IISc, Bengaluru, and Shankar Ghosh of TIFR, Mumbai for physical sciences, Subimal Ghosh of IIT, Bombay for earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences, and Manik Varma of Microsoft Research India, Bengaluru for engineering sciences.
- The prize carries a cash component of Rs 5 lakh each. It is awarded annually for outstanding research, both fundamental and applied. It is named after the founder director general of CSIR, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

### **Government of India has instituted 'Sardar Patel National Unity Award**

- The Government has instituted the 'Sardar Patel National Unity Award ' for outstanding contribution by an individual, group or institution for the unity and integrity of India
- The award will be the Highest Civilian Award for contribution to Unity and Integrity of India.

- This highest civilian conferment will be announced on October 31 every year on the occasion of the National Unity Day, the day nation celebrates the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- The award shall be conferred by the President with a citation presented by him in a presentation ceremony along with the Padma award ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhawan
- The Award would consist of a medal and a citation. No monetary grant or cash award would be attached to this Award.
- Not more than three Awards would be given in a year. It would not be conferred posthumously except in very rare and highly deserving cases

#### **Documentary Film 'Moti Bagh' Based on Life of Uttarakhand Farmer Nominated for Oscars**

- Moti Bagh, A documentary film based on a farmer in Uttarakhand has been nominated for Oscars.
- The documentary film, directed by Nirmal Chander is based on the life of a farmer called Vidyadutt, who belongs to a remote village in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal region.
- Moti Bagh is jointly produced by Doordarshan and Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT). Its runtime is sixty minutes and is a Hindi language film.

#### **Entrepreneur and author Kapil Pathare honoured with Doctorate in Business from Ballsbridge University**

- Kapil Pathare, Director of VIP Clothing Ltd, has been presented with an honorary Doctorate in Business from Ballsbridge University for his outstanding contribution to business and entrepreneurship.
- The Well-known Entrepreneur of India's Iconic Brand 'VIP Innerwear' and Author of sports book was honoured with the Global Leaders Award 'Enterprise Edition 2019' by Madhur Bhandarkar in Dubai in recognition for his achievements in promoting entrepreneurship and small business at the International, National, and Regional level.

#### **Rajnath Singh becomes first Raksha Mantri to fly 'LCA Tejas'**

- Rajnath Singh became the first defence minister to fly in the indigenous light combat aircraft Tejas from the HAL airport in Bengaluru
- Tejas is a four-and-half generation light combat aircraft developed by state-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari was among the officers who accompanied him to the jet

#### **Gangs Of Wasseypur only Indian film in The Guardian's Best 100 films list**

- Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's cult film Gangs Of Wasseypur has become the only Indian film to feature in The Guardian list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century. The film has bagged the 59th position.
- The two-film Gangs Of Wasseypur series was released in 2012, and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseypur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand

#### **Neena Gupta wins two awards at Indian International Film Festival of Boston**

- Bollywood actor Neena Gupta registered a double victory at Indian International Film Festival of Boston. The Badhaai Ho actor won Best Actress award while her film The Last Color emerged victorious in Best Feature Film category. The directorial debut of world-renowned chef Vikas Khanna The Last Color deals with taboo surrounding widows in Vrindavan and Varanasi in India.

#### **OSDMA bags IT Excellence Award for SATARK app**

- Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) won the IT Excellence Award-2019 for its innovative conception in the field of disaster management.
- OSDMA's SATARK (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) application has been chosen for the prestigious award.
- The application, both in web and mobile phone, has been developed to provide real time watch, alert and warning information for different hazards like heat wave, lightning, drought, flood monitoring, ocean state information, tsunami risk, earthquake monitoring, cyclone/storm surge, road accident and snakebite monitoring.



- It uses different level of warnings and issues corresponding advisories based on the event scenario. It is available in bilingual form both in Odia and English languages.

### **Skill India announces Annual Kaushalacharya Awards**

- In a bid to motivate and incentivize more trainers to join the Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized Kaushalacharya Samadar 2019 to felicitate trainers from different sectors for exceptional contribution towards creating a future-ready and skilled workforce.
- A total of 53 trainers from diverse backgrounds including experts of WorldSkills Competition winners, trainers from National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Industrial Training Centres (ITI), Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS) and trainers from reputed Corporate houses were honored at a gathering of government and industrial experts held on the occasion of Teachers' Day by Skill India.
- The Ministry also announced the "Kaushalacharya Awards" would be an annual event to recognize the contribution made by skill trainers in the vocational training ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has introduced programs to for effective utilization of capacity and infrastructure across the network of National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) to achieve greater convergence between long-term and shortterm skill ecosystem.

### **HRD Ministry awards Institution of Eminence (IoE) status to five public institutes**

- The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to the IIT-Madras, the IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Benares Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad
- Four private universities - the Vellore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard University and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology — were issued Letters of Intent to grant them the status
- Each university will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry, laying out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution.
- The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of Rs. 1,000 crore.

### **5 Indian women police officers honoured by UN for role in South Sudan**

- Five Indian women police officers were honoured by the United Nations for their commendable services in the world body's mission in South Sudan
- The women officers who were conferred the UN medal were Reena Yadav, Inspector, Chandigarh Police, Gopika Jahagirdar, DSP, Maharashtra Police, Bharati Samantray, DSP in the MHA, Ragini Kumari, Inspector in the MHA and Kamal Shekhawat, ASP, Rajasthan Police.
- The Indian women police officers received the UN medal at a medal parade in the United Nations Mission in Juba in South Sudan
- The women officers were honoured by the UN for upholding the UN mandate of protection of civilians in conflict-ridden South Sudan.

### **Bangladesh School project wins Aga Khan Architecture Award**

- An innovative project for constructing a floating school for marginalised children in Bangladesh has been awarded the prestigious Aga Khan Architecture Award 2019.
- The award was given away in Kajan, the republic of Tatarstan for the Arcadia Education Project in South Kanarchor of Bangladesh.
- The project involved the construction of a school in an area which is underwater during the monsoon months.
- The architect of the project Saif Ul Haque designed a school which remains on the ground during the dry season and floats when the area is submerged in water during monsoon.
- He utilised only local material - bamboo, used tyres and steel drums for constructing the amphibious structure for the school. The workforce and artisans for the project were also drawn locally.

- Aga Khan Foundation lauded the project for its contribution to improve people's lives, social and economic development, access to education in rural communities and global issues like rising water levels.

### **Sonu Nigam wins 21st Century Icon Award in UK**

- Popular Bollywood playback singer Sonu Nigam has been honoured with the Magnificent Performing Arts Award at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.
- Nigam was among a host of winners across a range of categories at a gala awards ceremony, devised as a celebration of dynamic entrepreneurs and successful individuals chosen from hundreds of nominations from around the world.

### **Zoya Akhtar's 'Gully Boy' is India's official entry to Oscars 2020**

- Director Zoya Akhtar's musical drama Gully Boy starring Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt has been selected as India's official entry to the Academy Awards in the foreign film category for next year.
- India has submitted films for the foreign film category at the Oscars since 1957, a year after the incorporation of the category.
- The award is given annually by the United States Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to a feature-length motion picture produced outside the US that contains primarily non-English dialogue.
- In the recent past, India submitted films such as Village Rockstars, Newton and Barfi! to be considered for nominations, but only three films made it to the final list — Mehboob Khan's Mother India (1957), Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay! (1988) and Ashutosh Gowariker's Lagaan (2001).
- Mother India was India's first submission.

### **Ladakhi Shondol dance makes it to Guinness book of records**

- Shondol dance, which is known as the royal dance of Ladakh, has created history by entering into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Ladakhi dance. Shondol is a famous dance, which artistes used to perform for the king of Ladakh.
- As many as 408 women attired in traditional dresses and beautiful head gears performed the dance. It was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery. The festival had begun on September 16 and concluded on 20.

### **Emmy Awards 2019 complete winners' list**

- A list of the winners in key categories for the 71st Emmy Awards, which were handed out in Los Angeles.

Category	Winners
Outstanding Drama Series	Game of Thrones (HBO)
Outstanding Comedy Series	Fleabag (Amazon)
Lead Actor, Drama	Billy Porter for Pose
Lead Actress, Drama	Jodie Comer for Killing Eve
Lead Actor, Comedy	Bill Hader for Barry
Lead Actress, Comedy	Phoebe Waller-Bridge for Fleabag
Supporting Actor, Drama	Peter Dinklage for Game of Thrones
Supporting Actress, Drama	Julia Garner for Ozark
Supporting Actor, Comedy	Tony Shalhoub for The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Supporting Actress, Comedy	Alex Borstein for The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel
Outstanding Limited Series	Chernobyl (Hbo)
Outstanding Television Movie	Black Mirror: Bandersnatch (Netflix)
Lead Actor, Limited Series Or Movie	Jharrel Jerome, When They See Us
Lead Actress, Limited Series Or Movie	Michelle Williams, Fosse/Verdon
Supporting Actor, Limited Series Or Movie	Ben Whishaw, A Very English Scandal
Supporting Actress, Limited Series Or Movie	Patricia Arquette, The Act

Competition Program	RuPaul's Drag Race
Variety Sketch Series	Saturday Night Live

### Important Committees

Committee	Head of the committee	Other info
Committee of Experts to focus on non-personal data	Kris Gopalakrishnan (Infosys co-founder)	Formed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Company Law Committee (to improve ease of doing business)	Injeti Srinivas (secretary of the corporate affairs ministry)	Formed by Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Working group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSE)	Ishaat Hussain	Formed by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

### Important MOU's

#### ICC announces partnership with Facebook for carrying out digital content

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday announced a partnership with social media giant Facebook for carrying out a range of digital content across four years.
- The content will include match recaps, in-play key moments and other match and feature content.
- ICC Men's Cricket World Cup became an unprecedented success as it netted around 4.6 billion video views across ICC's digital and social media platforms.
- The package includes major global events of ICC such as Women's T20 World Cup 2020, Men's T20 World Cup 2020, Women's Cricket World Cup 2021, Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 among others.

#### IIT Kharagpur collaborates with Amazon Web Services to develop National Artificial Intelligence resource platform

- IIT Kharagpur has collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a resource portal to promote learning and development in the artificial intelligence (AI).
- Powered by Amazon SageMaker, a cloud machine learning platform, the National Artificial Intelligence Resource Portal (NAIRP) is aimed at making the search for AI learning resources simpler and more accessible to learners, practitioners and researchers in India.
- The initiative has got funding from the Ministry of Human Resources Development, as part of the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) project which is being spearheaded by the premier institute.
- With the launch of NAIRP, machine learning practitioners will be able to search quickly and get access to myriads of learning resources.
- NAIRP will index a wide variety of AI-specific learning materials and allow interested candidates access to different resources for converting concepts into working modules.

#### DSCI, MeitY and Google India join hands for 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'

- Nasscom's Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has collaborated with the electronics and IT ministry (MeitY) and Google India to launch a nationwide awareness campaign 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'.
- Communications and Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the campaign that will educate end-users on the benefits of making digital payments and urge them to adopt security and safety best practices
- These partners include representation from banking, card networks as well as fin-tech segment.
- The pan-India campaign has crafted in seven languages -- Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and Marathi -- and will engage with users and make them aware of the dos and don'ts for different payment channels including UPI, wallets, cards as well as netbanking and mobile banking.

- Digital payments are shaping the financial ecosystem by providing citizens with new mediums to pay electronically and move towards a cashless society.

#### **MeitY and Google tie up to Build for Digital India**

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google signed a statement of intent to roll-out 'Build for Digital India', a programme that will give engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.
- As part of the programme, engineering students across the country will be invited to apply and join in a learning journey that will help them transform their bright ideas into real-world solutions.
- Applicants will take part in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies such as machine learning, cloud and android.
- These will be offered through Google's Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks. Google will also offer mentorship sessions in product design, strategy and technology to the most promising products and prototypes.

#### **MCX signs MoU with Zhengzhou Comm Exchange**

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), a subsidiary of Financial Technologies, and China-based Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore areas of co-operation. ZCE offers commodity futures contracts in wheat, cotton & white sugar.
- The exchanges will work together to develop areas of co-operation and business opportunities with the goal of assisting and benefiting underlying producers, end-users, and investors in commonly traded products.

#### **India, S Korea ink 2 MoUs to boost defence cooperation**

- India and South Korea signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the East Asian nation.
- Two MoUs to further defence educational exchanges and extend logistical support to each other's navies were signed. These agreements will help enhance defence cooperation between India-Republic of Korea

#### **Wipro bags \$300-million deal from ICICI Bank**

- Wipro has bagged a seven-year contract worth \$300 million from ICICI Bank to provide a comprehensive suite of services. Currently, IT Services Company Vara Infotech provides these services to ICICI Bank.
- The deal is expected to be completed by September 30, the IT major will offer a range of services through its artificial intelligence platform Wipro HOLMES.
- As a part of the agreement, Vara Infotech's 3,800 employees will be taken on board by Wipro.

#### **NITI Aayog joins hands with McKinsey for first digital capability centre**

- McKinsey & Company has secured a contract from the NITI Aayog to set up India's first digital capability centre (DCC) at New Delhi.
- The government will act as a facilitator to bring together industry, academia and research on one platform to help set up the centre, which has to be driven by the private sector.
- The Aayog has lined up extensive stakeholder consultations over the next few months to firm up the plan.
- DCC is a unique digital manufacturing learning centre offering company leaders and their workforces hands-on experience and workshops in next generation technology to help them advance their operations, design and productivity and can be used at all levels of the value chain.

#### **Kerala government inks MoU with Maldives on cancer care**

- Kerala inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Maldives to strengthen cancer care in the island nation.
- The MOU was signed between Maldivian Minister Abdulla Ameen and Kerala Health Minister K K Shylaja in the presence of the state Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala government and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) have jointly signed the MOU with the health ministry of Maldives as part of improving cooperation between the two countries.

- Kerala was responding to the plea of the Maldivian government that Kerala should help that country in the field of cancer treatment.
- The state health department and RCC would also provide support in setting up cancer care centres in Maldives and their doctors, nurses, pharmacists and para medical staff would be provided training at RCC.

### **MSDE, IBM come together for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in AI**

- The Directorate General of Training (DGT) division of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, has signed an agreement with Global IT major IBM
- Through this agreement IBM will carry out a nationwide Train-the-Trainer in Basic Artificial Intelligence Skills
- As part of the program, ITI trainers will be trained on basic Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills towards using the technology in their day-to-day training activities.
- IBM aims at training 10,000 faculty members from ITIs across the country and the program will be executed over a period of one year with 14 trainers across 7 locations with over 200 workshops.

## **Important Summit & Conference**

### **World Hindu Economic Forum**

- The 7th annual World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) began in Mumbai. The three-day event, being held in India's financial capital for the first time.
- The World Hindu Economic Forum has earlier been organised in London, Chicago, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and Nairobi.
- WHEF was created to bring together financially successful members in Hindu society, to share business knowledge, expertise and resources with their fellow brethren "to trigger the creation of surplus wealth and make society prosperous".
- Next year in 2020 the World Hindu Economic Forum will be organized in The Hague, Netherlands.

### **Rural startups to showcase products at NIRDPR**

- As many as 90 rural innovators and 48 rural startups will present their products and services at the upcoming Rural Innovators Startup Conclave (RISC) scheduled to be held at the National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR) at Hyderabad.
- The two-day event would help the startups to demonstrate their design ideas, innovations and technologies to investors, policy makers and other stakeholders in the startup ecosystem.
- Of the 48 startups, about 15 are into agriculture and allied activities, 12 in sustainable livelihood, 10 in health and elderly care and four in sustainable housing.
- Winners in seven categories will receive cash prizes of Rs one lakh and Rs 50,000.

### **6th International Conference MASCRAD 2019 Organised by FICCI in New Delhi**

- The 6th edition of International Conference Mascrad 2019 (Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade) was held in New Delhi.
- The event was organised by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), a dedicated forum of FICCI.
- The theme for MASCRAD 2019 was 'Containing Counterfeiting, Smuggling and Piracy: A Winning Strategy'.
- The event provides a platform to global participants to find solutions for combating, apprehending and administering preventive mechanisms with regards to illicit trading activities.

### **PM Modi hosts Caribbean leaders, announces \$14-million grant to CARICOM**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the leaders of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) during the first-ever India-Caricom leaders' summit here, with a focus on fighting climate change and increasing India's participation with the grouping.
- Modi announced a \$14-million grant for community development projects in the CARICOM and another \$150 million line of credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related projects.



- The CARICOM grouping has 15 members-states and five associate members.
- Caricom countries came together in 1973 to form an economic and political community that works jointly to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.

### **Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 16th Global SME Business Summit**

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that reducing the cost of capital, logistics and power are crucial for making the Indian MSME sector globally competitive. The Minister inaugurated the 16<sup>th</sup> Global SME Business Summit 2019 in New Delhi.
- The Summit is organized every year by Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- Government's target is to increase MSME's present share of 29 percent of GDP to 50 percent in next five years and raise its export contribution from 49 percent to 60 percent. To achieve these targets logistics, power and capital cost will need to be reduced.
- The theme this year is Making Indian MSMEs Globally Competitive.

### **Climate Action Summit 2019**

- UN Climate Action Summit was held in New York, United States to address the global climate emergency.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will convene a summit to mobilize political and economic energy at the highest levels to advance climate action that will enable implementation of many of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The UN 2019 Climate Summit will convene on the theme, 'Climate Action Summit 2019: A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win.'
- It will seek to challenge states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens to step up action in the areas of energy transition, climate finance and carbon pricing, industry transition, nature-based solutions, cities and local action, and resilience.

### **5th India International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata**

- The 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 will be held at Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019.
- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced this at Press Conference in New Delhi
- "IISF 2019 will play a crucial role in promoting love and passion of science among students by bringing science outside the lab.
- The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation. India International Science Festival (IISF) is an annual event organised jointly by science & technology- related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha)
- The IISF 2019 is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015. The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi, the third in Chennai and the fourth IISF was held in Lucknow,

### **29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held in Chandigarh**

- Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Northern Zonal Council was held at Chandigarh (Haryana)
- The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Administrator of UT of Chandigarh, Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi. The Haryana chief minister is the vice-chairman and host of the meeting
- Western Zonal Council meeting recently held in Goa
- Five zonal councils were set up in 1957 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. The Union home minister is the chairman of each of these five councils. The chief minister of the host state is the vice-chairman

### **International Workshop for National Water Museum**

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken an initiative to develop National Water Museum to enhance awareness among general public at large, about dwindling water resources and need for conservation, and about sustainable and judicious use of water resources

- The Ministry is organising the International Workshop for National Water Museum September 19, 20 at Central Water Commission Auditorium, New Delhi
- Global Network of Water Museums is an umbrella organization for such initiatives around the World

### **Ramesh Pokhriyal launches waste management summit for women entrepreneurs**

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched several initiatives of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi
- It includes facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak, Model Curriculum for diploma courses, Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree feedback of faculty
- The Minister informed that the 'Wave Summit 2019' (Waste Management Accelerators for Aspire Women Entrepreneurs) Summit will be held in November-December 2019. It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) in Jaipur.
- He further stated that this conclave will be part of a series of activities to encourage entrepreneurship amongst young graduates.

### **38th Sharjah Intl. Book Fair to be organized from 30th Oct to 9th of Nov**

- The 38th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) will be organized from 30th of October to 9th of November this year, where authors, publishers, intellectuals and artists worldwide will bring their experiences and expertise to this prominent event and partake in a vibrant cultural programme.
- UNESCO has named Sharjah as the World Book Capital City for the year 2019 in recognition of the city's continuous efforts in promoting books and literacy.
- SIBF will be organized under the theme 'Open Books, Open Minds'.

### **24th World Energy Congress**

- The 24th World Energy Congress is being held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 9-12 September 2019.
- It is a triennial event and is organized by the World Energy Council. World Energy Council is headquartered at London, United Kingdom.
- The theme of the event in 2019 is "Energy for Prosperity".
- The 24th World Energy Congress aims to bring together international energy stakeholders, including governments, private and state corporations, academia and media.
- With over 15,000 participants expected, the Congress is set to welcome over 250 high-level speakers, 70 ministers, 500 CEOs, 600 media with an 40,000 sqm exhibition space that will cover the entire energy spectrum.

### **ECI to host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru**

- The Election Commission of India is scheduled to host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.
- India will take over as A-WEB's Chair for the 2019-21 term. Over 50 countries across the globe will join the meeting at Bengaluru from 02nd to 04th September, 2019.
- An International Conference on "Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections" will also be held on 04th September, 2019.
- The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide. A-WEB was established on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea.
- The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located at Seoul.
- A-WEB's vision is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.

### **UNCCD COP14 begins in Greater Noida**

- The 14th Conference of Parties, COP14 to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification began on a high note at Greater Noida.

- As India assumed COP presidency for two years, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar expressed optimism towards restoring land ecology and environment.
- The key outcomes of COP14 will facilitate in delivering convergence and synergies among the existing programmes in the field of agriculture, forestry, land, water management and poverty alleviation, which will cater the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG.
- The opening session of the High-Level Segment on 9th of this month will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

#### **International Snacks Festival inaugurated in Hyderabad**

- A 3-day International Snacks Festival 2019 was inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana. It was inaugurated at the Ameerpet Metro station by Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMRL) Managing Director (MD) NVS Reddy, along with secretary to Tourism, Culture & Youth Affairs of Telangana, B Venkatesham and Larsen & Toubro Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) project director MP Naidu and others.
- The snacks are sold at 4 metro stations namely Ameerpet, Hitec City, Uppal and the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS).
- The event is organized by Telangana Tourism and Culture Department in association with the Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited.

#### **A one day Joint India - New Development Bank (NDB) Workshop held in New Delhi**

- Joint India- NDB workshop on Enhancing NDB's engagement with the India private and public sector was held in New Delhi
- The workshop was co-organized by NDB and the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- The NDB is the first Multilateral Development Bank established by developing countries and emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- India is one of the founding members, holding 20% stake in the Bank

#### **CBI's 1st national conference on cybercrime investigation inaugurated**

- CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla inaugurated the 1st National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics at CBI Headquarters in New Delhi.
- The two-day conference covers one of the mandates of CBI which is to investigate crimes with inter-state and international ramifications.
- The conference is aimed at creating the platform and bringing together investigators, lawyers, forensic experts and academia to discuss challenges related to cybercrime and ways to find solutions.
- It will also be a platform to share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

#### **Piyush Goyal to attend crucial RCEP meet in Bangkok**

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will head to Bangkok to meet trade ministers from countries negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- The RCEP is India's most ambitious trade pact, currently under negotiation. Based on India's existing free-trade agreement (FTA) with the 10-nation Asean bloc, the RCEP will include all the nations with which Asean has trade deals — New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea.
- The meet, between September 8 and 10, is expected to see a push from Asean that has been adamant on deciding the key outline of the pact by 2019- end.

#### **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan arrives in Dubai to participate in 8th Asian Ministerial Energy Round-table**

- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan arrived Dubai for a three-day visit to the UAE. During the visit, the Minister is scheduled to participate in the Eighth Asian Ministerial Energy Round-table (AMER) at Abu Dhabi on 10th September.
- The 9th edition of Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable will take place in India in 2021.

### **S Jaishankar to Visit Maldives for Indian Ocean Conference**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Maldives from September 3-4 to attend the fourth Indian Ocean Conference 2019.
- The Union minister, who is listed as one of the speakers at the event, will be in the company of Maldives' President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Foreign Ministers of Singapore, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and Bhutan.
- The theme of the fourth Indian Ocean Conference — IOC 2019 — is "Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges". The first edition of the conference was hosted in Singapore in 2016 followed by two successive editions in Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

### **India to host 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue**

- India will host the 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue in New Delhi.
- The dialogue will focus on collaboration between two countries on areas of infrastructure, energy, high-tech, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination.
- The three-day dialogue will be chaired by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and Chinese side will be led by chairman, National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC).

### **International conference on energy efficiency begins in New Delhi**

- An international conference Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat (ANGAN) focussed on energy efficiency in the buildings sector began.
- The Conference is being organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the aegis of the power ministry in collaboration with GIZ under the Indo German Technical Cooperation.
- The international conference will provide a platform to deliberate on inter-dependence between organizations, sustainability and feedback loops for better resource efficiency.
- As part of this event, an exhibition on energy efficient building material suppliers, technology suppliers, research institutions and universities displayed latest things in the building energy efficiency sector is also displayed.

### **First helicopter summit held in Dehradun**

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation organised India's first-ever helicopter summit.
- The Indian Air Force was invited at the summit to talk on the "role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (Medical evacuation) at the national level".
- Theme: Expanding connectivity through helicopters
- The conclave was attended by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the Aviation Secretary, and the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, amongst others.

### **National Conference on Crop Residue Management**

- National Conference on Crop Residue Management was held for the farmers from the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in order to address concerns of farmers and State Governments.
- The straw burning incidents in 2018 have reduced by 15% and 41% as compared to that in 2017 and 2016 respectively. The conference has proposed to intensify In-Situ Management of Crop Residue to stop the straw burning.
- The multilingual Mobile App "Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) Farm Machinery" has also been launched for the farmers.
- Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) Farm Machinery Mobile App: It will connect the farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres in their area.

### **India Participates in Thessaloniki International Fair in Greece**

- An Indian delegation led by Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri participated in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Greece recently.

- The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry held a press interaction during the trade fair and highlighted the prospects for the development of Indian business in Greece and the wider region of Southeast Europe to strengthen bilateral trade relations between the two countries.
- Hardeep Singh Puri said that India's economy is expected to reach USD 5 trillion in 2025 and it will be among the largest in the world.
- Exhibitors from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA), companies from the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and tiles and ceramics industry and handicrafts from Rajasthan, Moradabad and Jammu & Kashmir had also participated in the fair.

#### **International conference ANGAN inaugurated in New Delhi**

- A three-day long International conference ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) for Energy Efficiency in Building Sector is organized in New Delhi
- The Conference is being organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India in collaboration with GIZ under the Indo German Technical Cooperation
- The Experts will be discussing various alternative options and technologies in the field of design and construction of energy efficient Commercial as well as Residential Buildings
- The International Conference will provide a platform to deliberate on interdependence between organizations, systemic sustainability and feedback loops for better resource efficiency

#### **National Conference on 'Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection' organized by BPR&D**

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development is organizing a two-day National Conference on 'Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection' on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- The conference was inaugurated at BPR&D Headquarters by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri G. Kishan Reddy.
- Scheme for Modernization of Prisons – a Central Government scheme with an outlay of 1800 crore rupees that aims to create 199 new jails, 1572 additional barracks and 8568 prison staff quarters.

#### **22nd Session of United Nations Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Held in Geneva**

- The 22nd Session of the UN Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to review India took place at UNHRC, Geneva, Switzerland on September 2-3, 2019.
- The Indian delegation was headed by Mrs. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
- India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). It ratified this Convention on October 01, 2007 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention.
- India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015, and this report has now been taken for consideration by UN Committee during the Session.

#### **16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union**

- The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was convened in New Delhi.
- The Session was co-chaired by Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary with Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg.
- India and BLEU side reiterated the importance of the JEC towards the development of bilateral economic and trade relations through facilitating dialogue and enhancing cooperation on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, such as, transportation and logistics, renewable energy, aerospace and satellites, audio and visual



industry, agro and food processing industry, life sciences, ICT, traditional medicine, Ayurveda and yoga, and tourism.

- The India and BLEU sides resolved that dynamic nature of commercial exchanges seen in the last few years is reflected in the increasing number of companies interested in establishing and gaining access to respective markets and signing of MoU among the three Countries for cooperation in multiple fields of mutual interest.
- Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium - Luxembourg Economic Union (India-BLEU) was established in 1997 and is the main vehicle for discussing bilateral economic and commercial issues.
- The focus of bilateral relations has been on trade and investment. India is Belgium's second largest export destination and fourth largest trade partner outside the European Union with a significant contribution from the Indian diaspora.

### **19th CII - NID India Design Summit 2019 in Goa**

- The Confederation of Indian Industries in association with National Institute of Design and Indian Design Council called 19th India Design Summit at Dona Paula in Goa. The theme of the Summit was 'Design for Society'.
- Designers play important role in planning development. They provide proper road map, indications which help to achieve desired target.
- The theme of the Summit is design for Society is itself reflects the very objective.
- The summit is a platform to create partnership between the discipline of design and organizations leading to innovation and increased economic competitiveness to synergize, find new methods of working together with an attitude of openness, cooperation, and exploration, bring the traditional fields of design in partnership with the fields of technology and business towards the development of new products, both real and virtual.

### **Important Mobile App and Web Portal**

#### **Narendra Singh Tomar launched CHC Farm Machinery App and Krishi Kisan app**

- Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today launched two agriculture-related Mobile Applications - CHC Farm Machinery and Krishi Kisan in New Delhi
- The Custom Hiring Service Centers or CHC App will allow farmers to avail the custom hiring services of CHCs located in the radius of 50 Kilometers.
- Using this App, small level farmers can avail agriculture Machinery on rental basis to enhance their production.
- Krishi Kisan App will provide farmers information of best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds at nearby area

### **Important Defence News**

#### **Rajnath Singh launches Navy's first new stealth frigate, INS 'Nilgiri' in Mumbai**

- Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched the warship Nilgiri in Mumbai
- INS Nilgiri is the first ship of the Project -17A frigates,
- INS Nilgiri is the first of the Indian Navy's seven new stealth frigates with enhanced stealth features, weapons and sensors.
- Project 17A frigates is a design derivative of the Shivalik class stealth frigates with much more advanced stealth features and indigenous weapons and sensors.
- The stealth frigate, Nilgiri, is made with the co-ordination of Mazagon Dockyard Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers with the Indian Navy, DRDO, and other public and private partners
- Rajnath Singh also commissioned the largest dry dock of Indian Navy - The Aircraft Carrier Dock at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai

#### **INDO-KAZAKHSTAN Joint Military Exercise KAZIND - 2019 to be held in Pithoragarh**

- Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2019 between India and Kazakhstan will be conducted at Pithoragarh from 02 to 15 October 2019.
- The exercise will comprise of nearly 100 soldiers from both Indian and Kazakhstan Army who would be sharing their experience gained during conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in the past
- Exercise KAZIND-2019 is the fourth edition of an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India.
- The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation further fostering bilateral relations between the two nations

#### **Indian, Japanese and U.S. maritime forces to participate in exercise Malabar 2019**

- The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR, is scheduled between the navies of India, Japan and USA from 26 Sep to 04 Oct 19 off the coast of Japan.
- Two frontline indigenously designed and built Indian Naval Ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette Kiltan, arrived at Sasebo, to participate in the Exercise.
- In addition to the ships, a 'P8I' Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, also arrived in Japan for the Exercise
- MALABAR 2019 would endeavour to further strengthen India - Japan - US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.
- The Exercise would encompass conduct of complex maritime operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains, and focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Firings, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) including Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) and tactical scenario based Exercise at Sea

#### **ICGS 'Varaha' commissioned by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh**

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh formally commissioned the Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel 'Varaha' at the Chennai Port Trust.
- The ICGS Varaha, the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- The ship will have on board 14 officers and 89 men
- The ship has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Katupalli ship building yard in North Chennai.

#### **India-US Tri-Services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" To Be Held In November**

- India and the United States are set to hold their first tri-services exercise code-named "Tiger Triumph" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in November this year.
- India-US tri-services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" is being organised under the aegis of the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff.
- Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) concluded at Headquarters Eastern Naval Command.
- This is the second such tri-service exercise to be conducted by India with any other country after Russia.

#### **Indian Army Conducts Massive Exercise 'Chang Thang' in Eastern Ladakh Bordering China**

- The Indian Army conducted a massive rare exercise involving all its arms and services including tanks, artillery and helicopters, in Eastern Ladakh bordering China, for testing and improving its war-fighting capabilities. The integrated exercise named 'Chang Thang' was conducted at a high altitude area in the region.
- It involved the use of infantry, mechanised forces, T-72 tanks, with force multipliers such as artillery guns and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

#### **Astra missile successfully flight tested from Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet**

- India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed air-to-air missile Astra that was fired from a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet.
- The state-of-the-art missile was launched from Sukhoi-30 MKI off the coast of Odisha as part of user trials by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- The missile is designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- The Astra missile is a beyond visual range missile. It is capable of engaging different targets at different altitudes. The missile has a strike range of 70km. The missile has a 15-kg high-explosive pre-fragmented warhead.

#### **‘TSENTR-2019’: Multinational military exercise kicks off in Russia**

- A week-long multinational military exercise ‘TSENTR’ [Centre] 2019 has commenced in Russia’s Donguz under the ambit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).
- The exercise “Centre” aims at evolving drills of the participating armies in the fight against international terrorism ensuring security and stability in the region.
- The member countries are exchanging its experiences against the anti-terrorism in the military exercise.
- 8 SCO member countries inclusive of Russia namely China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan are participating in the exercise.

#### **Singapore, India, Thailand kick off maiden trilateral exercise ‘SITMEX’ in Port Blair**

- The navies of the Republic of Singapore, India and Thailand are taking part in the inaugural Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime exercise (SITMEX)
- The exercise comprises a shore phase held at Port Blair, and a sea phase in the Andaman Sea.
- The host country is contributing guided missile destroyer INS Ranvir, missile corvette INS Kora, and OPV Sukanya in addition to maritime patrol aircraft.
- The Republic of Singapore Navy is participating with the Formidable-class frigate RSS Tenacious while Thailand is represented by frigate HTMS Kraburi.

#### **Indian Army to conduct Exercise ‘HimVijay’ in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**

- The Army is scheduled to conduct a major Exercise ‘HimVijay’ beginning October in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with its newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) involving 15,000 troops.
- The exercise will coincide with the proposed visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Panagarh based 17 Mountain Strike Corps will conduct Exercise HimVijay spread over a month and half with three newly created IBGs from October.

#### **Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Maitree – 2019**

- Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 between India and Thailand will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16-29 Sep 2019.
- Indian and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) comprising 50 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter terrorism operations in their respective countries.
- MAITREE is an annual training event which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India since 2006

#### **Khanderi, India's Second Scorpene-Class Submarine, Set To Be Commissioned**

- India's second Scorpene-class attack submarine INS Khanderi will be commissioned into the Navy by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Mumbai on September 28.
- The conventional diesel-electric submarine has been manufactured by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai. The first Scorpene-class submarine INS Kalvari had been commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 2017.
- Under the Project 75 programme, India is committed to building six Scorpene-class submarines that also includes INS Kalvari and INS Khanderi. The programme has been undertaken with Transfer of Technology from Naval Group, state-run French submarine builder, which was formerly known as DCNS. INS Khanderi had been launched in January 2017.

#### **India signs with Russian company to modernise radar missile systems on P-15 class ships**

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Russian defence company JSC Rosoboronexport to modernise the radar and missile systems on the P-15 ships

- The modernisation of radar and missile systems would substantially enhance the Air Defence capability of the P-15 Ships. There are 3 Delhi class destroyers in Indian Navy - INS Delhi, INS Mysore, INS Mumbai.
- Delhi-class warships are guided-missile destroyers with a displacement of 6,200 tonnes, a length of 163 metres and a crew of 40 officers and 310 sailors. They have a maximum speed of 32 knots (59 kilometres per hour).

#### **DRDO hands over second 'Netra' early warning system to IAF**

- Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over the second 'Netra' Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS) system to the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- The indigenously-built aircraft was handed over to Western Air Command chief, Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar, at the Bathinda Air Base in Punjab.
- 'Netra' was Designed and developed by DRDO, with assistance from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems
- It is useful for surveillance, tracking, identification and classification of airborne and sea surface targets and is useful in detecting incoming ballistic missile threats.

#### **DRDO successfully test fires indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile system**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested indigenously-developed Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system.
- The test fire was conducted in the ranges of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. It is a low weight, fire-and-forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.
- This is the third successful test firing of the missile system which is being developed for Indian Army's need for 3rd generation ATGMs.

#### **IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters**

- The Indian Air Force inducted eight US-made Apache AH-64E attack helicopters at the Pathankot airbase.
- The Apache choppers would replace the old Russia-made Mi-35. India is the 14th nation in the world to be operating the Apache attack helicopters
- The AH-64E Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters, and is flown by the US Army
- The IAF had signed a multi-billion dollar contract with the US government and Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters. The first four of the 22 helicopters was handed over to the air force by Boeing on July 27

#### **15th Indo-US Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2019 to Be Held in Washington**

- The Indo-US joint military training drill named Exercise Yudh Abhyas – 2019 is scheduled to be conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.
- This will be the 15th edition of the joint exercise, hosted alternately between India and United States.

#### **Iran unveils homegrown drone Kian with pinpoint accuracy**

- Iranian Army unveiled a new homegrown jet-propelled drone, named KIAN, capable of carrying long-time surveillance missions and hitting the targets with high precision, Polygon reported IRNA.
- The drone was unveiled in a ceremony in the presence of Commander of Army Air Defense.

#### **ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise Begins in Thailand**

- The U.S. Navy and maritime forces from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will begin the first ASEAN - U.S. Maritime Exercise (AUMX) with opening ceremonies at Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand and ending in Singapore.
- AUMX includes eight warships and four aircraft from seven countries, and more than a thousand personnel representing all ten ASEAN member states and the United States.
- AUMX was first proposed at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) in 2017 and confirmed during the 12th ADMM in October 2018.

### **28th cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT from Sep 5 to 15**

- The latest iteration of the India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the navies of the two countries, which seek to enhance bilateral ties and maritime cooperation, is being hosted from September 5 to 15.
- The coordinated patrol between Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) is being conducted from September 5 to 15
- Indian Naval Ship Kesari and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies are participating in the 28th edition of the CORPAT.

### **Chandrayaan-2 setback, India loses contact with Vikram lander during descent**

- India's space agency lost contact with the Vikram lander around 2.1 km over the lunar surface, in a setback to the country's maiden attempt to land a spacecraft on the moon's surface.
- As the lander began the 15 minute autonomous descent, it overcame a major hurdle of what is called as the rough breaking phase to go down from a height of 30 kms to around 2.1 kms.
- Soon after, the lander lost contact with the ground station.
- However, the orbiter, which has several instruments on board continues to hover around 100 kms over the moon.

### **Indo-Lanka maritime fleet exercise - SLINEX 2019**

- Sri Lankan Navy is sending two ships to India to participate in the SLINEX 2019, the joint maritime naval exercise with the Indian Navy.
- The offshore patrol vessels, SLNS Sindurala and Suranimala left Trincomalee and are scheduled to arrive at the port of Visakhapatnam.
- The week-long exercise will be attended by 323 Sri Lankan navy personnel including the commanding flag officer of the naval fleet. The exercise features wide-ranging naval exercises including helicopter operations.
- The exercise signifies the desire of both countries to enhance co-operation and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies.

## **Important Science and Technology**

### **Japan Launches 'biggest Cargo Spaceship' To Replenish Supplies At ISS**

- Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), launched its cargo vessel Kounotori8 to the ISS from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Center.
- The Kounotori8 is claimed to be the 'the world's biggest transport space ship' by Japan's space agency JAXA. The cargo vessel was launched using an H-IIB rocket at 1:05 AM (local time) from the Tanegashima island in Japan. The uncrewed cargo ship carried more than 4 tons of supplies, batteries, and a prototype laser-communications system.

### **Samsung unveils Good Vibes, Relumino tools for deaf-blind, visually impaired**

- Tech major Samsung unveiled two apps - Good Vibes and Relumino - to provide communication tools to the deafblind and people with low vision in the country.
- Good Vibes has been developed in India, and uses Morse code to convert vibrations into text or voice and vice-versa. A deafblind person uses a combination of dots and dashes to send their messages, which are received as text or voice on the caregiver's app.
- Similarly, text or voice messages sent are received as vibrations in Morse code that the deafblind can interpret.

### **India to join developed nations in ocean studies with 'Samudrayaan' project**

- India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the 'Samudrayaan' project.
- The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies.



- The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed at a depth of six kilometre for 72 hours. The ₹200 crore project proposes to carry three persons in a submersible vehicle to a depth of 6000 metres under sea for various studies.

#### **Asia's only 5th Generation - VR based simulator centre launched at Chennai**

- Asia's first 5th Generation - Virtual Reality based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre was launched at the Automobile Association of Southern India Centre (AASI), Chennai
- In the first 6 months, AASI will train 200 Ambulance drivers free of cost, under 'Safe Drivers Campaign'
- The patented simulator was ideated, designed and developed by Chennai based Red Chariots Technologies Pvt Ltd and it took close to three years for a team of 12 engineers to develop the hardware and software, emulating the Indian driving standards and road conditions.
- Existing drivers can make use of this simulator to learn the advanced techniques of driving and implement it in their day to day driving style at a very nominal cost of Rs 100 for an 8-minute session

#### **ISRO, DRDO ink MoUs to provide technologies for Human Space Mission**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for development of human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate its human space flight capabilities.
- The purpose behind the development is to provide technologies for human-centric systems and technologies specific to the Human Space Mission.
- The technological capabilities existing in DRDO laboratories for defence applications will be customised to meet the requirements of the human space mission of ISRO.
- Some of the critical technologies to be provided by DRDO to ISRO include space food, space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, radiation measurement and protection, parachutes for the safe recovery of the crew module and others.
- ISRO aims to demonstrate human spaceflight capability before the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.

### **Important Ranking and Indexes**

<b>Index</b>	<b>India's Rank</b>	<b>Top</b>	<b>Least</b>	<b>Other info</b>
Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report (TTCR)	34th (140 countries)	Spain	-	Released by World Economic Forum (WEF)
Global Liveability Index for 2019	New Delhi – 118 Mumbai - 119	Vienna	Damascus, (Syria)	Released by Economist Intelligence Unit
"Insights on Co-living – An Asia-Pacific Perspective." index	Mumbai – 5 <sup>th</sup> New Delhi - 11 <sup>th</sup> Bengaluru - 19 <sup>th</sup>	Beijing	-	Released by Knight Frank
Global Economic Freedom index	79 <sup>th</sup> / 162	Hong Kong	Iraq	Released by Fraser Institute
Safe Cities Index (SCI)	Mumbai – 45 Delhi - 52	Tokyo	Yangon	Released by Economist Intelligence Unit
Best Business Schools 2019	Indian School of Business (ISB) – 7 <sup>th</sup> (Hyderabad and Mohali)	IMD business school, Lausanne, Switzerland	-	By Forbes
				WDCR examines Three

IMD World Digital Competitiveness(WDCR) Ranking 2019	44th	US – 1 Singapore – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sweden – 3rd		factors Knowledge, Technology, Future readiness
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### **Kerala tops Niti Aayog's School Education Quality Index**

- The School Education Quality Index, SEQI prepared by NITI Aayog was launched by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman and CEO in New Delhi.
- Kerala has bagged the number one rank followed by Rajasthan in overall performance. In incremental performance ranking, Haryana is number one followed by Assam and Uttar Pradesh.
- Uttar Pradesh secured the last spot in the list.
- In small states category, Manipur has claimed the top spot followed by Tripura and Goa in overall performance. Meghalaya got the first place in incremental performance ranking followed by Nagaland and Goa.
- While Chandigarh topped the list of Union Territories.
- The School Education Quality Index assesses States on the basis of learning outcomes, access, equity and infrastructure and facilities, using survey data, self-reported data from States and third-party verification.
- Tamil Nadu was the top performer in access and equity outcomes, while Karnataka led in learning outcomes. Haryana had the best infrastructure and facilities.

### **HDFC Bank retains ranking as India's valuable brand**

- HDFC Bank retained the numero uno spot for the sixth consecutive year in the sixth edition of BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking, released by WPP and Kantar.
- With a 2019 brand value pegged at \$22.70 billion, HDFC's brand value has only changed 5 per cent.
- The bank managed to do this by "maintaining a forward-thinking and innovative outlook, with its consistent focus on exceeding the changing needs of its customers."
- LIC took the second spot in the BrandZ listing with 2019 brand value pegged at \$20.13 billion, while Tata Consultancy Services took the third spot with 2019 brand value at \$18.16 billion, registering 21 percent change in brand value as compared to last year.
- Airtel in the fourth spot at \$10.28 billion had a downward value change of 10 percent, while State Bank of India with a brand value of \$8.4 billion was in the fifth position.
- The BrandZ study, which is the only brand valuation ranking to combine companies' financial data with consumer insight and opinion, shows that trust is key and that highly trusted brands in the Top 75 are worth 129 percent more than less trusted ones.

### **Hurun Rich List 2019: Mukesh Ambani richest Indian with Rs. 3.8 lakh crore wealth**

- Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of Rs. 3,80,700 crore, according to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List.
- London-based SP Hinduja & family, with assets worth Rs. 1,86,500 crore, retained the second rank in the list, followed by Wipro founder Azim Premji at the third place with a wealth of Rs. 1,17,100 crore.
- L N Mittal, chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, was the 4th richest with a wealth of Rs. 1,07,300 crore and Gautam Adani was placed on the 5th position with a net worth of Rs. 94,500 crore.
- Others in the top 10 include Uday Kotak at the 6th place with a wealth of Rs. 94,100 crore, Cyrus S Poonawalla at 7th position with Rs. 88,800 crore assets, Cyrus Pallonji Mistry at 8th spot with a wealth of Rs. 76,800 crore, Shapoor Pallonji at 9th position with a net worth of Rs. 76,800 crore and Dilip Shanghvi at 10th slot with Rs. 71,500-crore wealth.

### **Infosys, TCS among 17 Indian firms in Forbes best 'regarded' companies list**

- As many as 17 Indian companies, including Infosys, TCS and HDFC, have been named in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies compiled by Forbes.

- IT major Infosys has been ranked third in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies, along with global payments technology company Visa and Italian car-maker Ferrari on the first and second position, respectively.
- Infosys jumped to the third spot from 31st position in 2018.
- The other top ten companies in the list for 2019 are Netflix at the 4th position, followed by PayPal (5), Microsoft (6), Walt Disney (7), Toyota Motor (8), Mastercard (9), Costco Wholesale (10).
- Indian companies Tata Consultancy Services (22nd position) and Tata Motors (31) featured among the top 50 in the coveted list.

### **IIT Bombay top Indian institute in QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020**

- The Indian Institute of Bombay (IIT-B) leads India's representation in the latest QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 with a 111-120 band ranking, up from 141-150 band last year.
- At 151-160 band and 171-180 band, IIT Delhi and IIT Madras formed the three best ranked Indian institutes in the latest rankings.
- The 2020 edition of the QS' Graduate Employability Rankings has been topped by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
- Stanford University is second and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is at third place.

### **Gujarat retains top spot in 'logistics ease' index**

- Gujarat has retained its first position in the country in the This is the second consecutive year the state has bagged the number one spot in the ranking. Punjab and Andhra Pradesh are ranked second and third, respectively. Himachal Pradesh stood last on the chart. Bihar ranked at 20th position
- The report, was published by the Union ministry of commerce and industry, prepared with the help of consultancy firm Deloitte
- Among the union territories, Chandigarh occupied the top position followed by Delhi and Puducherry. Among hilly states, Tripura retained the top spot. It was followed by Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The index was based on an analysis of perceptions with regard to nine parameters, including infrastructure, quality of logistics, services, promptness of cargo delivery, regulatory processes and safety of cargo

### **India Kicked Out Of Top 300 Ranking Of Universities; Only 6 Indian Institutions In Top 500 Ranking**

- University of Oxford of United Kingdom has topped the 'Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020'.
- IISc Bangalore is the top Indian University in the ranking and is placed in the 301-350 bracket. This is for the first time since 2012 that no Indian University has been placed in top 300.
- IIT Ropar made a surprise entry and takes the number 1 spot among Indian varsities alongside IISc Bangalore. IIT Indore is the second-best university in India
- However the total number of Indian Universities in the ranking this year has increased from 49 to 56.

### **India ranked fourth in global malaria cases in 2017: Lancet report**

- India ranked fourth in the global incidence of the deadly mosquito-borne disease malaria in 2017, with four per cent of the cases worldwide reported in the country, according to a report published in The Lancet journal.
- Of the 219 million cases of malaria reported globally in 2017, nearly 10 million were from India, making it the fourth most affected by the disease -- only behind the African countries Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mozambique.
- The report was compiled by more than 40 experts including malariologists, biomedical scientists, economists, and health policy experts, assimilating existing evidence with new epidemiological and financial analyses.
- The authors used new modelling techniques and estimated how prevalent and intense malaria could be in 2030 and 2050.

### **Eritrea tops list of Most Censored Countries**

- Eritrea topped the list of the 10 most censored countries in a report released by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

- Worst three countries for press censorship - Eritrea, North Korea and Turkmenistan
- The rankings were based on factors including restrictions on privately-owned or independent media; criminal defamation laws; restrictions on the dissemination of false news; blocking of websites; surveillance of journalists by authorities; license requirements for media; and targeted hacking or trolling
- The CPJ media freedom ranking is similar to the list compiled by Reporters Without Borders, another watchdog, which also shames Eritrea, North Korea and Turkmenistan as the world's worst three countries for independent journalism.

### Important Books and Authors

Books	Authors
"A Short History of Indian Railways"	Rajendra B Aklekar
"First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks"	Sophie Ansel (France)
'Loktantra Ke Swar (Khand 2)' and 'The Republican Ethic (Volume 2)'	Selected speeches of President of India during his second year in office (July 2018 to July 2019).
'Shiksha: A Journey'	Manish Sisodia (Delhi Deputy CM & Education Minister)
"Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past, 1883-1924"	Vikram Sampath
'Phoolproof: Indian flowers, their myths, traditions and usage'	Jhelum Biswas Bose
'Fortune Turners: The Quartet that spun India to glory'	Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj (The book on India's 4 spin legends - Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhar and S. Venkataraghavan)
"The Daughter from a Wishing Tree"	Sudha Murthy
Dhaval Kulkarni	"The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas"
Paro Anand	"Being Gandhi"
Neha J Hiranandani	'Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules'
Roopa Pai	From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine
Richard M Eaton	"India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765"
BJP MP Subramanian Swamy	'Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy' launched by Former president Pranab Mukherjee

### AYUSH Ministry launched 'Professor Ayushman' -- comic book Series

- A comic book series with 'Professor Ayushman' as the central character has been unveiled to make children aware of the importance of medicinal plants and their use for home remedies.
- The comic book, conceived by the National Medicinal Plants Board, talks about plants like Aloe Vera, Tulsi, Amla, Giloy, Neem, Ashvagandha and Brahmi.
- The AYUSH Ministry has come out with the book that will be available for free and schools can approach the National Medicinal Plant Board

### Important Sports News

#### Cricket

### ICC Test Rankings: Kohli holds on to 2nd spot as Smith retains first position

- India captain Virat Kohli has managed to hold on to his second position behind Australia's Steve Smith in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen.
- Besides former Australian captain Smith, compatriot Pat Cummins has also retained his first position in the ICC Test bowlers' rankings.

- Cummins too is well clear of other bowlers as he enjoys a lead of 57 points over second-placed Kagiso Rabada after finishing as the top wicket-taker with 29 scalps. India's Jasprit Bumrah is in third place.

#### **India beat Bangladesh to win the U-19 Asia Cup title**

- India beat Bangladesh by five runs in the finals to lift U-19 Asia Cup
- Defending a paltry total of 106, India dismissed Bangladesh for 101 in 33 overs.
- Left-arm spinner 18-year-old Atharva Ankolekar, emerged as the star of the Indian team, with figures of 5 for 28 from 8 overs.

#### **Steve Smith dethrones Virat Kohli to become top batsman in ICC Test rankings**

- Steve Smith dethroned India captain Virat Kohli to reclaim the No.1 spot in ICC Test rankings
- Virat Kohli has now slipped to No.2 in the ICC rankings for Test batsmen with 903 points.
- Australia's Pat Cummins continues to lead the bowlers rankings with 908 rating points.
- Jason Holder of the West Indies retained his top spot among the all-rounders with 472 rating points, followed by Ben Stokes (411) and Shakib Al Hasan (399).

#### **Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza to retire from international cricket**

- Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza will retire from all forms of international cricket after the conclusion of the T20I tri-series involving Bangladesh and Afghanistan later this month.
- Masakadza has played 38 Tests, 209 ODIs and 62 T20 Internationals, scoring 9410 international runs.
- The ICC had suspended Zimbabwe Cricket for violation of its constitution after the current elected members of the Zimbabwe board were suspended by the Sports and Recreation Committee (SRC).

#### **Misbah-ul-Haq named as Pakistan head coach and chief selector**

- Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has been appointed as Pakistan head coach of men's cricket team and chief selector on a three-year contract. Waqar Younis appointed as bowling coach
- The first assignment of Misbah-Waqar combination will be the upcoming three ODI and three T20I home series against Sri Lanka, which will be played from September 27 to October 9

#### **Rohit Sharma Launches Campaign to save Rhinos in India**

- India vice-captain Rohit Sharma is launching Rohit4Rhinos campaign, in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet on World Rhino Day on September 22,
- The campaign is aim to build awareness for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino. Rohit Sharma joined WWF India as its Brand Ambassador for Rhino Conservation in 2018

#### **Mithali Raj announces retirement from T20 Internationals**

- Former India women's team skipper Mithali Raj announced retirement from T20 Internationals
- She led India in 32 T20Is India including 3 Women's T20 World Cups in 2012 (Sri Lanka), 2014 (Bangladesh) and 2016 (India).
- In 89 T20 Internationals, Mithali scored 2364 runs including 17 fifties with a career-best 97 not out.

#### **Bob Carter appointed head coach of New Zealand women's cricket team**

- New Zealand cricket have named Bob Carter as the head coach of the senior national women's team
- Carter, who has previously worked as the assistant coach of the men's team, will take over the role from Haidee Tiffen
- Carter's first assignment with the White Ferns will be three-match ODI series and five-match T20I series against South Africa. He will remain as the coach of the team until the end of ICC Women's World Cup 2021

#### **Rashid to become Test cricket's youngest captain**

- Afghanistan test cricket captain Rashid Khan who led the match against Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong (Bangladesh) created record by becoming the youngest test cricket captain released by International Cricket Council(ICC) at the age of 20 years and 350 days.
- He will overtake Zimbabwe's Tatenda Taibu, who made his debut as Test captain just eight days older than Rashid against Sri Lanka at Harare in 2004.

#### **India Red beat India Green to clinch Duleep Trophy title**



- India Red beat India Green by an innings and 38 runs to clinch the Duleep Trophy title at Bengaluru
- India Red had scored 388 in their first innings. On the other hand, India Green compiled 231 runs in their first innings and 119 in their second innings.
- Abhimanyu Easwaran, who made a brilliant 153 for India Red, was named player of the match

#### **Australia's Megan Schutt scripts history with maiden ODI hat-trick**

- Right-arm pacer Megan Schutt scripted history by becoming the only woman cricketer from Australia to claim a hat-trick in One Day Internationals (ODIs) in the third ODI against West Indies.
- Schutt also became the first woman cricketer to claim two hat-tricks in international cricket. She had claimed her first hat-trick in a T20I against India last year. She had dismissed Smriti Mandhana, Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma in consecutive deliveries.
- She scalped three wickets in the three balls of her final over to enter into the history books.

### **Football**

#### **FIFA unveils official emblem for Qatar World Cup 2022**

- FIFA unveiled the official emblem of the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup which is scheduled to be hosted in Qatar
- The symbol resembles a woollen shawl that is typically worn by the citizens of Arab and Gulf countries in winter,
- The official emblem of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 embodies the vision of an event that connects and engages the entire world, while also featuring striking elements of local and regional Arab culture and allusions to the beautiful game.

#### **India clinched SAFF U-15 Championship 2019 title**

- The India Under-15 team has defeated Nepal with 7-0 score in the final of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-15 Championship 2019 held in Kalyani Stadium, West Bengal
- This victory means that India has now become the most successful team in the history of the tournament as it won the title for the 3rd time. Earlier, India won the trophy in 2013 and 2017 in Nepal.
- 2019 SAFF U-15 Championship is the 6th edition of the SAFF U-16 Championship

#### **Manipur Defeat Railways to Clinch Senior Women's National Football Championship Title**

- Manipur beat Railways 1-0 to triumph in the final of the 25th Senior Women's NFC 2019-20 at Arunachal Pradesh's CHF Ground.
- The 25th edition of the tournament was held from 10 September to 24 September 2019 in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, which hosted the tournament for the first time

### **Other sports News**

#### **Pankaj Advani - Aditya Mehta pair wins World Team Snooker title**

- The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta has won the IBSF World Snooker Team title at Mandalay, Myanmar.
- The Indian pair beat Thailand's team comprising C.Pongsakorn and D.Poramin in the final.
- This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden title.

#### **Lionel Messi wins best men's player of the year**

- Barcelona's Lionel Messi won the best men's player at the Best Fifa Football Awards in Milan as Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk missed out on the top prize.
- It is the sixth time Messi has been voted the world's best, after wins in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015.
- United States forward Megan Rapinoe won the best women's player award.
- Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson was also a winner as he took the best goalkeeper prize ahead of Manchester City's Ederson and Barcelona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen.
- Sari van Veenendaal wins The Best Women's Goalkeeper award. She was one of the integral parts of Netherlands' Women's World Cup campaign.

- Marcelo Bielsa and Leeds United squad wins the FIFA Fair Play award.
- The World Cup winner Jill Ellis wins The Best Women's Coach award. She guided the United States to back-to-back victories in the World Cup and is the first coach ever to win two Women's World Cup.

### **Aditi best Indian at Ladies French Open golf**

- India's Aditi Ashok was the best Indian at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France as she shot even par 71 in the final round to finish Tied-26th here.
- While Aditi ended with a total of 289, Diksha Dagar (72) was Tied-43rd and Tvesa Malik (74) was Tied-63rd. American Nelly Korda shot a four-under 67 to win her first Ladies European Tour title.
- Korda has won two titles on the LPGA Tour and one on the Symetra Tour.

### **Cyprus, Israel to host U17 European Championship in 2021, 2022**

- Cyprus and Israel have been chosen to host the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final tournaments of 2021 and 2022 respectively
- While Romania and Slovakia have been chosen to host the UEFA European U19 Championship final tournaments of 2021 and 2022, respectively

### **World Wrestling Championships**

- Rahul Aware wins a bronze in the 61kg category at the World Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- Aware defeated USA's Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-America champion, 11-4 in the 61kg playoff.
- Rahul, originally a 57kg wrestler (Olympic category) went to the World Championships in the 61kg as he had put on some extra kilos in the past few months.
- Ravi Kumar Dahiya clinching a bronze and a Tokyo quota in the 57kg category, Rahul's entry to his original category ahead of the 2020 Games looks blocked.
- Both Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 by qualifying for the bronze medal round.

### **Sebastian Vettel wins Singapore GP, Hamilton finishes fourth**

- German racing driver, Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) has won the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix 2019.
- Charles Leclerc remained on second position while Max Verstappen was third. Lewis Hamilton is on fourth.

### **Amit Panghal becomes first Indian male boxer to win World Championships silver**

- Amit Panghal settled for silver medal at World Boxing Championships after he lost to Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov in the 52kg category final.
- He became the first Indian male pugilist to win a silver medal in World Championships.
- The second-seeded Panghal became the first Indian male boxer to finish second in the world event and the country achieved its best ever medal haul of two.
- Manish Kaushik (63kg) had signed off with a bronze earlier, after losing in the semifinals.

### **Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics**

- India's star wrestler Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 2020 Olympics after beating fancied American Sarah Hildebrandt in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan
- She scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist to secure her place at the Tokyo Games
- Earlier, she had stormed to a 5-0 win over Ukraine's Yuliya Khalvadzhy in the first round of repechage in the 53kg category

### **Pankaj Advani wins 22nd world billiards title**

- India's billiards superstar Pankaj Advani clinched his 22nd world title for the country by winning a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Mandalay.
- This is the short format of billiards and Advani has won 5 titles in this is the last 6 years.

### **Shuttler Sourabh Verma wins Vietnam Open title**

- India shuttler Sourabh Verma won the Vietnam Open after he defeated China's Sun Fei Xiang in the summit.

- The event was held at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Verma is from Madhya Pradesh and had won the Dutch Open and Korea Open last year.

### **Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinches men's singles title of Belgian International Challenge**

- Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge.
- The 18-year-old Lakshya had earlier beaten Denmark's Kim Bruun 21-18, 21-11 to win in a 48-minute semifinal clash.

### **Kaushal wins Myanmar International series**

- Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the Myanmar International Series with a come-from-behind win over Indonesia's Karono Karono in a thrilling men's singles final.
- A trainee of Uday Pawar Badminton Academy, Kaushal, who has been troubled by injuries for almost two years, is currently ranked 187th.

### **Spain beat Argentina to win Basketball World Cup**

- Spain beat Argentina 95-75 to win the Basketball World Cup in Beijing
- It was Spain's second world cup. Spain won its first Basketball World Cup title in 2006
- France took the bronze for the second consecutive year after a 67-57 win over Australia.

### **Hero MotoCorp MD Pawan Munjal Inducted Into Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame**

- Pawan Munjal will be inducted to the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame later this year for his support to the sport in India and around the world.
- The induction ceremony will be held on November 6 at the 2019 Asian Golf Awards Gala Banquet to be held at DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram.
- His induction into the Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame will be permanently installed at the Dr David Chu Golf Museum at Shenzhen in China, the new home of the Hall of Fame.
- Munjal joins legendary players such as Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and other leading personalities such as David Chu, the founder of Mission Hills golf resort, to have been bestowed with the highest honour in the Asia Pacific golf industry.

### **Sports Ministry derecognises Paralympic Committee of India for sports code violation**

- The Sports Ministry has de-recognised the Paralympic Committee of India, citing violation of the National Sports Code in the body's decision to sack President Rao Inderjit Singh.
- The response of PCI for removal of president Rao Inderjit Singh. from the post was not satisfactory and hence PCI has been penalized for misgovernance till further notice.
- The PCI had also been suspended in 2015 over governance issues and re-recognised in 2016.

### **NBA names Rajesh Sethi as Managing Director of NBA India**

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) has appointed Rajesh Sethi managing director of its India business. Earlier in his career, Sethi held executive roles at insurer Allianz Global, conglomerate General Electric, and automotive manufacturer Tata Motors.
- Sethi will oversee the league's basketball and business development initiatives in India and will be supported by the region's senior leadership team.
- Sethi will take charge at NBA India and will report to deputy commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum

### **8th edition of Ladakh Marathon concludes**

- The 8th edition of Ladakh Marathon concluded in Leh. It witnessed 5500 participants from 26 countries.
- The 8th edition of Ladakh Marathon was divided in two days event with world highest Marathon Khardongla Challenge (72Km) held on September 06, followed by events held in three categories of Full Marathon (42Km), Half Marathon (21Km) and Run of fun (7KM). It is the highest marathon in the world as it is held at over 11, 000 feet above the mean sea level.

### **Diego Matos: Brazilian tennis player banned for life for match fixing**

- Brazilian tennis player Diego Matos has been banned from professional tennis for life and fined \$125,000 (£100,600) after being convicted of multiple match-fixing offences.
- Matos has also been ordered to repay \$12,000 (£9,650) received in winnings in tournaments played in Ecuador.
- An independent anti-corruption hearing found that 31-year-old Matos had contrived the outcome of 10 tennis matches played during 2018 at ITF level tournaments in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Portugal and Spain.

### **Charles Leclerc wins F1 Belgian GP, Hamilton takes second**

- Charles Leclerc just held off Lewis Hamilton to win the Belgian Grand Prix from pole position, securing the first victory of his Formula One career and ending Ferrari's long wait for a win.
- Hamilton was within one second of Leclerc on the final lap, but the 21-year-old from Monaco held his nerve.

### **India's Sasikumar Mukund Finishes Runner Up in Both Singles and Doubles at ATP Challenger Tour in China**

- In Tennis, Sasikumar Mukund ended runner-up in both singles and doubles at ATP Challenger Tour, in Baotou, China.
- The 12th seed Mukund lost to Australian top seed James Duckworth 4-6 3-6 in the singles in the clay-court event of Challenger 80 category tournament.
- In the doubles, Mukund and Russian Teymuraz Gabashvili pair lost 6-7 (3) 2-6 to second seed Korean pair of Ji Sung Nam and Min-Kyu Song.

### **Tejinderpal Singh Toor wins silver medal in shot put at Czech Republic athletic meet**

- The 24-year-old Indian, who has a personal best of 20.75m, has already qualified for World championship being the Area champion following his gold-winning feat at Asian Athletics Championships.
- Tomas Stanek of Czech Republic won the gold with 20.86m.

### **36th National Games to be held in Goa in October-November 2020, confirms Indian Olympic Association**

- The much-delayed 36th National Games will be staged in Goa from 20 October to 4 November next year.
- The IOA finalised the dates during its meeting with the Goan delegation.
- The meeting was attended by IOA top brass and delegation from Goa, including Sports Minister Babu Azgaonkar, Sports Secretary J Ashok Kumar, VM Prabhudesai, Krishnamurthy and Engineer Anil Ringne.

### **Nadubhagam Chundan Lifts 67th Nehru Trophy in Alappuzha**

- Nadubhagam Chundan, the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club, lifted the 67th edition of the coveted Nehru Trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the event in the presence of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, who was the chief guest of the event
- A total of 79 boats, including 23 snake boats, participated in the Nehru trophy.

### **ISSF World Cup: Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary win gold as India finish on top in Rio**

- India finished at the top of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Championship in Rio De Janeiro held from August 26 to September 03, 2019.
- Abhishek Verma – 10 metre air pistol Men
- Elavenil Valarivan – 10 metre air rifle Women
- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary staged a remarkable comeback to claim the mixed 10m air pistol gold, ending India's campaign on a rousing note in the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.
- Representing the other Indian team in the same event, Yashaswini Deswal and Abhishek Verma won the silver as India picked up the maximum possible medals on the final day of the tournament.
- World number one in women's 10m air rifle, Apurvi Chandela, had earlier partnered Deepak Kumar to win India their fourth gold on the concluding day of the event. The pair won the top medal in the mixed air rifle event.

- Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar, representing India 2, who won the previous two World Cup editions of the same event, won bronze.
- India finished the tournament at the top of the medals tally with five gold, two silver and two bronze.

#### **Virbhawal Khade and Rujuta — The country's fastest couple!**

- At the 73rd Glenmark National senior aquatics championships 2019, held at Prakash Taran Pushkar Bhavan, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Indian swimmer Rujuta became the fastest female swimmer of India winning the title in 50m freestyle whereas her husband Virbhawal Khade broke his own national record winning gold in the men's 50m breaststroke event.
- The couple earned the title of becoming India's fastest couple in swimming. Gold in the women's 50m breaststroke was won by Divya Satija, who also broke her own national record.

#### **Anupama Swain wins bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership, qualifies for Asian Games**

- Woman athlete Anupama Swain who qualified for 2022 Asian Games by winning a bronze medal in the recently concluded World Martial Arts Mastership
- Jiu-Jitsu 2019 which was held at the Konkuk University Global Campus in Chungju, South Korea. With this, she qualified for the 2022 Asian Games. She was trained by Hari Prasad Patnayak.
- Jiu-Jitsu is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.

#### **2019 World Wrestling Championships**

- The 2019 World Wrestling Championships will be held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from 14 September to 22 September, 2019.
- It will begin with the Greco-Roman wrestling competition. Wrestlers from 101 nations will be fighting for medals across Greco-Roman, freestyle and women's wrestling categories. It is organized by United World Wrestling (UWW), the Kazakh Ministry of Culture and Sports, the National Olympic Committee (NOC of Kazakhstan), the Kazakh Confederation of Martial Arts and Power Sports and the Kazakh Federation of Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women's Wrestling.

#### **Charles Leclerc wins Italian Grand Prix**

- Monacan based Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) has won the Formula 1, Italian Grand Prix 2019. This is his second F1 win this season and came within a week of the first win.
- Earlier this week, Leclerc won the Belgian Grand Prix also.
- Valtteri Bottas finished second, Lewis Hamilton third, Daniel Ricciardo fourth and Nico Hülkenberg fifth.

#### **Bianca Andreescu clinched US Open Women's singles title**

- Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu defeated Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 to grab the US Open 2019 women's singles title.
- The 19-year-old Andreescu becomes the first Canadian singles player to win a Grand Slam event.
- Andreescu also jumps into the top 10 in the WTA rankings
- Serena Williams has lost each of her last four Grand Slam finals, all with a chance to tie Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles

#### **Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev to win US Open men's final**

- Rafael Nadal beats Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in the US Open final to capture his 19th Grand Slam title. It was also his fourth US Open title.
- World number two Nadal took the top prize of \$3.85 million at Arthur Ashe Stadium and added to his US Open trophy haul from 2010, 2013 and 2017

#### **Divij Sharan Wins Doubles, Daniil Medvedev Picks Singles Title at St Petersburg**

- India's Divij Sharan claimed his fifth ATP career title after winning the St Petersburg Open doubles crown, partnering Igor Zelenay of Slovakia. This is Divij's second title of the season after winning the Maharashtra Open in Pune.



- US Open finalist Daniil Medvedev crushed Borna Coric on his way to winning the ATP event in Saint Petersburg.
- World number four Medvedev, who since July has reached five finals in as many tournaments, won his third title of the year and sixth of his career.

#### **Malvika claims maiden title at Maldives International**

- Young Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod has claimed her maiden title at the Maldives International Future Series with a stunning straight-game win over top seed Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar in women's singles.
- Among other Indians, top seeded Kevin Arokia Walter settled for a runners-up finish after going down 13-21 14-21 to second seeded Thai Kantawat Leelavechabutr in men's singles competition.
- Indian pair of Vaibhaav and Prakash Raj, seeded second, also claimed the men's doubles title after beating Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul.

#### **Mo Farah and Brigid Kosgei wins record sixth straight title**

- Kenyan athlete Brigid Kosgei broke the world record for the fastest half-marathon by a woman as she finished the 2019 Great North Run in 1 hour, four minutes and 28 seconds.
- This was 23 seconds faster than the previous record, set by fellow Kenyan Joyciline Jepkosgei in 2017.
- In men's elite race, Mo Farah won the title for a record sixth successive year finishing in 59 minutes 7 seconds. The Great North Run is the biggest half marathon in United Kingdom held annually.

#### **Lewis Hamilton wins Russia F1 GP**

- British racing driver Lewis Hamilton, who races in Formula One for Mercedes won the Russian Grand Prix 2019. This was his 9th win of the season.
- Team-mate Valtteri Bottas was in second, with Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) was third. Verstappen was fourth.

#### **Japan's Kento Momota wins Korea Open**

- Top-ranked Kento Momota of Japan clinched the men's singles title at the Korea Open badminton tournament with a win over number two Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan.
- In the women's final, China's He Bingjiao defeated Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand.
- South Korea dominated the women's doubles, with Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong beating compatriots Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan.
- Indonesian pair Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto defeated Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda of Japan to clinch the men's doubles title.

#### **US Open 2019**

- Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev to win 19th Grand Slam title. Rafael Nadal won his 19th Grand Slam title after holding off Russian Daniil Medvedev's exhilarating fightback in one of the greatest US Open finals.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal
Women's Singles	Bianca Andreescu
Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastián Cabal Robert Farah
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens Aryna Sabalenka
Mixed Doubles	Bethanie Mattek-Sands Jamie Murray

### **Important Obituaries**

<b>Person</b>	<b>Field</b>
Valerie Harper	Emmy Award-winning actress
Jessica Combs	American professional Women racer

Udit Pratap Deo	Former Kalahandi king
Robert Mugabe	Former Zimbabwe President
Kiran Nagarkar	Novelist and Playwright
Sukhdev Singh Libra	Congress leader and former MP
Ram Jethmalani	Veteran lawyer and former Union minister
Abdul Qadir	The legendary Pakistan leg spinner
Heeralal Sharma	Freedom fighter
Dilip Satpathy	Senior Odisha journalist
Veeru Krishnan	Actor-Kathak dancer
Rajasekar	Tamil film actor & director
Akilisi Pohiva	Tonga's Prime Minister
BN Yugandhar	Former bureaucrat and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's father
Charlie Cole	Photographer
Sanjib Kumar Datta	Bollywood film editor
Sivaraman Cheriyanad	Kerala Writer
Kodela Sivaprasada Rao	Former speaker of the Andhra Pradesh
B J Khatal Patil	Former minister and senior Congress leader
Sathar	Veteran Kerala actor
Shyam Ramsay	Film director
Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali	Tunisia's former president
Madhav Apte	Former Indian cricketer
Venu Madhav	Telugu film comedian
Dilip Dutta	Mathematician & Writer
Boman Rashid Kohinoor	co-owner of eatery Britannia & Co
Viju Khote	Veteran actor