

Important Current Affairs – August 2019

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Important Days

Date	Important days	Theme
August 1 to 7	World Breastfeeding Week	“Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding”.
August 1	World Wide Web Day	-
August 6	Hiroshima Day	-
August 7	National Handloom Day	-
August 8	August Kranti Din or Quit India movement (77th anniversary)	-
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous Languages
August 9	Nagasaki Day	-
August 10	World Biofuel Day	“Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)”
August 12	International Youth Day	“Transforming education”
August 12	World Elephant Day	-
August 13	International Left Handers Day	-
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	-
August 15	73rd Independence Day (India)	-
August 17	Indonesian Independence Day	-
August 19	World Photography Day	-
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	#WomenHumanitarians
August 20	World Mosquito Day	-
August 20	Sadbhavna Divas	-
August 21	World Senior Citizen's Day	-
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	-
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	-
August 26	Women's Equality Day	-
August 29	National Sports Day	-
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	-
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	-

Important Banking News RBI

Third bi-monthly monetary policy statement 2019-20

- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75 per cent to 5.40 per cent with immediate effect
- GDP forecast for FY20 reduced to 6.9 percent from 7 percent

USEFUL INFO	
Repo Rate	5.40 %

Reverse Repo	5.15 %
Bank Rate	5.65 %
Marginal standing facility (MSF)	5.65 %
SLR	18.75 %
CRR	4 %

RBI relaxes leverage ratio for banks to boost their lending capacity

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

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

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country.
- All commercial banks, like SBI, HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank and ICICI Bank, are in the Second Schedule. Banks falling under this schedule have to adhere to the norms of the RBI.
- “Jana Small Finance Bank Limited” has been included in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- “National Australia Bank” excluded from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- Name of “The Royal Bank of Scotland plc” altered to “NatWest Markets Plc” in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

RBI imposes Rs 50 lakh fine on Punjab National Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs. 50 lakh on Punjab National Bank for delay in flagging the fraud in the account of Kingfisher Airlines.
- RBI observed from the fraud monitoring report-1 submitted by Punjab National Bank on July, 10 2018
- The fine was imposed In exercise of the powers conferred under section 47(A)(1)(c) read with section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- In a separate filing, Bank of Baroda said the RBI has imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh on it for delay in reporting fraud in an account.

RBI imposes fine of Rs. 11 crore on seven public sector banks

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a collective penalty of Rs. 11 crore on seven public sector banks for violating norms on current account opening
- Allahabad Bank and Bank of Maharashtra have been imposed a fine of Rs. 2 crore each
- Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and United Bank of India have been slapped with fines of Rs. 1.5 crore each
- While Oriental Bank of Commerce has been imposed with a penalty of Rs. 1 crore.

RBI allows round-the-clock fund transfers under NEFT from December

- RBI has decided to allow round-the-clock fund transfers through NEFT from December this year in order to promote digital transactions
- Currently, the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) operated by the RBI as a retail payment system is available for customers from 8 am to 7 pm on all working days with the exception of second and fourth Saturdays of a month
- As mentioned in the Payment System Vision Document 2021, the Reserve Bank will make available the NEFT system on a 24x7 basis from December 2019
- There is no cap on the minimum and the maximum amount for NEFT

Central bank to set up central registry for tracking frauds in payment systems

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to set up a central payment fraud registry, which will monitor digital payment frauds in real-time
- At present, banks report all frauds in the system to the central fraud monitoring cell of the RBI.
- The central bank stated that the digital payment ecosystem making substantial progress in terms of growth of the payment infrastructure, as well as volume and value of digital payment transactions and fraud risk monitoring
- The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks.
- The central bank will issue a detailed framework in this regard by end of October.

RBI finalises regulatory sandbox framework for innovation in fintech firms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the final 'enabling framework for regulatory sandbox,' taking into account inputs received after a consultation process that began in April.
- The framework will likely be a positive step for financial technology start-ups and companies looking to innovate in the fast changing and highly regulated sector.
- The regulatory sandbox allows live testing of new products or services in a controlled or test regulatory environment.
- The move by the RBI had received a largely positive response from most financial technology (fintech) firms, which welcomed the chance to be able to test their products in the initial stages or before launch. Another issue with the proposed guidelines was, however, the limitation of allowing testing to 10-12 selected entities at a time. The final version has not specified the number of entities that will be allowed testing at a time.
- The focus of the RS (regulatory sandbox) would be narrow in terms of areas of innovation, and limited in terms of intake. The RS shall begin the testing process with a few select entities through a comprehensive selection process as detailed in the framework under 'Fit and Proper' criteria for selection of participants in RS.

RBI asks banks not to count failed transactions, balance enquiry as free ATM transaction

- Reserve Bank of India has asked banks not to count failed transactions at ATMs due to technical reasons as part of "free ATM transactions" permitted every month.
- Use of ATMs for balance enquiry and fund transfers too should not be part of the free transactions facility given to a customer
- RBI clarified that transactions which fail on account of technical reasons, non-availability of cash, and any other reason attributable to the bank should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer
- Further, non-cash withdrawal transactions (such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes, funds transfer), which constitute 'on-us' transactions (when a card is used at an ATM of the bank which has issued the card) shall also not be part of the number of free ATM transactions.

RBI tweaks norms for priority sector lending

- The RBI said on-lending by registered NBFCs (other than MFIs) towards agriculture, MSEs and housing sector up to prescribed limits will be treated as priority sector loans.
- The Reserve Bank said it is being done in order to boost credit to the needy segment of borrowers.
- As per the revised norms, on-lending by NBFCs for 'term lending' component under agriculture will be allowed up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower.
- In case of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) the limit will be Rs 20 lakh per borrower.
- In housing sector, the limit has been enhanced from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh per borrower for classification of the loan as priority sector lending.

- Under the revised on-lending model, banks can classify only the fresh loans sanctioned by NBFCs out of bank borrowing.
- Further, these norms will be reviewed after March 31, 2020

RBI directs banks to be more proactive on GMS

- The Reserve Bank of India's direction to all lenders to promote and publicise the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) from their branches underscores the intent of the banking regulator to make the Scheme a success.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed all scheduled commercial banks (except regional rural banks) to promote the Gold Monetisation Scheme that was introduced on October 22, 2015 to replace the Gold Deposit Scheme, 1999.
- All designated banks shall give adequate publicity to the Scheme through their branches, websites and other channels.

RBI Says RTGS System to Open At 7 AM Instead of 8 AM

- In order to increase the availability of the RTGS system, RBI has been decided to extend the operating hours of RTGS and commence operations for customers and banks from 7:00 am instead of 8 am.
- The extended customer transactions timing will be applicable from August 26.

RBI allows e-mandate processing on cards for recurring transactions

- The Reserve Bank permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with a cap of Rs 2,000.
- The RBI has been receiving requests from industry stakeholders to allow processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions with Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) during e-mandate registration and first transaction.
- The maximum permissible limit for a transaction under the e-mandate facility on cards would be Rs 2,000.
- The RBI added that no charges should be levied or recovered from the cardholder for availing the e-mandate facility on cards for recurring transactions.
- The direction is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards debit, credit and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), including wallets.

RBI to transfer Rs. 1, 76, 051 crore to Government

- The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the transfer of Rs 1,76,051 crore to the Government of India.
- To transfer a sum of Rs 1,76,051 crore to the Government of India comprising Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
- Government of India had constituted an Expert Committee to Review the Extant Economic Capital Framework of the Reserve Bank of India under the chairmanship of Dr Bimal Jalan.

RBI issues guidelines on interest subvention scheme for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry farmers

- The government has extended KCC facility to animal husbandry farmers and fisheries as announced in the Interim Budget 2019-20 for their working capital requirements providing the benefits of Interest Subvention at 2% and Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) at 3%.
- The Government of India has now issued the operational guidelines of the Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card facility to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers for a period of two years i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- It has been decided to provide interest subvention of 2% per annum to lending institutions viz. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Private Sector Commercial Banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only) on use of their own resources.

- This interest subvention of 2% will be calculated on the loan amount from the date of its disbursement / drawal upto the date of actual repayment of the loan by the farmer or up to the due date of the loan fixed by the banks, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year.
- In case of farmers possessing KCC for raising crops and involved in activities related to animal husbandry and/or fisheries, the KCC for animal husbandry/fisheries shall be within the overall limit of Rs 3 lakh.
- The farmers repaying promptly as above would get short term loans @ 4% per annum after an additional interest subvention of 3% per annum during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

RBI increases time allowed for converting minimum KYC PPI into full KYC PPI

- The RBI has announced that the timeline for conversion of minimum KYC detail for prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) to full KYC compliant PPIs has been extended from 18 months to 24 months.
- The notification says that this timeline will not be extended any further.
- For minimum KYC complaint, e-wallet service providers asks for user's mobile number and any one government identification number to authenticate the account.
- However, full KYC requires a more detailed verification procedure. Normally, PAN card and proof of address is among the pre-requisites for full KYC
- The amount loaded in such PPIs during any month shall not exceed Rs 10,000 and the total amount loaded during the financial year shall not exceed Rs 1,00,000

SBI

SBI Shanghai becomes 1st Indian bank to link up with China payment system

- The State Bank of India's Shanghai branch is now connected to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS), becoming the first Indian Bank to operationalise.
- CNAPS is a real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in mainland China, as well as in all clearing banks in offshore yuan centers, such as Hong Kong.
- The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payment System), launched in 2015 with the aim of boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan.
- SBI is the only Indian Bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency and also inducted to the CNAPS.

SBI home loan interest rates cut by 15 bps across all tenors from August 10

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender reduced home loan rates by 15 basis points after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its key repo rate for the fourth time this year.
- The changes in the interest rates effect from August 10, 2019
- The revised one-year MCLR stands at 8.25% per annum down from 8.40% earlier
- The two-year MCLR comes down to 8.35% per annum, from 8.50% annum, while rates for three-years has been cut to 8.45%.

ADB

ADB to provide \$200 million for all-weather rural road project in Maharashtra

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$200 million to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra to better connect rural areas with markets and services.
- Roads in rural areas would be upgraded to all-weather standards which will boost links between local residents and economic centres across the state
- The total cost of the project is \$296 million, of which the government will provide \$96 million. It is due for completion at the end of September 2024.

Other Banking News

Digital Payments growing in India at 12.7% compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

- According to KPMG's report 'Fintech in India – Powering Mobile Payments, Digital payments are seeing a thriving growth and gaining traction with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.7% in the number of non-cash transactions (forecast, 2016-21).
- The global digital payments market size is expected to touch \$10.07 trillion by 2026.
- The mobile wallet market is expected to continue its expansion at a CAGR of nearly 52.2 per cent by volume during 2019-23
- The volume of UPI transactions have increased at a CAGR of 246 per cent during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19.
- The Reserve Bank of India has forecast an outcome of 50 per cent increase in mobile-based payment transactions as per its '2021 vision document'

Indian Bank opens MSME processing centre

- Indian Bank has opened its first MSME CPC (centralised processing centre) in Chennai
- It was inaugurated by the bank's MD and CEO Padmaja Chunduru
- MSME centralised processing centre will give a boost to its MSME portfolio
- The bank had deployed skilled manpower in the CPC to improve credit quality and shorten transaction processing time.

Digit Insurance forays into Bancassurance with Karur Vysya

- General insurance company Digit Insurance announced its first Bancassurance tie-up with Karur Vysya Bank.
- Digit Insurance to provide Digit Insurance's suite of products to its SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) customers. Digit Insurance's products will now be available in KVB's customers spread across 750 plus branches in India.
- The product portfolio comprises Digit Insurance's flagship health, car & Bike, accident, home content, critical illnesses, and particularly SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises) insurances, which is hugely underinsured in India.

DBS named 'World's Best Bank' by Euromoney magazine

- Globally, DBS has become the first bank to concurrently hold three global best bank awards. This was achieved after DBS was named "World's Best Bank" by leading global financial publication Euromoney in its 2019 Awards for Excellence.
- It follows the bank's wins of Global Finance's "Best Bank in the World" in August 2018 and The Banker's "Bank of the Year – Global" in November 2018.
- This is the first time an Asian-headquartered bank has been named "World's Best Bank" by Euromoney since the award was launched in 1993.
- Past winners included Bank of America, BNP Paribas, Citi and UBS. DBS was also named Asia's Best Bank and Singapore's Best Bank in this year's Awards for Excellence.

BookMyForex partners with YES Bank to launch Forex Card on Visa network

- BookMyForex.com, the world's first and largest marketplace for foreign exchange and remittances, announces the launch of a co-branded Multi-Currency Forex Travel-card in partnership with YES Bank and Visa to offer a seamless experience to Indian overseas travellers.
- Customers will now be able to buy Forex Travel Cards at the click of a button on the BookMyForex platform and get free doorstep delivery across major cities in India.

- Further, to promote the sale of forex travel cards over forex currency notes, BookMyForex will offer zero margin or exact inter-bank rates 24x7 on Forex card sales.
- BookMyForex is also offering new age and increasingly popular contactless cards that allow a user to simply tap their card on a POS terminal, a must-have feature in countries such as the UK where some merchants only allow contactless payments.

India has received highest-ever FDI of \$64.37 billion

- India received the highest-ever FDI inflow of \$64.37 billion during the fiscal ended March 2019.
- According to the Annual Report 2018-19 of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), foreign direct investments (FDI) worth \$286 billion were received in the country in past five year.
- Highlighting the importance of FDI, it said the foreign inflows bring in resources, the latest technology and best practices to push economic growth on to a higher trajectory.

Postal dept decides to convert India Post Payments Bank to a SFB

- The postal department said it has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers.
- Besides, the department looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.
- The decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir from July 29-31, 2019 to adopt a 100-day action plan and a five-year vision to align the Department of Posts with the Prime Minister's "New India" initiative.
- The decision included "Converting the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to provide micro credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's.
- India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments etc at post offices.

Eight core sectors growth drops to 0.2% in June

- Growth of eight core industries dropped to 0.2 per cent in June mainly due to a contraction in oil-related sectors as well as in cement production
- The eight core sector industries - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - had expanded by 7.8 per cent in June last year.
- crude oil output contracted by 6.8 per cent while the refinery segment de-grew by 9.3 per cent
- The cement output declined by 1.5 per cent.
- The production of fertilisers grew by 1.5 per cent.
- Steel production increased by 6.9 per cent and electricity production increased by 7.3 per cent during the month under review.
- During April-June, the eight sectors grew by 3.5 per cent compared to 5.5 per cent in the same period last year.

NHB to provide liquidity infusion facility of Rs 10,000 cr to HFCs

- National Housing Bank (NHB) will provide additional liquidity infusion facility of Rs 10,000 crore to Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). This will be an additional liquidity infusion for individual loans for affordable housing.
- The Finance Ministry launched the Liquidity Infusion Facility (LIFT) Scheme for Housing Finance. This new scheme will cater to the demand of HFCs to address the housing finance requirements in the affordable housing finance sector.
- The objective of the refinance scheme is to support HFCs in creating individual housing loan portfolio that falls under the priority sector, as defined by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The maximum amount that can be drawn under this scheme shall not exceed ₹ 500 crore per HFC.

SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact

- SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank have entered into a bancassurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter's customers.
- The partnership will see over 2,851 branches of Indian Bank spread across the country offer SBI Life's diverse range of individual and group insurance solutions.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance inks Bancassurance pact with Indian Bank

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) inks Bancassurance pact with Indian Bank for the distribution of life insurance products
- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) now has tie-ups with 9 banks across the country

LIC launched new term insurance plan called 'Jeevan Amar'

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has launched a new term insurance plan called 'Jeevan Amar'.
- 'Jeevan Amar' insurance plan is not a market-linked plan. The policyholder cannot claim the amount on maturity. The nominee will receive the death claim in case of demise of the life assured during the term of the policy.
- The plan available for sale offline, offers flexibility to choose from two death cover options like level sum assured and increasing sum assured
- The minimum sum assured under the plan is Rs. 25 lakh with no maximum limit.
- The plan is available for ages 18-65 years with the maximum age maturity at 80 years offering policy terms from 10 years to a maximum of 40 years

Jana Small Finance Bank gets Scheduled Bank status

- Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd, which commenced banking operations in March 2018, has got the status of a Scheduled Bank.
- The Government notified this on July 27 this year, putting Jana Small Finance Bank on the list of the banks included in the second schedule of RBI Act 1934.
- Jana Small Finance bank presently operates in 260 bank branches and 338 asset centres, which is serving over 5.5 million customers across the country.

Bank of Maharashtra and IDBI Bank cut MCLR

- Bank of Maharashtra and IDBI Bank have cut their marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) across select tenors by 10 basis points (bps) and 5-15 bps, respectively.
- This downward revision in MCLR comes in the wake of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cutting its policy repo rate by 35 bps from 5.75 per cent to 5.40 per cent on August 7.
- Following the reduction, the new MCLR of the Pune-headquartered public sector bank for three months is 8.30 per cent (8.40 per cent earlier), 8.40 per cent (8.50 per cent) for six months and 8.50 per cent (8.60 per cent).
- IDBI Bank has pared its three months MCLR by 5 bps from 8.40 per cent to 8.35 per cent. It has cut the MCLR on three maturity buckets by 10 bps each — six months to 8.50 per cent, one-year to 8.85 per cent and three years to 9.10 per cent. The two years MCLR has been cut by 15 bps to 8.95 per cent.

DBS Bank India ties up with Social Alpha to incubate social entrepreneurs

- DBS Bank India has tied up with technology business incubator Social Alpha to mentor enterprises that focus on sectors such as inclusion, healthcare, and environment. DBS Bank will also give an annual programme grant of ₹1 crore.
- DBS Bank will mentor and support three ventures over the next 18 months.
- This includes Even Cargo, which has trained and employed women as delivery personnel for e-commerce firms; Trust Circle, a mental healthcare start-up that utilises mobile AI technology to improve emotional resiliency; and Incredible Devices, a medical device start-up company aimed at making safe and affordable healthcare solutions.

RBL Bank launches India's first health-focused credit card

- RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo have partnered to launch an industry first co-branded health credit card.
- This credit card is powered by Mastercard and is available on both Practo and RBL mobile apps
- The card offers benefits like unlimited and round-the-clock online consultations with experienced and qualified doctors, one free full body health check-up,
- Users can use the card to earn points that can be redeemed for availing Practo services like ordering medicine, tests and online consultations.
- The card also offers two complimentary domestic airport lounge accesses every quarter.

BoB links home loan product to RBI's repo rate

- Indian multinational, public sector bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has linked its home loan product to RBI's (Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repo rate after State Bank of India (SBI).
- With this, home loans at BOB will be available at repo rate linked interest rate starting at 8.35%, thus passing on the further benefit of 10 basis points to the present MCLR rated pricing.

Indian Bank inks pact with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

- Indian Bank has signed a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company for distribution of its insurance products to bank customers.
- According to the agreement, Cholamandalam MS General Insurance (a Murugappa Group company), would sell its range of insurance policies to customers of Indian Bank.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance and Axis Bank ink bancassurance pact

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance (ABHI) has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Axis Bank
- Through this partnership, Aditya Birla Health Insurance will offer health insurance solutions to the Axis bank's customers across its 4,094 branches and digital channels
- Aditya Birla Health Insurance is a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital, has completed two years of operations as of end March 2019
- Aditya Birla Health Insurance also ties up with Karur Vysya Bank for bancassurance

India contributes \$1 million to UN Special Purpose Trust Fund

- India has contributed one million US Dollars to the United Nations Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System.
- The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador - Syed Akbaruddin
- The SPTF web portal, displays in real time all commitments, contributions and expenditures recorded for the fund

Danish bank launches world's 1st negative interest rate home loan

- Denmark's third-largest bank, Jyske Bank, has launched the world's first negative interest rate home loan, where the charge is -0.5% a year.
- This means that Jyske Bank will effectively pay borrowers 0.5% a year to take out a loan.
- Borrowers will make monthly repayments but the amount outstanding will be reduced each month by more than what the borrower paid.

Axis Bank ex-chief Dharmesh Mehta along with investors to acquire IDFC Securities

- Former Axis Capital MD and CEO Dharmesh Mehta, along with other investors, will acquire 100% stake in IDFC Securities
- IDFC Securities is the broking and research business of IDFC group

- Following this, acquirers will purchase 100 per cent equity stake of IDFC Securities Limited from IDFC Financial Holding Company (IDFC FHCL)
- Mehta stepped down as MD and CEO of Axis Capital in December last year.

Government removes debenture reserve requirement for HFCs, NBFCs, listed firms

- The government has removed the redemption reserve requirement for issuance of debentures by non-banking financial companies, housing finance companies and listed firms, a move aimed at reducing cost for raising capital.
- For listed companies- the requirement for the creation of a Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) of 25% of the value of outstanding debentures has been removed. This includes NBFCs registered with RBI and for Housing Finance Companies registered with National Housing Bank (NHB) both for public issue as well as private placements.
- For unlisted companies- Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) has been reduced for unlisted companies from 25% to 10%, so as to safeguard interests of investors.

Japan Credit Bureau issues new credit card in India

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Japan Credit Bureau (JCB) International have announced the launch of a new credit card -- RuPay JCB Global Cards -- in Mumbai. The partnership was established in 2015 to connect to a global network of merchants and ATMs.
- Where the first phase of the partnership between NPCI and JCB enabled merchants and ATMs in India to accept foreign JCB credit cards, the second phase would enable Indian travellers to use their JCB credit card in foreign countries where the card is accepted.
- Eight banks in India will issue RuPay JCB Global Cards- including State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, Union Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank, City Union Bank, and TJSB Bank.

SIDBI joins hands with Incuspaze to open coworking space for MSMEs and start-ups

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited (Incuspaze) to open a first-of-its-kind coworking space exclusively designed for MSMEs and startups.
- The coworking space, called @Workspaze is located at 1, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- The initiative that intends to be a market-maker for its segment is only 50 meters away from Barakhamba Metro Station.
- Under this arrangement, an MSME accelerator programme is proposed to be started shortly by SIDBI for the MSMEs and startups who will set up their offices in @Workspaze.

In a first, HDFC Bank, MasterCard launch Millennia cards aimed at 'Young India'

- HDFC Bank and MasterCard launched Millennia, a range of cards which cater exclusively to the lifestyles and aspirations of millennials. Range of products include credit, debit, prepaid card and EMI variants.
- The cards come loaded with benefits and rewards specifically for the digital-first generation.
- After HDFC, Freecharge has also launched Digital Credit Card for millennials in partnership with Axis Bank.

Canara Bank launches OTP facility for ATM cash withdrawals over Rs 10,000

- Public sector lender Canara Bank has launched the first OTP facility for ATM withdrawals. In order to offer a more secured and safe system, Canara bank will activate OTP facility for cash withdrawals of Rs 10,000 or more in a day.
- This move is in line with banks trying to take security measures to safeguard customers who use debit cards to withdraw cash at ATMs.

Government announces mega merger of public sector banks

- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced amalgamation of 10 public sector banks into four big banks.
- After the amalgamation, total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks in 2017
- Merger of Punjab National Bank (PNB), Oriental Bank of Commerce(OBC) and United Bank with business of ₹7.95 trillion to make India's second-largest bank & 2nd largest branch network in India
- The other merger will be between Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank, which will make the fourth-largest bank, with ₹15.2 trillion business.
- Also, Union Bank will be merged with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to build India's fifth-largest public sector bank with ₹14.59 trillion in business.
- Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank to make India's seventh-largest PSB with a business of ₹8.08 trillion

Apart from this the government announced Rs 55,250 crore upfront capital infusion in the PSBs.

- Punjab National Bank -- Rs 16,000 crore, Union Bank of India -- Rs 11,700 crore
- Bank of Baroda -- Rs 7,000 crore , Canara Bank -- Rs 6,500 crore , Indian Bank -- Rs 2,500 crore, Indian Overseas Bank -- Rs 3,800 crore, Central Bank of India -- 3,300 crore, UCO Bank -- Rs 2,100 crore, United Bank of India -- Rs 1,600 crore , Punjab & Sind Bank -- Rs 750 crore

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Moody's cuts India's GDP growth to 6.2% for 2019

- Moody's Investors Service has cut India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate to 6.2 per cent for calendar year 2019 against its earlier projection of 6.8 per cent.
- The rating agency scaled down India's economic growth to 6.7 per cent for 2020, a cut of another 0.6 percentage points.

India's GDP growth slumps to 5% in April-June quarter

- According to National Statistics Office (NSO), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 5 % in the April-June 2019,
- It was lower than the 5.8% in the previous quarter and below the 8% in the first quarter of the previous year. The June quarter growth was the slowest since the March quarter of 2012-13

Aadhaar-enabled payment system crosses 200 million transactions in July

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) stated that transactions through the Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AePS) have crossed 200 million in July.
- Aadhaar-enabled payment system (AePS) is a bank-led model which allows basic interoperable banking transactions at point of sale terminals (PoS) through the business correspondent of any bank by using Aadhaar authentication
- The transaction count of AePS stood at 220.18 million with transaction value Rs. 9,685.35 crore compared with a transaction count of 194.33 million and a transaction value of Rs. 8,867.33 crore in June

Sebi imposes restrictions on mutual fund investments in short-term bank deposits

- Mutual fund houses should ensure that banks where a scheme has parked funds in the lender's short-term deposits do not invest in that particular scheme.
- Trustees/ asset management companies (AMCs) shall ensure that no funds of a scheme is parked in STD (short-term deposit) of a bank which has invested in that scheme.
- Trustees and AMCs should ensure that the banks in which a scheme has STD do not invest in the same scheme until the scheme has STD with such banks.

Organization	2019-2020	2020-2021	Other useful info / Indicators
Crisil	6.9 %	-	Report titled 'Uphill Trek'
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	6.2 %	-	-
Ficci	6.9 %	-	-
India Ratings	6.7 %	-	-
Nomura	6.9%	-	-

Important Business News

Amazon opens its largest campus in the world in Hyderabad

- Amazon India inaugurated the largest company-owned campus, worldwide in Hyderabad, the only one outside the US. The e-commerce firm will house more than 15,000 employees out of the over 62,000 members of the India team.
- The Hyderabad based campus is the only Amazon-owned office outside the United States and will house over 15,000 employees of its over 62,000 employee base in India.
- Prior to this, the company had the largest buildings in Seattle that could house about 5,000 employees

Airtel becomes first telco to shut down 3G network

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

Bharti Airtel looks to phase out 3G network across India by March

- Bharti Airtel will shut down its 3G network across India's 22 telecom circles by March 2020, and increase its focus on providing 4G services, a top company official said.
- The company started the process last month, when it wound down the 3G network in the Kolkata circle. It, however, continues to provide 2G services for feature phone users.

Flipkart launches 'Samarth' to empower Indian artisans, weavers and craftsmen

- Flipkart, India's leading e-commerce marketplace launched 'Flipkart Samarth' – a breakthrough initiative aimed at bringing India's artisans, weavers, and handicrafts producers onto e-commerce.
- The initiative was launched by Minister of state for Finance & Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur along with Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy in New Delhi.
- Flipkart Samarth has been designed to support the e-commerce journey for artisans from on-boarding until they reach familiarity with the process of selling online.
- The host of initiatives and benefits under Flipkart Samarth include dedicated support for onboarding, cataloguing, account management, business insights, dedicated seller support, reduced commission where eligible, and warehousing support.

Apple issues Apple Credit Card in partnership with Goldman Sachs

- Apple in partnership with Goldman Sachs has started the issue of its Credit Card that is named "Apple Card". The issue has been started from August 06, 2019.
- It is a virtual credit card that is built-in the Apple Pay App and hence lives on an iPhone. The physical version of the Apple Card does not have any number like other credit cards. Even CVV number is not written on it.

- The transactions are authorized by Apple Pay — Face ID, Touch ID, unique transaction codes. Goldman Sachs is the issuing bank for the Apple Card.

India's Reliance to buy majority stake in Google-backed Fynd for \$42.3 million

- Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries is acquiring 87.6% stake in Fynd, a seven-year-old Mumbai-based startup that connects brick and mortar retailers with online stores and consumers, for 2.95 billion Indian rupees (\$42.33 million).
- Google-backed Fynd is an online platform that acts as a bridge between physical retail stores and buyers online and helps you to find branded products as well as shop on the platform as well just like any e-commerce site.

AustralianSuper and Ontario Teachers' to invest \$2 bn in India's NIIF

- AustralianSuper and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (Ontario Teachers)', have each signed agreements with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India for investments of up to \$1 billion each in NIIF's Master Fund.
- AustralianSuper is one of Australia's largest superannuation fund and 'Ontario Teachers' one of Canada's largest single-profession pension plans
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund is India's first sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015
- The agreements include commitments of \$250 million each in the Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$750 million each in future opportunities alongside the fund.
- The Master Fund has a tenure of 15 years and is denominated in Indian rupees to suit the requirements of the infrastructure sector.

B2B payments startup EnKash launches corporate credit card for SMEs

- Business-to-business payments startup EnKash launched the country's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- The Freedom Card would give SMEs and startups the freedom to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.
- Currently, banks offer corporate credit cards and EnKash partners with most of them to enhance the experience.
- EnKash has come up with a corporate card to cater to the varied billing cycles as per the working capital cycles of different businesses, which is a first in India

Air India launches 'Discover India' scheme

- Air India introduced a 'Discover India' scheme valid for sale and travel up to March 31, 2020.
- The scheme is rolled out to meet the growing demand of passengers to fly to different places of tourist and religious interest within the country by the Indian diaspora and foreign tourists.
- The scheme has various benefits like cheaper flight tickets for Non-Resident Indians (NRI)s, Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Foreign nationals. Re-booking, which is permitted without penalty till 4 hours prior to scheduled departure. It also provides free baggage related allowance.

OYO to offer complimentary insurance cover up to ₹10 lakh to its guests

- Hospitality firm OYO has partnered ACKO General Insurance to launch complimentary insurance cover for guests at booking price for its properties across India.
- The guests will get insurance against accidental death, baggage loss and accidental medical expenses for the entire duration of their stay in a particular city.
- The insurance cover will be applicable to bookings made via OYO app, website, mobile website, direct bookings as well as walk-ins. The offering will be extended to other categories and booking channels in the coming days.

- The complimentary insurance package offers Oyo guests insurance coverage upto Rs. 10 lakh for protection against accidental death, baggage loss (coverage upto Rs 10,000), accidental medical expenses (coverage upto Rs 25,000) amongst other benefits like OPD treatment

Ola acqui-hires Bengaluru-based AI startup Pickup.ai

- Ride-hailing firm Ola has acqui-hired Pickup.ai, a Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence start-up. Co-founded by Inder Singh and Ritwik Saikia
- Pickup.ai uses autonomous technologies like computer vision and sensor fusion to provide seamless AI-powered solutions for businesses.
- As part of the deal, the team at Pickup.ai will join Ola
- Acqui-hires is the process of acquiring a company primarily to recruit its employees, rather than its products or services.

Alphalogic Techsys Limited to be the First Company to be Listed on BSE Startup Platform

- The Bombay Stock Exchange has approved the IPO application of Alphalogic under their BSE Startup Platform. The company has already unveiled its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), which has been uploaded to the BSE Startup Portal.
- Now startups in India can raise funds through initial public offerings! This fact will be substantiated when Alphalogic Techsys Limited will come up with its IPO in the last of week of this month. It is expected that Alphalogic will be the first startup to be listed on the BSE Startup Platform.
- BSE has approved the IPO applications of the first two companies till date, since the launch of the platform in December 2018.
- Alphalogic is a boutique software company based in Pune, and it has been growing at the rate of CAGR 40% in the last 4 years

Important State Wise National News

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Hyderabad (Amravati); CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy; Governor - Biswabhusan Harichandan **Andhra government set to launch Navodayam scheme for MSME loan restructuring**

- Andhra Pradesh government is to launch Navodayam, a complete outreach programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state, with a one-time restructuring of loans that will provide the required lifeline for small industrial units.
- The state government has earmarked Rs. 50 crore in the 2019-20 budgets for rejuvenation of MSMEs
- Under Navodayam, a special cell is being created at each District Industries Centre, headed by the General Manager, to provide handholding support to all restructured MSMEs for six months to stabilize the accounts.
- About 86,000 MSMEs in the state have been identified for restructuring under Navodayam with an outlay of Rs. 3,900 crore

Andhra Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy launches 'Village Volunteers System'

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched government's flagship programme Village Volunteers system.
- After listing out various schemes of the newly-elected state government, the Chief Minister announced the 'Village Volunteers System'. The scheme, aimed at providing governance services at doorsteps of people, will involve over 2.8 lakh volunteers.
- Under the scheme, one volunteer will cover 50 families in each village. Identity cards will be given to each volunteer and they would get an honorarium of Rs 5,000 per month.

- A toll-free telephone number 1902 would be set up at the call centre in the Chief Minister Office to receive the grievances of the people.

Bihar

Capital –Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor - Fagu Chauhan

Gogabeel is Bihar's first community reserve

- Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district, has been declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'.
- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east. It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.
- The water body was notified as a 57 hectare Community Reserve and a 30-hectare 'Conservation Reserve'.

Chhattisgarh

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

Chhattisgarh CM announces formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve

- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the formation of 'Lemru Elephant Reserve' in Chattisgarh.
- Chhattisgarh government, setting up of Lemru Elephant Reserve (LER), spanning over an area of 450 square kilometres, is aimed at minimizing human-elephant conflict and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.
- The reserve will be set-up as per the report and recommendations of Special High-Power Technical Committee (SHPTC) which was constituted by the Government of India.
- The report of SHPTC stated that LER would provide a huge protected area for the conservation of wild elephants where the elephants will get an abundant amount of water, food and other facilities.

Gujarat

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

Gujarat CM launches 'Vhali Dikri Yojna'

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' from his home town Rajkot. The scheme for the welfare of girl child has been launched to mark the 63th birth day of Chief Minister.
- It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat, with a view to raising the female birth rate at par with male to achieve gender equality.
- According to scheme, the State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 and another Rs. 1-lakh at the time of marriage.
- Chief Minister Rupani said that Rs.133-crore has been allocated for this scheme.

Gujarat to Get Country's First Chemical Engineering & Technology Institute

- The country's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry.
- The CICET will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat.
- The state has a significant presence of chemical industry, especially in Vapi, Ankleshwar and Vatva in Valsad, Bharuch, and Ahmedabad districts, and the first-of-its-kind institute will facilitate the chemical industry with research and innovations.
- The Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilisers also announced setting up of another campus of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) in Valsad at the cost of Rs 54 crore for the benefit of tribal students and the plastic industry.

- The Central government is also planning to set up a Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

Haryana

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

Haryana government to roll out Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana from Aug 21

- Haryana Government announced the roll-out of 'Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna' which will provide social security to families. Under the scheme, Rs 6000 per year will be given to each eligible family.
- The scheme, which will be launched on August 21, will provide social security to people in the form of life insurance, accidental insurance and pensionary benefits.
- The eligibility for the scheme is for families having an annual income less than Rs 1,80,000 or a total landholding of fewer than two hectares.
- Under the scheme, each beneficiary family will be entitled to get Rs 500 per month.
- Life Insurance of at least one family member. The cover provided is for an amount of two lakh in case of death of the beneficiary. Premium of Rs 330 per year would be deducted from that Rs 500 per month amount provided.
- Additionally, an amount of Rs 12 per annum would be paid on account of Accidental Insurance of at least one family member under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- A contribution from Rs 55 to 200 per month will be paid automatically from the bank account as a premium for providing pension to the beneficiary under Pradhan Mantri Shram Maan-Dhan Yojana. On attainment of the age of 60 years, the pension will be given at the rate of Rs 3,000 per month.

Haryana CM increases income limit for BPL family to Rs 15000 per month

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal announced to enhance family income limit for a household for qualifying as a beneficiary under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list from Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 15,000 per month so as to ensure that maximum eligible families get the benefit of various government schemes admissible to them.
- He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of nine development projects worth Rs 93.29 crore for district Panchkula.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister distributed ration card to 37 BPL beneficiaries of Panchkula and Kalka assembly constituency

Jammu & Kashmir

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

Government employees in J&K told to resume duties with immediate effect

- All government employees at the divisional and district levels and those serving in civil secretariat Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, were asked to report back to their duties with immediate effect.
- The order was issued by Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir.
- The administration was asked to make necessary arrangements regarding the smooth and secure working environment for the employees.

Nine-day national tribal festival, Aadi Mahotsav, begins at Leh in Ladakh

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda today inaugurated a nine-day National Tribal Festival, Aadi Mahotsav in Polo Grounds of Leh. This is the first mega event arranged by the Centre after the announcement of Union Territory status for Ladakh region which has 97 per cent tribal population.
- Aadi Mahotsav would provide an opportunity to Ladakhi Tribal artisans to come and get themselves empanelled with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India to expand their market base.

- Adi Mahotsav is jointly organized by Tribal Affairs Ministry and TRIFED with a theme of A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce.

Jharkhand

Capital – Ranchi; CM - Raghubar Das; Governor - Draupadi Murmu

Jharkhand government launches direct money transfer scheme for small farmers

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana' under which money will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers in the state.
- This is a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme and hence complete amount will be directly paid to the farmer in his bank account. This is scheme apart from the benefits the farmers are getting under Centre's PM-Kisan Yojana.
- Under the scheme, Rs 5,000 is given to those farmers having one acre or less agricultural land, Rs 10,000 to those having two acres, Rs 15,000 for having three acres, Rs 20,000 for having four acres and Rs 25,000 for having five acres of agricultural land.
- Under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana, approximately 35 lakh farmers will benefit and by October 3,000 crore rupees will be sent in the accounts of the beneficiaries

Karnataka

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

Karnataka launches E-Step to empower student start-ups

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

Karnataka best state to set up rooftop solar project

- Karnataka ranks the best among states for setting up a rooftop solar project, according to the Attractiveness Index (SARAL) released by Minister of New and Renewable Energy and Power R K Singh.
- Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh come next in the rankings. All four states i.e. Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have been graded A++.
- The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked last. This rating has been designed collaboratively by MNRE, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

Karnataka Government categorised Nicotine as Class A poison

- Government of Karnataka amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015. He notified Nicotine as “Class A poison”.
- The main aim is to strengthen the enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes. The new rules are called the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules, 2019.
- The ban imposed after the study conducted the High Powered Committee on Tobacco Control headed additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Vandita Sharma.
- The Government ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion.

Madhya Pradesh

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

Madhya Pradesh government waives off loans taken by tribals from unofficial sources

- In a radical move, the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh announced that all loans contracted by tribals from unofficial sources would be deemed 'discharged'.
- The announcement came on International Day of the World's Indigenous People that is commemorated on August 9 every year.
- Tribals who have taken loans from 'sahukars' would not have to repay them. The announcement would be effective in 89 out of the 313 blocks in the state that are designated as tribal blocks.
- The Madhya Pradesh Government also announced “Mukhyamantri Madad Yojna” for providing assistance to tribal families on childbirth and death of a family member.
- Under this yojana, the tribal family will get 50 kg of rice/wheat, if the birth of a boy or a girl.
- In case of death in the family, 100 kg of rice or wheat and utensils for cooking food would be given.

Maharashtra

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

Maharashtra government decides to waive off exam fees

- Maharashtra Government has decided to waive off the entire exam fees, including practical exam for class ten and twelve students hailing from drought-affected districts of the state.
- Maharashtra's education minister Mr. Ashish Shelar informed that the amount of the entire fee will be credited back into the bank accounts of students or their guardians.

World's first hyperloop transportation system to come up at Maharashtra

- The Government of Maharashtra – one of the first proponents of hyperloop technology in the world – has deemed hyperloop a public infrastructure project, setting it up to be the first passenger hyperloop project in the world.
- The Maha IDEA Committee has also approved Virgin Hyperloop One-DP World (VHO-DPW) Consortium as the Original Project Proponent (OPP). This is a landmark announcement for building the Pune-Mumbai hyperloop transportation system, recognising hyperloop technology alongside other more traditional forms of mass transit.
- The hyperloop project will link central Pune to Mumbai in under 35 minutes, as opposed to the current three-and-a-half hours by road.
- The project will generate hundreds of thousands of new high tech jobs, bringing over \$36 billion in wider socio-economic benefits, and creating new hyperloop component and manufacturing opportunities for Maharashtra to export to India and the rest of the world.

Super 50: an initiative for tribal students to fulfil dreams

- Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department in association with the Pace Educational Trust launched an academic programme for young tribal students aspiring to be doctors and engineers.
- State launches a residential programme for smart, young minds to prepare them for engineering and medical exams.

Manipur

Capital – Imphal; CM - Nongthombam Biren Singh; Governor – Najma Heptulla

Manipur tops in Breastfeeding, Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices

- Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.
- Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi.
- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.
- National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States.

- The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.

Manipur CM launches scheme to improve school infrastructure

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched a scheme to improve infrastructure of government schools in the state.
- Launching the "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme, Singh said the objective was to ensure better infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools to make them model schools.
- Biometric devices would be installed in schools to ensure regular attendance of teachers. Teachers would stay at the place of their posting for at least three years.

Nagaland

Capital –Kohima; CM - Neiphiu Rio; Governor – R. N. Ravi

Nagaland State Police Department gets first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre

- Nagaland State Police Department got its first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre for Prevention of Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPAWC)
- Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y.Patton inaugurated this facility at Police Training School (PTS), Police Complex Chumoukedima
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has provided a grant of Rs. 93.12 crore to all the states/ Union Territories under CCPWC scheme, to set up cyber forensic cum training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultant and training/capacity building to provide hands-on training to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) personnel, prosecutors and judicial officers.

New Delhi

Capital – New Delhi; CM - Arvind Kejriwal; Governor – Anil Bajjal

Mobile library service launched by Delhi Public Library

- Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel on flagged off a mobile library bus service which aims to reach out to readers in Delhi, especially those in slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.
- The five-bus mobile library service was launched under the "Ghar Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak" Scheme of the Delhi Public Library (DPL).
- According to the ministry, the buses have been procured under CSR (corporate social responsibility) assistance from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- The minister also directed the DPL to maintain a special collection of books on eminent personalities which must be made available to the masses through the mobile library buses.

Delhi plans 11,000 free Wi-Fi hotspots offering 15 GB data per month

- The Delhi government will appoint wireless internet service providers to install 11,000 free Wi-Fi hotspots, offering 15GB data per month to every citizen
- Tenders will soon be floated to appoint the service providers.
- According to state government estimates, the annual cost of the project will be ₹100 crore, and the services could start within the next three to four months.

India's first clinical ecotoxicology facility inaugurated at AIIMS, Delhi

- India's first-of-its-kind clinical ecotoxicology facility was inaugurated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.
- It will investigate the increasing number of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air.

- It will provide diagnostic and research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity.

Delhi's Iconic Feroz Shah Kotla to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

- The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) decided to rechristen the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium in the memory of its former president who passed away.
- The renaming will take place on September 12 at a function where a stand at the Kotla will be named after India captain Virat Kohli as announced earlier.
- The ground will continue to be known as the Feroz Shah Kotla, as it is only the stadium that has been renamed by the DDCA.

Delhi government announces 'Water Arrears Waiver Scheme'

- Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a one-time waiver of water arrears.
- Through the scheme all categories of houses will receive an exemption from late fee payments, while their pending bills will also be waived either partly or fully based on the housing category.
- households will be entitled to waiver on the principal amount of arrears depending on the category of colonies (graded from A to H) they are located in—25% for upscale colonies, 50% for middle income localities and 100% for the lower income localities.
- Only those consumers who have installed meters before November 30 will get the benefit of this scheme

Delhi government announces campaign against vector-borne diseases

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the launch of a mega 10-week campaign against dengue and chikungunya
- The initiative is named '10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute — Har Ravivar, dengue par war'
- The government has asked residents to take 10 minutes from their schedule every Sunday to clear potential mosquito breeding spots from their homes.

Odisha

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

Odisha Chief Minister inaugurates Naval Tata Hockey Academy

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), a high-performance centre that will groom the best hockey talents in the state into future national and international players.
- The academy has been opened at the Kalinga Stadium to nurture sports talent in the state.
- The government sports hostels in Bhubaneswar, Sundargarh and Rourkela will become Regional Development Centres (RDCs). The experts engaged by Tata Trusts and Tata Steel will work with the RDCs to further enhance their efficiency and excellence.

Punjab

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

Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- The wireless system, called 'Intelights', has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road, on a pilot project basis, and will regulate traffic signals with a smart bird's eye view wireless sensor system.
- The team worked to develop one-of-its-kind, real-time solution for defending 'Green Corridors' for ambulances while controlling the movement of vehicles on roads.

- Intelights proposes a 360-degree solution to curb the rising problem of traffic congestion. One of the major reasons for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of traffic signal timers installed at intersections.

Punjab launches 'Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojna' dedicated to Rajiv Gandhi

- Paying tribute to former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh launched his government's flagship universal health insurance scheme 'Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana', benefitting nearly 46 lakh families, in Mohali near Chandigarh.
- e-cards were handed over to the first 11 beneficiaries to kick off the scheme, which would entitle beneficiaries to avail annual cashless treatment up to ₹5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases, was aimed at ensuring the best possible treatment to the beneficiaries free of cost.
- Punjab has become the first state in the country to offer medical insurance cover to the maximum number of its people.

Rajasthan

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

Rajasthan assembly passed anti-mob lynching bill

- The Rajasthan Assembly passed Bills against mob lynching and honour killing, which make the, cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences with life imprisonment and fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
- The bill to curb honour killing also has a provision of death penalty for the convict.
- Rajasthan has become the second state after Manipur which passed a law to curb lynching cases.

Udaipur set to host India's largest education Brainstorm

- The third edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will be held on August 09 and 10 in Udaipur, Rajasthan
- The theme for this year's fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'
- Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar of Udaipur Royalty is the patron of this year's edition.
- SGEF will also be recognizing individuals and organizations excelling at innovation in the field of Education by assisting the industry with trendsetting solutions and best practices.

Tamilnadu

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

'Panchamirtham' of Palani temple gets GI tag

- The famous Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at the Murugan temple there, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been bestowed with the GI tag.
- The panchamirtham is a combination of five natural substances — banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom. Dates and diamond sugar candies are added for flavour.
- The panchamirtham is an 'abhishega prasadam' (food that is a religious offering), which is served in a semi-solid state. It is sweet in taste and one of the main offerings for Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, situated on Palani Hills.

Ranipet and Tirupattur to become new districts of Tamil Nadu

- Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the creation of two more districts with Ranipet and Tirupattur as their headquarters
- The move will increase the number of districts to 37 in Tamil Nadu
- Vellore district will be trifurcated into Vellore, Tirupathur and Ranipet. The CM also announced that a new taluk will be formed with headquarters at KV Kuppam in Vellore district.
- Vellore district was created in 1989 by bifurcating North Arcot district into Vellore and Tiruvanamalai districts.

Centre for avian ecotoxicology inaugurated in Coimbatore

- A National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology was inaugurated at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON).
- Ecotoxicological studies assume significance at a time when ecological factors are unable to explain continued mortality of birds leading to population decline over a period of time.
- The Ministry has funded an estimated amount of Rs 4 crore for modernising the facility at SACON.
- The centre would study the impact of chemical contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, poly-cyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, poly chlorinated biphenyls and drugs through food chain, and their harmful effects on individual species of birds and, where possible, link them to population and communities.

India's first FinTech centre of excellence comes up in Chennai

- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up a 'Centre of Excellence in FinTech' in Chennai, first of its kind in India, with an objective to provide resources in terms of mentoring, technology support and funding for FinTech start-ups. Called 'FinBlue', the centre intends to incubate over 58 startups in the next five years.
- The venture entails investments to the tune of over ₹23 crore, given by various stakeholders.

Tamil Nadu Education department launches exclusive 24-hour tv channel for students

- The Education Department in Tamil Nadu has launched an exclusive 24-hour television channel "Kalvi Tholaikkatchi" for the school students.
- It was launched by the state Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswamy at a function in Chennai.
- Hi-fi laboratories are being established in all Government High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in the state at a cost of 520 crore rupees.
- "Smart Classes" are being installed in all Government-run primary and middle schools as well.

Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees get GI tag

- Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags
- The products were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai
- The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, so much so that even the city is called Lock City. The abundance of iron in this region is the reason for the growth of the lock-making industry.
- The Kandangi sarees are usually around 5.10 meters – 5.60 meters in length. It exude brilliant colours like bright yellow, orange, red and a minimal black in the traditional pattern of stripes or checks with broad borders woven in coarse cotton

Telangana

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

Telangana government launches DEET app to connect job seekers and employers

- In a first, the Telangana government has launched the Digital employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) to connect the employers to the job seekers. The launch of the app is directed at boosting the employment ecosystem in the state.
- The job providers and the job-seekers will have to register themselves on the platform. As the opportunities are spiking in Telangana, the government has taken up this initiative to bridge the gap between employers and prospective employees.
- The app was launched in collaboration with StoryTech Private Limited. The app caters to the needs of the unemployed youth actively looking for work.
- The app would also send notifications to job seekers via job alerts regarding government jobs as well.

Telangana government launched T-Haazaru app to monitor attendance in govt schools

- Telangana School Education Department has launched T-Haazaru app.
- The app will keep tabs on the attendance of teachers and students across all state-run schools in Telangana
- The move of launching the app was to increase the attendance percentage of students in all government-run schools as part of 'Haazaru Maasotsavam' (month of attendance)
- The principals and headmasters were directed to upload the attendance of students and teachers every day by 10.30 am through the app

Uttar Pradesh

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

Noida gets its 1st 'Pink Toilet', 10 more to come up soon

- Noida got its first 'Pink Toilet' dedicated to women with facilities for sanitary napkins and baby care.
- The toilet, located in the Sector 50 market, was inaugurated by the Noida Authority.
- At least 10 more such toilets are expected to come up within the next two months.

'Vriksharopan Mahakumbh' launched with target to plant 22 crore saplings in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh", aimed at planting a record 22 crore saplings in the state to mark the 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.
- The chief minister launched the drive by planting a sapling in Jaitikheda.
- The Uttar Pradesh government set a Guinness world record for maximum distribution of saplings from one point by distributing 76,824 saplings in eight hours on August 09, 2019. The previous record was held by the state of Maharashtra for distribution of 32,000 saplings from one point.

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

- Lucknow city's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha has been renamed as the 'Atal Chowk', in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The Hazratganj Chauraha in Lucknow is located in the heart of the city near its major shopping area 'Hazratganj'.

West Bengal

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

West Bengal launches awareness campaign for preserving greenery and keeping environment clean

- The West Bengal Government has launched an awareness campaign for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.
- The State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the campaign named as 'Save Green, Stay Clean' in Kolkata.
- The State Government will distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

Kolkata to Get India's First Underwater Metro

- Kolkata Metro has constructed the first-ever transport tunnel in the country which will pass through underwater.
- The train passes through an underwater tunnel which is 520 meters in length, built 30 meters below the riverbed of the Hooghly River, for about a minute at 80 kilometers per hour. The project's foundation stone was laid in 2009.
- Kolkata metro is spending Rs 8,572 crore on this entire project.

West Bengal heads GDP growth rate recording 12.58 per cent during 2018-19

- West Bengal is at the top of the list of states for GDP growth rate recording 12.58 per cent during 2018-19.
- Bengal is followed by Andhra Pradesh which has recorded GDP growth of 11.02, Bihar with 10.53 and Telangana 10.5 per cent respectively. Goa is at the bottom of the list with 0.47 per cent growth rate.

Kolkata to get world's first museum on Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

- The world's first museum dedicated to the life and teachings of 16th-century saint and social reformer, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is ready to be inaugurated at the city's Baghbazar Gaudiya Math.
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the technically-enabled 'Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum' built to preserve information related to the great saint.

Other National News

Committee Formed to Advise Government on 'Fit India Movement'

- An advisory committee comprising members of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), national sports federations (NSFs), government officials, private bodies and celebrated fitness enthusiasts has been formed to advise the government on the "Fit India Movement" which will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 29.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports said that the nation-wide launch of the movement will inculcate physical activities/sports into the daily lives of citizens to improve their physical fitness and well-being.
- The committee will be under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijiju.
- Accordingly, an advisory committee is being constituted with members of government, Sports Authority of India (SAI), IOA and NSFs like Athletics Federation of India, All India Football Federation, Cycling Federation of India and so on.

Government to launch an e-commerce portal to help SMEs

- The government is planning to launch an e-commerce project called 'Bharatcraft' for micro small and medium enterprises (MSME), on the lines of global online shopping platform such as Alibaba.
- The proposed platform could generate a turnover of Rs 10 trillion over the next few years.
- The government had launched the 'Udyog Mitra' portal to ease of access to MSMEs financial and non-financial service needs.

HRD Ministry launches initiative to train over 42 lakh teachers

- The HRD Ministry launched the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) here aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers across the country.
- NISHTHA is the world's biggest such project and will focus on training 42 lakh teachers from across the country.
- HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the initiative's website, training modules, primer booklet and mobile app built for the purpose.

Railways' second double-decker Uday Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada

- Railways' second double-decker Uday Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to the busy route in the East Coast Railway zone.
- The first Uday or Utkrisht double-decker Yatri Express was a specially-designed air-conditioned chair car which started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018.
- The trains are primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. They are equipped with WiFi facility, have striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens.
- Another Uday Express is proposed between Bangalore City and Chennai Central.

Three committees set up for UT related issues by J&K govt

- The Jammu and Kashmir Government has set into motion a process to work out different modalities by constituting three high-level committees for the formal establishment of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

- These Committees will devise modalities for the functioning of proposed Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and deal with financial matters and staff-related issues in both the proposed union territories.
- K K Sharma (Advisor to J&K Governor)- To take necessary steps for transition from a state to the proposed Union Territory of J&K by various departments and conduct of government business in the proposed UT.
- Shri Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta (Financial Commissioner, Finance Department)- To deal with the financial matters related to the proposed Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
- Mr. Shaleen Kabra (Principal Secretary, Home Department)- To suggest measures to be taken for providing staff to the proposed UT of Ladakh and any other issue related to staff of proposed UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Special postage stamp to be released to commemorate golden jubilee of IFFI

- PIBA special Postage Stamp and First Day Cover will be released to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, IFFI.
- The festival will take place from the 20th to 28th November in Goa.
- Competition for designing the Postage Stamp and First Day Cover has been launched by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on MyGov platform.
- Those interested may log in on to www.mygov.in to participate in the competition.
- The contest is open till 15th August. The winner will receive a Certificate of Appreciation along with travel and hospitality for three nights and three days to Goa to attend the Festival.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Atal Community Innovation Centre

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) in New Delhi, to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level. This initiative aims to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society.
- Atal Innovation Mission has a key role to perform in order to achieve the target of five trillion dollar economy by 2025.
- ACIC programme aims to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level in specific areas that lack the required infrastructure and facilitating innovation ecosystem.
- ACIC programme would focus in over 484 districts located in unserved/underserved regions of India.
- ACIC Program Director – Dr. Unnat Pandit

10 historic monuments to be open from sunrise till 9 p.m

- The Culture Ministry Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Patel has decided to keep 10 heritage sites open for public from sunrise to 9 pm.
- At present, gates of most monuments are closed for visitors by 6 pm.
- Apart from the Humayun's Tomb and Safdarjung Tomb in Delhi, the extended timings will apply to Rajarani Temple in Bhubaneswar, Dulhadev Temple in Khajuraho, Shekh Chilli Tomb in Kurukshetra, Group of Monuments at Pattadakal in Karnataka, Gol Gumbaj in Karnataka, Group of Temples in Maharashtra (Markanda), Man Mahal in Uttar Pradesh (Varanasi) and Rani ki Baav in Paatan Gujarat.
- The change in timings will be effective for a period of three years.

India, UK launch clean air initiative -IfCA in Bengaluru

- India and UK have launched a joint initiative named Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) that will provide its stakeholders an opportunity to test interventions related to air quality and EV integration. It was launched in Bengaluru.

- The programme is led by Innovate UK — part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) — and is funded by the Newton Fund. The key partners for the programme are the Indian Institute of Science, Enzen, Project Lithium, Confederation of Indian Industry, C40 Cities and Clean Air Platform.

Government to soon notify constitution of National Traders' Welfare Board to help small traders

- The commerce and industry ministry will soon notify the constitution of a National Traders' Welfare Board that will identify ways to improve access to funds for this unorganised sector and suggest measures to simplify acts and rules applicable to traders.
- The board will also make recommendations to reduce the compliance burden of traders as well as to ensure social security benefits such as insurance, pension, and healthcare for traders and their employees.
- The government in January renamed the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) as the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT), giving it the additional responsibility of welfare of traders and their employees.
- The DPIIT has also started consultation for the National Retail Policy to streamline retail trade in India by enhancing their ease of doing business.
- A mega pension scheme under which all shopkeepers, retail traders, and self-employed persons are guaranteed a monthly pension of ₹3,000 once they attain the age of 60 years.

Government to set up JV firm 'Khanij Bidesh India' to ensure strategic minerals supply

- To ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to the domestic market, the government announced setting up a JV company with participation of three PSUs -- Nalco, Hindustan Copper and MECL.
- A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) is to be set up with the participation of three central public sector enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd (MECL).
- The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.

EAC-PM sets up task force on employment

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has set up a task force on employment.
- The task force is headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy.
- The task force will suggest ways to revive growth and employment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The EAC-PM is an independent body to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India.

Amit Shah to Head Group of Ministers to Tackle Mob Lynching

- Union home minister Amit Shah will head a panel of ministers to combat mob lynchings in the country.
- He has replaced Rajiv Gauba as the head.
- An empowered Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted last year to suggest measures to combat lynchings will continue functioning.
- The other members of the GoM are external affairs minister S. Jaishankar, transport minister Nitin Gadkari, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and social justice and empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot.

One Nation-one Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four States

- In a major boost to national food security government, launched the One Nation-One Ration Card scheme on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.
- The white Ration Card holders in Telangana have been getting the portability facility, enabling them to buy their subsidized rice and other food grains from any Fair Price Shop in the state.
- The same facility can be utilized anywhere in Andhra Pradesh now through PoS machines under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme which has come into force in the two states.

- More than 56 lakh beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act in the state will be benefited from the facility. The same will be the case with consumers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat which are identified for implementation of the pilot project.

Government Launches Vernacular Agro Advisory App Meghdoot for Farmers

- The ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application — Meghdoot — that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.
- At the launch, minister for Earth Science, Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan introduced the app. Meghdoot app will provide forecast to farmers relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction, which play critical roles in agricultural operations and how to take care of the crops and livestock. The information would be updated twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- To begin with, the service would be available for 150 districts in different parts of the country. It will be extended to rest of the country in a phased manner over the next one year.
- It has been developed by the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical meteorology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Government revokes Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, bifurcates state into two UTs

- Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha
- The Bill seeks to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with Legislature, and Ladakh Union Territory without Legislature.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 having provisions of 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections of upper caste in the state was also introduced
- The government also revoked Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir
- Shah stated that the union territory in Ladakh will have no legislature like Chandigarh. The other union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature like Delhi and Puducherry.

President issues Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 2019

- The President has issued Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019. The Order comes into force at once and supersedes Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954 as amended from time to time.
- The Order adds several clauses to Article 367. These include, the Constituent Assembly of the State shall become Legislative Assembly of the state as mentioned in Clause 2 of the Article.
- The Governor of the state shall act on the advice of his Council of Minister
- The order reads that the President, acting on the advice of the Legislative Assembly of the State shall henceforth be construed as references to Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

President Kovind gives assent to AERA (Amendment) Bill- 2019

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, AERA (Amendment) Bill- 2019
- The bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over 35 lakh passengers.
- Earlier, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 defined a major airport as one with annual passenger traffic over 15 lakh, or any other airports as notified by the central government.

Rajya Sabha passes Consumer Protection Bill

- Parliament has approved a Consumer Protection Bill 2019

- The bill to revamp the process of administration and settlement of consumer disputes, with strict penalties including jail term for adulteration and misleading ads by companies.
- The Consumer Protection Bill 2019, already passed by Lok Sabha, was approved in the Upper House by voice vote and will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- The Bill has a provision to set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.

Government sanctions over 5,000 electric buses under second phase of FAME India scheme

- Government has sanctioned five thousand 595 electric buses in 64 cities for intracity and intercity operations under the second phase of FAME India scheme.
- The objective of the scheme is to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront incentives on purchase of electric vehicles.
- Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in a release said, this will give a further push to clean mobility in public transportation.

15-km long national flag unfurled in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

- Thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a 15-km long national flag by forming a human chain in Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- The event, organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation, entered the Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour)

Aadhaar for cows and buffaloes: India is developing world's largest livestock database

- A numerical database just like Aadhaar cards, which carry a 12-digit number that establishes the unique identity of every citizen of India, will now be available for cows and buffaloes.
- This unique identification number that is currently being developed will track the population of livestock. The Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH) is being developed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- Just like Aadhaar cards, INAPH will also assign a unique identification number to each animal, alongside a host of other related data that will help in managing the country's vast livestock resources. The INAPH is being touted as the world's largest existing database of animals. During the process, every animal will be provided with an ear tag that would contain their own 12-digit UID. The INAPH will contain data on the bovines' species, breed, pedigree, and information related to calving, milk production, vaccination, and the like.
- INAPH, which will be known as Pashu Aadhaar, is being introduced with the aim of enhancing traceability of our livestock and their products, such as milk or meat. This will also help farmers and animal husbandry officials devise better strategies to manage livestock in the country. In fact, one of the major causes behind zoonotic diseases is the difficulty faced in identifying and tracing affected animals.
- As of now, about 22.3 million buffaloes and cows have got their UIDs and their data have been uploaded on the INAPH database. Once this step is complete, officials will have to leverage this data for better management of bovines that would ensure improved productivity and livestock product quality.

Environment minister Prakash Javadekar launches website for COP14

- Union Environment minister Prakash Javadekar launched a website 'unccdcop14india.gov.in'
- The website contains all the information related to COP14.
- The 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14), will take place on 2-13 September 2019 at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR

- The main aim of the conference includes Reversing land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals.

Bar Council of India imposes 3-year moratorium on opening new law colleges

- Bar Council of India has imposed a three-year moratorium on opening of new institutions barring national law universities, if proposed by a state.
- The council has also requested state governments and universities to stop unfair means and to fill up vacancies of law teachers in all colleges and universities within a period of four months.

Prakash Javadekar released Doordarshan's patriotic song Watan in New Delhi

- Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar released patriotic song "Watan" produced by Doordarshan to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019 in New Delhi
- The song is sung by famous Bollywood singer Shri Javed Ali, penned by lyricist Shri Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Shri Dushyant
- The song pays tribute to New India. It highlights several path breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2". The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

KVIC launched a new programme "Leather Mission" on World Tribal Day

- Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) launched a new programme "Leather Mission" under which the commission will give leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- KVIC distributed 50 leather kits and 350 bee-boxes in Rajasthan's Sirohi district on the World Tribal Day.
- So far KVIC has distributed over 1.15 lakh bee-boxes among the marginalised community across the country which has provided jobs to over 11,500 people.

Hardeep Puri launches Swachh Survekshan 2020

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020), the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Alongside, the Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar – an integrated waste management app and AI enabled mSBM App were also launched.
- The event also saw the release of a special Swachh Survekshan theme song featuring Kangana Ranaut, singers Kailash Kher and Monali Thakur. Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA, Shri V.K. Jindal, Joint Secretary & Mission Director and representatives from several urban local bodies were also present at the launch.

Target to provide skill development to 10 lakh youth under SAMARTH scheme

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani stated that under SAMARTH scheme (scheme for capacity building in textile sector) targets to train 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) over a period of 3 years (2017-20), with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.
- The guidelines of the scheme were released on 23rd of April 2018
- The Scheme is intended to provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the textiles sectors

Government launches rural sanitation survey

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the 'Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019', which will be three times bigger in scale than the previous edition of the rural sanitation survey.
- Around 700 districts and over 17,000 villages will be covered under the survey that will be conducted across 34 states and union territories.

- In the first edition in 2018, the survey covered over 6,000 villages across the country.
- The focus of the survey will be solid waste and plastic waste management, taking the previous year's exercise centered on making villages open defecation free (ODF).
- The ODF-Plus programme has four verticals -- biodegradable waste management, plastic waste management, greywater (household waste water) management and faecal sludge management.

Minister Piyush Goyal inducts first batch of 'Commandos for Railway Security'

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inducted first batch of Commandos for Railway Security (CORAS). The commandos will be posted in Left extremist wing affected areas for security of passengers.
- Inducted commandos will have access to high-tech equipments. Team will undergo world-class training and will further train fellow Railway Protection Force personnel.
- Indian Railways has also decided to set up a new state-of-the-art commando training centre for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in Jagadhri, Haryana which will have access to latest technology and equipment to modernize and train commandos of the RPF.

RPF Launches "Operation Number Plate" across Indian Railways

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name – Operation "Number Plate" to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in the 'No Parking' areas for longer duration.
- The drive has been undertaken in view of forthcoming celebrations of Independence Day on 15 August 2019 to ensure security and safety of passengers and other stake holders of railways.

Inter-State Council reconstituted with PM Modi as chairman

- The government has reconstituted the Inter State Council and the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Chairman of the Inter State Council. Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nirmala Sitharaman are the members of the Council
- The Article 263 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council which is mandated to inquire into and advise upon disputes which may arise between states, investigate and discuss subjects in which some or all of the states, or the Union and one or more of the states, have a common interest.
- Home Minister Amit Shah will be the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council.
- The standing committee will have consultation and recommend matters for consideration of the council, process all matters pertaining to Centre-state relations before they are taken up for consideration in the council.
- Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and eight State Chief Ministers will be its members. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

India to have new post of Chief of Defence Staff

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government would create the post of a chief of defence staff (CDS) that will integrate the operations of the three forces--the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The CDS was to be a five star rank general – a rank above the chiefs of the army, navy and air force.
- In 2012, a task force headed by former cabinet secretary Naresh Chandra had recommended creating the post of a permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee

CBDT to attach DIN to each communication from Oct 1

- The CBDT has decided to attach a Documentation Identification Number (DIN) to each of its communication from October 1.
- Any communication without a computer-generated DIN would be treated as invalid and shall be deemed to have never been issued. All such communications would be verifiable on the e-filing portal.
- CBDT has also specified that any communication issued manually under exceptional circumstances would have to be uploaded and regularised on the system portal within 15 days of its issuance.

Air India becomes first Indian airline to fly over North Pole

- Air India become the first Indian airline to fly over the North Pole while connecting New Delhi and San Francisco
- This route would include flying over Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, the Arctic Ocean, Canada and then entering the US
- The inaugural flight over the Polar region inaugurated on the nation's Independence Day, August 15, 2019
- Currently, the route that the New Delhi to San Francisco flight takes goes over Bangladesh, Myanmar, China and Japan before crossing the Pacific Ocean to enter the United States of America

India gets its first national essential diagnostics list

- India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD).
- It is a complete list of diagnostic tests, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD) for all levels of health care – village level, primary, secondary and tertiary care.
- The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices.
- India has become the first country to compile such a list that would provide guidance to the government for deciding the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.

Start-ups can issue shares with differential voting rights

- Start-ups and technology companies will be able to issue shares with differential voting rights (DVRs) with the government amending the Companies Act provisions to help entrepreneurs retain control even as they raise equity capital from global investors.
- The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has raised the existing cap of 26 per cent of the total post issue paid up equity share capital to 74 per cent of total voting power in respect of shares with DVRs of a company.
- Now the Employee Stock Options (ESOPs) can be issued by startups to promoters or directors holding more than 10% of equity shares for 10 years from the date of their incorporation. Earlier this time period was 5 years.

President inaugurates bunker museum at Maharashtra Raj Bhavan

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated an underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan Mumbai.
- The thematic underground bunker museum spread over an area of 15,000 sq.ft. will be opened for the general public through prior online booking later during the year.
- The Bunker Museum has Virtual Reality Booths in which visitors can time-travel to the 19th century when the bunker was constructed to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships.
- The President also inaugurated the Presidential Guest House named Jal Kiran at Raj Bhavan which will serve as the accommodation for the President and the Prime Minister during their visits to Mumbai.
- He also laid the foundation stone of reconstruction of Maharashtra Governor's Office-cum-Residence known as Jal Bhushan

Rajnath approves Committee to review defence procurement procedure to strengthen 'Make in India'

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the setting up of a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition) to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009 to strengthen the 'Make in India' programme.
- The Committee will revise and align the procedures with the aim of ensuring seamless flow from asset acquisition to life cycle support.

Centre launches San-Sadhan Hackathon for Divyang accessible toilets

- With an aim to have functional, accessible and well-maintained toilets for the disabled, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), under Swachh Bharat Mission, launched San-Sadhan Hackathon.
- Under San-Sadhan Hackathon, startups, student innovators, technology enthusiasts, academicians and industry experts have been invited by the Central government to create composite and affordable toilet solutions for Divyang or physically challenged people.
- As per census 2011, about 2.68 crore people in India fall under the category of Persons with Disabilities (PwD). The Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mandates universal accessibility for PwDs in public-oriented premises and services such as health, transport, educational facilities as well as sanitation.
- The DEPwD has launched San-Sadhan Hackathon with an aim to enhance sensitivity and develop an ecosystem for creating a barrier-free environment.

Four products, including Kerala's Tirur betel and Mizoram's Puanchei, get GI tag

- Palani Panchamirtham from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu State, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GI.
- Tawlhlohpuan, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate designs that are made by hand. Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means 'to stand firm or not to move backward'.
- Mizo Puanchei is a colourful Mizo shawl and is considered as the most colourful among the Mizo textiles. It is an essential possession for every Mizo lady and an important marriage outfit in the state. It is also the most commonly used costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies. The weavers insert the designs and motifs by using supplementary yarns while weaving to create this beautiful and alluring textile.
- Kerala's Tirur betel vine is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District. It is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties. Even though it is commonly used for making pan masala for chewing, it has many medicinal, industrial and cultural usages and is considered as a remedy for bad breath and digestive disorders.

Government amends anomaly, all CAPF personnel to now retire at 60 years

- All personnel working in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years, a government order.
- The Union home ministry order, the ranks of Constable to Commandant (Senior Superintendent of Police equivalent) in four forces -- Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police force and Sashastra Seema Bal -- superannuated at the age of 57, rather than 60.
- Officers from the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) upto the top-most rank of Director General (DG) in these four forces retired after attaining the age of 60.
- Thus the government has taken such decision to overcome this discriminatory and unconstitutional practice.

SERB Launches New Scheme 'SUPRA' For High Quality Research Funding

- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, GOI, has come up with a new scheme named Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement (SUPRA), with the sole objective of funding exploration of new scientific and engineering ideas having global impact.
- The scheme is launched as a part of the Modi government's 100-day transformative ideas.
- Supra scheme has been designed to attract high quality research proposals consisting of new hypotheses or challenge existing ones and provide 'out-of-box' solutions leading to new areas of study, new scientific concepts, new products and technologies.
- SERB has launched a very similar scheme to Supra two years ago called Scheme for funding High Risk-High Reward (HRHR) Research, meant for funding conceptually new and risky projects. However, the HRHR Scheme has now been withdrawn since classification of high risk projects was unclear.

President of India inaugurates the First World Youth Conference on Kindness

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth conference on kindness at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The president addressed the event celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World'.
- To impart empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical enquiry to inspire, empower and enable youth to transform building a long-lasting peace in their communities and finding pathways to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The conference was organised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

Indian Railways to enforce ban on single-use plastic from October 2

- In a bid to eliminate single-use plastic in the country, Indian Railways on Wednesday directed all units to enforce a ban on single-use plastic, with less than 50-micron thickness, from October 2 onwards in its premises and trains.
- The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Development Corporation (IRCTC) will implement the return of plastic drinking water bottles as part of extended producer responsibility and 1,853 plastic bottle crushing machines will be installed at 360 major railway stations in the 1st phase of this initiative.
- It also urged all vendors and railway staffs across Indian Railways to use reusable bags to reduce plastic footprint.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates memorial in honour of victims of 2 Air India crashes in France

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a memorial in the honour of the victims of two Air India crashes at the foothills of the Mont Blanc mountain in France in which several Indians, including Homi J Bhabha, regarded as the father of India's nuclear programme, were killed.
- The memorial at Nid d'Aigle, at the foot of Mount Blanc, was dedicated to Bhabha and several other Indians who were among the passengers and crew of the two Air India planes that crashed in 1950 and 1966.

Harsh Vardhan inaugurates FSSAI's National Food Laboratory in Ghaziabad

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated FSSAI's National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Ghaziabad on the occasion of 13th anniversary of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- This national lab is a result of a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), the first-of-its-kind in the food laboratory sector. It houses state-of-the-art collaborative training centres, namely, The Food Safety Solution Centre (FSSC) and the Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training (C-MAT).

- The NFL in Ghaziabad and Kolkata are the two premier referral laboratories under the direct administrative control of the apex food regulator, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). The laboratory in Kolkata is also being upgraded.

Govt to release ₹70,000 crore immediately to state-run banks

- The government will withdraw enhanced surcharge on long-term/short-term capital gains arising from transfer of equity shares/units. This will be applicable on both foreign and domestic investors. The finance minister said that on or after 1st October all notices, summons, orders issued by income tax department will be issued through a centralised computer system and will contain a unique document identification number. And old notices will be decided by 1st October or uploaded again through the new system.
- Also, from 1st October all income tax notices will be disposed off within 3 months from date of reply.
- The finance minister said that banks have agreed to effect timely rate cuts to pass on the benefits of RBI's repo rate cuts to borrowers. Banks have agreed to reduce their Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) reduction to benefit all borrowers, she said.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cut repo rate by 110 basis points since the start of this year. But banks have not yet passed much of the RBI's rate cut to banks.
- Banks will also launch repo rate/external benchmark linked loan products. Under this mechanism, home and auto loans rates are directly linked to RBI's repo rates. A few banks like SBI and Bank of Baroda have launched repo linked products. SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar earlier this week said that its repo rate-linked home loan product is getting good response from customers. It is the customers' choice either to go with the new product or with the MCLR-linked home loan.
- Public sector banks will return of loan documents within 15 days of loan closure to bring in more efficiency.
- The finance minister also announced additional liquidity support of ₹20,000 crore to housing finance companies (HFCs) by the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- To boost the struggling auto sector, the government announced deferment of revision of one time registration fee on new vehicle purchase till June 2020.
- The finance minister also announced additional 15% depreciation on all vehicles acquired from now till 31st March 2020. This will benefit business establishments that purchase new vehicles.
- BS IV vehicles purchased till 31 March 2020 will remain operational for entire period of registrations.
- The finance minister also clarified that both electric vehicle and internal combustion Vehicles will continue to be registered.

Smriti Irani Launches Sustainable Fashion Project,'SU.RE' In Mumbai

- The Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated Project SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution), a joint project of CMAI (Clothing Manufacturers Association of India) & IMG Reliance (International Management Group, during Lakme Fashion Winter/Festive 2019) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The aim of this initiative is to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- It would help the Indian fashion industry to reduce carbon emissions, increase the efficiency of resources, combat waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) constitutes panel to examine bank fraud

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.
- The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

- ABBF has been formed in consultation with the RBI and it will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.
- Other members of the panel are Madhusudan Prasad - former Urban Development Secretary, D K Pathak - former Director General of the Border Security Force and Suresh N Patel - former MD and CEO of Andhra Bank. The tenure of the Chairman and members would be for a period of two years from August 21, 2019

PM Modi announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition.
- Mr. Modi laid emphasis on creating awareness to fight malnutrition among children, particularly the girl child.
- Gujarat Government launched a pilot project, Poshan Abhiyan which is a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had also launched 'Purna' project to eliminate malnutrition among the girls in the age group of 14 to 18.
- State Government had allocated Rs. 270 crore for this pilot project. PURNA project is also known as Prevention of under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.

SRK launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station

- Actor Shah Rukh Khan launched heritage postal stamp of Bandra station on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.
- Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra was also present at the Bandra station.

HRD Ministry launches National Digital Library of India

- Human Resource Development Ministry under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, NMEICT has launched the National Digital Library of India project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
- There are more than 3 crore digital resources available through the National Digital Library. The contents cover almost all major domains of education and all major levels of learners. More than 50 lakh students have registered themselves in the National Digital Library with about 20 lakh active users.
- National Digital Library has been integrated with UMANG App and users can register through www.ndl.gov.in or through the mobile app.

Government launched “Janaushadhi Sugam” Mobile app for locating outlets and searching Generic medicines

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched a mobile application “Janaushadhi Sugam”
- The App will help for locating nearby Janaushadhikendra outlets and searching Janaushadhi Generic medicines
- The mobile application is available on both Android & iOS platforms. It can be downloaded free of cost by the user from Google Play Store and Apple Store.
- The minister also announced that “Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin” will now be available at only One Rupee per pad
- The Government of India launched “Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin” at Rs 2.50 per pad on the eve of the World Environment Day 4th June 2018.
- Now it has decided to make these pads available at rate of only Rs 1.00/- per pad as promised by the Prime Minister before the ‘Lok Sabha Election-2019’.

- Jan Aushadhi Suvidha is being made available for sale in more than 5500 PMBJP Kendras across the country.

Cabinet approves 100 pc FDI in coal mining, contract manufacturing, 26 pc in digital media

- In major decisions to liberalise Foreign Domestic Investment (FDI) norms to boost investment, the Union Cabinet on approved 100 per cent FDI in coal mining and contract manufacturing through automatic route.
- The Cabinet also liberalised sourcing norms concerning single-brand retail and allowed 26 per cent FDI in the digital media. It also decided that single-brand retail trading entities can do retail online trade prior to the opening of brick and mortar stores.
- Hundred per cent FDI under automatic route is also permitted for setting up coal processing plants like washeries subject to some conditions.
- The changes in FDI norms in coal mining activities are expected to attract international players to create an efficient and competitive coal market.
- Cabinet has expanded the definition of mandatory 30% domestic sourcing norm for single-brand retailing.
- Removal of condition of setting up a mandatory brick-and-mortar store for single-brand retailers and hence now they can start online sales without the need of any brick-and-mortar store.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launches integrated web portal for school education 'Shagun'

- Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a web portal 'Shagun' to provide all-inclusive information on school education including the results of students through a single platform.
- Shagun is a comprehensive initiative to improve the school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the government of India and all States and Union Territories.
- The word Shagun is coined from two different words- 'Shala' meaning Schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality and this online junction of different websites and portals into a single platform will enhance the accessibility of information relating to schools and will ensure a holistic approach to transform education sector.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launches integrated NOAPS single window clearing system

- Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched an integrated NOC online Application Processing System for National Monuments Authority (NMA) for 517 local bodies of six states in New Delhi.
- This will help in online processing of applications requesting NOC for construction related work in prohibited and regulated area of ASI protected monuments.
- The States and Urban Local Bodies which are part of NOAPS are:

Madhya Pradesh (378), Andhra Pradesh (110), Haryana (15), Punjab (10), Jharkhand (3), Telangana (1)

- In order to automate the process of grant of NO Objection Certificate(NOC) for construction related work in the prohibited and regulated area, NMA had decided to Design, Develop and Implement a web enabled Software (S/w) application named NOC online Application Processing System (NOAPS) and launched it in the public domain over the **URL: <http://nmanoc.nic.in/>** .

India Launches World's First Ever Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document

- India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi.
- The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features.

- It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India had made a presentation on this technology at ILO.
- The BSID project is being implemented in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. Nine data collection centers have been setup to issue BSID.

Home Minister Amit Shah to flag off first fleet of eco-friendly electric buses in Ahmedabad

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will flag off the first fleet of eco-friendly electric buses in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- He will also inaugurate the country's first automated battery charging and swapping station for e-buses in Ahmedabad.

Government launched Campaign Angikaar & E-Course on Vulnerability Atlas

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched “angikaar” a campaign for change management and e-Course on Vulnerability Atlas of India
- 'Angikaar campaign', a move aimed at bringing beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY- U) (urban) into the fold of other central schemes such as Ujjawala and Ayushman Bharat.
- Under PMAY (U) about 88 lakh houses has been approved till now as against demand of 1.12 crore.
- The campaign will officially be rolled out in all cities with PMAY(U) on October 2 and culminate on December 10.
- The e-course on Vulnerability Atlas is offered by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in collaboration of School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).
- It is a unique course that offers awareness and understanding about natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards (earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, floods, etc.) and specifies district-wise level of damage risks to the existing housing stock.

Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Aviation Jobs Portal

- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched a civil aviation jobs portal for aspirants and prospective employers in the sector.
- The portal aims to provide a common platform for job seekers to register their job interests across various civil aviation sub-sectors.
- Aviation jobs portal is a unique initiative to harness the growth potential of the aviation sector to contribute to employment and re-employment in skilled aviation jobs in India

Centre gives Rs 47,000 crore to 27 states to boost green cover

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has handed over forty seven thousand crore rupees from Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) to 27 states
- Out of a total allocation of Rs 47,436 crores to the states, Odisha received Rs 5,933.98 crores while Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh got Rs 5,791.70 crores and Rs 5,196.69 crores respectively
- The fund will be utilized for the compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment, wildlife management, natural regeneration, forest fire prevention, soil and moisture conservation, improvement of wildlife habitat.

CBDT constitutes special cell to address grievances of start-ups

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes -CBDT has constituted a five-member special cell to address grievances of start-ups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues
- The 'startup cell' will be headed by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board.
- The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of start-up entities with respect to the administration of Income-tax Act, 1961.

- Start-up entities can approach the cell for the speedy resolution of their grievances.

Air India to ban single-use plastic from October 2

- Air India announced that the usage of single-use plastic on the flights of its subsidiaries -- Air India Express and Alliance Air -- will stop from October 2
- In first phase it will implement in all flights of Air India Express and Alliance Air flights.
- In 2nd phase, it will be implemented in Air India flights,

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Aqua Aquaria India 2019 in Hyderabad

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Aqua Aquaria India 2019 in Hyderabad
- The three-day expo is being organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).
- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is organising this bi-annual event.
- India, the second largest fish producer in the world with a production of 13.70 million tonnes during 2018-19, earns 10 per cent of its total exports from fisheries.
- The contribution of fisheries to the Gross Domestic Product is about one per cent and about 5.37 per cent to the Agricultural GDP.
- "This year's theme - 'taking blue revolution to India's hinterland'.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela in Leh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 26th Mela of Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela in Leh
- The mela was organised by the Leh-based Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) of DRDO
- Through the technologies developed by the institute, the Army is getting locally grown fresh organic farm produce.
- DIHAR is now working to develop newer technologies to make fresh food available even in the remotest locations in the Himalayas.

Important International News

US labels China a ‘currency manipulator’

- The US Treasury has officially labeled China a “currency manipulator”. Currency manipulation is a situation when a country intentionally influences the exchange rate between its currency and the US dollar to gain “unfair competitive advantage in international trade”.
- This comes after the People’s Bank of China (Chinese central bank) allowed the renminbi to fall below a key threshold, marking a dramatic escalation in the trade war between the two economic powers.

India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.
- After the Secretary-level meeting in Dhaka yesterday, both the countries also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for eight rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta.
- Both the countries also discussed issues related to pollution of trans boundary rivers.
- The Secretary-level meeting was held after a gap of more than 8 years.
- It is an important step in enhancing bilateral cooperation in the water resources sector between India and Bangladesh.

Over 5 lakh Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh

- More than 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the UNHCR.

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

India in US list of major illegal drug producing, transit countries

- US President Donald Trump has designated India among the over 20 major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries.
- Trump said that a country's presence on the list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counter-narcotic efforts or level of cooperation with the US.
- The countries identified in the list are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

South Korea to remove Japan from preferred trade list

- South Korea has decided to remove Japan from a list of nations receiving preferential trade list
- South Korean Trade Minister Sung Yun-mo stated that the government was removing Japan from the country's 29-country "white list" because it has failed to uphold international principles while managing its export controls on sensitive materials.

Newly-Discovered Lake in Nepal Likely to Become World's Highest

- A newly-discovered lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake replacing Tilicho, which is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation and currently holding the title.
- The Kajin Sara lake in Manang district was discovered about a few months ago by a team of mountaineers. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality.
- As per the measurement of the lake taken by the team, it is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, which is yet to be officially verified. It is estimated to be 1,500-metre-long and 600-metre-wide.

Ban imposed on unauthorized drone flying in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has prohibited flying drones or any remote controlled devices without acquiring permission from the authorities concerned.
- The ban was imposed through a press release signed by DMP Commissioner Md Asaduzzaman Mia
- According to the statement, flying drones for any purpose without approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh is a punishable offence.

Japan overtakes China as US' largest foreign creditor

- Japan surpassed China in June as the top holder of US Treasuries
- Japan increased its holdings of US bonds, bills and notes by \$21.9 billion to \$1.12 trillion,
- China's ownership rose for the first time in four months to \$1.11 trillion, up by \$2.3 billion
- The last time Japan held the position as America's largest foreign creditor was May 2017.

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

- In Saudi Arabia, a landmark reform allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male guardian has begun.

- The reform comes after high-profile attempts by women to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite a string of reforms by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, including a landmark decree last year that overturned the world's only ban on women drivers.
- Saudi women were also granted the right to officially register childbirth, marriage or divorce and to be recognized as a guardian to children who are minors - same as men.

Iran unveils home-grown missile defence system

- Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defence system at a time of increased tensions with the United States.
- Iranian officials have previously called Bavar-373 the Islamic republic's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system.
- Tehran began making Bavar -- which means "believe" -- after the purchase of Russia's S-300 system was suspended in 2010 due to international sanctions.
- The long-range Bavar-373 missile system is suited to Iran's geography with a range of more than 200 kilometres (124 miles) ... and competes with Russian and American systems such as S-300 and Patriot.

Iceland commemorates first glacier lost to climate change

- Iceland honoured the passing of Okjokull, its first glacier lost to climate change
- A bronze plaque was mounted on a bare rock in a ceremony on the former glacier in western Iceland
- Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson also attended the event
- The plaque bears the inscription "A letter to the future", and is intended to raise awareness about the decline of glaciers and the effects of climate change.

Indonesia picks Borneo island as site of new capital

- Indonesia has chosen the eastern edge of jungle-clad Borneo island for its new capital
- The current capital, Jakarta, home to more than 10 million people, sits on swampy land. Parts of the city are sinking by as much as 25cm (10in) a year and almost half now sits below sea level.
- The new location was at "minimal" risk of natural disasters
- The estimated cost of the project was around 466 trillion rupiah (US\$33 billion)

Russia launches world's first floating nuclear reactor in Arctic

- Russia will launch the world's first floating nuclear reactor and send it on an epic journey across the Arctic, despite environmentalists warning of serious risks to the region.
- Loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov will leave the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometre voyage to northeastern Siberia.
- But environmental groups have long warned of the dangers of the project, dubbing it a potential "Chernobyl on ice" and a "nuclear Titanic."
- The reactor's trip is expected to last between four and six weeks, depending on the weather conditions and the amount of ice on the way. Work began on the 144-metre Akademik Lomonosov in Saint Petersburg in 2006.

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Rajiv Kumar	Finance Secretary
2.	Atanu Chakraborty (Economic Affairs)	Nominated on central board of RBI

	secretary)	
3.	Rakesh Asthana (Director General of Security (Civil Aviation))	Additional charge of Director General Narcotics Control Bureau
4.	Siddhartha Mohanty	MD & CEO of LIC HFL
5.	Guruprasad Mohapatra	Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
6.	Ravi Capoor	Textiles Secretary
7.	Rajesh Kumar Srivastava	New director (exploration) of ONGC
8.	Sandeep Kumar Gupta	New director (finance) of IOC
9.	Kandikuppa Sreekant	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited Chairman & Managing Director
10.	Elangbam Valentina Devi (9 year old girl)	Brand ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission
11.	Anurag Adlakha	Chief financial officer (CFO) of YES Bank
12.	Chandrima Shaha	president of National Science Academy (INSA)
13.	P.T. Usha (Former Indian athlete)	Member of the Athletes Commission of the Asian Athletics Association (AAA)
14.	VG Somani	Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)
15.	Manmohan Singh	Elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan
16.	Madhu Deora (CFO of Paytm)	Paytm President (consumer services business)
17.	Ravinder Takkar	CEO of Vodafone Idea
18.	Dutee Chand	Brand ambassador for Puma
19.	Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Union home secretary
20.	Ajay Kumar	Defence Secretary
21.	Vikram Rathour	Batting coach of India men's cricket team
22.	Ms. Padmaja	High Commissioner of India to the Cook Islands
23.	Rajiv Gauba	Cabinet Secretary
24.	Amit Nayyar	Paytm president (financial services business)
25.	Pramod Agarwal	Chairman of Coal India
26.	Sitanshu Kotak	head coaches of India A
27.	Paras Mhambrey	head coaches of India U-19
28.	Aditya Pande	CFO of IndiGo (from September 16)

Five Rajya Sabha Members Elected to Parliamentary Joint Committee

- Five Rajya Sabha members were elected unopposed to the parliamentary joint committee on office of profit.
- According to the sources, the MPs elected unopposed to the joint committee are Mahesh Poddar (BJP), K Keshava Rao (TRS), Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP), Dola Sen (TMC) and Sasmit Patra (BJD).
- The committee has 15 members — 10 from Lok Sabha and five from Rajya Sabha. It is learnt that the members from Lok Sabha have been elected as well.
- The chairman of the committee is still to be nominated. Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu nominated BJP MP Rakesh Sinha as a member of the Press Council of India.

- Sonal Mansingh (Nominated) has been elected unopposed to the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps,
- While Congress MP M V Rajeev Gowda made it to National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru without contest
- JDU MP Kalkashan Perween (JDU) has been nominated to the Haj Committee of India

International Appointments

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Noel Quinn	Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) interim Chairman
2.	Rumesh Ratnayake	Sri Lanka's Interim Cricket coach
3.	Alejandro Giammattei	President of Guatemala
4.	Ghotu Ram Meena	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Congo
5.	Russell Domingo	Head coach of Bangladesh Cricket
6.	Abdalla Hamdok	Sudan's new Prime Minister
7.	General Shavendra Silva	Commander of Sri Lankan Army
8.	Lionel Aingimea	New President of Nauru
9.	Pavan Kapoor	India's Ambassador to the UAE

Resignation

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Giuseppe Conte	Italian Prime Minister
2.	Suparna Singh	NDTV interim CEO
3.	Parthasarathi Mukherjee	Lakshmi Vilas Bank MD&CEO
4.	Rohit Philip	CFO of IndiGo
5.	Nripendra Misra	Principal Secretary to PM Modi

Important Awards and Honours

Sl.No	Winners	Awards
1.	Ravish Kumar	Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019 (for 'ethical journalism')
2.	Bhasha Mukherjee (India-born doctor)	Miss England 2019
3.	Ram Nath Kovind	Order of Merit (highest award of Republic of Guinea)
4.	Naaz Joshi (India)	Beauty pageant Miss World Diversity Title (3rd Consecutive time)
5.	Ruhan Rajput (Co-founder and Director of Einfolge Technologies Pvt Ltd)	'Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019' (In the category of Service Business - BPO/KPO)
6.	DD News (Doordarshan) news channel of India	"Champions of Empathy Award" (for spreading awareness about hepatitis)
7.	Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Bhupen Hazarika,	Bharat Ratna Award

	Shri Nanaji Deshmukh	
8.	Lionel Messi	UEFA's Goal of the Season prize (for his free-kick against Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final)
9.	Shahrukh Khan	Conferred with an honorary degree, Doctor of Letters by the La Trobe University of Melbourne, Australia
10.	Priyam Chatterjee (first Indian)	'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto' by the government of France for reinventing the gastronomic scene
11.	Rajasthan	“best innovation and initiative leadership award” in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi
12.	Rajdeep Sardesai	2019 Prem Bhatia Award for Political Reporting (prize money Rs. 2 lakh)
13.	K Sivan (ISRO chief)	APJ Abdul Kalam Award by Tamil Nadu Government (award carries 8 gm gold medal, Rs. five lakh in cash)
14.	Actor Steve Coogan	Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch
15.	'100 years of Chrysostom,' by filmmaker Blessy	Guinness world book of records as longest documentary with its duration of 48 hours and 8 minutes
16.	Dr K Thangaraj (Chief Scientist at CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB))	JC Bose Fellowship
17.	Navneeth Murali (Indian-American teenager)	2019 South Asian Spelling Bee (SAS Bee)
18.	Meeta Narain (JNU Professor)	‘Pushkin Medal – 2019’ (highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government)
19.	Vivek Menon (Wildlife Trust of India head)	2019 Clark R Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award
20.	Narendra Modi	‘The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance’ by Bahrain
21.	PM Narendra Modi	UAE’s highest civilian award ‘Order of Zayed’
22.	Prabhakar Singh (Director General of Central Public Works Department)	2019 Eminent Engineer Award by the Institution of Engineers (India)
23.	Shashi Shanker (ONGC Chairman and MD)	2019 Distinguished Fellowship Award of the Institute of Directors (IOD)
24.	Eric Cantona	2019 UEFA President’s Award
25.	Virgil van Dijk	2018/19 UEFA Men's Player of the Year award
26.	Lucy Bronze (England)	2018/19 UEFA women’s player of the year award
27.	"I'm Jeeja" (Indian documentary film directed by Swati Chakraborty)	14 th edition of 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues' 1st Prize 'Under 30 minute'
28.	Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)	SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA)

Likee creates Guinness World Record for I-Day campaign

- Likee, the pioneering global short video creation platform, has won the Guinness World Record for creating the largest online video album of people waving the Indian flag during its 'No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN' campaign.
- During the campaign, Indians created more than 2.5 lakh videos which garnered more than 225.3 million views. Indian ace sprinter Hima Das also participated in the initiative.
- #IAMINDIAN campaign successfully hit the right chord among the Indian youth who leveraged the platform to create unique videos while waving the Indian flag to showcase their patriotism.

Mumbai Youth Solves Nine Pyraminx Puzzles Underwater, Creates New Guinness World Record

- A 20-year-old Chinmay Prabhu from Mumbai has created a world record for the 2nd time under his name of solving 176 pyraminx (pyramid-shaped rubik's cube) puzzles while riding a bicycle in 1 hour and 7 minutes. He broke the record of solving 111 pyraminx puzzles.
- On December 2018, He had set the Guinness Book of World Records of solving 9 rubik's cubes underwater in 1 minute and 48 seconds. The record set Prabhu a target of 4 Pyraminxes, but he went on to solve nine.
- Prabhu also made an entry into the Limca Book of Records for solving mirror cube blindfolded.

Prasar Bharati will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in honor of Neelum Sharma

- India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryapakash stated that the agency will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in memory of Doordarshan(DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma who passed away due to cancer.
- She was known for her programmes like 'Tejaswini' (Through this show, she focused on woman achievers of India) and 'Badi Charcha'.

Noida girls create app to connect old-age homes and orphanages, win tech prize in US

- Five girls have developed a mobile app that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes, with their innovation fetching them a bronze medal at global tech competition in the US.
- The app, called Maitri, is aimed at bringing together individuals suffering from loneliness and depression and those lacking the nurturing love of elderly role models, said the all-girl team "Tech Witches".
- The developers include Ananya Grover, Vanshika Yadav, Vasudha Sudhinder, Anushka Sharma and Arefa, all Class 12 students of Amity International School in Noida.

66th National Film Awards

- The 66th National Film awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the Jury for feature films
- Four hundred and nineteen films competed for the awards this year.
- The national film awards are given in 31 categories. An Award for film friendly state has been instituted this year. Uttarakhand won this year.

Categories	Winners
Best non feature film	Son Rise by Vibha Bakshi and The Secret Life of Frogs by Ajay and Vijay Bedi
Best Educational Film	Sarala Virala
Best Feature Film	Hellaro (Gujarati film) directed by Abhishek Shah
Best Director	Aditya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike

Best Actor	Ayushmann Khuranna for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
Best Supporting Actor	Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
Best supporting actress	Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
Best Action Direction	KGF Chapter I
Best Choreography	Padmaavat for Goomar
Best Film for National Integration	Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
Best Cinematography	MJ Radhakrishnan for Olu (Malayalam)
Best Popular Film	Badhaai Ho
Best film on Environment issues	Paani
Best Debut Film of a Director	Naal (Marathi)
Best film on Social Issues	Padman
Best Child artist	P V Rohith (Kannada), Sameep Singh (Punjabi), Talha Arshad Reshi (Urdu) Shrinivas Pokale (Marathi)
Best Children's Film	Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod
Best Special Effects	KGF
Special Jury Award	Award shared by Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachud Rai
Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Paani
Best Rajasthani Film	Turtle
Best Tamil Film	Baaram
Best Marathi Film	Bhonga
Best Hindi Film	Andhadhun
Best Urdu Film	Hamid
Best Telugu Film	Mahanati
Best Bengali Film	Ek Je Chhilo Raja
Best Assamese Film	Bulbul Can Sing
Best Punjabi Film	Harjeeta
Best Original Screenplay	Chi La Sow
Best Adapted Screenplay	Andhadhun
Best Dialogues	Tariqh
Best Lyrics	Nathichirami (Kannada)
Best Music Direction (Songs)	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Padmaavat
Best Music Direction (Background score)	Uri
Best Sound Design	Uri
Best Female playback Singer	Bindhu Malini for Mayavi Manave from Nathichirami (Kannada)

Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh for Bhinte Dhill
Best Make-Up artist	Awe
Best Production Design	Kammara Sambhavam (Malayalam)
Best Costume	Mahanati

Important MOU's

GeM signs pact with SIDBI to facilitate business of MSMEs, SHG's

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) has signed a MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India [SIDBI] to benefit MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women Self Help Groups and various loan beneficiaries under MUDRA and Stand-up India scheme
- The MoU signed with SIDBI will enable promotion of special initiatives of GeM like 'Womaniya' and 'Start-up Runway'
- Through this MoU, GeM and SIDBI will take steps to ensure payments within a guaranteed timeframe to sellers, enhance working capital availability through bill discounting and control NPAs through control of end use.
- Government e Marketplace (GeM) comes under Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

BSE ties up with SUFI for steel futures

- Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Steel Users Federation of India (SUFI) to launch trading in steel futures
- BSE and SUFI will work towards enlisting steel futures in both long and flat segments, which will bring stability, risk-aversion besides creating a level-playing field for all players
- Currently, BSE offers trading in commodities like gold, silver, crude oil, guar, cotton and turmeric.

IIT Guwahati signs MoU with RD Grow Green India for safer drinking water

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RD Grow Green India Pvt. Ltd to treat contaminated ground water without using any chemical.
- The technology is based on the 'Apparatus and Method for Removal of Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic and Microorganisms from Contaminated Drinking Water
- Drinking water contamination is a major problem in Assam. This "chemical-free" treatment technique might be useful to the citizens in rural and urban areas of the state.

Health Ministry signs MoU to explore AI based solutions in combating TB

- The Central TB Division of the Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore the application of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology in its fight against TB.
- The MoU was signed by Vikas Sheel, Joint Secretary (HFW) and Dr P Anandan, CEO (Wadhwani AI)
- Wadhwani AI would be supporting National TB programme become AI-ready which would include, developing, piloting, and deploying AI-based solutions
- India is committed to ending TB by 2025, five years ahead of the Global Sustainable Development targets.

Samsung India ties up with Mastercard, RBL Bank for mobile payments

- Mastercard, RBL Bank and Samsung India have announced the launch of Samsung Pay for RBL Bank's credit card holders.
- The partnership will allow RBL Bank Mastercard credit card holders to make contactless mobile payments using their Samsung Pay-enabled phones.
- These payments can be made via any PoS (Point of Sale) machine where a card can be dipped, swiped or tapped, both in India and abroad

- Mastercard Digital Enablement Service (MDES) allows Mastercard credit and debit cardholders to tokenise their cards and pay using their mobile phones, anytime and anywhere.

TikTok partners with IIMC to train students on online safety

- Chinese short-form video platform TikTok has partnered with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) to train students on online safety
- Under the partnership, TikTok and the IIMC will organise a series of workshops with students and professors of the educational institute across its six regional campuses over the next two months
- As part of the partnership, TikTok and IIMC have curated a workshop in collaboration with Youth Ki Awaaz, India's largest youth online community for social issues.
- The initiative is part of TikTok's '#WaitASecToReflect' ongoing campaign to promote responsible online conduct among India's netizens.

India, Russia sign Rs 1,500 crore deal for air-to-air missiles to be used by Su-30

- India has signed a deal worth around Rs 1,500 crore to acquire R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia.
- It will be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft.
- The R-27 missile is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MiG and Sukhoi series of fighter jets.

India extends \$500,000 assistance to Gambia for skill development, cottage industry projects

- India extended an assistance of USD 500,000 to the Gambia in support of skill development and cottage industry projects in the West African country as President Ram Nath Kovind held wide-ranging talks with his Gambian counterpart Adama Barrow.
- President Kovind, who arrived in Banjul on the second leg of his three-nation tour, conveyed to the Gambian President India's deep commitment to enhance its traditional ties with the Gambia and contribute to its development.
- It is the first-ever state visit to the Gambia by an Indian President.
- India and the Gambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy.
- This will open up new opportunities of collaboration between the two countries on solar energy and help in combating climate change.
- India also agreed to offer training in the fields of judiciary, police, administration and technical expertise, as per the request and in line with the priorities of the African country.

India, 45 others sign UN treaty on mediation in trade disputes

- India and 45 other United Nations members including the US and China, signed the Singapore Convention on Mediation, intended to help stabilise trade ties.
- The international treaty aims for the resolution of cross-border commercial and trade disputes as an alternative to court cases.
- The convention sets the standards for enforcing and invoking settlement agreements.

Reliance Jio and Microsoft partner to accelerate digital transformation in India

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, and Microsoft Corp. are embarking on a unique, comprehensive, long-term strategic relationship aimed at accelerating the digital transformation of the Indian economy and society.
- In combining efforts, Jio and Microsoft aim to enhance the adoption of leading technologies like data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things, and edge computing among small and medium enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow, while helping accelerate technology-led GDP growth in India and driving adoption of next-gen technology solutions at scale.

India, Russia to Boost Ties to Achieve \$30 Billion in Bilateral Trade By 2025

- India and Russia have called for diversifying and deepening of economic ties in priority sectors to meet the bilateral trade target of \$30 billion by 2025.
 - An agreement was also signed between Amity University and Russia's Far East Federal University to enhance relations and develop academic and cultural exchange in areas of education and research. An agreement was also concluded on the establishment of representative offices, Centre for Yoga, and Pushkin Centre for Russian Language and Cultural Studies.
 - The chief ministers of Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Goa also sought Russian investments and collaborations in energy, agriculture and food processing sectors.
- India-Russia bilateral trade stood at \$8.3 billion in 2018-19.

Naval Air Enclave & CIAL inks MoU for air operations

- The Naval Air Enclave (NAE) in Kochi and Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery.
- The facility comprising an independent dispersal, aircraft hangar, administrative building and taxi track, is on the northwest side of CIAL. Military aircraft will use the CIAL runway for take off and landing and the NAE taxi track for accessing the dispersal and aircraft hangar.
- NAE Officer-in-Charge Captain Satish Kumar S and CIAL airport director A C K Nair signed the MoU on behalf of both organisations, which lays down Standard Operating Procedures and their adherence by CIAL and the Indian Navy, for ensuring safe, secure and uninterrupted military air operations.

Narendra Modi cements Bhutan ties with RuPay launch

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering held wide ranging talks in Thimpu Saturday. They also discussed steps to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors and signed 10 MoUs to infuse new energy in India-Bhutan ties
- Modi inaugurated Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant and also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation. The two countries signed 10 memoranda of understanding in space research, aviation, IT, power and education.
- Modi also launched RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, which functions as a monastic and administrative centre and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.
- Bhutan is the second country this (RuPay Card) will be launched in after Singapore. This will be done in two phases — in the first phase Indian banks will issue RuPay cards which can be used by Indian travellers in Bhutan. The next phase will be where the banks of Bhutan will be empowered to issue RuPay cards to Bhutanese citizens to use in India.

Wipro ties up with IISc Bengaluru for innovative solutions in AI, robotics, 5G

- Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- India's premier institute for research and higher education in science and engineering, to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space.
- The two organisations have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry-academia collaboration unit, to drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.

India provides Rs 233 crore financial aid to Nepal for infrastructure projects

- India provided Rs 233 crore to the Nepal Government for various infrastructure projects, including roads and reconstruction of houses destroyed in the massive earthquake in 2015 which saw the death of over 9,000 people.
- The decision was taken during the 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission attended by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- On the occasion, a cheque of INR153 crore (NR 2.45 billion) was provided for the reconstruction of houses in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts that were badly affected during the earthquake. Similarly, India also handed over a cheque of INR 80.71 crore for the construction of Hulaki Marga (Postal Roads) in the Terai region of Nepal.
- The amount was part of the INR 500 crore commitment made by India towards strengthening the roads in the Terai region.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the Department of Food Quality Control of Nepal on the cooperation for maintaining food safety and standard.

Acko partners with ZestMoney to offer credit insurance

- Acko General Insurance, an insurtech company, has partnered with ZestMoney, a consumer lending fintech, to offer credit insurance.
- This insurance will help ZestMoney customers cover their monthly EMI payments during times of crisis. ZestMoney offers instant financing to consumers across 1000+ online portals and provides them the option of paying through EMIs even if the consumers don't own a credit card.
- Acko will offer credit insurance to these consumers and cover them during eventualities like hospitalization or critical illness when they're unable to pay their instalments.

Indian Army, Tata Realty pact for quality housing

- In order to provide quality housing to army personnel, Tata Realty & Housing and Indian Army signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).
- The MoU would enable the personnel to immediately take over dwelling units in 13 'Ready to Move in' projects of Tata Realty pan India spread over 10 cities including Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune among others at a discount ranging from 11-27 per cent.
- This also heralds a new era for Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO), which has always endeavored to provide quality housing for Army personnel who are deployed in remote locations across the country.
- AWHO will now facilitate acquisition of homes from reputed private builders at discounted rather than building them for the soldiers.

Common Service Centre SPV signs pact with Ministry to digitise gram panchayats across country

- The Common Service Centre SPV signed a pact with the Panchayati Raj Ministry to turn gram panchayats into 'digital panchayats'
- The move is aimed at providing speedy delivery of government services to people in rural areas and promoting rural BPO across all 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country.
- According to the MoU signed between MoPR and CSC e-Governance, Gram Panchayat Bhawans will host common service centres (CSCs), to provide easy access to government services and social schemes in rural areas.
- CSC, which provides government services in rural areas, will help all gram panchayats regularly update Ministry of Panchayati Raj's (MoPR) applications and provide online services in their area.

- CSC will also be responsible for overall project management, monitoring and coordination with MoPR, state government, other ministries and gram panchayats.

India-France to jointly build, run space-based ship tracking system

- The world's first space-based automatic identification system (AIS) to track merchant ships on a real-time basis will be built and operated jointly by India and France, the French space agency (Centre national d'études spatiales or the National Centre for Space Studies — CNES).
- CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and K Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), signed an agreement recently to start development and production of a constellation of satellites on which studies have been underway for more than a year.

Important Summit & Conference

12th India Security Summit on “Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy”

- The 12th India Security Summit on the theme “Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy” was held in New Delhi.
- During the conference, many issues were discussed such as protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response.
- It was organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). It is officially supported by the Ministry of Communications & IT.

22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 to be held at Shillong

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya will organize the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- This is the first time the event is being organized in North-Eastern region of the country.
- This Conference provides a platform to disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing and implementing sustainable e-Governance initiatives to provide end-to-end Digital Services, exchange experiences in solving problems, mitigating risks, resolving issues and planning for success.
- The theme of this Conference is “Digital India: Success to Excellence”.

WorldSkills Kazan 2019

- The 45th WorldSkills Competition will be held at the KAZAN EXPO International Exhibition Centre in Kazan, Russia in August 2019.
- Also referred as the ‘Olympics for Skills’, the event is scheduled in Kazan, Russia from 22nd to 27th August 2019.
- More than 1,500 competitors from 60 countries will compete in 55 skill competitions at this mega event. India will participate in 44 skills including mobile robotics, prototype modelling, hairdressing, baking, confectionary & patisserie, welding, brick laying, car painting, floristry among others.

Bangkok hosts ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting

- The 52nd edition of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM)/ Post Ministerial Conferences (PMCs) and Related Meetings began in Bangkok, Thailand on July 30, 2019 and the event will conclude on August 3, 2019.
- The meeting will discuss progress of ASEAN based on Thailand's Chairmanship theme of “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”
- The meeting is being attended by Foreign Ministers and representatives from more than 30 countries including Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partners and Guest of the Chair.

- The meeting will also discuss preparations for the 35th ASEAN Summit, which will be held in November 2019.

Om Birla to lead delegation in 4th South Asian Speaker's Summit in Maldives

- A parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will visit the Maldives to participate in the 4th South Asian Speaker's Summit scheduled to be held on September 1 and 2.
- The summit will be held in Male and the theme of the event is "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals". It will be jointly organised by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Maldivian Parliament.
- The last three summits were held in the Parliaments of Bangladesh (2016), India (2017) and in Sri Lanka (2018).
- Apart from India, presiding officers of parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are also a part of the forum.

3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave held in Manesar

- 3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave was held in Manesar, Gurugram. The Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Arjun Ram Meghwal, inaugurated the conclave.
- It was organized by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in association with India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA).
- The Conclave was held to create a knowledge-sharing platform to ensure flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.

J-K to host 3-day Global Investors Summit in Srinagar from October 12

- Jammu and Kashmir government will host a three-day Global Investors Summit from 12th October in Srinagar
- The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will be the national partner for the investors meet.
- An MoU has been signed by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) and CII for organisation and management of the event
- Two Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh will come into existence on October 31 the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

CAI EXPO 2019 begins in Hyderabad

- Annual exhibition Construction Architecture & Interior (CAI) EXPO 2019 begins in Hyderabad
- The 7th edition of CAI Expo 2019, organised by The Hindu BusinessLine in association with IAds & Events group, will be held at Hitex Exhibition Center from August 16 – 18.
- The Expo enables participants to showcase the best discover innovative products and services, and exchange ideas in interior design.

28th BASIC Ministerial Meeting 2019 on Climate Change held in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- The 28th session of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) Ministerial meeting 2019 on Climate Change was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India for this meeting. This comes ahead of United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 2 – 13 December 2019.
- BASIC Group could play an important role in making Paris Agreement accepted by all the countries in its true letter and spirit.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurates two-day international conference on teacher education by NCTE

- The Honorable Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the International Conference titled 'Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global' in New Delhi.

- The two-day event is being organized by the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995.
- 40 renowned experts from India and abroad deliberated on the areas like the present scenario of teacher education in the Indian context; innovations in teaching practices; integration of information and communications technology in teaching; inclusive education in teaching-learning environment; and internationalization of teacher education.

Sheikh Hasina, Sania Mirza to co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and tennis star Sania Mirza will be among co-chairs for India Economic Summit to be held here in October by the World Economic Forum, where hundreds of Indian and global leaders would discuss India's role in South Asia and on the world stage.
- Mirza will co-chair the summit as a sportsperson and the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia.
- The two-day summit, scheduled for October 3-4, will be held by Geneva-based WEF in collaboration with industry body CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) under the theme of 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.
- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), the meeting will address strategic issues of regional significance under four thematic pillars - the new geopolitical reality and new social, ecological and technological systems.
- The WEF stated that India as the fastest-growing large economy in the world has demonstrated remarkable strength and resilience amid global slowdown.

Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference 2019 to be held in Thailand

- The 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand's. In this conference, India will be represented by Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.
- The conference will provide perspectives on common challenges faced by attending nations and elicit open discussions on the same. The theme for the conference is "Collaboration in a free and Open Indo – Pacific".

45th G7 summit

- The 45th G7 summit was held on 24–26 August 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.
- In March 2014, the G7 declared that a meaningful discussion was currently not possible with Russia in the context of the G8. Since then, meetings have continued within the G7 process. However, according to senior admin official, Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron had agreed that Russia should be invited to the 2020 G7 Summit.

7th Community Radio Sammelan to be held in Delhi

- The Seventh Community Radio Sammelan will be held at Dr. BR Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi from 27th to 29th August, 2019.
- The Sammelan is organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- The theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'
- The Sammelan will also witness discussion on various flagship schemes of the government such as the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan and efforts for disaster risk reduction

4th edition of Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019

- The 4th edition of India's largest confluence of digital technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the theme of 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.
- The two day event was organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).
- The IoT India Congress is the platform of platforms for the Internet of Things and is India's largest confluence of digital-technology stakeholders.

- The session focussed on ten tracks, namely: Energy, Healthcare, Defence, Standards and Regulatory, Retail, Digital Communication, Skills and Development, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Smart Cities.

Important Mobile App and Web Portal

Mobile App 'IndTokyo' launched to help Paralympians to look up accessible places in Tokyo

- A mobile app was to help para-athletes to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics Games.
- The application named 'IndTokyo', which was launched by Arhan Bagati, Awareness and Impact Ambassador of Paralympic Committee of India, at the 'Countdown to Tokyo 2020' event

Important Defence News

IMD hands over Kochi Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to Indian Navy

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to hand over Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to naval forces for meteorological purposes.
- The CDR building was constructed during the period 1983-86 inside the Naval Base, having an S-band Cyclone Detection Radar installed by M/s Bharat Electronics Limited, an official release said.
- The facility was operated by IMD from 1987-2017 to provide weather support for civil aviation at the old Kochi Airport - presently the Naval Air Station INS Garuda.

Shaliza Dhami Is First Woman Air Force Officer To Become Flight Commander

- Wing Commander Shaliza Dhami became the first woman officer of the Indian Air Force to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit.
- Wing Commander Dhami, serving for 15 years now, has been flying choppers. She became the first woman flying instructor of the Air Force and is also the first woman officer to get permanent commission of the flying branch.
- She took charge of a Chetak helicopter unit at the Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Chetak is a single engine turbo shaft, light utility helicopter with capacity of 6 passengers and has maximum speed of 220 km/hour.

India to participate with Pakistan, China in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) exercise

- India and Pakistan will be participating in a major upcoming exercise under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Russia next month
- The exercise called 'Tsentr (Centre) 2019' is tentatively scheduled to be held from September 10 to 21 at Orenburg, Russia.
- All the eight Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states, including India, Pakistan and China, will be taking part in the exercise.
- About 140 troops of an Indian Army unit will be participating in the exercise
- Russia has sent invites to Iran, Mongolia, Turkmenistan and Belarus to participate in the exercise

India secures 1st position in first phase of 5th 'International Army Scout Masters Competition'

- Indian Army took the pole position in the first phase of 5th 'International Army Scout Masters Competition'
- The competition is taking place in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer.
- The first stage of the competition which involved tactical drills of mounting in a helicopter by the scout squads to infiltrate behind enemy lines.
- Kazakhstan and Russia secured 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively in the first phase of the competition.
- Teams from 8 countries, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, China, Belarus, Armenia and Sudan participated in the competition.

Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

- The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station.
- The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment.

GRSE launches its 5th fast patrol vessel for Indian Coast Guard

- Miniratna Category 1 defence PSU and premier warship builder Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) launched the Fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard at Raja Bagan Dockyard Unit of GRSE Kolkata.
- This ship, to be commissioned as ICGS Kanaklata Barua, is the last in the series of Five FPVs built by GRSE.
- The ship is 50m long, 7.5m wide and has a displacement of around 308 tons. These FPVs are designed for a maximum speed of 34 knots with an endurance of more than 1500 nautical miles and come with an efficient hull form developed in-house and proven after extensive model testing.
- The FPV designs are an improvisation on the Inshore Patrol Vessels built by GRSE for the Indian Coast Guard in 2013 and are well suited for patrolling, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and rescue operations.

Japanese Maritime Self Defence Ship Visits Kochi

- A missile destroyer, JS Sazanami of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), is on a two day goodwill visit to Kochi from 13 August 2019.
- The visiting team were also given a conducted tour of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School and the Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sunayna.

DRDO hands over design of mobile metallic ramp to Army

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army at an event held at DRDO Bhawan.
- DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy handed over the design of MMR to Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Devraj Anbu.
- The ramp will provide strategic mobility for armoured and mechanized units and formations of the Army. It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.

China, Pakistan air forces start joint exercise 'Shaheen-VIII'

- The air forces of China and Pakistan began joint exercise 'Shaheen-VIII' in a location in northwest China
- The annual joint training is the eighth of its kind between the two countries since it was first launched
- The joint exercise is conducted each year in both countries on an alternate basis.

2019 MAKS Air Show to be held in Russia

- International Aviation and Space Show (MAKS) 2019 to be hosted at Zhukovsky near Moscow between August 27 to September 1
- BrahMos Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd will represent India in the international aviation and space show, MAKS 2019
- Light military Russian transport aircraft IL-113VE, export version of IL-113V (intended for the transportation and airdropping of cargo) will also be the centrepieces of the world's one of the biggest air shows and exposition.

Pakistan test-fires surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi'

- Pakistan has test-fired surface to surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi
- The missile is capable of delivering multiple types of warheads upto 290 kilometers.

- It was launched from the Sonmiani flight test range in Balochistan and tracked at Nooribad and Goth Piaro in Sindh by National Development Complex (NDC) ground control station

Important Science and Technology News

Indian Institute of Petroleum sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel

- Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a plant at the Indian Institute of Petroleum which can turn plastic waste into diesel.
- The plant has the capacity to produce 800 liters of diesel from one tonne of plastic waste. The plastic waste would be collected with the help of NGOs.
- This would help in reducing the plastic waste and also reduce our dependence for petroleum on other countries.

Russian Humanoid Robot 'Fedor' Heads for Space On-board Soyuz MS-14 Test Flight

- Russia has successfully carried out the launch of its first humanoid robot in space.
- The unmanned Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft took off for the International Space Station (ISS) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, carrying the humanoid robot Fedor to space alongside medical and food supplies for the human crew presently residing in the ISS.
- Fedor, whose name stands for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, is a Skybot F-850 humanoid that is roughly the size of an average adult, and is capable of emulating specific movements of the human body.

Isro to set up new centre to protect Indian satellites from space debris

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) laid the foundation stone for the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru.
- The control centre would host a range of activities related to the protection of Indian Space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions.

DRDO Test-Fires State-of-the-Art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles in Odisha

- India test-fired a sophisticated all-weather and all-terrain Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) from a test range in Odisha.
- The state-of-the-art missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian army. QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km.

Iran unveiled three new precision-guided missiles

- Iran has unveiled three new precision-guided missiles
- The air-to-air missiles are called the “Yasin” and the “Balaban,” as well as a new series of the “Qaem” missile, and were developed jointly by the Iranian Defense Ministry and Sa Iran (Iran Electronics Industries).
- Yasin is a smart guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 km
- The Balaban was guided by GPS and sensors, equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft. While the Ghaem was a heat-seeking missile that could hit within 50 centimetres of a target

IIT Delhi alumni launched the world's first automated crutch

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi alumni rolled out the world's first automotive crutches. And, they have the potential to stand on their own.
- The product was developed by a startup called Flexmotiv which was started by IIT Delhi students Arvind S.A, Adepu Srinivas and Girish Yadav. They were assisted from AIIMS, New Delhi.
- It is the world's first self-standing axillary crutch. At an initial stage of using the crutch, there is always a requirement of support, but Flexmotiv is designed in a way that can be used without taking any support.

- The product intends to help the elderly and the handicapped, by presenting an easy-to-use solution for walking disabilities. It is also useful for patients with spinal cord injuries, fractures and arthroplasty of knee and hip joints.

Huawei launches its own operating system Harmony OS

- Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co unveiled its own operating system Harmony OS
- Harmony is the next-generation system based on microkernel, and it can be distributed to all scenarios, including smart TVs, automobiles, and wearables, and other hardware. In China, The software will be known as Hongmeng
- The operating system will be released as an open-source platform worldwide to encourage adoption.

IIT, NIT researchers produce bone substitutes from egg shells

- Researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, and Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar, have developed a process by which bone implant materials can be synthesised from waste egg shells.
- The research seeks to produce bone substitute materials such as -tricalcium phosphate (-TCP), a commonly-used bone substitute material from natural sources, without the use of toxic chemicals.
- According to the researchers, bio ceramics made from egg shell wastes are predicted to exhibit greater bio-compatibility than other synthetic powders due to the presence of additional bioactive elemental ions inherently present in the egg shell.

IIT Madras registers initial success with iron ion battery

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras researchers have for the first time fabricated a rechargeable iron ion battery using mild steel as the anode. The iron ion battery is cost-effective and the amount of energy that can be stored in the battery is also high.
- While lithium ions are the charge carriers in lithium ion battery, the Fe^{2+} ions perform that function in the case of iron ion battery.
- When fabricated under controlled conditions, the amount of energy that can be drawn from the iron ion battery is 220 Wh per kg, which is 55-60% of lithium ion battery's performance. The energy density of lithium ion battery is around 350 Wh per kg.
- The results were published in the journal Chemical Communications.

India's first space museum inaugurated in Hyderabad

- India's first private space museum with the collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was inaugurated in Hyderabad
- The museum was an initiative of the Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute (BACRI), aims at spreading knowledge across a variety of fields such as science and technology and to encourage young minds to explore new horizons.
- This museum exhibits scale models of Indian Launch vehicles GSLV Mark III, GSLV Mark II and PSLV, Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter spacecraft, APPLE, Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Rohini RS-1 and a model of the International Space Station (ISS)

IIT Madras develops multimodal robot with human-like grasp

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras) researchers have developed a multimodal robotic system with good grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities for use in industrial and field applications. Called 'GraspMan,' the system comprises a pair of graspers that are capable of holding objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand.
- Two such graspers, equipped with the robotic platform provides behavioural adaptation, which is the capability to change the locomotion behaviour to adapt to the environment.

Intel launches first artificial intelligence chip Springhill

- Intel Corp has launched its latest processor, its first using artificial intelligence (AI), designed for large computing centres. The chip was developed at its development center in Haifa, Israel,
- The chip named Nervana NNP-i or Springhill and is based on a 10 nanometer Ice Lake processor, which allows Intel to handle high workloads with less power

Microsoft to train 5,000 government employees in Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing

- Microsoft India announced the "Digital Governance Tech Tour" programme to skill government IT officials in new-age technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and intelligent cloud computing.
- Microsoft will organise a series of physical and virtual workshops to train 5,000 government IT personnel over a period of 12 months
- The programme was inaugurated during the "Digital Governance Tech Summit 2019", by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, and Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Maruti Suzuki launched 'Service On Wheels' Doorstep Car Service programme

- Maruti Suzuki has launched 'Service On Wheels' doorstep repair, service programme in India.
- Under the program Maruti will offer paid and free services including repairs, underbody inspection, oil changing, filter cleaning etc. All Maruti cars including petrol, diesel and CNG models are covered under this program.

Important Ranking and Indexes

Index	India's Rank	Top	Bottom
World Bank's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings 2018	7 th (GDP of \$2.72 trillion)	US (\$20.5 trillion)	-
Safe Cities Index (SCI) by Economist Intelligence Unit	Mumbai - 45 Delhi - 52	Tokyo - 1	Lagos - 60
Happiness Index "Global Happiness Survey" from market research firm Ipsos	9 th (from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019)	Australia and Canada	Argentina

Water Stress Index

- India has been ranked as the 46th highest risk country in the world in the Water Stress Index 2019, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft.
- As per the index, 11 of 20 largest Indian cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress while 7 of them are in the 'high risk' category.
- The Water Stress Index has taken into consideration the projected population growth trends to rank the cities facing the biggest threat to their water resources.
- It measures the water consumption rates of households, industries and farm sectors and the available resources in rivers, lakes and streams.

HDFC Bank CEO Aditya Puri highest paid banker in India

- HDFC Bank managing director Aditya Puri remained the highest paid bank chief executive in India with a monthly basic salary of Rs 89 lakh in FY19.
- Axis Bank CEO Amitabh Chaudhry is the second-highest-paid bank executive with a basic salary of Rs 30 lakh.
- Former Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma earned around Rs 24 lakh per month.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank's Uday Kotak ranked at number three in the highest-paid bank chief executives list with a monthly basic salary of Rs 27 lakh.

Dwayne Johnson leads Forbes list of highest-paid actors, Akshay Kumar 4th on the list

- Action movie hero Dwayne Johnson, star of the "Jumanji" and "Fast and Furious" franchises, topped the annual list of the world's highest-paid actors, Forbes magazine reported.
- Johnson, the former wrestler once known as The Rock, pulled in \$89.4 million from June 2018 to June 2019.
- Chris Hemsworth, who played Thor, took in \$76.4 million, while Iron Man actor Robert Downey Jr. earned \$66 million.
- The fourth-biggest earner was Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, with \$65 million, and Hong Kong-born actor and martial artist Jackie Chan with \$58 million.

Gujarat ranked first in composite water management index

- The report was released by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- Gujarat (continues) to hold on to its rank one in the reference year (2017-18), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Union Territories have first time submitted their data and Puducherry has been declared as the top ranker.

Scarlett Johansson Tops Forbes List of the Highest-paid Actresses Second Year in a Row

- "Lucy" star Scarlett Johansson has topped the "Forbes" list of the highest-paid actresses for the second time, beating names like Sofia Vergara, Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman among others.
- According to "forbes.com", Johansson earned top spot with an earning of \$56 million (approx Rs 402.01 crore).
- The second spot is taken by Sophia Vergara, who has \$44.1 million (approx Rs 316.58 crore), at the third position is Reese Witherspoon with \$35 million.
- Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Aniston have secured the fourth and fifth position in the list with \$34 million (approx Rs 244.07 crore) and \$28 million (approx Rs 201 crore) respectively.

'Statue of Unity', Mumbai's Soho House among Time's 100 greatest places in the world

- The 597-ft tall 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and Mumbai's Soho House have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World's greatest places, a compilation of 100 new and newly "noteworthy destinations to experience right now"
- Mumbai's chic Soho House is located in an 11-storey building overlooking the Arabian Sea. It houses a library, a cinema with 34 seats and a rooftop bar and pool.
- The Time list also includes Zakouma National Park in Chad, Red Sea Mountain Trail in Egypt, Newseum in Washington, The Shed in New York City, the Geosea Geothermal Sea Baths in Iceland, Six Senses Hotel in Bhutan that offer guests the opportunity to take guided journeys through the mountains of the Himalayan kingdom, Leopard Hill in Mara Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya and the Pohoiki in Isaac Hale Beach Park in Hawaii.

Taylor Swift tops Forbes' world's highest-paid women in music list; Queen Bey follows at No. 2

- Singer Taylor Swift topped the Forbes' list of top 10 highest-paid women in music for the year. As per the magazine, the singer pulled in about USD 185 million in pre-tax earnings over the past year.
- The 29-year-old also took home the award for Video of the Year at the MTV's annual Video Music Awards.
- Beyoncé, who reportedly raked in about USD 81 million in pre-tax earnings, took the second spot on the list. The difference between the first and second spots on the list was of over \$100 million.

Important Books and Authors

Book	Author
	Hilary Rodham Clinton and her daughter Chelsea

"The Book of Gutsy Women"	Clinton
'Listening, Learning and Leading'	The book captures glimpses of the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country (launched by Home minister Amit Shah)
"Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar"	Satyarth Nayak (author-screenwriter)
"Second Night"	Rajiv Dogra
'Kashmir's Untold Story: Declassified'	Iqbal Chand Malhotra & Maroof Raza
The Diary of Manu Gandhi (originally written in Gujarati language)	Edited and translated by Dr. Tridip Suhrud (launched by Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel)
"Flawed: The Rise and Fall of India's Diamond Mogul Nirav Modi"	Pavan C Lall
'Big Billion Startup – The Untold Flipkart Story'	Mihir Dalal
"Obama: The Call of History"	Peter Baker
'Jin Dhoondha Tin Paaiyan' (Hindi)	OP Singh

Important Sports News

Cricket

Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis retires from all forms of cricket

- Sri Lanka spinner Ajantha Mendis has announced his retirement from all forms of the game.
- He was best known for his deceptive "carrom balls", played 19 Tests, 87 ODIs and 39 T20Is for his country and picked up 288 wickets in the process.

Pak pacer Wahab Riaz set to retire from Test cricket

- Pakistan's 34-year-old pacer Wahab Riaz is reportedly set to retire from Test cricket.
- Riaz, who last played in the Test format against Australia in October 2018, has played 27 Test matches and picked 83 wickets.
- Former Pakistani cricketers like Wasim Akram, Ramiz Raja and Shoaib Akhtar had earlier criticised Mohammad Amir for announcing his retirement at the age of 27.

South Africa's Colin Ackermann becomes the first bowler to get 7 wickets in T-20

- South African spinner Colin Ackermann claimed a new Twenty20 world record when he took seven wickets for just 18 runs in an English county match.
- Malaysian bowler Arul Suppiah held the previous world record when he claimed 6-5 for Somerset against Glamorgan in 2011

Latest International Cricket Council Test rankings

- India topped the ICC Test team rankings while New Zealand is placed 2nd and South Africa is in 3rd position
- No. 1 Test Batsman - Virat Kohli (India Captain), No. 1 Test Bowler - Pat Cummins (Australia) and No. 1 Test all-rounders - Jason Holder (West Indies)

South Africa batsman announces retirement from all forms of international cricket

- South Africa batsman Hashim Amla has announced his retirement from all formats of international cricket.
- Amla, 36, who will continue to be available for domestic cricket as well as the Mzansi Super League, had an international career spanning 15 years.

- In all, he played 349 matches across the three formats for South Africa, making 55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50 in scoring more than 18,000 runs.

India U-19 cricket team beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets, win tri-series

- India's U-19 cricket team defeated Bangladesh in finals by 6 wickets at the County Ground, Hove in United Kingdom (UK) and clinched the Under-19 Tri-Series 2019 Title.
- Tri-nation series between India, Bangladesh and England was held from July 21-August 11, 2019 in England.
- The captain of Indian U-19 team was Priyam Garg and of U-19 Bangladesh team was Akbar Ali.

Cricket Australia launched new transgender inclusive policy

- Cricket Australia has announced a new guideline which enables transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels.
- The decision aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.
- The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.
- Transgender cricket player Erica James, from New South Wales, played a key role in helping Cricket Australia on forming new guidelines

India beat England by 36 runs to lift Physical Disability World Series T20

- India defeated England by 36 runs to win Physical Disability World Series 2019 in the final held at the New Road Stadium in Worcester, England.
- The tournament was organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board.
- England, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh were the five countries which participated in the tournament.
- The performance helped her take home first place in the All-Around competition, her sixth AA title in the U.S. championship. She had the best score on floor, beam and vault while ranking third on the uneven bars.

Virat Kohli is first batsman to score 20,000 international runs in a decade

- Indian captain Virat Kohli has become the first batsman to score 20,000 international runs in a single decade, the incredible stat providing another reflection of his greatness.
- Kohli now has 20,502 runs across all three formats of the game. Out of these 20,502, Kohli has scored 20,018 in the ongoing decade.
- Earlier, Australia's former skipper Ricky Ponting held the record for scoring most international runs in a decade with 18,962 runs.

BCCI agrees to come under NADA ambit

- The BCCI has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after years of resisting the move
- The decision came after BCCI chief executive Rahul Johri and general manager (cricket operations) Saba Karim met sports secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya and NADA director general Navin Agarwal in New Delhi. All cricketers will now be tested by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)

Australian Labuschagne becomes first 'concussion substitute' in Test history

- Australia's batsman Marnus Labuschagne has become the first cricketer in the world to be a 'concussion substitute' in test cricket. He replaced Steve Smith as he got hit on his neck from England seamer Jofra Archer.
- ICC introduced the rule of replacement of a concussed player from August 01, 2019. Concussed means when a person is hit on the head. The rule says for like-for like replacement.
- This happened during the Ashes test series that is played between Australia and England.

Sreesanth's ban to be reduced to seven years, ends next year

- Tainted Indian pacer S. Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing will end next August, BCCI Ombudsman D.K. Jain has ordered, observing that the cricketer is well past his prime having already served six years.
- His ban period is now lowered to 7 year by the Supreme Court(SC) which will end by september 2020 setting aside the BCCI disciplinary committee's order banning him for a lifetime.
- The BCCI(Board of Control for Cricket in India) banned Sreesanth, for life time in August 2013 after he, along with his Rajasthan Royals(RR) teammates of the 6th IPL(Indian Premier League) Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan were caught for spot fixing in the match. They were arrested by the Delhi police in 2013.

Former Australia pacer Mitchell Johnson elected MCC honorary life member

- Former Australian pacer Mitchell Johnson, who was widely known for sending shiver down the spine of batsmen, has been elected as an honorary member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- The announcement was made by the club during the second Ashes Test which ended in a tense draw at Lord's.

Virat Kohli retains top spot in the latest ICC Test rankings

- The latest test batsmen rankings were released by the ICC (International Cricket Council). The list was topped by India's Virat Kohli followed by Australia's Steve Smith at the second spot overtaking New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.
- England all-rounder Ben Stokes improved by six places to achieve the 26th position while wicketkeeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow(England) moved seven places up to take the 30th spot.
- Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne,climbed four places to the 8th position.

BCCI awards title sponsorship rights to Paytm for five more years

- One 97 Communications Pvt. Ltd, owners of Paytm, retained the sponsorship rights for BCCI's International and domestic matches with a winning bid of ₹3.80 crore per match.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the deal with the Paytm, which had acquired the rights in 2015 for a four-year period.
- The winning bid was at a price of ₹326.80 crores to be paid for 2019-23 home season. The winning bid was ₹3.80 crores which is at 58% incremental value in comparison to the previous per match value of ₹2.4 crores.

Football

Former Uruguay captain Diego forlan announces retirement from football

- Former Uruguay forward player Diego Forlan announced retirement from professional football
- Forlan made 112 appearances for Uruguay and scored 36 goals. He also helped his side to win the Copa America title in 2011. He claimed the Golden Ball at the 2010 World Cup as his side finished fourth.

Wesley Sneijder declares retirement from professional football

- The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced his retirement from football, bringing down the curtain on a trophy-laden career that spanned 17 years.
- The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium.

Liverpool beat Chelsea on penalties to win UEFA Super Cup

- Liverpool to beat Chelsea 5-4 on penalties to win the UEFA Super Cup in Istanbul. The match was finished 2-2 at the end of extra time.
- Every penalty in the shoot-out had been successful before Mohamed Salah converted Liverpool's fifth kick at the home of Besiktas. It was Liverpool's fourth Super Cup victory, 13th European trophy overall.

Former Chelsea and Arsenal full back Ashley Cole announces retirement from football

- Former Chelsea, Arsenal and England football player Ashley Cole, announced his retirement from football, ending his 20year playing career. It is expected that he would be pursuing a career in coaching.
- He had won 107 caps making him England's most capped player by England.
- In 687 games throughout his career, he scored 20goals and made 69 assists and won UEFA team of the year twice for Arsenal and Chelsea.

Chennai City FC partners Germany's uhlsport to develop grassroots

- I League champion Chennai City FC announced a strategic partnership with German sports good supplier uhlsport to develop grassroots football in Tamil Nadu and across India
- The German company Uhlsport started in 1948, offers football product and handball products under the Kepma brand

25th Senior Women's National Football Championship to be held in Arunachal Pradesh

- The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship will be held in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time from September 10 to 24
- The tournament will be held in the oldest town of the state Pasighat in East Siang District.
- A total of 30 teams from across the country, representing various States, Union Territories and Indian Railways will participate in the tournament
- The inaugural match will be played between Railways and Mizoram.

Other Sports News

Abhishek Verma wins gold in 10m Air Pistol in Rio World Cup

- Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary the bronze, in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup in Rio
- Verma shot 244.2 in the eight-man finals, while Chaudhary's 221.9 was good enough to get him the bronze

Aswatha Narayana wins first gold for India at WorldSkills event in Russia

- Aswatha Narayana, a 25-year-old electronics engineer from Odisha became the first-ever gold medallist from India in the prestigious World Skill Competition at Kazan, Russia
- Narayana completed his graduation in electronics and instrumentation engineering from CV Raman Engineering College in Bhubaneswar. This gold medal is the first for India in the history of the tournament.
- Apart from Aswatha, the other Indians who won medals in the competition are Pranav Nutalapati, Sanjoy Pramanik and Shweta Ratanpura.
- Pranav Nutalapati won silver medal in web technologies, Sanjoy Pramanik and Shweta Ratanpura won bronze medals in Jewellery and graphic design technology respectively.
- World skill international competition was established in the year 1950. India started participating in the tournament from 2007.
- This year, the competition had 47 competitors in 44 skill categories.

VK Vismaya wins gold In 400m at Josef Seckr Memorial

- Indian sprinter V K Vismaya clinched the gold medal in the women 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting -- Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic
- She produced a personal best timing of 52.12s at the women 400m run
- She had earlier scored a personal best of 52.48 at Nov Mesto nad Metuj (CZE) last month

Sumit Nagal becomes first Indian to win a set against Roger Federer

- Sumit Nagal became the first Indian to win a set against Roger Federer.
- The 22-year-old became the fourth player to take the opening set against Federer at the US Open.

India's Komalika Bari wins gold medal in World Youth Championships in Madrid

- Jharkhand's Komalika Bari won gold medal in women's cadet recurve category in the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid after a 7-3 victory over Japan's Waka Sonoda in the final.

- She is only the third Indian archer to hold a world title. She is the second Indian archer to become world champion in the Under-18 recurve women's category.
- Apart from this The Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh won Gold Medal at World Archery Youth Championships.

PV Sindhu Beats Nozomi Okuhara to Win Historic World Championships Gold

- PV Sindhu produced a dominating performance to outclass third seeded Nozomi Okuhara from Japan to win a gold medal in the World Championships 2019.
- In the process, the fifth seeded PV Sindhu bettered her 2017, 2018 appearances in the World Championships final and became the first Indian to win the marquee tournament.

Gokulam Kerala beat Mohun Bagan 2-1 to win Durand Cup

- Gokulam Kerala defeated Mohun Bagan 2–1 to win their maiden Durand Cup finals at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
- The 2019 Durand Cup was the 129th edition of the oldest football tournament in Asia since its foundation in 1888.

Spain's Alex Rins wins British Grand Prix

- Suzuki Ecstar rider Alex Rins won the MotoGP Grand Prix of Britain
- Rins pipped the Marc Marquez by a margin of 0.013 seconds to take his second win of the MotoGP season.

Madhya Pradesh para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia crosses America's Catalina Channel

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

India's junior women boxers win 4 gold medals at Serbian tourney

- India's junior women boxers clinched 12 medals at the third Nation's Cup in Vrbas, Serbia. The team won four gold, four silver and four bronze medals and claimed the runners-up trophy.
- Tamanna clinched gold in 48 Kilogram category along with Ambeshori Devi in 57 Kilogram, Preeti Dahiya in 60 Kilogram and Priyanka in 66 Kilogram category.
- In 50 Kilogram, Karnataka's Anju Devi settled for silver along with Maharashtra's Simran Verma in 52 Kilogram, Haryana's Manshi Dalal in 75 Kilogram and Punjab's Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu in 80 Kilogram category.
- In addition, Goa's Aashreya Naik picked up a bronze medal in 63 Kilogram category along with Neha in 54 Kilogram category, Khushi in 70 and Alfiya Akram Khan Pathan in plus-80 Kilogram category. Over 160 boxers from 20 countries participated in this tournament, for which India sent a 13-member squad.

Mumbai to host prestigious World Youth Chess Championship

- The 2019 World Youth chess championship is to be held in Mumbai from October 1-13, at the Renaissance Hotel in Powai, Mumbai under the aegis of All-India Chess Federation and organised by the All-Marathi chess Association.
- India's latest chess sensation and the world's second youngest Grand Master Praggnanandhaa R will be the star attraction at the prestigious World Youth Chess Championship to be held in Mumbai in October.
- On the girls' side, Nagpur's Divya Deshmukh will spearhead India's challenge. The world's best talent will be seen in three age-groups for boys and girls: U-14, U-16 and U-18.

Aishwary wins gold at Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi memorial shooting

- In Shooting, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched a yellow metal in Men's Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters competition in New Delhi.
- Meanwhile, multiple International Shooting Sport Federation medallist and the country's most accomplished 3P shooter Sanjeev Rajput, had to be satisfied with a silver, finishing. India international Parul Kumar settled for the bronze.
- Tinjit Dhanota of Punjab and Esha Singh of Telengana won the Men's and Women's 10 metres Air Pistol gold medals.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Hungarian Grand Prix 2019

- Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula 1, Hungarian Grand Prix 2019.
- This is the 8th win for him in this season. Also, this was his seventh win in the Hungarian Grand Prix.
- Max Verstappen was second followed by Sebastian Vettel at third.

Vinesh Phogat Wins Third Successive Gold in 53kg In Poland Open

- Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat has bagged her third consecutive gold in women's 53kg category after winning the Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw
- This was her third consecutive gold in the 53 kg category after winning Gold at Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey last month.

Serena Williams tops Forbes list of best-paid female athlete

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

Mary Kom and Lovlina Borgohain selected for world boxing Championship

- Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom and Lovlina Borgohain have been selected for the upcoming women's world boxing championships
- The world boxing championships are scheduled from October 3 to 13 in Russia
- The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who has already claimed two gold medals this year (India Open and a recent tournament in Indonesia), has been selected in the 51kg category.
- While World and Asian bronze-medallist Borgohain will be competing in the 69kg category

Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia in 12-member selection panel for national sports awards

- The national sports awards for athletes and coaches this year will be decided by a single 12-member panel, which includes six-time boxing world champion Mary Kom and former football captain Bhaichung Bhutia.
- The awards will be given away on August 29, the birth anniversary of former hockey captain Major Dhyan Chand which is celebrated as the National Sports Day.

World Archery suspends Archery Association of India for breaching guidelines

- World Archery, the global governing body of the Olympic sport, suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI) for breaching its guidelines by electing two parallel bodies, but allowed Indian archers to compete in the 2019 World Archery Youth Championships, slated to be held in Madrid from August 19.
- The suspension has come into effect from August 5.

Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open title

- Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open.
- The 26-year-old Sourabh from Madhya Pradesh had won the Slovenian International in May this year. He had also won two Super 100 titles at the Dutch Open and Russian Open last year.
- Top seeds Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, however, finished runners up in women's doubles.

Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix

- India's top wrestlers Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix
- Bajrang Punia prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65 Kilogram category final of the men's free style competition in the capital city of Georgia.
- It is fourth gold for the Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament.

Rafael Nadal wins 35th ATP Masters 1000 Title at Montreal Open 2019

- Rafael Nadal defeated Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 to win his fifth title at the ATP Montreal Masters
- It was his 35th Masters 1000 title
- Nadal won his first Canadian title in 2005 and also repeated in 2008, 2013 and 2018

Surya Shekhar Ganguly secures victory at Belt and Road China Hunan International tournament

- Surya Shekhar Ganguly played some sparkling chess to win the Belt and Road China Hunan International tournament at Tongguanyao. The 36-year-old ONGC staffer from Kolkata.
- The 36-year-old ONGC staffer, finished unbeaten with seven points from nine rounds (five wins and four draws) to collect 27.5 Elo points and \$50,000 at the tournament regarded as one of the richest chess events globally.
- The second seed Yu Yangyi of China and 5th seed Amin Bassem of Egypt scored 6 points each to be placed second.

Aishwarya Pissay becomes 1st Indian to claim a world title in motorsports

- Aishwarya Pissay (Bangalore) became the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, winning the FIM World Cup in the women's category after the final round of the championship in Hungary.
- The 23-year old from Bengaluru also finished second in the FIM Junior category
- She won the first round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), fifth (Spain) and fourth (Hungary) in the subsequent outings, finished with a tally of 65 points

Vinesh settles for silver, Sakshi bronze

- Top Indian woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat lost to N Malisheva of Russia in the 53kg final of the Medved event in Minsk, Belarus.
- The 24-year-old Vinesh was contesting her fourth consecutive final event of the season winning all the earlier three events.
- Before this, Vinesh won gold at 2019 Poland Open wrestling tournament, Grand Prix of Spain and Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik settled for bronze in the 62kg category.
- The Indian women wrestling team bagged four silver and three bronze medals in the tournament.
- In the men's freestyle, Ravi Dahiya was the lone medallist with a bronze in the 57kg category.

Djokovic remains at top of ATP rankings

- Wimbledon 2019 champion Novak Djokovic remains to be at the top of the ATP rankings while Rafael Nadal takes the second position.

Women's cricket, beach volleyball and Para table tennis confirmed as events at Birmingham 2022

- Women's Twenty20 cricket, beach volleyball and Para-table tennis have been included in the 2022 Commonwealth Game scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England.
- However, this time shooting and archery events will not take place in the 2022 Commonwealth Game.
- The last time cricket was played in Commonwealth Games was in the year 1998 that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was 50 over men's cricket in which South Africa won the Gold Medal.

Simone Biles makes history with a "triple-double" twist

- Simone Biles continues to raise the bar in competitive gymnastics.

- The four-time Olympic gold medalist made history when she landed a triple-double during her floor routine at the United States championships.
- No one else has landed a triple-twisting double somersault in competition.
- This came after Biles became the first person to land a double-double as part of a dismount on the balance beam.

Deepak Punia Becomes India's 1st Junior Wrestling World Champion

- Grappler Deepak Punia became India's first junior World Champion in 18 years
- He won the gold medal in 86kg junior freestyle title at the junior worlds with a win over Russia's Alik Shebzukhov at Tallinn, Estonia.
- Punia, who also won a gold at 2016 Cadet World Championship.
- Vicky Chahar, on the other hand, won bronze in the 92 kg category by beating Mongolia's Batmagnai Enkhtuvshin

India win gold at Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team championship in Kazakhstan

- India have won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title.
- The team comprised Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin. Manas and Rethin won their singles matches. Manas and Arnav, however, lost their doubles encounter. 12-year-old Manas remained unbeaten in the entire tournament.

Hima Das, Mohammad Anas win gold at Athleticky Mitink Reiter event

- Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold each in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic.
- While Hima won the gold in women's event yesterday, Mohammad Anas claimed the yellow metal in men's category. This was Hima's sixth gold in 2019 in European races since last month.
- India's Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in the same event.

Uganda beat Zambia in Victoria Rugby Cup

- Uganda Rugby Cranes have defeated visiting Zambia national team in a 2019 Victoria Rugby Cup game at the Kyadondo ground in Kampala.
- The Victoria Cup is a rugby union tournament played between four African nations involving Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia based on a double round-robin system.

AIG Ashish Kapoor clinches two gold medals at WPFG

- Assistant Inspector General (AIG) in Vigilance Bureau of Punjab, Ashish Kapoor has bagged gold medals in both singles and doubles titles in Tennis events during the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 2019, held at Chengdu in China.
- He won gold medals for the consecutive 4th time since 2009 in these games for India. In his debut in 2009 in WPFG games at Vancouver, he had won a bronze medal in tennis singles. In New York games, 2011 he got Silver whereas in Belfast, Ireland (2013), Fairfax USA (2015), and Los Angeles USA (2017) he struck Gold medals.

Gurbaxani pips Padhy to lift youth snooker crown

- India junior no 2, Kreishh Gurbaxani, clawed his way back from 0-3 to turn the tables on Asutosh Padhy 5-4 in the final of the Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open.
- The winner received the champion's trophy and a cheque of Rs 30,000, while Padhy received the runner-up trophy and a cheque of Rs 20,000.

Kiren Rijiju, Bhaichung Bhutia Flag-off 'OP-Blue Freedom'

- Indian Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and former Indian football team captain Bhaichung Bhutia started the 'Op-Blue Freedom', which is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as able-bodied persons.
- Op-Blue Freedom is an initiative in which a group of armed forces veterans, train sports enthusiasts, both abled and disabled, in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.
- They aim to train adventure enthusiasts in valuable special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness, in combination with the adventure activity one chooses to pursue -- mountaineering, trekking, scuba diving, sky diving etc

Pune Man Becomes First Indian To Complete "La Ultra The High" Marathon

- Ashish Kasodekar has become the first Indian to complete the 555 kms long "La Ultra The High" marathon in Ladakh.
- This marathon is also known as the cruellest marathon of the world. This event is organised every year in Ladakh and for the latest edition, the distance of the marathon was extended to 555 kms from 333 kms.
- Five people participated in the marathon and among five, two were Indians. The total journey of the marathon had to be completed in five and a half days.
- The participants had to pass five mountains with almost 17,500 feet height.

Indian team creates history at WorldSkills event in Russia, wins 4 medals

- The Indian Team finished 13th among 63 countries in the overall standings at the WorldSkills International Competition 2019 in Kazan, Russia by winning 19 medals.
- The 48-member Indian team won one Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals besides 15 Medallions of Excellence at the competition.
- S Aswatha Narayana, 25, won the gold medal in water technology. Pranav Nutalapati, 17, won silver medal in web technology.
- Sanjoy Pramanik, 21, from West Bengal and Shweta Ratanpura, 22 from Maharashtra both won bronze medals in Jewellery and graphic design technology respectively.

India's Elavenil Valarivan claims maiden World Cup gold medal

- Elavenil Valarivan (Gujarat) claimed her maiden senior World Cup gold medal, finishing on top in the women's 10m air rifle competition in Rio de Janeiro
- It was her debut year at the senior level, the 20-year-old Elavenil shot 251.7 in the finals leaving behind Seonaid McIntosh of Britain, who won silver with an effort of 250.6
- India has now won three out of the four World Cup gold medals in the women's 10m air this year. Elavenil is a junior World Cup gold-medallist besides being an Asian champion.

Daniil Medvedev, Madison Keys crowned Cincinnati Masters champions

- Russia's Daniil Medvedev of Russia and Madison Keys of the US won the men's and women's singles titles of the Cincinnati Masters after winning their respective semifinal clashes.
- Russia's tennis sensation Daniil Medvedev continued his splendid run in the season to lift his maiden ATP Masters 1000 title in Cincinnati.
- American Madison Keys to clinch the women's singles title by beating veteran Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.
- Men's doubles: Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Filip Polášek (Slovakia)
- Women's doubles: Lucie Hradecká (Czech Republic) and Andreja Klepač (Slovenia)

Rogers Cup/Canadian Open 2019

- 2019 Rogers Cup/ Canadian Open presented by National Bank was held from August 5-11, 2019. The Men's tournament was held at IGA Stadium, Montreal, Quebec, Canada and Women's tournament was held at Aviva Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Daniil Sergeyevich Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Bianca Vanessa Andreescu (Canada)	Serena Williams (America)
Men's Doubles	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)	Robin Haase & Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková & Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)	Anna-Lena Groenefel (Germany) & Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

Hyderabad Open Badminton 2019

- The Hyderabad Open (Badminton) 2019, officially known as IDBI Federal Life Insurance Hyderabad Open 2019, was held at G.M.C. Balayogi SATS Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India.

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER
Men's Singles	Sourabh Verma (India)	Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)
Women's Singles	Yeo Jia Min (Singapore)	An Se-young (South Korea)
Men's Doubles	Muhamamd Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana (Indonesia)	Na Sung-seung & Wang Chan (South Korea)
Women's Doubles	Baek Ha-na & Jung Kyung-eun (South Korea)	Ashwini Ponnappa & N Sikki Reddy (India)
Mixed Doubles	Cheah Yee See & Hoo Pang Ron (Malaysia)	Mychelle Crhystine Bandaso & Adnan Maulana (Indonesia)

Chennai Lions beat Dabang Delhi to win the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) title

- Chennai Lions defeat Dabang Delhi to clinch the Ultimate Table Tennis crown
- In the men's singles Tiago Apolonia of Portuguese beat G. Sathiyam
- Women's Singles: Petrissa Solja beat Bernadette Szocs

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Tiago Apolonia (Portugal)	Sathiyam G (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
Women's Singles	Petrissa Solja (Germany)	Bernadette Szocs (Romania)
Men's Doubles	Sharath Kamal (Chennai, Tamil Nadu) and Petrissa Solja	Sathiyam G and Bernadette Szocs

Important Obituaries

Person	Field
Subir Gokarn	Economist and former RBI deputy governor
V G Siddhartha	Founder of Cafe Coffee Day
Malcolm Nash	Former England county cricketer and coach
Devadas Kanakala	Noted Telugu actor
Anant Setalvad	Cricket commentator

Kanti Bhatt	Gujarati journalist
Sushma Swaraj	Former Union External Affairs Minister
Jennifer Chandran	Former Tamil Nadu fisheries Minister
J Om Prakash	Bollywood filmmaker
Harley Race	American wrestler (known as 'King of the Ring')
Dayanidhi Nayak	Noted freedom fighter
Ange Didier Huon (DJ Arafat)	Ivory Coast singer
Amarendra Sharan	Former Additional Solicitor General (ASG)
Jose Luis Brown	Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning Football player
Vidya Sinha	Veteran Bollywood actress
Madan Mani Dixit	Nepal's veteran Journalist
VB Chandrasekhar	Former India cricket player
Neelum Sharma	Veteran journalist and senior anchor at Doordarshan (DD) News
Ranjit Guru	journalist and columnist
Richard Williams	Three-time Oscar-winning Animator
Jagannath Mishra	Former Bihar Chief Minister
Sahura Mallick	Former Odisha MLA and Senior Congress leader
Umesh Bhat Bhavikeri	Former MLA of Ankola, Karnataka
Zahur Khayyam Hashmi	Music Composer
Babulal Gaur	Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister
Niranjana Singh Tasneem	Punjab writer & Professor
Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya (Himachal Pradesh)	India's First Woman DGP
Lalat Indu Parija	Former Chief Secretary of Odisha
Ajjikuttira Kariappa Subbaiah	first president of BJP in karnataka
Noel Kelman	Indian Navy hero
Navnitbhai Shah	Socialist leader and former MLA of Palghar
Rajnish Kumar Babbi	Congress MLA from Mukerian Assembly seat in Punjab
Nimu Bhowmik	Veteran Bengali actor