

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

October 2019



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions



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## Current Affairs – October 2019

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This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **October 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

## Audience

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Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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# Appointments

## 1. Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy took oath as Himachal Chief Justice

Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy was sworn in as the 25th Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. He was enrolled as an advocate in 1987.

Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy practised for 19 years in the High Court of Karnataka, Karnataka Administrative Tribunal and Central Administrative Tribunal, Bangalore. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on July 4, 2007 and appointed as a Permanent Judge on April 17, 2009.



## 2. RBI appointed Jai Bhagwan Bhorla as administrator for PMC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has superseded the Board of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Limited, Mumbai and appointed Jai Bhagwan Bhorla as the bank's administrator with all powers of the board. RBI also increased the amount of withdrawal allowed to the depositors from ₹1,000 to ₹10,000. The directives of RBI shall remain in force for a period of six months.



PMC's exposure to the bankrupt Housing Development and Infrastructure or HDIL is over ₹6,500 crore -- four times the regulatory cap or a whopping 73% of its entire assets of ₹8,880 crore.

## 3. Vijay Patil elected President of Mumbai Cricket Association

Vijay Patil has been elected unopposed as President of Mumbai Cricket Association. Amol Kale was elected as the Vice-President while Sanjay Naik was elected as the Secretary. Vijay Patil is the son of former Governor and Congress politician Dr. DY Patil.



Jagdish Achrekar was elected as the treasurer and Shahalam Shaikh was chosen as joint secretary. Prof (Dr) Unmesh Khanvilkar, Ajinkya Naik, Gaurav Payyade, Vihang Sarnaik, Abhay Hadap, Kaushik Godbole, Amit Dani, Nadim Memon and Khodadad Y were elected as the members of the Apex Council.

#### 4. Azharuddin elected as President of Hyderabad Cricket Association

Former India Captain Mohammad Azharuddin has been elected as the President of the Hyderabad Cricket Association. Azhar led India in 47 Tests and 174 ODIs. His career ended when the BCCI banned him for life in 2000 for match-fixing. In 2012, the Andhra Pradesh High Court declared the life ban illegal.



R. Vijayanand was elected Secretary while K. John Manoj was elected as Vice-President. Surinder Kumar Agarwal won the treasurer's post. Naresh Sharma was elected joint secretary.

#### 5. Ajay Kumar Lallu appointed Uttar Pradesh Congress chief

Congress MLA from Tamkuhiraj constituency in Kushinagar, Ajay Kumar Lallu, has been appointed as the party's Uttar Pradesh State Unit President, replacing Raj Babbar. Aradhana Misra 'Mona', daughter of senior leader Pramod Tiwari, has been appointed as Leader of Legislative Party in place of Mr. Lallu. Names of four Vice Presidents, 12 General Secretaries and 24 Secretaries have also been announced by the party.



The party has also set up an eight-member Working Group for strategy and planning for the state.

#### 6. Justice Ajai Lamba took oath as CJ of Gauhati HC

Justice Ajai Lamba has taken oath as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court in Assam. Governor Professor Jagdish Mukhi has administered the oath taking ceremony at the Raj Bhawan in Guwahati.



Justice Ajai Lamba is a former Judge of Allahabad, Punjab and Haryana High Court. Enrolled as an Advocate in 1981, he practised law on civil, criminal and revenue side as well as cases relating to Labour Law, Company Law, Service Law and The Constitution of India.

#### 7. Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora AVSM ADC assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora AVSM ADC took over as Vice Chief of the Air Staff. The Air Marshal was commissioned in the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot in Dec 1981. He has rich and diverse experience of accident free operational flying which includes MiG 21, MiG 29 and other aircraft in IAF inventory.



For his distinguished service, Air Marshal Arora was awarded 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' by the President of India on 26 Jan 2011. He was appointed as Honorary Air Force ADC to the Honorable President of India.

### 8. KS Dhatwalia appointed PIB's Principal DG

Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, a 1984-batch IIS officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS), has been appointed as the Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau. He will succeed Sitanshu Kar. Mr. Dhatwalia will be the 28th Principal Spokesperson of the government. He will continue to hold the additional charge of Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication.



Principal Director General, News Services Division of All India Radio, Ira Joshi has been given additional charge of Publications Division. Satyendra Prakash, Director General, Bureau of Outreach and Communication, has been given additional charge of Press Registrar, RNI.

### 9. Mallikarjuna Rao appointed as new MD of Punjab National Bank

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for appointment of Ch SS Mallikarjuna Rao as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank. He has been appointed to the new post up to September 18, 2021.



Mr Mallikarjuna Rao is currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer in Allahabad Bank. He will replace Sunil Mehta in PNB. PNB is currently under a process of three-way amalgamation with Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India.

### 10. Air Marshal S K Ghotia takes over as chief of South Western Air Command

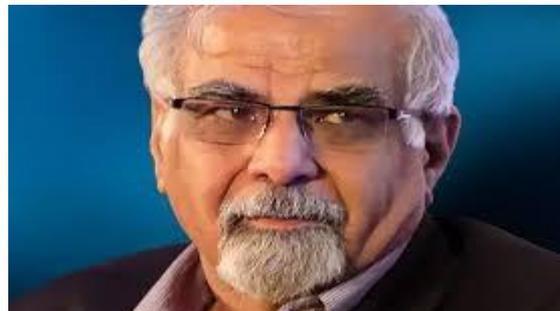
Air Marshal S K Ghotia has taken over as the new Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the South Western Air Command (SWAC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), at Gandhinagar. He replaced Air Marshal H S Arora, who moved to Air Headquarters as the Vice-Chief of Air Staff.



Air Marshal Ghotia was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF in December, 1981. He was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal in 2007 and Commendations by Chief of Air Staff in 1998 as well as by Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command in 1994.

### **11. Government appointed Surjit S Bhalla as Executive Director for India at IMF**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of economist Surjit Bhalla as the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a period of three years. The post was lying vacant after the death of Dr Subir Gokarn in July.



Bhalla earlier served as a member of the prime minister's economic advisory council but resigned in December 2018. He holds a PhD in Economics from Princeton University, a Masters in Public and International Affairs from Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, and a BSEE degree from Purdue University.

### **12. Tata Communications appointed Amur Lakshminarayanan as MD, Group CEO Designate**

Tata Communications has named Amur S Lakshminarayanan as Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer designate of the company.



Lakshminarayanan has 35 years of experience in a broad range of leadership roles across industries and regions across the world. His roles in the company included President and CEO of TCS Japan, Global Head of Telecom, Media and Information Services, HiTech and Utilities, and Head of TCS UK and Europe.

### **13. Sushil Chandra appointed as MD & CEO of Oil India Limited**

Sushil Chandra Mishra took over the charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited (OIL). He will replace Utpal Bora.

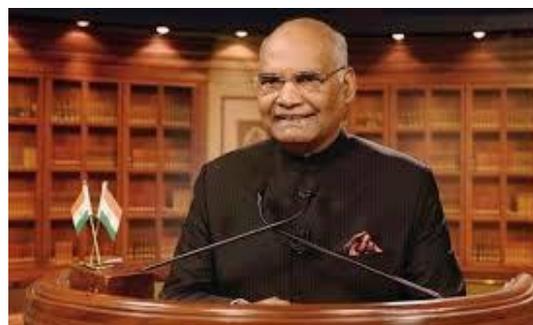


Prior to his appointment, Mr Mishra was heading OIL's Rajasthan Project as Executive Director where he oversaw highly successful implementation of India's first and deepest Cyclic Steam Stimulation (CSS) process. CSS is a technology to produce heavy crude oil, holding the promise of manifold increase in production of heavy-oil from Rajasthan fields.

#### 14. President Kovind appointed Chief Justices to 7 high courts

President Ramnath Kovind appointed Chief Justices to seven high courts.

- Lingappa Narayana Swamy: Himachal Pradesh High Court
- Ravi Shanker Jha: Punjab and Haryana High Court
- Indrajit Mohanty: Rajasthan High Court
- J.K. Maheshwari: Andhra Pradesh High Court
- S. Manikumar: Kerala High Court
- Arup K. Goswami: Sikkim High Court
- Ajai Lamba: Gauhati High Court



#### 15. Punjab government appointed Justice Sharma as Lokpal

The Congress government in Punjab has appointed Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma as Punjab Lokpal. However, it failed to amend the Punjab Lokpal Act, 1996 thereby leaving the chief minister and cabinet ministers out of its ambit.



Justice Sharma had worked as an advocate in Punjab and Haryana High Court from 1974 till his elevation as Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court in March 2006. He retired as a judge of Madras High Court in May 2013.

#### 16. Yes Bank Ltd appointed Anita Pai as COO

Yes Bank has appointed Anita Pai as its Chief Operating Officer and Jasneet Bachal as its Chief Marketing Officer. Prior to her appointment, Anita was the Senior General Manager and Head of ATM Business, Branch banking Service and Phone Banking at ICICI Bank. She has also been associated with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited and HDFC Limited.



Anita Pai will lead the bank's operations and service delivery and will also look after the information technology functions of the lender. Jasneet Bachal will head the marketing and communication efforts of the bank.

### **17. Shri J.P.S. Chawla assumed charge as new Controller General of Accounts**

Government of India has appointed Shri J. P. S. Chawla, 1985-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.



Shri Chawla has worked for four years with the Public Sector Engineering Enterprise, Engineers India Limited (EIL), prior to joining the Civil Services. During his 34-year career he has held various cadre posts with Prasar Bharti, Urban Development, Civil Aviation & Tourism and Agriculture. Prior to assuming the charge of CGA, he served as Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs.

### **18. Anoop Kumar Mendiratta appointed as new Law Secretary**

Sitting District & Sessions Judge (North East) of the Delhi's Karkardooma Courts Anoop Kumar Mendiratta was appointed as the new Law Secretary (Secretary, Legal Affairs) in the Union Law Ministry on contractual basis till March 30, 2023. He was shortlisted among more than 60 candidates. He will serve in the position till 30 March 2023, or until he attains the age of 60.



The post of Law Secretary is to advise not only to the Law Ministry but also to Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and other Secretaries.

### **19. World Steel Association elected Sajjan Jindal as Vice Chairman**

The Board of Directors of the World Steel Association elected Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Steel, as Vice-Chairman of the association for one year. The association has also appointed Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran and Arcelor Mittal Chief L N Mittal as its members. The board also elected a 14-member Executive Committee.



The new officers elected include Chairman, HBIS Group Co., Ltd YU Yong as Chairman of association, CEO AK Steel Roger Newport as Treasurer and Executive Vice Chairman, Gerdau S.A André Johannpeter as Vice Chairman.

## 20. Former IMF Chief Christine Lagarde appointed head of European Central Bank

European Union leaders confirmed the appointment of Christine Lagarde as the new chief of the European Central Bank, replacing Mario Draghi from November 1. She has served in Ministry of Finance, France for three years and chairman of the Global Strategic Committee at Baker McKenzie.



Prior to the appointment, she was the Managing Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 8 years. Lagarde's confirmation for a non-renewable term of eight years comes after EU leaders nominated her for the position on July 2.

## 21. GC Murmu and RK Mathur appointed as L-G of J&K and Ladakh respectively

Indian Administrative Service officers Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as Lt. Governor of Jammu-Kashmir and R K Mathur as Lt. Governor of Ladakh. Mr P.S. Sreedharan Pillai has been appointed the new Governor of Mizoram. The incumbent Governor of the Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik has been moved to Goa.



Murmu, a 1985-batch Gujarat cadre officer, is serving as the Expenditure Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry. Mathur, a 1977-batch officer, has served as the Defence Secretary and is a former Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).

## 22. Ashok Malik appointed as Policy Advisor in MEA

According to an order by the Department of Personnel and Training, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ashok Malik as policy advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs on contract basis in the rank of Additional Secretary.



Malik, a distinguished fellow in the Observer Research Foundation, has been appointed for a period of two years. Prior to this appointment, Malik was press secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind for a two-year term.

### 23. Pankaj Kumar appointed as new CEO of UIDAI

The Government of India appointed IAS officer Pankaj Kumar as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Prior to his appointment, Kumar was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and IT.



The government has appointed Tuhin Kumar Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer, as secretary in Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Sanjeev Nandan Sahai, a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as the new Secretary, Ministry of Power.

### 24. Sourav Ganguly took charge as the 39th BCCI President

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly formally took over as the 39th president of BCCI in the General Body Meeting at the cricket board's headquarters in Mumbai. Jay Shah took over as the secretary of the board while Arun Singh Dhumal became the new treasurer. Jayesh George was named the joint secretary while Mahim Verma became the new vice-president.



Ganguly has been working as president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) for the last five years. He became the first Indian captain to head the board in 65 years.

### 25. SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar elected as the new Chairman of IBA

SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Banks' Association. He succeeds Sunil Mehta, who was the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank. Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO of IDBI Bank will be honorary secretary of IBA for 2019-20.



Indian Banks' Association (IBA) is a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India. It is an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai. IBA was formed for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking.

## 26. Shri Radha Krishna Mathur sworn in as first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Gita Mittal administered oath of office to Shri R.K. Mathur as the new Lt. Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

After swearing in, Shri Mathur was given a Guard of Honour at the venue by the Ladakh Police. The swearing in ceremony took place in the presence of officials of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, Army and Para Military forces, religious leaders and Ladakh public.



## 27. Shri Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde to be the next Chief Justice of India

The President has appointed Shri Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Judge of the Supreme Court as the next Chief Justice of India with effect from November 18, 2019.

Shri Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde has been a Judge of the Supreme Court since April 12, 2013. Earlier he served as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court for about six months since October 16, 2012. He has also been an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court from March 29, 2000 and a Permanent Judge from March 28, 2002.



# Awards

## 1. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019

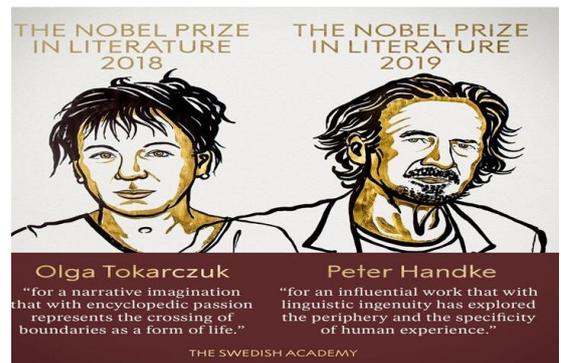
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019 was awarded jointly to William G. Kaelin Jr., Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.



The trio discovered how cells can sense and adapt to changing oxygen availability. They identified molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying levels of oxygen. Their discoveries have also paved the way for promising new strategies to fight anemia, cancer and many other diseases.

## 2. Nobel Prizes in Literature for 2018 and 2019

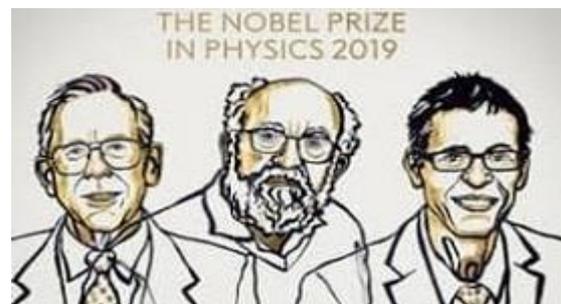
The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 is awarded to the Polish author Olga Tokarczuk and for 2019 is awarded to the Austrian author Peter Handke. Handke was honoured for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience. His notable works include "Short Letter, Long Farewell" and "A Sorrow Beyond Dreams".



Tokarczuk has also won the Booker International Prize for her 2007 novel "Flights". Her 900-page "The Books of Jacob" was hailed as her magnum opus by the Swedish Academy.

## 3. Nobel Prize 2019 for Physics awarded for discoveries in cosmology

Nobel Prize 2019 for Physics has been awarded to three scientists, James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz for their contribution to the understanding of the evolution of the universe and earth's place in the cosmos.



One half of the award was given to James Peebles for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology and the other half jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star.

#### 4. Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize 2019 was awarded to Abiy Ahmed Ali "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea."



Abiy Ahmed spent his first 100 days as Prime Minister lifting the country's state of emergency, granting amnesty to thousands of political prisoners, discontinuing media censorship, legalising outlawed opposition and significantly increasing the influence of women in Ethiopian political and community life.

#### 5. Nobel Prize in Economics 2019 awarded to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019 was awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." Indian-born American economist Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Esther Duflo, a French-American economist teaches at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. They won for their work on finding new ways to tackle poverty.



Michael Kremer teaches at Harvard University, Cambridge. He won for his work on experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.

#### 6. 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to John, M. Stanley and Akira Yoshino

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry are awarded to John Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino "for the development of lithium-ion batteries". Through their work, they have created the right conditions for a wireless and fossil fuel-free society, and so brought the greatest benefit to humankind.



Stanley Whittingham worked on developing methods that could lead to fossil fuel-free energy technologies. John Goodenough predicted that the cathode would have even greater potential if it was made using a metal oxide instead of a metal sulphide. Akira Yoshino created the first commercially viable lithium-ion battery.

## 7. Kyrgyz lawyer Azizbek Ashurov won 2019 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Azizbek Ashurov of Kyrgyzstan has been selected as the 2019 winner of the UN Refugee Agency's Nansen Refugee Award for his efforts to help Kyrgyz Republic become the first country in the world to end statelessness. Azizbek Ashurov, through his organization Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders (FVLWB), has helped well over 10,000 people to gain Kyrgyz nationality after they became stateless following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.



The award includes a commemorative medal and a US\$150,000 monetary prize. UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award honours extraordinary service to the forcibly displaced.

## 8. AIIMS won Kayakalp Awards 2019

The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) won the first prize of ₹3 crore under the government's Kayakalp scheme for 2018-19 under the Central Government Hospitals A category. JIPMER, Puducherry was judged as the runner-up in this category with ₹1.5 crore prize money. PGIMER, Chandigarh and Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi won the Commendation Award of Rs. 50 Lakh each.



Shri Vinoba Bhave Civil Hospital (VBCH), Silvassa won the first prize of ₹2 crore in the group B category with AIIMS Bhubaneswar as the runner-up winning ₹1 crore. NEIGRIHMS in Shillong, LGBRIMH in Tezpur and AIIMS, Bhopal each won ₹50 lakh as Commendation Award.

## 9. Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo jointly won Booker Prize

2019 Booker Prize for Fiction was honored jointly to Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo. Margaret Atwood was recognized for The Testaments, the Canadian writer's follow-up to The Handmaid's Tale. The Testaments became the fastest-selling hardback novel in four years. Londoner Evaristo became the first black woman to win Booker Prize for her novel Girl, Woman, Other. Margaret Atwood became the oldest ever Booker winner.



The Booker Prize for Fiction, formerly known as the Booker-McConnell Prize and the Man Booker Prize, is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel.

### 10. Russia honors astronaut Nick Hague with “Order of Courage”

Russian President Vladimir Putin presented a prestigious state award for courage on US astronaut Nick Hague who survived an emergency onboard a Russian spacecraft. Putin awarded Hague the Order of Courage for “high professionalism shown in the line of duty in high-risk conditions during an emergency”.



Hague, along with Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin, made a dramatic emergency landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan in October 2018 when a booster rocket on their Soyuz launch vehicle failed — the first such accident in post-Soviet history.

### 11. Ramesh Pandey selected for Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme for his excellent work in combating trans-boundary environmental crime has selected Senior Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.



The 1996-batch IFS officer, posted as Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow and Secretary, UP State Bio-diversity Board, is known for his investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers. The purpose of the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards is to publicly recognise outstanding achievements by public organisations and individuals in Asia to combat transboundary environmental crime.

### 12. Chandi Prasad Bhatt to get Indira Gandhi award for national integration

Ramon Magsaysay award recipient and pioneer of the Chipko Movement Chandi Prasad Bhatt will be honored with 31st Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018 for his services in promoting and preserving the national integration.



The Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration is a prestigious award accorded by the Indian National Congress, after former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi. In the past, award has been given to leaders such as A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, Satish Dhawan Acharya Tulsi, Bishambhar Nath Pande etc.

### 13. India wins four UNESCO heritage awards

The renewal of the historic Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts has received the Award of Excellence in 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. 16 projects from 5 countries namely Australia, Bhutan, China, India and New Zealand were recognized.



4 heritage landmarks from India were chosen for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019 namely-

- **Award of Distinction - Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India.**
- **Award of Merit - Our Lady of Glory Church, Mumbai, India, Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue, Mumbai, India.**
- **Honourable Mention - Flora Fountain, Mumbai, India.**

#### **14. Vice President presented 'Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award' to former Attorney General K. Parasaran**

The Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu presented 'Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award' to legal luminary, scholar and former Attorney General of India, Shri K. Parasaran on the occasion of the Elder's Day celebration of Age Care India, an organization working for the welfare of the elderly.



K. Parasaran was Attorney General of India under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. Parasaran was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the year 2003 and Padma Vibhushan in the year 2011. In June 2012, he received a presidential nomination to the Rajya Sabha.

#### **15. Hong Kong's orchestra bagged "Orchestra of the year award 2019" at Gramophone Awards**

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) was named Orchestra of the Year at the 2019 Gramophone Classical Music Awards ceremony – regarded as the "Oscars of classical music" – in London, for its outstanding contribution to recorded music in the past year. The HK Phil is the first Asian orchestra to receive this prestigious international award.



The Award "celebrates ensembles that have made significant recorded contributions in the past year and reflects the excellence of music-making across the globe". The Award was for the HK Phil's live recordings of the complete Ring Cycle by Richard Wagner on the Naxos label.

### **16. Uighur economist and human rights activist Ilham Tohti won Sakharov Prize 2019**

The European Parliament has awarded its Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Ilham Tohti. Tohti is an economist fighting for the rights of China's Uighur minority and the implementation of regional autonomy laws in China. In 2014 the human rights defender was sentenced to life imprisonment for separatism-related charges.



In 2014, Tohti was awarded PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award for his work in the face of adversity. He also won Liberal International Prize for Freedom in 2017 and nominated for Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

### **17. Mohun Bagan conferred life membership to Abhijit Banerjee**

Football Club Mohun Bagan conferred their Life Membership to Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee. The club also handed him the First Day Cover of 1911 and the maroon green jersey with his name written on it.



Mohun Bagan Athletic Club is one of the oldest existing association football club in India and Asia. The most notable victory in the history of the club was over East Yorkshire Regiment in the 1911 IFA Shield final match, which made them the first Indian club to win the IFA title.

### **18. Jennifer Aniston to receive People's Icon Award 2019**

'Friends' star Jennifer Aniston is set to receive the People's Icon Award at the 2019 People's Choice Awards. The actress would be the second-ever recipient of the title and will receive the honor at the 2019 E! People's Choice Awards.



Melissa McCarthy accepted the trophy for the inaugural award in 2018. Aniston is a seven-time People's Choice Award winner. The 'Morning Show' star is best known for her performance in 'Friends' as Rachel Green for ten seasons. She was last seen in her Netflix drama 'Murder Mystery'.

### **19. Gully Boy, Delhi Crime win big at Asian Academy Creative Awards**

'Gully Boy', India's official entry to the 92nd Oscar Awards, won the best film from India award in the regional finals at the Asian Academy Creative Awards ceremony. Netflix's 'Delhi Crime,' also bagged several awards in various categories.



Actor Shefali Shah won Best Actor in a leading role award followed by Richie Mehta for Best Direction and Best Original Screenplay, Beverley Mills for Best Editing and Best Original Programme by a streaming service.

## 20. The Order of the Green Crescent awarded to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu was conferred the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros — The Order of the Green Crescent by the President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani in Moroni, the capital city of Comoros, during his visit to Comoros. It was M Venkaiah Naidu's first-ever high-level visit to Comoros. During his visit to Comoros, India and Comoros also signed six agreements on defence, health and culture.



The Order of the Green Crescent, also known as Ordre du Croissant vert is a highest Civilian Honour of Comoros, awarded for distinguished merits, military or civilian.

# Bills and Acts

## 1. Government plans to amend Arms Bill

The Union Home Ministry proposed an amendment to the Arms Bill to convict makers and users of illegal arms. According to the draft Arms (Amendment) Bill, the government is planning to amend Section 25 (1AA) of the Arms Act, 1959, to give punishment from the usual life term of 14 years to "imprisonment for the remainder of that person's life" for manufacturing, selling, repairing and possessing "prohibited" arms. The minimum punishment under this section will be 14 years.



The amendment also categorizes illegal import of guns and their sales as "illicit trade". Anyone possessing more than 2 licensed gun has to deposit the third one with the authorities.

## 2. DNA Technology Regulation Bill referred to parliamentary standing committee

The DNA Technology Regulation Bill that seeks to control the use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of a person, has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkiah Naidu has referred the bill to the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests.



The Lok Sabha passed the bill in July 2019. The bill provides for the establishment of DNA data banks at the national and regional levels.

## 3. TM became first state to enact law in contract farming

Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to enact a law on contract farming. President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.



The law would safeguard the interests of farmers when there is a bumper crop or during major fluctuation in market prices. They will be paid a pre-determined price that had been set at the time of signing agreements with buyers.

# Books & Authors

## 1. Book titled ‘India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future’ released

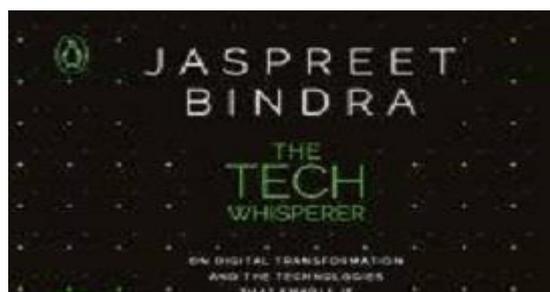
A book authored by India’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, Venu Rajamony, titled “India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future” was released in Amsterdam. The book portrays the history of bilateral relations between India and the Netherlands.



Dutch King Willem-Alexander received the first copy of the book in presence of all high officials. Bombay Ink has published the book. The seminar was jointly organised by the Embassy of India and the Royal Asian Art Society in the Netherlands.

## 2. A new book titled “The Tech Whisperer” authored by Jaspreet Bindra released

A new book entitled “The Tech Whisperer”, written by digital transformation expert Jaspreet Bindra was released. The book has been published by Penguin India.



The Tech Whisperer demystifies and simplifies emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, Internet of things, virtual reality, etc., and narrates how companies can employ these to drive their digital transformation. Jaspreet Bindra has been a leading practitioner and thought leader in digital transformation and technology.

## 3. Book titled “150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy” launched

A new book titled “150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy”, by Fakir Hassen was launched in Johannesburg, South Africa. It was released on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.



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

#### 4. Bill Gates book on climate change to be released in 2020

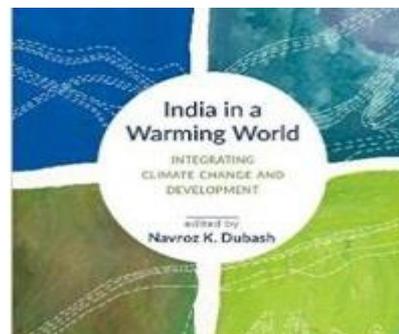
The founder of Microsoft Corporation and American philanthropist Bill Gates' new book titled "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" will be released in June 2020. This book published by UK-based **Allen Lane** publishers, is about climate change, addresses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



The author shares what he has learned in over a decade of studying climate change and his optimism that the world can prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

#### 5. Book titled “India in a Warming world: Integrating Climate Change and Development” set to release

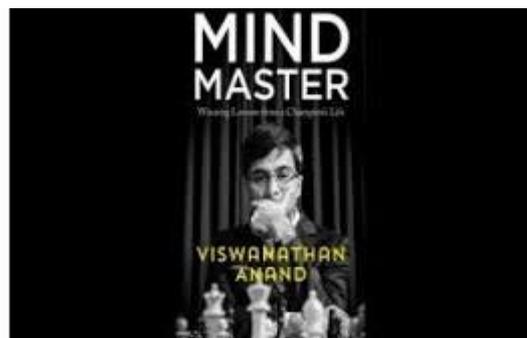
A new book titled "India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate Change and Development, brought out by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) is set to release in November 2019. The book edited by Navroz K Dubash, describes about the climate change globally by providing collection of articles by climate experts including Sunita Narain, Anil Agarwal, Dr Friederike Otto & Shibani Ghosh.



The book published by Oxford University Press (OUP), aims to bring together the voices that seek to find the challenge of dealing with climate change in India.

#### 6. “Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion’s Life” penned by Viswanathan Anand to be released

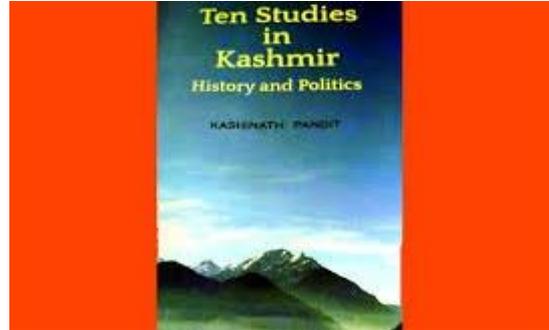
Chess legend Viswanathan Anand has authored an inspirational book titled as “Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion’s Life” which will be released on December 11. The book published by Hachette India, is based on Vishwanathan Anand’s experience to share lessons on how to navigate life.



He has penned about his greatest games and worst losses, his unique experiences of playing against the best minds, and the methods he employs to prepare for wins, cope with disappointments and, simply, stay in the game.

### 7. A new book entitled “Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics” released

A book titled “Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics” was released. The book is written by Indian historian, educationist and Padma Shri recipient, Kashi Nath Pandit and published by Academic Foundation. The book sheds light on the happenings from 1947 till the revocation of special status of the state.



In the book, Pandit has described complexities in various aspects of contemporary Kashmir history, issues such as the genesis of the Kashmir crises, its roots and ramifications and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and the Kashmir debate in the UN.

### 8. PM Modi released book titled 'Bridgital Nation'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book titled 'Bridgital Nation' in New Delhi. The book has been authored by Chairman, Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran and Roopa Purushothaman.



The book presents a powerful vision of the future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem. The cutting edge digital tools can act as a bridge between aspirations and achievements – hence the term 'bridgital'.

# Committees

## 1. Government constituted committee to suggest measures to augment GST revenue

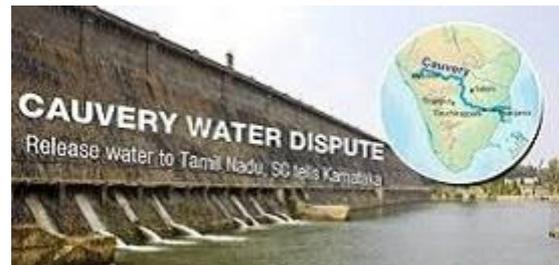
The government has constituted a committee of officers to suggest measures to augment Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections after it dropped sharply to a 19-month low in September. The panel comprises of state-level GST commissioners and centre government officials.



The panel has been asked to look into "systemic changes in GST including checks and balances to prevent misuse." Its key mandate is to suggest "measures for expansion of tax base and anti-evasion measures using better data analytics".

## 2. Tamil Nadu constituted two panels over water disputes with Kerala

In line with its agreement with Kerala towards resolving various inter-State water disputes, Tamil Nadu government constituted two committees to end water disputes with Kerala over two projects Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) and the Pandiyar-Punnampuzha project. Secretary of Tamil Nadu's Public Works Department (PWD) K. Manivasan would lead both the committees.



Other members include Cauvery Technical Committee chairperson R. Subramanian, Retired PWD engineer R. Ilangovan Superintending Engineer P. Muthusamy, TANGEDCO Superintending Engineer Munawar Sulthana, Retired PWD engineer E. Thamizharasan, Superintending Engineer S. Sivalingam and Ms. Sulthana.

# Deaths

## 1. INA veteran V Ganesan passed away

A veteran of the Indian National Army (INA) V Ganesan passed away at the age of 94 years. Ganesan joined Nethaji's INA at the age of 18 years and received six months of military training in Singapore.

While participating in the battle against the British Army in Myanmar, Ganesan was arrested and was imprisoned for 10 months in Yangon jail and was later repatriated to India. Ganesan was honoured by the President of India in 2012. He is also the recipient of Copper Plaques from both the central and state governments.



## 2. Jessye Norman, Grammy-winning star of opera, passed away

US opera singer, Jessye Norman, who won four Grammy Awards and the National Medal of Arts, passed away at the age of 74 years. She made her opera debut in Berlin in 1969 and made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1983.

Norman's many awards included a prestigious Kennedy Center Honor; a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006; a National Medal of Arts in 2009 and France's Legion d'Honneur.



## 3. Legendary singer Jose Jose passes away

Legendary Mexican singer Jose Jose who was often called El Principe de la Cancion or The Prince of Song, passed away at the age of 71 years. His real name was Jose Romulo Sosa Ortiz.

Jose rose to fame in 1970 with a rendition of the song "El Triste," and went on to record 30 albums and 20 Hot Latin Songs hits — many of the most successful about love and loneliness. He made into six Grammy nominations. However, he never took home a Grammy award himself.



#### 4. Hollywood tycoon Eric Pleskow passed away

American-Austrian film producer Eric Pleskow, the Hollywood tycoon, passed away at the age of 95 years. He presided over seven Oscar winners for best picture as a studio chief at United Artists and co-founder and chief executive of Orion Pictures.



Some of his notable movies included "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Rocky," "Amadeus," "Platoon," "Dances with Wolves" and "The Silence of the Lambs". Pleskow was named an honorary citizen of Vienna in 2007.

#### 5. Nephrologist and Padma Shri Awardee HL Trivedi passed away

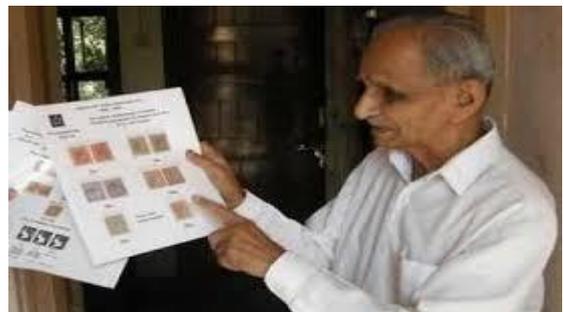
Renowned kidney transplant surgeon and Padma Shri recipient Dr. Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi passed away at the age of 87 years. Trivedi hailed as an expert in handling kidney transplant surgeries was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, in 2015 for his contribution to society as a nephrologist.



Trivedi was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada (FRCP(C)). He was awarded with an honorary Doctor of Science (D. Sc.) degree by King George's Medical University in 2009. He and his team performed more than 5200 kidney transplantations.

#### 6. Centenarian philatelist Krishna Kadekodi passed away

Centenarian philatelist and coin collector Krishna Gopalkrishna Kadekodi passed away at the age of 102 years. He started his career as a revenue inspector and retired as a special deputy commissioner at the Regional Commissioner's Office in Belagavi.



Mr Kadekodi was the first tahsildar of Panaji after the liberation of Goa from Portuguese occupation. He was famous for his hobby of collecting stamps, coins and antiques. In recognition of his hobby, the United States government released a stamp for 41 cents on his 90th birthday.

### 7. Indian-Origin journalist Farook Khan passed away

Farook Khan, a prominent Indian-origin journalist in South Africa and cultural activist, passed away at the age of 77 years. Khan made his valuable contribution to journalism for six decades. He did investigative journalism while working in various media institutions and raised severe issues like apartheid.



Khan worked for the Post Newspapers, DRUM Magazine, The Daily News, Sunday Tribune, Star, Pretoria News and Cape Argus titles in Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria and Cape Town. Farook Khan also started the Miss India South Africa Pageant as part of the Miss India Worldwide Pageant.

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### 8. Buddhist leader Satyapriya Mohathero passed away

The second highest Buddhist leader of Bangladesh and head of Sima Bihar of Ramu in Cox's Bazar, Satyapriya Mohathero passed away in Dhaka at the age of 89 years.



Satyapriya Mohathero became a monk in 1950 and took over as the President of the Bangladesh Sangharaja of Bhikkhu Mahasabha in 2006. He was awarded the second-highest civilian award of Bangladesh Ekushey Padak in 2015 for social work. The Ramu monastery had provided shelter to a large number of people during the Liberation War of Bangladesh 1971 in the face of Pakistani atrocities.

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### 9. Pioneering actress and Oscar nominee, Diahann Carroll, passed away

Diahann Carroll, the Oscar-nominated actress and singer who won critical acclaim as the first black woman to star in a non-servant role in a TV series as "Julia," passed away at the age of 84 years.



Carroll earned a Tony Award for the musical "No Strings" and an Academy Award nomination for best actress for "Claudine." In the 1980s, she played the scheming Dominique Deveraux in TV hit Dynasty. She won the Golden Globe for best female TV star in 1969 for her role in Julia.

She won the Golden Globe for best female TV star in 1969 for her role in Julia.

### 10. Eminent Saxophone master Kadri Gopalnath passed away

Padma Shri awardee and well known Saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath passed away at the age of 69 years. An A grade artist in Akashwani, Gopalnath held concerts in different countries and recorded a number of CDs. He was considered as a pioneer in playing Carnatic ragas on his Saxophone.



Together with jazz flautist James Newton, Gopalnath recorded Southern Brothers. His production East-West is a fusion of western and Indian music.

Apart from Padma Shree, Gopalnath was conferred with Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award, Karnataka Kalasri award among others.

### 11. Renowned painter Kalidas Karmakar passed away

Internationally acclaimed painter of Bangladesh Kalidas Karmakar passed away in Dhaka. Apart from painting he was also known for his installation work in which he used diverse materials like wood, pottery, brass, utensils and others.



Kalidas was prolific in using new mediums and style for his art work while maintaining his signature style. Karmakar also experimented with performance art which combined artist's body as an object of art along with his paintings. Kalidas was awarded Shilpakala Padak in 2016 and the Ekushey Padak in 2018 by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution to fine arts.

### 12. Alexei Leonov, the first human to walk in space passed away

Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, the first human to walk in space 54 years ago passed away at the age of 85 years. Leonov's 12-minute spacewalk preceded the first US spacewalk, by Ed White, by less than three months. He was the first person to perform an extravehicular activity (EVA).



Leonov was an icon in the US, so much so that the late science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke named a Soviet spaceship after him in his 2010 sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey.

### 13. First female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body, Sara Danius passed away

First female head of prestigious Swedish body, Nobel's Literature Award Body, Sara Danius passed away at the age of 57 years. She was known for literature critic, professor and writer. She served as the first female permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy between 2015 and 2018 but left the Swedish Academy in the wake of sex abuse and financial crime scandal that broke out in 2017.



Sara published a book on singer-songwriter Bob Dylan having played a central role in the decision to award the 2016 literature award to the US musician.

### 14. Legendary Cuba ballet dancer Alicia Alonso passed away

Cuban ballet dancer Alicia Alonso passed away at the age of 98 years. She was known for overcoming near-blindness to become a charismatic ballerina of unusual range and power. She is considered one of the greatest 20th Century ballerinas.



Alicia Alonso was honored with 17 awards such as Honorary Citizen of Mérida (México) and Messenger of Peace in 2011, Honorary doctorate from the University of Costa Rica and Order of José Martí by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba in 2000.

### 15. Former Gujarat CM Dilip Parikh passed away

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Dilip Parikh passed away at the age of 82 years. He served as the 13th Chief Minister of Gujarat during 1997-98 when he was with Rashtriya Janata Party - RJP, floated by Shankersingh Vaghela.



Parikh started his political career as a BJP MLA. Industrialist by profession, he also served as President of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He later joined INC and afterwards retired from the politics.

### 16. Wrestling Legend Dadu Chougule passed away

Wrestling legend Dadu Chougule passed away at the age of 73 years. Chougule won several prestigious titles such as Maharashtra Kesari, Rustam Hind Kesari, Mahan Bharat Kesari in the 1970s.



Chougule won a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand in 1974. He was a recipient of the prestigious Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement in sports. Maharashtra government had awarded him with the 'Shivchattrapati Puraskar'.

### 17. Oracle Co-CEO Mark Hurd passed away

Oracle Corp co-Chief Executive Officer Mark Hurd passed away at the age of 62 years. Hurd was one of Oracle's two CEOs, the other being Safra Catz.



Hurd was named Oracle's co-president in September 2010. Hurd and Catz were named co-CEOs in 2014. Oracle stock had risen about 37% in his five years as CEO. Hurd was CEO at Hewlett-Packard from 2005 to 2010, seeing its share price more than double. Hurd began his career with ATM and cash register company NCR as a junior salesman in San Antonio in 1980. He was appointed CEO in 2003.

# Defence

## 1. India gets its first Rafale

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the first of the 36 French-built Rafale fighter jet from France. India had ordered 36 Rafale fighter jets from France in a deal worth 59,000 crore rupees in September 2016.



While the formal handover ceremony took place, the first batch of four Rafale jets will fly to their home base in India by May 2020. All 36 jets are expected to arrive in India by September 2022.

## 2. Indian Navy's First Training Squadron at Antsiranana, Madagascar

As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment, ships of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi went to Antsiranana, Madagascar for a three-day visit.



Indian Navy ships are regularly deployed overseas as part of Indian Navy's mission of building 'bridges of friendship' and strengthening international cooperation with friendly countries. The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron imparts training to Officer cadets of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard as well as from Friendly Foreign Countries.

## 3. Curtain raiser Indo Maldives joint Ex Ekuverin – 19 at Pune

The 10th edition of the Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force was organised from 07 to 20 October 2019 at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra. Exercise Ekuverin means 'Friends' in the Dhivehi language.



The aim of the exercise is to conduct military training with emphasis on amphibious & counter insurgency/ counter terrorism operations with a view to enhance interoperability between the two armies. The last exercise was held in 2018 at Northern Area Headquarters, Lh. Maafilaafushi of Maldives.

## 4. Curtain raiser: Indo-Mongolian Joint Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2019

The 14th edition of Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV, was conducted at Bakloh over a period of 14 days, beginning 05 Oct 2019. The Indian Army was represented by a contingent of a battalion of RAJPUTANA RIFLES.



Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under United Nations mandate. The Joint Exercise is an ideal platform for the armies of both the nations to share their experiences & best practices.

### 5. India Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND -2019

The 4th edition of annual military exercise KAZIND 2019 between India and Kazakhstan army conducted at Pithoragarh. The aim of exercise was joint training of troops in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism operations in both Jungle and Mountainous terrain. Exercise KAZIND 2019 can be termed as a facade of long standing strategic ties between India and Kazakhstan.



As part of exercise, important lectures, demonstrations and drills related to counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations were conducted.

### 6. Indian Navy's First Training Squadron at Mombasa, Kenya

As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment, ships of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi went to Mombasa, Kenya for a three-day visit.



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### 7. Indian Army conducts its biggest mountain combat exercise 'Him Vijay'

The Indian Army has started its biggest mountain assault exercise, 'Him Vijay' in Arunachal Pradesh. The Panagarh based 17 Mountain Strike Corps will conduct Exercise HimVijay spread over a month and half with three newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) involving 15,000 troops.



The IBGs are part of overall force transformation initiated by Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat. They are brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations which can swiftly launch strikes against adversary in case of hostilities.

### 8. Land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile successfully test-fired

India has successfully test fired a land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic missile from Chandipur coast in Odisha's Balasore district. The missile, with a strike range of 290km, can be fired from land as well as sea-based platforms.



BrahMos now has around 65% 'Make in India' components. The BrahMos missile has been jointly developed by Russia and India. BrahMos is said to be one of the most potent anti-ship cruise missiles in the world and it has already been operationalised with all the three services of the Indian Armed Forces.

### 9. India – Bangladesh Navies undertake Coordinated Patrol in North Bay of Bengal

The second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was held in Northern Bay of Bengal. INS Ranvijay and INS Kuthar participated in the CORPAT along with BNS Ali Haider and BNS Shadinota. The two-day CORPAT was followed by the maiden edition of IN-BN Bilateral Exercise at Visakhapatnam from 12 to 16 October 2019.



The India Bangladesh CORPAT commenced in 2018. The exercise aims at development of mutual communication and sharing of best practices between the two navies.

### 10. Defence exports soar by seven times in two years, reach 2 billion

India's defence exports have grown seven times in the last two years, reaching a value of two billion dollars due to work on modalities to become a hub in top class defence production with efforts being made to increase defence exports to 5bn dollars in the near future.



Around 440 companies in the private sector have taken up defence production in the last five years for the supply of defence equipment. Artificial Intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber-defence, smart ammunition and weapons are areas in which the start ups are going to play an innovative role.

### 11. IAF began joint exercise EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V with Oman

Indian Air Force participated in a bilateral joint exercise with Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), named EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V at Air Force Base Masirah in Oman.



The last exercise, EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017. For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft participated in an International Exercise outside India. MiG-29 exercised with Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk. This exercise enhanced interoperability during mutual operations between the two Air Forces and provided an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices.

### 12. Indo-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN – 2019 held

Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-219 between India and Japan was conducted. Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers participated in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter Terrorism Operations in respective Countries.



Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018. The joint military exercise enhanced the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) which in turn will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

### 13. Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 (Danx-19) held

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19), a large scale joint services exercise to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.



In addition to internal forces from ANC, accretional forces from Mainland comprising ships and aircraft, Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.

### 14. DRDO signed 30 agreements on Technology Transfer

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed 30 licensing agreements for Transfer of Technology (ToT) with 16 Indian companies, including three start-ups, at Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019.



The DRDO develops technologies for the Armed Forces and has been carrying out ToT of these technologies to the defence industry for end use of the Armed Forces. These products cater to the requirements of the Armed Forces deployed in inhospitable terrain and hostile weather conditions and have high higher shelf-life. Vibrant Goa Summit provided an opportunity for the companies to interact with DRDO scientists.

### 15. Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2019' held

The 10th edition of the joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between India and the US was held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle. 'Vajra Prahar' is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US meant for sharing of best practices and experience in areas such as joint mission planning capabilities and operational tactics.



'Vajra Prahar' exercise is one of the largest running joint military training and defense corporation endeavors between the two countries and an important aspect of deepening bilateral defense cooperation between India and the US.

### 16. India, Japan joint Air Force exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' 2019 began in West Bengal

Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force carried out joint Air Force exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' 2019 began at the air force station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town in West Bengal. C-130 J aircraft of the Special Operations Squadron of IAF and C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron of JASDF participated in the exercise and focused on performing Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among the two forces.



Another drill between the armies of the same countries was also carried out in the eastern theatre. The exercise enhanced the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and JGSDF.

### 17. Defence Minister approved admission of girls in Sainik Schools from 2021

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved admission of girls in Sainik schools from the 2021-22 academic session. The decision is result of the objective of the government towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality, enabling greater participation of women in Armed Forces, strengthening the motto of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and following the success of a pilot project started by the Defence Ministry for admission of girls in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram two years ago.



Sainik schools not only give public school education but also the maximum number of its cadets admission to National Defence Academy.

### 18. Indian Army launched "OASIS"

OASIS (Officers Automated & Structured Information System) was launched on Army Intranet which has started digitising the service and personal records of its officers. Prior to this, the 1.2 lakh service records of serving and retired officers of the Indian Army were manually preserved by Manpower Planning (MP) Directorate but now records can be accessed by the Army officers themselves to check their details.



OASIS will not only allow officers to access their details but also migrate retired officers' data from OASIS to Retired Officers Digital Records Archive (RODRA) which holds the pension details of the retired Army officers.

### 19. 2nd Edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 held in New Delhi

The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 was held at New Delhi from 22 to 24 October 2019. The conference is the apex level biannual event for interaction between the Naval Commanders for deliberation and formulation of important policy decisions.



The theme of discussions will focus on the 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' wherein contemporary issues pertaining to 'operations', maintenance, 'op-logistics', 'data management' and 'improvement of organisational practices' are listed for deliberations.

### 20. Indian Army to conduct “Sindhu Sudarshan” exercise

The Indian Army will conduct exercise 'Sindhu Sudarshan' in the deserts of Rajasthan, from November 29 to December 4. More than 40,000 troops will take part in the exercise. The Indian Army will carry out this exercise using its integrated battle groups which are the new formations being raised by the force for warfighting in future.



The Exercise underscores Indian Army's resolve to implement the integrated launch of Strike Corps in developed and desert terrain in consonance with its enunciated pro-active strategy using Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) along the Western Front.

### 21. DRDO starts work on ‘next-gen’ hypersonic weapon

The Defence Research and Development (DRDO) has started work to produce a hypersonic weapon – missiles that can travel at five times speed of sound. A wind tunnel to test and fine-tune the technology will be operational soon.



Hypersonic weapons are touted as “next-generation” weapon systems. They are specifically designed for increased survivability against modern ballistic missile defence systems. These missiles are capable of delivering conventional or nuclear payloads at speeds not imagined hitherto over long ranges.

### 22. DAC cleared indigenous projects worth Rs 3,300 crore

The Defence Acquisition Council has approved 3 projects worth Rs 3,300 crore of "indigenously designed and developed equipments". The systems will be designed and developed by DRDO and manufactured by the Indian private sector.



The projects include:

- Third-generation Anti-Tank Guided Missiles: It will provide special capabilities to the troops in case of an armoured battle.
- Auxiliary Power Units for the T-72 and T-90 Tanks: It would incorporate the required upgrades to the night fighting capabilities and the fire control system of the Tanks.
- Electronic Warfare systems: It involves the manufacturing of discrete electronic warfare systems for the mountain and high-altitude terrain.

### 23. India-Myanmar Naval Exercise: IMMEX 2019

The second edition of 'India Myanmar Naval Exercise' IMMEX-2019 commenced onboard INS Ranvijay at Visakhapatnam. INS Ranvijay, a guided-missile destroyer and INS Kuthar, a missile corvette carried out a joint exercise with Myanmar ships UMS Sin Phyu Shin, a frigate and UMS Tabinshweti, a corvette.



The exercise was conducted in two phases: Harbour phase and Sea Phase. The joint exercise encompassed a variety of operations including anti-air and surface firing exercises, flying exercises using integral helicopter and seamanship evolutions at sea.

### 24. DEFCOM 2019 to be held in New Delhi

The DEFCOM 2019 is scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 November 2019 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The aim of DEFCOM 2019 is to collaborate with all stakeholders, including HQ Integrated Defence Staff, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, DRDO, academia and the Industry on the ways, means and ends to leverage Communications as a Decisive Catalyst for Jointness.



The outcomes and insights gained during the seminar will guide development of a joint communications framework, joint organisational

structures, communications support for joint operations in both the conventional and information domain.

## **25. IAF successfully test-fired two BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has carried out successful firing of BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles from a mobile platform at Trak Island in Andaman Nicobar Islands. The 2.5-tonne surface-to-surface missile has a range of around 300 km.



IAF had also recently successfully fired the air version of the BrahMos missile from its frontline Su-30MKI fighter aircraft in May 19 in the same area. The BrahMos missile provides Indian Air Force a much desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

## 1. Foreign investors pour in Rs 7,714 cr into capital markets in September

Foreign investors infused a net 7,714 crore rupees into the domestic capital markets in September 2019. As per latest depositories data, FPIs poured around 7,850 crore rupees into equities and withdrew around 136 crore from the debt segment between 3rd to 27th September.



The Union Government slashed corporate tax rate. The enhanced tax surcharge will not apply on capital gains arising from sale of any security, including derivatives, in the hands of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). SEBI also simplified KYC requirements for FPIs and granted them permission to carry out off-market transfer of securities.

## 2. Forex reserves decline by USD 388 million to USD 428.57 billion

India's forex reserves declined by USD 388 million to USD 428.572 billion for the week ended September 20 due to a slide in core currency and gold assets. The foreign currency assets declined by USD 125 million to USD 396.670 billion.



The value of gold reserves declined by USD 259 million to USD 27.843 billion. According to the data, country's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund increased by USD 3 million to USD 1.435 billion during the week, while country's reserve position with the Fund declined by USD 6 million to USD 3.623 billion.

## 3. CCI cleared 70% stake acquisition in SABIC by Saudi Aramco

The Competition Commission of India has given approval to the acquisition of 70% stake in Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) by Saudi Arabian Oil Company. Through this acquisition, Saudi Aramco will have sole control over SABIC. The transaction value was pegged at 69.1 billion dollar.



In India, SABIC is mainly active in the supply of agri-nutrient and petrochemical products while Saudi Aramco is active in the supply of crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, base oil and petrochemical products.

#### 4. CCI approved the acquisition of shareholding in GMR Airports Limited by TUTPL, Valkyrie and Solis

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shareholding in GMR Airports Limited (GAL) by TRIL Urban Transport Private Limited (TUTPL), Valkyrie Investment Pte. Ltd. (Valkyrie) and Solis Capital (Singapore) Pte. Limited (Solis).



The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of up to 55.2% equity stake in GAL collectively by TUTPL, Valkyrie and Solis. TUTPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Realty and Infrastructure Limited ("TRIL"). The deal will pump ₹1,000 crore into GMR Airports, and purchase ₹7,000 crore of the airport unit's equity shares from the parent.

#### 5. GST Revenue collection for September, 2019

The total gross GST revenue collected in the month of September, 2019 is ₹ 91,916 crore of which CGST is ₹ 16,630 crore, SGST is ₹ 22,598 crore, IGST is ₹ 45,069 crore (including ₹ 22,097 crore collected on imports) and Cess is ₹7,620 crore (including ₹ 728 crore collected on imports). The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of August up to 30th September, 2019 is 75.94lakh.



The revenue during September, 2019 is declined by 2.67% in comparison to the revenue during September, 2018. During April-September, 2019 vis-à-vis 2018, the domestic component has grown by 7.82% while the GST on imports has shown negative growth and the total collection has grown by 4.90%.

#### 6. Industrial output declined by 1.1% in August

Industrial output declined by 1.1% in August due to poor performance by manufacturing, power generation and mining sectors. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had expanded by 4.8% in August 2018.



The overall IIP growth during April-August period was 2.4%, down from 5.3% in the corresponding period of the last fiscal. The manufacturing sector, which contributes over 77% to the IIP, showed a dip of 1.2% in output during August 2019. Electricity generation declined by 0.9%. Mining sector was flat at 0.1%.

### 7. Infosys selected as main supplier of digital transformation services for Volvo Cars

Infosys has been selected as the main supplier to deliver Volvo Cars' digital transformation services for its Enterprise Digital Commercial Operations Applications and Products.



Infosys will offer next generation application services leveraging its Global Delivery Model (GDM), agile delivery, automation and other service optimization levers to deliver effective service operations. Based on the Scale Agile Framework (SAFe), Infosys will enable transformation of application management and application development deliveries to a 100 percent agile operating model.

### 8. Moody's cuts India GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20

Moody's Investors Service slashed its 2019-20 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.8% from 6.2% earlier. This is lowest projection after the Reserve Bank of India cut the GDP growth to 6.1%.



Moody's cited the deceleration to an investment-led slowdown that broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation. The rating agency expected India's GDP growth to pick up to 6.6% in FY21 and to around 7% over the medium term.

### 9. India Ratings lowered India's GDP growth forecast in 2019-20 to 6.1%

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) slashed India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for 2019-20 to 6.1%. The cut in forecast follows the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) recent estimate of first quarter (April-June) growth at 5%, which came in lower than India Ratings' estimate of 5.7%.



Ind-Ra has cited slowdown in both rural and urban consumption demand growth as one of the key reasons for the downward revision of GDP.

### 10. IMF cuts World and India growth rates

World Economic Outlook October 2019, global Manufacturing Downturn, Rising Trade Barriers report was released by IMF.

### Highlights

- Global growth is forecast at 3.0 percent for 2019, its lowest level since 2008–09.
- India's growth projections have also been downgraded to 6.1% and 7.0% in 2019 and 2020.
- China's GDP was projected to grow at 6.1% and 5.8% in 2019 and 2020.
- U.S. GDP would grow at 2.4% and 2.1% in 2019 and 2020.
- World output is projected to increase to a modest 3.4% in 2020.



### 11. Retail inflation spikes to 3.99% in Sep

Retail inflation spiked to 3.99% in September 2019 mainly due to higher prices of food items. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was registered at 3.28% in August 2019.

The price rise in the food basket was recorded at 5.11% in September 2019. The inflation for vegetables shot up to 15.40% in September 2019. However, the headline inflation still remained within the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.



### 12. Wholesale inflation eased by 0.33% in Sep

Wholesale inflation eased to more than three-year low of 0.33% in September 2019 mainly due to falling prices of fuel and certain food articles. The wholesale price index-based inflation was 1.08% in August 2019. Inflation for food articles, as a basket, remained nearly flat at 7.47% in Sep 2019.

For manufactured products, it slipped to negative territory at 0.42% as against no change in prices during August 2019.



### 13. RIL became first Indian company to hit Rs. 9 lakh crore m-cap

Oil-to-telecom major Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday became the first company in India to hit the market capitalisation of Rs 9 lakh crore. IT giant TCS became the second company to reach the Rs 8 lakh crore mark. The m-cap figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement.



Bank of America Merrill Lynch had announced that Reliance Industries would be the first Indian company to reach \$200-billion market cap in 24 months. Market capitalization is the market value of a publicly traded company's outstanding shares.

#### 14. India's marine exports to China heading for USD 1 billion mark

India's exports of marine products to China has tripled and touched almost USD 800 million, in the first nine months of 2019, as per the data released by China's customs authority recently. India's marine exports are expected to cross USD 1 billion mark by the end of this year 2019. A Chinese trade delegation visited India and signed a contract for import of marine products worth USD 500 million in the next two years.



Embassy of India has been promoting various products such as Indian sugar, rice, pharmaceuticals, tea, oil meals in which India has proven global strength in China.

# Environment

## 1. Scientists in Kerala discover new species of eel

A research team led by Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) has discovered a unique species of subterranean fish. The new species has been named 'Pangio bhujia'.



The eel is just about 3 centimetres in length and pinkish-red in colour. It is unique because of the absence of the dorsal fin and pelvic fins. It also differs from other species of the Pangio genus due to the presence of long nasal barbels.

## 2. Switzerland Glaciers shrink by 10% in 5 years

Record melting sees Swiss glaciers shrink 10% in five years. Glaciers in Switzerland have shrunk 10% in the past five years, a rate that has never been seen before in over a century of observations. The study revealed that over the past 12 months, about 2% of Switzerland's total glacier volume has been lost which is alarming over climate change.



Glaciologists at the ETH Zurich technical university have warned that more than 90% of some 4,000 glaciers dotted throughout the Alps could disappear by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions are not controlled.

## 3. Amazon's male white bellbird is the world's loudest bird

According to a new study, the call of the male white bellbird in Amazon is the loudest recorded call among all bird species in the world. The bellbird's call can reach 125 decibels, almost as loud as a very loud rock concert.



According to the researchers, the male could be producing its chainsaw-like calls to attract a potential mate. The screaming piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*), also an Amazonian species, previously held the record of being the world's loudest bird.

#### 4. Traffic noise affects bird physiology and reproductive health: Study

According to a study published in the journal Conservation Biology, birds may undergo a change in physiology and reproductive health when living in environments with constant vehicular traffic noise as compared to when they are breeding in a quiet habitat.



The study highlighted that the chicks of noise-exposed birds were smaller than the young ones from quiet nests. The researchers studied the effect of traffic noise on stress hormone levels, health, and reproductive success in breeding zebra finches -- birds native to the arid areas of Central Australia.

#### 5. India, Nepal, Bhutan plan trans-border conservation area

India, Nepal and Bhutan have drafted a memorandum of understanding to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation 'peace park'. The proposed Park will include biodiversity-rich landscapes in adjoining areas of the three countries.



The trans-boundary parks present a fundamental shift in which wildlife conservation is done. From a species focused approach, it will be a landscape based approach. There is already one trans-boundary Protected Area in India and Bhutan, which includes the Manas landscape of Assam.

#### 6. Government launched first national protocol to enumerate snow leopard population in India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the first national protocol to enumerate the snow leopard population in the country on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day. The Day is celebrated on October 23 every year to protect and conserve the snow leopards.



India is believed to have 400 to 700 snow leopards spread across Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Project Snow Leopard is an initiative of the Environment Ministry which aims to safeguard and conserve India's unique natural heritage of high altitude wildlife populations and their habitats.

#### 7. India launched “Green Crackers” in its bid to curb air pollution

In a bid to resolve the crisis of air pollution, the Government launched green firecrackers. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs have been successful in developing various environment-friendly fireworks such as sound emitting crackers, flowerpots, pencils, chakkar and sparklers. The environment friendly Crackers have reduced emission light and sound emitting crackers with 30% reduction in particulate matter using Potassium Nitrate as an oxidant.



Also these green crackers will be equipped with a green logo as well as a Quick Response (QR) coding systems which have been developed for differentiation of green crackers from conventional crackers.

### 8. Ganges Dolphin census began in Bijnor

The annual Ganges river dolphin census, part of the 'My Ganga, My Dolphin' campaign, undertaken by the World Wide Fund for Nature-India in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department along about 250-km-long riverine stretch of Upper Ganga between Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site began in Bijnor.



The tandem boat survey method developed by renowned river and marine ecologist Gill Braulik will be used in 2019 census. Two inflated boats which move in tandem is used to count the dolphins. The dumping of industrial pollution is threat to dolphins. In 2018 the count was 33.

## 1. Reserve Bank cuts repo rate by 25 basis points

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slashed the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 5.15% from 5.40% with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands reduced to 4.90% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 5.40%.



RBI has revised the GDP outlook for 2019-20 to 6.1%, from 6.9% in previous Monetary Policy committee meet. For 2020-21, RBI has revised the GDP outlook to 7.2%. This is the fifth straight cut by RBI in 2019 with a total reduction of 1.35%.

## 2. CBDT inked the 300th Advance Pricing Agreement

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed the 300th Advance Pricing Agreement (APA).



Three APAs were entered into in September, 2019 (2 Unilateral and 1 Bilateral APA), which has taken the total number of APAs signed by CBDT to 300. During the ongoing fiscal, the total number of APAs entered into has gone up to 29 (27 Unilateral and 2 Bilateral APAs). The Bilateral APA signed in September, 2019 pertains to United Kingdom.

## 3. SEBI's rules may impact investors from Mauritius and Cayman Islands

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified that only those foreign portfolio investors located in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) countries or managed by an entity based in a FATF jurisdiction will be allowed to deal in participatory notes (PNs).



Major financial hubs such as Cyprus, Cayman Islands, and Mauritius are not a part of the FATF. The new FPI regulation — based on the HR Khan committee's recommendations — says that "regulated funds" have to be either from FATF member countries or else in case of unregulated funds the investment manager has to be from FATF member countries.

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

State Bank of India has become the first Indian bank to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria after it opened its Melbourne office. It will contribute in growing the trade and investment relations between India and Victoria.



Victoria already has the presence of leading Indian businesses, including Cipla, Cyient, HCL, Infosys, Ramco, Samvardhana Motherson Group, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Ugam Solutions, Wipro Zoonga and Zomato.

### 5. UCO Bank launched 3 new digital products

UCO Bank has launched three new digital products - UCash, Digilocker and an app. UCash enables customers to withdraw money from ATMs through mobile banking without using debit card.



Digilocker aims to eliminate the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents. The third product, the new mobile app, integrates four existing apps of the bank - UCO Mbanking, UCO UPI, UCO Mpassbook and UCO Secure- in a single interface.

### 6. RBI gave final nod to Kerala government for formation of Kerala Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has given its final nod to the Kerala Government for the formation of the Kerala Bank. With its formation, the proposed Kerala Bank will be the largest banking network in the state.



The Kerala Bank would be formed amalgamating the 13 District Co-operative Banks (DCBs) with Kerala State Co-operative Bank. The state government had claimed that the objective of the formation of the Kerala Bank was to strengthen the cooperative sector.

### 7. GeM signed MOU with Union Bank of India

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Bank of India (UBI). UBI will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the GeM portal.



The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and will create an efficient procurement system for government entities. GeM has already signed MoU with 14 Public Sector and private banks to enable this.

### 8. Reliance Mutual Fund is now Nippon India Mutual Fund

Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF) after Nippon Life Insurance has fully taken over Reliance Nippon Asset Management. Nippon Life now owns 75%, making it the single largest promoter. Sundeep Sikka will continue as Chief Executive Officer.



Nippon has paid ₹6,000 crore for 75% stake. The 130-year-old Nippon Life is the largest private life insurer in Japan and has assets under management worth \$700 billion worldwide.

### 9. RBI rejected proposed merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with Indiabulls Housing Finance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected the proposed merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IBH). The bank had sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 7 May, 2019.



RBI has placed Lakshmi Vilas Bank under prompt corrective action (PCA) owing to high level of bad loans, insufficient capital adequacy ratio, negative return on assets (RoA) for two consecutive years and high leverage.

### 10. Life Insurance Council plan to launch mass media campaign 'Sabse Pehle Life Insurance'

Life Insurance Council to launch Indian life insurance industry's first joint mass media campaign with the slogan "Sabse Pehle Life Insurance". The campaign represents all 24 Indian life insurance companies with the aim to create a common narrative aimed at increasing life insurance awareness in the country.



The campaign slogan 'Sabse Pehle Life Insurance' urges Indians to first build a shield of protection by securing their financial future and then build a robust financial plan. The campaign stresses on the importance of life insurance and why it should be a priority for every Indian.

### 11. ICICI Bank launched new FD scheme "FD health"

ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'FD Health', a Fixed Deposit (FD) offering the dual-benefit of investment growth via FD and protection through a critical illness coverage. The customers will be offered the insurance cover free of cost for the first year and thereafter, they can renew it.



This first-of-its-kind offering in the industry provides the customer a complimentary critical illness cover of Rs. 1 lakh from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on opening an FD of Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for tenure of at least two years.

### 12. Mastercard and MS Dhoni united to build 'Team Cashless India'

Mastercard, along with legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, announced the launch of a nationwide initiative to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments. Titled 'Team Cashless India', the initiative brings consumers and merchants to the forefront of the digital payments dialogue. Mastercard will work together with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), acquirer banks and fintech companies to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.



'Team Cashless India' is an important step towards Mastercard's goal to equip 10 million merchants in India with digital payments acceptance capabilities by 2020.

# Important Days

## 1. International Day of Older Persons observed on October 1

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1. The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world.



The theme for this year was "The Journey to Age Equality". The 2019 theme aims to draw attention to the existence of old age inequalities and how this often results from a cumulation of disadvantages throughout life, and highlight intergenerational risk of increased old age inequalities.

## 2. Military Nursing Service celebrates 94th Raising Day

The 94th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) was celebrated on 1st October. The MNS is the only all women corps in the Armed Forces. It came into being on March 28, 1888 with the arrival of first batch of 10 qualified British Nurses in Bombay (now Mumbai), to organise nursing in Military hospitals in India.



On October 1, 1926, a permanent Nursing Service for the Indian troops was formed and was designated as the Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS).

## 3. Integrated Defence staff celebrated its 19th Raising Day

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) celebrated its 19th Raising Day on 1st October. The HQ IDS was raised on October 1, 2001 as a 'Tri Service Entity' with an overarching aim of 'Victory Through Jointness'.

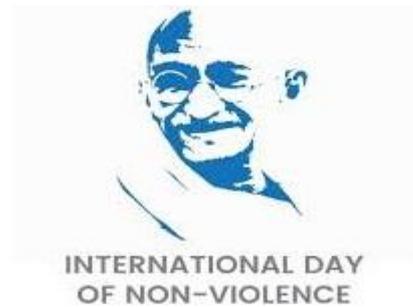


Since then, IDS has led the conduct of Disaster Relief Operations, Tri-Service Exercises, including those with friendly foreign countries. The IDS spearheaded construction of the National War Memorial. The HQ IDS is currently progressing the operationalisation of Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division as Joint organisation.

#### 4. International Day of Non-Violence observed across the world

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on October 2 to promote non-violence through education and public awareness. The day coincides with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

The UN General Assembly came up with a resolution in 2007 to establish the International Day of Non-Violence. The first International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2 October 2007.



#### 5. World Space Week: 4-10 October

The World Space Week is observed each year from 4 to 10 October to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. The theme of World Space Week 2019 is "The Moon: Gateway to the Stars". It celebrates the 50th anniversary of humankind's first step on the Moon on 20 July 1969.



The dates commemorate the launch, on 4 October 1957, of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I, and the entry into force, on 10 October 1967.

#### 6. Wildlife Week India, 2019

The Wildlife Week is celebrated all across the country annually between 2nd October and 8th October with an aim to preserve animal life in India. The theme for 2019 is "Life Below Water: For people and planet".

The week was first celebrated in 1972. The event is organized by National Board of Wildlife since its establishment in 1972. The main objective of this campaign is to promote the conservation and protection of animal life.



#### 7. World Teachers' Day

The World Teachers' Day is observed globally on October 5 annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide. The Theme of World Teachers Day 2019 is "Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession".



The theme recognizes the critical importance of reaffirming the value of the teaching mission. It calls upon governments to make teaching a profession of first choice for young people. The day celebrates the importance of teachers in providing quality education at all levels.

### 8. First World Cotton Day celebrations in Geneva

World Trade Organisation, WTO, hosted the first World Cotton Day (WCD) celebrations in Geneva on 7th October. This event stems from the application by the Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali) to the United Nations General Assembly for its official recognition of a World Cotton Day, reflecting the importance of cotton as a global commodity.



Cotton is a global commodity and a single tonne of cotton provides year-round employment for five people on average. Cotton occupies just 2.1% of the world's arable land, yet it meets 27% of the world's textiles need.

### 9. 63rd Dhammachakra Pravartan Din celebrated in Nagpur

63rd Dhammachakra Pravartan Din was celebrated on 7th October at Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Buddhist followers from the different parts of the country and abroad reached at the venue to pay homage to the Architect of Indian Constitution Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at Deekshabhoomi.



Dhammachakra Pravartan Day (DhammaChakra Anupravartan Din) is a day to celebrate the Buddhist conversion of B. R. Ambedkar and approximately 600,000 followers on 14 October 1956 at Deekshabhoomi.

### 10. World Habitat Day observed on 7th October

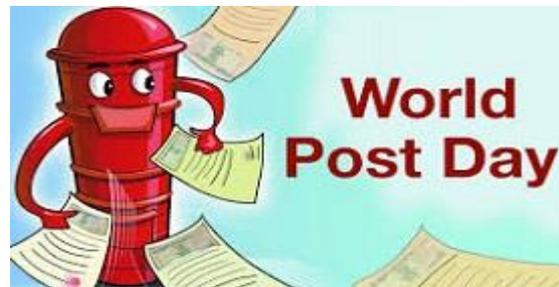
The United Nations' (UN) World Habitat Day is annually celebrated on the first Monday of October. This year it was celebrated on 7th October. The purpose of the day is to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind the world of its collective social responsibility towards the habitat for all forms of life.



The theme for this year was based on 'Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth', so as to promote the contribution of innovative frontier technologies to sustainable waste management.

### 11. World Post Day 2019

World Post Day is celebrated every year on 9 October across the world following the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. World Post Day aims to create awareness of the role of the postal section in day to day lives of people.



The day was declared as World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Many countries honor their employees for good service on this day whereas some promote new postal products and services.

### 12. World Mental Health Day

The World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10th October to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health. The theme for this year is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.



Every 40 seconds, someone loses their life to suicide. WHO has launched a campaign "40 seconds of action" to raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the world and the role that each of us can play to help prevent it.

### 13. International Day of the Girl Child

International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on October 11 since 2012. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girl's face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. It is also called the Day of the Girl and the International Day of the Girl.



This year, International Day of the Girl (11 October) will focus on the theme, "GirlForce: Unscripted and unstoppable". The theme aims to celebrate achievements by, with and for girls since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

#### 14. World Migratory Bird Day observed on 12 October

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2019 was observed on 12 October based on theme 'Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.' The theme highlighted the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The Waterbirds and Plastics report 2018 showed that of the 254 species covered by the Agreement, 40% came into contact with plastics; 22% ingested plastic; 31% were entangled in plastic debris; and 8% used plastic items in their nests.



WMBD is a biannual awareness-raising event celebrated on two peak days in the year – the second Saturday of May and October.

#### 15. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed on 13 October

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is held every year on 13 October to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. That includes disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The campaign seeks to create a wave of awareness about actions taken to reduce mortality around the world.



13 OCTOBER

The theme of 2019 was 'Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services'. The 2019 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign (launched in 2016), centred on the 7 targets of the Sendai Framework.

#### 16. World Standards Day observed on 14 October

Each year on 14 October, the members of IEC, ISO and ITU celebrate World Standards Day, which is a means of paying tribute to the collaborative efforts of the thousands of experts worldwide who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards. World Standards Day 2019 was themed "Video standards create a global stage".



The aim of World Standards Day is to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.

### **17. International Day of Rural Women observed on 15 October**

The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008. This new international day, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, recognizes contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.



The theme of 2019 was "Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience". It highlights the crucial role that women and girls play in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing, has been increasingly recognized.

### **18. World Students' Day 2019 observed on October 15**

World Students' Day is celebrated every year on October 15 on former president APJ Abdul Kalam's birthday. The day is commemorated on his birth anniversary because Dr. Kalam was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.



APJ Abdul Kalam served as 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007 and was known as the people's president and was also credited for India's military missile systems as well as civilian space programme.

### **19. World Food Day observed on 16 October**

The World Food Day was celebrated on 16 October. This day is observed every year. It marks the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 1945. The global theme of World Food Day 2019 was "Our Actions Are Our Future".



The theme called for action across sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets affordable and accessible to everyone and to start thinking about what we eat. World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger.

## 20. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed on 17 October

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17. The day promotes people's awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide, particularly in developing countries. This year 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on 20 November 1989.



The theme of 2019 was 'Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty'. It recognizes the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

## 21. World Statistics Day

The World Statistics Day is observed every 5 years on October 20. The resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on June 3, 2015. This is the second World Statistics Day. The day aims to show that good data and statistics are indispensable for informed decision-making by all actors in society.



This year World Statistics day theme is "Better Data, Better Lives". This year's theme emphasizes the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development.

## 22. World Development Information Day



The fourth Ayurveda Day was observed on October 25, on the day of "Dhanteras". Dhanteras is also dedicated to the Hindu god of medicine, Dhanvantri. Since 2016, the ministry of AYUSH has been observing this day as National Ayurveda Day. The theme for this year is "Ayurveda for longevity."



The main objective of Ayurveda Day is to focus on strengths of Ayurveda and its unique treatment principles while exploring the potential of Ayurveda to contribute towards National health policy & National Health programmes.

## 26. Vigilance Awareness Week observed

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from 28th October to 2nd November, 2019. This is observed every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls.



The theme for the Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 is "Integrity- A way of life". This awareness week campaign affirms the government's commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation.

## 27. National Unity Day celebrated on Oct 31

The National Unity Day was celebrated on 31st October to mark the birth anniversary of Ironman Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The day is also known as the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. It was introduced by the Government of India in 2014.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India and the architect of modern political India. He is popularly known as the Iron Man. He united 565 princely states to be part of India.

# International

## 1. India, Bangladesh signed MoU for setting up Coastal Surveillance Radar System in Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh signed an MoU to set up a coastal surveillance system radar in Bangladesh. The two countries signed seven agreements and launched three projects including import of LPG by India from Bangladesh.



The other MoUs signed are:

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of goods to and from India.
- Agreement on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs of water from Feni river by India for drinking water supply scheme to the Sabroom town in Tripura.
- Agreement on the implementation of the \$500 million Defence Line of Credit.
- Agreement between the University of Hyderabad and the University of Dhaka.
- Agreement on renewal of cultural exchange programme.
- Agreement on cooperation in youth affairs.

## 2. Palestine issued commemorative stamp to honour Gandhi on 150th birth anniversary

Palestine has released a commemorative postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his legacy and values, to mark the 150 birth anniversary of the world leader.



Uzbekistan and Turkey too released special stamps to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The stamp issued by Uzbekistan's government is part of the "Outstanding personalities" series of its postal department and a similar stamp was also issued by Turkey.

## 3. US stops imports of goods from five countries for suspected forced labour

The United States has announced that it is stopping imports from five countries for suspected forced labour. The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) department has ordered immediate detention of goods coming from companies based in Brazil, China, Malaysia, Congo and Zimbabwe at US ports of entry for further investigation.



Under US law, it is illegal to import goods into the US that are made by forced labour, which includes convict labour, indentured labour, and forced or indentured child labour.

#### 4. "Khadi Nepal" fashion show on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti held in Nepal

"Khadi Nepal" fashion show ensembling Khadi and handloom couture from India and Nepal was held in Kathmandu on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. The programme was organised by the Embassy of India in association with South Asia Foundation as part of celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



The Ambassador of India in Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri was chief guest at the event. The event aimed to showcase the diversity of Khadi textiles and promote exchange between the two nations.

#### 5. Nepal's Lower House speaker resigned over sexual harassment allegation

Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives, the lower House of Parliament, Krishna Bahadur Mahara has resigned from his post after a parliamentary employee accused him of raping her in her apartment in Kathmandu.



Mr. Mahara, a former Maoist rebel leader, has been an important leader in Nepalese politics. He led the team of Maoist negotiators who cut a deal with the government in 2006 to end the insurgency and bring the Maoists into mainstream politics.

#### 6. China celebrated 70 years of communism

China celebrated its 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). 15,000 military personnel and around 100,000 civilians took part, with about 600 pieces of military equipment on display.



Chinese President Xi Jinping paid his respects to the founder of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) Mao Zedong's embalmed body in Beijing. On 1st October 1949, Mao Zedong - or Chairman Mao - announced the formation of the PRC, after communist forces won a bloody civil war.

### 7. Antonio Costa re-elected as PM of Portugal

Prime Minister António Costa of the center-left Socialist party won the general elections in Portugal with 36.6% of the votes and is set to become the Prime Minister of the country for a consecutive second term. The main opposition Social Democratic Party came second with almost 28% votes.



A healthy economy, with growth of 2.1 % last year and unemployment at around 6%, helped the Socialist Party win the elections. Turnout in election was just 54.5%, the lowest level for a general election since Portugal returned to democracy in 1974.

### 8. FATF report indicates no sufficient measures taken by Pakistan to fully implement UN Resolution against Hafiz Saeed

The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has concluded that Pakistan has not taken sufficient measures to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1267 obligations against Hafiz Saeed and other terrorists associated with LeT, JuD and other terror groups.



APG's latest report, Mutual Evaluation Report of Pakistan, comes as a major setback for Pakistan, which faces the threat of being placed under the FATF's "blacklist". Pakistan was placed on the agency's "grey list" in 2018, and given a 15-month deadline to implement its action plan.

### 9. US unemployment rate falls to 50-year low of 3.5%

According to the monthly Employment Situation Report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in September, the lowest it has been in the last 50 years.



Additionally, the unemployment rate for people without a high school diploma fell to 4.8%. The employment-population ratio increased by 0.1 percentage point to 61.0 percent, a level last reached in December 2008. BLS's separate establishment survey shows total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 136,000 jobs in September 2019.

### 10. US military test fires Minuteman III ballistic missile

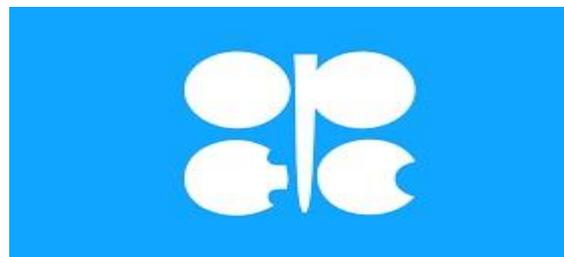
USA had tested an unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The missile traveled 6,750 km across Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands.



Minuteman III is a long-range, solid-fuel, three-stage ICBM with the capability to carry single or multiple nuclear warheads. The missile is powered by three solid-fuel rocket engines and weighs 36,030kg (79,432lb). It has a range of more than 6,000mi (5,218 nautical miles) and speed of approximately 24,000km/h (15,000mph) at burnout.

### 11. Ecuador to withdraw from OPEC in January 2020

Ecuador will withdraw from the 14-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 1, 2020 because of fiscal problems. It is attempting to increase its production of crude oil in order to raise more income.



The Andean nation on multiple occasions not complied with the output quota fixed by OPEC. Ecuador rejoined the organization in 2007, after withdrawing in 1992. OPEC currently has a total of 14 Member Countries.

### 12. China unveiled DF-41, the most powerful intercontinental-range ballistic missile

China unveiled the Dongfeng-41 (DF-41) intercontinental-range ballistic missile at the National Day parade as it observed its 70th anniversary of Communist rule. DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), more than any missile on Earth and is believed to be the most powerful missile on the planet.



The DF-41 could theoretically hit the United States in 30 minutes. China also unveiled the stealthy DR-8 drone that is believed to be able to fly up to five times the speed of sound.

### 13. PM Modi and PM of Mauritius jointly inaugurate Mauritius Metro express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated two landmark projects in Mauritius via video conference. These are the phase-1 of the Metro Express and a new ENT Hospital. The Indian Government has granted \$275 million for the Metro Express project and a grant of \$14 million for the new Hospital Project.



These projects are being developed under a \$353 million grant awarded by the Government of India to Mauritius in March 2017.

#### 14. Piyush Goyal attended 9th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting in Thailand

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal attended the 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, RCEP Intersessional Ministerial meeting held at Bangkok in Thailand.



Out of 25 chapters, 21 chapters have been concluded. Crucial chapters of Investment, Electronic Commerce, Rules of Origin and Trade Remedies are yet to be settled. RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between 10 member states of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its six free-trade agreement (FTA) partners - India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea.

#### 15. Romania government collapsed in no-confidence vote

Romania's left-wing government headed by Prime Minister Viorica Dancila collapsed in a no-confidence vote. A total of 238 MPs in the 465-seat parliament voted in favour of the motion against the government. Ms Dancila became Romania's first female prime minister in January 2018.



Ms. Dancila had been fighting for her political survival since her Social Democrats, PSD, lost their junior coalition partner's support in August. This has paved the way for President Klaus Iohannis to appoint a new prime minister.

**16. India and Comoros sign 6 MoUs**

India and Comoros signed 6 MoUs in the fields of defence cooperation, health and medicine, arts and culture, tele-education (e-Vidya Bharati), tele-medicine (e-Arogya Bharati) and exemption of Visa for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders for short visits.



India will also be gifting medicines and medical equipments worth USD 1 mn, USD 1 mn for transport vehicles, USD 2 mn for procurement of high-speed interceptor boats and 1000 MT of rice as well as Line-of-credit of USD 41.6 mn for setting up an 18MW power plant in Moroni and a vocational training centre.

**17. Global Fund raised \$13.92 billion to fight AIDS, TB, malaria**

The Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria raised at least USD 13.92 billion for the next three years at its Sixth Replenishment Conference in Lyon, France. French President Emmanuel Macron was the host of the conference.



The U.S. and France are the biggest donors with commitment of USD 4.68 billion and USD 1.42 billion respectively. The donations from governments, philanthropic donors and the private sector will be used to finance health programs in more than 100 countries. Major recipients of the fund are Nigeria, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

**18. Saudi Arabia allows women to serve in Armed Forces**

Saudi Arabia announced that it will allow women to serve in the armed forces as a part of economic and social reforms. Women would be able to serve as private first class, corporal or sergeant.



Saudi had last year authorised women to join its security forces and allowed them to drive and to travel abroad without consent from a male "guardian". Saudi Arabia is pushing to improve its image and attract tourists as part of a plan to diversify its economy away from oil.

### 19. UNICEF launched Cryptocurrency Fund

In a first for United Nations organizations, UNICEF will use cryptocurrencies to fund open source technology benefiting children and young people around the world. UNICEF will now be able to receive, hold and disburse donations of cryptocurrencies ether and bitcoin, through its newly-established UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund.



Under the structure of the UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund, contributions will be held in their cryptocurrency of contribution, and granted out in the same cryptocurrency. The first contributions to the UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund will be received from the Ethereum Foundation.

### 20. India, China, Pakistan to work together to study impact of climate change on Hindu-Kush-Himalayan region

India Meteorological Department (IMD) is collaborating with meteorological agencies in China and Pakistan, among others, to provide climate forecast services to countries in Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region. This centre will be under World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).



The centre will help to better forecast impact of climate change on Hindu Kush mountains. The Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

### 21. Interpol to hold general assembly in India in 2022

India will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022. A proposal in this regard was given to Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi during Mr. Stock's official visit in August. 91st Interpol General Assembly in India in the year 2022 will be held as a part of celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.



The general assembly of Interpol is an annual exercise hosted by member countries to discuss the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods.

## 22. Chile President declared state emergency in Santiago

Chile's President Sebastian Pinera declared a state of emergency for 15 days in Santiago and gave the military responsibility for security after a day of violent protests over an increase in the price of metro tickets.

Protestors clashed with riot police in several parts of the capital, Santiago. At least 16 buses were torched and a dozen metro stations totally destroyed. The President has appointed Major General Javier Iturriaga del Campo as the head of national defence to ensure public order and peace for the inhabitants of Santiago.



## 23. IMF members agreed to double pool of money to aid distressed countries

Global Finance Ministers agreed to double a key pool of money that the International Monetary Fund can use to aid distressed countries but again put off giving more votes to major emerging economies. The IMF has been working to restructure its voting shares to give more weight to growing economies but some traditional powers have resisted since they stand to lose influence in the institution.



IMF membership has committed to revisit the issue by December 2023 and a new division of voting power would be expected to result in increases in the quota shares of dynamic economies.

## 24. FATF retained Pakistan on Grey List

Pakistan continued to be on the Grey List of the international terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force. The decision of FATF was taken after the completion of its five-day plenary session in Paris. FATF has given notice to the global financial institutions that they need to prepare to red flag the jurisdiction and ready their systems for the eventuality in February 2020.



The FATF Plenary noted that Pakistan addressed only five out of the 27 tasks given to it in controlling funding to terror groups.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

## 25. WTO gave nod to US to impose trade sanctions on EU goods worth 7.5 bn USD

The World Trade Organization, WTO, has formally given the go-ahead for the United States to impose trade sanctions on up to 7.5 billion dollars worth of European Union goods. This follows a ruling that European planemaker Airbus received illegal subsidies.



The move by the WTO's dispute settlement body was largely a formality after the long-awaited ruling by a WTO arbitration panel. The ruling found that the European bloc and member States Britain, France, Germany and Spain failed to remove improper subsidies for Airbus that hindered sales by US rival Boeing.

## 26. President of India addressed India-Philippines Business Conclave and 4th Asean-India Business Summit

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressed the India-Philippines Business Conclave and the 4th ASEAN-India Business Summit in Manila, Philippines. President appraised potential for the Philippines-India economic collaboration, India's "Make in India" and next-generation infrastructure programmes and the Philippines' "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure initiative.



President met and interacted with the parents of babies who underwent liver transplant in India under the Philippine – India Pediatric Liver Transplant Program. The President also visited the University of the Philippines Manila Museum to attend an event organised by Mahaveer Philippines Foundation.

## 27. India to extend over \$60 mn line of credit to Comoros

In order to strengthen bilateral defence and maritime cooperation between India and Comoros, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has signed an MoU with the island nation Comoros to extend over \$60 mn line of credit to Comoros for Energy and Maritime Defence Cooperation.



India through the EXIM Bank of India extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of US \$41.6 million for setting up of 18 MW Power Plant in Moroni and another USD 20 million for the procurement of High-Speed Interceptor Boats. The trade between both the countries stood at USD 47.11 million for 2018-19.

## 28. Kais Saied elected as new President of Tunisia

Retired academic Kais Saied was elected as president of Tunisia by winning 72% votes of the overwhelming support of younger voters. The poll followed the death in July of Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunisia's first president freely elected by universal suffrage. Kais Saied is a political outsider and retired law professor.



Saied has promised public that his leadership will fight corruption, promote social justice and reform the police force which was a cog in the dictatorship toppled by the Arab Spring revolt of 2011.

### **29. UAE announced establishment of world's 1st AI University**

Abu Dhabi announced the establishment of the world's first graduate level Artificial Intelligence university named as Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI). MBZUAI will enable graduate students, businesses and governments to advance the artificial intelligence field and students will be provided with scholarships, monthly allowances as well as other benefits like health insurance and accommodation.



The University is named after Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

### **30. India handed over 2nd pair of Mi-24V helicopters to Afghan Air forces**

H.E. Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador handed over the 2nd pair of Mi-24V helicopters to Afghan Minister of Defense Asadullah Khalid. These helicopters are a replacement for the four helicopters gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015 – 2016 and will be used for bringing peace, preventing threats from enemies, and for providing a better environment for the people of Afghanistan.



These helicopters' stellar performance and offensive firepower will improve the efficiency of the Afghan Air Force (AAF) in ensuring that the ANDSF maintain a better Counter-Terrorism capability.

### **31. Italy set to introduce web tax on digital giants from 2020**

Italy is set to introduce web tax on digital giants such as Facebook, Google and Amazon from 2020. Italy approved a new tax scheme on digital companies in its 2020 draft budget. The Italian scheme is expected to collect about 600 million euros (\$662 million) a year. Italian Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri confirmed web tax at 3% on internet transactions.



The decision came after members of the European Union (EU) complained about web giants including Google collecting large profits despite paying little in tax. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development urged governments to redraw rules for taxing global giants.

### 32. UN General Assembly elected 14 Member States to Human Rights Council

The General Assembly elected 14 States to the Human Rights Council, the United Nations body responsible for promoting and protecting all human rights around the globe. By secret ballot, the Assembly elected Armenia, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sudan and Venezuela. All 14 members will serve three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2020.



Created by the General Assembly in March 2006 as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Council comprises 47 elected Member States.

### 33. 2nd Indo-French Knowledge Summit held in France

The second edition of the Indo-French Knowledge Summit was held at University of Lyon in France to develop and structure collaborations in education and research, stimulate connections between research and industry, and encourage the mobility of students and scholars.



Around 15 agreements were inked between French and Indian participants during this summit. Over 300 participants from research organisations participated. The summit was organised by the Embassy of France in India, in partnership with Universite de Lyon, Campus France, and Emlyon Business School and the Ministries of Science and Technology and Human Resource Development (MHRD).

### 34. Chile President dismissed whole cabinet after protests

President Sebastian Piñera of Chile has sacked his whole cabinet in order to form a new government and introduce social reforms demanded by protesters. Piñera had earlier declared a state of emergency across much of Chile and put the military in charge of security in the capital Santiago and other cities.

Protests began in Chile over an increase in subway fares and escalated into riots. 17 people were killed and more than 7,000 people arrested during the protests.



### 35. Brazil exempts Indian and Chinese tourists from visas

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro announced that Indian and Chinese tourists will be exempted from visas to enter Brazil for tourism or business purposes.

US, Australia, Japan, and Canada are already exempt from short-term tourist and business visas. Brazil is among the countries whose nationals are eligible to avail eVisa (Electronic Visa) for visiting India, available in five categories: e-Tourist, e-Business, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant and e-Conference.



### 36. United Nations WFP launches 'Feed Our Future' cinema ad campaign

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has launched a cinema advertisement campaign 'Feed Our Future' to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in the world. SAWA, the Global Cinema Advertising Association, in association with the WFP, created the campaign to highlight the potential that is lost every time a child dies of hunger.



"Feed Our Future" will air across cinema screens in more than 30 countries. The WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

### 37. World's oldest known natural pearl discovered on Abu Dhabi Island

The oldest known natural pearl in the world has been discovered by Abu Dhabi archaeologists working at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island, just off the coast of Abu Dhabi. Called as the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl', it was found in layers that have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE, during the Neolithic period.



Prior to the Abu Dhabi Pearl discovery, the earliest known pearl in the UAE came from a Neolithic site in Umm Al Qaiwain.

### 38. 18th NAM Summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan

The 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit 2019 was held between 25-26 October, 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan took over the presidency of the movement from Venezuela for a three-year term from 2019 to 2022.



The theme of the summit for 2019 was "Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of the contemporary world". Vice President Venkaiah Naidu represented India and addressed the summit. The NAM Summit is held every three years. It is a forum for 120 member states to discuss issues of importance in politics, security, development and others.

### 39. Sri Lanka removed from FATF's Grey list

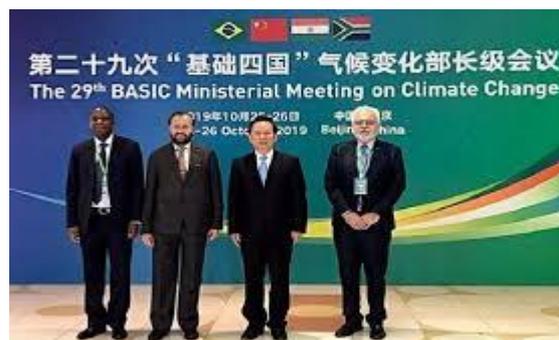
Sri Lanka has been removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) list of countries at risk for money laundering. Sri Lanka was first included in the blacklist in 2011. By 2012, Sri Lanka was listed in the list as a dangerous country with no commitment to the financial security plan.



Sri Lanka was declared a cooperating state in 2016 and the FATF put Sri Lanka on a grey list from November 2017. Sri Lanka set out a sound framework to enhance the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) standards.

### 40. 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC held in Beijing, China

The 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change was held at Beijing, China on 25th-26th October 2019. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India in the meeting.



BASIC Ministers expressed their concern for the global challenge of climate change and its adverse effects. They urged developed countries to fulfill their climate finance commitments of providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for developing countries in a transparent and grant-based manner.

# Miscellaneous

1. Former Haryana Congress President Ashok Tanwar has resigned from the primary membership of the party.
2. Jammu and Kashmir Government has taken a policy decision for twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu under Metropolitan Region Development Authorities (MRDAs) to execute mega development projects in these cities.
3. Crossed Swords Division of the Indian Army organised a "VEER KUTUMB RALLY" in Jammu and Kashmir, with an aim to reach out to veterans, veer naris, widows and their families as part of its activities to observe 2019 as the 'Year of the Next of Kin'.
4. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Pradipta Kumar Bisoi (IPoS:1985) to the post of Secretary, Department of Posts.
5. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the most effective Swachhta Ambassador award to cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
6. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2019 in Ahmedabad on 2nd October. He released postage stamp and silver coin to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He also distributed the Swachh Bharat Puraskar to the winners.
7. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declared India Open Defecation Free country on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
8. Maj Abdul Quadir Khan of the Corps of Signals won a Silver Medal at the prestigious 53rd Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Championship held at Batam, Indonesia on 2nd October 2019.
9. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched the Documentation Identification Number (DIN) on 1st October with the generation of about 17,500 communications with DIN on the very first day.
10. Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the first North East Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition in Aizawl, Mizoram.
11. India's N. Wilson Singh and Satish Kumar Prahapati won the gold medal in the 10m platform synchronised diving event at the Asian Age Group Championships held in Bengaluru.
12. Indian fencer Bhavani Devi won the silver medal in the women's sabre individual event at the Tournoi satellite competition in Belgium.
13. Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi (IFS:1991), presently High Commissioner of India to New Zealand, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Niue, with residence in Wellington.
14. Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders.
15. Axis Bank has launched the 'Express FD', a digital fixed deposit (FD) product that allows a customer to open an FD account in 3 minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank.
16. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat launched an awareness campaign "Urjagiri" which aims at stopping power theft and saving.
17. Amrit Lugun (IFS:1989) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Greece.

18. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the Pragati Rath of the HDFC bank to provide financial and digital literacy to the people during a month-long initiative by moving to different parts of Himachal Pradesh.
19. The National Basketball Association has launched India's first-ever Floating Basketball Court in the Arabian Sea near Bandra Worli Sealink in Mumbai.
20. The 5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy was held at the MIT World Peace University in Pune, Maharashtra.
21. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a five-day visit to Comoros and Sierra Leone for the first high-level visit from India to the two African countries.
22. The 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Commission Meeting between India and Thailand was held in New Delhi.
23. Singapore will become the first country in the world to ban advertisements for the unhealthiest sugary drinks.
24. The first National Hindi Science Writers conference was held in Lucknow at Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University with an aim to promote use of Hindi and other Vernacular languages in science writing.
25. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, laid the foundation stone for the campus of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research at Varuna Village, Mysuru.
26. 'Spirit of Kerala', a short film based on a boat race from Kerala directed by Arun Joseph, won the People's Choice Award 2019 at My RØde Reel Film Competition 2019 which is the world's largest short film competition.
27. The 1st Government-sponsored and operated Day-Care cum Recreation Centre for senior citizens has been inaugurated in Leh.
28. The Government of India is planning to set up a National Coordination Center (NCC) that will function as a data bank of Maoists.
29. The Union Cabinet approved a one-time payment of Rs 5.5 lakh as a resettlement package for the 5,300 displaced families which had come from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and initially settled outside Jammu and Kashmir but later relocated.
30. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp in honour of Marshal of the Indian Air Force late Arjan Singh.
31. The C40 Summit took place in Copenhagen between 9th October and 12th October, 2019.
32. Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Anup Kumar Singh has been appointed as Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
33. British member of parliaments (MPs) voted to delay a decision on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal, arguing that, they needed more time to study its contents before an October 31 deadline.
34. Industrial output declined by 1.1 per cent in August due to poor performance by manufacturing, power generation and mining sectors.
35. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has changed the super over rule for all its major events. As per new rule, in case of a super over tie there will be a repeated super over until one team has more runs than the other.
36. Typhoon Hagibis strikeed Tokyo, capital of Japan after fierce rain and wind paralysed the capital.
37. Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom has won the bronze medal in the 51kg event of World Women's Boxing Championships held in Ulan-Ude, Russia.
38. K Satish Reddy, Chairman of Dr Reddy's has been appointed as President of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) for 2019-2021.
39. Kishan Dan Dewal (IFS officer of 2003 batch), has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to Georgia. He will replace Yogeshwar Sangwan.

40. Mastercard India, payment technology company, elevated Vikas Varma as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the firm.
41. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan released a postal stamp to commemorate the centenary celebrations of the city-based ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).
42. Indian nun Mariam Thresia from Kerala and four other nuns were declared Saints by Pope Francis in a grand ceremony at the Vatican City.
43. Noted director and producer Priyadarshan, who has made several blockbuster Malayalam and Hindi films, was conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19.
44. Over 1,500 students from 32 different colleges and university participated in the 'Sangam Youth Festival' being organised by the Indian Army in collaboration with Jammu University Campus.
45. As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment, four indigenously built ships of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, Indian Naval Ships Tir, Sujata and Shardul and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi, visited Tanzania.
46. The third edition of India Mobile Congress 2019 was held from 14 October 2019 to 16 October 2019 in Delhi.
47. The Central Government will grant 75% subsidies for food processing industries in the North-Eastern states.
48. Kais Saied has been sworn-in as the President of Tunisia.
49. Jammu and Kashmir Government ordered the winding up of Jammu and Kashmir District Consumer Forums constituted under Jammu and Kashmir Consumer Protection Act, 1987 with effect from October 31, 2019.
50. Kuhoo Garg and Dhruv Rawat won the mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo after they defeated Utkarsh Arora and Karishma Wadkar by 21-16, 22-20 in an all-Indian final.
51. Joko Widodo was re-elected as the President of Indonesia.
52. Justin Trudeau was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Canada.
53. The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a MoU with Federal Bank to offer a number of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the portal.
54. Football Club Mohun Bagan conferred their Life Membership to Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee.
55. Vreedhi Financial Services (VFS) has secured a non-banking finance company licence from the Reserve Bank of India.
56. The Vijaya Bank Heritage Museum has been inaugurated at the headquarters of the erstwhile Vijaya Bank i.e. Bengaluru.
57. Grasim Industries Limited has signed a definitive agreement to form a joint venture company in India with Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen GmbH (MR) of Germany.
58. Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas (IFS:1993), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Senegal, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cabo Verde, with residence in Dakar.
59. The 1st India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' meet was held in Guwahati.
60. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has imposed penalties of Rs 1.01 crore on an insurance company Chalamandalam MS GIC for violations observed during an inspection.
61. Government of India has decided to open the entire area from Siachen base camp to Kumar Post for tourism purposes. The step has been taken to boost tourism in Ladakh.

62. Raunak Sadwani became the 65th Grandmaster of India at the age of 13 years 9 months and 28 days.
63. Canada's Denis Shapovalov won his first Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour title after he captured the Stockholm Open with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Serbian Filip Krajinovic.
64. Saharan silver ants (*Cataglyphis bombycina*) have been crowned as the world's fastest known ants. These speedy silver ants travel 108 times their body length per second.
65. Upender Singh Rawat (IFS: 1998), Ambassador of India designate to the Republic of Panama, will be concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Nicaragua, with residence in Panama City.
66. Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh bagged a gold medal in the men's junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships being held at Incheon in South Korea.
67. Philosopher and writer K B Siddaiah passed away at the age of 65 years. He was one of the founder members of Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) during the 80s and co-authored many songs to inspire the movement.
68. IIT Kharagpur graduate Debayan Saha has invented a device called "PM 2.5" which he claimed when fitted near the silencer pipe in vehicles will curb air pollution.

## 1. Cabinet approved new strategic disinvestment process

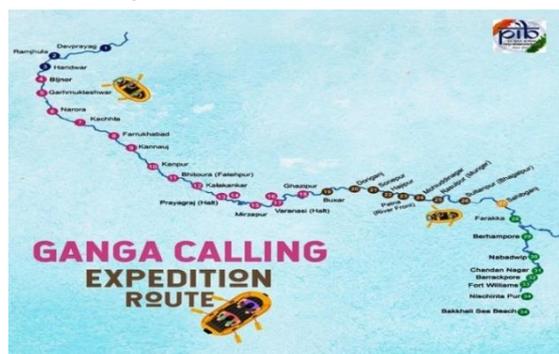
The Cabinet has approved a new process of strategic disinvestment with a view to expediting privatisation of select public sector undertaking (PSUs). The Cabinet approved the new policy under which the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM under the Ministry of Finance has been made the nodal department for the strategic stake sale.



DIPAM and NITI Aayog will now jointly identify PSUs for strategic disinvestment. The government has increased the divestment target from Rs 90,000 crore to Rs 1.05 lakh crore for the current fiscal year.

## 2. Government launched Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched a unique initiative called 'Ganga Amantran' to connect with the stakeholders of the river. It is a pioneering exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga river.



The expedition will start at Devprayag and culminate at Ganga Sagar covering the entire stretch of over 25,000 kilometres of the River. This is the first ever effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga to spread the message of River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation on a massive scale.

## 3. Union Consumer Affairs Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, launched 'Consumer App'

In order to fast-track consumer grievance redressal process and provide an effective forum for consumers to give their valuable suggestions to the Department on consumer related issues, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched the 'Consumer App' in Krishi Bhawan.



The app aims to provide a one stop solution for consumer grievance redressal at the palm of every consumer across the nation via mobile phones. The complaint status will be monitored on a daily basis by the ministry.

#### 4. Government launched Unified Portal for Licensing of Eating Houses/ Lodging Houses in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, launched a single window online system for licensing of eating houses/lodging houses, in New Delhi. This unique initiative is a joint effort of various agencies involved in the process of licensing in the NCT of Delhi for facilitating ease of doing business.



The portal is a single window clearance system. It is an integrated, transparent and seamless system for providing licenses on a time bound manner.

#### 5. Digital Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi titled “Digital Gandhi Gyan-Vigyan” inaugurated

The Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma inaugurated an exhibition titled “Digital Gandhi Gyan Vigyan Exhibition” to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



The exhibition has the following components:

**VR Experience:** This is an Immersive Virtual Reality experience based on the life of Gandhi ji, with special focus of his life at the Sabarmati Ashram.

**Charkha with an AR App:** This is a fabricated physical model of a Charkha which gets animated when seen through an augmented reality (AR) app on a hand-held device such as a smart-phone or tablet. Users get to know about its history, mechanics and linkage to Gandhi ji from the AR App.

#### 6. India to shift to BS VI vehicular emission norms by April 2020

The Supreme Court of India has mandated to implement Bharat Stage VI (or BS-VI) emission norm from April 1, 2020 across the country. The apex court has ruled that no Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country effective from that date.



While the BS-IV fuels contain 50 parts per million (ppm) sulphur, the BS-VI grade fuel only has 10 ppm sulphur content. BS VI will bring the cancer causing particulate matter, PM 2.5 and PM 10, in diesel cars by a phenomenal 80%.

### 7. Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched eDantseva website and mobile application

Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the eDantseva website and mobile application, the first ever national digital platform on oral health information and knowledge dissemination. He also released the Braille booklet and Voice over on Oral Health Education for the visually impaired individuals, along with the oral health posters for pregnant women and children.



e-DantSeva contains information about the National Oral Health Program, detailed list of all the dental facility and colleges, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material and a unique feature called the 'Symptom Checker'.

### 8. India announced TAP for 5 additional African Countries on World Cotton Day

India announced the launch of the second phase of the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) for Africa at the Partners Conference in Geneva. The Cotton TAP programme will now cover 11 African countries that includes 6 existing countries, namely – Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda and 5 additional countries, namely Mali, Ghana, Togo, Zambia and Tanzania.



India implemented a technical assistance programme (TAP) for cotton in the above six African countries from 2012 to 2018.

### 9. India crossed one-crore LED street light mark

India has doubled the number of LED street lights from 49 lakh in March 2018 to 1 crore as on 1st October, 2019. These lights have been installed under the Street Light National Programme (SLNP) and implemented by state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL).



The Union Government had set out to replace 3.5 crore conventional street lights with LED street lights by March 2019. The target was later scaled down to replace 1.34 crore conventional street lights with energy efficient LED lights by March 2019. Now, the target for replacing these street lights has been fixed for March 2020.

### 10. India gets first tranche of Swiss bank account details

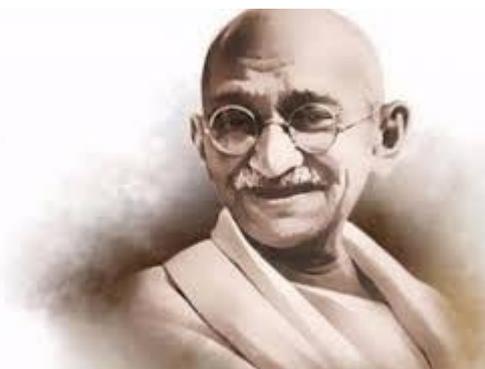
India has received the first tranche of details about financial accounts of its residents in Swiss banks under a new automatic exchange of information framework between the two countries. India figures among 75 countries with which Switzerland's Free-Trade Agreement (FTA) has exchanged information on financial accounts within the framework of global standards on Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI).



The next exchange would take place in September 2020. In 2016, India and Switzerland had signed an information-sharing deal on bank accounts, which was to come in effect from January 2018.

### 11. UNESCO, DD join hands for TV show on Gandhi's 150th Anniversary

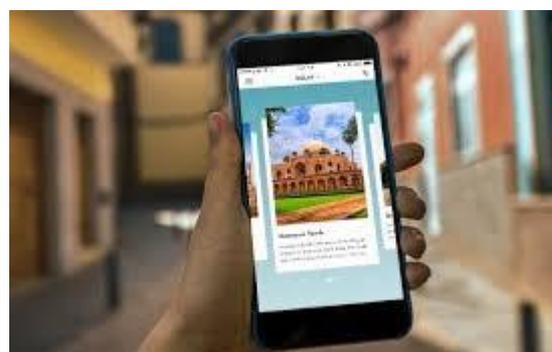
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Doordarshan jointly hosted an hour-long television programme called 'Mahatma Lives'/'Bapu Zinda Hain' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation. It was telecasted on October 1 at 10 pm and repeated on October 2 at 5 pm across the country on DD News.



The bilingual programme featured, rarely heard audio clips of Mahatma Gandhi. The clips include his speech from 1947 (November 29) in which he addresses corporate leaders and exhorts them to give wealth for welfare of the society. Other clips include his speech on the caste system and eternal set of duties (Sanatam Dharam).

### 12. Ministry of Tourism launched Audio Guide Facility App "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India

On the occasion of "Paryatan Parv 2019", Tourism Ministry has launched the Audio Guide facility "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites). An MoU for Gol Gumbad, Delhi with Government of Delhi and Resbird Technologies was also exchanged for the development of Tourism Amenities during the programme at Paryatan Parv.



The Audio Odigos app contains an inbuilt map of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour. Listeners will be offered various versions of history like Synopsis, Detailed History and Podcasts. The audio can be chosen in their preferred language & version of the history.

### 13. Government launched portal for monitoring coal supply to power plants

The Union Government has launched PRAKASH - Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony, a portal in New Delhi. The portal aims at bringing better coordination for coal supplies among all stakeholders. It was developed by an electric power distribution company National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC).



The portal is designed to help in mapping and monitoring entire coal supply chain for power plants. This is an important step in ensuring adequate availability and optimum utilisation of coal at thermal power plants.

### 14. AIM NITI Aayog, UNDP India jointly launched Youth Co: Lab

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India launched Youth Co:Lab which aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India. A Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between AIM, NITI Aayog and UNDP India.



Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a chance to connect with governments, mentors, incubators and investors, who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills. They will also get the opportunity to pitch their ideas at UNDP’s regional centre in 2020.

### 15. NHA, Google sign Sol to strengthen implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme

The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with Google to strengthen the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). Google will also support NHA in improving PM-JAY's digital presence and showcasing relevant content to the 50 crore entitled beneficiaries.



Google shall also help provide training and support to NHA personnel to build on digital skills. NHA is the nodal agency for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

### 16. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched 'Trans-Fat Free' logo

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the "Trans-Fat Free" logo during the 8th International Chefs Conference to accelerate the 'Eat Right India' campaign led by the FSSAI under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He also released a slogan 'Chefs 4 Trans Fat-Free' at the event.



In compliance with the Food Safety and Standards (Advertisement and Claims) Regulations, 2018, food establishments that use trans-fat free fats/oil and do not have industrial trans-fat more than 0.2g/100g of food are eligible to display the logo.

### 17. PM Modi, Prez Xi meet at Mamallapuram for their second informal summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met at the town of Mamallapuram near Chennai for their second informal summit.

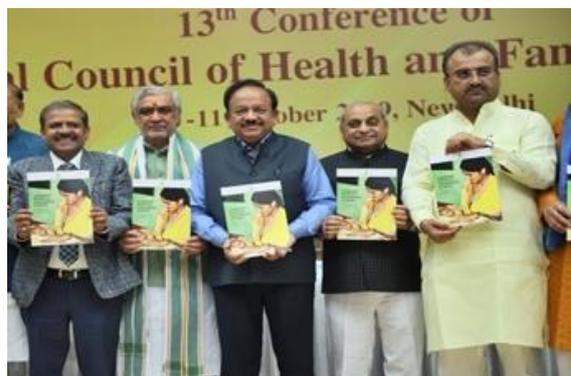


Highlights of the Summit:

- Chinese side has accepted there are concerns in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.
- India, China agree to enhance people-to-people contact.
- China agreed to tackle the trade deficit which is in China's favor around 57 billion USD last year.
- India will relax e-Visa provisions for Chinese citizens.

### 18. Government launched SUMAN initiative for quality health care at no cost

Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan, SUMAN, initiative in New Delhi. The initiative was launched during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. The initiative aims at assuring dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths. It also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant.



### 19. HRD Minister inaugurated Pradhan Mantri innovative learning programme 'DHRUV' in Bengaluru

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched ambitious DHRUV programme in the headquarter of Indian Space Research Organization in Bengaluru. DHRUV is a unique programme to identify talented students and mentor them in the centre of excellence for 14 days so that they can reach their full potential and work for the society.



60 students, 30 each from Science and Performing Arts discipline, have been selected for this ambitious programme in the first batch. Every student will be called 'DHRUV TARA'.

### 20. Cabinet approved MoUs signed between India and Foreign Broadcasters in the field of Radio and Television

The Union Cabinet chaired has given ex-post facto approval for the MoUs between India and Foreign Broadcasters in the field of Radio and Television.



The MoUs with the Foreign Broadcasters will help:

- Public broadcaster in exploring new visions;
- New Strategies to address the demands of new technologies and stiff competition;
- Media liberalization; and
- Globalization.

### 21. Cabinet approved relaxation of Aadhaar seeding of data of the beneficiaries under PM-Kisan

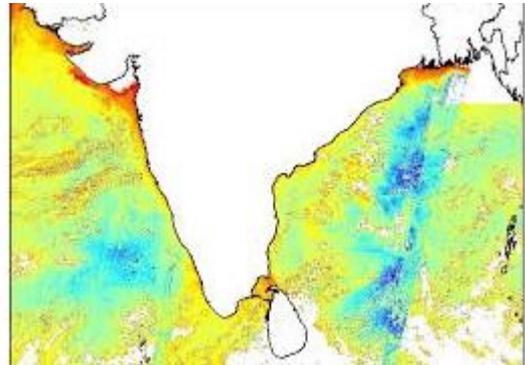
The Union Cabinet has approved the relaxation of the mandatory requirement of Aadhaar Seeded data as a pre-condition for release of funds to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme.



The scheme provides income support of Rs 6,000 per year to landholding families, subject to certain exclusions. The amount is released in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs 2,000 each directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

**22. Low cost device for ocean states forecast and mapping potential fishing zones launched**

For seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen, the Government launched the GAGAN Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device.



Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) joined hands with Airports Authority of India (AAI) to utilize the GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system to transmit the PFZ, OSF and disaster warnings to fishermen. The GEMINI device receives and transfers the data received from GAGAN satellite to a mobile through Bluetooth communication.

**23. Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023**

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched ‘The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition’. The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) provides a strategic roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India towards achieving its health sector goals, in improving the health of its population and bringing in transformative changes in the health sector.



The India CCS is one of the first that fully aligns itself with the newly adopted WHO 13th General Programme of Work and its 'triple billion' targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and WHO South-East Asia Region’s eight Flagship Priorities. The CCS also captures the work of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for 2018–2022.

**24. Mobile App, “mHariyali” launched**

The government has launched a mobile app, “mHariyali,” that is aimed to encourage Public engagement in planting trees and other such Green drives. People can now upload information/photos of any plantation done by them, which is linked to app and will be displayed on the website [www.epgc.gov.in](http://www.epgc.gov.in).



The App provides for automatic geo-tagging of plants. This app will also enable nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation.

## 25. GRP's website & mobile app "Sahyatri" launched

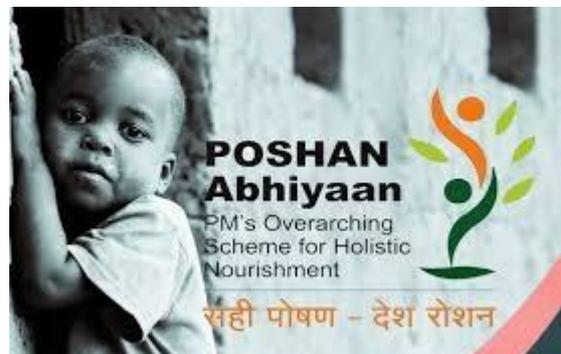
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai launched Government Railway Police (GRP) website [railways.delhipolice.gov.in](http://railways.delhipolice.gov.in) and mobile app Sahyatri-Delhi Railway Police.



The website will have uploaded database of criminals, including their photographs, active in Indian Railways' jurisdiction all over the country along with information on missing persons, wanted criminals, unidentified dead bodies etc. The Sahyatri mobile app will help passengers find out the jurisdiction of a police station as well as the details of GRP officials by geo-tagging with Google Maps.

## 26. POSHAN atlas to map local crops, food grains

The government in association with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Deendayal Research Institute is developing a POSHAN atlas under POSHAN abhiyan in a bid to tackle malnutrition. The government will use the Atlas to map the crops and food grains grown in different regions of the country so that nutritious protein rich food in local areas can be promoted.



According to World Bank Global Nutrition Report, 2018, malnutrition costs around 10 billion USD annually in India.

## 27. IIM-Bangalore, Ministry of Skill Development launch Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship

The Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) jointly launched a programme named the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship' (MGNF).



The fellowship is designed under Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP). The programme is launched on a pilot basis in 75 districts. The fellows will receive a stipend of ₹50,000 in the first year and ₹60,000 in the second year. On completion of their engagement, they will be awarded a Certificate in Public Policy and Management from IIM Bangalore.

## 28. Cabinet apprised of Progress under NHM

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Progress and new initiatives under National Health Mission (NHM) and the Decisions of the Empowered Programme Committee and Mission Steering Group of NHM. The outcomes achieved under the NHM during the last five years and during the year 2017-18 are:

- Decline by 2.7% in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 130 during 2014-16.
- Decline in the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 34 in 2016.
- Decline in the Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) to 39 in 2016.
- Decline in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.3% in 2016.



## 29. Government to achieve 10% blending percentage of ethanol in petrol by 2022

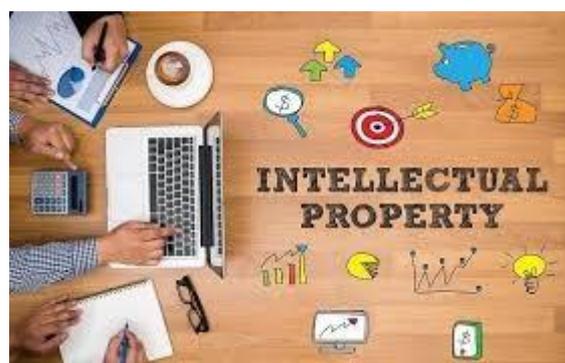
Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed a gathering at India Energy Forum in New Delhi and announced that India is expected to get 58 billion dollar investment in the exploration and production sector by 2023. An estimated investment of 60 billion dollar is underway for augmenting gas infrastructure.



Pradhan appealed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to consider including petroleum products under GST regime. Government is targeting to achieve 10% blending percentage of ethanol in petrol by 2022, which in turn will boost farm economy.

## 30. DPIIT launched website and mobile app for IPR

Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Guruprasad Mohapatra launched the website and mobile application [Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation] on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in New Delhi. The website and app has been developed by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)-DPIIT in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University (NLU), Delhi.



The modules of this e-learning platform [L2Pro India IP e-learning Platform and the L2Pro India Mobile App] will aid and enable entrepreneurs and small and medium industries to integrate IP into business models and obtain value for their R&D efforts.

### 31. India and Netherlands launched the second phase of the LOTUS-HR

During the visit of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, a joint launch of the second phase of the Local Treatment of Urban Sewage streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR) program was done by the Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan.



In the 2nd phase, 10 thousand L sewage water will be treated per day. The project will produce clean water which can be reused for various purposes. The innovative pilot scale modular plant upon commissioning will treat 10,000 L sewage water per day and will showcase a self-sustaining model for the end user.

### 32. Release of two diagnostic kits developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Two diagnostic kits developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) under the 'Make in India' initiative, namely the Bluetongue sandwich ELISA (sELISA) and the Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA kit for the control of Swine and Detection of Antigen, were released by Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Dr. T. Mahopatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR.



This indigenous technology is helpful for assessing the active infection of JE virus in the swine population at a minimal price of Rs. 5,000 only.

### 33. Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave

The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave. The theme of Conclave was "Economics of Nuclear Power - Innovation towards Safer & Cost Effective Technologies".



During the conclave, three technical sessions were held on the themes: "Growth of Nuclear Power for Meeting Base Load Demands - Opportunities & Challenges for Manufacturing Industry" , "Use of Nuclear Energy in Healthcare and Municipal Waste Treatment" and "Emerging Technologies for Economy and Enhanced Safety.

### 34. PM Modi chaired meeting on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme. Under the initiative, the government plans to hold people-to-people exchange between states to enhance knowledge about each others culture.



'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' is a personal initiative of the Prime Minister that highlights India's diversity and furthers national unity. The goal behind this unique Mission is to develop a holistic national perspective on important issues and encourage the celebration of India's vibrant regional cultures.

### 35. CBIC launched programme to strengthen Make in India

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched a revamped and streamlined programme to attract investments into India and strengthen Make in India through manufacture and other operations under bond scheme, of Customs Act, 1962. The Section enables conduct of manufacture and other operations in a customs bonded warehouse.



The scheme will enable efficient capacity utilisation, as there is no limit on quantum of clearances that can be exported or cleared to the domestic market. The scheme has been modernised with simplified compliance requirements ICT-based documentation and account keeping.

### 36. Air India became first airline to use Taxibot on A320 aircraft

Air India created history and became the first airline in the world to use a Taxibot on a A320 aircraft with passengers onboard. Taxibot is a robot-used aircraft tractor for taxiing an aircraft from parking bay to runway and vice versa, with its engines switched off.



Taxibot, a pilot controlled semi-robotic towbarless aircraft tractor was first used on the Air India aircraft at Indira Gandhi International Airport. This is first such usage on any Airbus aircraft worldwide.

### 37. IIT Madras collaborated with ExxonMobil for research in Energy and Biofuels

ExxonMobil signed agreements with the Indian Institute of Technology locations in Madras and Bombay, further expanding its extensive portfolio of research collaboration with India's universities. The five-year agreements focus on progressing research in biofuels and bio-products, gas transport and conversion, climate and environment, and low-emissions technologies for the power and industrial sectors.



ExxonMobil conducted a joint study with IIT Bombay and the Council for Energy, Environment and Water, a leading India-based think-tank, focusing on the life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

### 38. Government launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme

On the occasion of World Food Day, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan launched Food Safety Mitra (FSM) Scheme, Eat Right Jacket and Eat Right Jhola. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India planned to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level. A FSM is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act.



Eat Right Smart Jacket has been introduced to giving an identity to FSSAI staff to ensure transparent inspection. It is linked to software to capture entry of inspection staff into premise for monitoring.

### 39. Indian Railways to become net zero carbon emitter by 2030

As part of India's strategy to combat climate change, Union minister Piyush Goyal announced that Indian Railways will become the world first "net-zero" carbon emitter by 2030. Indian government already took many steps to curb pollution such as India has an installed renewable energy capacity of about 80 GW and plans to achieve 175GW by 2022 and 500GW by 2030.



Since, Indian Railways power consumption has been growing at an average 5% a year, India plans to run railways 100% electrically by 2023 and source 10% of its electricity needs through renewable energy sources by 2020.

#### 40. Indian railways start 9 Sewa Service trains to connect small towns with closest major cities

The Indian railways started 9 Sewa Service trains to connect small towns with their closest major cities. Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal flagged off the Sewa Service train between Delhi and Shamli at New Delhi and other trains through video conferencing.



These trains will run between Delhi and Shamli, Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh Town, Murkongselek and Dibrugarh, Kota and Jhalawar City and Coimbatore and Palani as a daily passenger train. Seva Trains between Vadnagar and Mahesana, Asarva and Himmatnagar, Karur and Salem and Yesvantpur and Tumkur will operate six days a week.

#### 41. TechSagar, national repository of India's cyber tech capabilities launched

National Cybersecurity Coordinator's office in partnership with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection set up by Nasscom, has opened India's first national cybertech's repository portal named TechSagar([www.techsagar.in](http://www.techsagar.in)).



TechSagar covers 25 technology areas such as IoT, AI/ML, Block Chain, Cloud and Virtualisation, Robotics and Automation, AR/VR, Wireless and Networking, and more. The portal will list business and research entities from the IT industry, startups, academia, and individual researchers.

#### 42. India and Philippines signed agreements

In order to bolster defence and maritime security partnership, President Ram Nath Kovind and Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte signed various agreements. Both the countries celebrated 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations.



Agreements signed were-

- Maritime domain
- Security
- Tourism
- Science and technology and culture
- Sharing of white shipping information between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy
- Cooperation in space through research of the history of their civilisational roots and commonalities in culture and tradition

### 43. India and Sierra Leone signed six agreements including \$30 mn line of credit

India and Sierra Leone signed six agreements including extending a credit line of 30 million US Dollars for rice cultivation. India announced the decision to establish a High Commission in Sierra Leone, even as both the countries have agreed to enhance cooperation in agriculture, food processing, Information Technology, infrastructure development and capacity building.



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio committed to further strengthen bilateral relations.

### 44. India and Pakistan signed agreement on Kartarpur corridor

India and Pakistan inked agreement on Kartarpur corridor. The agreement relates to the modalities for operationalisation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor at Zero Point, International Boundary, Dera Baba Nanak.



The highlights of the Agreement are, Indian pilgrims of all faiths and persons of Indian origin can use the corridor and the travel will be Visa Free. Pilgrims need to carry only a valid passport and pilgrims travelling in the morning will have to return on the same day.

### 45. Rajnath Singh approved issuance of two OGELs for export of certain parts and components

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved issuance of two Open General Export Licences, OGELs for export of certain parts and components and intra-company transfer of technology to select countries. The decision will give a boost to defence exports and enhance ease of doing business.



The countries allowed under the OGELs are: Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Poland and Mexico. Export of items to a Special Economic Zone is

not permitted.

#### 46. Union Cabinet approved revival plan of BSNL and MTNL

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for revival of BSNL and MTNL by administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services funded by the government through capital infusion at a value of Rs 20,140 Cr and the GST amount of Rs 3,674 Cr to this spectrum value will also be borne by the government.



BSNL and MTNL will also raise long-term sovereign bonds of Rs 15,000 Cr as well as Rs 38,000 Cr assets monetised. They will also offer Voluntary Retirement to their employees, aged 50 years and above through attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The Union Cabinet also approved in-principle merger of BSNL and MTNL.

#### 47. Government relaxed norms for setting up petrol pumps

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Review of Guidelines for Granting Authorization to market Transportation Fuels. The relaxed norms provide for setting up petrol pumps allowing non-oil companies to venture into the business.



Companies with a net worth of 250 crore rupees will be allowed to sell petrol and diesel. The companies will be subject to the condition that they install facilities for marketing at least one new generation alternate fuel such as CNG, LNG, biofuels or electric vehicle charging within three years of start of operations.

#### 48. Cabinet approves proposed MoU between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines

The Union Cabinet has given ex post-facto approval to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine.



The MoU will provide a framework for cooperation for the promotion of traditional systems of medicines and will mutually benefit the two countries in the said field. It will lead to promotion and propagation of Traditional Systems of Medicine in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Activities mentioned in the MoU will boost the importance of AYUSH Systems of Medicine in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

### 49. Cabinet approved proposal for Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation with USA

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between India and the United States of America.



The cooperation would be made in the various forms which include the following:

- Exchanges of scientific & technical information and experts.
- Training of scientists and technical experts.
- Conduct of cooperative research projects.
- Establishment of science & innovation-based public-private partnerships.
- Use of advance research facilities.

### 50. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Kuwait in the field of accounting, finance and audit knowledge base

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building and strengthening the accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Kuwait. The aim of the MoU is to work together to develop a mutually beneficial relationship for the best interest of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) members, students and their organizations.



The MoU entails that ICAI and Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) will work together to hold and conduct technical events, seminars and conferences in Kuwait for the benefit of both organizations' members and development of their professional expertise.

### 51. Cabinet approved administrative arrangement on Cooperation in the field of Railways

The Union Cabinet has approved administrative arrangement on Cooperation in the field of Railways between the Ministry of Railways, India and the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission to strengthen future technical exchanges and cooperation.



- Rail Reform and Regulations with particular emphasis on impact of European Union (EU) legislative framework on safety, interoperability, economic governance and financial sustainability of Railways;

- Railway Safety;
- The benefits of standardisation as well as harmonized conformity assessment and procurement procedures for economic performance of Railways;
- Signalling/control systems (including the European ERTMS system);
- Intermodality and transport infrastructure networks;
- Innovation and digitalisation;

## 52. Indian Railway launched One Touch ATVM

Indian Railways has launched 'one touch ATVM' at 42 suburban stations of Central Railway to render fast ticketing to millions of commuters over Mumbai Suburban Network. This new machine will reduce the waiting time of the passengers and allow passenger to avoid standing in long queues.



A total of 92 ATVMs has been installed at 42 suburban stations. The salient features of one touch ATVM is that a passenger can obtain a ticket in just two steps instead of earlier six steps on a regular ATVM. One touch ATVM will show one screen display for selecting single/return journey tickets.

## 53. Indian Railways install most advanced Electronic Interlocking System on Grand Chord route

Indian Railways has installed the most advanced Electronic Interlocking System on the Grand Chord route. The measure is expected to help Indian Railways speed up trains and achieve the objective of reducing the travel time between Delhi and Howrah to about 12 hours from the existing 17 to 19 hours.



The new Electronic system has replaced outdated 65-year old mechanical signalling system at Tundla Junction in Uttar Pradesh on the route.

## 54. IIM Kozhikode & MRPL to support women entrepreneurs

IIM Kozhikode and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have announced a drive called La Eve (The Woman) that will identify innovative women-founded start-ups and provide support. Selected start-ups would be provided seed support funds of up to ₹25 lakh.



The initiative will be steered by IIMK Live, the institute's entrepreneurship development centre called Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship, with the support of the start-up fund of MRPL. MRPL has provided seed funds to 11 start-ups incubated at IIMK LIVE.

### 55. AYUSH Ministry signed MoU with Defence Ministry

The AYUSH ministry has signed a MoU with the Defence ministry to provide traditional medicine services at the armed forces' hospitals and dispensaries. Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik inaugurated an Ayurveda Palliative Care Unit at the Base Hospital in the Delhi Cantonment.



आयुष मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
AYUSH

Under the MoU, ayurveda units will also be established at palliative care centres at the Army Research and Referral Hospital, Air Force Hospital, Hindon in Ghaziabad and five identified ex-service men Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics in Delhi -NCR.

### 56. Union Culture Minister launched E-Portal, YouTube Channel of CCRT

Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched the E-Portal of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, CCRT 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' and CCRT YouTube Channel in New Delhi. It will enable dissemination of cultural education through digital interactive medium into the classrooms all over the country.



For this initiative, CCRT has tied up with Routes 2 Roots, an NGO, for connecting seamlessly all the CCRT Regional Centres i.e., Guwahati, Udaipur and Hyderabad.

### 57. Col Chewang Rinchen Setu inaugurated in Eastern Ladakh

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Colonel Chewang Rinchen Setu in Eastern Ladakh. This is India's all-weather highest altitude bridge which is about 45 kilometres away from the Indo-China border.



The setu was built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on River Shyok. The bridge connects Durbuk and Daulat Beg Oldie areas. It is located between the Karakoram and Chang Chenmo mountain ranges. It is a 400-meter long bridge, built at an altitude of about 15,000 feet using micro piling technology.

### 58. Postal Ballot for voters above 80 years and Divyangs

On the recommendation of the Election Commission, the Ministry of Law and Justice has amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, on 22 October. It allows disabled and people over 80 years of age to cast their vote through postal ballot.



The amendment allows senior citizens and person with disabilities in the absentee voter list. The absentee voter refers to a vote cast by someone who is unable to go to the polling station. In the last Lok Sabha elections, about 60.14% of absentee voters voted through e-postal ballot while in 2014, it was just 4%.

### 59. Lucknow-based City Montessori School bagged Guinness World Record title

Lucknow-based City Montessori School (CMS) has won the Guinness World Record for becoming the 'world's largest school' in terms of strength of students. CMS won the global award for having 55,547 students in 2019-20.



CMS has 18 branches. In 2002 CMS was awarded UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. The school has also received 'Hope of Humanity' Award from spiritual leader, Dalai Lama. In 2014 CMS society was accredited with United Nations Department of Public Information as affiliated NGO.

### 60. Government accorded 'Maharatna' status to PowerGrid Corporation and HPCL

The government accorded 'Maharatna' status to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). The grant of Maharatna status will impart enhanced powers to their boards to take financial decisions.



List of Maharatnas:

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- Coal India Limited (CIL)
- Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited (POWERGRID)

### 61. CBSE, NCERT to launch 'Tamanna' aptitude test for Class 9, 10 students soon

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have launched an online aptitude test called as 'Tamanna' (Try And Measure Aptitude And Natural Abilities). It helps students of Class 9 and 10 make a better choice of subjects, eventually helping them in making an informed decision while choosing subjects in Class 11 and 12.



These aptitude tests will assess strengths of students and there is no criteria to fail or pass. CBSE conducted piloting of the test with 17,000 students of Class 9th and 10th across the country.

### 62. First “Global Bio-India 2019” Summit to be held in New Delhi

The Global Bio-India 2019, one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders conglomerate will be held for the first time in India at New Delhi from 21st to 23rd November, 2019. The event has been structured to bring together stakeholders from 30 countries, 250 start-ups, 200 exhibitors.



The event is expected to strengthen the indigenous research capabilities, bio-entrepreneurship, investments and last-mile-delivery of technology across rural India and tier-2, 3 cities. Department of Biotechnology along with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is organizing this event.

### 63. List of MoUs signed during the visit of Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia signed 12 MoUs during PM Narendra Modi's official state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Some of the key MoUs signed were:

- Strategic Partnership Council Agreement.
- MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.
- MoU for Cooperation between National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul).
- MoU for Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation and collaboration in military acquisition, industries, research, development and technology.
- MoU for Cooperation in the field of combating illicit trafficking and Security Cooperation.
- MoU for Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation.
- MoU for Cooperation in the field of medical products regulations.



# Persons in News

## 1. Indian-origin Singaporean judge joins Brunei Supreme Court

Kannan Ramesh, an Indian-origin Singaporean judge, has been sworn in by Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah as a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of the sultanate. He has been appointed for a two-year period and the 54-year-old Justice will continue to hold his position as a full-time judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore.



As a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei, Justice Ramesh will spend up to a month in Brunei each year to read, hear and write judgments primarily on commercial cases and certain civil ones.

## 2. Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples. Ms Aparicio is committed to the fight against racism and for the rights of women and indigenous peoples.



Ms Aparicio played in Alfonso Cuarón's film Roma for which she won an Oscar nomination for best actress, the first indigenous Mexican woman to be so recognized by the US Academy Awards. TIME magazine (USA) listed her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2019.

## 3. Indian-American Sampat Shivangi to serve on panel of US health body

Sampat Shivangi, a physician and an influential Indian-American community leader, has been invited by the US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M Azar to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council. The appointment is for the term beginning immediately and ending on July 30, 2023.



Sampat Shivangi is a recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, 2017 for his contributions to India-US relationship.

#### 4. Prime Minister Modi became most followed leader on Instagram

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi became the most-followed elected world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram, ahead of US President Donald Trump, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and former President Barack Obama. With 30 million followers, PM Modi topped the list of world leaders on Instagram, on the popular app owned by Facebook.



Barack Obama was placed at third with 24.8 million followers while his successor, Donald Trump, trailed behind with 14.9 million followers.

#### 5. Kiran Uniyal Army wife sets Guinness World Records

Kiran Uniyal, w/o a serving Colonel of Indian Army has created Individual Guinness World Records for "The full contact knee strikes in three minutes (one leg) (female), 263 strikes" & "The full contact knee strikes alternate legs in one minute(female),120 strikes". The earlier records were of 177 strikes and 102 in female category respectively.



The objectives of both her records were to promote martial arts for girls and women safety and self-defence. She has so far achieved 15 World Records, including 10 Guinness World Records in Martial Arts, Fitness and Social Work.

#### 6. Belgian Paralympian Marieke Vervoort ends life through euthanasia aged 40

Belgian Paralympian Marieke Vervoort has died aged 40 after ending her life through euthanasia. She lived with a degenerative spinal condition that caused her constant pain and made sleeping very difficult.



Vervoort won gold and silver at the 2012 London Paralympic Games, as well as silver and bronze in Rio 2016. She won gold in the T52 100m wheelchair race. Euthanasia is legal in Belgium. She had signed the paperwork to be euthanised back in 2008.

### 7. Deepika Padukone, PV Sindhu named as ambassadors for 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' initiative

Bollywood sensation Deepika Padukone and India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu were named as the ambassadors of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative called 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' that aims at bringing commendable work done by women across the nation.



The aim of this initiative is to celebrate the contribution & accomplishments of women of the nation for the public good. The hashtag for the initiative is #BharatKiLaxmi.

### 8. ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi killed by US forces

US president Donald Trump announced that the Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died in a raid conducted by US special forces in north western Syria on 27th October, 2019. Baghdadi killed himself by detonating a suicide vest.



Abū Bakr al-Baghdadi headed the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The group has been designated as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations, as well as by the European Union. ISIL has named Abu Ibrahim al Hashimi al-Qurayshi as his replacement.

# Places in News

## 1. India International Cooperative Trade Fair held in New Delhi

A three-day India International Cooperative Trade Fair was held in New Delhi from 11th of October. The Fair was a major platform to promote export of products of cooperatives. Organisations from 36 countries participated in the Fair.



The Trade Fair was aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity. It is aligned with the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 which aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains.

## 2. HRD minister laid stone for IIM campus in Amritsar

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank laid the foundation stone of the campus of the Indian Institute of Management in Amritsar's Manawala. The IIM campus would come up on 60,000 sq metres and have state-of-the-art facilities in the library, academic block and hostels.



The allocation of 350 crore rupees has been sanctioned for the first phase of the construction while an additional amount of 250 crore rupees would be allocated for the project.

## 3. Name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna added to National War Memorial

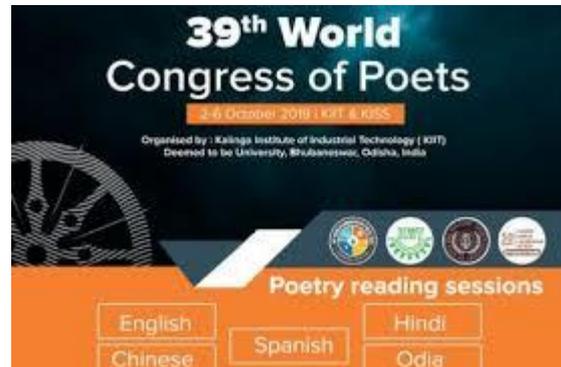
The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF terrorists in 1990, has been added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the Indian Air Force. Squadron Leader Khanna and three other IAF personnel were killed in January 1990 in Kashmir allegedly by JKLF founder Yasin Malik.



The National War Memorial at the India Gate is dedicated to the defence personnel who laid down their lives for the country.

#### 4. 39th World Congress of Poets organized in Bhubaneswar

The 39th World Congress of Poets was organized at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology jointly with World Academy of Arts and Culture (WAAC). 1,000 poets and writers including Noble Laureates, from 75 countries and 2,000 delegates from India participated in the event.



The theme of the event was "Compassion through Poetry". The theme aims to promote peace and brotherhood through poetry. The main motto of WAAC is to promote 'World Brotherhood and World Peace through Art and Culture'.

#### 5. Gandhi Film Festival organised in Mumbai

Film Division in association with India Tourism organised a Gandhi Film Festival at JB Hall in Mumbai from 2nd to 6th October as part of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. The festival showcased select films focussing on Swachh Bharat and non-violence.



Movies screened included 'Gandhi' by Richard Attenborough, 'The Making of Mahatma' by Shyam Benegal and 'Maine Gandhi ko Nahi Maara' by Jahnu Barua. India Tourism arranged for a guided tour of National Museum of Indian Cinema.

#### 6. India's largest 'charkha' made of waste plastic inaugurated in Noida

India's largest 'charkha' (spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated in Noida on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. It measures 14 ft x 20 ft x 8ft and is made of 1,250 kg of used plastic.



The charkha has been recognised as the largest made of used plastic waste in the country by India Book of Records.

### 7. SARAS Aajeevika Mela held at India Gate Lawns in New Delhi

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela, organised by the Ministry of Rural Development, was held at India Gate Lawns in New Delhi from 10-23 October. The objective of the Mela was to bring the rural women Self Help Groups formed with support of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.



The Mela was organised by the marketing arm of the Ministry of Rural Development, Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART).

### 8. 38th India Carpet Expo in Varanasi

The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) organized the 38th India Carpet Expo (15th in Varanasi) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 in Sampurnanand Sanskrit University Ground with an aim to promote the cultural heritage and weaving skills of Indian hand-made carpets and other floor coverings.



India carpet expo is a platform for international carpet buyers, buying houses, buying agents, architects and Indian carpet manufacturers and exporters to meet and establish business relationship. The Expo is organised twice a year in Varanasi and Delhi.

### 9. 1st National Hindi Science writers conference held in Lucknow

The first National Hindi Science writers conference was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with an aim to promote use of Hindi and other Vernacular languages in science writing. Conference discussed ways to promote Hindi and Indian languages in the field of science writing.



Different plenary sessions on writing in the different streams of science such as engineering, technique and technology, health and medical and research were organised. The forum tried to bring all the science writing work and Hindi Science writers altogether on one platform.

### 10. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated conference on 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag' in New Delhi

Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a conference on 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag' in New Delhi to roll out the process for having a unified electronic system across the country. Under this system the same FASTag affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle can be used to pay toll across all toll plazas in the country.



The App helps linking of bank neutral FASTag to bank account of customer's choice. Under the National Electronic Toll Collection programme of the Ministry, toll collection at national highways toll plazas is done through RFID based FASTags.

### 11. Shirui Lily Festival inaugurated in Manipur

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated three day Shirui Lily Festival, 2019 at Shirui Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in Manipur and Strength of Unity Statue as a mark of opening the third edition of the four-day state festival. Folk dances and folk songs of different ethnic groups and performance by rock bands, paragliding was the main attractions of the Festival that showcased the rich cultural heritage of the State.



Shirui Lily is rare, pink-white flower only found in Manipur. It has been awarded at the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Show in London.

### 12. Textiles Secretary inaugurated IHGF-Delhi Fair 2019

Textiles Secretary, Ravi Capoor, inaugurated the 48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) at the India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida. The theme of IHGF-Delhi Fair 2019 was Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Overseas buyers from 110 countries were in India to source home, lifestyle, fashion, furniture and textiles products from around 3200 Indian exhibitors who participated in the Fair.



The IHGF-Delhi Fair 2019 had knowledge seminars on various topics by expert faculties, fashion shows and ramp walks by models wearing fashion jewellery, accessories and utility items sourced from exhibitors at the Fair.

### 13. ASI unearthed trade centre of early historic period in Andhra Pradesh

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has unearthed a 2000-year old historic trade settlement in Andhra Pradesh's Gottiprolu village, along with a Pallava-period Vishnu statue. The proximity of the site to the seacoast suggests that the site could have served as a strategic settlement involved in maritime trade.



On the basis of iconographical features such as elaborate headgear, thick holy thread and decorative drapery, ASI has dated it to 8th-century AD in the Pallava period, which is said to have ruled the area from early 4th to late 9th century AD.

# Regional

## 1. Centre approved 400 crore rupees for Bihar and 1200 crores for Karnataka for flood relief operations

Keeping in view the severity of flood situation and the fund positions in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) account of Bihar and Karnataka, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved advance release of 400 crore rupees to Bihar and 1200 crore rupees to Karnataka from National Disaster Response Fund.



The Union Home Minister has further approved the advance release of 2nd installment of centre's share of SDRF amounting to over 213 crore rupees to Bihar for the 2019-20.

## 2. Union Government approved SEZ at West Jalefa in South Tripura

The Central government has approved a proposal in principle to set up an agro-based Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at West Jalefa in Sabroom subdivision of South Tripura. An estimated investment of setting up first-ever SEZ would be around Rs. 1550 crore which will generate 12,000 jobs.



Under the plan, rubber-based industrial units, rubber thread, apparel making, bamboo and food process units are proposed to be set up. The SEZ will be set up by Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDC).

## 3. J&K government proposed to set up centres of excellence for floriculture

Jammu and Kashmir Government is proposing to set up centres of excellence for floriculture, one each in Jammu and Kashmir division, to train and guide growers in floriculture, production of bulbs and cut flowers, perfumery and propagation of aromatic and medicinal plants.



The Government will provide 30 lakh rupees each to the two agricultural universities of the State for training and capacity building of floriculture farmers.

#### 4. Gujarat government announced series of steps to boost MSME sector in state

Gujarat Government has announced series of steps to boost MSME sector in the state with an aim to create ease of doing business. The state government has permitted MSME units from obtaining various approvals from the government for the first 3 years of functioning. After that they can get the approvals in next 6 months.



Government also decided to bring an ordinance to facilitate the MSME units. Nodal agencies will be set up at state level and district level for this purpose.

#### 5. Goa Maritime Conclave– 2019

The 2-day Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)-2019 was inaugurated by the National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Kumar Doval, at Goa on 4th October 2019. It was conducted by the Naval War College, Goa. The NSA also released the 31st edition of the Naval War College Journal.



The theme for the conclave is "Common Maritime Priorities in Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) and need for Regional Maritime Strategy". The event was attended by Chiefs of Navies and senior representatives from 10 Indian Ocean littoral countries.

#### 6. UP government launched renovation work of roads with use of plastic

Uttar Pradesh government has launched the renovation work of roads with the use of plastic in 9 cities. In the first phase of the project roads will be renovated in Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Prajagraj, Jhansi, Kanpur, Bareilly and Agra districts.



Single-use plastic items including plastic bags, spoons, cups, straws and bottles has been banned with effect from October 2, 2019, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. The Narendra Modi-led Union Government aims to completely eliminate the use of single-use plastic by 2022.

## 7. Government of Chattisgarh launched 5 new schemes

The Chattisgarh government has launched following 5 new schemes:

- Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyan: fresh and nutritious food has been provided to malnourished children and anaemic women with the help of panchayats and self-help groups.
- Mukhyamantri Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana: mobile teams of health department along with doctors and necessary equipment will visit local haat-bazaars.
- Mukhyamatri Shahariya Slum Swasthya Yojana: mobile medical team along with available health facilities to cater to health care needs of over 7 lakhs 80 thousand people.
- Universal PDS Scheme: general category families (taxpayers and non-taxpayers) will also be eligible for food grains at subsidised rate of Rs 10 per kg.
- Mukhyamantri Ward Karyalaya: provide immediate availability of citizen services and facilities to people according to their demands.



## 8. Rajasthan government announced ban on select categories of pan masala

The Rajasthan government announced a ban on pan masala containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, mineral oil and flavoured 'supari' in the state. The government has banned these items under the Food Security Act.



With this, Rajasthan has become the third state after Maharashtra and Bihar to announce such a move. Henceforth, production, storage, distribution and sale of these products will not be allowed in the state of Rajasthan.

## 9. Andhra Pradesh state government launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Vahana Mitra scheme which provides Rs. 10,000 allowance to self-employed drivers of the state. As a part of the scheme, the government will provide ₹10,000 financial assistance to auto, taxi and maxi driver-cum-owners. It will provide Rs. 50,000 to self-employed drivers in 5 years.



The annual allowance would be provided to meet the recurring expenses such as insurance premium, licence fee and maintenance of vehicle to procure fitness certificate. The government allocated a budget of Rs.400 crores in annual budget for implementation of welfare scheme.

### 10. India's first e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal

The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have come together to set up the country's first e-waste clinic in Bhopal. It will enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.



Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee. The clinic is being conceived in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

### 11. Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated 'AngiKaar' campaign

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated the 'AngiKaar' campaign. The objective of the 'AngiKaar' campaign is to bring the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) under one fold of other central government implemented scheme.



Angikaar has been launched for social behaviour change, focusing on issues such as water & energy conservation, waste management, health, tree plantation, sanitation and hygiene. The campaign will convey the schemes and Missions of other Ministries dealing with these subjects. The convergence would especially focus on Ujjwala for gas connection and Ayushman Bharat for health insurance to the beneficiaries of PMAY (U).

### 12. First-of-its-kind 'Garbage Cafe' started in Chhattisgarh

The first-of-its-kind 'Garbage Cafe' commenced in Ambikapur city of Chhattisgarh run by the Ambikapur Municipal Corporation. In this unique Cafe', poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe.



Ambikapur is Chhattisgarh's first dustbin-free city. The city has been hailed as the second cleanest city in the country in Swachhata rankings.

### 13. Odisha's biggest trade fair begin on Nov 12

Baliyatra, one of the biggest trade fairs of Odisha, is scheduled to begin on November 12. The trade fair will continue for eight days. 2019 Baliyatra will be jointly organised by the Cuttack District Administration, District Cultural Council, and the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).



A preparatory meeting for the mega fair was recently held under the chairmanship of District Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani at Cuttack. Administration will issue identity cards to all stall owners, have informative centers and install an adequate number of CCTV cameras and watchtowers at the fairground.

### 14. India, ADB signed 190-million-dollar loan agreement for improving road connectivity in Rajasthan

India and Asian Development Bank signed 190-million-dollar loan agreement for improving road connectivity in Rajasthan. The agreement was signed to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways which will benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan.



The agreement was signed between Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Mr Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission. The project provides for constructing more than 200 bus stops and 2 kilometer of raised sidewalk on project roads.

### 15. 10th National Cultural Festival held in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, the 10th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-National Cultural Festival was organised by the Union Ministry of Culture under the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' campaign. The National Cultural festival displayed diverse forms of folk, art and culture of 22 states.



The National Festival featured artists and artisans from many states including Assam, Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. The festival showcased the cultural heritage of India through performances of art, folk music, dance, handicrafts and cuisines of Leh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and West Bengal.

### 16. UP Culture Department to organise training & performance programme of KHON Ramlila

The Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh government is going to organise the country's first training and performance programme of world famous KHON (खोन) Ramlila, a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand in collaboration with Thai government. Artists, who will get training from experts of Thailand as part of cultural exchange programme between two nations, will perform at Grand Deepotsav function in Ayodhya.



KHON Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage and it's a masked dance depicting the scenes of Ramlila without dialogues and background voices while narrating the whole story of Ramayana.

### 17. Odisha's first Robot Restaurant opened in Bhubaneswar

Odisha's smart city Bhubaneswar gets its 1st Robot Chef Restaurant in Odisha. The Robot Restaurant opened at the Infocity DLF tower of Bhubaneswar claims to be the first restaurant in Eastern India where two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged. The robots are developed at a Jaipur-based start up using SLAM technology, and it automatically navigates like humans, follows the routes and instructions and takes feedback from customers.



Earlier Chennai and Bengaluru had introduced smart restaurants with robot machines imported from China.

### 18. Chief Minister Kamal Nath inaugurated "Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference"

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath formally inaugurated the two-day Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference. Many well-known industrialists are attending this conference held in Indore. Chief Minister Kamal Nath also inaugurated the Global Trade Exhibition at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore. Government announced to consider foreign investment proposals worth 4,385 crore rupees and around 223 industries will invest in Madhya Pradesh.



The event displayed various opportunities that exist in the state in variegated sectors, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, textile and garment, warehousing and

logistics, IT & Electronics System Development and Maintenance (ESDM), urban development and renewable energy.

### 19. Odisha Chief Minister launched 'Odisha-Mo Parivar' scheme

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Odisha-Mo Parivar', a social welfare programme of his party, Biju Janata Dal (BJD), to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level. The programme will focus on three major areas -- environment, healthcare services and assistance to poor and deprived people.



BJD will undertake a massive plantation drive by creating awareness among people about environment protection. Naveen appointed former Mumbai Police Commissioner and BJD leader Arup Patnaik as convener of the programme for its implementation.

### 20. Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik inaugurated J&K Bazar

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik inaugurated J&K Bazar, a retail showroom of authentic Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts, Handlooms, Silk, Agro-based products and Restaurant serving Authentic Kashmiri Cuisine at J&K House in New Delhi. The newly constructed state-of-the-art showroom is for promoting J&K specific products of handicrafts and authentic cuisine.



The showroom shall cater to the people who cherish the Kashmiri handicraft and relish the traditional Kashmiri food which is now available in the heart of Delhi. Other handicraft products in the showroom include - Paper Mache items, carved walnut-wood items, Pashmina shawls and Kashmiri embroidery sarees.

### 21. New Kiln technology in Punjab cuts 70% emissions

In order to follow orders of National Green Tribunal and Central Pollution Control Board, Punjab Government had ordered the closure of traditional kilns in March 2019 to control the toxicity of the NCR National Capital Region. The stubble burning, industrial and kiln smoke from Punjab was harmful for Delhi also.



Punjab has got most of odd polluting brick kilns converted to new Kiln Technology that cuts emissions by 70-80% and saves fuel for users. In the new kilns, the bricks to be baked are arranged in a zigzag pattern thus allowing hot air to cover a longer path.

## 22. Shri Arjun Munda launched Van Dhan Internship Programme of TRIFED

Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs launched the "Van Dhan Internship Programme" organised by TRIFED. Under this programme, 18 interns from some of the reputed Institutes of Rural Management will participate in the "Van Dhan Internship Programme and will help the tribal population in becoming entrepreneurs.



These interns will work with the team of TRIFED in various states. They will support the TRIFED activities on livelihood promotion, value addition of NTFTs, marketing and credit linkages. They will develop tools and techniques on institutional development for determination of a just price or producer price of Minor Forset Products.

## 23. Manohar Lal sworn-in as Haryana CM for 2nd term

Senior BJP leader Manohar Lal has been sworn-in as Chief Minister of Haryana for a second consecutive term. Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala was sworn-in as Deputy Chief Minister.



Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya administered the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh. In the 90-member assembly, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party with 40 seats. JJP has won 10 seats and independent 7.

## 24. 3-Day Ladakh Literature Festival organised between Oct 29th and 31st

Ladakh administration organised a 3-Day Ladakh Literature Festival from 29th to 31st October. The first-ever Ladakh Literature festival aimed to celebrate the uniqueness of the region in the fields of Art, Culture and Literature. There was screening of Ladakhi films, discussions on Heritage and presentations on History and Archeology of Ladakh, during the festival.



The Ladakh Literature Festival will be held annually. The festival will witness the transformation of Ladakh from a division to Union Territory.

### 25. Gandhinagar becomes first kerosene-free district of Gujarat

Gandhinagar district of Gujarat has become the first Kerosene-free district of the state after Union Home Minister Amit Shah allotted 1000 LPG connections to the women beneficiaries of Gandhinagar district under the Ujjwala Yojana. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed the scheme at the cost of 6.13 crore rupees covering more than 75 thousand beneficiaries.



Chandigarh became the first city to become kerosene free. By 2018, over 8 states and Union Territories in the country became kerosene free namely Puducherry, Daman-Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab.

### 26. UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana

Uttar Pradesh by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana on the occasion of Dhanteras. The programme aims at empowering the girl child for which an amount of Rs 15,000 will be provided to every family in which a girl child takes birth.



Kanya Sumangala scheme has been designed in a way that the state government will direct transfer funds in the account of the registered girls in a phased manner when a girl child will complete various achievements, like vaccination, admission in class 1, 5 and 9, graduation.

### 27. New World Bank Project to Support Climate Resilient Agriculture for 125,000 Small holder Farmers in Odisha

The Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank signed a US\$165 million loan agreement to support smallholder farmers. The Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture.



The project will benefit about 125,000 smallholder farmer households from 15 districts of Odisha managing 128,000 ha of agricultural land. The project will strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers against adverse climate. The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

## 28. J&K's Chenani-Nashri Tunnel renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel

The government has renamed India's longest Chenani-Nashri Tunnel in J&K after Bhartiya Jana Sangh founder 'Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee'. The 'Chenani-Nashri Highway Tunnel' is Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel.



The tunnel is 9 km long officially making it the longest road tunnel in India. It is a two-lane main tunnel with a parallel escape tunnel of the same length located at an elevation of 1200 meters. It is located in the lower Himalayan mountain range, between Udhampur and Ramban in Jammu & Kashmir.

## 29. Assam Cabinet decides to give no government jobs for people with more than 2 children

The Assam Cabinet decided that no government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after 1 January, 2021. The cabinet also adopted a New Land Policy.



Under the New Land Policy, the government will give three bighas (43,200 sq. ft.) of agricultural land to landless indigenous people and half a bigha for constructing a house. The beneficiary will be able to sell the given land only after 15 years of use.

# Reports

## 1. Jaipur ranked as the cleanest railway station in India

Jaipur Junction has topped the tally among 720 stations covered all over the country under Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat cleanliness assessment 2019. Jodhpur bagged second place. The suburban station of Jaipur-Durgapura has been placed third.

Seven stations under North Western Railway (NWR) namely Jaipur, Jodhpur, Durgapura, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Suratgarh, Udaipur City and Ajmer found place in first 10 most clean railway stations of the country. Jaipur scored highest 931.75 marks out of 1000. NWR also maintained top rank consecutively for second year among all 16 railway zones with an average of 848.764.



## 2. Consumer Confidence Survey, September 2019 by RBI

The Reserve Bank of India released the results of the September 2019 round of its Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS). The central bank conducted the survey across 5192 households in 13 major cities. The Consumer confidence dipped to six-year low in September as sentiment around employment, income and discretionary spending declined.

The Current Situation Index (CCI) fell into 89.4 in September from 95.7 recorded in the July round of survey. 47.9% said the general economic situation had worsened.



## 3. Tamil Nadu tops the list for most cancer claims under PMJAY

According to a data of the Union Health Ministry, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) has funded the treatment of 90,000 cancer patients through 1.8 lakh hospital admissions. Tamil Nadu, with 40,056 cases, tops the state where the most cancer patients availed treatment under PMJAY, followed by Kerala (22,000), Madhya Pradesh (19,455), Chhattisgarh (15,997) and Gujarat (14,380).

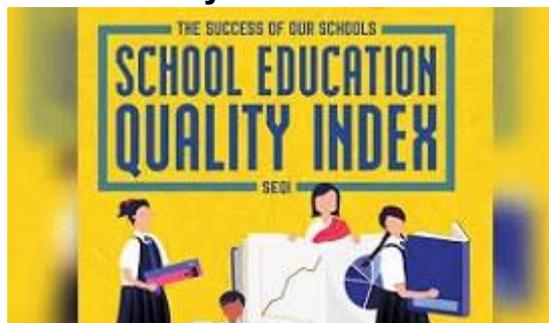
The data also shows that every year there are 11.57 lakh new cancer patients in India and 7.84 lakh cancer deaths. At any given point, there are 22.5 lakh Indians living with cancer.



#### 4. Kerala tops Niti Aayog's School Education Quality Index

Kerala has topped the list among 20 states in the 'School Education Quality Index' (SEQI) report released by Niti Aayog. Rajasthan was second in the list while Karnataka secured third place.

NITI Aayog has prepared this index based on the data of 2016-17. The index emphasizes the efforts of schools to increase the learning ability of students. The list has been categorised into three parts – Large States, Small States and Union Territories. The top 3 bottom states are Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.



#### 5. India ranks 68th on global competitiveness index

India slipped down ten places to be ranked 68th in the annual Global Competitiveness Index 2019 from 58th position in 2018. The major reason for the fall in India's rank is due to improvements witnessed by several other economies.

Singapore is first in the list followed by USA, Hong Kong, Netherlands and Switzerland. China was ranked at the 28th spot. The report is prepared by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

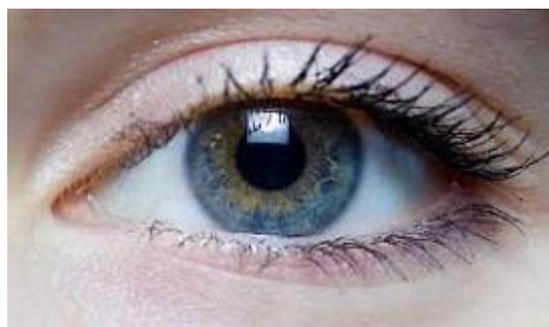
#### The Global Competitiveness Report 2019



#### 6. Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in India is 16.9%

The Union Health Ministry's first National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey (2015-19) has revealed that the prevalence of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is 16.9% while the prevalence of sight-threatening DR is 3.6%.

The prevalence of diabetes in India has remained at 11.8% in the last four years while the prevalence of Known Diabetes (KD) 8.0% and new diabetes cases was 3.8%. Prevalence of blindness among diabetics was 2.1% and visual impairment was 13.7%.



## 7. Karnataka topped first ever India Innovation Index launched by NITI Aayog

The first-ever India Innovation Index launched by NITI Aayog in New Delhi to promote competitiveness among the states was topped by Karnataka. Tamil Nadu is second and Maharashtra is on the third position followed by Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Jharkhand finished last in the list of 17 major states.



Among the North-Eastern states, Sikkim and among Union Territories Delhi has occupied the top spot. The aim of innovation index is to move states from competitive populism to competitive good governance.

## 8. India's livestock population increased to over 535 million

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying released the 20th Livestock Census - 2019. India's livestock population has increased to over 535 million showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012. As per the livestock census, cow population is over 145 million, increasing by 18% over the previous census.



West Bengal reported the highest increase of over 23% in livestock population, followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The 20th Livestock Census was carried out in about 6.6 lakh villages and 89 thousand urban wards across the country.

## 9. Forbes India Rich List 2019 unveiled

Forbes India Rich List 2019 was released by business magazine Forbes. The list was topped by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with net worth of \$51.4 billion followed by Ports tycoon Gautam Adani with \$15.7bn at 2nd place and Hinduja Brothers with \$15.6bn at 3rd place.



Steel tycoon Savitri Jindal was one of the women among the top list at 20th rank with \$5.8bn. Mukesh Ambani remains the richest Indian for the 12th year in a row. The net worths of more than half the list members fell. In all, nine members from last year's ranks dropped off.

### 10. India slipped to rank 102 in Global Hunger Index 2019

India slipped from 95th rank in 2018 to 102nd in 2019 out of 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3 on 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI). Global Hunger Index (GHI) is an international tool designed to track hunger and malnutrition level that falls into serious category, based on 4 indicators.



Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores of less than five. Four countries namely Madagascar, Chad, Yemen and the Central African Republic were placed under alarming hunger category.

### 11. India ranked 82 in the 2019 World Giving Index

The World Giving Index (WGI) is an annual report published by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) to rank countries in the world according to how charitable they are. India was ranked 82nd among 128 countries. USA topped the index followed by Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.



Key findings were as follows: -

- Worldwide, more than 2.5 billion people helped a stranger over the past decade.
- Globally, nearly 20% of all adults, volunteer with Sri Lanka reporting the highest rate of volunteering in the world.
- People from Myanmar are the most likely to have donated money to charity.

### 12. UNICEF released The State of World's Children Report 2019

2019 edition of The State of the World's Children (SOWC) examined the issue of children, food and nutrition, providing a fresh perspective on a rapidly evolving challenge.

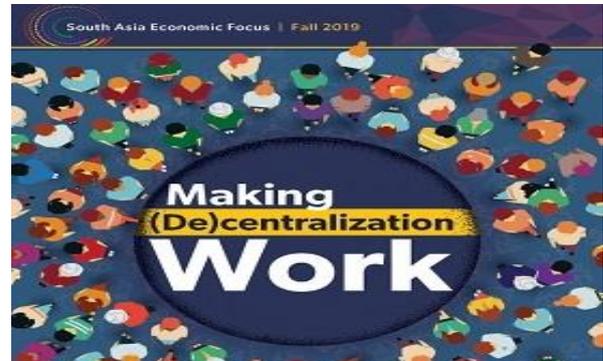


Key Findings were –

- 149 million children aged under 5 still suffer from stunting and almost 50 million from wasting.
- 340 million children suffer from the hidden hunger of deficiencies of vitamins and minerals.
- Rates of overweight are rising rapidly.
- The number of stunted children has declined in all continents, except in Africa.
- Many adolescents consume highly processed foods: 42% drink carbonated soft drinks at least once a day.

### 13. World Bank released South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work Report

World Bank released South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work Report 2019. The South Asia Economic Focus is a biannual economic update presenting recent economic developments and a near-term economic outlook for South Asia.



Key Findings are as given below -

- Global GDP growth is decelerating, while trade and industrial production are stagnating.
- Current account deficits have declined and food price inflation is picking up.
- The expected modest recovery to 6.3 percent in 2020 and 6.7 percent in 2021 is tentative.
- In South Asia, a lack of geospatial data on expenditure and development outcomes remains a major constraint.

### 14. National Blindness and Visual Impairment Survey 2019

The National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-2019 was released by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. It estimated that blindness has come down to 0.36% from 1% in 2006-2007—since the last survey.



Key findings of the survey are -

- Visual impairment has come down by 51.9% to 2.55% as compared to 2010.
- Maximum prevalence of blindness was seen in age group of above 80 (11.6%).
- Prevalence of blindness was lowest in Kerala and visual impairment was lowest in Manipur.
- Uttar Pradesh had the highest prevalence in both categories.

### 15. India jumped 14 places on World Bank's Ease of Doing business ranking

India has jumped 14 places to take the 63rd position in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 survey among 190 countries. Last year, India jumped 23 places to reach 77th position.



India's ranking has improved 79 places - to 63 in 2019 from 142 in 2014 - a record for a major economy. The World Bank acknowledged India's significant improvements registered in resolving insolvency, dealing with Construction Permits, Registering Property, trading across Boards and Paying Taxes indicators.

**16. BPRD releases “Data on Police Organizations (DoPO 2018)”**

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy has released the Bureau of Police Research and Development’s flagship publication “Data on Police Organizations” (DoPO 2018) in New Delhi.



Major highlights of the DoPO 2018:

- There has been an increase of 19,686 Police personnel in the sanctioned strength of the State Police and 16,051 in the strength of CAPFs
- There has been 20.95% increase in the strength of Woman Police which brings the total percentage of women in the Indian Police to 8.73%.
- The overall Police Population Ratio at the state level stood at 192.95 policemen per lakh population.
- Police Stations have increased from 15579 to 16422.

**17. IIT-Bombay tops QS India University Rankings**

According to the QS India University Rankings 2020, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, has emerged as the best higher education institute in India. It is the second consecutive year IIT, Bombay has topped the ranking.

**QS INDIA RANKINGS: THE TOP 10**

INSTITUTION NAME	2019	2020
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	1	1
Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore	2	2
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	4	3
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	3	4
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	5	5
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	6	6
University of Delhi	8	7
University of Hyderabad	7	8
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	9	9
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	10	10

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is at number two and IIT-Delhi at number three. IIT-Madras is at number four, followed by IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-Kanpur, respectively. University of Delhi, University of Hyderabad, IIT Roorkee and IIT Guwahati complete the top ten list respectively.

**18. NCRB released Crime in India Report 2017**

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released its 2017 data for crime in India. According to the report, cybercrimes in India almost doubled in 2017 though it accounted for less than a percentage (0.43%) or 21,796 cases of a total of 50,07,044 cognizable crimes in 2017.



According to the report, 3.59 lakh cases of crime against women were reported in the country. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra with 31,979 cases and West Bengal 30,002 in cases of crime against women.

### 19. Credit Suisse’s Global Wealth Report 2019

The Credit Suisse Group, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank, has released the 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report. The report tracks both the growth and distribution of wealth.

Just 47 million people – accounting for merely 0.9% of the world’s adult population – owned \$158.3 trillion, which is almost 44% of the world’s total wealth. China has overtaken the United States this year to become “the country with most people in the top 10% of global wealth distribution”.

Figure 5: The global wealth pyramid 2019



### 20. Three Indian-origin CEOs in Harvard Business Review's top 10 best-performing CEOs

Three Indian-origin CEOs have been featured in a list of world's top 10 best-performing chief executives. 'The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR) features 100 CEOs and has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> spot is Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, followed by MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga at 7<sup>th</sup> spot and Microsoft chief Satya Nadella at 9<sup>th</sup> spot. Ranking has been based not only on financial performance but also on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings.

# Resignations & Retirements

## 1. Kapil Dev resigned from CAC after getting conflict notice

Former India World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev has resigned from the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy – two other members of CAC, also resigned. All three members of the CAC had been issued a Conflict of Interest notice by BCCI's ethics officer DK Jain due to their involvement in the recently-founded Indian Cricketer's Association.



Sanjeev Gupta, a life-member of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA), had filed a complaint against the trio.

## 2. Bastian Schweinsteiger announced retirement from football

The former Bayern Munich, Germany and Manchester United midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger has announced his retirement from football at the age of 35 years. Schweinsteiger scored 68 goals for Bayern Munich winning eight Bundesliga titles, seven German Cups, one League Cup and one Champions League.



Schweinsteiger played 121 matches for Germany and registered 24 goals. he helped germany win the Football World Cup in 2014 by scoring the only goal in the extra time. He is Germany's fourth most-capped player of all time.

## 3. England's Jennifer Louise Gunn announced retirement from international cricket

England all-rounder Jennifer Louise Gunn announced her retirement from international cricket. She had played 259 times for her country across all three formats. She was England's most capped player in T20Is. Gunn won five Ashes series, the World Cup in 2009 and 2017 and the World Twenty20 in 2009. She is ranked at 2nd place in the list of leading England wicket-takers in one-day internationals with 136 wickets.



Gunn was appointed as Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2014 Birthday Honours for services to cricket.

#### **4. Abhishek Nayar announced retirement from all forms of cricket**

Veteran Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayar has retired from all forms of cricket. Nayar represented India in only three ODIs. However, the all-rounder has played 103 first-class matches and has posted a total of 5749 runs along with 173 wickets.

Nayar also represented Mumbai Indians, Kings XI Punjab, Pune Warriors India and Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League. He was appointed as mentor for Kolkata Knight Riders.



## 1. Researchers see individual virus formation for the first time

Scientists have captured images of formation of individual viruses for the first time ever. The research study provides new insights into how to fight against viruses & engineer self-assembling particles. The study was performed on single stranded RNA virus.



The study was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Scientists used Interferometric Scattering Microscopy technique to capture the formation process. The technique does not show virus structure, however, reveals its size and how it changes with time.

## 2. Saturn overtakes Jupiter as planet with most Moons

Saturn has overtaken Jupiter as the solar system's planet with the most moons after American astronomer Scott Sheppard announced the discovery of 20 new moons of Saturn by his team at the Carnegie Institution of Science. 17 of Saturn's new moons orbit the planet in the opposite, or retrograde, direction while the other 3 orbit in the same direction that Saturn rotates.



Saturn, now has a total of 82 moons while Jupiter has only 79. Jupiter still holds the title for having the biggest moon, named Ganymede, which is almost half the size of Earth.

## 3. India's Vishnu Nandan among 300 researchers to join largest ever Arctic expedition

India's Vishnu Nandan, polar researcher from Kerala, will be the only Indian aboard among the 300 researchers for the multidisciplinary drifting observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) expedition.



Vishnu Nandan will aboard the German research vessel Polarstern. The MOSAIC expedition will help the researchers better understand the impact of climate change and aid in improved weather projections. It is the largest ever Arctic expedition in history.

#### 4. Researchers discover new antibiotic in Mexican forest

Scientists from Rutgers University have discovered an antibiotic produced by a soil bacterium from a Mexican tropical forest that may help lead to a "plant probiotic," more robust plants and other antibiotics. It is known as phazolicin.



Found in the root nodules of wild beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), this unusual antibiotic is produced by a symbiotic soil bacterium that fixes nitrogen for the plant and keeps harmful microbes away.

#### 5. Researchers develop bio-bricks from agricultural waste

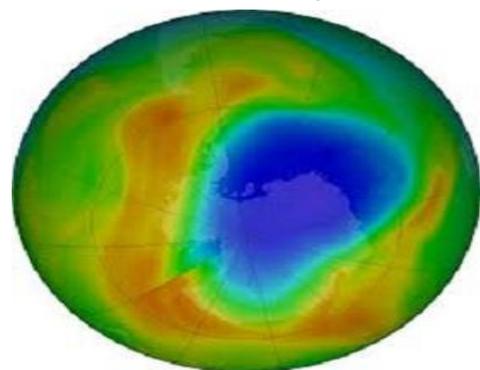
Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) School of Architecture, Bhubaneswar have developed bio-bricks for construction from agricultural waste products. This will not only help in waste management but also development of eco-friendly, sustainable building materials.



Nearly 22% of India's total annual carbon-dioxide emissions is due to the construction sector. Clay bricks use up fertile topsoil as well as their manufacturing process also emits significant amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

#### 6. 2019 Ozone Hole is the smallest on record since its discovery

The annual ozone hole reached its peak extent of 6.3 million square miles (16.4 million square kilometers) on Sept. 8, and then shrank to less than 3.9 million square miles (10 million square kilometers) for the remainder of September and October, according to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite measurements. During years with normal weather conditions, the ozone hole typically grows to a maximum area of about 8 million square miles in late September or early October.



The Antarctic ozone hole forms during the Southern Hemisphere's late winter as the returning Sun's rays start ozone-depleting reactions. These reactions involve chemically active forms of chlorine and bromine derived from man-made compounds.

## 7. Pepe robot created from India-UK collaboration

A new robot named Pepe which encourages children to wash their hands, was created by a team of researchers from India and the United Kingdom team collaboration. The announcement of creation was announced at 28TH Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (held in New Delhi) on Global Handwashing Day 2019.



The project is the second social robot research project conducted by the University of Glasgow and Amrita University. The study revealed that the robot helped pupils to wash their hands more effectively and more consistently, boosting their rates of hand washing by 40%.

## 8. ISRO Reusable Launch Vehicle to land in Karnataka

ISRO's space shuttle like reusable launch vehicle (RLV) will attempt its first landing in Karnataka. A reusable launch vehicle is the unanimous solution to achieve low cost space access. India's RLV includes a Space Shuttle-like craft which will take a payload to space and then glide back to Earth. The scientists at ISRO will be tracking the flight and landing of the RLV at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at Karnataka.



Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration Program is a series of technology demonstration missions towards realizing a Two Stage To Orbit (TSTO) fully re-usable vehicle.

## 9. ICON Space Weather Satellite: launched by NASA to Study Earth's Ionosphere

NASA launched long-delayed ICON Space Weather Satellite to Study Earth's Ionosphere. ICON spacecraft is in orbit for a first-of-its-kind mission to study a region of space where changes can disrupt communications and satellite orbits, and even increase radiation risks to astronauts. ICON will study changes in a region of the upper atmosphere called the ionosphere.

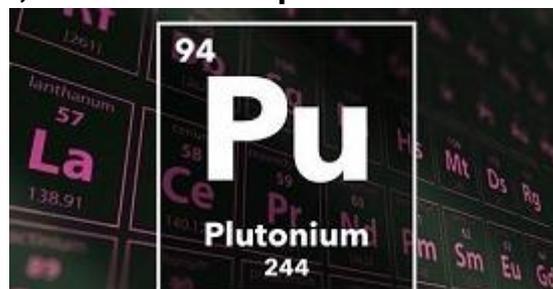


ICON explores the connections between the neutral atmosphere and the electrically charged ionosphere with four instruments. ICON will aim its instruments for a view of what's happening at the lowest boundary of space, from about 55 miles up to 360 miles above the surface.

### 10. Scientists accidentally discover new, stable form of plutonium

Scientists have discovered a stable form of plutonium, a radioactive chemical famously unstable for transport, storage and disposal. This new — and accidental — discovery could lead to new ways to tackle some of the challenges in handling the powerful compound.

The study and its findings were published in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* (2019). A powerful energy source, plutonium also has the capability to cause potentially-devastating environmental impact.



# Sports

## 1. Novak Djokovic won Japan Open title

World number one Novak Djokovic won the Japan Open tennis title defeating Australia's John Millman 6-3, 6-2 in the final. It was his fourth title of the year and a 76th of his career. Djokovic had withdrawn from the U.S. Open in the fourth round due to a shoulder injury.



Nicolas Mahut and Édouard Roger-Vasselin won the men's doubles title. The 2019 Rakuten Japan Open Tennis Championships was a men's tennis tournament.

## 2. Dominic Thiem won China Open 2019

Austria's Dominic Thiem won the China Open final of 2019 after defeating Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Beijing. It was the 15th singles title for Thiem.



The winners in other categories are:

**Women's Singles:** Naomi Osaka defeated Ashleigh Barty

**Men's Doubles:** Ivan Dodig and Filip Polášek defeated Łukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo

**Women's Doubles:** Sofia Kenin and Bethanie Mattek-Sands defeated Jejena Ostapenko and Dayana Yastremska

## 3. BWF Korea Open 2019

Kento Momota of Japan clinched the men's singles title at the Korea Open badminton tournament with a win over Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan. In the women's final, China's He Bingjiao defeated Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand.



Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong of South Korea defeated compatriots Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan to win the women's doubles title. Indonesian pair Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto defeated Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda of Japan to clinch the men's doubles title.

#### 4. Wilson Singh-Satish Kumar won gold at Asian Age Group Championships

India's N Wilson Singh and Satish Kumar Prajapati won gold medal in 10 metres platform synchronised event at the ongoing 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championships in Bengaluru. The duo scored 290.19 score to beat Uzbekistan's Zaynetdinov Marsel and Khasanov Botir, who scored 280.53 points.



India, thus, extended their total tally to 60 medals (17 gold, 23 silver and 20 bronze) in the prestigious championships, which is the largest aquatic event in Asia.

#### 5. India won South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-18 Championship title for first time

India defeated Bangladesh by 2-1 in the final of SAFF Under-18 Championship 2019 to lift the title in Kathmandu.



India's Ninthoinganba Meetei was declared Most Valuable Player of the championship. This is India's maiden SAFF U-18 trophy. India remained runners up in 2015 and finished third in 2017. Host Nepal had lifted earlier two editions of the Championship but could not qualify for semi finals this time.

#### 6. Kaushal Dharmamer clinched men's singles title at Maldives International Challenge

Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the men's singles title at the Maldives International Challenge with a straight-games win over Siril Verma.



The winners in other categories:

- **Women's Singles:** USA's Iris Wang won against Vũ Thị Trang of Vietnam
- **Women's doubles:** Japanese pair of Sayak Hobara and Natsuki Soni defeated Indian pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy
- **Men's doubles:** Japanese pair of Keiichiro Matsui and Yoshinori Takeuchi defeated Indian pair of Arun George and Sanyam Shukla
- **Mixed doubles:** Thailand's Chaloepon Charoenkitamorn and Chasinee Korepap defeated India's Saipratheek Krishnaprasad and Ashwini Bhat

### 7. ICC women's ODI rankings: India maintains second position

The Indian women's team has maintained the second position in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Team Rankings. The Indian team has 125 points, 3 points ahead of England. In the T20I rankings, India are placed at the fifth position. The Australian women's team is ranked at the top of both women's ODI and T20I rankings tables.



England at third, New Zealand at fourth and South Africa at fifth are the other three teams in the top five of the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Team Rankings.

### 8. Surender Singh created three world records at World Powerlifting Championship

Surender Singh of India created three world records at the ongoing World Powerlifting Championship in Berlin, Germany. Surender bagged gold medal in 110 kg category, Classic Raw and the Best Lifter Award in Classic Raw and Single Ply.



Three-time World Champion Mukesh Singh went on to add another feather to his cap by winning yet another gold only to be known as 4-time World Champion.

### 9. Fraser-Pryce won World Championship 100m gold

Jamaican sprint legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce won her fourth women's 100 metres world title at the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha with an impressive timing of 10.71s. Britain's European champion Dina Asher-Smith took silver medal while Marie-Josée Ta Lou finished 3rd.



Fraser-Pryce had won her first world championship gold in the 100m sprint in 2009, then in 2013 and in 2015. With a personal-best timing of 10.7s, Fraser-Pryce is the joint-fourth fastest in the women's 100m in history.

### 10. Lewis Hamilton won 2019 Russia F1 Grand Prix

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Russian Grand Prix extending his lead at the top of the F1 World Championship standings. Hamilton's team-mate Valtteri Bottas was placed second and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc third.



Hamilton with 322 points is on the top of the Driver's Standings while Valtteri Bottas is at second with 249 points. In the Constructors' Standings, Mercedes tops the chart with 571 points followed by Ferrari at 409 points.

### 11. Ben Stokes won PCA Players' Player of the Year award

Ben Stokes bagged the Professional Cricketers' Association Players' Player of the Year award after his splendid show in the ICC Cricket World Cup and the Ashes. Stokes became only the sixth player to win the double of Young Player of the Year award and Player of the Year honour.



Sophie Ecclestone won her second successive Women's Player of the Summer award. Chris Woakes and Stuart Broad were honoured as the ODI and Test Player of the Year respectively. Tom Banton was named the Young Player of the Year for his solid performances for Somerset.

### 12. NBCC signed MoU with Sports Ministry to develop National Sports University at Imphal

State-owned construction firm NBCC (India) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Sports under Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) to provide Project Management Consultancy for development of National Sports University at Imphal, Manipur.



The approximate cost of project would be Rs.400 crores. NBCC (India) Limited (formerly National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited) is a blue-chip Government of India Navratna enterprise.

### 13. Christine Wolf won Hero Indian Women's Open golf title

Austria's Christine Wolf has won the Hero Women's Indian Open. Marianne Skarpnord was second while Meghan MacLaren was third and Whitney Hillier fourth. Anika Varma of India finished at 5th position while Tvesa Malik was at 6th position.



It was a maiden Tour title for Wolf and she won \$75,000 as prize money. The Hero Women's Indian Open is a golf tournament on the Ladies European Tour. It is played at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurgaon, India.

### 14. Harmanpreet Kaur became first Indian cricketer to play 100 T20 matches

Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian cricketer to play 100 Twenty20 Internationals as she took the field against South Africa in Surat. She achieved this milestone before MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who have played 98 T20Is for India.



Harmanpreet Kaur is among 10 women players who have played more than 100 T20 international matches. Australia's Ellyse Perry and New Zealand's Suzie Bates are on the top of the list with 111 international matches.

### 15. Mithali Raj became 1st female player to complete 20 yrs in international cricket

India women's cricket captain Mithali Raj became the first female player to last more than 20 years in international cricket. She achieved the feat while leading India to victory over South Africa Women at Vadodara.



Mithali, who made her ODI debut against Ireland on June 26, 1999, completed 20 years and 105 days in the 50-over format. The right-handed batswoman has played 204 ODIs till now, the most by a female. 36-year-old Mithali has also played 10 Tests and 89 T20 Internationals for India.

### 16. Kohli scored record 7th double ton for India

India's Skipper Virat Kohli hit his seventh double hundred during the second test match against South Africa at Pune. With this, he eclipsed legendary Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag for the highest number of double hundreds in Indian cricket history. He also equalled Australia legend Ricky Ponting's record for most Test hundreds as Skipper as he scored his 19th hundred in the process as captain and 26<sup>th</sup> overall.



Kohli already held the record for most double hundreds in Test cricket as captain. Kohli crossed 150-run mark nine times as skipper, one more than Bradman.

### 17. Simone Biles sets world championship medal record

Simone Biles became the most decorated gymnast in world championship history after she took her career tally to 25 medals which includes 19 gold medals. She won 5 gold medals at 2019 World Gymnastic Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.



Biles won gold medals in the team, all-around, beam balance, floor and vault finals categories. She was crowned world floor champion for the fifth time in her career. This is the first time Biles has finished a world championship with five golds.

### 18. India Sports Summit–Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity organised in New Delhi

The 'India Sports Summit - Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' was held on 10 October 2019 in New Delhi. It was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), Sportscom, and Sportskeeda.



The aim of the summit is to achieve the objective of 'Sports and Industry' through various initiatives. The first India Sports Summit 2019 was also inaugurated at the event.

### 19. Indian boxers clinched 21 medals at Asian Junior Championships

Indian boxers clinched 21 medals (six golds and nine silvers) at the Asian Junior Championships to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. India ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) at gold count of medals.



The Indian men's squad fetched two golds, three silvers and an equal number of bronzes, while the women claimed four gold, six silver and three bronze medals. The top players were Vishvanath Suresh (46kg), Bishwamitra Chongtham (48kg), Kalpana (46kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Tanshir Kaur (80kg) and Alfiya Pathan (80kg).

### 20. Mumbai's Yashasvi Jaiswal created world record in One Day cricket

Mumbai teenager Yashasvi Jaiswal created history as he became the youngest cricketer in the world to score a double century in One Day cricket. His is the ninth instance of an Indian scoring a List A double-ton. Mumbai posted 358 for 3 in 50 overs and bowled out the opposition for 319.



Playing in his debut Vijay Hazare season, the 17-year-old scored 203 off 154 balls against Jharkhand at Alur, Karnataka. His score comprised 12 sixes and 17 fours. At present, he is the leading run-scorer of the 2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy, with 564 runs in 6 matches at an average of 112.80.

### 21. Priyanshu Rajawat claimed men's singles title at Bahrain International Series

Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat claimed the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton at Isa Town. Seventeen year old Rajawat beat top-seed Jason Anthony Ho-Shue from Canada in the finals 16-21, 21-7, 21-12 in the summit clash.



Top-seeded Indian mixed double pair of Juhi Dewangan and Venkat Gaurav Prasad also finished at the top. They defeated Thailand's Pannawat Theerapanitnun and Kanyanat Sudchoeichom 21-18, 21-16 in 34 minutes to bag the gold medal. Bahrain International is a BWF International Series level.

## 22. Lakshya Sen won maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles at Almere in the Netherlands. Lakshya rallied from a game deficit to defeat Yusuke Onodera of Japan 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in a final that lasted 63 minutes.



Lakshya, currently ranked 72nd, had won the Belgian Open 2019 and reached the finals of Polish Open 2019. He had also won the Asian Junior Championships, a silver at Youth Olympic Games and a bronze medal at World Junior Championships 2018.

## 23. Eliud Kipchoge became first person to run marathon in under two hours

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge successfully completed the first-ever marathon under two hours in the Austrian capital of Vienna, two years since he fell 25 seconds short. The Kenyan is the first person in history to run a marathon.



The 34-year-old ran 42 kilometres in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds at Vienna's Prater-Hauptallee - an achievement once considered beyond human's reach. He does hold the official record already, though, after running 2:01:39 in the 2018 Berlin Marathon.

## 24. Dutee Chand breaks her own national record

Star sprinter Dutee Chand smashed her own national record, clocking 11.22 seconds, in the women's 100m semifinals at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi.



Dutee Chand surpassed her previous timing of 11.26 second which she had set at the Asian Championships in April 2019. Dutee later clocked 11.25 seconds in the final to claim the gold, leaving Archana Suseendran and Himashree Roy behind. Dutee is third Indian woman to ever qualify for the Women's 100 metres event at the Summer Olympic Games.

## 25. Niki Poonacha, Sowjanya Bavisetti crowned champions in Fenesta Open

In the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship, Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti were crowned champions in the men's and women's singles events in New Delhi. Niki beat Aryan Goveas 6-2, 7-6 in the men's singles final. Rashmikaa Bhamidipatty won **Girls under 18 singles Finals against Sandgheepti Singh**. Madhwin Kamath won **Boys under 18 Finals against Udit Gogoi**.



Rising star Sowjanya played against four-time Fenesta Open winner and seasoned pro-Prerna Bhambri. *Fenesta Open* Tennis tournament is the only single full group Nationals i.e. the format covers Men, Ladies, Boys and Girls Under 18, under 16 and under 14.

## 26. Ashleigh Barty bagged 'The Don' Award

Ashleigh Barty won 'The Don' award at the annual Sport Australia Hall of Fame and was recognised as currently the top Australian athlete. Barty won the French Open 2019 and is currently the top-ranked Women's Tennis Association (WTA) player in the world.



Barty became only the second tennis player to win the prestigious award with Pat Rafter being the last tennis player to win the award in 2001. 'The Don' award is Australian sport's highest individual honour.

## 27. Manju Rani won silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championship

Sixth-seeded Manju Rani settled for silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude in Russia. Second-seeded Russian Ekaterina Paltceva defeated Rani 4 -1 in 48-kilogram category in the final match of the tournament. With this she became the only Indian to make the finals after six-time champion M C Mary Kom (51kg), Jamuna Boro (54kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) settled for bronze medals.



Prior to this event, Rani also won silver medal on debut at the prestigious Strandja Memorial Tournament, one of Europe's oldest and most competitive boxing events.

### 28. Mercedes's Valtteri Bottas won 2019 Japanese Grand Prix

Valtteri Bottas won the 2019 Japanese Grand Prix while his Mercedes team earned its sixth-consecutive Formula One constructors championship, held at Suzuka in Mie Prefecture, Japan. It was Bottas' first victory in Japan. Bottas was crowned drivers' champions 2019, ensuring the teams' sixth straight double championship, a new record.



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel (Germany) and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton (Britain) stood at the 2nd and 3rd places respectively. The Finn, the first driver to ever win from the second row in Suzuka, duly earned the Driver of the Day award.

### 29. Lionel Messi won 6th Golden Shoe as top scorer in European Leagues

Barcelona captain Leo Messi received his sixth Golden Shoe award for year 2018-19 as the top scorer in the European leagues for scoring 36 goals in 34 La Liga games, as well as three in the Copa del Rey and 12 more in the Champions League. This totals his six golden shoes. Lionel Messi is the only player having 6 golden shoes whereas other players such as Cristiano Ronaldo has 4 golden shows and Muller, Jimmy Greaves have 2 golden shows.



The European Golden Shoe is presented to the leading goalscorer in league matches of every European national league.

### 30. Indian Women Football Team wins 3rd SAFF U-15 Women's Championship 2019

India booked its spot in the final of the 3rd Edition of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championships 2019 by beating Bangladesh by 5-3 in the penalty shoot-out after the match ended 0-0 post 90 minutes. 2019 SAFF U-15 Women's Championship, played among the 4 teams namely Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India from the region was held at Thimpu, Bhutan.



Some players who performed well were Indian captain Shilky Devi who slotted home from the final spot-kick to hand her side 5-3 win, Sunita Munda and goalkeeper Adrija Sarkhel.

### 31. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty won silver in doubles event at French Open

Indian men's doubles specialists, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, lost to Indonesia's World No 1 duo, Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo and Marcus Fernaldi Gideon in the final of BWF French Open 2019 by a 21-18, 21-16 margin.



Satwik and Chirag had won their maiden Super 500 title at the Thailand Open earlier in August 2018. It was the first time that an Indian men's doubles pair reached a World Tour 750 final. Partho Ganguli and Vikram Singh were the last all-Indian pair to win the French Open in 1983.

### 32. Karnataka won Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20

Karnataka won the 2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy as they beat Tamil Nadu in the final at Bengaluru via VJD method. Karnataka won its fourth Vijay Hazare Trophy title.



The 2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy was the 18th season of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Mumbai were the defending champions. It is also known as the Ranji One-Day Trophy and started in 2002-03 as a limited-overs cricket domestic competition involving state teams from the Ranji Trophy plates. It is named after the famous Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare.

### 33. Praveen Kumar becomes first Indian man to win gold at Wushu World Championships

Praveen Kumar became the first Indian man to win a Wushu World Championships gold, beating Russel Diaz of Philippines in the 48kg category in Shanghai. The Indian defeated his Filipino opponent 2-1 in the men's Sanda event of the 15th World Wushu Championships.



Among other Indians in the fray, Poonam (women's 75kg) and Sanathoi Devi (women's 52kg) secured silver medals while Vikrant Baliyan bagged the bronze in the men's 60kg category. India finished third overall in the championship in event with a gold, two silvers and a bronze.

### 34. Rohit Sharma becomes 3rd Indian batsman to reach top 10 in all formats

Rohit Sharma has become the third Indian batsman to reach the top 10 in all three formats of cricket. Rohit emulated captain Virat Kohli and retired opener Gautam Gambhir as his knock of 212 in the third Test in Ranchi helped him advance 12 places to 10th position in the ICC Test Player Rankings.



Rohit has held a career-high ranking of second in ODIs in February 2018 and seventh in T20 in November 2018.

### **35. China to host the inaugural edition of expanded 24-team Club World Cup**

FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced that China will host the inaugural edition of the expanded 24-team Club World Cup. The plan for a revamped 24-team Club World Cup starting in June-July 2021 was approved at a FIFA Council meeting in Miami in March.



The current Club World Cup features seven teams including the holders of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League. Qatar will host the competition this year and in 2020.

### **36. Graeme Smith elected MCC Honorary Life Member**

Former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Smith was South Africa's youngest ever captain at 22 years of age.



Smith was named Wisden's Cricketers of the Year in 2004. He struck 27 centuries in his Test career and 10 centuries in One-Day International. Former Australian off-spinner Tim May was also awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding achievements in cricket.

### **37. Bengal Warriors won maiden Pro Kabaddi League Title**

Bengal Warriors lifted its maiden Pro Kabaddi League title after they beat Dabang Delhi 39-34 in the final. Bengal Warriors, led by Iranian Mohammed Esmaeil Nabibakhsh, became PKL's fifth champion in seven seasons.



Season Awards:

- Referee of the season- Mr. Shankar
- New Young player of the season- Sumit of UP Yoddha
- Raider of the season- Pawan Sehrawat of Bengaluru Bulls
- Defender of the season- Fazel Atrachali of U Mumba
- Most Valuable Player of the season (MVP)- Naveen Kumar of Dabang Delhi

### 38. 2024 Olympic Games logo unveiled in Paris

The logo for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games unveiled at a ceremony in Paris. The new design brings together three iconic symbols connected to sport, the Games and France - the gold medal, the Olympic and Paralympic flames, and Marianne, a French allegory of the revolution and the Republic's ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity.



Paris 2024 will be the first time in history that the Paralympic and Olympic Games share the same logo.

### 39. Riya Bhatia wins International Tennis Federation (ITF) title in Nigeria

Riya Bhatia has won the ITF women's tennis tournament in Lagos, Nigeria after she defeated Nastja Kolar of Slovenia 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 in the final of the ITF women's tennis tournament. Riya received a prize money of \$25,000/-.



This was the 3rd singles title in the professional circuit for Riya, who had won her last two titles in 2016 and 2017. The former national grass court and hard court champion, Riya has also won three doubles titles in the international circuit.

### 40. Rohit Sharma set a record of highest average in Test cricket

Indian opener Rohit Sharma has surpassed legendary Sir Don Bradman recording the highest batting average in Test cricket on home soil among those, who have played at least 10 innings. Rohit now has an average of 99.84 in 18 innings while Bradman had an average of 98.22 across 50 innings at home.



Rohit has so far scored 1298 runs in 18 completed innings. Rohit also became the third Indian player after Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag to score double hundred in both Test and ODI.

#### **41. Great Britain won 9th Edition of Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey Tournament 2019**

Defending Champions Great Britain won the men's Sultan of Johor Cup hockey tournament 2019 after they defeated India with 2-1 in final held at Johor Bahru in Malaysia.



With five goals to his name, India's Shilanand Lakra remained the highest scorer of tournament. Japan's Kosei Kawabe was adjudged the Best player of the tournament. Oliver Payne of United Kingdom was awarded with the Goalkeeper of the tournament award. The Sultan of Johor Cup is international men under-21 field hockey tournament.

#### **42. ICC banned Bangladeshi cricketer Shakib Al Hasan**

Bangladesh Test and T20 Captain Shakib Al Hasan was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) from all forms of cricket for two years. One year of the punishment has been suspended after he accepted three charges of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. Shakib was found guilty for not reporting to the ICC that he was approached by the bookies.



Shakib will be free to resume international cricket from 29th of October 2020 subject to him satisfying the conditions in respect of the suspended part of the sanction.