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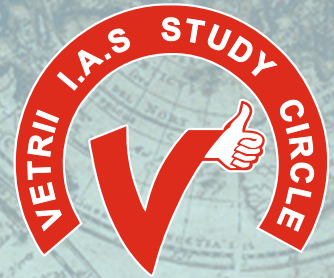
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History



1.1 Important Days

Date	Day	Theme
26-8-2019	Women's Equality Day	
29-8-2019	National Sports Day	This day marks the birth anniversary of India's hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand
29-8-2019	International Day against Nuclear Tests	It is first observed on December 2, 2009 at the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The way for the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996 .
30-8-2019	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed on 30 August 2019	The United Nation (UN) jointly with the Amnesty International observes the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance every year on August 30.
02-09-2019	World Coconut Day	The theme was " Coconut for Family Wellness ".
September (1 to 7)	National Nutrition Week	It is used to make the people get every knowledge about nutrition and it's importance for the human body.
05-09-2019	National Teachers Day	India celebrates Teachers' Day every year in honour of former president Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary.
05-09-2019	International Day of Charity	To commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa and also to also create awareness about the Importance of Charity.
09-09-2019	Himalaya day	It was celebrated in the Biotech Auditorium of the Department of Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee .
10-09-2019	World Suicide Prevention Day	In order to raise an awareness and prevent from committing suicide, International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) host in collaboration with global partners World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) every year
14-09-2019	Hindi Diwas Day	Hindi is the forth most spoken language in world.

15-09-2019	International Day of Democracy	Theme of International Day of Democracy 2019: Participation.
16-09-2019	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	The theme for the year 2019 is "32 Years and Healing"
17-09-2019	First World Patient Safety Day	The theme for the year 2019 is 'Patient Safety: a global health priority' and its slogan is 'Speak up for patient safety' .
18-09-2019	10th edition of World Bamboo Day	10 th World Bamboo Day (WBD) was observed on September 18, 2019 to increase the awareness of bamboo globally by the World Bamboo Organization (WBO) . Bamboo is known as poor man's timber and green gold.
21-09-2019	International Day of Peace or World Peace Day	The theme of this Day for 2019 is 'Climate Action for Peace' .
21-09-2019	World Alzheimer's Day	The theme for the year is "Raising awareness and challenging the stigma around the disease" . The month of September is observed as World Alzheimer's Month (WAM) . It is observed by the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) run by the Alzheimer University.
21-09-2019	International Coastal Cleanup Day	It encourages people along with ocean conservation groups, and environmental organizations to clean up the garbage/trash on the beach. Coastal states across the country took part in massive beach cleaning drive with many volunteer participations.
22-09-2019	World Rhino Day	It is an international ecological observance to raise awareness on the protection of 5 existing species of rhinoceros- white rhino, black rhino, Indian rhino, Javan rhino and Sumatran rhino. It was first observed in 2010 by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) , South Africa.
22-09-2019	World rose day & Cancer free day	The purpose of celebrating this day is to make cancer patients become strong enough to face the disease with spirit and will power.
23-09-2019	International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL)	The theme of this day for 2019 is "Sign Language Rights for All" .
23-09-2019	1st Edition of Ayushman Bharat Diwas	It was on this day a year ago Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Ranchi, Jharkhand.
	President inaugurates 6th India Water Week 2019 in New Delhi	Theme of "Water cooperation: Coping with 21st Century Challenges" .

1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

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

- The 2019 **Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference** will be held in Thailand's capital city Bangkok. In this conference, India will be represented by Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff-Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

Key Words: 2019 CHOD Conference

- ▶ **Theme for conference: "Collaboration in a free and Open Indo - Pacific"**.
- ▶ It will see participation of Chiefs of Defence of more than 33 countries.

India to join developed nations in ocean studies

- India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the '**Samudrayaan**' project.
- The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies.
- The ₹ 200 crore project proposes to carry three persons in a submersible vehicle to a depth of **6000 metres** under sea for various studies. Submarines go only about **200 metres**.

Facility for defence communication system

- A state-of-the-art 20,000 sq ft facility of an Indo-Israel joint venture to design, develop and manufacture tactical communication systems for the armed forces was inaugurated.
- **Astra Rafael Communication System (ARC)** has positioned itself to become India's first private sector firm to manufacture cutting-edge software defined radios in multiple variants.

Kandla, Adani ports put on security alert

- The country's two largest ports, **Kandla** and **Adani** in Gujarat, were put on high alert, along with the centre **Gulf of Kutch**, after intelligence agencies shared inputs of a possible entry by Pakistan-trained commandos through the **Harami Naala** creek to carry out underwater attacks.

India's first female military diplomat to join Indian Mission in Russia

- Wing Commander **Anjali Singh** became India's first female military diplomat posted in an Indian mission abroad after joining the Indian Embassy in **Russia** as **Deputy Air Attache** (air force officer involved in diplomatic operations). She previously served the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 17 years as an Aeronautical Engineer (AE) and is also trained on MiG-29 aircraft.

Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) to be held in Visakhapatnam

- The Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) under the theme 'Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges' will be hosted by the Naval Quality Assurance Establishments, Ministry of Defence in Visakhapatnam. Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command will be the Chief Guest for the annual event.
- It is envisaged that the Conclave will provide a vibrant environment for stimulating discussions on all aspects pertaining to Transformation of QA Paradigm and will benefit all stakeholders.

9th SLINEX 2019 Indo-Lanka maritime fleet exercise commenced

- On September 7, 2019 the 9th edition of weeklong joint maritime naval exercise between India and Srilanka (SL) named SLINEX for the year 2019 has commenced in the port of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

▶ The first **SLINEX** was held in the year 2005 and the the previous/8th edition took place in **Trincomalee, Srilanka**.

Mount Leo Pargyil

- It is 3rd highest peak of Himachal. It lies in **Zanskar range** in Kinnaur District.
- It is considered to be among most challenging and technically difficult peak to scale.
- An Indian Army team successfully summited **Mount Leo Pargyil at 6773 m** recently. The expedition team hoisted **National Flag atop Mt Leo Pargyil** after an extremely challenging climb in harsh weather.

Russia Opens Porthole to Chennai

- India and Russia agreed to open a mari-time route between **Chennai and Vladivostok** to ensure connectivity between the two countries.
- A Memorandum of Intent was signed between the Indian Ministry of Shipping and Russia's Ministry of Transport for the development of maritime communications between the ports of **Chennai and Vladivostok**.

Boeing Delivers 11th C-17 Globemaster

- Boeing has delivered the 11th **C-17 Globemaster III** to the Indian Air Force India's adding capability to meet current and future strategic airlift requirements.
- **Boeing's C-17 Globemaster III** is a premier transporter for military, humanitarian and peacekeeping missions.

Maitree 2019: Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise to be held in Meghalaya

- The 2019 edition of Maitree, the joint military exercise between **India and Thailand** will be conducted from **16-29 September** at Foreign Training Node, **Umroi, in Meghalaya**.

28th Indo-Thai CORPAT Being conducted at Bangkok, Thailand

- The 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (**Indo-Thai CORPAT**) between India's Indian Navy (IN) and Thailand's Royal Thai Navy (RTN) for the year 2019 is being conducted in **Bangkok, Thailand** from **September 05-15, 2019**.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Kesari** and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) **Kraburi** are participating in the **CORPAT** along with both navies' Maritime Patrol Aircrafts (MPA).

DRDO gives second indigenously developed AEWAC aircraft 'Netra' to Air Force

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has handed over the 2nd indigenously developed AWAC (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft, 'Netra' to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ▶ The maximum firepower of this missile is about 2.5 km. It can be used for surveillance, tracking, identification and classification of airborne and sea surface targets and is useful in detecting upcoming ballistic missile threats.

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Indigenously Developed low Weight, Fire & Forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile

- In a major boost for Indian Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in the ranges of **Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**
- This is the **third series of successful testing of MPATGM**. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art **Infrared Imaging Seeker** along with advanced avionics. The test paves the way for the Army to have developed **3rd generation man portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile** indigenously.

Yudh Abhyas 2019 to be held in US

- The joint military training exercise between **India and United States (US)** named **Yudh Abhyas - 2019** will be held at **Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, US**
- This will be overall **15th** edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

India ranks 9th among the top 10 individual nations in gold reserves

- The **World Gold Council (WGC)** released the 2019 list of gold reserves in each country. The list was topped by **United States (US)** with gold reserves of **8,133.5 tonnes** followed by **Germany** (**3,366.8 tonnes**) at second place.
- **India** entered the top 10 list this year ranking at **10th** spot surpassing **Netherlands** (**612.5 tonnes**) whereas it is ranked at **9th** position in terms of individual countries with **618.2 tonnes**, as the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** ranks third (**2,451.8 tonnes**) in the gold reserve list.
- India's neighbouring country **Pakistan**, stood at **45th** position (**64.6 tonnes**) in 2019 list.

BHEL commissions 1,320 MW thermal plant in Jharsuguda, Odisha

- BHEL commissions 1,320 MW thermal plant in Jharsuguda, Odisha Govt. of India owned state run engineering firm **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** announced commissioning of **1320 MegaWatt(MW) power project in Ib Thermal Power Station(ITPS)** in Odisha's **Jharsuguda district**. This generated power will be supplied to Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO).

Maitree: Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise

- Exercise MAITREE is a joint military exercise which is being conducted between armies of India and Thailand since 2006. This **annual training event is held alternatively** in Thailand and India.
- Aim of Military Exercise is to share experience gained during various counter-terrorism operations.

The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF)

- **The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF)** will jointly engage to conduct a large war exercise code-named '**HimVijay**' in along the china border near **Arunachal Pradesh**. This would be the 1st and biggest ever war game done by the strike corps in the eastern region. For the first time, **17 Mountain Corps** will be involved, over **2500 soldiers** will participate in it.

Naval variant of LCA Tejas

- The naval variant of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** Tejas made a successful short arrested landing on the **Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) in Goa**.
- The LCA made its maiden successful trap on the SBTF with the tail hook of the aircraft connecting with the arrestor wire on the deck and coming to halt within a short distance.
- The SBTF, which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier was specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier before they move on to the actual carrier.
- The Navy currently operates Russian MiG-29K fighters from INS Vikramaditya. They will also fly from the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant once it enters service.

White Water Rafting Expedition 'Rudrashila' Flagged off at Jaisalmer

- The **White water Rafting Expedition** christened '**RUDRASHILA**' being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off at **Jaisalmer** Military station.
- The expedition christened '**Rudrashila**' has been organised to commemorate the **75th Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion**.
- '**Rudrashila**' takes its name from the famed Rudraprayag tributary of the Ganges River in the Mountains of Uttarakhand.

SCO exercise "Tsentr (centre) 2019" commenced in DONGUZ Ranges, Russia

- The opening ceremony of exercise "TSENTR 2019" which forms part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle, under the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, was conducted at the DONGUZ ranges near **Orenburg, Russia**.
- 8 SCO member countries inclusive of **Russia namely China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan** are participating in the exercise. The exercise which mainly focuses on countering international terrorism, comprises of two modules where the first module focuses on counter-terror operations, defensive measures and the second module focuses on offensive operations.

Indo-US First Tri-Services Exercise code "Exercise Tiger Triumph" for the year 2019 at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in November

- In November 2019, **India** and the **United States (US)** are set to host the first ever tri-services exercise codenamed "**Exercise Tiger Triumph**" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, both of state Andhra Pradesh. The plan for this exercise was discussed during the Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) which was held in the Eastern Naval Command.

DRDO hands over New-Generation War gaming Software to Navy

- The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over a New-Generation War gaming Software developed by New Delhi-based **Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA)** to the Indian Navy. ISSA is a premier DRDO laboratory.

1st India, Singapore, Thailand Trilateral Naval Exercise begins

- The maiden Trilateral Naval exercise involving **Indian Navy (IN), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thailand Navy (RTN)** commenced at **Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The five-day exercise will be held from 16 to 20 September 2019.



Veteran American Journalist & Pulitzer Prize winner Robert S Boyd passes away

- Noted American Journalist, **Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Skinner Boyd** has passed away in Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, US (United States) due to congestive heart failure.

Rahul Aware wins Bronze in 61kg Free-Style Category at World C'ship

- Indian wrestler **Rahul Aware** has won a **bronze medal** in men's **61-kilogram freestyle category** at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. He beat 17th seeded American Tyler Lee Graff 11-4 to ensure he finished on the podium. It was India's fifth medal at this edition of the World Championships with a total haul of 1 silver and 4 bronzes.

1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

Russia set to offer submarines during Modi-Putin summit

- Russia is likely to offer India its conventional submarines on the government -to-government route under the Navy's Project-75I at the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin at Vladivostok.
- Russian conventional submarines will be offered through the government -to-government route to India at the summit. This will save a lot of time in the procurement process.
- The deal to manufacture at least 200 Ka-226T Utility helicopters for the Indian Army and Air Force is likely to get a boost.

Gujarat Govt, Delaware State of America sign MoU for Sister State

- Gujarat Government and Delaware State of America signed MoU – Memorandum of Understanding for sister state. MoU was signed in Gandhinagar, when a delegation of Delaware State of America called on Gujarat Chief Minister. Delaware's Vijay Rupani. MoU was signed by Gujarat Chief Minister and Delaware's Secretary of state.

President inaugurated the World first Youth Conference

- The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the World first Youth Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2019. It was organized by the Youth Awakening Mission, a youth wing of Paavan Chintan Dhara Charitable Trust, Ghaziabad.

India Ranks 9th on Happiness Index

- According to “Global Happiness Survey” from market research firm IPSOS, Indian has been ranked 9th on the happiness index among 28 global markets.
- Australia and Canada at the top spot (at 86 per cent) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world.

Delhi Ranks 118th and Mumbai at 119th spot in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019

- The “Global Liveability Index” prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has ranked Delhi in the 118th spot which is a drop by 6 places from 112th spot (biggest decline registered in Asia) in its previous report due to an increase in crime, poor air quality, and worsening climate conditions.
- Mumbai also dropped by two places to rank at 119th spot this year.
- The list was topped by Vienna, the capital of Austria for the second consecutive time whereas Damascus, the capital of Syria was ranked last becoming the least liveable city at 140th position. Russia's St. Petersburg topped the list among BRICS nations at 71st spot.

India Ranked 34th on World Travel, Tourism Competitiveness Index

- India has moved up six places to rank 34th on world travel and tourism competitiveness index, driven by rich natural and cultural resources and strong price competitiveness announced by a WEF report.
- India's ranking improved from 40th to 34th, the greatest improvement over 2017 among the top 25 per cent of all countries ranked in the report.

Key Words:

About travel & tourism Competitiveness Index

The **Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI)**, that covered 140 economies, measures the set of factors and policies that enable sustainable development of travel and tourism sector which contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country.

1.4 Places in News

Vaishno Devi Shrine tops list of 'Swachh Iconic Places'

- The Shrine has been adjudged on the basis of the overall improvement in sanitation. Several initiatives were taken in the last few years to ensure the cleanliness of the entire Shrine area.
- **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir** has been adjudged as the Best Swachh Iconic place in the country in the 'Swachh Iconic Places' list released by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** proclaimed by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation

Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium to be Renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

- The **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** decided to rename **Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium** in the memory of its former president of DDCA. Jaitley was the president of DDCA from 1999 to 2013.



Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development launched Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) designed by University Grants Commission (UGC)

- UGC constituted Expert Committee prepared a Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) for Under Graduate Program.
- Life Skills like communication skill, interpersonal skill, time management, problem solving ability, decision making capacity, leadership ability and integrity play a crucial role in boosting the employability of the students.
- Life skills (Jeevan Kaushal) curriculum cover the set of human talents acquired by an individual via classroom learning or life experience that can help them to deal with problems encountered in day to day life.

1.5 Eminent Persons

Mother Teresa's 109th birth anniversary

- Mother Teresa's 109th birth anniversary was commemorated across the world on August 26, 2019. Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910. **Mother Teresa** came to **India in 1929** and worked for the welfare of the poorest of the poor as well as the homeless.

1st Serving General to Complete France's Oldest Marathon Cycling Event

- Lieutenant General **Anil Puri (56)** has become the first serving Lieutenant General-rank officer of the Indian Army to complete **1200 km** of France's oldest and toughest cycle competition.
- He achieved this feat by cycling non-stop for 90 hours without sleeping on the **19th Paris Brest-Paris circuit (PBP) 2019** held from 18-22 August 2019.

India's First Woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya Passes away

- India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya** passed away. She was a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the **DGP of Uttarakhand**.
- She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country.

Shalija Dhama of IAF Becomes First Female Flight Commander

- Wing Commander **Shalija Dhama** of the Indian Air Force (IAF), became the first ever female officer to be appointed as flight commander (second in command) of a flying unit. She took over as flight commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at **Hindon airbase, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**.



Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer dies at 77

- **Sahitya Akademi Award-winning** writer **Kiran Nagarkar** has died at the age of 77. He suffered a brain haemorrhage on September 2 and breathed his last on September 5.
- Nagarkar wrote his first book 'Saat Sakkam Trechalis' in 1974.



Eminent Person passed away Ram Jethmalani

- **Ram Jethmalani**, twice Law Minister, criminal lawyer, jurist, teacher, litigant and parliamentarian who relished the epithet "unchanged and unrepentant maverick", passed away at 95.



Chinese firm Alibaba Group's chairman Jack Ma steps down

- **Jack Ma**, Founder & Chairman of Chinese firm **Alibaba Groups** has stepped down from his post at his 55th birthday and will remain on board till 2020. Jack will be replaced by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Daniel Zhang as its new chairman.

Key Words

- ▶ Jack Ma, a former English teacher who founded the firm in 1999 which is now worth \$ 460 billion, was named as China's richest person in 2018 by Forbes magazine.

Former Tunisia President Zine El-abidine Ben Passed Away At The Age Of 83

- Former president of Tunisia **Zine el-Abidine Ben** has died in exile at the age of 83 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He was ousted from power in 2011 at the start of the Arab spring movement in which many leaders were swept from power.



B R Vats, former PTI Correspondent Who Covered 1st LS Polls Passed Away

- **Bhagat Ram Vats (BR Vats)**, who was a former senior correspondent of **Press Trust of India (PTI)** passed away at the age of 97 due to head injury in New Delhi.
- He was well known for covering the **1st Lok Sabha polls** and had also travelled with the then **Prime Minister (PM) Jawaharlal Nehru (1st PM) for 14 years** covering his political activities, especially the election tours in 1952, 1957 and 1962.

Renowned Writer of Kerala Sivaraman Cheriyamad Passed away at the age of 78 years

- The famous **Writer and author Sivaraman Cheriyamad** passed away at the age of 78. Born in Chengannur, Kerala, in December 13, 1941, Sivaraman initially worked as a school teacher and then started to write many novels, stories, especially **children's literature**.
- He was honoured with **Abu Dhabi Sakthi Award in 1988, A.P. Kalakkad Award (2009), Kerala Sahitya Akademi scholarship in 1990-91** for study on the writings of writer Parappuram and also received **National Teachers Award in 1989**.

Former Dutch Football International Fernando Ricksen Passes Away

- Former Rangers football player **Fernando Ricksen of Netherlands** has passed away in St Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire, Scotland after a 6-year battle with motor neurone disease.



Veteran Actor and Multi-Faceted Artiste S.K. Padmadevi Passed Away

- Veteran actor and multi-faceted artiste **S.K. Padmadevi**, aged 95, who was part of the **first Kannada talkie film 'Bhakta Dhruva' (1934)** passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka from age-related illness.

1.6 Sports and Games

Indian Team Wins Four Medals at WorldSkills Event

- A jubilant Indian team created history at the 45th WorldSkills competition held, winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the country's best performance since it first participated at the event in 2007.
- In 2017, the Indian team had won one silver, one bronze and nine medallions of excellence.
- The winners were announced at a glittering ceremony at the 45th WorldSkills competition in the capital of Tatarstan.
- S. Aswatha Narayana, 25, won the gold medal in water technology. Pranav Nutalapati, 17, won silver medal in web technologies. Sanjoy Pramanik, 21, from West Bengal and Shweta Ratanpura, 22 from Maharastra both won bronze medals in Jewellery and graphic design technology respectively.

Anjali Qualifies for Worlds Again

- The 59th National inter-State athletics championships Anjali winning the 400m and qualifying for the World Championships for the second time, and it was as impressive and surprising as the last time she made the cut 11 months ago.

Andreescu overpowers Serena

- Teenager Bianca Andreescu became Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion with a rollercoaster 6-3, 7-5 win over 23-time Major champion Serena Williams in the US Open final.

Elavenil Valarivan Wins Gold Medal at the ISSF World Cup

- Young Elavenil Valarivan won her maiden gold medal in the women's 10m Air Rifle event even as fancied teammates Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela finished out of medal bracket at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Stage.
- India has now won **three out of the four World Cup gold medals** in the women's 10m Air in 2019.



Jalaj Saxena has Become the 1st Indian Cricketer to Sets Rare Record in Indian First-Class Cricket History

- Jalaj Saxena (32), an Indian cricketer who plays as an all-rounder for Kerala has set a big record in first-class cricket.



India's Highest Sky Cycling Track built in Manali

- The highest sky cycling track of the country has been built at an altitude of **9,000 feet** at **Gulaba**, a tourist destination at **Manali**. The track was successfully tested on August 29, 2019.
- The length of this track is 350 meters. It will be duly opened to the general public in the first week of October.
- This track has made by **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** Mountaineering Sports Institute under the supervision of Colonel Neeraj Rana.

Abhishek Verma Wins Gold in 10m Air Pistol in Rio World Cup

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

New book titled "India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765" by professor and author Richard M Eaton released

- A new book named "India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765" by United States (US) based professor and author, **Richard M Eaton** was released. This book mainly focuses on the rise of Persian culture and also about the civilisations, architecture, upheavals, and the art of the Indian subcontinent between 11th and 18th centuries. The book is published by Penguin India.

Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup

- Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup 2019 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She became the world champion in the **women's 10m Air Pistol event**.
- Yashaswini Singh Deswal defeated **Olena Kostevyc**, 2004 Athens Olympic champion.

Logo for 2022 FIFA World Cup Launched by Qatar

- The host city for **2022 FIFA World Cup**, Qatar unveiled the logo for the same displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world. 2022 FIFA World Cup, which is the **22nd Edition**, will be hosted by the **Gulf Emirate**.
- FIFA and the Qatar organising committee launched the logo/emblem in **Doha**, capital of **Qatar**.

Jasprit Bumrah Becomes 3rd Indian to Register a Hat Trick in Test cricket

- Indian pace bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** has become the **third Indian** to register a **hat-trick in Test cricket**. He took 3 wickets in 3 successive balls in the 2nd test against West Indies, held in Kingston, Jamaica.
- This was the third test hat-trick by an Indian bowler after Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan.

India Top Medals Tally at ISSF Rifle / Pistol World Cup

- India topped medals tally with **5 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals** at the ISSF World Cup ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.
- Gold winners included **Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary** in mixed 10m air pistol and **Apurvi Chandela & Deepak Kumar** in mixed 10m air rifle

An official mascot for Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics 2022 revealed

- The **smiling panda**, named **Bing Dwen Dwen** was revealed as the official mascot for **Beijing Winter Olympics 2022** at a ceremony held at Beijing, China.
- A **walking Chinese lantern Shuey Rhon Rhon** was declared as the official mascot for **Winter Paralympics 2022**.

Meghalaya's Hopewell Elias Higher Secondary School clinched the title of 60th edition of U-17 Junior Boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament-2019

- Meghalaya's Hopewell Elias Higher Secondary School clinched the title of 60th edition of Under-17 Junior Boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2019 by beating Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) by a score line of 1-0 at the tournament held in Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi.
- It was Asia's largest youth football tournament.

American woman Sarah Thomas became the first person to swim English Channel 4 times non-stop

- An American woman Sarah Thomas, aged 37, became the first person to swim English Channel 4 times non-stop. She successfully completed the 84-mile challenge in 54 hours and 13 minutes.
- Earlier, 4 swimmers had successfully swum across the English Channel 3 times without stopping.

Charles Leclerc wins second successive F1 win through Italian Grand Prix 2019

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco) has won the 2019 Italian Grand Prix Formula 1 (F1) race at Monza, Italy. This marks Ferrari's first Italian Grand Prix win in 9 years (last win 2010) and also Charles's second successive win in the F1 race after winning the maiden 2019 Belgian Grand Prix.
- Charles was followed by Mercedes's Valtteri (Finland) and Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (Britain) in the second and third place respectively.



Brazilian tennis player Diego Matos banned life time for match-fixing

- The 31-year old Brazilian tennis player Diego Matos has been banned for life time because of match fixing and was fined \$ 125,000. Matos was ordered to repay \$ 12,000, received in the tournament of Ecuador.

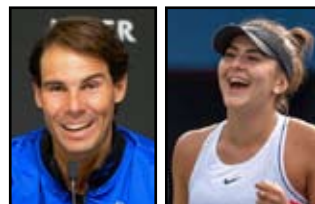


8th edition of Ladakh Marathon, world's highest marathon, for 2019 held in Leh, Ladakh

- The 8th edition of Ladakh Marathon for 2019 was held from September 6-8, 2019 in Leh, Ladakh. It is the highest marathon in the world as it is held at over 11,000 feet above the mean sea level. There were more than 5500 participants from 26 countries.
- World highest Marathon Khardongla Challenge (72Km) was held on September 06, 2019.

Overview of US Open

- **US Open 2019**, annual hard-court tennis competition, is held from August 26- September 8, 2019 at **USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre New York, United States (US)** on hard courts. It is the **139th** edition of the tournament which was run by the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)** and was a part of the **2019 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)** Tour and the **2019 Women's Tennis Association (WTA)** Tour calendars under the Grand Slam category.



List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Bianca Andreescu (Canada)	Serena Williams (USA)
Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah (Colombia)	Marcel Granollers (Spain) & Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Ashleigh Barty (Australia) & Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Mixed Doubles	Jamie Murray (Great Britain) & Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA)	Michael Venus (New Zealand) & Chan Hao-ching (Chinese Taipei)

India Red wins 2019 Duleep Trophy at Chinnaswamy stadium, Bengaluru

- **India Red** defeated India green by an innings and 38 runs to win the **2019 Duleep trophy** held at Chinnaswamy stadium, Bengaluru. Akshay Wakhare (India red) of Vidarbha, Maharashtra took a 5 wicket haul leading to the team's victory while Abhimanyu Easwaran (India red) was awarded player of the match title.

Mayank Vaid Becomes First Indian to complete Enduroman triathlon

- **Mayank Vaid** becomes the first Indian to complete the Enduroman. It is a triathlon from England to France which is considered to be one of the toughest endurance competitions in the world.
- He is the **44th person** in the world to have completed this triathlon. He is also the first Asian person to complete this triathlon in solo capacity.



Vinesh Phogat wins Bronze- maiden Wrestling World Championships 2019 medal in Kazakhstan

- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat**, defeated Greece's two-time world bronze medalist **Maria Prevolarakis** and won a **bronze** medal in the women's **53 kg** category at the "2019 World Wrestling Championships" held in **Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**.
- Earlier she won both matches of the repechage round in the 53kg category and became the **first Indian wrestler** to qualify for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**. She is only the **4th** Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the tournament.



Ekaterinburg AIBA 2019 World Boxing Championships held in Ekaterinburg Expo, Yekaterinburg, Russia

- A Biennial event, **Ekaterinburg AIBA (Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur or International Boxing Association) 2019 World Boxing Championships** was held in **Ekaterinburg Expo, Yekaterinburg, Russia**.
- Indian boxers clinched **2 medals** and it was for the first time that **India** had won **2 medals** in the championships.
- **2021 AIBA World Boxing Championships** will be held for the first time in **New Delhi, India**.

Pankaj Advani wins IBSF World Billiards Championship

- **Pankaj Advani** defeated **Nay Thway Oo** to win the **150-up** format at the **IBSF World Billiards Championship** held in **Mandalay, Myanmar**.
- This was his **4th** **straight victory** in the final of the **150-up** format at the **IBSF World Billiards Championship**. With this win, he has increased his tally of world titles to **22**.

Lionel Messi Won the Best FIFA Mens Player Award for the First Time

- **Barcelona** striker **Lionel Messi** won the **FIFA 2019 Men's Player of the Year 2019 award** for the first time at a ceremony in **Milan, Italy**.
- **Messie** edged out **Virgil Van Dijk**, who won the **UEFA player's award** in **August 2019**.
- He also won the **European Golden Shoe** after scoring **36 goals**, the **La Liga** title with **Barcelona** and helped **Argentina** to **bronze** at **2019 Copa America**.



The Best FIFA Men's Player Award:

The Best FIFA Men's Player was initiated in the year 2016. The award recognizes the excellence in the association football team and individual achievements.

- ▶ The first awardee, in 2016, of the award is **Cristiano Ronaldo**.
- ▶ In the year 2017, **Cristiano Ronaldo** won the award In the year 2018, **Luka Modrić** won the award.

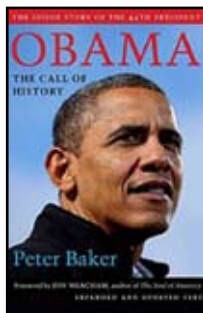
Amit Panghal settles with historic silver in World Championships

- **Amit Panghal** settled for the **silver medal** at **World Boxing Championships** after he lost to **Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov** **3-2** in the **52kg** category final.
- He became the first **Indian male pugilist** to win a **silver** in **World Championships** at **Ekaterinburg** in **Russia**.

1.7 Books & Authors

New Book Gives Account of Obama's Years in Office

- A new book on Barack Obama will give an in-depth account of the former U.S. President's years in office, while examining his legacy.
- **Obama: The Call of History** is written by **Peter Baker** of The New York Times.



Book on Siddaganga Math Released

- Seer and president of Sidda-ganga Math Shri Siddalinga Swami released the first copy of the book **Sri Siddaganga Math: Upholding Basaveshwara's Ideals at the 'gadduge' of late Shivakumara Swami on the Math premises in Tumakuru.**

Roopa Pai's "From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine" to be released

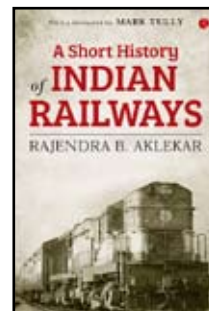
- A new book "**From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine**" that traces the origins of experiments and discoveries in science and medicine evolution spanning over 2,500 years and several geographies is to be released on September 28, 2019. The book is authored by **Roopa Pai** and will be published by publisher Puffin Books.

Key points :

- ▶ The book which has 25 chapters explores areas like vaccination, anaesthesia, X-rays and the germ theory etc.

A Short History of Indian Railways

- A new book called "**A Short History of Indian Railways**", written by veteran journalist and author **Rajendra B Aklekar** on the history of Indian Railways details the journey of the national transporter starting from the 1830s (almost 15 years before the official train run of 1853) to the new high-speed Train 18 and **Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's** ambitious bullet train project has been introduced in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



India's Lost Frontier the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan

- A book named "**India's Lost Frontier the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan**" written by veteran civil servant **Raghvendra Singh**, who was the then Director General (DG) of the National Archives of India (NAI) has been released.
- It is published by **Rupa Publications, New Delhi.**



Glorious Diaspora- Pride of India

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released a coffee table book entitled '**Glorious Diaspora-Pride of India**' on **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman** awardees in New Delhi.

'Loktantra Ke Swar (Khand 2)' & 'The Republican Ethic (Volume 2)'

- The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** planned to release 2nd editions of 'Loktantra Ke Swar (Khand 2)' and 'The Republican Ethic (Volume 2)' at **Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi**. It will be released with the aim to promote and diffuse selected speeches of President **Ram Nath Kovind**, President of India.

Phool Proof: Indian Flowers, Their Myths, Traditions and Usage

- A new book, "Phoolproof: Indian Flowers, Their Myths, Traditions and Usage" written by **Jhelum Biswas Bose** is set to be released on September 8, 2019. It is published by **Penguin India**. The book's foreword is written by actor **Lisa Ray**.
- The book explains the subtle power and meaning of different Indian flowers.

'Rethinking Good Governance' by former CAG, Shri Vinod Rai

- President of India **Ram Nath Govind** launched 'Rethinking Good Governance', authored by the former Comptroller Auditor General (CAG), **Shri Vinod Rai**.

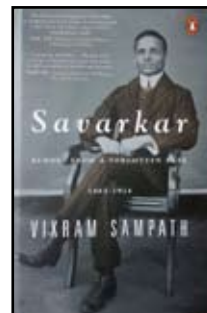
Key Words

- ▶ **Vinod Rai** is a former Indian IAS officer who served as the 11th Comptroller and Auditor General of India. He is the **current chairman of UN Panel of External Auditors and Honorary Advisor to the Railways** and a member of the **Railway Kaya Kalp Council**. He is widely considered as symbol of the anti-corruption movement and is credited with having turned the office of CAG into a powerful force for accountability and transparency in contemporary India.



"Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" by Vikram Sampath released

- Renowned Bengaluru-based historian and author **Vikram Sampath's** recent book "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" describing the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**, popularly known as **Veer Savarkar**, was released by Penguin publishers.



A Book On Gandhi Titled "Being Gandhi" By Paro Anand

- A new book titled "Being Gandhi" written by **award-winning author Paro Anand** released on September 21, 2019.
- It marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The book, published by Harper Collins Children's Books, **explores the life events of Gandhiji**.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Released 'Himalayan Odyssey' Book By Mp Veerendra Kumar In New Delhi

- Vice President of India **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** released the book in New Delhi named '**Himalayan Odyssey**' written by Member of Parliament (MP) **Veerendra Kumar**.
- The book is an English translation of the **Kendra Sahitya Akademi and Kerala Sahitya Akademi award** winning Malayalam original '**Haimavathabhuvil**' by **Veerendra Kumar**, who is also the Chief Managing Director(CMD) of Mathrubhumi.



'Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules' by Neha J Hiranandani on 50 Indian women role models released

- A new book named '**Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules**' written by author **Neha J Hiranandani** was released on **September 23, 2019**. The book is about the stories/achievements of 50 Indian women role models. The book is published by Scholastic India.

First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks

- A new book entitled "**First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks**" penned by journalist **Sophie Ansel (France)** will be formally released by Penguin Random House (India).



1.8 India and its Neighbours

Nepal, India Launch Kathmandu-Siliguri Bus Service

- A bus service was launched between **Kathmandu and Siliguri**, the **10th bus service** between Nepal and India.
- **Minister for Transport Management Raghubir Mahaseth and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri** jointly flagged off the bus service.
- This is the 10th bus service between Nepal and India. The Kathmandu-Gorakhpur direct bus service will also start in the near future.

India Builds School in Eastern Jhapa District of Nepal

- The Government of India handed over a newly built school infrastructure in Eastern Jhapa District, the home district of **Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli**.
- Indian Ambassador to Nepal- **Manjeev Singh Puri** and Attorney General of Nepal- **Agni Prasad Kharel** jointly inaugurated the **School Building of Shree Schoolchaun Higher Secondary School at Gauradaha**.

1.9 Awards & Honours

PM Received Highest Civilian Award in Bahrain

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa on 24 August.
- The award recognizes his efforts to build a strong friendship and bilateral ties with the Gulf nation. Indian Prime Minister Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit Bahrain.

Noorani, Thirumavalavan get Quaid – e – Milleth Award

- Eminent Constitutional expert and Columnist A.G. Noorani and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi Founder Thol. Thirumavalavan received the Quaid-E-Milleth Award for Probity in Public and Political Life here at Quaid-e-Milleth College for Men.

Muhammad Yunus conferred 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' Award

- Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh was conferred the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' award by the Vatican.
- He has been awarded for his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony. The award is a recognition for distinguished work by an individual for promoting peace and dialogue among people.



Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 Announced



- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 announced. The award is given in 4 categories: Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Life Time Achievement.
- The awardee will receive statuettes, certificates and award money of ₹ 5 lakh each.
- The award has been given in the following categories:
 - ▶ Land Adventure: Aparna Kumar, Shri Dipankar Ghosh, Shri Manikandan K
 - ▶ Water Adventure: Prabhat Raju Koli
 - ▶ Air Adventure: RameshwerJangra
 - ▶ Life Time Achievement: Wangchuk Sherpa

Indian Documentary 'I'm Jeeja' Wins Award at We Care Film Festival

- Indian documentary film "I'm Jeeja" has won the award at the 14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'. "I'm Jeeja" has won the award in the 'Under 30 minute' category.
- The documentary directed by Swati Chakraborty attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability. Another Indian film "Post Dark" received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category.

DAY-NULM Bagged SKOCH Governance Gold Award for the year 2019

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' flagship mission, **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)** bagged 2019 **SKOCH Governance Gold Award** for its **Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA)** portal.

Key Words: PaiSA:

1. It is a **centralized Information Technology (IT) platform** launched in November 2018 for quick processing of loans under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Mobile message will also be sent instantly after crediting the amount. Currently, there are about 1.50 lakh beneficiaries paid a total of Rs. 27 Cr.
2. **Postal design:** The design and development were done through **Allahabad bank**.

About DAY-NULM:

The DAY-NULM reduces poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households **enabling them self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities**, resulting in improvement in their livelihoods.



PM Modi to get award from bill & Melinda gates Foundation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set ..to receive an award from bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for one of his ambitious projects **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (SBA)**. This award will be conferred to him during his visit to United States in late September 2019.



76th Venice International Film Festival Awards for 2019 held at Venice Lido, Italy

- The **76th Edition** of the annual **Venice International Film Festival Awards** for 2019 was held at **Venice Lido** in Italy from August 28- September 7, 2019. It was organized by **La Biennale di Venezia** and was officially recognized by FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Association).

List of Winners

Award	Name of the Film	Director
Golden Lion for Best Film	Joker	Todd Phillips (USA)
Silver Lion - Grand Jury Prize	Jacques (An Officer and a Spy)	Roman Polanski (France, Italy)
Special Jury Prize	The Mafia is no longer what it used to be	Franco Maresco (Italy)

Swachh Mahotsav 2019 held at New Delhi

- Swachh Mahotsav 2019 was held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on **6 September 2019**. The function was organised by Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the Swachh Bharat Awards in various categories for outstanding contribution to Swachh Bharat Mission.

Key Words:

About Swachh Bharat Awards 2019

- Best Swachh Iconic Place award:** was awarded to **Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in Jammu and Kashmir**. The Shrine was selected on basis of overall improvement in sanitation.
- Swachh Award in Swachhta Action Plan category:** awarded to **Ministry of Railways**.
- Swachhta Pakhwada Award:** was given to **Department of Defence**.
- Power Grid Corporation received award in category of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- Award for Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Behavior Change:** were given to **Gujarat and Sikkim**.

"Oscars of science" awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team

- The **Event Horizon Telescope Team** consisting of 347 scientists who produced the world's **first image of a black hole** were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.
- The prize is known as the **"Oscars of science"**, with prize money **\$3 million**.

Odia writer Pradeep Dash wins 40th Sarala Puraskar award for 2019

- Odia poet **Pradeep Dash** was selected for the **40th edition** of **2019 Sarala Puraskar Award** for his poetry work **"Charu Chibar O Charjya"**.



The award which is the foremost literary honour in **Odisha**, comprises of a citation with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh by governor of Odisha Shri Ganeshi Lal.

NDTV's Ravish Kumar awarded 1st Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award 2019 in Bengaluru, Karnataka

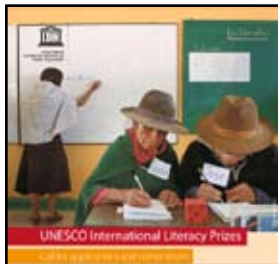
- Ravish Kumar (44)** of Motihari, Bihar, an Indian TV anchor, writer, journalist and the Managing Editor of NDTV India, the Hindi news channel of the NDTV (New Delhi Television Limited) news network, has received the **1st Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award 2019** by the **Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust** (which is founded in memory of the journalist, Gauri Lankesh) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Key points :

- He was selected for this prestigious award in recognition of his sharp news analysis and uncompromising secular stance. On August 2, 2019, he was awarded 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award, regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019

- On September 2, 2019, **Audrey Azoulay**, the Director-General (DG) of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** announced the winners of **UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019**.
- The awards were distributed by the Director-General in a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters-Paris on **September 9, 2019** on the occasion of **International Literacy Day (ILD) 2019 (Theme-Literacy and Multilingualism)**.



About Awards:

- **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize** : Established in 1989, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, it gives special consideration to the development and use of mother-tongue literacy education and training.
- **UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy**: The UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, established in 2005, with the support of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Indian Ambassador to UAE Navdeep Suri conferred with UAE Order of Zayed II

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has honoured Indian Ambassador **Navdeep Singh Suri** with its highest civilian honour **Order of Zayed II** award. He has been given this honor for strengthening the relationship between the two countries.



17 Indian peacekeepers deployed with the UNMISS felicitated with UN Service Medals

- 17 Indian peacekeepers who were deployed in the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** for over a year were felicitated with **UN Service Medals** by the **United Nations (UN)** in recognition of their **UN Peacekeeping service** to the people of **South Sudan**, the world's youngest country, as UN Police officers. Among the 17 peacekeepers, 5 were women police officers.

Chhaya Sharma to be honored with 2019 Asia Society Game Changers Award by Asia Society

- The Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Chhaya Sharma** who led the investigation of the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape was selected for the **2019 Asia Society Game Changers**



Award along with six others by **Asia Society**, which is a leading educational organization. She has been awarded for redefining the role of female police officers.

Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg wins 2019 Amnesty's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award in Washington D.C.

- Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg (16 years) and the 'Fridays for Future youth movement' won the Amnesty International's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award for the year 2019.
- The award ceremony which was held at the George Washington University, Washington D.C, America, is the **highest human rights award** constituted by the Amnesty International.



About Amnesty International

- ▶ It is a British Non-Government Organisation (NGO) focused on human rights.
- ▶ Headquarters : London, United Kingdom.
- ▶ Founded : July 196.
- ▶ Founder : Peter Benenson.

Agnes Kharshiing-rights activist based in Meghalaya wins 11th International Hrant Dink award for the year 2019

- Meghalaya based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing, the survivor of coal mafia assaults a year ago, was honoured with Turkish award, the 11th International Hrant Dink award for the year 2019 along with Nebahat Akkoc, Turkish activist against male violence.
- Agnes is awarded for defending women, children and poor rights, environmental rights. The award was presented to them commemorating the memory of Turkish-American journalist Hrant Dink who was assassinated in 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Key Words

- ▶ The award is presented by Hrant Dink foundation on the birthday of Hrant Dink (September 15), since 2009 annually to individuals, organisations or groups working against discrimination, violence, racism by risking own lives.

Secunderabad Station Becomes 1st Station To Get IGBC Green Platinum Rating

- The Secunderabad railway station became the first station awarded with green 'Platinum rating' by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) under the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for its energy conservation initiatives and modern passenger amenities inclusion.
- Major initiatives of this railway station are Air conditioned waiting halls equipped with CO₂ (carbon dioxide) sensors, solar panel installations, station beautification and waste management etc.



Moti Bagh, a documentary film on the hard work of an elderly farmer, claims to have an entry at the Oscars 2020

- A documentary film, "Moti Bagh" based on the life of a farmer Vidya Dutt Sharma (82), who belongs to a remote village in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand has been nominated for an Oscar 2020.
- The film, directed by Nirmal Chander Dandriyal, shows the struggles of Sharma to keep his farm alive and on deserted hilly land.

71st Emmy Awards 2019 declared

- The 71st annual primetime Emmy Awards honours handed out at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Here is the complete list of Winners of EMMY AWARDS 2019:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES	Game of Thrones (HBO)
2.	OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES	Fleabag (Amazon)
3.	LEAD ACTOR, DRAMA	Billy Porter, Pose

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Confers The National Geoscience Awards For 2018 in Delhi

- The awards were given in 10 disciplines covering the areas such as Mineral exploration, Groundwater exploration, mining technology, Mineral beneficiation, Sustainable mineral development, Basic and applied geosciences, Geo-environmental studies and Natural hazards investigation.
- The award was first initiated in the year 1966 by the ministry of mines and has awarded over 820 geoscientists and engineers till date.

Name	Award	Awarded for
Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	Award for Excellence	Global contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research
Dr. Sohini Ganguly, Goa University	Young Scientist Award-2018	Significant work in the fields of petrology, volcanology and geochemistry.

Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award

- Bangladesh Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina was awarded Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award for the year 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- She was awarded by T.P. Sreenivasan, Chief Adviser of the Dr. Kalam Smriti International Advisory Council former ambassador, for her contribution in holding a healthy relation between India and Bangladesh, International peace and cooperation. With this award, Hasina has so far received 37 international accolades.

ISB Hyderabad Ranked 7th Globally & 1st in Asia in Forbes "Best International 1-Year Business Schools 2019" Rankings; IMD Tops

- The Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad, Telangana whose another campus is in Mohali (Punjab), was ranked 7th globally and 1st in Asia in the Forbes' "Best International 1-Year Business Schools 2019" rankings.
- The annual Forbes' list ranked the schools on their 5-year MBA (Master of Business Administration) gain.



Top 3 schools:

Rank	School	Location
1	International Institute for Management Development (IMD)	Lausanne, Switzerland
2	Insead	Fontainebleau (France) & Singapore
3	Judge Business School	Cambridge, United Kingdom

Jindal Global University of Haryana receives 'Institution of Eminence' Status

- OP Jindal Global University (JGU) of Haryana has been conferred the 'Institution of Eminence (IOE)' status by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in recognition of its outstanding contribution of its faculty, students and staff.

About Institution of Eminence (IOE):

- ▶ It was proposed by the MHRD in 2018 to establish **world-class institutes** in the country, as no Indian Universities were ranked in the 2017 World University Rankings.
- ▶ It aims to help **20 higher education (10 public and 10 private) institutions** from country break into top 500 global rankings in 10 years, and then eventually break into top 100 over time.

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar honoured with Education Excellence Award 2019

- Super 30 founder and noted mathematician **Anand Kumar**, aged 46, was awarded **Education Excellence Award 2019** by the **Foundation For Excellence (FFE)** at the organisation's 25th **anniversary gala in San Jose, California, United States** for the contributions towards imparting education to the needy students.
- Through the '**Super 30**' initiative, Mr. Kumar has been training **30 students free of cost for the last 18 years for admission to India's premier technology institutes** (i.e.) Indian Institute of Technology- Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE).



India's IMPS rated as the World's best Real-time Payment Service in 6th annual Flavours of Fast report for 2019 by FIS

- The Jacksonville, United States (US) based research firm Fidelity National Information Services (FIS) in its 6th annual Flavours of Fast report for 2019 rated India's Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) as the world's best real-time payment service in comparison to the similar facilities of 54 countries.
- It received the only 5+ rating.
- It is rated highest in FIS's 'Faster Payments Innovation Index 2019'.

About Immediate Payment Service

- ▶ Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones. It is also being extended through other channels such as ATM, Internet Banking, etc.
- ▶ It is an instant payment inter-bank electronic funds transfer system in India founded on 22 November 2010.
- ▶ It is managed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Kerala tourism wins 3 Awards in 2019 PATA Gold Awards in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

- The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) awards for the year 2019 was held in Nur-Sultan (Astana), the capital of Kazakhstan.
- The Kerala tourism has won 3 PATA gold awards at the event and the awards are given for an ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom (Kerala) under its Responsible Tourism (RT) mission, for Kerala tourism campaign advertisement 'Come Out and Play' and the third one was for its website www.keralatourism.org.

Home ministry announces new 'Sardar Patel National Unity Award' for promoting national integration and unity

- The union home ministry announced a new honour on the Padma awards pattern named the Sardar Patel National Unity Award to individuals and persons for promoting national unity and integrity.
- The award was first instituted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in December 2018.

IIT Bombay tops the Indian institutes, and MIT overall, in 2020 QS Graduate Employability Rankings

- In the latest QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) Graduate Employability Rankings 2020, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay topped all the Indian institutes in the list with band ranking 111-120, which is now up from 141-150 of the year 2018.
- The list was topped overall by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States (US).
- Globally, IIT Madras ranks 3rd in terms of 'graduate employment rate indicator', University of Delhi ranks 20th in 'alumni outcomes', BITs ranks 72nd in 'employer-student connection indicator'.

Zoya Akhtar's Film 'Gully Boy' gets Oscar 2020 entry

- Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt starrer film 'Gully Boy' has been nominated for the Oscar 2020 Film Awards from India. Directed by Zoya Akhtar, the film has been sent for an Oscar for the Best International Feature Film category.

Reliance Industries becomes the most valued domestic firm in market capitalisation surpassing TCS

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the most valued domestic firm in **market capitalisation (m-cap)** by surpassing **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.
- The Top 5 most valued firms by m-cap are as follows:

1	RIL
2	TCS
3	HDFC Bank
4	Hindustan Unilever Ltd
5	HDFC

1.10 Appointments – Who is who?

- PK Sinha is Appointed as OSD in Prime Ministers Office
- Five States to Get New Governors
- Madhukar Kamath elected as chairman of the ABC (2019-20)
- Dr. P.K. Mishra takes over as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister
- Sunil Arora Takes Charge of World Election Body
- A.K. Mittal appointed as the chief justice of Madras High Court
- Indian officer Abhijit Guha to lead UN's peace mission in Yemen
- Indian Air Force Appoints Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria As The 26th Chief Of Air Staff
- Justice P Lakshmana Reddy Appointed as First Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh

1.11 Latest Historical Events

K2K Glory Run was Flagged off

- Kargil to Kohima, an Ultra-Marathon - Glory Run, was Flagged-off at Air Headquarters, New Delhi. The marathon was flagged off by Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.
- Aim: The aim of K2K is to promote awareness for Pedestrian Safety. It also promotes Fit India Movement which was recently launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with paying tribute to brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice.

1.12 Cultural Panorama

Nuakhai Juhar: Odisha's Harvest Festival Celebrated

- **Nuakhai Juhar**, a harvest festival welcoming the newly harvest crop of the season was celebrated in **Odisha**. It is one of the most ancient festivals celebrated in Odisha to welcome new crop of the season. It is an important social festival of Western Odisha and is an agricultural festival.

74-year-old Museum Specimen-species Of Giant Salamander Becomes The World's Largest Amphibian

- Researchers from the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** and **London's Natural History Museum** have discovered a discovered a new species of giant Chinese salamander which is now considered to be the **world's largest amphibian**. The study of this species is mentioned in the journal "**Ecology and Evolution**" and its scientific name is **Andriassligoi**.





MNRE awards grants to four projects in second round of PACEsetter Fund programme

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy awarded Grants to the awardees of the second round of PACEsetter fund programme.

In the second round of awards, a total of 168 Expressions of Interest were received. Out of these, **four projects** were selected for award of grants. The awardees include **Society for Economic and Social Studies, New Delhi, Customized Energy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Pune, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Raghavendra Suntech Systems Pvt Ltd (RSSPL), Bengaluru.**

- The PACEsetter fund was constituted by **India** and the **USA** in 2015 as a **joint fund to provide early-stage** grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.
- The mission of the **PACEsetter Fund** is to accelerate the **commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy access solutions** by providing early-stage grant funding that would allow businesses to develop and test innovative products, business models and systems.

PM to inaugurate India's second Multi Modal Terminal on Ganga at Sahibganj in Jharkhand

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation India's second riverine **Multi Modal terminal built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand.**
- This is the second of the **three Multi Modal Terminals** being constructed on river Ganga under **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)**. Earlier, in November, 2018 the Prime Minister had inaugurated the MMT at **Varanasi.**
- The Multi-Modal terminal at Sahibganj will open up industries of **Jharkhand** and **Bihar** to the global market and provide **Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity** through waterways route. It will play an important role in transportation of **domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal area** to various thermal power plants located along **NW-1.**
- The capacity of the terminal is 30 lakh tonnes per annum.

Key Words

- ▶ The MMTs are being built as part of the **Jal Marg Vikas Project** that **aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga** between **Varanasi** to **Haldia** for navigation of **large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight**, by maintaining a draught of 2-3 metres in this stretch of the river and setting up other systems required for safe navigation.
- ▶ The objective is to promote inland waterways as a cheaper and more environment friendly means of transport, especially for **cargo movement.**
- ▶ **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is the project Implementing Agency.



2.1 Latest Court Verdicts

5-Judge SC Bench to hear pleas on withdrawal of Article 370

- The Supreme Court referred to a five-judge Bench several petitions challenging the withdrawal of Article 370 and bifurcation of the **State of Jammu and Kashmir** into two Union Territories.
- A Presidential Order on August 5 had withdrawn Article 370, through which special rights and privileges had been accorded to the people of **Jammu and Kashmir since 1954** in accordance with the Instrument of Accession.

Maharashtra cabinet clears the vertical property rules

- The Maharashtra cabinet has cleared the “vertical property rules” to create a database of all flats, buildings and commercial complexes. The “vertical property rules” would prevent property-related frauds, where one flat or commercial unit is sold or mortgaged to multiple buyers or financial institutions.
- All flat owners in the state will soon get **supplementary property cards**, which will have details such as carpet area, amenity space and bank loan information, along with their **7/12 extracts**.

Odisha rolls out “One nation one ration card” scheme from september 1, 2019

- On **September 1, 2019** the Odisha government implemented the “One nation one ration card” programme on a pilot basis initially in areas under the **Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC)**, to people possessing ration card ensuring inter-state portability of ration cards.



SEBI Sets Up Committee To Suggest Structure And Norms For Social Stock Exchanges

- Capital market regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has formed a **15-member committee** headed by **Ishaat Hussain**, Director at State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation and former Tata Sons Director, to suggest possible **measures and regulations** in creating the ‘social stock exchanges’.

2.2 Govt - Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Campaign Launched in Udhampur

- With an aim to eliminate the menace of female foeticide in Jammu and Kashmir, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign was launched in Udhampur.
- To spread awareness amongst the masses in this regard, the Udhampur administration also launched a cyclothon.
- The event was flagged off by the Major General Madhuri Kanitkar.

MeitY partners with Google to roll-out 'Build for Digital India' programme

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed a statement of intent with multinational technology company, Google for rolling out 'Build for Digital India' programme, which will provide engineering students with a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that deals with key social challenges.

Angikaar Project for PMAY (U) Beneficiaries Launched

- In order to bring those who have got homes constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) into the fold of several other Central schemes, like Ayushman Bharat and Ujjwala, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the Angikaar project.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (Independent Charge) Hardeep Singh Puri recited the government was going beyond just constructing houses under PMAY (U).

Key Words: About Angikaar project

- ▶ The e-course is offered by the MoHUA in collaboration of School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).
- ▶ Angikaar aims for social behaviour change, focusing on issues such as water & energy conservation, waste management, health, tree plantation, sanitation and hygiene for beneficiaries of completed houses under PMAY (U).

ECGC launches scheme "Nirvik" to ease the lending process

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme called NIRVIK.
- The Niryat Rin Vikash Yojana has been launched to enhance loan availability to exporters and to ease the lending process. Under the new scheme NIRVIK, up to 90 per cent of the principal amount and interest will be covered through insurance.
- During the launch, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal revealed that Central government will give support of Rs 8,500 crore to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India in the next 5 years.

Mukhya Mantri SevaSankalp Helpline '1100' for redressal of public grievances

- The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh (HP) Shri Jai Ram Thakur launched the “Mukhya Mantri SevaSankalp Helpline '1100'” (Chief Minister’s Service Resolution Helpline) for redressal of public grievances in a speedy and time bound manner.
- The helpline functions from 7am-10pm from monday-saturday. By this service, HP became the **fourth** state in the country after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to launch this helpline.

Key Words:

About Mukhya Mantri SevaSankalp Helpline '1100':

- ▶ 56 state departments are involved in this helpline by geo-mapping and geo-tagging.
- ▶ Grievances will be addressed within a minimum period of 1 week and a maximum of 2 weeks.

Project 'Bal Basera'

- **Bal Basera** or a **Creche** is a project for the **welfare of Children of Construction Workers** was deployed at AIIMS Rishikesh site. The project is supported by Central Public Works Department (CPWD).
- Bal Basera shall accommodate about 35 Children and shall be run by CPWD Officers’ Wives Association (OWA). AIIMS Rishikesh Project is being executed by CPWD.

New Health Insurance Scheme, 'AB-MGRSBY' Launched in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan state government has launched a new health insurance scheme called **Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY)** by integrating the **Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme (BSBY)** of the State Government and **Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna Scheme (AB-PMJAY)** of the Central Government.

Key Words: Eligibility

- ▶ Only the natives of Rajasthan can take advantage of this scheme. The poor families covered in any of **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** and **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011** are considered eligible for the scheme.
- ▶ The scheme will be available till **December 12, 2019**.

PM to Launch a Pension Scheme for Traders

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will launch the **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana**, the Centre’s pension scheme for traders. A few of the first subscribers from across the country will be given pension cards by the PM.
- The scheme, which is an extension of the **PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana**, will make all beneficiaries eligible for a monthly pension of ₹ 3000 after the age of 60 at a miniscule monthly contribution.

2.3 Political parties and Political system in India

All category students in 'Jai Bheem Mukhyamantri Yojana'

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

2.4 Role of Voluntary Organizations

Amazon India launches employment programme for ex-servicemen and their spouses

- Amazon India announced the launch of a Military Veterans Employment programme will create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's Fulfillment Centres.

- ▶ Amazon India is partnering with the Office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across the country

Ashok Leyland heavy-duty trucks get BS-VI certification

- Ashok Leyland has received the BS-VI emission compliance certificate for its full range of heavy-duty trucks.
- The auto manufacturer has claimed that it became the **first India's original equipment manufacturer to receive the certification from ARAI**. The BS-VI emission norms will be implemented across the country from 1st April 2020.

Key Words: About BS-VI

Bharat stage Emission Standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles.



RBI & SEBI jointly working on a framework for accurate exchange of borrower data between banks and CRAs

- India's central Banking Institution, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the regulator for the securities market in India, SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) are jointly working on a framework that will freely enable exchange of borrower information between banks and credit rating agencies (CRAs) in more accurate manner.
- The joint framework aimed at bridging the gap between the default rates divulged by rating agencies differed from the report computed by the RBI's Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC), a borrower-level database focusing on systemically important credit exposures.
- RBI will also advise the banks to update the borrower data with CIC (credit information companies) regularly and to maintain the quality of the information.

3. GEOGRAPHY



3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

Convention to Combat Desertification Union

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar recites the target is in addition to India's pledge to restore 13 mn hectares of degraded land by 2020.
- The target is over and above India's pledge to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020 as part of the 'Bonn Challenge'.
- The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

Star tortoise, otters get higher protection at CITES

- India's proposal to upgrade the protection of star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), the smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinereus*) in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) have been approved.
- These species have been listed under **Appendix I of CITES** and will now enjoy the highest degree of protection as there will be a complete international ban enforced on their trade.
- The upgradation was approved at the **Conference of the Parties (COPI7)** held at Geneva.



Rohit4Rhinos campaign

- Indian cricket team's star batsman Rohit Sharma is launching "Rohit4Rhinos campaign" in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet (wildlife channel) to spread awareness about the need for conservation of one-horned rhinos.
- **Key Points:** This rhino conservation campaign will be launched on September 22 on World Rhino Day.
- The one-horned rhinoceros, the state animal of Assam. There are around 3,500 Indian rhinos present in the world. India is home to 82 % of the rhinos.
- Rohit is the brand ambassador for rhino protection in WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) India and for this, he joined in 2018.

Two new eel species discovered

- Two new species of marine eel were discovered and documented by the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Gopalpur in Odisha.
- One of them is a short brown unpatterned moray eel now named **Gymnothorax andamanensis**.
- New white-spotted moray eel, named **Gymnothorax smithi** has also been identified by Gopalpur's ZSI scientists. Its first specimen was found in the Arabian Sea in 2011.

Special Tiger Force for Corbett Reserve set up

- The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a **Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve**, a move which will help serve as the much needed second layer of protection for the big cat.
- The decision to set up the force was taken by the State Cabinet. The force will have **85 posts**.
- The decision is in line with Government of India guidelines for providing three-tier protection to tigers at reserves.

Anandan's day gecko adds to the Western Ghats

- The recent discovery of the 35th species of day gecko highlights the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats.
- The recently discovered *Cnemaspis anandani* (**Anandan's day gecko**), is the most recent day gecko found in the Nilgiris and is endemic to the Western Ghats.

Butterfly with Light Penetrating Feathers Discovered in Salem

- Nature enthusiasts during a recent Nature walk in the foothills of **Yercaud** recorded the presence of a rare butterfly **Tarucus indica**, commonly known as the Indian Pierrot or Transparent Pierrot.
- There are around five or six varieties in the genus **Tarucus** and the **Transparent Pierrot** is a rare species. This is the first photographic record of the butterfly's presence in Tamil Nadu. Till date its presence has been recorded only in **Maharashtra, Gujarat and other Northern States**.

Extreme Mangrove Corals Found on the Great Barrier Reef

- **University of Technology Sydney** Researchers discovered "**Extreme Corals**" in mangrove lagoons around Australia's **Great Barrier Reef**, which is yielding important information about how corals deal with environment stress.
- 34 species of coral were found to be regularly exposed to extremely low pH, low oxygen and highly variable temperature conditions making two mangrove lagoons on the Woody Isles and Howick Island Potential "**hot spots**" of coral resilience.

Typhoon Faxai hits Tokyo, Japan

- **Typhoon Faxai** has hit **Tokyo, Japan**. There were winds of up to 216 kilometres (134 miles) per hour. Authorities have issued non-compulsory evacuation warnings to more than 390,000 people.

Malaria Eradication possible by 2050: Lancet Report

- The latest **Lancet Report** suggested that it may be possible to eradicate malaria from the world by **2050**. The report titled, '**Malaria eradication within a generation: ambitious, achievable, and necessary**' has prepared by 41 leading scientists, economists and health-policy experts.
- The Lancet report informed that the **first global campaign to eradicate malaria was launched by the World Health Organization in 1955**. The Global Malaria Eradication Programme lasted for nearly fifteen years and succeeded in eliminating malaria from fifteen countries and significantly reducing transmission in several others.

86 Tigers Rescued From Infamous Temple in Thailand have died

- The government soon removed **147 tigers** from the compound in the **West Thailand** town of **Kanchanaburi**, taking them to two state-run facilities.
- Thailand media announced that **86** of the rescued animals have died. A government official attributed the animals' deaths to a viral disease.

3.2 Natural Disasters - Safeguard Measures

Storm Dorian makes landfall in Canada

- Storm Dorian has made landfall in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia as a post-tropical cyclone, it hit the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane causing widespread devastation to the archipelago.



Prime Minister Launches National Animal Disease Control Programme and National Artificial Insemination Programme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **National Animal Disease Control Program (NACDP)** to control and eradicate the **Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)** and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country, at Mathura on 11 September 2019.

- The Prime Minister also launched the **National Artificial Insemination Program** and a country wide workshop in all the **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** in all the **687 Districts** of the country on vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity.
- The Prime Minister also launched the Swachhta Hi Seva Program with focus on reducing the usage of Single Use Plastic in the country.
- The Swachhta hi Sewa 2019 theme is '**plastic waste awareness and management**'.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

CVC sets up 4-Member Advisory Board for Banking Frauds

- The **Central Vigilance Commission** has constituted a 4-member **Advisory Board for Banking Frauds**. The ABBF will be headed by former Vigilance Commissioner **T.M. Bhasin**.
- The panel will function as the 1st level of examination of all large fraud cases. Lenders will refer all large fraud cases **above ₹50 crore** to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matters.

ICICI Bank Deploys 'Robotic Arms' to Count Currency Notes

- ICICI Bank has become the country's first commercial bank to customise and deploy industrial '**Robotic Arms**' to digitise operations at its currency chests across 12 cities.
- ICICI Bank announced the deployment of industrial '**Robotic Arms**' to digitise operations at its currency chests.
- The cities where ICICI Bank has deployed the robotic arms are **Delhi, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Sangli, Mangaluru, Raipur, Siliguri and Varanasi** and will help sort 1.8 billion banknotes annually.



Stamp of Best Author of Siddha Medicine to be Released by PM

- He is among the 12 inspiring personalities whose commemorative stamps will be released by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in the national capital.
- **T.V. Sambasivam Pillai** was born on **September 19, 1880** in Bengaluru, as the eldest son to **Vilviah Manniar and Manonmani Ammal**.
- This work of T.V. Sambasivam Pillai, the acclaimed author, is considered as one of the great treasures of the Siddha system.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Announces Mega Public Sector Bank Merger; 10 Banks Amalgamated into 4 Entities

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 30 unveiled a mega merger plan for public sector banks (PSBs), amalgamating 10 banks into 4.
- The consolidation will bring down the total number of public sector banks in the country to 12 from 27 in 2017.
- Bank of India, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and Punjab and Sindh Bank will continue to operate as before and will be provided necessary support from the government.
- The government has taken care that the technological platforms used by the banks are compatible and enable a quick realization of gains without any customer inconvenience or disruption in services.

Banks to be merged	Size of merged entity	Total business
Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank	2 nd largest PSB	18 lakh cr.
Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank	4 th largest PSB	15.2 lakh cr.
Union Bank, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank	5 th largest PSB	14.6 lakh cr.
Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank	7 th largest PSB	8.08 lakh cr.

Standard Chartered Bank Launches New "DigiSmart" Credit Card

- The **Standard Chartered Bank**, a British multinational banking and financial services company has launched its "**DigiSmart**" credit card primarily focused on the ever-growing segment of millennials.

The new credit card is available for a nominal monthly fee of only ₹49. However, this fee will be waived off if the spends of the customer are ₹ 5,000 or above in the previous month.

CBDT Constitutes Special Cell to Address Grievances of Start-Ups

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

RBI revises guidelines on concurrent audit system as per the recommendations of an expert committee headed by Y.H. Malegam

- Following the recommendations of an expert committee headed by **Y.H.Malegam**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines on **concurrent audit system**.

India to Contribute USD 22 mn to Global Fund for AIDS, TB, Malaria

- India has announced a contribution of USD 22 million to the **Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) for 2020-22** as part of its commitment towards eliminating these diseases announced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan
- India shares a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since 2002, both as recipient and as a donor.

Canara Bank Introduced OTP Facility for ATM Withdrawal

- Public sector Bank, **Canara Bank** has launched India's first **OTP facility** for ATM withdrawals. This additional factor of authentication protects from unauthorized ATM cash withdrawals for cardholders. Canara Bank ATMs get safer and more secured with OTP facility on cash withdrawals above ₹ 10,000 in a day.

India Post launches speed post service for six new countries

- The Department of Posts has expanded its speed post service to **6 new overseas destinations** in Asia, Europe and South America. It has introduced **International Speed Post (EMS)** for **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia**.

EMS (Express Mail Service):

- It is a premium service that **enables its users to send documents and merchandise faster** and in this service **goods can be monitored online** with the help of the internet. Currently India Post is providing speed post service to 100 countries.

CCEA approves ethanol price revision for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved revision of price of ethanol (ethyl alcohol) for the year 2019-20 derived from various raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. The revision comes into effect from 1st December 2019 till 30th November 2020.

About EBP:

The programme was launched in January 2003, to promote alternative and environment friendly fuels for meeting the energy requirements. During its initial launch the OMCs were asked to supply **5% ethanol** blended Petrol.

TN Manoharan taskforce on secondary market for corporate loans submits its report to RBI

- A **6-member taskforce on secondary market for corporate loans**, headed by Canara Bank Chairman **TN Manoharan** has submitted its report to **RBI (Reserve Bank of India) Governor Shaktikanta Das**.
- Self-Regulatory Body:** RBI's task force proposed to setting up of a Self-Regulatory Body for the standardization of corporate loan documents.



UNCTAD Released Its First 'Digital Economy Report 2019'

- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** released the first ever Digital Economy Report (DER) titled **"Digital Economy Report 2019 - Value Creation and Capture: Implications for developing countries"**. DER was formerly known as the **Information Economy Report**. It examines the scope for value creation and capture in the digital economy by developing countries.

Highlights of DER 2019

Following are the highlights of the report:

Global Internet Protocol (IP) traffic

- ▶ Global Internet Protocol (IP) traffic has grown from about 100 gigabytes (GB) per day in 1992 to more than **45,000 GB** per second in 2017.
- ▶ By **2022**, global IP traffic is projected to reach **150,700 GB per second**.

Value in digital economy

- ▶ Estimates of the size of the digital economy range from 4.5% to 15.5% of the world's GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- ▶ Regarding value added in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, the **United States** and **China** together account for almost 40% of the world's total.
- ▶ ICT sector is the largest in **Taiwan Province of China, Ireland, and Malaysia**.
- ▶ The global computer services industry is dominated by the **United States**.
- ▶ **India** has the largest share among developing countries in the computer services industry. Also, India ranked **fourth** in terms of growth in the share of the ICT sector's value-added in GDP between 2010 and 2017.

Niti Aayog Selected McKinsey & Company to set up India's First Digital Capability Centre

- **National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog)** has selected **McKinsey & Company** to set up India's first **Digital Capability Centre (DCC)** in New Delhi. McKinsey & Company supports 5 such centres globally- in Aachen, Chicago, Singapore, Venice and Beijing.

Infosys tops Indian companies in Forbes' World's best 'regarded' companies list 2019, Visa tops

- Nearly 17 Indian companies werelisted in the **Forbes World's best 'regarded' companies list 2019**. The company which topped among other Indian firms is **Infosys** which ranked **third** in the overall list. The first and second place were held by global payments technology company Visa and Italian car-maker Ferrari respectively.
- ▶ Infosys which tops among the Indian companies, was ranked at 31st position in 2018.
- ▶ **Indian firms in the top 50 list:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) ranking 22nd and Tata Motors ranking (31) featured among the top 50 in the coveted list

An internal group of RBI to assess the adequacy of forex reserves

- An internal group of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will frame a formal mechanism to assess the adequacy of its **foreign exchange (forex) reserves**. RBI had recently adapted the fresh **Economic Capital Framework (ECF)** as recommended by **Bimal Jalan Committee on ECF** which noted that RBI's forex reserves in 2008 were higher than India's external debt.

Key Words

1. The panel will study whether forex reserves are adequate or not and how much reserves are adequate to cover various risks.
2. At present, the forex reserves (more than \$ 400 billion) are lower than India's total external liabilities (\$ 1 trillion) and even lower than total external debt (\$ 500 billion).
3. As on August 16, 2019, India's forex reserves stood at \$ 430.5 billion, an increase of \$ 17.6 billion over March 31, 2019 (\$ 412.9 billion).

IFC & FIDC sign a MoU to train NBFCs

- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, part of the **World Bank Group** and the **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)**, a representative body of asset and loan Financing of **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to train the NBFCs in India on "**Commercial Credit Reporting**" with an objective to build the capacities of NBFCs to improve reporting and enquiring on Commercial Credit Information Data from the Credit Bureaus.
- Training will be conducted under the guidance of leading consultants from the World Bank Group in India at different centers.

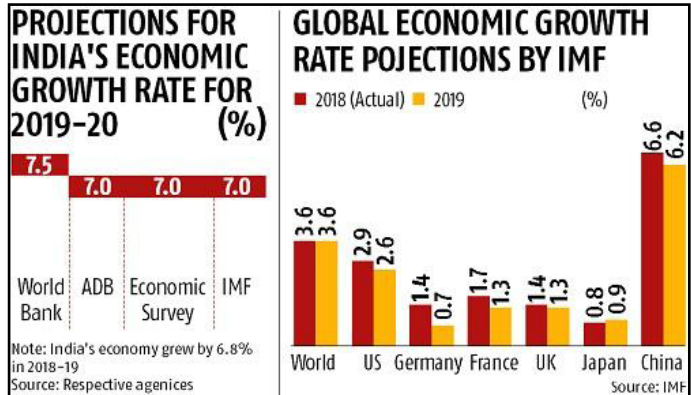
- ▶ It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 of India, engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares, stock, bonds, hire-purchase insurance business or chit-fund business, agriculture, industrial activity and sale, purchase and construction of immovable property.

RBI released guidelines for licensing of Small Finance Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 13 released draft norms for 'on tap' licensing of Small Finance Banks (SFBs), which will allow applicants to approach the banking regulator.
- A Small Finance Banks (SFB) is a basic banking entity that provides bare minimum financial services with focus on financial inclusion and expansion in unbanked geographical areas. The minimum paid-up voting equity capital for SFBs shall be Rs. 200 crore.
- Indian citizens with at least 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level can apply for a banking license, while companies with track record of **five years** will be eligible as promoters, according to the proposed norms. Others include existing non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), micro finance institutions and local area banks.

IMF cuts India's GDP growth to 7% from 7.3% for FY20

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reduced the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of India to 7% from its previous estimate of 7.3% which is much weaker than expected by IMF.
- This rate cut is attributed to uncertainty in corporate and environmental regulatory in some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC).



Key Words

- ▶ This economic growth rate is expected to rise to 7.2 % FY21, which is also a downgraded projected growth rate of 7.5 in the earlier report.

A Federal Body Like GST Council For the Agriculture Sector

- The RBI (Reserve Bank of India) panel has suggested creating an institution like the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council to implement reforms in the agricultural sector.
- It was also recommended to **transfer subsidy directly to the account** and avoid debt waiver.
- The Reserve Bank of India has created the Internal Working Group (IWG) to Review Agricultural Credit chaired by Mahesh Kumar Jain on February 13, 2019.



Key recommendations:

- ▶ Banks are required to develop a management information system (MIS) to sanction loans against gold as collateral in core banking solution (CBS) platform for better monitoring of end-use of funds.
- ▶ The panel stated that subsidy on interest subvention or agricultural credit should be converted into direct benefit transfer (DBT) like LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) and fertilizer with an overall limit of ` 3 lakh per individual farmer through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) mode.
- ▶ Banks should increase credit supply for agricultural activities and give consumption loans to farmers up to ` 1 lakh.

OECD Lowers India's Economic Growth Forecast For 2019-20 To 5.9% From 7.2%

- As per the intergovernmental economic organisation, OECD(Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) latest update on OECD report 2019, India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth expected to grow by 5.9 per cent for 2019 (FY-Fiscal Year 2020) and 6.3 % in 2020 (FY21).

Other ratings :

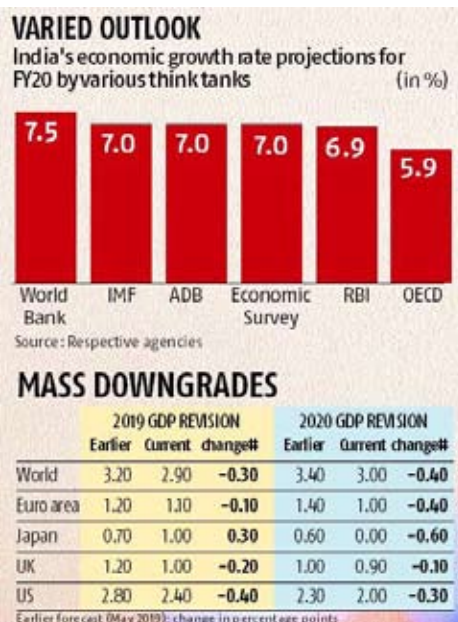
- For FY 20, The World Bank (WB) projected India's GDP growth rate remained at 7.5%, IMF (International Monetary Fund) -7%, ADB (Asian Development Bank) -7%, Economic Survey of the finance ministry -7%, Reserve Bank India (RBI) -6.9%.

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

- The 37th Good and Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman was held in Panaji, Goa.

About GST :

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is governed by the GST Council.
- Article 279 (1) of the amended Indian Constitution states that the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of the Article 279A.
- According to the article, GST Council will be a joint forum for the Centre and the States. It consists of the following members:
- The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson.
- As a member, the Union Minister of State will be in charge of Revenue of Finance.
- The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.



4.2 Current Socio-Economic Problems

A Panel Headed By Harsh Vardhan For The Development Of Housing Finance Securitisation Market

- The panel headed by Harsh Vardhan, senior advisor, Bain and Co., for the development of housing finance securitization market has submitted its report to the governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das.

5. SCIENCE



5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

National Cancer Tissue Biobank at IIT-Madras

- The National Cancer Tissue Biobank at IIT-Madras will enable India to perform necessary testing to develop treatments most effective for cancer patients in the country by Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey.
- The National Cancer Tissue Biobank at IIT-Madras will enable India to perform the necessary testing to develop treatments and medications that will be most effective in Indian conditions/patients.

MIT Scientists Developed Biggest-Ever Carbon Nanotube Computer chip- RV16XNano

- Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed the biggest-ever computer chip using carbon nanotubes (CNT) - RV16XNano. This was published in the journal Nature.

Key Words:

RV16XNano is a 16-bit processor that contains 14,000 transistors – electronic switches. These switches are made up of CNT – tiny cylinders made of rolled-up, atom-thick sheets of graphene.

India-France to Jointly Build, Run space-based Ship Tracking System

- The world's first space-based automatic identification system (AIS) to track merchant ships on a real-time basis will be built and operated jointly by India and France.
- Indian and France signed an agreement recently to start development and production of a constellation of satellites on which studies have been underway for more than a year.

IIT-Hyderabad Develops Water Proofing Material Using Fly Ash

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad have found fly ash, a waste by-product from coal-based thermal power plants that poses a threat to the environment that can be modified into a waterproofing material.
- The researchers have converted fly ash into a water proofing material by treating it with **stearic acid**, which is commonly used in soaps and shampoos.

India Unveiled World's First Ever Facial BSID

- India launched the world's first ever Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) which captures the facial biometric data of seafarers. It was launched by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers in New Delhi. He handed over the new BSID cards to 5 Indian seafarers.

About BSID

The BSID has the dimensions of a smart ID card. It introduces modern security features like an embedded biometric chip, as well as optical security features such as micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern. The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods.

India Faces Higher Mortality From Cardiovascular Diseases

- Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) continues to be the leading cause of death across the world, but there are significant variations between rich and poor nations.
- While in high-income countries, that of CVD, in low-income countries, including India, deaths from cardiac disease were three times that of cancer.
- Additionally, indoor or household air pollution has been identified as a key cause of CVD.



Harman Introduces Infinity Brand Audio Products in India

- Audio products maker Harman, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of South Korean giant Samsung Electronics, has introduced lifestyle audio brand Infinity in India.
- Harman has also unveiled 11 new audio products, which include six headphones, four portable Bluetooth speakers and a multimedia bluetooth system.

IIT-M Students Design Low-cost Freezers for Farm Produce

- Researchers in the Indian Institute of Technology- Madras discovered with low-cost efficient freezers that farmers can use to transport their produce.
- They found that the logistics of cold storage is a huge pain for small-scale farmers

IAmid Vikram lull, MOM completes 5 yrs around Mars

- On September 24, 2019 Five Earth years in the Martian Orbit for Isro's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), bringing subdued cheer at the space agency, amid a lull caused by an unsuccessful attempt at soft-landing Vikram, Chandrayaan-2's lander on Moon.
- MOM was designed for just six months around Mars its long life a feat for Isro, which had failed to achieve to Chandrayaan-1, its first mission to Moon, in 2008. 2.5 Martian Years.
- MOM had completed five Earth years around Mars it only amounts to two-and-a-half Martian years. The Mars actually take more than the double of 365.

Indians have Higher Average Resting Heart Rate

- Indians have an average resting heart rate of **80** beats per minute which is higher than the **desired rate of 72**, found by Indian Heart Study (IHS).
- The IHS also highlighted that unlike people of other Countries, **Indians have higher blood pressure** in the evenings than in mornings.
- The study was conducted on **18918** participants, both men and women, across **355 cities** in **15 states**.

IAF receives 8 US-made 'Apache AH-64E' fighter helicopters

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has received 8 US-made 'Apache AH-64E' fighter helicopters from US (United States) aerospace major Boeing at Airforce Station, Pathankot, Punjab. Air Chief Marshal B. S. Dhanoa was the chief guest of the ceremony held at the Pathankot Station.



Key Words:

In September 2015, IAF had signed a contract with US Government and Boeing for purchasing **22 AH-64E Apache** helicopters. Boeing delivered the first 4 out of 22 helicopters on 27 July 2019.

IIT Kharagpur Collaporaes with Amazon Web Services

- IIT Kharagpur has collaborated with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to develop a resource portal to promote learning and development in the artificial intelligence (AI).
- The **National Artificial Intelligence Resource Portal (NAIRP)** is aimed at making the search for AI learning resources simpler and more accessible to learners, practitioners and researchers in India

AUS gets 1st DGCA Certification Under Small Category Drone

The Bengaluru's Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) is the first company to get the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under a small company drone category. Insight, AUS's flagship enterprise-grade multi-copter drone is to be certified for the No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) manufacturing compliance requirement.

Key Words: Insight

- ▶ The Insight drone weighs between **2-25 kg**. It falls under the **small category**. Whereas micro category drones weigh between **250 gms to 2 kg**.
- ▶ Drones: Drone is a **flying robot** which is remote-controlled. It is allowed to work in India by **DGCA in October 2017**.

Aadhaar authentication must from Jan. 2020: GSTN

- To keep ghost traders at bay, Aadhaar authentication or physical verification will be made mandatory for new traders coming under the Goods and Services Tax regime from January 2020, according to the GST Network. **Sushil Kumar Modi**, who heads the Group of Ministers of the GST Network announced Aadhaar authentication of new dealers.

IIT Kharagpur to set up Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI)

- IIT Kharagpur selected for setting up a **Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI)** by Department of Science and Technology. Aim of SATHI is to extend help to the academic institutes in the neighbouring regions.
- IIT Delhi has also been selected to develop a **SATHI Centre** as a shared technology infrastructure that can be used by different parties.
- The scheme is a brain-child of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Central Government**. The grant amount sanctioned for **IIT Kharagpur** under this scheme will be disbursed to the institute over three financial years commencing from **2019-20**.

About SATHI

- ▶ **The SATHI Grant Scheme**, the Central Government intends to develop state-of-the-art science and technology infrastructure facilities across the country.
- ▶ The **SATHI** scheme intends to help build advance technology infrastructure that can also be used by start-ups and manufacturing units to conduct research with the help of sophisticated instruments which they cannot fund themselves.

World's first website with 32 crore pages

- Delhi resident **Amit Sharma**, owner of world's largest static website **Cheapflightsall.com**, has developed it only in 23 days and has approximately 32 crores of pages.
- **Cheapflightsall.com** has approximately 32 crores of pages with size of the website equivalent to 5 TB. Amit has developed this website only in 23 days which connects 159 countries with every intercity wherever airport or flight route is available.



Scientists from BSI discovered two new species of ginger from Nagaland

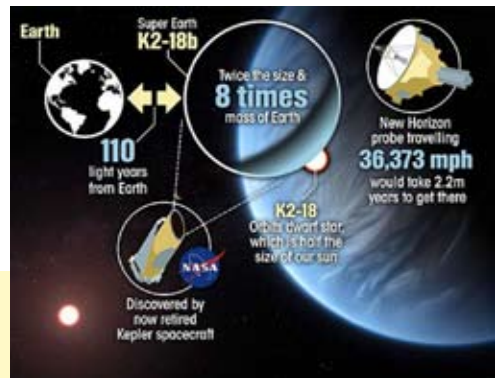
- Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered 2 new species of ginger- **Zingiber** namely **Zingiber perenense** and **Zingiber dimapurense** from **Nagaland**.
- The article on **Zingiber dimapurense** was published in **NeBIO**, an International Journal of Environment and Biodiversity and the article on **Zingiber perenense** was published in **The Thailand Natural History Museum Journal**.
- **Zingiber perenense** was discovered from the **Peren district of Nagaland**. It's the leafy shoots reach up to 70 cm and the specimens were collected in September 2017, when botanists were working on the 'State flora of Nagaland' in the Peren district.

K2-18b: Water discovered for the first time in atmosphere of habitable exoplanet

- Astronomers have found water for the first time in atmosphere of habitable exoplanet- **K2-18b** which orbits in its star's "**habitable zone**". The article was published in the scientific journal **Nature Astronomy** and the lead scientist of the research is **Prof Giovanna Tinetti of University College London (UCL), United Kingdom**.

About Exoplanet:

- The planets that are beyond the solar system are called exoplanets. The first exoplanet was discovered in 1992, orbiting a pulsar (a neutron star that emits electromagnetic radiation). They are believed to resemble Jupiter or Neptune.



ISRO loses contact with Moon lander "Vikram"

1. **Indian Space Research Organisation** has announced that it **lost contact** with the Moon lander "**Vikram**" which was scheduled to land on the moon between **1.30 a.m. and 2.30 a.m. (IST)**.
2. Further the roll out of the rover "**Pragyan**" was scheduled between 5.30 a.m and 6.30 a.m. Lander "**Vikram**" started its descent at about 1.38 a.m. from an altitude of 30 km at a velocity of 1,680 metres per second, but **lost its communication** with the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter when it was at an **altitude of 2.1 Km** from Moon's surface.
3. ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-2 (on **July 22, 2019**) into the space from India's heavy lift rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (**GSLV Mk III**). The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft comprised three segments: the **Orbiter**, lander '**Vikram**' and rover '**Pragyan**'.

IIT Madras finds an eco-friendly way to degrade plastics

1. Three years ago researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras observed silver slowly dissolving in a glucose solution when heated to 70 degree.
2. The team has demonstrated an environment-friendly strategy to degrade the chemically inert and physically stable plastic fluoro-polymer - polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) of which Teflon is made.
3. All that is required to degrade the fluoropolymer into molecules is continuous stirring of it in water containing 1,000 ppm glucose and metal ions for about 15 days at 70 degree C.

Survey of India to deploy 300 Drones for Mapping Country

- India's oldest scientific department, the Survey of India (Sol) historically tasked with mapping the country will for the first time rely on drones to map the country.
- A consequence of the mapping will be creating **high resolution maps of land in villages** facilitating the digitisation of land titles in villages.



Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd Delivered Second Scorpene Submarine "KHANDERI" To Indian Navy In Mumbai

- India's biggest warship builder Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), delivered the second of the 6 scorpene class submarine, Indian Naval Ship (INS) **khanderi** to the Indian Navy in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The submarine **Khanderi** is named after wide snouted Sawfish, which is a **deadly sea predator of the Indian Ocean**.

ISRO and DRDO join Hands for 'Gaganyaan' Mission

- The Space agency of the Government of India (GoI), **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and the **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop human-centric systems for the 'Gaganyaan' project.

Key Words

- ▶ **DRDO** is committed to provide all necessary support to **ISRO** for manned space mission. **ISRO** plans to demonstrate man's ability to reach space before the completion of 75 years of India's independence in **2022**.
- ▶ **Gaganyaan**: It is a proposed manned space mission by **Government of India (GoI)**.
- ▶ This will be **India's first manned mission**, to be launched by **2022**.
- ▶ On August 15, 2018, the mission was announced by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in his independence day speech from Red Fort.

Protodontopteryx ruthae - World's oldest Bird Species is Discovered in Waipara, New Zealand

- Scientists from the **Canterbury Museum (England)** have discovered the **world's oldest bird species' fossils in Waipara, New Zealand** that lived 62 million years ago.
- It was a sea bird, and is named as **Protodontopteryx ruthae** with its discovery details mentioned in the journal '**Palaeontology**'. The bird which was smallest in size of its family, maintained size of an average sea gull while its descendants had wingspans **more than five metres**.



Defence Ministry signed ₹ 5,500 crore contract for additional indigenous Akash SAM systems and LCAs

- The union defence ministry signed contracts worth Rs. 5,500 crores for 6 squadrons of Akash Surface to Air Missile (SAM) systems and 83 Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA) to be deployed by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the borders of China and Pakistan.
- The main vendors in this contract are Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) along with 150 private vendors.
- **Targets set:** The defence ministry targets for exports worth \$ 5 billion till 2024 and aims to build \$ 26 billion turnover in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025.

Thaawarchand Gehlot launches MIS portal under Accessible India Campaign in New Delhi

- The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a Management Information System (MIS) developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for stakeholders of Accessible India Campaign (AIC) in New Delhi.

Key points:

- ▶ **MIS:** The aim of the portal is to bring all nodal ministries, states and the Union Territories (UT) on a common platform to monitor the progress made against each target under Accessible India Campaign.
- ▶ **Accessibility:** The portal will be fully accessible for persons with disabilities, help maintain all the function on digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis.
- ▶ **Accessible India Campaign:** On December 3, 2015 (International Day of People with Disabilities), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Accessible India Campaign / Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.
- ▶ It was launched to serve the differently-able community of the country and create an accessible physical environment that benefits everyone, not just persons with disabilities.

Consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched online national laboratory directory and 'BIS Certified Products' app

- The union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched an online directory that provides information about testing infrastructure and various products of Indian standards for stakeholder benefits, especially start-ups.
- The directory link www.labdirectory.bis.gov.in features accredited and recognized Hallmarking Labs by National Accreditation Board Ltd (NABL).
- Paswan also launched 'BIS Certified Products' app to check the genuineness of a License/Registration number of any product.



5.2 Mass Media & Communication

Govt launched mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam"

- "Janaushadhi Sugam" will enable people to search for Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers.
- This mobile application would have user-friendly options like- to locate nearby Janaushadhi Kendra, direction guidance for the location of the Janaushadhi Kendra through Google Map.

All Villages Will Soon Be linked With Wi-Fi through GramNet

- The Government reiterated that it will provide Wi-Fi in all the villages through GramNet with connectivity between 10mbps to 100 mbps speed.
- Delivering a keynote address at the 36th Foundation Day celebrations of C-DOT, Minister of State for Communications Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre recited that BharatNet also plans to provide 1 GBPS connectivity, which can be expanded up to 10 GBPS.

Indian girls create an app to connect old-age homes and orphanages

- Five girls have developed a mobile app that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes, with their innovation fetching them a bronze medal at global tech competition in the US.
- The app, called **Maitri**, is aimed at bringing together individuals suffering from loneliness and depression and those lacking the nurturing love of elderly role models.
- **Technovation Challenge** is the world's largest technology and entrepreneurship programme for girls, which runs across more than 100 countries, supported by Salesforce.org, Google.org, the Adobe Foundation, Uber, Samsung, BNY Mellon as well as UNESCO



OSDMA Wins 2019 IT Excellence Award for SATARK app

- The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has won the 2019 "IT Excellence Award" by Express India, for designing the app SATARK.
- The award for the app, which tracks and alerts during disasters based on dynamic risk knowledge in real time, is to be received on September 18, 2019 by OSDMA director B P Sethi, at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.

About SARTAK app

The App covers lightning, earthquake, heatwave, cyclones, floods and drought.

6. NATIONAL DIARY OF EVENT



7th Community Radio Sammelan to be held in Delhi

- The Seventh Community Radio Sammelan will be held at Dr. BR Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi from 27th to 29th August 2019.
- The theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'. The representatives of the Community Radio Stations will discuss experiences and possibilities of programming for better public awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar will give awards to Community Radio Stations for their achievements in broadcasting development programmes.

Ladakhi Shondol dance creates history by entering into Guinness book of records

- Shondol dance, which is known as the royal dance of Ladakh, has created history by entering into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Ladakhi dance.
- Shondol is a famous dance, which artistes used to perform for the king of Ladakh.
- The event was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.

Banjari village of Katni district in MP to become an integral part of the digital map of the country

- Under the Prime Minister's ambitious project of Digital India, the Banjari village of Katni district becomes the 1st village in Madhya Pradesh (MP) to become an integral part of the digital map of the country.

Happiness department of Madhya Pradesh opens "Time Bank"

- The Madhya Pradesh's Happiness department has planned to set up "Time Bank" that is mutual exchange of services. In Time bank, the units of time in an hour is valued as currency. It would provide money for an hour that could be exchanged to acquire a new skill without the need of any paper money.
- Whenever a bank member needs to get a skill or service, for example gardening, playing guitar, by knowing the particular skill, the member could exchange an hour of credited money to another bank member. The member can start with zero credit.
- As many as 408 women attired in traditional dresses and beautiful headgears performed the dance, which broke the previous record of 299 artists dance of Shondol in the 2018 festival.

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

- The 4th edition of India's largest confluence of digital-technology stakeholders, the **Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019** held in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka from August 22 - 23, 2019 with the theme of 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.

National Digital Library of India launched by HRD Ministry

- Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the **National Digital Library of India** project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. It has been launched under the **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)**.
- There are more than 3 crore digital resources available through the National Digital Library. National Digital Library is also integrated with **UMANG App**.

PM Narendra Modi launches 'Fit India Movement'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the nation-wide "**Fit India Movement**" appealed to every citizen to remain healthy and fit. The event was launched at the **Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi**.
- The launch was also attended by **Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and National Sports Awards 2019 winners** among others.

India to have 10,000 CNG stations in next 5 years: Petroleum Minister

- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** said India will have ten thousand CNG stations in the next five years.
- Launching the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution bidding round in **New Delhi** which will cover **50 Geographical Areas** in 124 districts across the country, Mr. Pradhan suggested auto companies to retrofit vehicles with CNG to boost sales.

Renovated National Food Laboratory inaugurated at Ghaziabad

- **Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated regulator Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) **National Food Laboratory (NFL)** in **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**. It was inaugurated on the occasion of 13th anniversary of enactment of **Food Safety and Standards Act, (FSSA) 2006**.

Meghalaya launches 'Walk to Work' campaign

- **Chief Minister of Meghalaya** launched the '**Walk to Work**' campaign in the state. The campaign is a **part of Fit India Movement** which has been launched in the country by the Prime Minister.
- The campaign comes with the multiple benefits like cost cutting of fuel including reduction of CO₂ emission, reduction in congestion in the city and the most important "health and fitness" for the citizens.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal top India's child well-being index

- Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the charts in the child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and track children's well-being comprehensively.
- Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh featured at the bottom of the list, according to a report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD.

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

- Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a web portal 'Shagun' to provide all-inclusive information on school education including the results of students through a single platform.
- Shagun is a comprehensive initiative to improve the school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the government of India and all States and Union Territories.

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

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 26th Mela of Ladakhi-Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela.
- The mela was organised by the Leh-based Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) of DRDO, which was established in 1960 to meet the fresh food requirement of the soldiers deployed in the harsh terrain of Ladakh.

Uttarakhand plant to convert plastic waste into diesel

- Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated a waste plastics to diesel plant in Dehradun.
- The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel. It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.

12th India Security Summit on "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy" held

- The 12th India Security Summit on the theme "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy" was held.
- During the conference, many issues were discussed such as protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to combat cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launches National Lab Directory

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launched the **National Lab Directory** which is a **one-stop-shop** for all testing needs of the industries, academia, researchers and other stakeholders who need to get their Testing Facilities accredited / certified / recognised.
- The National Lab Directory presently encompasses NABL accredited, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs. The labs which are recognised/notified by FASAI, APEDA, EIC, can also be indicated accordingly. All testing facilities for various labs can be searched by Products, IS standards, etc.
- This Directory will benefit all stakeholders such as manufacturers, consumers, regulatory agencies, government and research institutions in identifying the test facilities that are required for assessing conformity of relevant products or in testing for the purpose of research and development.

"Mega Vendor Meet 2019" held at Lucknow

- **Research Designs and Standards Organization** organized the **"Mega Vendor Meet 2019"** at Lucknow. The special meet was organized to expand vendor base and spread information on greater business opportunities in Railways Sector.
- **Research Designs and Standards Organization** is a research wing of Indian Railways.

GeM and SIDBI sign MoU to enable growth of MSMEs, Start-ups and Women Entrepreneurs

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

Centre approves Gorewada International Zoo in Nagpur

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

Home minister launched first fleet of eco-friendly e-buses in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- On August 29, 2019, In a bid to make the city cleaner & greener, the Union Minister of Home Affairs, **Amit Shah** has flagged off the first fleet of eco-friendly **e-buses (electric buses) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, which will be operated on major junctions in the city.
- He also inaugurated the India's 1st automated battery charging & changing station for e-buses in the city.

5th International Ramayan Festival organized in New Delhi

- The 5th International Ramayan Festival organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is being held from 17-19 September 2019 in New Delhi.
- The maiden **day** of festival was presided by Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah as Chief Guest.

Fun zone has been set up by the Railways at the Visakhapatnam Railway Station

- A fun zone, the first of its kind in India, has been set up by the Railways at the Visakhapatnam Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh. The Gaming zone was inaugurated at platform number 1.



Delhi cabinet approves free ride to women in buses

- Delhi Cabinet has approved **free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses and cluster buses from October 29, 2019.**
- There are around 38 lakh passengers traveling daily in DTC buses, while about 12 lakh passengers use cluster buses, of this **30% are women passengers.**
- The government also asked DTC as well as DIMTS (Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System) to strengthen their ticket checking mechanisms to check that the facility is not misused.

Indian Oil to build 1 GW electric vehicle battery plant

- India Oil Corporation limited will set up a **1 Giga Watt (GW)** plant to make batteries used for running electric vehicles in partnership with an overseas start-up using a non-lithium in raw material.

DPIIT launched plastic waste management 'Swachhta hi Sewa 2019' campaign on September 11, 2019

- The Department of Promotion and Industry and Internal Trade (DPITT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched 'Swachhta hi Sewa 2019' campaign as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to action against plastic waste from industrial estates, parks and other areas by all states and Union Territories(UT). The theme of the campaign is **Plastic Waste Management.**

Most awaited "Assam's National Register of Citizens List" released

- State coordinator of the National Register of Citizens, Prateek Hajela has released the most awaited Assam's final National Register of Citizens list. The list has been made accessible online and at all NRC seva kendras in the state.
- The process of NRC Update was started in the state of Assam as per order of the Supreme Court of India in 2013. The NRC took five years and ` 1,220 crore before getting published.

4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru

- The Election Commission of India is scheduled to host the **4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru** on 3rd September 2019.
- India will take over as A-WEB's Chair for the 2019-21 term. Over 50 countries across the globe will join the meeting at Bengaluru from 2nd to 4th September, 2019.
- An International Conference on "**Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections**" will also be held on 4th September, 2019.

Air India to ban single – use plastic from October 2

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

Prime Minister (PM) of India Shri Narendra Modi

- Prime Minister (PM) of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a one-day visit to Jharkhand and launched schemes namely KMY, PMLVMY and Swarojgar. He also inaugurated Jharkhand assembly and schools in the state.

Scheme Launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand KMDY:

- The "Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana" (KMY) for small and marginal farmers was launched in Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand. This scheme would benefit 5 crore farmers nationwide.
- Contribution: Farmers can contribute to KMDY in terms of installments from PM-KISAN scheme and through Common Service Centers (CSC).

PMLVMY :

- **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyaparik Mandhan Yojana (PMLVMY)** was launched with the aim of providing **pension to small shopkeepers and traders** benefiting **3crore people in the country**.

Building inauguration

- **Jharkhand assembly: New Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha (state assembly building)** was inaugurated by PM in presence of Jharkhand Chief Minister (CM) Raghubardas and governor Droupadi Murmu and had also laid foundation stone for the New Secretariat Building at Ranchi. This assembly becomes the first **paperless assembly of the country**.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Inaugurates Aqua Aquaria India 2019 in Hyderabad.

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

India's longest electrified rail tunnel in Andhra Pradesh

- The Vice President of India, **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the longest electrified railway tunnel (6.7 km) between **Cherlopalli and Rapuru** costing ₹ 437 crores, and the electrified railway line (112 km) between **Venkatachalam (Krishnapatnam) and Obulavaripalli** costing ₹ 1,993 crores.
- Remodelled yard of Guduru railway station and new intercity superfast express between Guduru and Vijayawada were also inaugurated.

India's First Garbage Café to open in Chhattisgarh

- India's first 'Garbage Cafe' will soon be opened in **Ambikapur** city in north Chhattisgarh. It is initiative of Ambikapur municipal corporation. It aims to make Ambikapur city plastic-free.

India's first 'Garbage Cafe'

In this unique Cafe, poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic. Besides they will also provided with breakfast in return for exchanging half a kilogram of plastic brought to the café. The collected garbage through this café will be sold at **Solid Liquid Resources Management Centre**. It will be further be turned into granules and will then be used in the construction of roads in the city.

3-day International Snacks Festival 2019 Inaugurated in Hyderabad

- A 3-day **International Snacks Festival 2019** was inaugurated in **Hyderabad**, Telangana. It was inaugurated at the Ameerpet Metro station by Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMRL) Managing Director (MD) NVS Reddy, along with secretary to Tourism, Culture & Youth Affairs of Telangana, B. Venkatesham and Larsen & Toubro Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) project director MP Naidu.



KVIC Launches 'Terracotta Grinder' at Varanasi to Re-use wasted pottery

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi



- This Terracotta grinder will make grinding of wasted pottery items faster than the traditional mortar and pestle. It will lessen the cost of production, and will also help in solving the problem of shortage of clays

RD Ministry Awarded Institute of Eminence Status to 5 Public Institutions

- The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the Institute of Eminence status to 5 public institutions. The status was awarded to the following institutions:
 - ▶ IIT Madras
 - ▶ IIT Kharagpur
 - ▶ Delhi University
 - ▶ Benares Hindu University
 - ▶ University of Hyderabad
- Each of the above university has to sign an MoU with the HRD Ministry and will lay out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution. The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of ₹ 1,000 crore.

Key Words:

About Institute of Eminence (IoE)

It is an Initiative in that public institutions selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will be provided a financial assistance of upto ₹ 1000 crore, over a period of five years to emerge as World Class Institution.

100 cities to be covered under CGHS services by 2022.

1. Health Minister has announced that the Central Government Health Scheme's services would be available to 100 cities by 2022.
2. He announced it during the inauguration of state of the art CGHS Bhawan in New Delhi.
3. The Minister also launched the new scheme "Annual Health Check-up" of CGHS beneficiaries for pensioners of the age of 75 years.

'72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia' held in New Delhi

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW) Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the '72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia' in New Delhi and was also unanimously elected as the chair of the 72nd Session of the WHO (World Health Organisation) Regional Committee for South-East Asia.



"C-plan" app to aid community policing by UP police launched

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) police have launched a new app name "C-app" in its new police headquarters at Lucknow, UP to aid community policing throughout the state whereby the police would be involved in tracking anti-social elements in time.
- This app helps at being informed about communal tensions and also in verifying the received information.

Key Words:

- ▶ Aim: To bring down the crime rate and enhance police-public relationship with the help of technology.

Health Ministry proposal to ban e-cigarette

A panel of ministers from commerce, health, agriculture, chemicals and petrochemicals, and food processing departments chaired by finance minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman will study the proposal of Ministry of Health, Government of India (GoI) to ban the production and import of e-cigarettes, through an ordinance.

Key Words:

The health ministry in august 2018, has proposed a nation-wide ban on **electronic cigarettes /electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)** with a prison sentence up to one year and stiff monetary penalties of ₹ 1 lakh for first-time offenders & up to three years and ₹ 5 lakh for repeat offenders.

Food Ministry puts blanket ban on single use plastic products from 15 September

- **Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution** has announced a blanket ban on all types of single use plastic products in various departments of Ministry and all its Public Sector Units (PSUs) including Food Corporation of India (FCI) starting from 15 September 2019.

IGI gets India's tallest ATC Tower

- Union Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

ATC tower

- The height of the ATC tower is **101.9 metres**. The tower aims to reduce the pressure on controllers and provide relief to flyers from delays. The tower has over **45 work stations** with better operational area visibility. The tower has multilayered security.

Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics in New Delhi

- 1st National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics being held at **CBI HQ in New Delhi** on September 4-5. Inaugurated by CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla, the conference attended by DGPs, ADGPs, and SPs dealing with cybercrime.

Govt. Launches Campaign to Promote 'Eat Right Movement'

- Health Minister Harsh Vardhan kick-starting POSHAN Maah 2019 with a year-long social and mass media campaign on the Eat Right India movement.
- Theme of **eating right for the next 365 days**, Dr. Vardhan also launched the new Eat Right India logo that represents a healthy plate, an online eat right quiz and online course for frontline health workers.

About The Eat Right Movement

It is voluntary and collaborative movement built on two broad pillars - "Eat healthy and Eat safe". It is collective effort to encourage people towards making right food and dietary choices. It focuses on both sides - demand and supply side to come together.

'Coolie No.1' is the first Bollywood film which is set to go plastic-free

- An upcoming movie featuring **Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan and Paresh Rawal** named **Coolie No. 1** is the first Bollywood film to go **plastic-free**.
- The film, directed by **David Dhawan** and produced by **Vashu Bhagnani**, **Jackky Bhagnani** and **Deepshika Deshmukh** will be released on **May 1, 2020**.

Thessaloniki International Fair

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

WHO SE Asia Region Plans to Banish Measles, Rubella by 2023

- Member-countries of the **World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region** have resolved to eliminate highly infectious childhood killer diseases **measles and rubella by 2023**.
- A resolution to eliminate the diseases was adopted at the **72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Delhi**.

Ministry Rolls Out 25 New Mobile Science Museums

- The Union Culture Ministry rolled out 25 new mobile science museums, including one for **Ladakh**.
- Aiming to take science education to students in areas without access to such services.
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister of State (Independent charge) **Prahlad Singh Patel** flagged off the science museum bus in **Leh**.
- These museums-on-wheels will travel to schools in the 115 "**aspirational districts**", as named by the Centre.

No School Bag Day

- The Manipur government has declared all working saturday as "**No School Bag Day**" for students from **Class I to VIII**.
- On this day, students will not Carry School Bags and Institutions will ensure taking up extra co-curricular activities, games and sports, recreational activities among others and make schools a more joyful place of learning.

NGT tasks to Prepare Plan for Protection of the Great Indian Bustard

- The high mortality rate of the **Great Indian Bustard**, the **National Green Tribunal** has directed the Centre to prepare a time-bound action plan within two months for protection of the birds.
- A Bench headed by **NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** also constituted a joint committee comprising officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

'Vijay Sankalp' Rally

- PM addressed the '**Vijay Sankalp**' rally in Haryana. He stated that over the last five years, the state has got the benefit of the double-engine -Central and state governments.
- Haryana is a leading state in '**Swachhta**' campaign. It has been declared **open-defecation-free, a kerosene-free state** and is a leading state in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.

First 'Make in India' Metro Coach in Mumbai inaugurated by PM Modi in Mumbai

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Metro Coach in Mumbai under the 'Make in India' initiative at Jio World Centre, Maharashtra, Mumbai.
- In Aurangabad shri Modi addressed 'Mahila Saksham Melava' (Empowered Women's Meet) of the Self Help Groups (SHG) organised by the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM).

"SRS Based Abridged Life Tables, 2013-17"

- According to the **Sample Registration Survey (SRS)** document named "**SRS Based Abridged Life Tables, 2013-17**" released by the **Registrar General of India**, the overall life expectancy at birth in India improved to **69 years** from 68.7 years in 2012-16.
- **Men & Women life expectancy:** As per SRS 2013-17, women are expected to live for 70.4 years and men for 67.8 years. In 2012-16, the life expectancy for women was 70.2 years and for men, it was 67.4 years.

Army to conduct 'startup weekend' for J & K youth

- To foster the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the **Army** is conducting a **three-day "startup weekend"** at **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University** in Reasi district from September 20.
- The "**Techstars startup weekend**" is an entrepreneurial experience programme where participants go through the experience of building prototypes, take their ideas to the next stage and learn how to launch their businesses.

India Pavilion inaugurated at 44th TIFF 2019

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

National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

- In one of the major efforts towards **doubling the Farmers Income**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi planned to launch the **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)** for eradicating the **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis** in the livestock, on 11th September from **Mathura in Uttar Pradesh**.
- With **100 Percent funding from the Central Government**, of Rs 12,652 Crores for a period of five years till 2024, the program aims at vaccinating over **500 Million Livestock** including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD.
- The program also aims at vaccinating **36 Million Female Bovine Calves** annually in its fight against the Brucellosis disease.
- The Program has two components - **to control** the diseases by **2025** and **eradication** by 2030.

Narmada dam at its highest level, to overflow for first time

- **Gujarat's Narmada dam** is set to overflow at its full **138.68 metre height for the first time**, after it was completed with the **installation of gates in 2017**.
- **Sardar Sarovar Dam**: Necessary to control flood situation in Bharuch city due to high tide and 175 villages in three districts. The district administration requested to control outflow. Level touched historic mark 138 metres.

Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall launch the **Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana** on the 12th of September at **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- The Scheme shall secure the lives of **5 Crore Small and Marginal Farmers** by providing a **minimum pension of ₹ 3000 per month**, to those who attain **60 years of age**.
- All the small and marginal farmers who are currently between the ages of **18 to 40 years** can apply for the scheme.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall also inaugurate **400 Ekalvy Model Residential Schools** to provide **quality upper primary, secondary, and senior secondary level education to ST Students** in Tribal dominated areas.

MP govt. to offer cows for online adoption

- The **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** govt. announced to launch online service for cow adoption and shed provisions under the MP govt's initiative "**Project Gaushala**" at Gaushalas (cow shelters). In this project a cow can be adopted for a minimum period of 15 days.

Key Words

- ▶ Currently there are **626 gaushalas** in the state. 15 day cow feed would cost ₹ 1100, 10 years would cost ₹ 3 Lakhs and for 6 months it costs ₹ 11,100.

'ANGAN' - A three-day international Conference on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector

- An international conference **ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat)** focussed on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector began in **New Delhi**. The Conference is being organised by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, Ministry of Power, Government of India in collaboration with GIZ under the **Indo German Technical Cooperation**.

Key Words: About Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

- ▶ The BEE is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Power**, Government of India.
- ▶ It assists in developing policies and strategies with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.

The exhibition PRA-KASHI on finest trends of contemporary weaving

- Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the exhibition **PRA-KASHI** on the finest trends of contemporary weaving, in New Delhi
- This year, National Museum has already organised three special thematic exhibitions on Baluchari Textiles, Himachal Folk Art and West Bengal's Patachitra or Scroll Painting.

DefExpo 2020

- ▶ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the first meeting of the Apex Committee for **DefExpo 2020**, in the presence of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath.
- ▶ The huge exhibition that will showcase India's Defence manufacturing capabilities as well as world's top defence manufacturing companies would be held for the first time in **Lucknow** from 05 - 08 February, 2020.

Kerala to set up India's First iWTC in Kozhikode



- In consonance with the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)**, Kerala will set up India's first **International Women's Trade Centre (iWTC)** in **Kozhikode** to boost women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity. It is an important Gender Park under the Department of Social Justice of Kerala Government.

Key Words:

- ▶ The first phase of iWTC will be completed by 2021. It is executed under the Gender Park's "**Vision 2020**".

National Conference on Crop Residue Management

- **Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** requested further support and ideas from the farmers to ensure **zero burning in all the villages**. Inaugurating the **National Conference on Crop Residue Management** for the farmers from the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Delhi the Minister said that success stories from these States should be shared with all farmers.
- This conference was organized in collaboration with **ICAR** in order to address concerns of farmers and State Governments. The straw burning events in 2018 have reduced by **15%** and **41%** as compared to that in 2017 and 2016 respectively, as per the report of the High-Power Committee Chaired by **Dr. Nagesh Singh**.
- The Minister also launched a **multilingual Mobile App "CHC Farm Machinery"** for the farmers to avail the custom hiring services of CHCs located in the radius of 50 Kms. This app **connects the farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres** in their area.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launched India's first 'Jan Soochna Portal' RAJIV campaign

- The govt. of **Rajasthan** has launched a portal called '**Jan Soochna Portal**' under the **Rajasthan Innovation Vision (RAJIV) campaign** that was started to commemorate former Prime Minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi's 75th anniversary.
- This portal will **provide people** to seek the **Right to Information (RTI) with transparency and accountability**.

North Eastern Council held in Guwahati

- The 68th Plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held in Guwahati on the 8th & 9th September, 2019.
- The Plenary session was inaugurated by the **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah**. The Union Home Minister announced that the North Eastern Council will earmark 30 per cent of its fund for focussed funding of priority areas and deprived sections of society in the North East.

Key Words:

About North Eastern Council (NEC)

- ▶ **North Eastern Council** was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the North eastern states.
- ▶ NEC is headed by **Home Minister** and all the Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States will be Members.

INDIASOFT 2020

- It will be conducted from **March 3 - 4, 2020** in **Telangana, Hyderabad**.
- Experience a world of innovations and explore the avenue of sourcing the best of total **IT products & solutions** for the growth of your enterprise including Mobile Application Services, Cloud Computing and much more under one roof. The event will have over **250 Indian IT companies** catering a host of solutions with value additions, three dimensional growth in skills, technology and expertise.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar Launched 2 Insurance Schemes

- “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana” and “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana” for traders.
- The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar launched 2 insurance schemes named “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana” and “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana” for traders registered under the Haryana Goods and Service Tax (HGST) Act, 2017. Premium of Rs 38 crore for both the schemes will be paid by the Haryana state government.

Key Points:

- ▶ Under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana, an accident insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh will be provided for 3.75 lakh registered traders.
- ▶ Under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana, an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh will be provided for 3.13 lakh registered small and medium traders. Haryana became the first state in India to implement this scheme.
- ▶ All the families in Haryana with an annual family income of Rs 1.80 lakh will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ▶ The monthly wages of ‘Safai Karamcharis’ working in urban areas was hiked to Rs 15,000 from Rs 13,500 and in rural areas to Rs 12,500 from Rs 11,000.
- ▶ Families living in electricity-deprived habitats outside a radius of one kilometer from villages will be covered under the Manohar Jyoti Yojana.

Defense Secretary Sanjay Mitra to Head 3 Member Panel to look into Assets, Liabilities of J & K

- The union government has appointed defense Secretary Shri Sanjay Mitra to head a 3-member panel to look into assets, liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir (J & K) between two successor Union territories (UT) J & K and Ladakh, that comes into effect on October 31, 2019.

Key Words:

- ▶ **Background:** The Centre, announced the withdrawal of the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of the state into two UTs on August 5, 2019.

India declares free from H5N1 avian influenza

- India has been declared free from H5N1 avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu) by OIE (Office International des Epizooties) - World Organisation for Animal Health. The flu was last reported in 2017 with disease outbreaks in Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Key Points:

- ▶ H5N1 is non-contagious but has a mortality rate of 60%, when infected.

Asian Ministerial Energy Round table

- The 8th Edition of **Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER 8)** for the year 2019 was held in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **India** was the co-host along with UAE.
- It was held alongside the **24th Edition of World Energy Congress (WEC)**. From the Indian side, it was attended by the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas **Mr Dharmendra Pradhan** who is on a 3-day visit to UAE.

Plenary sessions:

- ▶ **AMER8 had 2 Plenary sessions** which focussed on the role of new technologies for a more competitive & productive world energy mix and advancing inclusive access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy services.
- ▶ **AMER9** : It is scheduled to be held in **New Delhi in 2021**.
- ▶ **24th World Energy Congress (WEC)**: The **24th Edition of World Energy Congress (WEC)** for 2019 was held from September 9-12, 2019 at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, UAE** under the theme **"Energy for Prosperity"**. It is a triennial event.

J&K tops in coverage of iodised salt in the first Nutrition International's survey 2019

- The Country's first of its kind survey to measure iodized salt coverage conducted by Nutrition International in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Coalition for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) has reported that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has topped the list of best performers in iodized salt coverage.
- J&K is followed by Nagaland and Manipur in the second and third place respectively. Meanwhile the country's third largest iodized salt producer Tamil Nadu was reported to be the lowest iodized salt consuming state in the country.

Top 5 states	Bottom 5 states
Jammu & Kashmir	TamilNadu
Nagaland	Andhra Pradesh
Manipur	Rajasthan
Mizoram	Odisha
Meghalaya	Jharkhand

Study report:

- ▶ **76.3%** of Indian households consumed **adequate iodized salt**.
- ▶ The survey covered a total of 21,406 households in **29 States** and 7 Union Territories in India and conducted from October 2018 till March 2019
- ▶ **Top salt producers: Gujarat is the top salt producer of the country producing 71% of the nation's salt** and is followed by **Rajasthan (17%)** and **TamilNadu (11%)**.

Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit at Safdarjung Hospital

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Defence Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated an Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- The Unani Medical Centre has been established by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) and Siddha Clinical Research Unit has been established by the Central Council for Research in Siddha Medicine (CCRS).

About AYUSH

- ▶ The Ministry of AYUSH was formed on 9th November' 2014. Earlier it was known as the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM & H) which was created in March 1995 and renamed as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in November 2003, with a view to provide focused attention for the development of Education and Research in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

Delhi Attracts the Largest Number of Students from Across the Country

- Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia launched his book 'Shiksha: A Journey'.
- The book documents his experiences as an education minister in transforming the public education system in Delhi.

118 new Community Radio Stations to be set-up

- Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar announced that 118 new Community Radio Stations (CRS) are in the process of being set-up.

Key Words:

About Community Radio Stations

- ▶ Community Radios are small (low power) FM radio stations with a coverage area of around 10-15 Km radius, depending on the geography of the area. CRS play a significant role in dissemination of agriculture related information, government schemes for people's welfare, weather forecast etc.
- ▶ CRS are expected to produce at least 50% of their programs locally, as far as possible in local languages or dialects.

India's 1st National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub set up in Kolkata

- India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub was recently inaugurated in Kolkata.
- The Kolkata centre would be the hub for research on antibiotic resistance not only for the country but for the entire South Asia.
- The centre was jointly inaugurated by the ICMR, in association with the U.S. Consulate of Kolkata and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



312 Sikhs of Indian origin from 'adverse list': Reports

- At least 312 Indian-origin Sikhs living in foreign countries have been removed from a Ministry of Home Affairs "adverse list", enabling them to apply for Indian visa and visit the country
- In future, Sikhs mentioned in the list could eventually apply for registration as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) after they have applied for and held normal visa for a period of two years.
- In the 1980s, when Sikh militancy was at its peak, many members of the community in India and abroad were influenced by anti-India propaganda.
- Some Sikhs fled India to escape the authorities, acquired foreign nationality and took asylum outside the country. They were placed in the adverse list till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit India.



National Green Tribunal forms committee to stop illegal groundwater extraction

- Expressing concern over depleting groundwater levels, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a committee to formulate steps required to prevent illegal extraction of groundwater.

Key Highlights of Committee

- ▶ A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the committee to evolve a robust mechanism for ensuring that groundwater is not illegally extracted and to monitor manning and functioning of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
- ▶ Committee may look into the reports already submitted. The report may be furnished within 2 months by e-mail.

'Gangs of Wasseypur' became the only Indian film in "The Guardian" list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century

- The Indian filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's film 'Gangs of Wasseypur' released in 2012 featuring Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Piyush Mishra and Richa Chadha, became the only Indian film in British daily "The Guardian" list of the 100 Best Films of the 21st century. It claimed the 59th position.

Key Words:

- ▶ The first spot was claimed by the film **There Will Be Blood** (2007).
- ▶ It was followed by **12 Years a Slave** (2013) and **Boyhood** (2014).

Union HRD Minister launched Various Initiatives of AICTE in New Delhi

- Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched various initiatives of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi.
- **Initiatives:** The initiatives are Facilitation through Margadarshan and Margadarshak, Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses, Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree Feedback of Faculty.

Margadarshan Initiative:

- ▶ Under this scheme, institutions having good accreditation record/highly performing institutions are provided funding upto Rs. 50 lakhs per institution over a period of three years in instalments for carrying out various activities.

Margadarshak Initiative:

- ▶ Under this scheme, mentor teachers or Margdarshaks are identified and they will guide the mentee institutions to get accreditation by National Board of Accreditation (NBA).
- ▶ Their tenure will be initially for 6 months but extendable on year on year basis.

WAVE Summit 2019:

- ▶ The WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019 which will be jointly organized by the AICTE and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ▶ Theme will be 'Make your own bag'. It will be the largest gathering of young women students to promote entrepreneurship in waste management.

Government constitutes Company Law Committee for examining provisions and issues related to Companies Act 2013 implementation

- The corporate affairs ministry in line with the gov't's objective to promote the ease of living and by providing Ease of Doing Business to the companies abiding the law decided to be set up, a company law committee to look into the issues pertaining to the implementation of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.
- The 11- member company law committee will be headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.

Tatpar, a new app of Delhi Police, up to 50 invoices can be done

- The Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal has launched a new mobile app called 'Tatpar' developed by various units of Delhi Police over the last three years.
- People will be able to do more than 50 works of their need through this app with a single touch.
- By visiting this app, people can navigate to their nearest police station, traffic pit and prepaid taxi booth & can also get complete contact details of the concerned Station House Officer (SHO) of a police station.

First International Conference on Sustainability Education 2019 Held At The India Habitat Centre In New Delhi

- The first of its kind International Conference on Sustainability Education 2019 was held at the India Habitat Centre in **New Delhi on September 9-10, 2019**.
- It was jointly organised by Mobius Foundation, the Climate Reality Project, India in partnership with **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, New Delhi office.
- **First International Conference on Sustainability Education-2019**.

Key Words : Asia's first environment school- World Environment School (WESc)

- ▶ Asia's first environment school named **World Environment School (WESc)** was launched on International Conference on Sustainability Education 2019.
- ▶ It will be operational from **2021 for grade 6 to 12 students** and educate the next generation of environmental leaders.

Country's first Central Police University to be built in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- **India's first Central Police University** will be established in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh** near the Yamuna Expressway with the aim to improve the law and order of the country.

Telangana governor Tamilisai becomes the youngest governor at 58 years while Andhra governor Harichandan becomes the oldest at 85

- Former TamilNadu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan who was sworn in as the first woman governor of Telangana, became the youngest state governor at the age of **58** among all the current governors. Andhra Pradesh governor **Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** is the oldest at the age of **85** among the current governors.

CD Minister Facilitates States, Districts Under BBBP Scheme for Improved Sex Ratio

- The Minister of Woman and Child Affairs (WCD) **Smt. Smriti ZubinIrani** awarded states and districts for sex ratio and awareness generation under the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** campaign. Further **10 districts** were also awarded for good work in awareness generation and outreach activities. The awarded states were:

State	District
Arunachal Pradesh	East Kameng
Haryana	Mahendragarh
Haryana	Bhiwani
Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar
Tamil Nadu	Namakkal
Maharashtra	Jalgaon
Uttar Pradesh	Etawah
Chattisgarh	Raigarh
Rajasthan	Jodhpur

Key Words: About BBBP:

- ▶ **Launched** : 22nd January, 2015
- ▶ **Launch location** : Panipat, Haryana

NASSCOM's DSCI, MeitY And Google India Launched A Nationwide 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'

- The National Association of Software and Services Company's (NASSCOM) Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Google India had collaborated together to launch a nationwide awareness campaign 'Digital Payment Abhiyan.
- The campaign was launched by the Communications and Electronics & Information Technology (IT) Minister Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad at the Google for India event in New Delhi.
- Google and Vodafone-Idea entered into an agreement to introduce Google Assistant to 2G and feature phone users. Google Assistant function will be made available in 9 local languages in India.
- Hindi is the second-most used 'Assistant' language globally after English.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Launched 'Champions Campaign' Against Dengue

- The Chief Minister of Delhi, Mr Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) launched "champions campaign" in the fight against dengue.
- Earlier, he had also launched 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute campaign.
- He had urged the Delhi residents to give 10 minutes every Sunday from September 1- November 15, 2019 to check the surroundings to prevent the breeding of dengue-carrier mosquitoes.

Beneficiaries Under PMMVY Scheme Crossed 1 Crore

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) achieved a mark of reaching 1 crore (1,00,11,200) beneficiaries in India. The total amount disbursed under the scheme crossed Rs. 4,000 crores.
- Top 5 states: Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan are the top 5 states/ union territories (UTs) in the implementation of scheme.
 - ▶ Odisha and Telangana have not implemented the scheme.
 - ▶ Its implementation is monitored by the central and state governments through a web-based software application named PMMVY-CAS.

About PMMVY:

- ▶ It is a flagship scheme of the Government for Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).
- ▶ It is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under which PW&LM receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three instalments on fulfilling certain conditions.
- ▶ The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.



HRD Ministry Announces National Educational Alliance For Technology (NEAT) Scheme For Higher Education Learning Outcomes

- The Union Ministry of Human Resource & Development (MHRD) has announced a new scheme named **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)** for better learning outcomes in higher education and is expected to be operational in early November 2019.
- The main objective of this scheme is to use **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** in making **personalized learning** and will be developed through **Public-private partnership (PPP) model**.
- **AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education)** will be the implementing agency of this scheme.
- **EdTech (Education Technology)** companies will be responsible for managing the learners' registration through the **NEAT portal**.

Indian Army Conducted 'Chang Thang' Exercise In Eastern Ladakh

- The **Indian army** conducted massive **integrated exercise** named '**Chang Thang**' in the **Eastern Ladakh region** bordering **China** in a very **high-altitude area** in order to test and improve its capabilities in **war fighting**.
- The exercise involved all the arms of the **Indian army** like T-72 tanks, artillery guns and helicopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles etc.

Reason for the exercise :

- ▶ The exercise which happened first time in the region came from the **backdrop of a scuffle (a short struggle/fight)** between **India and Chinese troops on the northern bank of Pangong Tso** (Tso denotes lake) in **Ladakh amid China**.
- ▶ **Him Vijay**: The army will also conduct another major exercise **Him Vijay in next two months**. The exercise will be conducted in **Arunachal Pradesh** to test new fighting formation, **Integrated Battle Group** in mountain warfare.

IAF Chief B S Dhanoa restored Ambala-based 17th Squadron 'Golden Arrows' to operate first unit of Rafale aircraft

- Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** restored Air Force Station (AFS) **Ambala-based 17th Squadron 'Golden Arrows'** which will be committed to operate India-Pakistan frontier. It will be the first unit to operate the newly-acquired Rafale aircraft.

AP govt forms expert panel to review Amaravati and other developmental plans

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** on set up a **five-member committee**, comprising urban planning experts, to review developmental plans initiated so far (by the government) and suggest a **comprehensive strategy for the all-round development of the state**, including the upcoming capital **Amaravati**. Both the financial institutions together were to pump in **\$500 million into the project**. **Retired IAS officer G. Nageswara Rao** will be the convenor of the committee.

President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019

- President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind approved the Promulgation of the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019** after the cabinet approved it on September 18, 2019.

E-Cigarettes:

- ▶ **Electronic Cigarettes/ e-Cigarettes are battery-operated devices** that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes.
- ▶ They include all forms of **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices.
- ▶ **Association of Vapers India (AVI)** is an organisation representing e-cigarette users.

Panel to study e-Cigarettes

- ▶ **A Group of Ministers (GoM)** from commerce, health, agriculture, chemicals and petrochemicals, and food processing departments chaired by the finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had studied the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Health, **to ban the production and import of e-cigarettes.**

35th Tri-Services Commanders Conference for 2019 held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

- The **35th Tri-Services Commanders Conference for 2019** was held in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**. It was held under the aegis of the Army Southern Command headquartered in Pune.
- The three service commands of the **Army, Navy and Air Force** had participated in the annual conference and many issues like coastal security, protection of island territories and vital installations in the southern and south-western region were discussed.

Rajnath Singh becomes first Indian defence minister to fly in home-built LCA Tejas from the HAL Airport, Bengaluru

- Defence Minister of India, **Mr Rajnath Singh** became the first Indian defence minister to fly (for 30 minutes) in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA) **Tejas** from the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Airport**, also known as Hindustan Airport, in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Tejas** is the smallest lightweight, multi-role, single-engine tactical fighter aircraft.

NTPC Ltd to set up 5 GW solar park- biggest in the country, in Gujarat

- **NTPC Ltd (formerly National Thermal Power Corporation Limited)** announced to set up a **5GW (gigawatt) solar national park** in **Gujarat** and is also expected to be the biggest in the country.
- This solar park is part of NTPC's aim to build 32GW renewable energy by 2032 and reduce the energy mix of fossil fuels from 96% to 70%
- The Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has set a target of producing **175GW of renewable capacity by 2022.**

Agreement between Skill India and IBM for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in AI

- The **Directorate General of Training (DGT) division** of the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, has signed a **pact** with the world's leading IT (Information Technology) company **IBM (International Business Machines Corporation)**, under which a nationwide program to train trainers in **Basic Artificial Intelligence (AI)** will be carried out.
- **Objective:** The objective of the program is to **help trainers in basic approach, workflow and AI application**, so that they can use it in their training modules.
- IBM aims to train **10,000 ITI faculty members** across India. The program will be of **one year duration** and will have 14 instructors at 7 locations with over 200 workshops.

Telangana declares 2020 as AI year

- The **Telangana** state Government will celebrate **2020** as **Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** by organizing multiple programs and activities related to the new age technology throughout the year.
- The decision comes in the backdrop of the emerging talent workforce and renewed focus by industry and other ecosystem players on this space in the past four to five years.
- **Telangana** government has signed up with **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)**, which has come out with the '**National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence**' to organize pilot projects in the state.

HRD Ministry introduces of study of Artificial Intelligence at school level

- Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development has prepared a module to introduce study of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the school level. The announcement for the initiative was made by Union Human Resource and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishak while addressing **Central Board of Secondary Education's Teachers Awards 2018-19**. During the event, 34 teachers were felicitated for their outstanding and innovative contribution in field of teaching.

Key Words :

- ▶ The study of Artificial Intelligence at school level is a big leap in country's education system as artificial intelligence which was otherwise taught at the college level, is now being introduced from class 8th.
- ▶ For this purpose HRD Ministry has joined hands with technology leaders like Intel.
 1. **Vidya Daan:** It is a unique initiative in which a repository of content is prepared by teachers by uploading study materials for students of class 6th -10th on an on-line platform called **Diksha App**.

First IoT in Mini Piped Water Scheme launched at Amingaon

- The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Assam and Piramal Water Pvt Ltd (Piramal Sarvajal), launched a project on the deployment of the first Internet of Things (IoT) solution in single village mini piped water supply scheme.

Indian Railways undertakes "Massive Shramdan" drive with main focus on collection of plastic waste

- The Indian Railways has once again carrying out a "Massive Shramdan" drive movement aimed at collecting plastic waste from all railway premises to create awareness for a greater impact against single-use plastic.

Key Words:

- ▶ Railways has carried out such movements in the recent past on September 2, 2019 (a 10 days cleanliness drive for trains and stations).
- ▶ For the best work to make cleanliness work culture, Railways had won the Best Union Ministry Swachhata award by the President of India on 6th September 2019 for the year 2018-19.
- ▶ To mark the Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019, Railways also undertaking various activities relating to Swachhata Pakhwada from September 11 - October 2, 2019.

Great Ganga Run 2019 flagged off in New Delhi

- Jal Shakti Minister and Sports Minister flagged off "Great Ganga Run-2019" at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
- The marathon was organised by Ministry of Jal Shakti. A large number of people from all age groups participated in the marathon.

Maharashtra govt. to set up "Swachh Bharat World University" at Sevagram in wardha district of Maharashtra

- In order to focus on cleanliness and sanitation research, the state govt of Maharashtra decided to set up 'Swachh Bharat World University' to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- The university will be set up at Sevagram town, Wardha, in vidarbha region of Maharashtra. A seven-member committee headed by Vinod Tawde, education minister of Maharashtra has been formed to study about the university requirements.
- The reason Wardha region was selected to establish the university was because, the region also has Mahatma Gandhi's Sevagram Ashram and Institute of Gandhian Studies (Gandhi Vichar Parishad)

Indian Railways For The First Time Installed Pet Bottle Crush Machine In Mumbai Rajdhani Express

- For the first time in India, Indian Railways installed Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottle crush machine in Mumbai Rajdhani Express which runs between Mumbai Central and New Delhi.
- It was implemented by the Western Railways as part of the Indian Railways' Swachh Bharat and Go Green missions associated with the ban of single-use plastic imposed by the Centre.

Home Minister Amit Shah announced first ever "digital census" in 2021

- During the foundation stone laying ceremony for construction of new building of Registrar General of India, which conducts the census exercise, Union Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) Shri **Amit Shah**, announced to conduct first ever "digital census" in 2021. He also suggested a **single multipurpose identity card** i.e., one card facility for all utilities in the future.

Key points :

- ▶ The digital census is expected to have the potential in bringing all the cards like Aadhaar, passport, bank account, driving license etc. under a single platform. **Rs. 12,000 crores** will be spent on preparation of National Population Register (NPR) and census 2021.

Centre sets up Task Force for drawing up National Infrastructure Pipeline

- Central government constituted a task force for drawing up a roadmap for 'National Infrastructure Pipeline' (NIP) of ₹ 100 lakh crore from financial year 2019-20 to 2024-25. The Task Force is headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty would cover greenfield and brownfield projects costing above ₹ 100 crore each.

Key Words : About Task Force

- ▶ To identify technically feasible and economically viable infrastructure projects that can be initiated during current fiscal year.
- ▶ Task force would draw up a list of infrastructure projects that can be set rolling in 2019-20 as it looks at steps to tide over the economic slowdown.

"Srivilliputtur Palkova" gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag in Chennai

- "Srivilliputtur Palkova" in Virudhunagar district of **Tamil Nadu** has get **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag in Chennai. The sweet is prepared from high quality flavour of milk with sugar. The milk is fetched only from in and around reared cows of Srivilliputtur. In 2014, The petition was filed by Srivilliputtur Milk Producers' Co-operative Society for Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It was approved by **Geographical Indication (GI) registry of Chennai**.

New Delhi to host 1st conference on Military Medicine for SCO member states

- The first Conference on Military Medicine for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Member States will be held in New Delhi from 12-13 September 2019. The conference will also be 1st military co-operation event hosted by India under SCO Defence Cooperation Plan 2019-2020, after India became an SCO member country in 2017.

First-ever helicopter summit held in Uttarakhand

- The Aviation Ministry organised the country's first helicopter summit in Uttarakhand's Dehradun where issues related to "enhancing connectivity through helicopters. First ever helicopter summit was organised by Ministry of Civilian Aviation at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Indian Air Force was invited to talk on 'Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) at National level.

Election Commission announces Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Haryana and Maharashtra, 2019

- Election Commission of India today announced the Schedule for General Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Haryana and Maharashtra, 2019 as also the Schedule for bye-elections to fill casual vacancy in the Parliamentary Constituency & State Legislative Assemblies of various States/UTs.

Indian Railways across the country is observing "Swachhta-Hi-Seva Pakhwada" from 11th September to 2nd October.

- Ministry of Railways is observing 'Swachhta-Hi-Seva Pakhwada' across its entire network from 11th September to 2nd October. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at an event on Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS) offered Shram daan at Mathura leading and giving a message to the nation on removal of plastic waste.
- Indian Railways also undertook massive Shram daan with participation from all stakeholders on plastic waste collection on the first day of SHS.
- He has also directed that officers and staff of all departments to be involved in various activities during 'Swachhta-Hi-Seva Pakhwada'.
- Plastic bottle crushers to be installed at all A1 and A category stations before 2nd October, 2019.

India's second largest railway overbridge in West Bengal

- Indian Railways has completed the construction of the giant four-lane cable-stayed railway overbridge (RoB) at Burdwan Junction in West Bengal.
- The RoB, considered to be the second largest in the country will be inaugurated by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

India's second largest railway overbridge

1. The railway overbridge was completed in 197 days without affecting traffic for even a single day
2. The work on 188.43 metre cable-stayed railway overbridge was kicked off in 2012.
3. Built at a cost of ₹ 300 crores, the project is the result of a 50:50 partnership between the Ministry of Railways and the West Bengal government officials
4. The railway overbridge connects Burdwan town with the two sub-divisions of Kalna and Katwa and is on the Howrah-Bardhaman mainline.

Kargil to Kohima (K2K) Ultra Marathon - "Glory Run" Flagged off from KARGIL

- Kargil to Kohima (K2K) Ultra-Marathon- "Glory Run" was flagged off from Kargil War Memorial, Drass by Air Vice Marshal PM Sinha, Air Officer Commanding J&K.
- To commemorate 20th year of Kargil Victory and to live up to the true tradition and motto of IAF i.e. "Touch the Sky with Glory", a unique expedition Kargil to Kohima (K2K) Ultra-Marathon- "Glory Run" is being undertaken by IAF from Kargil War Memorial, Drass (J&K) to Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima (Nagaland).

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Narendra Modi launches RuPay card in UAE

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched the **RuPay card**, making the **UAE** the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. **RuPay** card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfil the **Reserve Bank of India's** vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments.
- RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. India has already launched the RuPay card in **Singapore and Bhutan**.

1st India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi

- The first ever **India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations** was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) while the Ghanaian delegation was led by Charles Owiredo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

National Conference on 'India-Africa Partnership' organized in New Delhi

- The **Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has participated with the world community to work together to completely root out terrorism and promote a peaceful global order.
- Organized by the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)** in New Delhi.

US Launches New Command for Space Warfare

- USA formally established a new Pentagon command for space warfare.
- Space Com will oversee US military and intelligence efforts in space, including defending American satellites and supporting troops.
- The role of Space Command is to conduct operations, such as enabling satellite-based navigation and communications in the field and providing warning of missile launches abroad.
- The renewed focus on space as a military domain reflects concern about the vulnerability of US satellites, both military and commercial, that are critical to US interests and are potentially susceptible to disruption by Chinese and Russian anti-satellite weapons.
- According to the Pentagon, the Space Force as the **sixth branch** of the United States military, to go along with the **Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard**.

The Japan – India Defence Ministerial Meeting

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh co-chaired the Japan – India Defence Ministerial Meeting with Defence Minister of Japan Mr Takeshi Iwaya in Tokyo.
- The Indo-Pacific vision was discussed at length with an expression of India's preference for a rules-based order along with centrality of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and inclusiveness and security for all. The importance of the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** between India and Japan in addressing regional peace, security and stability was also highlighted.
- He invited participation of Japanese companies and other stakeholders at biennial **DefExpo 2020** to be held in Lucknow.

India Lends \$ 1 Billion for Russia's Far East

- India announced an "unprecedented" \$ 1 billion line of credit for the development of Russia's Far East, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowing that **New Delhi** would walk shoulder-to-shoulder with **Moscow** in its quest for the development of the resource-rich region.
- For the development of the Far East, India will give a line of credit worth \$ 1 billion.
- Our government has actively engaged East Asia as part of its "**Act East**" policy.

Mumbai ranks 45th & Delhi 52nd in 2019 world's Safe Cities Index

- On August 29, 2019 According to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit sponsored by NEC corporation's (formerly Nippon Electric Company), World's Safe City Index (SCI) for the year 2019, **Mumbai** was ranked 45th safest city whereas **Delhi** stood at the 52nd position. The overall list was topped by **Tokyo** (Japan) followed by Singapore and Osaka in 2nd and 3rd spots respectively.

Rank	City	Rank	City
1	Tokyo	6	Toronto
2	Singapore	7	Washington
3	Osaka	8	Copenhagen
4	Amsterdam	9	Seoul
5	Sydney	10	Melbourne

Key Words:

- ▶ A total of 6 out of 10 cities of the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, made it to the top 10 spots. Other cities Sydney and Melbourne were also placed in the top 10 list.
- ▶ Seoul (South Korea) along with Copenhagen (Denmark) took the eighth spot.
- ▶ **Low scored states:** Yangon (Myanmar), Karachi (Pakistan) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) were ranked at the bottom of the list.
- ▶ The SCI ranks 60 cities based on 57 indicators under digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security. While the overall spot was topped by Tokyo, several other cities topped in those certain individual categories.

India to host 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

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

New Luxury Train Pulathisi Express by Indian Railways 'Make in India' Product Flagged Off

- The new luxurious train of Sri Lanka (SL), **Pulathisi Express** which was produced under the 'Make in India' project of the Indian Railways was launched. The president of SL Shri Maithripala Sirisena flagged off the new train from Fort railway station in Colombo to Polonnaruwa, North central province of SL.

Key Points:

- ▶ The train was supplied under Line of Credit (LoC) by Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) Ltd and was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 held in Male

- 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was recently held in Male, Maldives. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was one of the speakers at the Indian Ocean Conference 2019 event.
- The theme for 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was: 'Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges'. This edition of the conference will provide yet another opportunity for stakeholders of the Indian Ocean Region to deliberate on building an institutional framework for managing the threats to regional peace and human security.



Mumbai ranks 5th and New Delhi- 11th in the 2019 Knight Frank Co-Living Index across Asia-Pacific, Beijing tops

- The Co-living index for the year 2019 across the Asia-Pacific region was released by London based consultancy agency Knight Frank. Among the Indian cities, Mumbai ranked at the 5th spot, New Delhi ranked at the 11th spot and the electronic city of India, Bengaluru ranked at the 19th spot in the index. The index was topped by Beijing (China) followed by Tokyo (Japan) and Shanghai (China) in the second and third position respectively.

PM of India & Nepal jointly inaugurate South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal

- Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Nepal **K.P. Sharma Oli** jointly inaugurated South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline of **69-km** from **Motihari** in Bihar, India to **Amlekhgunj** in Nepal through video conference.

United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

- India is a signatory of the **United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**. It ratified this Convention on 01-10-2007 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention. India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.
- The UN Committee on CRPD in its **22nd Session** took up India's First Country Report for consideration during 2nd & 3rd September 2019 at UNHRC, **Geneva**.

7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting Held in Bangkok

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways **Piyush Goyal** participated in 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on 8th September 2019.
- The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) gathered in Bangkok for the 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting to review developments in the RCEP negotiations since the Ministers last met in Beijing on 2019. The Meeting was chaired by **Jurin Laksanawisit**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand.

Key Words: About RCEP

- ▶ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has free trade agreements with six partners namely People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Japan, India as well as Australia and New Zealand.
- ▶ In order to broaden and deepen the engagement among parties and to enhance parties' participation in economic development of the region, the leaders of **16** participating countries established the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**.

India announces \$1 million disaster relief aid for Bahamas as it is affected by Hurricane Dorian

- The Government of India (GoI) announced a humanitarian assistance of **\$ 1 million** as an immediate disaster relief to help people in **The Bahamas** affected by **Hurricane Dorian** which has caused large scale destruction. The death toll is more than 40 and is likely to increase.

22nd session of UN Committee on CRPD held at UNHRC, Geneva

- The 22nd session of the United Nations Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was held at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Geneva, Switzerland from September 2-3, 2019.

Key Points:

1. Indian delegation was led by Mrs. **Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD).
2. UN Committee on CRPD took up **India's First Country Report** for consideration.
3. Secretary of DEPwD highlighted on enactment of the **Comprehensive Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016**, launch of **Accessible India Campaign**, establishment of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)**, establishment of Centre for Disability Sports, achievements in distribution of aids and assistive devices, etc while speaking in the different initiatives taken by the Indian Government.

Key Words: India & UNCRPD

- ▶ India is a **signatory** of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It ratified this Convention on **2007** in pursuance of **Article 35 of the Convention**. India submitted its **First Country Report on the Status of Disability** in India in November 2015.

Samsung unveils 'Good Vibes' and 'Relumino' app for deaf-blind and visually impaired people in India

- South Korean tech giant **Samsung**, has unveiled two apps namely "**Good Vibes**" a communication tool for deaf and blind people and "**Relumino**" that helps the visually impaired people to see the images clearer.

Key Words:

- ▶ Relumino app: It was developed by the Samsung employees in the global C-Lab program in partnership with the National Association for the Blind (NAB), Delhi.
- ▶ The NAB will make use of this relumino in classrooms for students with low vision.

Sri Lanka unveils South Asia's tallest tower

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

The Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2020

- In **World University Rankings 2020**, published by the **United Kingdom (UK)** based **Times Higher Education (THE)**, **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** were ranked **number 1** among the **56 Indian institutes** on the list of the best universities of the world, beating IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi.
- Since 2012, for the **first time Indian institutions** did not feature among the top 300 in World University Rankings 2020. The ranking includes almost **1,400 universities across 92 countries**.

Top 3 Indian Institutes:

Rank	Institute
1	IIT Ropar & IISc Bangalore (301-350)
2	IIT Indore (351-400 band)
3	IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi & IIT Kharagpur (In the top 401-500 universities bracket)

Top 3 Universities of the World:

Rank	Institute
1	University of Oxford, UK (Topped the 2020 edition of the rankings for the fourth consecutive year)
2	California Institute of Technology (Caltech), United States
3	University of Cambridge, UK

Thailand became the first Asian nation to unveil plain cigarette packaging

- **Thailand** became the first Asian nation to unveil **plain cigarette packaging** to reduce the appeal of smoking and complied with the **World Health Organization's (WHO)** guidelines

U.S. Designates TTP Chief Noor Wali Mehsud as Global Terrorist

- On the eve of the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the **United States (US) Department of State** designated the chief of the banned **Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Noor Wali Mehsud**, also known as Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, as a **'Specially Designated Global Terrorist' (SDGT)**.

Tamil Nadu EV Policy Proposes 100% Road Tax Exemption on Electric Cars Until 2022

- Encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), the Tamil Nadu EV Policy has proposed a **100 per cent exemption** on registration fees for electric vehicles till the end of **2022**.
- The draft policy also proposes 100 per cent exemption on electricity tax till **December 31, 2025**, for EV related and charging infrastructure manufacturing industries in the state. The EV related industries will also receive benefits to obtain land by sale or lease with a 100 per cent exemption on stamp duty for transactions till **December 31, 2022**.

UNESCO to translate and publish an anthology of Guru Nanak Dev's writings in world languages on his 550th birth anniversary

- Ministry of Culture of the union government notified that in commemoration of the 550th birth anniversary (April 15, 1469) of Guru Nanak Dev, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will translate and publish an anthology of Guru Nanak Dev's writings in different major languages of the world.
- Construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district in Punjab to the international border, the development of the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi as a heritage town on the smart city principle, the upgradation of Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and release of commemorative coins and postage stamps are the other events and initiated projects to mark the anniversary.

According to United in Science Report 2019 by UN, average global temperature between 2015-2019 set to be the hottest of any five-year period on record

- According to the report titled **United in Science** for 2019 by United Nations (UN), the average global temperature between 2015-2019 will be the hottest of any five-year period on record. It is estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) times and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015.
- The report was compiled by the **World Meteorological Organization** (WMO) and was prepared by the Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019.

Sixty Six Countries Committed To Net Zero CO₂ Emissions By 2050

- Sixty-six countries signaled their intent to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.
- The 66 governments are joined by 10 regions, 102 cities, 93 businesses and 12 investors all committed to net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. Around 60 world leaders have convened for the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.
- The UN estimates that the world needs to increase its current efforts five-fold to contain climate change to the levels dictated by science a rise of **1.5 degrees Celsius** by the year 2100 to avoid escalating climate damage.
- Countries announced commitments to carbon reduction targets under the Paris Agreement of 2015, and are now expected to update their nationally determined contributions by 2020.

India with 17.5million international migrants, tops country of origin of international migrants in 2019 by UN's 'International Migrant Stock 2019' report

- According to the report by the **United Nations (UN)** named 'The International Migrant Stock 2019', **India** topped the country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with 17.5 million migrants globally, making it the **largest diaspora in the world**.
- Currently the world's migrant population stands at 272 million in 2019, according to the report which grew by 23% over a decade.
- Country wise, **United States (US)** hosted **large no. of international migrants** at 51 million equalling **19% of the world's total**.

Leading country of origin of international migrants:

Rank	Country leading with origin of international migrants	Host countries of large no. of international migrants
1.	India	United States (US)
2.	Mexico	Germany
3.	China	Saudi Arabia
4.	Russia	Russia
5.	Syria	United Kingdom

Key Words About United Nations:

- ▶ Headquarters: New York City.
- ▶ **Secretary General:** Antonio Guterres.

St. Vincent and Grenadines, 79th country to join India-led ISA

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

Key Words

- ▶ St Vincent and the Grenadines
Capital: Kingstown; Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar.

The 63rd Annual Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference was held in Vienna, the capital of Austria with participation from 171 IAEA member states

- The conference is conducted to jointly discuss about the issues related to the IAEA's work, budget and priorities.
- The Indian delegation to the conference was led by Dr. K N Vyas, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DEA).

About IAEA :

- ▶ Founded- 1957.
- ▶ Headquarters- Vienna, Austria.

8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS



T.N. flags non-availability of water sources

- Due to non-availability of adequate sources of water in Tamil Nadu, only 20% of households have functional tap connections in rural areas of the State, recited by Municipal Administration and Water Supply Minister S.P. Velumani.
- In this connection, he has urged the Centre to grant funds of T.N. Participating in the **Jal Jeevan Mission Conference** in Delhi.

T.N.'s First Public Electric bus Rolled out

- An air-conditioned electric bus was flagged off by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in Tamil Nadu.
- The bus, operated by the **Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC)**, began plying on route 'A1', between Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station and Thiruvannamiyur, via Mylapore and Adyar.

CREDAI to hold multi-location fair

- **Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI)**, Chennai will organise the first 'multi-location property fair' showcasing 300 properties developed by 40 developers in the city.

The country's first bird eco-poisoning research center In Tamil Nadu

- The **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)** is a national centre for information, education and research in ornithology in India.
- It was inspired by and named in honour of **Salim Ali**, the leading pioneer of ornithology in India. It is an autonomous organisation established in 1990.
- Its headquarters are at **Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.**

Chennai Egmore Railway Station certified by ISO

- Chennai Egmore Railway Station certified by ISO as the best station in South India.

Tamil Nadu's 150-year-old Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees secure GI tag

- The Geographical Indication Registry of India has granted **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag to the state of Tamil Nadu for **Dindigul lock and Karaikudi Kandangi sarees.**
- **Benefits:** The GI tagging will help rural artisans & highly skilled weavers, who possess unique knowledge of traditional practices and methods. They can make & market their products domestically and internationally.

New textile processing cluster at Kariapatti

- The work has started for **Southern District Textile Processing Cluster Private Limited and New Industrial Park at Kariapatti (Tamil Nadu)**.
- The expected investment in this park is about **Rs. 200 crore**.

T.N. bans sex reassignment surgeries in children

- Madras High Court order, the State government has banned performance of sex reassignment surgeries on intersex infants and children, except to overcome life-threatening situations.
- The decision has come as a shot in the arm for intersex activists who had been pleading with the Central and State governments for long against imposition of the parents.

Tamilnadu Plans Underwater Archaeological Excavations

- State Archaeology Department is planning to carry out underwater excavations in areas of the port cities and towns that existed during the Sangam and medieval periods.
- The objective is to probe trade contacts with Greek, Roman and Arab merchants. The last time the State Archaeology Department took up underwater excavations was in the **1990s, off Poompuhar**.

Ex-judge to oversee money disbursement to depositors

The Madras High Court appointed former judge **K.N. Basha** to ensure the disbursement of about ₹11.5 crore by the **Coimbatore-based Universal Trading Solutions Pvt Ltd (UTS)**, that duped over 1,000 depositors

Rare tarantula sighted in Villupuram district

- Researchers have sighted a critically endangered species of tarantula for the first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats.
- The spider belonging to the genus **Poecilotheria**, commonly known as the **Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula**, was spotted by a team of researchers of the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the **Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district**.

India's 1st FinTech centre of excellence - "Fin Blue" in Tamil Nadu

- **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** in association with Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) has officially set up a '**Centre of Excellence in FinTech**' with a cost of over ₹ 23 crore in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. It is first of its kind in India and is named '**FinBlue**'.

5 railway stations in Salem division bag ISO-14001 certification

- Five major railway stations in Salem division have obtained ISO-14001 certification. Divisional railway manager U. Subba Rao issued the certificates to the station masters of **Salem, Karur, Erode Tirupur and Mettupalayam**.
- **Salem division** was the first ever division in the Southern Railway to get the ISO certification for all the major stations.

King's College Hospital of London may set up branches in T.N.

- The Tamil Nadu government has signed a memorandum of understanding with **King's College Hospital, London**, to establish branches in the State.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami confirmed that the State government would help facilitate the setting up of such hospitals in Tamil Nadu.

Ayushman Bharat Signs MoU With Ola To Extend Healthcare Benefits For Its Driver-partners And Families

- The Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme which is the world's largest healthcare scheme signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with mobility platform Ola whereby the scheme would provide health insurance to **2 million driver partners of Ola**.
 - ▶ The **first phase of this partnership** will be rolled out in **Delhi** as a pilot project after which it will be extended to other states.
 - ▶ **AB card: All Ola employees and eligible driver partners** can avail the **AB card** at a cost of Rs.30.

Centre Introduced a New Scheme Named 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' for the Fishermen in Tamil Nadu

- Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries **Giriraj Singh** notified that a new scheme named '**Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing**' was introduced for fishermen in **Tamil Nadu** with an objective to make a '**Blue Revolution**'. Rs 300 crore was released for this scheme by the union government.

CM unveils 'Digital Accelerator' to assist investors

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated a '**Digital Accelerator**' to assist entrepreneurs.
- The accelerator, through which the State will allocate 10% of the funds required for entrepreneurs to start business in **Tamil Nadu**, will be set in motion which assistance from the **American Tamil Entrepreneur Association**.
- The Tamil Nadu government, which had earlier signed 16 memorandam of understanding (MoU) in the U.S., inked an additional 19 MoUs for investments to the tune of ₹ 2,300 crore.

Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index

- **Tamil Nadu** has been ranked **tenth** in the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL)**.
- **Karnataka** has been given the **first** rank in the index, followed by **Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh**.
- According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, this index encourages each State to assess the initiatives taken so far, and what it can do to improve its solar rooftop eco-system.
- **Tamil Nadu** aims to have an installed solar capacity of **9000 MW by 2023**, with 40% coming from rooftop solar systems.

Government Law College inaugurated near Theni

- Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam inaugurated a Government Law College, the **14th one in the State**, at **Upparpatti**.

Cabinet approves setting up of international Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure in New Delhi

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved establishment of **International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** along with its supporting Secretariat Office in New Delhi. CDRI is proposed to be launched at United Nations (UN) **Climate Action Summit scheduled to be held in New York, US** on 23rd September 2019.

Tamil Nadu officials to participate in safety workshop in Australia

- The **Tamil Nadu government** has sent a team of senior bureaucrats to Australia for studying highway safety using **Safe System Solution** and emulate the best practices back home.
- The programme is part of the memorandum of understanding signed by the State government with **VicRoads and Highways Department, Australia**.

Karnataka has cleared T.N. quota of water

- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa announced the State had cleared the quota of water to be shared with **Tamil Nadu** in the last one month by discharging the **Cauvery and Kabini waters**.
- He was offering '**bagina**' to the Cauvery at the **Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), near Srirangapatna**, which has attained the full-reservoir level.
- The surplus waters were discharged and hence the neighbouring State received its quota in the recent days.

ANPR cameras installed on accident-prone ECR

- Greater Chennai Police have fixed eight **Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPR) cameras at Muttukadu** to keep a database of vehicles entering and exiting the city via ECR.
- Police commissioner **AK Viswanathan** launched the functioning of the cameras by inaugurating a peripheral police station, which will also function as a control room for ANPR cameras, at **Muttukadu**.
- He also launched 209 CCTV cameras at Neelankarai and Kanathur police station jurisdictions as part of the police's Third Eye project.

T.N. to form panel to look at treatment of LSD at lower cost

- The Tamil Nadu government has informed the Madras High Court that it will constitute in the near future a committee to have consultations with doctors dealing in different branches of medicine including Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Allopathy to discuss whether a plan for management of **Lysosomal Storage Disorders** can be evolved at a lower cost.
- Bench comprising Justice Vineet Kothari and Justice C.V. Karthikeyan, Advocate General Vijay Narayan informed the court that there were 132 identified patients in the State suffering from the disease and a discussion would be held to see if this can be managed in an appropriate manner with the pool of funds of the State and the Union government.

10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. When is World Water Monitoring Day observed?
(A) September 18 (B) September 11 (C) September 20 (D) September 20
2. When is world organ donation day observed?
(A) August 11 (B) August 12 (C) August 13 (D) August 14
3. When is National Sports Day observed?
(A) August 27 (B) August 28 (C) August 29 (D) August 30
4. When is International Day against Nuclear Test observed?
(A) August 25 (B) August 27 (C) August 28 (D) August 30
5. What is the theme of National Sports Day -2019?
(A) Fit India Young India (B) Unit Change
(C) Golden Triangle Tours (D) Young India
6. When is International Eagle Day observed?
(A) June 20 (B) June 21 (C) June 22 (D) June 23
7. When is Internary Day observed?
(A) Sep. 06 (B) Sep. 07 (C) Sep. 08 (D) Sep.09
8. When is World Alzheimer's Day observed?
(A) September 21 (B) September 24 (C) September 26 (D) September 30
9. When is World rose day observed?
(A) September 21 (B) September 22 (C) September 25 (D) September 27
10. When is the International Day of sign languages observed?
(A) 21 September (B) 23-September (C) 25-September (D) 28-September
11. Which of the following city tops in Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index-2019?
(A) New Delhi (B) Damascus (C) Vienna (D) Mumbai
12. In which of the following city, the UNICEF South Asian Parliamentarian conference for children-2019 is held?
(A) Male (B) Paris (C) Colombo (D) Geneva
13. What is India's rank in World Economic Forum's World Travel and Tourism competitiveness Index-2019?
(A) 55th (B) 34th (C) 67th (D) 25th
14. What is the head on strike range of successfully test fired air-to-air Astra missile?
(A) 100 km (B) 90 km (C) 70 km (D) 50 km
15. Which of the following ship is India's first Air-Craft carrier?
(A) INS Viraat (B) INS Vikrant (C) INS Kesari (D) INS Gomathi
16. In which of the following year the National Disaster Rescue Force formed?
(A) 2004 (B) 2005 (C) 2006 (D) 2010
17. Which of the following country launched the smart Dragon-1 rocket recently?
(A) Japan (B) Russia (C) Israel (D) China
18. Which of the following country launched unmanned warship-JARI recently?
(A) Japan (B) China (C) Russia (D) America
19. Where is Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference-2019 held?
(A) Malayasia (B) Srilanka (C) India (D) Thailand
20. India has partnered with which of the following country to build world's first space-based ship automatic identification system?
(A) Japan (B) Russia (C) Israel (D) France
21. Who is appointed as the Brand Ambassador of "Fit India Movement"?
(A) Sania Mirza (B) Shilpa Agarwal (C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (D) P.V. Sindhu
22. Photographer Charlie Cole belongs to which of the following country?
(A) USA (B) China (C) Russia (D) France

23. Who was the panchayat raj minister when Kamaraj was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu?
 (A) C. Subramaniam (B) Ramasamy Padaiyatchiyar
 (C) S. Ganesan (D) B Parameshwaran
24. Which of the following International Organisation is decided to publish the writings of Guru Nanak Dev writing in world languages?
 (A) World Bank (B) UNESCO (C) UNCD (D) Clinton Foundation
25. Sivaraman Cheriyanad who passed away recently related to which of the following field?
 (A) Writer (B) Painter (C) Filmmaker (D) Singer
26. Who became the first Defence minister to fly LCA Tejas?
 (A) Nirmala Sitharaman (B) Amitshah
 (C) Rajnath Singh (D) Nitin Gadkari
27. Who is the current chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes?
 (A) Kunwar Singh (B) Nandakumar Sai (C) Rameshwar Oraon (D) H. Ramdhan
28. What is height of the Mulikila Mount?
 (A) 6571 m (B) 7066m (C) 7086m (D) 8589m
29. Which of the following state got Geographical Indication (GI) for its famous Tirur betal leaf recently?
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Kerala (C) Andhrapradesh (D) Odisha
30. Which of the following country going to host World Youth Chess Championship 2019?
 (A) Japan (B) India (C) China (D) Germany
31. Which of the following country won Physical Disability World Cricket Series-2019?
 (A) New Zealand (B) Ireland (C) India (D) England
32. Where was the World Badminton Championship held recently?
 (A) Japan (B) Switzerland (C) France (D) Canada
33. Where was World Wrestling Championship -2019 held?
 (A) Kazakhstan (B) Poland (C) France (D) Switzerland
34. Where was the World Athletic Championship - 2019 held?
 (A) Doha (B) Beijing (C) Delhi (D) Kualalumpur
35. Who is the author of the book "Rise and fall of India's Diamond Mogul Nirav Modi"?
 (A) Amita Nair (B) Bhawan C.Lal (C) Raghu Kanval (D) Rajiv Masanth
36. Who is the translator of the book "The Diary of Manu Gandhi"?
 (A) Nita Sathyendran (B) Tridip Suhurd (C) Krishna Kripalani (D)Saraswathy Nagarajan
37. Who is the author of the book "Obama the call of History"?
 (A) Ian Kershav (B) Ben Judeh (C) Nira Antonia (D) Peter Baker
38. Who is the author of book "A short History of Indian Railways"?
 (A) Alok Varma (B) Rajendra B Aklekar (C) Chandra Shakar (D) Rajiv Kumar
39. Who released the book title- "Glorious Diaspora- Pride of India"?
 (A) Ram Nath Kovind (B) Venkaiah Naidu (C) Narendra Modi (D) Amit Shah
40. Who is the author of the book "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924"?
 (A) Vikram Sampath (B) Vish Dhamija (C) Debashis Sarkar (D) Kewal Dheer
41. Who wrote the book "Rethinking Good Governance"?
 (A) Alok Varma (B) Vinoth Rai (C) Sanjay Chaturvedi (D) Sarat Kumar
42. Which of the following channel introduced two awards to honour Neelum Sharma?
 (A) CNN IBN (B) Times Now (C) Prasar Bharati (D) NDTV
43. Who won the National Goodwill Award-2019?
 (A) Selva Kannan (B) M.N.Arunraj (C) Amitav Misra (D) Pandian Raj
44. Who is awarded the pushkin medal-2019?
 (A) Priyal Chatterjee (B) Meeta Narain (C) Seema Sharma (D) Priyanka Dubey
45. Who is the first Indian to win gold at the world Junior wrestling championship?
 (A) Deepak Punia (B) Bajrang Punia (C) Yogeshwar Dutt (D) Geetha Phogat
46. Which of the following district was awarded best municipal award on 73rd Independence Day?
 (A) Vedaranyam (B) Dharmapuri (C) Aranthangi (D) Kallupatti

47. Who is going to be awarded 'Eminent Engineer Award for the year' -2019?
(A) Nand Kumar Sai (B) Vinod Kumar Yadav (C) Prabhakar Singh (D) Utpal Bora
48. Who is awarded the life time Achievement Award category in Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2019?
(A) Dipankar Ghosh (B) Wangchuk Sherpa (C) Chen Yufi (D) Aparna kumar
49. What is newly announced retirement age of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnels?
(A) 58 (B) 65 (C) 70 (D) 60
50. Who is the newly appointed Defense Secretary of India?
(A) Brij Kumar Agarwal (B) Subash Chandragarg
(C) Rajiv Gauba (D) Ajay Kumar
51. Who is the first woman to be appointed as a commander in the Indian Air Force?
(A) Nivedita Chaudhari (B) Shaliji Dhani
(C) Punita Arora (D) Priya Jingam
52. Where is Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana launched?
(A) Haryana (B) Punjab (C) Maharashta (D) Uttarakhand
53. Which of the following is associated with NISHTHA programme?
(A) Mangalyaan (B) Education (C) Digital Banking (D) Women
54. What is the name of the programme with objective to supply piped water connections to all households?
(A) Jal Abhiyan (B) Jal Shakti Scheme (C) Jal Jeevan Scheme (D) Jal Hai tohkal hai scheme
55. What is the minimum allocated pension amount under the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan Yojana for small traders?
(A) Rs. 3000 (B) Rs. 4000 (C) Rs. 2000 (D) Rs. 6000
56. Which of the following District won the award for improvement of sex ratio and awareness under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" Campaign in Tamil Nadu?
(A) Dindigul (B) Namakal (C) Erode (D) Salem
57. When was Pradhan mantri Matru Vandana Yojana launched that is achieved one crore beneficiaries recently?
(A) 2018 (B) 2017 (C) 2016 (D) 2015
58. Which of the following state government launched 1st Jan Soochna portal?
(A) Haryana (B) Gujarat (C) Rajasthan (D) Bihar
59. Which of the following Bank is the first bank in India to deploy robotic arms to count currency notes?
(A) State Bank of India (B) Indian Bank (C) ICICI Bank (D) HDFC Bank
60. Which of the following financial Institution provides ` 3,000 Crore financial Assistance to set up mini & mega food parks across India?
(A) Asian Development Bank (B) IMF
(C) World Bank (D) AIIB
61. Which of the following state government decided to set up a "Time Bank"?
(A) Rajasthan (B) Punjab (C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Uttarakhand
62. Which of the following payments bank launched bharosa saving account?
(A) Paytm (B) Airtel Payment (C) Amazon (D) Jiopayment
63. Where is the headquarters of Tropical Forest Reserch Institute (TFRI) located?
(A) Dehradun (B) Kanpur (C) New Delhi (D) Jabalpur
64. Which of the following country is affected by the Typhoon Bailu recently?
(A) Japan (B) China (C) South Korea (D) Russia
65. Where is Gorewada International Zoo located?
(A) Patna (B) Nagpur (C) Ranchi (D) Pune
66. Which of the following state is decided to form a special Tiger force for corbett Reserve?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Uttarakhand (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Gujarat
67. Where is herb Rhodiola found mostly in India?
(A) Kashmir (B) Ladakh (C) Jammu (D) Darjeeling
68. What is the range of the resolution of cartosat-3?
(A) 65 cm (B) 30 cm (C) 25 cm (D) 55 cm

69. Which of the following IIT Students designed low-cost freezers for farm produce?
 (A) Delhi (B) Hyderabad (C) Chennai (D) Kharagpur
70. Which of the following India's app won US Technology Award-2019?
 (A) Vidur (B) Damini (C) Akshaya (D) Maitri
71. Which of the following country launched worlds first-ever Facial Biometric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document?
 (A) Pakistan (B) India (C) Saudi Arabia (D) Indonesia
72. Where is ANPR cameras installed in India for the first time?
 (A) Visakhapatnam (B) Bangalore (C) Mumbai (D) Chennai
73. What is the name of the lander of the Chandrayaan-2 Mission?
 (A) Vikranth (B) Pragyan (C) Vikram (D) Kranti
74. What is RV16X-Nano?
 (A) Asteroid (B) Meteoroid (C) Computer Chip (D) Jupiter New Moon
75. What is Colistin?
 (A) Crypto-currency (B) Dragon tree (C) Anti-Biotic (D) Herbicide
76. Which of the following country launched humanoid robot Fedor into space?
 (A) China (B) Japan (C) Russia (D) America
77. Which of the following company signed a MOU with Telangana Government for the initiative of "Digital telangana"?
 (A) Google (B) Infosys (C) Microsoft (D) Wipro
78. Which of the following state launched Jai Bheem Mukhya Mantri Yojana recently?
 (A) Gujarat (B) Haryana (C) Delhi (D) Jharkhand
79. SUPRA Scheme is associated to
 (A) Women Empowerment (B) Science & Technology
 (C) Child Education (D) Digital banking
80. When was the National Teacher Education Council Setup?
 (A) 1995 (B) 1999 (C) 1997 (D) 1996
81. Which of the following country is the largest emitter of SO₂, according to Greenpeace International?
 (A) Russia (B) India (C) China (D) Soudi Arabia
82. Where was the 6th International Small and Medium Export Conference held?
 (A) Bhuvaneshwar (B) Hyderabad (C) Mumbai (D) Delhi
83. What is the reference year for the Composite Water Management Index - 2.0?
 (A) 2019-20 (B) 2018-19 (C) 2016-17 (D) 2017-18
84. Which of the following state topped composite Water Management Index-2.0?
 (A) Karnataka (B) Gujarat (C) Madhya pradesh (D) Himachal Pradesh
85. Who heads the committee to advice the government on the "Fit India Movement"?
 (A) Rajyavardhan Rathore (B) Smriti Irani
 (C) Rajnath Singh (D) Kiran Rijju
86. Where was the 12th India Security Summit held?
 (A) Chennai (B) Kochi (C) New Delhi (D) Pune
87. What is the theme of the 12th India Security Summit?
 (A) Protecting identity of an entity
 (B) Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy
 (C) Phishing Under Security (D) Good Security increases shareholder
88. Which of the following state started free travel program for Women in public transport?
 (A) Delhi (B) Maharshttra (C) Haryana (D) Bihar
89. Which of the following city ranks 45th in Worlds Safe Cities 2019?
 (A) Chennai (B) Mumbai (C) Bangalore (D) New Delhi
90. When was the World Gold Council formed?
 (A) 1977 (B) 1967 (C) 1987 (D) 1997

91. Where was ANGAN-a three day international conference on Energy efficiency held?
(A) Chennai (B) Mumbai (C) Hyderabad (D) New Delhi
92. Where is the headquarters of the World Resources Institute located?
(A) New York (B) Geneva (C) Washington (D) Paris
93. Which of the following state planned to launch Online Service for adoption of Cows?
(A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Bihar (C) Uttarakhand (D) Madhya Pradesh
94. Where is South Asia's tallest lotus tower located?
(A) Ratnapura (B) Kandi (C) Colombo (D) Kalmunai
95. What is India's rank on the Global Economic Freedom Index?
(A) 45th (B) 56th (C) 68th (D) 79th
96. Where was the 23rd session of the world Tourism Organisation held?
(A) India (B) Brazil (C) Russia (D) Colombia
97. According to United Nations Report India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with _____ crore strong diaspora
(A) 5 (B) 3 (C) 1.75 (D) 2.3
98. Which of the following countries share demilitarized zone of 38th parallel line?
(A) Israel and Syria (B) Israel and Jordan
(C) South Korea and North Korea (D) Turkey and Russia
99. Which of the following country introduced face recognition for money transaction with facial payment technology?
(A) China (B) Japan (C) USA (D) South Korea
100. In which of the following city Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the first electric bus service?
(A) Madurai (B) Kovai (C) Salem (D) Chennai

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	A	B	C	C	C	B	C	C	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	D	A	A	B	D	C	B	D	C
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
B	B	C	D	B	D	B	B	C	D
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
C	D	A	C	B	A	A	B	C	D
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
A	B	A	B	C	C	C	B	A	D
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
B	B	A	B	C	D	B	A	B	D
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
D	D	A	A	C	B	D	B	C	A
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
B	A	D	C	A	D	C	B	B	D
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
A	B	A	B	C	B	D	D	D	CA
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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