

NOVEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

- Hyderabad has been designated as the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and Mumbai has been designated as Creative City of Films on the World Cities Day (Oct 31).
 - Chennai and Varanasi are UNESCO cities of music while Jaipur is the City of Crafts and Folk Arts.
 - In 2019, total 66 cities have been designated as UNESCO Creative Cities by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.
 - UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) covers 7 creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme, the Odisha government will transform Puri (city in Odisha) into a world heritage city.
 - ABADHA scheme was launched by the State Government in 2017-18.
 - Cyclone Fani had devastated Puri.
 - Shree Setu project, Musa river revival plan, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre etc. are the some of the projects being taken up under ABADHA scheme.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has launched the Global Alumni Endowment Fund of IIT- Delhi, which has an initial commitment of Rs 250 crore.
 - IIT-Delhi also launched an 'Each One Teach One' initiative to encourage the alumni, wealthy individuals and corporates etc. to sponsor one student's education which will get added to the Endowment Fund.
 - IIT-D aims to achieve a target corpus of \$1 billion by 2025.
- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Council will set up new Bamboo Technology parks in J&K and Ladakh.
 - Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) will implement the project.
 - The CBTC was set up in 1999 under the Ministry of North Eastern Council to promote the bamboo sector in India.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences have together launched the 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0' from Dec 2019-Mar 2020.
 - Indradhanush (Universal Immunization Program) was launched in 2014 to achieve a 100% immunization in pregnant women and children.
 - In 2017, PM Modi has renamed the Indradhanush mission as the Intensified Mission Indradhanush from which this new IMI 2.0 has originated.
 - IMI 2.0 was launched during the celebrations of silver jubilee of Pulse Polio Program on October 2 to achieve 90% immunization cover by 2022.
- 3rd edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit was held in Kochi, Kerala on the theme of 'Mainstreaming Ayurveda through Startup, Innovation and Branding'.
 - Organizer: Confederation of Indian Industry.
 - Chairman of Global Ayurveda Summit 2019 - S Sajikumar
- India (Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare) and Germany



(Julia Klockner, German Minister of Food & Agriculture) have signed a joined declaration of intent for developing agriculture market.

- Further, India's focus has been shifted from production centric to farmer centric, and increase exports to \$60 million by 2022 to double farmers' income.
- Both nations affirmed to fulfil the 'Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2- End Hunger and Doubling Agricultural Productivity'.

8. UNICEF has released the report 'Adolescents, Diets and Nutrition: Growing Well in a Changing World', in association with NITI Aayog, which is based on the recently released Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (released by Ministry of Health and UNICEF).

Key findings of the report:

- Over 50% of adolescents (about 63 million girls and 81 million boys) in the age group of 10 to 19 years in India are, short, thin, overweight or obese.
- Over 80% of adolescents also suffer from 'hidden hunger', i.e. the deficiency of one or more micronutrients such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vit B12 and vit D.
- More adolescent girls suffer from shortness than boys, anaemia affects 40% of adolescent girls, compared to 18% of boys.
- Adolescents in every Indian state face an increased risk of diabetes and heart disease.

9. UNESCO has released a new report 'Intensified Attacks, New Defences – Developments in the Fight to Protect Journalists and End Impunity'.

Key facts about the report:

- The report covers a period of 5 years from 2014-18.
- The report mentions that there has been close to 500 journalists being killed. On an average 2 journalists are killed every week.
- There has been an 18% increase in the number of killings, as compared to the preceding five-year period (2009-2013). 91% of victims were local journalists.
- Region Wise: Arab Region witnessed the killings of 149 journalists which is the highest number followed by Latin America and Caribbean with 127 killings and Asia- Pacific with 120 killings.
- Nation Wise:
- Highest — Syrian Arab Republic country witnessed highest killing of 54 journalists
- India — is ranked at 7th position with killing of 22 journalists among the top 10 countries. India is preceded by Brazil which witnessed 23 killings.
- Lowest — total 19 countries had the lowest number of killing at 1.
- Judicial Action: 88% of cases of killings of journalists remain unresolved worldwide.

10. Committee to Protect Journalists has released the Global Impunity index 2019 which highlights the countries where journalists are killed and the offenders go free (Impunity refers to exemption from an injurious punishment).

- Top Ranker — Somalia (as the world's worst country for the fifth year in a row in term of prosecuting murderers of journalists)
- Bottom Ranker — India at 13th (preceded by its neighbour Bangladesh at 10th position and BRICS cohort - Brazil at 11th)
- Total Countries — 13
- Parameters — the total number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. The cases registered between 2009-2019, and remain unsolved.
- Total Murders and Impunity Rate worldwide — 318 journalists were murdered and in 86% of those cases no perpetrators have been successfully prosecuted.

11. Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue — SCOJtEx-2019 in New Delhi.
 - The exercise is organized by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
 - Purpose of the exercise - to improve the collective preparedness to co-ordinate with each other for post-earthquake responses.

12. For the first time, India will host the 19th Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2020.
 - 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Member States 2019 of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
 - Apart from this, 10th Meeting of the Heads of Departments of SCO Member States, to discuss the measures for prevention and elimination of emergency situations, was held in New Delhi.
 - The member states would finalize the Action Plan for managing disasters for the year 2020-21. Also, a protocol was also signed for cooperation between SCO nations in disaster management.

13. Odisha has signed an MoU with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia to facilitate policy-making.
 - J-PAL is an organisation co-founded by Nobel laureates- Abhijit Banerjee and (his wife) Esther Duflo to maximise the impact of anti-poverty programmes across a wide range of sectors in the state.
 - Odisha has adopted 5Ts (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Time leading to Transformation) as its policy.

14. 7th India-US Economic and Financial partnership dialogue was held in New Delhi.
 - An MoU for cooperation, coordination, consultation and exchange of information relating to the Regulation of the Insurance Sector has recently been signed between US and India.
 - In 2019, India has voluntarily associated with the Paris Club to cooperate in its work, as an observer.
 - Paris Club is a group of major creditor countries which aims is to find solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries.
 - India and USA have earlier signed an arrangement to enable automatic exchange of Country-by-Country Reports for purposes of high level transfer pricing risk assessment.

15. India and Germany have signed 17 MoU and 5 joint declarations of intent.
 - Germany will provide euro 1 billion in India in the field of green mobility.
 - Both nations will set up a "Digital Experts Group" to identify areas for mutual cooperation and to give recommendations for future policy initiatives to be jointly considered by both sides.
 - India and Germany discussed to finalize and adoption the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in March 2020.
 - What is Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism? - CCIT was proposed by India in 1996 in the UN. It is a proposed treaty (which has not been ratified) to ban all terror groups and shut down terror camps and to make cross-border terrorism an extraditable offence worldwide.
 - PM Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel co-chaired the fifth Biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) in New Delhi.

16. Ministry for Labour and Employment has launched 3 Apps - UAN REGISTRATION, E-INSPECTION AND DIGI LOCKER - developed by Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
Benefits of the Apps:

- UAN: It will facilitate workers to obtain Universal Account Number (UAN) directly on EPFO website which enrol them for PF, Pension and Life Insurance benefits without depending on his employer alone for UAN.
 - EPS Pensioner's PPO in DigiLocker: It will create depository of electronic PPOs which is accessible to individual pensioners.
 - e-Inspections: E-Inspection Form would be available in user login of employers not filing ECR which enables employer to inform either closure of business or unpaid dues with proposal for payment.
17. Kanpur has been designated as the most polluted city in the world with an average PM2.5 level of 173 micrograms per m³ for 2016 by Guinness World Records 2020.
- About 80 record breaking achievements by Indians have entered this year's book.
18. First ever robotic surgery facility in the govt-run Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi has been launched.
- The first in its kind LIVE 3-D Laproscopic Surgeries Web cast that shows complex uro- oncology and reconstructive surgeries was also launched at this hospital.
19. 8th Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) 2019 was held in Delhi. 8 MoU were signed in the field of flexibilization in thermal power plants, renewable energies, demand-side energy efficiency and low carbon growth strategies and green energy corridors.
- IGEF was established in 2006.
20. ISRO and its older commercial arm Antrix Corporation Ltd. are floating tender to make "NavIC" - Navigation with Indian Constellation - system available to the end users by developing the NavIC Receiver Module.
- Apart from this, Qualcomm Technologies Inc., in collaboration with ISRO, has developed the chipsets which can make the NavIC available on mobile, automotive and the Internet of Things (IoT) solutions.
 - What is NavIC? — NavIC is the indigenously developed Indian regional Navigation satellite system (IRNSS), similar to Global Positioning System (GPS) of USA. It provides the information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
 - Other Facts About NavIC: - The first satellite of the IRNSS was launched in 2013 and the 7th and the last satellite was launched in 2016. NavIC is a constellation of 7 satellites.
 - IRNSS was renamed as NAVIC by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016.
21. Indian Army will have the first regiment of the indigenously upgraded Dhanush artillery guns, by March 2020 and will get all 114 guns by 2022.
- Dhanush is the advanced variant of the Swedish Bofors gun imported in the 1980s.
22. India has signed various MoU with Uzbekistan during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit.
- 1st MoU: - to enhance cooperation in military medicine and military education.
 - 2nd MoU: - two institution-to-institution MoU on training and capacity building between the institutes of higher military learning of the two countries were also signed.
 - India has also extended a line of credit of \$40 million to facilitate procurement of goods and services by Uzbekistan from India.
 - In 2018, the MoU on military education signed between the two countries and this MoU is the by-product of the same.

23. 50th edition of the World Conference on TB and Lung Health has been organized by The Union held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- About The Union: International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) organization was founded in 1920, with its headquarters in Paris, France.
 - The Union aims to eradicate anti-tuberculosis, lung health and non-communicable disease programmes as well as other public health issues.
24. Kerala government had launched the first of its kind Education Loan Repayment Support (ELRS) scheme in 2017 to help the students repay their education loans below the threshold amount of Rs 9 lakh.
- An amount of ^900 crore was set aside for the scheme.
 - Till now, Kerala govt has helped 19,901 persons repay their education loans at an expenditure of Rs.195.57 crore.
25. Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference has been organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad will represent India at the conference.
 - Theme of the conference : - 'Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law'.
 - Chair of Conference : - Sri Lanka's Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms - Thalatha Atukorala.
 - Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland.
26. Odisha and Maharashtra have been tagged together under the Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative of the govt.
- EBSB initiative was launched by the govt in 2015 to promote unity in India.
 - Odisha is also known as Utkala which literally means the land of excellent art and culture.
 - As part of this programme, being run at the behest Niti Aayog, both states are organizing different programmes to promote art, culture and tourism of their each other.
27. India's first-ever Arts Exposition for talents with intellectual challenges called 'eCAPA 2019 - Art from the Heart' was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- The exposition is an exclusive platform for young adults suffering from intellectual challenges such as Down Syndrome, Autism, Mental Retardation, Seizure Disorder and Dyslexia.
28. 22nd India International Security Expo, 2019 (Defence & Homeland Security) has been organized in New Delhi.
- Organizer: Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in collaboration with Punjab, Haryana and Delhi (PHD) Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
29. Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed the first of its kind 'Red Atlas Action Plan Map' to assist Tamil Nadu govt in mitigation of flood in Chennai.
- 'Coastal Flood Warning System App (CFLWS-Chennai) was also launched to facilitate decision making for mitigation planning operations and relief work.
 - Who prepared the Atlas? - National Centre for Coastal Research, India Meteorological Department and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting in association with TN State Disaster Management Authority and Greater Chennai Corporation among other developers from the academia.

30. National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders (NRIUMSD) has been established at the Hyderabad.
- It is an upgraded version of Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM).
 - CRIUM was felicitated for alone treating 1.5 lakh patients of vitiligo and perhaps it is the only medical institution in the world which has treated more than 1.5 lakh patients of Vitiligo alone.
31. Inland vessel MV Maheshwari carrying 53 TEUs (containers) of petrochemicals, edible oil and beverage has been flagged off from Haldia to Guwahati via Indo-Bangla protocol route.
- For the first time, the cargo containers would sail through the north-east region.
 - It would sail via National Waterway-1, NW-97 (Sunderbans), Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route and NW-2 (river Brahmaputra).
 - The first consignment of containerized cargo on National Waterway-1 (Ganga- Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system) was received in 2018 when the multi-modal terminal inaugurated at Varanasi.
32. IFFCO (fertilizer company) has launched the first nanotechnology based fertilizers like nano nitrogen, nano zinc and nano copper to reduce the usage of chemical fertilisers and boost farmers' income (on a trial basis).
- Benefits: It can reduce usage of chemical fertilisers by 50% and raise the crop output by 15-30%.
 - About the IFFCO: It is an amalgamation of over 35,000 cooperatives, founded in 1967.
33. According to the Annual report 2018-19, released by Ministry of Home Affairs, violence by left-wing extremism or Maoism is now spread over 30 districts in 2018, reduced from the 60 districts in the previous year.
- Communist Party of India-Maoists (banned outfit) was responsible for 88% of the violence.
 - 10 LWE affected States - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - The scheme had included the incapacitated security personnel and property damage for the first time.
 - Which state has the highest incidents of crime? - In the north-east region, Manipur alone accounted for about 50% of the total incidents in 2018 (entire NE: 252, Manipur: 127). However, the total incidents of insurgency have declined by 24% in Manipur.
 - Nagaland witnessed the highest number of insurgency incidents in 2018.
34. 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) is organized in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Theme: - RISEN- Research, Innovation and Science Empowering the Nation.
 - Organizer: - Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (or VIBHA).
 - Vigyanika- International Science Literature Festival and International Science Film Festival (ISFFI) was also a part of this festival.
 - The festival is being held by jointly by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
 - Coordinators of Vigyanika: CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Vigyan Prasar and Vigyan Bharati.
35. Ministry of Railways and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU to train the faculty at railways in order to create good leaders for railways in future.
- The MoU is an extension of the existing partnership between Indian railways and ISB for training of faculty.

36. India and Russia are expected to finalize the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support which will enhance the interoperability and supplies across bases in both nations.

- Rajnath Singh will co-chair the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation with his Russian counterpart, General Sergei Shoigu.
- India is looking to conclude three Military Logistics Support Agreements (MLSA) by the year-end with Japan, Russia and Australia.

37. CILT India Expo 2019 has been organized in New Delhi by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) - India and Exhibitions India Group (EIG).

- Focus of the expo - Rediscovering India's Logistics Sector: Efficiency, Costs and Technology.

About CILT India Expo:

- It was launched in 2018 to bring the logistics and warehousing industries together to showcase latest innovations & technologies; discover new trends & methodologies; and build relationships.

Some Facts About India's Logistics Sector:

- India ranks 35th out of 167 countries in the 'Logistics Performance Index 2018' prepared by the World Bank.
- Indian logistics industry estimated at \$160 billion, and expected to grow at a CAGD of 10% to \$215 billion by 2022.
- The Integrated Transport & Logistics Policy includes construction of: 50 economic corridors; 35 logistics parks and 10 intermodal stations.
- The Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan 2022 to lower cost of logistics from 14% of GDP to 10% of GDP. The plan aims to save \$150 billion.

38. Department of land resources (under the Ministry of Rural Development) in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), under Department of Space has published 5th edition of Wastelands Atlas - 2019 to measure the wasteland area of India.

- Data of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite was used to prepare the atlas.
- For the first time, the atlas included the unmapped area of J&K (12.08 Mha).

Findings of the Atlas:

- 55.76 Million hectares (Mha) wasteland is present in India in 2015-16, which is 16.96% of the total geographical area of India i.e. 328.72 Mha, as compared to 56.60 Mha (17.21%) in the year 2008-09.
- During this period, 1.45 Mha of wastelands are converted into non wastelands categories.
- Majority of wastelands have been changed into categories of 'croplands' (0.64 Mha), 'forest-dense/open' (0.28 Mha), 'forest plantation' (0.029 Mha), 'plantation' (0.057 Mha) and 'industrial area' (0.035 Mha) etc.
- Rajasthan's wasteland has witnessed the highest positive change at 0.48 Mha.

39. India's first-ever global mega-Science exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' has been organized in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- Organizer: Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Science and Technology, and National Council of Science Museums (under Ministry of Culture).
- It is a multi-venue science exhibition, after its successful journey in Mumbai and Bengaluru, it is now open in Kolkata till Dec 31.
- Its final leg Vigyan Samagam will reach New Delhi. Thereafter it will remain as a permanent exhibition at New Delhi and will be taken care-off by National Council of Science Museums.

40. 35th ASEAN Summit was held in Bangkok, Thailand on the theme of "advancing partnership for sustainability".
- 3rd summit RCEP held at Bangkok. RCEP (negotiations began in 2012) represents one of the largest trade bloc accounting for 45% of the world's population and a combined GDP at \$21.3 trillion and 40% of world trade.
 - 16th India-ASEAN summit : India announced a line of credit of \$1 billion to ASEAN countries to improve physical and digital connectivity.
 - 14th East Asia Summit was held after the ASEAN annual meeting. EAS has 18 members which includes ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, USA and Russia.
 - Its first summit was held in 2005.
 - PM Modi has released commemorative coins to mark Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary and a Thai translation of Thirukurral, a Tamil classic in Bangkok.
 - PM Narendra Modi and Thailand PM Prayut Chan-o-cha are the co-chair the ASEAN- India summit.
 - India has moved out of the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) citing its negative effects on "farmers, MSMEs and the dairy sector".
41. DRDO's Igniter Complex at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) has been inaugurated in Pune, Maharashtra.
- Purpose: To enable efficient ignition services for various projects.
42. According to ICAR's Creams Laboratory latest bulletin, Stubble burning incidents have been reduced by 12.01% as compared to the same period in 2018.
- Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab recorded a reduction of 48.2% , 11.7% and 8.7% respectively this year till date.
 - Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi was launched to tackle air pollution and to subsidize machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi.
43. 'International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture, Global Food and Livelihood Security' was organized at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi.
- It has been organized by Soil Conservation Society of India in association with World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC), China and International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO), USA.
 - Purpose: to deliberate upon the various issues and challenges of soil and water conservation.
 - "Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI) Awards - 2019" has been given to various scientists and students for their contributions in the respective fields of researches.
44. First-ever 'BIMSTEC Ports' Conclave' will be held at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to strengthen maritime interaction, port-led connectivity initiatives and sharing best practices among Member Countries.
- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) which links five countries from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India & Sri Lanka) and two from South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand).

- 3 MoU: between Ranong Port (Port Authority of Thailand) and the Port Trusts of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata.

45. Union Cabinet has approved an MoU signed between India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of 1.82 cusec of water from India's Feni River (located in Tripura).

- Purpose of MoU: To enhance connectivity between Ports on Thailand's West Coast and Ports on India's East Coast that is Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata and to cut sea travel time between India and Thailand from 10 -15 days to 07 days.
- Purpose: for drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town in Tripura as there is high concentration of iron in the groundwater in this town.
- Presently, there is no water-sharing agreement between India and Bangladesh over Feni river.

46. DRDO is planning to test the nuclear-capable K-4 ballistic missile, from the Arihant class of missile-armed nuclear submarines off the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

- The K-4 is believed to have a range of around 3,500 km.
- K-4, was first test fired in 2014, and is an advanced version of K-15.
- K-4 is developed by DRDO to be equipped on the Arihant class of missile-armed nuclear submarines.
- Brahmos cruise missile and the Agni and Prithvi ballistic missiles.

47. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the 'Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GCTOC) Bill' which was first introduced in 2015.

- Key feature of the bill: It allows intercepted telephonic conversations to be considered as legitimate evidence.
- Bill also provides for the creation of a special court as well as the appointment of special public prosecutors. The bill makes admissibility of confession made before a police officer as evidence.
- History of the bill: the bill was first introduced as Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill in 2004 but could not get President's Nod.

48. Kerala Cabinet has approved the 'K-FON' - fibre optic network project (to be completed by December 2020) to provide free high-speed internet connection to around 20 lakh families below the poverty line at a cost of Rs 1,548-crore.

- Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board will provide the financial assistance for the project.
- A consortium of firms led by Bharat Electronics Limited will manage the project.

49. India and Russia have signed an inter-governmental agreement on the manufacturing of spares, components and aggregates through joint ventures.

- The agreement also allows to form specific working groups for aftersales support of key defence platforms and also finalise a cooperation programme for 2021-2030.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu signed the agreement at the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation meeting in Moscow, Russia.
- Russia is keen to operationalise the manufacture of Kalashnikov AK 203 rifles in India through the joint venture.
- The agreement on Mutual Cooperation in Joint Manufacturing of Spares, Components, Aggregates and other material related to Russian or Soviet origin arms and defence equipment was signed between India and Russia in September during the 20th India-Russia Annual Summit at Vladivostok.

• India has signed the agreement for buying the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system (developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau) from Russia in 2018.

50. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has developed India's first interactive online repository, IndAIR (Indian Air quality Studies Interactive Repository).

- Purpose: To provide all information, gathered so far, about the air quality and pollution on one platform.
- NEERI's partners for this project are - National Institute of Science, Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) and National Archives of India (NAI), The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- NEERI (headquartered in Nagpur, Maharashtra) operates under the aegis of Council of Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Director of NEERI: Dr Rakesh Kumar.

51. Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) delivered ICGS Annie Besant (medium-range surface vessel) to Indian Coast Guard.

- It is the 2nd in the series of five Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) to the Indian Coast Guard.

52. The Freedom House has released the Freedom on the Net (FoTN) report 2019, titled "The Crisis of Social Media", which ranks countries on the basis of internet freedom given by governments to their citizens.

- Parameters: 3 categories - Obstacles to Access, Limits on Content and Violations of User Rights were used to analyse the countries. The report assigns each country a score between zero (least free) and 100 (most free).
- Total Countries: 65 countries
- Top Performer: Iceland (score - 95)
- Bottom Performer: China (score - 10). Vietnam (61st, with a score of 24) and Myanmar (47th with a score of 36) were classified as "not free" in the report.
- Pakistan was declared as not-free for the 9th consecutive year.
- India's rank: India is partly-free with 55 score.
- Only 4 countries—Iceland, Estonia, Canada, and Germany— scored 80 or above while the United States scored only 77.

53. Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) has released the 2019 Women, Peace and Security index which ranks the total 167 countries.

- Parameters: 11 indicators based on 3 categories - inclusion, justice and security.
- Top ranker: Norway (rank -1)
- Bottom ranker: Yemen India's rank: 133rd
- Norway is followed by Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.
- Top-performing states are in the southern India, while the worst performing states lie in a belt across Rajasthan to Assam.
- Kerala, the top-ranked state on the subnational index, ranks 2nd for women's education and first for cell phone use and has relatively few deaths from organized violence.

54. Odisha government has signed an agreement with Tata Strive and Tech Mahindra for skill upgradation and enhancing the employability of youth.

- Agreement with Tata Strive aims at imparting life skills to the students of all 49 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state. It has been signed by Directorate of Technical Education and Training.
- Agreement between Tech Mahindra and the Biju Patnaik University of Technology enables setting up of a centre for excellence in AI and machine learning.
- Tech Mahindra and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation will also set up an international BPO for Fortune 500 customers.

55. India's first four-level transit intersection (5.3 km long) will be constructed in Nagpur, Maharashtra on a stretch of Nagpur Metro by National Highways Authority of India.

- The cost of the project is Rs 573-crore.

56. IIT-Madras has launched India's first indigenously-designed Standing Wheelchair named as 'Arise' in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems.

- The wheel chair was designed and developed by the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development at IITM, headed by Sujatha Srinivasan.

57. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has, in collaboration with Ministry of Jal Shakti, organized the 'Ganga Utsav' in New Delhi to mark the 11th anniversary of Ganga being declared as national river.

- Ganga was declared a National River in 2008.
- Purpose: To raise awareness about cleaning Ganga and its tributaries.

About NMCG:

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), launched in 2011, operates under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Director-General of NMCG is Rajiv Ranjan Mishra.

58. Indian Coast Guard has conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019) off the Goa coast.

59. "No Money For Terror" conference 2019 was held in Melbourne, Australia.

- India will host the next edition of the "No Money For Terror" conference to be held in 2020.
- The conference is organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of 164 countries, jointly called The Egmont Group.
- Headquarters of The Egmont Group: Toronto, Canada; Chair of The Egmont Group: Mr. Mariano Federici

60. According to India Internet Report 2019, released by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), Delhi has the highest internet penetration at 69% followed by Kerala at 54%.

- Internet penetration is measured as number of internet users aged 12 above who accessed internet in the last month. The data measured Jan-Mar 2019 period.
- Odisha (25%) had the lowest internet penetration rate, preceded by Jharkhand and Bihar at 26% and 28% respectively.
- Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have highest number of female internet users.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's data as of June 2019 shows that Kerala stands 4th in terms of Internet connections behind Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.
- Kerala has about 70 Internet subscriptions per 100 population across service areas while Bihar has the lowest number with 29 subscriptions per 100 population.

61. Union Cabinet has approved the following MoU with other countries:
62. 15th Governing Council Meeting of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- SACEP Director General: Dr. Abas Basir. SACEP was established in 1982 to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. with headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 - India offered USD 150,000 for the construction of SACEP Secretariat Office. India also requested India to host the first South Asia Forum on Environment.
 - Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javedkar, met Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and affirmed to cooperate on production of two films - Story of Liberation of Bangladesh and Bangabandhu (based on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman).
63. 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) was for the first time held in India in New Delhi.
- Organizers: Asian Society for Emergency Medicine (ASEM) and Society for Emergency Medicine India (SEMI).
 - Objective: To invest in providing timely and high-quality Emergency Health Services (EHS) in India.
- About Asian Society for Emergency Medicine (ASEM):
- ASEM Established: 1998 by Prof V Ananthraman,
 - Members: 12 Asian countries (including India)
 - Current President of ASEM: Dr. Tamorish Kole
 - Headquarters of ASEM: Hong kong
64. Tata Trusts has released India Justice Report 2019.
- Developers of the report along with Tata Trusts: Centre for social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Daksh, TISS-Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
 - Objective of the report: to rank states/UTs on the basis of the justice deliver mechanism.
 - Parameters of the ranking: 'four pillars' - of Judiciary, Legal Aid, Police and Prisons.
65. 2nd edition of the bilateral naval exercise - Samudra Shakti - was held between India and Indonesia in the Bay of Bengal.
- INS Kamorta (India's anti-submarine warfare corvette) and KRI Usman Harun (Indonesian warship) are participating in the exercise.
66. Indian Railways has launched 3 online systems to keep record of the ongoing construction and other projects in the railways all over India.
- CRS Sanction Management System: To keep record of all construction, maintenance and up-gradation work of railway assets.
 - Rail-road crossing GAD approval system: It has been developed by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in 2014. Currently, a module has been developed to include the construction cases Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges for States/UTs.
 - Track Management System (TMS) for construction: It keeps record of the new assets being constructed.
67. Central govt has formed a 7-member committee, headed by Atul Karwal, to implement



Home Ministry's order of allowing around 7 lakh CAPF Jawans to spend at least 100 days with their families in a year.

68. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has released a report on Unemployment in India.
- India's unemployment rate in October rose to 8.5%, the highest level since August 2016. (round figures have been taken here)
 - Urban unemployment rate at 8.9%, is more than the rural unemployment rate of 8.3%.
 - Highest unemployment rate in Tripura and Haryana, at more than 20%.
 - Lowest in Tamil Nadu at 1.1%.
 - Reason: Most of the decline in employment has happened due to the fall in the number of workers in agriculture and a sharp fall in the absolute number of female workers.
69. Haryana govt has amended the Section 31 of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, to allow the Gram Sabha to ban liquor within the local area of a Gram Panchayat, if the 10% of the village population is against the liquor.
- Indian Constitution provides that Gram Sabha performs the functions at the village level as per the provisions provided in the Legislature of a State.
 - The term Gram Sabha has been defined under Article 243(b) of the Constitution of India.
 - Haryana Govt will also create a new department called Department of 'Foreign Cooperation' to promote investment in the state through the Non-Resident Indians.
 - Function of the dept: the department will promote the investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians.
 - Haryana police forces will launch operation 'Prahar' to tackle drug peddling, betting and liquor smuggling in the state.
70. Knight Frank Prime Global Cities Index report, assessing the cities for the 3rd quarter of 2019, has been released.
- A prime residential property is defined by Knight Frank as the most desirable and most expensive property in a given location.
71. 2nd edition of the South Asia Safety Summit 2019 has been organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development and Facebook in New Delhi.
- Minister of WCD, Smriti Irani, has launched the "We Think Digital" program to help people increase their critical exposure to digital world.
 - Ministry of Home Affairs and WCD have launched a cyber-crime portal to facilitate online lodging of complaints by women (victims of cybercrime).
72. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered ICGS 'Amrit Kaur' and ICGS 'Annie Besant' to the Indian Coast Guard.
- GRSE is building five 'Fast Patrol Vessels' (FPV) for ICG and till now 3 of them have been delivered.
73. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has signed an MoU with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to market and operate the Golden Chariot train.
- Golden Chariot (operationalized in 2008) is a joint venture between Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways.

74. DRDO Chief, Mr G Sateesh Reddy has claimed that the range of ASTRA (an all-weather air-to-air missile) will be increased from the current 110 km to 160 km approx.

- Only a few countries have a successful Ballistic Missile Defence programme and India is among them.
- Sukhoi Su-30 MKI aircrafts are equipped with the ASTRA missiles (developed by DRDO). DRDO is planning to integrate it with MiG -29, HAL Tejas as well.

75. For the first time in India, Kolkata municipal corporation has installed the high-end Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Machines to quickly detect the exact cause of diseases such as dengue, TB and swine flu.

- Mosquito-borne diseases are on the rise in Kolkata.

76. For a 4th time, the World Customs Organization's (WCO) 29th edition of Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) is being hosted by India (in Puducherry).

- Asia Pacific region contributes 37% to the world's GDP.
- WCO (established in 1952 in Brussels, Belgium) is an inter-governmental organization which sets standards for cross border customs on trade.
- Members: 183 countries divided into 6 regions
- Present Secretary General: Kunio Mikuriya

77. 2019 World Conference on Access to Medical Products - Achieving the SDGs 2030 has been organized in New Delhi.

- Organizers: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and WHO, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC); and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI).
- The conference was started in 2017.

78. According to the latest data released by the Registrar General of India, maternal deaths measured as deaths per 1 lakh live births) has declined by 6% across India.

- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India of 130 in 2014-16, it has declined to 122 in 2015-17.
- Highest Improvement: It was observed in Empowered Action Group States - Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Assam from 188 to 175.
- Whereas in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu the MMR has declined 77 to 72 and in the other States from 93 to 90.
- Kerala has the lowest MMR at 42, whereas it's the highest in Assam at 229 (followed by Uttar Pradesh at 216 and Madhya Pradesh at 188).
- United Nation's SDG requires India to bring down it's MMR to 70 by 2030.

WHO's Maternal Mortality report:

- WHO has released a new report in 2019 "Trends In Maternal Mortality 2000-2017", in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UN's Population Division.

Key Finding of the report:

- Country with Highest MMR: South Sudan at 1150 MMR points in 2017.
- Country with Lowest MMR: Belarus, Italy, Norway, Poland all have an MMR point of 2 in 2017.
- India's MMR: MMR point estimate was 145 in 2017 and overall change in MMR between 2000 and 2017 is 61%.



- Nigeria and India had the highest estimated numbers of maternal deaths, accounting for approx. 1/3rd (35%) of estimated global maternal deaths in 2017, with approximately 67000 and 35000 maternal deaths (23% and 12% of global maternal deaths), respectively.
- Global MMR: In 2017, it was 211 (Unit Interval: 199 to 243), declined by 38% since 2000 levels of 342. The average annual rate of reduction (ARR) during the 2000– 2017 period was 2.9%.
- Region Wise: Sub-Saharan Africa had witnessed the highest MMR point estimate of 542 and accounted for 66% of the global maternity deaths.
- Fragile States Index is an assessment of 178 countries based on 12 cohesion, economic, social and political indicators. 15 countries were considered to be "very high alert" or "high alert" with MMR ranging from 31 (Syrian Arab Republic) to 1150 (South Sudan) in 2017.

79. National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has organized the National Capital Region-2041 in New Delhi.

- According to UN's World Urbanization Prospects 2018 - World's largest cities report, Delhi is slated to become the world's largest metropolis overtaking Tokyo by 2028.

80. Government has approved to set up 4 medical devices parks in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to give a boost to Make in India initiative.

- Aim: The parks will provide world-class products at affordable price for treatment and also help in easy access to standard testing facilities and reduce cost of production.
- India's is the fourth largest market in medical devices in Asia and contributes only 2% to the global industry which stands at \$250 billion.

81. Ministry of Defence has organized the "Def Connect" event to showcase the accomplishments of iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence.

- iDEX was launched in 2018 by Ministry of Defence to provide innovative and technological solutions in defence and aerospace.
- Defence India Start Up Challenge was also launched by Defence Ministry in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission to create commercialized products in the area of National Defence and Security.

82. Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan will represent India at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

83. Union Water Resources Ministry has formed a 10-member committee, headed by Mihir Shah, to draft the National Water Policy (NWP).

- The current NWP was drafted in 2012.
- Minister of Water Resources: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- National Water Mission which was approved in 2008 aims to increase water use efficiency by 20% by incorporating provisions of National Water Policy.

84. According to the study 'Anaemia among men in India: A nationally representative cross-sectional stud/ published in Lancet Global Health, the prevalence of any anaemia in men was 23.2%, moderate or severe anaemia was 5.1%, and severe anaemia was 0.5%.

- Approx. 21.7% of men with any degree of anaemia had moderate or severe anaemia as compared to 53.2% of women.
- Manipur witnessed the lowest prevalence of anaemia among men at 9.2% while Bihar witnessed 32.9%.

85. India and China have jointly began a two-weeks course to train diplomats from Afghanistan at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in New Delhi.
- The program is run by the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - Both the FSI and China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU's President is Xu Jian) are a part of an MoU signed by BRICS to train diplomats.
86. India will set up the world's first CNG port terminal (with a capacity to handle 1.5 million metric tonne per annum) in Bhavnagar (Gujarat) at a cost of Rs 1,900 crore.
- Gujarat Maritime Board and Foresight Group (UK-headquartered) had signed an MoU to set up this port terminal during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019.
 - Apart from the CNG terminal, a Ro-Ro terminal, liquid cargo terminal and container terminal will also be developed by the investors at Bhavnagar port.
 - Gujarat CM: Vijay Rupani
87. Minister of State for Human Resources Development Sanjay Dhotre has launched the Shala Darpan Portal of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.
- The portal aims to integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas on one platform to facilitate information sharing among them and also to conduct transparent evaluation of teachers and standards.
 - It is an integrated platform to meet the educational and administrative needs of all stakeholders - students, teachers and parents.
 - Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas has a network of around 636 schools and 2.67 million students across India.
88. Ministry of Environment has organized the mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches in 10 states/UTs under the "Swachh - Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan" to clean them and to raise awareness about coastal ecosystem.
- Implementing Agency: Environment Education Division and Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under the Environment Ministry.
 - The best three beaches will be awarded at end of the drive.
89. PM Modi has launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative at the 14th East Asia Summit in Thailand to increase maritime security and strengthen India's foothold in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Focus areas include creating partnerships among interested states in Enhancing maritime security; Sustainably using marine resources; Disaster prevention & management.
 - India will also organize an Indo-Pacific Conclave in Chennai early next year to take the initiative forward. [The point was only mentioned in Gktoday and not in any news article.]
 - The initiative is being considered as a booster to Shangri-La dialogue. Shangri-La dialogue is Asia's top defence summit, started in 2002 in Singapore.
 - India and Japan will hold their annual India-Japan summit in India in December.
 - First India-Japan 2+2 (Foreign + Defence) Minister Dialogue will be held in Delhi later this month.
90. Jammu and Kashmir govt has set up a 10-member committee to declare Srinagar's Dal Lake and its surrounding areas as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- As per an assessment by the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), Dal Lake has shrunk from its original area of 22 sq. km to about 10 sq. km due to pollution and encroachments.



91. 6th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance has been jointly organized by NABARD and Asia-Pacific Rural Agricultural and Credit Association (APRACA) in New Delhi.

- Theme: "Rural and Agricultural Finance: Critical Input to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Development"
- The World congress is organized once in every three years with the first one being organized in 2005.

92. Haryana govt has announced to bring more crops under its 'Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana' (BBY) scheme.

- In 2018, Haryana govt has launched the 'Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana' to compensate the farmers if they get a lower price than set by the govt in markets for their crops.
- The compensation is directly paid into the bank accounts of farmers registered on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal.
- At the time of launch of the scheme - potato, onion, tomato and cauliflower crops were included and now the carrots, peas, kinnow, guava, capsicum and brinjal are also being included.
- CM of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar.

93. Ministry of Defence has finalized the cost negotiations with Tata and Airbus for buying of the Airbus C-295 transport aircraft (the deal is awaiting cabinet Committee on Security's nod).

- The C-295 transport aircrafts will replace the Avro transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- IAF has 56 Avro transport aircraft while Indian Coast Guard has 6, taking the total to 62, which will be replaced with C-295.

94. Suranga Bawadi in Karnataka has been selected in the World Monument Watch list 2020 by the World Monuments Fund (a New York-based NGO), along with 24 other monuments across the world.

- The monument has been selected under the category of "Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau".
- Now, Suranga Bawadi shall get funds for restoration within the next two years.
- Bawadi, which was built by Adil Shahi-I in 16th century, is a part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels, in Vijayapura.
- World Monument Watch, a biennial selection program for reconstruction of endangered cultural sites, was established in 1996 as part of the NGO. WMF monitors restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.

95. International Lavi fair - a trade fair between India and Tibet - is being organised in Himanchal Pradesh. During the fair, 'Kinnauri market' was also inaugurated in Rampur Bushahr district, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

- Lavi Fair dates back to 300 years ago when Raja Kehari Singh of Rampur Bushahr state of HP signed a treaty to promote trade with Tibet.
- Trade of Chamurthi horse (an endangered species originating from Tibet) remains the main attraction every year.

96. 8th session of the Governing Body of International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) was held at Rome, Italy.

- A total of 146 countries participated in it.
- India also has Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act in place, which is modelled on the similar parameters to that of the treaty.

97. Supreme Court has struck down the provisions of the Finance Act 2017 which gave powers to the Central govt for appointing and deciding on the service conditions of the members of judicial tribunals like National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal etc.

- The verdict was delivered by the 5-judge panel, headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi.
- There was another dispute over the Finance Act 2017, which is that the Finance Act was presented as the Money Bill which is deemed as a contravention of constitution.

98. 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) was held at Kolkata, West Bengal on the theme of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Purpose: It provides a platform for discussion between central and state statistical organizations.
- Prof. Bimal K Roy, Chairman, National Statistical Commission inaugurated it.

99. 2-day India-ASEAN Business Summit was held at New Delhi on the theme of "Today, Tomorrow, Together".

- On the 2nd day of the summit, a B2B meeting on the theme of 'Focus Vietnam - Growing Trade and Commerce between India and Vietnam' was organized.

100. India's first memorial for elephants has been opened by the WildLife SOS (an NGO) at a facility on the Agra-Mathura highway in Uttar Pradesh.

- The memorial commemorates the elephants which died in harness or as victims of human brutalities.

101. Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the "Shishu Suraksha" a mobile app to enable users to file complaints against child rights violation instantly.

- The app is an initiative of Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

102. Green Climate Fund (established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist developing countries) has given \$43 million assistance to India for boosting the climate resilience in 3 coastal states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

- The project will help in fulfilling India's priorities of the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Paris agreement.
- India will contribute an additional \$86.8 million towards this new initiative to accelerate the impacts of the Green Climate Fund grant.

What is Green Climate Fund?

- During the UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun (Mexico) in 2010, the fund was established to finance the climate-resilient projects in developing countries. Under the Article 11 of the convention, the fund operates as the financial arm of the UNFCCC.

103. CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh has signed an MoU with IIT-Bombay to boost collaborative research in healthcare and other areas.

- In 2018, Ministry of HRD has provided all IITs to sign MoU with National Research Laboratories affiliated to CSIR to strengthen collaborations amongst themselves for boosting research.
- Acting Director of CSIR- IMTECH: Manoj Raje.

104. Uttar Pradesh govt has launched the 'e-ganna' app to protect farmers from ganna (sugarcane) mafia.
- The app would measure crop, value it in the presence of the grower and record his payment by mills within a stipulated period.
105. During the 11th Maitree Diwas, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced to create a North East Industrial Corridor to create new job opportunities and increase the cooperation between India and South East Asia through Arunachal Pradesh.
- Maitree Diwas program is jointly organized by Tawang Civil Administration and Indian Army to celebrate relationship between the people of Tawang and Indian army.
 - Theme of 2019 Maitree Diwas: Know your army.
106. Indian Railways has signed Procurement cum Maintenance Agreement with Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. (MELPL).
- The agreement worth 3.5 billion Euro was signed to manufacture 800 electric locomotives for freight service and its associated maintenance.
 - MELPL is a joint venture (formed in 2015) of Indian Railways and French company M/s Alstom. It is the largest FDI Project of Railways.
107. Andhra Pradesh has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme for transforming the government schools into competitive institutions by improving the infrastructure and introducing English medium (in class I-VI) in schools to reduce illiteracy levels in the schools.
- The first phase of the case will be implemented in 15,715 schools at a budget of Rs.12,000 crores and will cover all schools within 3 years.
 - Amma Vodi scheme has also been launched to encourage mothers or guardian to send their children to school by giving Rs 15,000 p.a. to them by the state govt.
108. India is at the 2nd spot in the 9th edition of the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) Diabetes Atlas with 77 million diabetics (20-79 yrs.) in the country.
- China is at 1st spot having more than 116 million diabetics.
 - Among South-east Asian countries, India is at the top followed by Bangladesh with 8.4 million diabetics.
109. The Trace Bribery Matrix report mentions the business bribery risks 2019 list prepared by TRACE, which ranks India at 78th position with a score of 48 among the total 200 countries.
- Parameters: Business Interactions with Government, Anti-Bribery Deterrence and Enforcement, Government and Civil Service Transparency, and Capacity for Civil Society Oversight, including the role of the media.
 - Top Country (with lowest bribe demand): New Zealand
 - Bottom Country (with highest bribe demand): Somalia
 - Region-wise: In South-Asia, Bangladesh is the most bribed country at a global rank of 178. China is ranked at 133rd position.
 - TRACE International's headquarters: New York, USA
 - TRACE's President: Alexandra Wrage
110. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has launched 'Mukhyamantri Septic Tank Safai Yojana' to clean the septic tanks across Delhi (particularly in unauthorized colonies) with 80 trucks and trained staff.

- There are 1,797 unauthorised colonies in Delhi which the Union cabinet has approved to regularise and give ownership rights to the dwellers.

111. For the 1st time, India will host the 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics in New Delhi where Bill Gates has been invited as the chief guest.

- Theme: Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'
- Organizers: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, ISI-CAS, Food and Agriculture Organization, United States Department of Agriculture, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Eurostat, African Development Bank, International Statistical Institute-Central Administration of Statistics and various other organizations.
- Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is hosting the event.
- ICAS is a series of conferences (started in 1998) to discuss the agricultural data worldwide, which is held in every 3 years.

112. CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has released the first 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India' for environmental management.

- Aim: It will help the govt to study the chemical composition of soil and the impact of soil pollution on groundwater contamination.
- The map consists of 44 maps of metals, oxides, and elements present in the soil.
- The atlas will used as a part of the global map that will be prepared by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGC).

113. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has set up an online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit in New Delhi.

- The new unit will function under CBI's Special Crime Zone to curb the problem of increasing child porn on the internet.
- Spreading of online porn crime will be covered under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012 and Information Technology Act 2000 (21 of 2000) and under various Laws of India, as applicable.
- Director of CBI: Rishi Kumar Shukla

114. Assam is celebrating the 'Brahmaputra Pushkaram,' a 12-day mega river festival from November 5-16, 2019.

- Earlier, the Brahmaputra Pushkaram festival was held in 2007.
- Brahmaputra Pushkaram festival is the 2nd biggest river festival in Assam after Namami Brahmaputra.
- Pushkaram is a festival of rivers of 12 important rivers in India which occurs once in 12 years for each river.

115. 15-day National Tribal Festival - Aadi Mahotsav is being organized in New Delhi on the theme of 'Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce'.

- The festival is an initiative to promote tribal commerce to the next level of digital and electronic transactions.
- For the first time, the Aadi Mahotsav is showcasing products from Leh in Ladakh.

116. ISRO will send the Chandrayaan- 3 (a 2nd mission to moon) by 2020.



- ISRO had constituted a high-level committee, headed by S Somanath, Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre to prepare a report on the proposed Chandrayaan-3.
- Chandrayaan 2' s Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer 2 (CHACE-2) has found Argon 40 (an isotopes of the noble gas Argon) in the lunar Exosphere.
- It originates from the radioactive disintegration of Potassium-40 beneath the moon's surface.

117. Central govt is hosting a 2-day regional conference on theme of 'Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'.

- Organizers: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with J&K and Ladakh government.
- 'Sushasan Sankalp: Jammu Ghoshana' resolution of J&K has been adopted on Good Governance, Digital Governance, Aspirational districts and Citizen Centric Governance.

118. Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has released the Water Quality report which analysed quality of drinking water provided to the citizens in state capitals and Delhi.

- The report is a part of the Jal Jeevan Mission that aims to provide clean and safe drinking water to all by 2024.
- Parameters: Chemicals, Toxic substances, Organoleptic tests, Bacteriological tests and physical tests present in water.
- Best performing cities with quality water: Ranchi, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar, Amravati and Raipur.
- 13 Worst performing cities with degraded water: Thiruvananthapuram, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Patna, Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Lucknow, Chennai, Dehradun, Kolkata and Jaipur.
- Delhi failed to comply with 10 standards out of the 11 given by BIS.

119. Ministry of Home Affairs has launched an awareness 'UNiTE Campaign To End Violence Against Women' in collaboration with UN Women from Sultanpuri Railway Station in New Delhi.

- Awareness about 112 (India's single emergency helpline number developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) would be spread across various states.
- The 16 days between 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 10 December, Human Rights Day, are known as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.
- 2019 theme of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is 'Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape'.

120. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has hosted the first ever National Agro-Chemical Congress in New Delhi on the theme of 'Country's Status on various fronts of Agro chemicals'.

121. Two tea varieties of Darjeeling (West Bengal) - Green Tea and White Tea - were registered under "Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999".

122. Indian Army has conducted the 'Sindhu Sudarshan' exercise in Barmer, Rajasthan.

- Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Indian Army are participating in this exercise.

123. Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) which will act as a repository of 128 agro-climatic zones and diverse crops in India. s

- Purpose: The repository will aim at reducing malnutrition by linking the agriculture and nutrition to address the challenge of malnutrition.
- Ministry of WCD has collaborated with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this project.



124. 21st International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) was held in New Delhi.
- Theme: Addiction in a rapidly changing world.
 - Organizer: Department of Psychiatry & National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), World Psychiatric Association (WPA).
 - Co-sponsors of the meeting: World Psychiatric Association, World Association of Social Psychiatry, Indian Psychiatric Society and Indian Association for Social Psychiatry.
 - President of ISAM: Kathleen Brady
125. 5th International Conference on Yoga 2019 was held in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- Theme: Yoga for Heart Care (International Yoga Day is observed on June 21).
 - International Yoga Day 2020 event will be held in Mysuru, Karnataka.
126. 39th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF-2019) was held in Delhi on the theme of Ease of Doing Business.
- Partner country: Afghanistan while South Korea will be the focus country.
 - SARAS (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society) IITF Mela 2019 was also inaugurated at the fair to empower women from the Self Help Group by Minister of Panchayati Raj.
127. Election Commission has announced to establish a visiting chair in memory of former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) T N Seshan (deceased).
- The chair will be on Interdisciplinary Approach to Electoral Studies.
 - The visiting chair will be established in the Centre for Curriculum Development at India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi from 2020-2025.
 - It will be mentored by former CEC N Gopalaswami.
 - Current CEC: Sunil Arora
128. India has conducted the first night trial of 'Agni-II' nuclear capable missile from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.
- The missile, developed by DRDO, has a strike range of 2000 km.
129. North India's first sugar mill which will produce ethanol direct from sugarcane has been inaugurated in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
130. For the first time, Qatar and India will conduct the naval exercise - Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) at Doha, Qatar.
131. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (of National Institutes of Health, USA) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a declaration of intent to increase healthcare research and training.
132. Central Government has set up a FACT Check Module under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to identify and curb the fake news on social media and digital platforms.
- Find, Assess, Create and Target (FACT) will monitor the online content being spread.
133. India is the 2nd largest country (with 202,000 Indian students studying there in 2019) in sending its students for study in USA according to the "2019 Open Doors Report on International Educational



Exchange" report released by US's Institute of International Education and US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

- First country is China.
- A total of 10,95,299 (0.05% increase) international students are studying in the US in 2019. Out of which, India and China alone accounts to more than 50%.
- For around 54.9% of US students, European countries are the popular destinations for their higher studies.

134. International Institute of Management Development (IMD) has released its IMD World Talent Rankings 2019 which ranks India at the 59th place (declined from 53th rank in 2018) out of a total of 63 countries.

- Top Scorer: Switzerland, followed by Denmark and Sweden
- Bottom Scorer: Mongolia
- Reasons for India's low position are Low quality of life, brain drain, declining expenditure on education (per student) and the quality of education, effectiveness of the health system and women's participation in the labour force.
- IMD Headquarters: Switzerland
- IMD President: Jean-Francois Manzoni

135. World Bank has proposed to invest \$300 million to the develop logistics infrastructure in Kolkata, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry.

136. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana' to provide free sewer connections to households in the 787 colonies (mostly unauthorized).

- The scheme will remain till March 31, 2020 so residents who apply under the scheme before the deadline can avail free sewer connection.

137. Ola Mobility Institute and Microsoft Research India have partnered to study the street-level air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

138. ISRO will launch Cartosat-3 (an earth imaging and mapping satellite) along with 13 commercial nano-satellites of the USA on PSLV-C47 into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

- Cartosat-3 is a "third generation agile advanced satellite" having high resolution imaging capability
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Department of Space has signed a commercial arrangement with USA for carrying these 13 satellites.

139. India and France have collaborated to conduct the joint patrolling in the Indian Ocean region in 2020.

- French Navy Chief Admiral: Christophe Prazuck
- Indian navy chief admiral: Karambir Singh

140. Insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC), based in Meghalaya, has been banned by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967).

141. Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to get the provide technical, management and program design support through the foundation and other partners in health sector.

142. IDP Education has opened its new regional headquarters in Gurgaon, Haryana.
- IDP, established in 1969, is a global leader in international education services in English speaking countries and co-owner of IELTS.
 - Piyush Kumar is the IDP's Regional Director.
143. Rajasthan govt will constitute a new department of peace and non-violence and also set up 'Gandhi villages' in every district of the state to promote Gandhian ideals.
- The department will be the nodal agency for establishing the Gandhi villages.
144. 4th Singapore-India Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD) was held in Singapore.
- India and Singapore signed a Letter of Intent to allow Singapore to use Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
 - This is the first instance of India opening up its test range for any foreign country.
145. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 survey conducted by Ministry of Jal Shakti has mentioned that Tamil Nadu is the cleanest state among larger states followed by Haryana.
- Least clean larger state: Odisha
 - Cleanest Small State: Mizoram
 - Cleanest District: Peddapalli, Telangana
 - Cleanest UT: Daman and Diu
 - 17,450 villages in 698 Districts across India were be covered.
 - The survey was released on World Toilet Day 2019 on the theme of Leaving no one behind.
146. Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an autonomous organization - National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in Leh, Ladakh under the Ministry of AYUSH to promote the Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.
147. Under the 'Arundhati Gold Scheme' of Assam, the govt will gift 10 grams of gold to every adult bride, if she has studied at least up to class 10 and her marriage is registered.
- The scheme will cost Rs 800 crores per annum to the exchequer.
 - The benefit will be given only in case of the first marriage of the girl (mandatorily aged 18) and it has to be registered under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.
148. Ministry of Road and Transport Highways has released the draft guidelines for National Vehicle Scrapping Facility.
- Under new the policy, rebates on road tax will be offered to owners with certificate of scrapping.
 - Vehicle Scrapping Centres will be set up and also provided guidelines for the centres.
149. Union Cabinet has approved the Recycling of Ships bill, 2019 to regulate the recycling of ships.
- It also approved to implement the Hong Kong International Convention for safe and environment sound recycling of ships (2009).
 - India has a share of over 30% of the global ship recycling market.
 - As per the UNCTAD report on Review of Maritime Transport, 2018, India had scrapped 6323 tonnes of ship in 2017 across the world.

150. NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 will be organized by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana.

- Theme: "Smart & Green Mobility".
- Organized: ICAT in association with SAENIS, SAE INDIA, SAE International, NATRiP, DIMTS, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, SIAM and ACMA.
- During the event, ICAT NuGen Drive Safe Club Mobile App was also launched as an initiative to reward safe driving behaviour.

151. Lok Sabha has passed the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which has replaced the Chit Fund Act, 1982.

- As per the new amendment, monetary limits for chit funds has been raised by 3X.
- The maximum chit amount has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh (for those managed by individuals or less than 4 partners) and from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh (for firms with four or more partners).
- Maximum commission for the person managing the fund has been raised to 7% from 5% at present.

152. National Intelligence Agency is conducting the first ever exercise CT-TTX (Counter terrorism table top exercise) between quad countries (India, US, Japan, Australia) in New Delhi (headquarters of NIA).

- The dialogue between the 4 countries began in 2007 primarily to counter increasing penetration of China in Indian Ocean.

153. 'Sona 1.5' humanoid robots has been used by the Modern coach factory (in Uttar Pradesh) for transporting documents from one place to another.

- Indigenously developed by Club first technologies, Sona 1.5 is the World's 1st robot with human-like spine technology made in India.

154. 5th edition of the India- Europe 29 Business Forum: Speeding Regional Economic Activity was held in New Delhi.

- Organizers: Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry
- The forum is held between India and 29 European countries.

155. Central council for research in Ayurvedic science (under Ministry of AYUSH), JNU and Institute of Liver and Biliary sciences have signed an MoU for cooperation in research and development.

- President of the Council: Minister of AYUSH - Shripad Yesso Naik
- Institute of Liver and Biliary Science's Chairman: Shri Vijay Kumar Dev

156. India is purchasing the 13 MK45 naval guns from USA at an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

- BAE (British Aerospace) Systems Land and Armaments, Minneapolis (in Minnesota) with gun manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky are the companies involved in supplying these guns to India.

157. Rajat Bhargava has been appointed as the head of high-level committee by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for attracting more investments in the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) in India.

- PCPIR policy was implemented in 2007.
- Currently, central govt has approved 4 PCPIR are at Dahej (Gujarat), Visakhapatnam- Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Paradeep (Odisha) and Cuddalore- Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu).

158. Two historical sites - first is a 3,000-year-old Iron Age settlement at Karim Shahi in Gujarat and second is a historic to medieval settlement at Vigakot in Gujarat- have been discovered by the researchers from IIT-Kharagpur (IIT-KGP).

- Karim Shahi Settlement: It is expected to be from early iron age to early historic age (3100-2300).
- Vigakot Settlement: It is 1500-900 years old.
- Who led this study? - IIT-KGP led this study in association in Deccan College, Physical Research Laboratory (in Ahmedabad). Infosys foundations and IIT-KGP funded the research.
- The study was published in 'Archaeological Research in Asia' journal.

159. Andhra Pradesh has launched the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa on the World Fisheries Day (on November 21) to provide a financial aid of Rs 10,000 each to the 1.32 Lakh fishermen approx. (in the age group of 21-60) during the marine ban and lean period between April and June.

- Other benefits under the scheme include the enhanced subsidy on diesel from Rs 6.03 to Rs 9 per Litre for 10 months every year.
- Apart from this, Andhra Pradesh has signed an agreement with IIM-Ahmedabad to check the corruption at all levels of govt hierarchy and to suggest solution.
- Also, Andhra Pradesh has increased the financial aid for Christians who are undertaking pilgrimage from Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000 if the income is Rs 3 lakh per annum and those with an income of over Rs 3 lakh would get Rs 30,000, up from Rs 20,000. The scheme was launched in 2013.

160. Microsoft has launched its "K-12 Education Transformation Framework" in India for the comprehensive digital transformation of schools in India on the 2nd edition of its education days.

- More than 50 countries, have adopted this framework so far.
- The framework comprises of 4 pillars — leadership and policy, modern teaching and learning, intelligent environments and technology blueprint.

161. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has conducted a study and projected trends in the country's labour market potential during 2019-23:

- Parameters of this study are: Periodic labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2017-18, Crude Death Rates (CDR) at gender and region (rural/urban) level, and Employment- Unemployment Survey (EUS), 2011-12 (68th round).
- Expected labour force: 7 crore additional individuals in the working-age (15-59 years) by 2023.
- Weightage: 84.3% will be in the age group 15-30 years out of which 50% will be in the age group 15-20 years.
- Female labour force participation: 15 years and above is estimated at 23.3%. (china 61%). It is much lower than other Asian economies in 2019.
- State wise weightage: Only six states- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka are expected to account for 50% of the new youth entrants (15-30 years) during 2019-23.

162. India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) forum of Young Scientists and Innovators for the year 2020.

- It was announced at the end of the 5th Meeting of SCO Member States' Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology (S&T) and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation in Moscow, Russia.



- India will also host the Council of Heads of Government of SCO Member States in 2020 where the Draft SCO Roadmap on cooperation between research institutions of SCO Member States for the period 2021-2023 will be approved.
- During the Council meeting concluded in Moscow, SCO countries approved to host joint competition for SCO Multilateral Research & Development (R&D) projects by the end of 2020.

163. Ministry of Health has informed the Parliament about the number of beneficiaries under the PM-Jan Arogya Yojana/Ayushman Bharat.

- According to the Ministry's claim, Gujarat is the best performer in terms of number of hospital admissions with 1 million hospital admissions and claims worth Rs 1,519 crore.
- Bihar and Uttar Pradesh performed the worst with 1.2 lakh and 2.3 lakh hospital admissions respectively.
- Despite joining late in the scheme, Kerala has superseded Bihar and UP and score well with 6 lakh hospital admissions.

164. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers- Sadananda Gowda has informed the Rajya Sabha that 6 plastic parks are being set up in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu with 50:50 cost sharing ratio between Centre and state.

- Out of these, the plastic park at Tamot Village in Madhya Pradesh is now functional.
- Govt has set a target for eliminating all single use plastic by 2022.
- Govt had also launched a 3-phase campaign 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' from September- October 2019 to safely dispose littered plastic.

165. PM Narendra Modi addressed the Accountants General and Deputy Accountants General Conclave 2019 in New Delhi.

- Theme: 'Transforming Audit and Assurance in a Digital World'.
- PM Modi highlighted the need for having evidence-based policy making to ensure effective implementation and greater benefit of the people. PM has set a deadline to inculcate evidence based policymaking by 2022.

166. 'Shikhar Se Pukar'- a short documentary film on Water Conservation has been released by the Minister of Jal Shakti - Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to promote 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' and 'Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan'.

- The film is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar, who climbed Everest this year to create awareness about water conservation.
- He (also the story writer of the film) had named his expedition to Everest as "Swachh Ganga Swachh Bharat Everest Abhiyaan 2019".

167. Nomura Global Market Research (HQ- Japan) has released the "Nomura's Food Vulnerability Index 2019" which ranks India at the 44th position.

- Total Countries: 110
- Parameters: increment in the food price based on 3 components - (1) country's GDP per person, (2) the share of food in household consumption and (3) the net food imports.
- Reason for India's poor performance: Surge in the food prices in October. CPI reached 4.62%.

168. Survey of India has released the new political map of India which shows Amravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh instead of Hyderabad.

- There was an agreement that Hyderabad will remain the capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh too for a period of 10 years from the date of bifurcation from 2014.

169. Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) have conducted the first Mine Countermeasure Exercise (MINEX) in Kochi, Kerala.

- Purpose: for boosting the interoperability on explosive ordnance disposal and mine countermeasure.
- JIMEX (bilateral maritime exercise between India and Japan) and Sahayog-Kaijin (joint bilateral exercise between Indian Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard) are some of the other exercises.

170. Government will digitalize 2 lakh villages by March 2020 under the Bharat Net project against the earlier target of 1.28 lakh village.

- BharatNet project (launched in 2011) was launched to provide broadband and internet connectivity to all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats.

171. Ministry of Development of North East Region is hosting a 4-day long Destination North East festival in Varanasi. The festival aims to mingle the cultures of Ganga and Brahmaputra.

172. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed an MoU with Western Sydney University (of Australia) to collaborate in research and development.

- Guidelines for integrating Ayurveda principles with modern medicine will be developed as part of this MoU.
- The MoU was signed during the 'India Australia International Education and Research Workshop' held at Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi.

173. Ministry of Tourism has presented the report on foreign tourist arrivals to India in 2018 to the parliament.

- The data provided by the Ministry also highlights the consistent increase in overall foreign tourist arrivals as well as the earnings of foreign exchange over the years of 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

174. Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare have released a report on "Private Investment in Biotechnology" during the Global Bio- India Summit (India's first largest biotechnology summit) held in Delhi.

- The projected target of the biotechnology is to reach the market size value of \$100 billion by 2025.

175. Madhya Pradesh will provide a 5% reservation to sportsperson (national as well as international medallists) in government jobs as per its new draft of sports policy (which is in the process of being developed).

- Regional Olympics Games: MP govt organises these games for all schoolchildren to encourage sports and identify talented students.
- MP Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Jitu Patwari announced that under-16 zonal Olympics will be held in MP to facilitate talented children.
- Vikram Award: Every year, MP govt honours sports personalities with its highest award - Vikram Award as well as Eklavya awards.

176. For the second time, Manipur is hosting the 'International Tourism Mart' (8th edition) in its capital Imphal to highlight the tourism potential of the north-eastern region.

- Theme: Sustainable Tourism an engine for Economic Growth and Employment
- Organizer: Ministry of Tourism and North Eastern States.

177. PM Narendra Modi has launched the Fit India school grading system to rank schools based on the fitness activities and conducive environment for physical activities provided to students and teachers.

- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched the 'Fit India week' initiative - to be celebrated in the first week of December - by schools.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in association with Ministry of Human Resource Development will develop the rankings - which will be based on 3 categories namely The Fit India School (only) which is the first level of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star).

178. DRDO Industry Synergy Summit 2019 has been organized in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- Under the new defense production policy, Ministry of defense has set a target of \$26 billion for aerospace, defense services and goods by 2025.
- Apart from this, \$10 billion is targeted for creating job opportunities for 20-30 lakh people.

179. Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched 'SAFAR-Air' mobile application to calculate Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi and Pune.

- The service will be run by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- The app will provide current data and a forecast for air quality in the user's current location through a colour-coded system—green is good, yellow is moderately polluted, orange is poor, red is very poor and maroon is critical.

180. Uttar Pradesh govt has launched an immunization campaign to eliminate Filariasis also known as Filaria by 2021.

- Initial phase of the campaign will be launched from Nov 25 to Dec 10 where DEC tablet, Albendazole and ivermectin medicines will be distributed to 19 districts covering 6.5 crores people.
- As per WHO, lymphatic filariasis is transmitted by different types of mosquitoes.
- According to WHO, 65 million Indians are at a risk of this disease and over 4.5 lakhs people are suffering from filaria in India. National Policy to combat filaria was implemented in 2015.

181. Sangai festival 2019 has started in Imphal, Manipur.

182. 76th edition of the survey of Persons with disabilities has been conducted by National Statistical Office between the period July-December 2018.

- All the specified disabilities as stated in The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 have been considered. Total 1,18,152 households were surveyed.
- The prevalence of disability was 2.2% (2.3% in rural and 2% in urban). Disability among males (2.4%) were higher than females (1.9%). The data was collected from 1,18,152 households.
- According to the survey, 21.8% of the disabled people in the country received aid from Government.
- Unemployment rate among persons with disability was 4.2% and the Labour Force Participation Rate was 23.8%.



183. National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted a survey titled as 'Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Conditions in India' between July-Dec 2018.

- According to the survey, 1/4th of the households had no access to toilets.
- Around 42.9% in rural areas used hand pumps and around 40.9% households in urban areas used piped water.
- According to the survey, 71.3% in rural and 96.2% in urban areas had no access to toilets.
- Around 48.3% of households in rural and 86.6% in urban used LPG as fuel.
- 48.1% of households in rural areas and 71.1% of urban households disposed household waste water without treatment to drainage system.
- 70.3% of households urban and 72.4% of households in rural dispose garbage in community dumping spots, open land, waste land, etc.

184. National Statistical Office, in its 75th round of National Sample Survey, has released 'Household Social Consumption Survey7 which measures the household's expenditure on health between July 2017 and June 2018.

- 1,13,823 households were surveyed.
- The survey highlights that around 14% of rural population and 19% of urban population could bear their health expenditure.
- 13% of rural and 9% of urban population were covered by Government sponsored health insurance.
- Average medical expenditure (money spent on per hospitalization case) in rural area is Rs 16,676 and in urban India it is Rs 26,475.
- Around 97% of the children in rural areas received vaccination. About 98% of boys and 97% of girls had received vaccination in urban India.

185. As per the information given by Ministry of Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha, Manipur has recorded the highest number of offences with 35% under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967.

- Manipur had registered 330 cases in 2017 in which 352 persons were arrested.
- J&K is 2nd with 17% of such cases, followed by Assam with 133 case at 14% in 2017.

186. Central Govt has introduced the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill 2019 in the Lok Sabha to merge these two UTs.

- Purpose of merging: better administration and to check on duplications of various works.
- Capital of Daman and Diu: Daman
- Capital of Dadra and Nagar Haveli: Silvassa

187. 8th edition of National Tribal Craft Mela is held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik

188. Ministry of Home Affairs has extended ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) by another 5 years.

- Established in 1986, NDFB aims to obtain a sovereign Boroland for the Bodo people.
- Bodo are an ethnolinguistic group in the Indian state of Assam.

189. Chhattisgarh cabinet has amended the State Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 to allow nomination of at least 1 differently abled member to each panchayat, even if not elected.



- Now, Chhattisgarh has become the only State to have such members in all panchayats.
- Differently abled people constitute 6% of the population of Chhattisgarh.
- CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel

190. Cushman & Wakefield (property consultant) has released the 31st edition of its 'Main Streets Across the World 2019' report which ranks Delhi's Khan market at 20th position (up from 21st position in 2018) with an annual rent of \$243 per sq ft.

- Total countries: 448 locations across 68 countries.
- Parameters: rentals during the second quarter of 2019 calendar year
- Top location: Causeway Bay (Hong Kong) with an annual rent of \$2,745 per sq

191. Maharashtra Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2017 has been approved by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- As per the bill, violent attacks on media persons are now a non-bailable offence.
- The bill has a provision of imprisonment and a fine of ^50,000.
- Maharashtra has become the first State to pass such a legislation.

192. India and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on Security Cooperation for countering terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking.

193. 11th edition of Agrovision 2019 - agricultural exhibition - has been organized in at Nagpur, Maharashtra on the theme of "Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development".

- Organizer: Agrovision Foundation with the support from Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of MSME, Maharashtra govt , Skill India, Crop Care Federation of India (CCFI), Croplife India, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and National Seeds Association of India (NSAI).
- Booklet Released: a booklet named as 'Convergence of National Highway improvement/construction with water conservation and groundwater recharge' was released by Ministry of Road Transport.

194. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the Credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS) portal named "CLAP" (CLSS Awas Portal) to allow beneficiaries of the scheme to track the status of their application.

- MoHUA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the state govt of 6 states for light house projects (LHP) under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC- India).
- Six states are Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.
- To facilitate the light house projects, MoHUA has introduced a technology innovation grant of Rs 2 lakh per house in addition to the existing amount of Rs 1.5 lakh per house under PM Awas Yojana-Urban.

About the GHTC-India:

- GHTC-India initiative was launched to facilitate quick and efficient construction technologies for speedier and cost-effective construction of houses.

195. Chhattisgarh has announced to transform Guru Ghasidas National Park (GGNP) into a Tiger Reserve. It will be the 4th Tiger reserve in the state and the other 3 are Udanti - Sitanadi, Indravati and Achanakmar.

- The state govt has also decided to establish a State Folk Art Council to preserve and nurture the traditional art forms and artists.

- Two new universities will be set up in the state - first will be for Horticulture and Forestry and will be named after Mahatma Gandhi and the second will be named after former state Congress president late Nand Kumar Patel.

196. Kerala govt's Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) has launched the "Water 4 Change" project.

- Six institutions from The Netherlands will develop an action plan on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists as part of this project.
- The project will look for solutions of water problems in the cities of Kozhikode, Shimla, Bhuj and Bhopal.

197. Child Rights and You (NGO) has released a report "How Vulnerable are Children in India to crime?" which mentions that Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have witnessed the highest incidents of crimes against children.

- Both states recorded over 19,000 cases (14.8% of all cases) of child abuse.
- The report was based on the data from National Crime Records Bureau for 2016-17.
- Child Labour: Between 2016 and 2017, child labour in India increased 126% from 204 to 462.
- Child Marriage: It increased by 21.17%. 395 cases were registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006.
- Kidnapping and Abduction: It is the most prevalent form of crime against children accounting for 42% of the total crimes against children.
- As per the report, among all the other child crimes, these two are the most unreported. Therefore, it as a positive step.

198. 5th edition of the Global Exhibition on Services (GES) 2019 has been organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Organizer: Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), in association with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- SEPC will promote eSports by organizing Nations Cup (International eSports Championship) in association with Electronic Sports Federation of India (ESFI), during GES 2019. (Kazakhstan has won the eSports Nations Cup).
- Nations Cup will aid services industry particularly in eSports, gaming and animation.

199. 'DEFCOM INDIA 2019' (a 2-day seminar) was organized in New Delhi on the theme of 'Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness'.

- Purpose: to enhance communication between tri-services for achieving jointness between them.
- Organizer: Corps of Signals, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers and Indian Army.

200. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose (Chairman of Lokpal) has launched the logo and motto of Lokpal institution.

- Motto: "असतो मा सद्गमय" (Do not be greedy for anyone's wealth) was also adopted.
- Logo: The design of the logo has been prepared by Prashant Mishra.

201. Indian Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Strategic Partnership Council between India and Saudi Arabia.

- The council will be headed by heads of both nations i.e., PM Narendra Modi and Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

- The council will meet in every 2 years and will coordinate on decisions regarding strategically important issues.
- India has become the 4th country with which Saudi Arabia has formed a strategic partnership, after UK, France and China.
- Apart from this, Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between India and Saudi Arabia for combating illegal trafficking and smuggling of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Chemical Precursors.

202. Parliament has passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which seeks to replace the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.

- National Institute of Design Act, 2014 declares only National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad as an institution of national importance.
- The new bill seeks to declare 4 National Institutes of Design institutes, located at Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam, as institutions of national importance.
- These 4 institutes will get the authority to grant degrees/diplomas, once the bill become the an act. These institutes were earlier registered as 'Societies' under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

203. Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between India and Myanmar for cooperation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Re-integration of victims of Trafficking.

- As part of the MoU, Working Groups or Task Force will be set up to prevent human trafficking as well as both countries will undertake capacity building programmes.

204. India and Chile have signed Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and Protocol to eliminate the menace of double taxation.

- Minimum standards and other recommendations of G-20 OECD Base Erosion Profit Shifting Project (BEPS Project) will be implemented in the agreement.
- DTAA is a tax treaty between two or more countries to avoid taxing the same income twice.

205. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval for increasing the authorized capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from current Rs 3,500 crore to Rs.10,000 crore.

- FCI (under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution) was constituted under Food Corporations Act, 1964 to implement the National Food Policy of Government of India.

206. Global Diplomacy Index 2019 has been released by Lowy Institute (based in Sydney, Australia).

- Top Ranker: China (occupied 2nd position in 2018) followed by USA (occupied 1st position in 2018) and France.
- Bottom Ranker: Bhutan
- India's Rank: 12th with 123 embassies and 54 consulates globally. India had 120 embassies and 52 consulates in 2017.
- Parameter: embassies, consulates, permanent missions and other representations a country has worldwide
- Total: 61 countries

207. First edition of the International Conference on 'Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience - 2019' was organized by National Institute of Disaster management (NIDM) in New Delhi.

- Purpose: To reduce landslide risk and increase resilience against it.

- NIDM is nodal agency for operationalizing capacity building activities in field of disaster management in India under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

208. Ministry of Shipping has approved the project for development of Loktak Inland Waterways Project in Manipur, which will improve the tourism of the state as well.

- Loktak lake is the largest freshwater lake in the Northeast India located at Moirang in Manipur.
- Keibul Lamjao National Park is the only floating national park in the world and is an integral part of Loktak Lake.

209. Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of Women and Child Development have signed an MoU to organise 'National Organic Festival of Women Entrepreneurs' annually.

- The nodal institution for organizing the festival would be National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM).
- The institute operates under the aegis of Ministry of Food Processing.
- Aim of the festival: To encourage Indian women entrepreneurs and farmers to connect with buyers and thus, empower them through financial inclusion, while also promoting organic food produce in India.
- Vice-Chancellor of NIFTEM: Dr. Chindi Vasudevappa

210. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has formed a 13-member expert committee, to be headed by Justice Mukundakam Sharma, to review the draft of National Code for Good Governance in Sports, 2017.

- Shri Inder Dhamija, Joint Secretary of Sports, will be the coordinator of this committee.

211. Central Govt has signed a loan agreement worth of \$451 million with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for strengthening power connectivity in the Chennai- Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.

- CKIC is a part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).

About East Coast Economic Corridor:

- ECEC is India's first coastal economic corridor (being developed in association with ADB) which spans across 2500 km of coastline of India.
- Four corridors will be developed under the ECEC project which will be completed in 3 phases.
- ADB will commit \$500 million towards the completion of this project in 2016.

212. Two Spike long-range Anti-Tank Missiles have been launched from Madhya Pradesh.

- The missiles have been procured from Israel. It is developed and designed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- About the missile: Spike anti-tank missiles is a 4th generation missile with a range of up to 4 km.

213. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched the Accelerator Lab in UN's office in New Delhi to tackle the issues like air pollution, sustainable water management etc. through innovation in India.

- UNDP has partnered with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) for this mission.
- Purpose of the lab: to accelerate the progress in meeting UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

214. Indian Navy has test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the INS Kochi.

- INS Kochi is the 2nd ship of Project 15-A 'Kolkata-class' guided missile destroyer of Indian Navy.



- Kolkata class missiles (Project 15A) are a class of stealth guided missile destroyers constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) for the Indian Navy. It replaced Delhi- class.
- The class comprises three ships - Kolkata, Kochi and Chennai, which are the largest destroyers to be operated by Indian Navy.
- The project was approved by the govt in 2000 and the construction began in 2003.
- Date of Commission: INS Kolkata was commissioned in 2014, INS Kochi was in 2015 and INS Chennai was in 2016.

215. India Corruption Survey 2019 conducted by the Local Circles (a social media firm) and Transparency International India between 2018-2019.

- Most Corrupt: Rajasthan is the most corrupt state with 78% people paying bribes to get their work done. Bihar is at 2nd spot, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are sharing the 3rd spot while Telangana is at the 5th spot in the overall ranking.
- Region wise: Telangana is the most corrupt state in southern India.
- Least Corrupt: Kerala, Goa, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Haryana and Delhi.
- Total states: 248 districts across 20 Indian states were assessed.
- Bribery in India is reduced by 10% over the last 1 year and 51% paid bribe in the last 12 months.

216. 47th edition of the All India Police Science Congress was organised by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) at Police Headquarters in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

217. As per the "NSO survey on Household Social Consumption: Education as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey", conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO), literacy rate in the people aged 7 years or above was recorded at 77.7% between July 2017 and June 2018.

- Illiteracy rate was 73.5% in rural and 87.7% in urban areas.
- Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR) at the primary level is 101.2%. The figure was 94.4% at 'upper primary/middle level' and 98.7% at 'primary and upper primary/middle level'.
- Nearly 57% in villages and 23.4% in cities received free education.
- Nearly 96.1% of the students were pursuing general courses and 3.9% were pursuing technical/professional courses.
- Among 3 to 35 years, OVERALL 13.6% never enrolled, 42.5% ever enrolled but currently not attending while 43.9% were currently attending.

218. UK-India Business Council (UKIBC) will establish the Aerospace and Defence Industry Group to boost bilateral cooperation in aerospace and defence industries.

- UK and India have also signed an MoU on 'Defence Technology Industrial Capability Cooperation' in 2019 for enhancing cooperation in the field of defence.

219. 1st Fintech Accelerator program has been launched by T-Hub (Telangana govt initiative for startups) in partnership with Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- Under the program, Txnxt hub (an innovation lab) has also been launched at the premises of T-Hub by NPCI to help startups in adopting latest technologies in digital payments.
- The program is being executed under NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) acceleration scheme by T-Hub and NPCI.

220. Indian Army has inducted Anti-Tank Guided Spike Missiles (ATGMS), also known as "fire and forget" missiles, from Israel as a part of the "emergency purchase" mechanism.

- The missiles have been deployed along with the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen security.
 - Israel has delivered 210 missiles along with 12 launchers to Indian Army for Rs 280 crore.
221. Uttar Pradesh govt and Bombay Natural History Society will establish 'vulture conservation and breeding centre' at Maharajganj district to conserve the population of endangered vultures.
- India's first Jatayu (Vulture) Conservation Breeding Centre was set up in Pinjore, Haryana.
222. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has extended the term of 15th Finance Commission for one year till October 2020.
- The commission was constituted in 2017 under the chairmanship of N K Singh.
 - The commission will now submit two reports: the first report for the year 2020-21 and the final report for the period 2021-26 (by October 30, 2020).
223. Andhra Pradesh has launched a toll-free anti-corruption helpline number - 14400 - to allow citizens to register their complaints hassle-free.
- The state govt has collaborated with Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the IIT- Ahmedabad to set up anti-corruption help centres in the state.
224. 10th edition of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament (#CYP10) was organized in New Delhi by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- It was organized for the first time in India.
 - Purpose: To enhance youth's awareness about good governance.
 - nine regions participate: Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands and Mediterranean; Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic; Canada; India; Pacific; South-East Asia.
 - Chairperson of CPA's International Executive Committee: Emilia Monjowa Lifaka
225. Republic Summit 2019 (a 2-days event) was held in New Delhi on the theme of "India's Moment Nation First".
226. 14th edition of SURYA KIRAN - XIV joint military exercise between armies of India and Nepal will be held in Salijhandi, Nepal.
227. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved the procurement of defence equipment worth Rs. 22,800 crore. Equipment are:
228. UNESCO's General Conference (40th edition) was held in Paris, France.
- First ever Global Framework of Professional Teaching Standards, developed by Education International (EI) and UNESCO, was adopted at the conference.
 - Purpose: The framework aims to provide quality education (mentioned in SDG-4) by setting professional Standards for teachers internationally.
 - Minister of HRD, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, highlighted various portals launched by India for providing quality education (with a particular emphasis on digital education).
229. Real time Billionaires list 2019 was released by Forbes.
230. Indian Air Force and Republic of Singapore Air Force have conducted the 10th edition of the Joint Military Training at Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal.

- First edition of this training was held in 2008 as an effect of the Air Force agreement (signed in 2007).
- For the first time, Air-Sea drill was included in the training exercise with participation of six SU-30MKI fighter aircraft of India and six F-16 fighter aircraft of Singapore.

231. 5th Dialogue of NITI Aayog and Development Research Centre (DRC), of China, was held in Wuhan, China.

- Dr Rajiv Kumar (Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog) represented India while Ma Jiantang represented China.

232. Rajasthan has released a draft of 'startup & innovation policy' which encourages the youth (settled outside the state) to bring back their business to the state.

- The policy envisages to create an "i-start single window" to provide all facilities to startups at one platform.
- Besides, Rajasthan govt has relaxed norms on procurement of goods and services of up to Rs 1 crore to facilitate opening of new startups.
- "i-start accelerator program" will have incubators to nurture startups.

233. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has conducted a sample study to check the enforcement of standards of food across India.

- According to the study, 3.7% of all samples were unsafe, 15.8% were sub-standard and 9% of food products had labelling defects in 2018.
- The number of sample collected has increased 7% when compared to previous year.
- State-Wise: Tamil Nadu topped in providing unsafe food and labelling defects while Nagaland topped in providing sub-standard food.

234. Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the parliament to impose a time limit of 5 years for providing SPG cover to former PM and his/her immediate family members.

- The bill prioritizes SPG cover of the current (incumbent) PM as of utmost importance.

235. 10th edition of the Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report Card has been released by the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health analysed the situation of children dying due to Pneumonia and Diarrhoea under the age of 5 years in 23 countries.

- These countries account for 75% of global pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in U-5 children.
- According to the report, globally pneumonia and diarrhoea led to nearly 1 of every 4 deaths in children U-5.
- This report analyses how effectively countries are delivering 10 key interventions, including breastfeeding, vaccination, access to care, use of antibiotics, ORS, and zinc supplementation. What does the report card say about India?
- Rollout of rotavirus vaccines in 2016, and the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in 2017 have helped India to improve its scores.
- India has highest breastfeeding rate among the other 23 countries at 55%.
- According to the additional reports from Save the Children and UNICEF, in India, pneumonia is majorly caused by child wasting (53%), outdoor air pollution (27%), indoor air pollution (22%) in 2017.

236. A report 'Fighting for Breath: A call to action to stop children dying from pneumonia' released by UNICEF, in collaboration with Save the Children and Every breath Counts, shows that Pneumonia claimed the lives of more than 800,000 children

U-5 age in 2018, or one child every 39 seconds.

- 437,000 children U-5 died due to diarrhoea and 272,000 to malaria, Pneumonia had the highest share among them.
- 5 countries with highest deaths due to pneumonia are - Nigeria (162,000), India (127.0), Pakistan (58,000), Democratic Republic of Congo (40,000) and Ethiopia (32.0).
- India had the highest number of deaths of U-5 children from acute respiratory infections at 178,717 followed by Nigeria at 132,556.
- Every day, nearly 2,200 children U-5 die from pneumonia (which can be cured). In India, more than 14 Indian children died every hour due to pneumonia.
- In January 2020, the group, together with the "la Caixa" Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID, will host world leaders at the Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia in Spain.

237. During the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations (held in Gujarat), Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has launched SAANS (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia.

- According to the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, Pneumonia causes 37 deaths U-5 years of age per 1000 live births, of which 5.3 deaths are caused due to pneumonia.
- Madhya Pradesh witnessed the highest number of child deaths due to Pneumonia.

238. As per the report "Situation Analysis of Pneumonia in India" released by the Save the Children (NGO), Bihar has the highest prevalence of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) at 18.2% among children U-5 years between 2018-19.

- The report conducted an in-depth assessment of 5 high-burden states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan.
- Overall prevalence rate of ARI among U-5 children was at 13.4% in these states.
- Causes of Pneumonia among children: Indoor pollution and improper breastfeeding.
- Save the Children has also released a report 'Fighting for breath in India' which mentions the measures for preventing pneumonia in children.

239. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has recently released the Road accidents in India in 2018 report.

240. "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India" (ADSI) report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), shows that 25,164 daily wage earners (5.7% above the previous year's 23,799) committed suicide in 2016, the highest number of suicides among all occupational groups.

- 9 states, including West Bengal, Bihar and Haryana have reported zero suicides by farmers in 2016 which hints at the possibility of states classifying farmer suicides as the daily wage earners' suicide.
- Daily wage earners accounted for 19.2% of all suicides recorded in 2016, agriculture accounted for 8.7% and housewives accounted for 16.5%.
- Tamil Nadu accounted for the highest number of suicides by daily wage earners (4,888), followed by Maharashtra (3,168).
- Maharashtra (40% of all farmer suicides committed in India in 2016) witnessed the highest number of farmer suicide followed by Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.



241. 11th BRICS Summit on the theme of 'Economic growth for an Innovative Future' has concluded in Brasilia (capital of Brazil).

Major developments during the BRICS' summit:

- PM Modi had proposed the first meeting of BRICS Water Ministers in India.
- BRICS Digital Health Summit and BRICS youth summit will also be hosted by India.
- During the BRICS business council (held on the sidelines of BRICS summit) all the nations decided to increase their intra-trade to \$500 billion and prepared the roadmap for this. New Development Bank and BRICS formed an alliance for the same.
- PM Modi invited Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro as the Chief guest for Republic Day 2020.
- PM Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to hold the first-ever bilateral regional forum between Indian states and Russian provinces in 2020 (venue not declared).

Note: - This is the information which I got from the official websites. Now, it is not clear that whether the \$25 billion amount includes investments or not and how have both the countries calculated the target.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Islamic State jihadist group has appointed Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quraishi as its leader after the USA killed its previous leader Abu Bakr al- Baghdadi.
2. Russia has test-fired the Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from its Knyaz Vladimir (meaning Prince Vladimir) borei-class submarine.
 - For the first time, this nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine has launched the intercontinental missile.
3. The annual international book fair - 38th Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 is held in Sharjah, UAE every year since 1982.
 - Theme - 'Open Books Open Minds'.
 - Mexico is the Guest of Honour.
4. COP25 of the UN Climate Change Conference will be hosted by Madrid, Spain in December. (Chile has withdrawn from hosting the event)
5. 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 Countries (unofficially called P20) is being held in Tokyo, Japan. Om Birla is representing India.
 - Organizer: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and government of Japan.
 - About IPU: It is the global organization of national parliaments, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with 179 Member Parliaments and 12 Associate Members.
 - It was established in 1889.
 - President of IPU is Gabriela Cuevas Barron's.
6. 2nd phase of the Biggest US- Bangladesh Navy exercise named 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019' has started in Chattogram, Bangladesh.
Note:- I have also uploaded a compiled document on the military exercises of India with other countries in the Static General Awareness bundle on Infinity.

7. USA has started the process of its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement signed in 2015 (implemented in 2016) by 197 nations and ratified by 187 parties.
 - Reason: unfair economic burden on USA.
 - USA has announced to withdraw from it in 2017.
 - Under the agreement, developed countries agreed to extend \$100 billion annual assistance from 2020 until 2025 to help developing countries to deal with climate change.

8. 50th edition of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting was held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
 - Theme: "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".
 - Telangana's Commerce Minister KT Rama Rao has received an invitation to the World Economic Forum.

9. Sudan Remote Sensing Satellite (SRSS-1), the first-ever satellite of Sudan, has been launched in partnership with China from the northern Chinese province of Shanxi.
 - Purpose: It will carry out research in military, economic and space technology.

10. China's National Medical Products Administration has approved the indigenously developed drug, GV-971 (also called "Oligomannate") to treat Alzheimer.
 - Chinese Academy of Sciences' Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Green Valley and the Ocean University of China have jointly developed the drug.
 - What is Alzheimer? - It is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.

11. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University have jointly released the study 'Affordability of the EAT-Lancet reference diet: a global analysis' measuring the cost of the recommended diet in 159 countries.
 - The study has for the first time calculated "the cost of foods needed for healthy and sustainable diet across the globe".
 - The report found out that the suggested diet would be unaffordable for close to 1.58 billion people across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
 - EAT-Lancet Commission of Food, Planet and Health had published a report on the universal diet level in January, which recommends a calorie consumption of 2,503 kcal per day with small servings for animal sources foods and large servings for fruits and vegetables.
 - In low-income countries, the diet causes 89.1% expenditure whereas in high-income countries it causes 6.1% of their incomes.

12. US-China have agreed on an interim trade deal under which USA will scrap tariffs on about \$156 billion worth of Chinese imports (scheduled for December 15).
 - Both sides have agreed to cancel additional tariffs in different phases, as both sides make progress in their negotiations.

13. World Trade Organization's 12th ministerial conference will be held in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, in June 2020.

14. International Energy Agency has released World Energy Outlook report which claims that the

installed solar power capacity will increase by 3,142 GW from current 495 GW by the year 2040 in the world.

- Oil demand - It will slow down after 2025 but in the next 10 years, USA will demand a lion's share of oil (at 85%).
- Carbon emission - 41.3 giga tonnes by 2040. If the govt complies with Paris Agreement then it would be 35.6 Gt.
- Present Energy demand - It is 2% per year. To rise by 1% per year until 2040.
- Further, the report mentions about 3 climate scenarios - Current Policy Scenario, Stated Policy Scenario and Sustainable Development Scenario.
- Under the Current Policy Scenario, energy demand will continue to rise at a rate of 1.3% by 2040.
- Under the Stated Policy Scenario, the energy demand will increase by 1% per year.
- Under the Sustainable Policy Scenario, global temperature will reduce by 1.5 °C by aligning with Paris Agreement.

15. China has set up detention camps in the Xinjiang province where it has held as many as 1 million Muslims captive in order to suppress the religious separatism.

- According to a New York Times' report, Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other minorities/ tribes are being sent to these camps where they are subject to forced labour and political indoctrination.

16. Japan-South Korea General Security of Military Information Agreement (officially known as Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information - GSOMIA) will soon expire.

- It was signed in 2016.

17. 2nd edition of India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit 2019: Accelerating towards innovative development will be hosted by Davao, Philippines.

- Organizers: FICCI and Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology, India).

18. United Nations Environment-led research coalition published a first-of-its-kind report - The Production Gap which assesses the gap between planned fossil fuel production, climate targets of countries, and goals to limit warming by 1.5°C and 2°C goals committed under the Paris Agreement.

- According to the warning given by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 66% of the coal-generated electricity must shut down by 2030, and a complete shutdown is needed by 2050 to stay under 1.5°C of warming.
- According to the Production Gap report, countries will produce 150% more coal in 2030 than remaining consistent with a 2°C target, and 280% more than consistent with 1.5°C.
- Oil production in 2030 will surpass the 2°C-consistent pathway by 16% and a 1.5°C-consistent pathway by 59%.
- Gas production will overshoot figures by 14% for 2°C and 70% for 1.5°C.

19. A male in Spain is suffering from the world's first ever sexually transmitted case of dengue (The disease is spread by Aedes Aegypti mosquito).

20. Brown to Green Report 2019, prepared by Climate Transparency, reviews the actions taken by G20 nations for climate change.

- Title of the report: The G20 Transition Towards A Net-Zero Emissions Economy.

- The report covers 80 indicators and is developed by experts from 14 research organizations to rank 181 countries.
 - Japan, Mexico, South Africa and South Korea are ranked high as they have long-term plans to reduce emissions in new buildings, although they are not 1.5°C compatible.
 - India, China and Mexico rank high for their long-term deforestation policies. India is the only G20 country with 1.5°C compatible forest policies.
 - Brazil and Germany are the only G20 countries with long-term renewable energy strategies.
 - Australia was the worst performing country in terms of climate response according to the report.
21. 19th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- Maldives has officially become the 22nd member of IORA.
 - IORA was formally launched in 1997 and consists of 22 countries bordering the Indian Ocean, as well as 9 dialogue partners.
 - India is the largest contributor to the IORA Special Fund and recently it pledged \$1 million to the fund.
 - IORA Headquarters: Ebene city, Mauritius; IORA Secretary General: Nomvuyo N. Nokwe
22. 9th BRICS Trade Ministers Meet was organized in Brasilia, Brazil.
- BRICS nations comprise of 42% of world population and 23% of global GDP.
23. 7th Regional Conservation Forum organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) event titled as the 'Greening Asia for Nature and People' was organized in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- The leaders discussed the hazard of melting snow in Himalayas that would affect 800 million people living in this area.
 - Himalayan mountain range is 2,500 Km spanning China, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bhutan.
 - The Himalayas and Mekong basin consist of eleven countries, including China, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand.
 - According to the "Shrinking Himalayan glaciers pose challenges to societies and policy-makers," study, published in the journal Science Advances, 36% of the glaciers along the Hindu Kush and Himalaya range will disappear by the year 2100.
 - Himalayan Glaciers have vanished by 10 inches between 1975 and 2000. However, between 2000 and 2016, the glaciers melt to 20 inches.
24. IUCN's Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in July 2019, as part of Union-wide preparation for the 26th edition of the IUCN Congress 2020.
- IUCN World Conservation Congress is held in every 4 years and the next one will be held in 2020 in Marseille, France.
 - IUCN headquarters: Gland, Switzerland
 - IUCN Director General: Dr Grethel Aguilar (appointed in June 2019)
 - IUCN Member: 1300 organizations at present
25. SpaceX has completed its second launch of 60 Starlink satellites on Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, USA.
- Now, SpaceX has the largest commercial telecommunications satellite constellation system in Earth's orbit with 120 broadband satellites.

- It was its heaviest payload to date, first re-flight of a Falcon 9 and first Falcon 9 to fly a fourth mission. [Source of the news - Spacenews.com]
26. Sri Lanka has become the 1st country in South Asia to criminalize match-fixing in all sports by passing the "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports" bill.
- Offences related to corruption in sports will carry a prison term of up to 10 years, as well as various fines.
27. Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first edition of the Dhaka Global Dialogue.
- Bangladesh is a bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia and the Dhaka Global Dialogue will act as a platform for the countries in this region for achieving environmentally sustainable peace and prosperity.
 - It is jointly organised by India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).
28. Bangladesh will celebrate 2020-2021 as the "Mujib year" to mark the 100th birth anniversary of father of Bangladesh - Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (born on March 17, 1920).
29. Pakistan has become the world's first country to introduce a new typhoid vaccine that has been approved by WHO.
- It will be used during a two-week immunisation campaign in southern Sindh province.
 - The new vaccines have been provided free of cost to Pakistan by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.
30. 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)- Plus was held in Bangkok, Thailand between ASEAN and its 8 partner countries - India, China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Russia and US.
- Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Defence Minister of Myanmar Lt. Gen. Sein Win released a 'Handbook on Military Medicine for ASEAN'.
 - Focus of the summit was "Sustainable Security".
 - Thailand Prime Minister: Prayut Chan-o-cha
31. 1st edition of the Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index 2019, has been released by Basque institutions, in association with D&L Partners, in the Basque Country, (Bilbao's capital) in northern Spain.
- Top Scorer: Zurich (Switzerland) with a score of 78.2, followed by Vienna (Austria).
 - Bottom Scorer: Cairo, (Egypt)
 - Parameters: Prosperity (in terms of GDP per capita), Social inclusion and Spatial inclusion (affordability of housing, environmental quality, and access to healthcare).
 - Total Countries: 113
 - Indian Cities: Bangalore (at 83rd rank), Delhi (at 101) and Mumbai (at 107).
 - Bilbao was ranked 20th.
32. Institute for Economics and peace has released the 7th edition of the Global Terrorism Attack report which ranks India at 7th position (one position up for witnessing 748 cases of terrorist attacks in 2018).
- First position - Afghanistan (having the deadliest terror group of Taliban with 38% of all terrorist deaths)
 - Total countries: 163 (99.7 per cent of the world's population)

- India has 3 active terrorist group - Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).
 - Countries with no impact of terrorism are:
33. 11th edition of QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings: Asia 2020 has been released to rank the best universities of 2020 in the Asian region.
- Overall topper: National University of Singapore for the 2nd consecutive year followed by Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and University of Hong Kong at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively
 - Indian topper: IIT-Bombay (global rank - 34) followed by IIT-Delhi (global rank- 43) and IIT-Madras (global rank -50).
 - 96 Indian universities including 20 brand new entries were ranked in this year's rankings.
 - Parameters: academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper, papers per faculty, international research network (newly added), international faculty, student to faculty ratio, staff with PhD, international students, outbound exchange students and inbound exchange students.
34. World Health Organization (WHO) has published a study (published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal) measuring the level of physical activity among adolescents aged between 11-17 years.
- Total Countries assessed: 146
 - Parameters: physical education, active play, recreation and sports, walking, planned exercises and cycling.
 - Top Country in low physical activity: Bangladesh
 - Among boys, Philippines was the least with 93% of boys showing least physical activities. Among girls, South Korea was the least performer with 97% of them showing physical inactivity.
 - India's rank: 8th with 74% of adolescents showing insufficient physical activity.
 - Globally, girls were less active than boys in all countries except for the four countries (Tonga, Samoa, Afghanistan and Zambia) between 2001-2016.
35. 8th edition of Water Technology and Environment Control (WATEC) conference was held in Israel.
- Theme: "Water Stewardship and Innovation-driving global leadership in the responsible planning management, and protection of water"
 - According to the "Dynamic Ground Water Resources" of India report, agriculture sector consumes nearly 89% of all available water resources.
36. Two-day G20 foreign ministers meeting 2019 was held in Nagoya (Japan).
- It is the last of a series of ministerial G20 meetings that were to be held under the chairmanship of Japan in 2019.
37. For the first time, Saudi Arabia has been elected to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee after winning membership in the UNESCO Executive Board for 2019-2023.
- Now, UNESCO Executive board comprises of 58 member states.
 - 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2019 and 44th session will be hosted by China (Fuzhou) in 2020.
38. Sumatran Rhino species has become extinct in Malaysia with the death of the last Sumatran Rhino named as Iman.

- Now, only 80 Sumatran Rhinos exist in this world and all are present in Indonesia in Borneo and Sumatran part of the nation.
- There are 5 species of Rhinos - Black Rhinos, White Rhinos, Greater on-horned Rhinos, Javan Rhinos and Sumatran - out of which Sumatran is the smallest one.
- Sumatran Rhino Rescue is an international project, launched by World Wildlife Fund, National Geographic Society, Global Wildlife Conservation, International Rhino Foundation and the IUCN Commission to save the species.

39. According to a report released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), carbon concentration in the environment has increased by 2.3 ppm (parts per million) from 405.5 ppm in 2017 to 407.8 ppm in 2018.

- The increase has superseded the average annual increased of 2.06 ppm during 2005-15.
- This report is one of a series of studies published before COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit (to be held in Madrid, Spain).
- For the first time, UN's Youth Climate Action Summit was organized on the sidelines of UN Climate Action Summit (held in September) to encourage youth to take innovative steps towards saving the environment.

40. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the Emissions Gap Report-2019 ahead of the COP 25 of UN's Climate Change Summit (to be held in Madrid, Spain).

Key highlights of the report:

- Global average temperature may rise by 3.2° Celsius by 2100.
- GHG emissions needs to be reduced by 7.6% on an average annual basis between 2020 to 2030, to achieve the target of reducing global temperature under Paris Agreement i.e., 1.5° C.
- A shift to renewable energy can reduce CO2 emission by over 16 giga tonnes each year by 2050.
- According to Global Carbon Project's data, China, USA, European Union (a group of 28 countries) and India are the top 4 greenhouse gas emitters.

APPOINTMENTS

1. RBI has appointed Jayant Dash as the Chief General Manager-in-charge of its department of supervision.
 - Saurav Sinha will be the CGM-in-charge of the department of regulation.
2. IndusInd Bank has finalized Sumant Kathpalia as its new MD & CEO.
3. Dr. David Barbe has been appointed as the next president of World Medical Association.
 - Predecessor- Dr. Miguel R. Jorge is the current President of WMA.
4. Aditya Mishra has been appointed as the chairman of Land Ports Authority of India.
5. Arun Alagappan has been appointed as the MD of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL).
6. Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) society has been reconstituted and PM Narendra Modi is the president while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is its vice president.
 - Raghavendra Singh was appointed the director of NMML for the next six months.

- NMML was founded in 1964 in New Delhi after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru to conserve the history of Indian Independence Movement.
- 7. Cricket Australia (national governing body for the game in Australia) has appointed Melanie Jones as its new director.
 - Present Chair of Cricket Australia is Earl Eddings.
- 8. Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been re-elected for a 4th time as the President of UAE.
- 9. Manmohan Singh has been appointed to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance to replace congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who resigned from the committee to make way for him.
 - Digvijaya Singh has been appointed to the Standing Committee on Urban Development.
- 10. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Sangita Dhingra Sehgal (of Delhi High Court judge) as a member of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- 11. Shane Watson has been appointed as the president of the Australian Cricketers' Association.
- 12. Prakash Javadekar has been given charge of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises after Arvind Sawant resignation.
- 13. Devendra Fadnavis became the first CM in Maharashtra to complete a full tenure of 5 years in nearly four decades.
 - His 2nd record is of becoming the CM with the shortest tenure in Maharashtra with 80 days.
 - Ajit Pawar (deputy CM of Maharashtra) has also resigned.
 - Uddhav Thackeray will swear as the new CM of Maharashtra.
- 14. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has appointed G Kamala Vardhana Rao as its new Chairman and Managing Director.
- 15. Nils Andersen (Danish) has been appointed as the chairman of Unilever N.V. and PLC.
- 16. Nita Ambani has become the first Indian trustee of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.
 - Daniel H. Weiss is the President and CEO of MeT.
- 17. Lt. Commander Karabi Gogoi (Assam) has become the first woman navy officer to be appointed as the assistant naval attache of defence at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, Russia.
 - Gogoi is the 2nd woman officer from defence forces to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment abroad. [First was Anjali Singh, the news is in September Spotlight].
 - Attache is a military officer who is assigned to a diplomatic post in a foreign country, especially for technical purposes.
- 18. FIFA has appointed Arsene Wenger as Chief of Global Football Development.
- 19. Nilam Sawhney has become the first woman to be appointed as the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh.



20. Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi has been appointed as the 5th Chief Justice of the High Court of Tripura.
 - CM of Tripura: Biplab Kumar Deb
 - Governor of Tripura: Ramesh Bais
21. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa (former Defense secretary) has been elected as the President of Sri Lanka.
 - A total of 35 candidates (highest number till date in Sri Lanka) fought this election.
22. Laishram Sarita Devi (Indian boxer) has been elected as a member of the first-ever International Boxing Body (AIBA) athletes' commission.
 - Total six boxers were selected as members of the commission from 5 continents.
23. Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan has appointed as the 13th Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.
24. Lt. Col. Jyoti Sharma is the first woman from Indian Army to be appointed as the Judge Advocate General officer on a foreign mission in Seychelles.
 - Seychelles President: Danny Faure
 - Seychelles PM: Patrick Pillay
25. Sudhir Mital has been appointed as president of Gymnastics Federation of India.
26. Mahinda Rajapaksa (elder brother of President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa) will be sworn in as the new prime minister of Sri Lanka.
27. Lt. Shivangi (from Bihar) has been appointed as the First woman pilot of Indian Navy.
 - Prior to this appointment, women were only appointed as the 'air traffic control officers' and 'observers' in the aircraft.
28. PS Rajan has been appointed as the CEO of Kerala Bank.
29. RBI has appointed H R Khan as the first chairman of the steering committee on Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) in Micro-Credit sector.
 - In September 2019, CRL was launched by Micro-finance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan (an RBI-recognised association of microfinance institutions), along with Finance Industry Development Council (an association of NBFCs).
 - CRL is a self-regulatory step for micro-credit industry for adhering to the standards of customer protection.
30. Amur S Lakshminarayanan has been appointed as the MD and CEO of TATA Communications for a period of 5 years.
31. Uddhav Bal Thackeray has been appointed as the 18th Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
 - He is also the President of Shiv Sena.
 - Maharashtra's Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
32. Suman Billa has been appointed as the Director (technical cooperation and silk road development at DI level) of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

- UNWTO HQ - Madrid, Spain
- UNWTO Current Secretary General - Zurab Pololikashvili
- UNWTO Member - 159 countries, 6 associates and 500+ affiliates
- Established - 1974 to promote sustainable tourism

33. Punit Goenka (son of Subash Chandra) has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of ZEE Enterprise Entertainment Ltd (ZEEL) after his father's resignation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Pneumonia Day is observed on November 12. 2019 is the 10th year of its celebration.
 - Theme: "Healthy Lungs for all".
 - The world's first conference on childhood pneumonia will take place in January 2020 in Barcelona, Spain.
2. 8th Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2019 is observed from October 24-31 by UNESCO.
 - Theme: - "Media and Information Literate Citizens: Informed, Engaged, Empowered".
 - 9th Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) Conference and feature conference of the Global Media and Information Literacy Week were held in Gothenburg, Sweden.
3. International Day to End Impunity Against Journalists is observed on November 2 by UN.
 - Campaign for 2019 is #KeepTruthAlive (launched by UNESCO).
4. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on November 5 by UNDRR.
5. National Cancer Awareness Day 2019 is observed on November 7 since 2014 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 - On November 7, Marie Curie (a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist) who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity) was born.
 - In 2014, Kerala had announced the 'Sukrutham' scheme to provide cancer treatment to the poorest.
 - World Cancer Day is observed on February 4.
6. International Day of Radiology 2019 is observed on November 8 by the European Society of Radiology (ESR).
 - Theme: Sport Imaging
 - ESR (an NPO) was founded in 2005, by merging the European Congress of Radiology and the European Association of Radiology to strengthen European radiology.
 - Chairman of ESR: Lorenzo E. Derchi; President of ESR: Boris Brkljacic
 - ESR headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
 - The next European Congress of Radiology will be held in Vienna, Austria in March 2020.
 - Radiology is the science dealing with X-rays and other high-energy radiation, especially the use of such radiation for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.
7. "Legal Services Day" is observed on November 9 by all Legal Services Authorities as per the mandate of National Legal Services Authority (NLSA).

- NLSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to conduct Lok Adalats to resolve grievances of the people.
 - CJI Ranjan Gogoi is the Patron-in-Chief and Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde is the Executive Chairman of the Authority.
8. Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2019 is observed on November 19 by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day organization.
- Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2019 Summit is observed in New York, United Nations.
 - According to the 6th Economic Census (conducted in 2014), only about 14% of Indian women own or run businesses.
9. National Integration Day (also known as Quami Ekta Divas) is observed on November 19 to mark Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- Qaumi Ekta Week is observed from November 19-25. During the week, each day is celebrated as:
10. International Men's Day 2019 is observed on November 19.
- Theme: "Making a Difference for Men and Boys".
11. World Day for prevention of Child Abuse is observed on November 19.
- In 2000, the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an NGO, launched the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse on November 19.
12. World Children's Day is observed on November 20 by UNICEF.
13. World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day (COPD) is observed on November 20 by Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD).
- Theme: All Together to End COPD.
14. World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on November 10 by UNESCO.
- Theme: 'Open science, leaving no one behind'.
 - UNESCO, in collaboration with PhosAgro and IUPAC has granted awards to young scientists in green chemistry to support innovative solutions in green chemistry.
15. World diabetes day is observed on November 14 by the International Diabetes Federation.
- Theme:- Family and Diabetes
16. World Heritage Week is celebrated by UNESCO between November 19- 25 to increase awareness among people about preservation of cultural heritages and monuments.
- India has a total of 30 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed sites.
17. International Day for Tolerance is observed on 16 November by the UN.
- UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence was instituted in 1995 on the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Gandhi for promoting tolerance and non-violence.
 - The prize is awarded every two years on the International Day for Tolerance.
 - Madanjeet Singh was an author of several books on subjects, closely related with UNESCO's programmes, principles and ideals.

- UNESCO President: Audrey Azoulay
 - UNESCO HQ: Paris, France
18. National Epilepsy Day is observed on November 17 by India.
- The day was established by Dr. Nirmal Surya in the year 2009.
19. 2nd National Naturopathy Day 2019 was observed on November 18 by Ministry of AYUSH.
- Theme: Mahatma Gandhi and Nature Care
 - Epilepsy is a chronic disorder that causes unprovoked, recurrent seizures. A seizure is a sudden rush of electrical activity in the brain.
 - Shripad Yesso Naik is the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of AYUSH.
20. World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is observed on November 17 by UN.
- Theme: Life is not a car part
 - This theme is based on Pillar 3 of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety - Safer vehicles.
21. World Antibiotic Awareness Week is observed from November 18-24 by WHO to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance.
- WHO is running the global campaign is 'Antibiotics: Handle with Care' since 2015.
22. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is observed on November 20 by GLAAD organization in commemoration of the transgenders who lost their lives in anti-transgender violence.
- The events of the day will be hosted by USA.
 - International Transgender Day of Visibility is observed on 31st March.
 - About GLAAD: It is the global organization fighting for the right of LGBTQ people. It is chaired by Pamela Stewart.
 - Headquarters of GLAAD: California, United States.
23. World Fisheries Day 2019 is observed on November 21.
- FAO, the Holy See, ILO, and partners celebrate the 3rd World Fisheries Day in 2019.
24. National Milk Day is observed on November 26 annually (since 2014) in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien (father of the White Revolution in India and also known as the 'Milkman of India').
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was established under the guidance of Kurien at the milk capital of India - Anand, Gujarat.
 - NDDB launched the 'Operation Flood' project in 1970 to transform India from being a milk importer into World's largest milk producer.
 - World Milk Day is marked on 1st June.
25. Constitution Day (also known as 'Samvidhan Divas') is observed on November 26. 70th years ago on this day in 1949, Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly.
- Earlier, the day was known as National Law Day but in 2015, on the 125th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar (father of Republic of India), this day was renamed.
 - On this day, the Ministry of HRD has launched a portal named as kartavya.ugc.ac.in under the Nagrik Kartavya Palan Abhiyan.

- Nagrik Kartavya Palan Abhiyan will run from 26th November 2019 to 26th November 2020 to create mass awareness about the Fundamental Duties mentioned in the constitution of India.
- HRD Ministry has also launched the 'Abhiyanta' portal of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) which has e-content on topics like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud computing, Big data, Augmented Reality etc.

AWARDS

1. 50th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has been concluded in Goa.
 - ICFT-UNESCO Fellini medal 2019: International Council for Film Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT; HQ- Paris) has awarded IFFI with this award for completing 50 years.
 - IFFI collaborated with the ICFT to present the ICFT- UNESCO Gandhi Medal 2019 to Italian film 'Rwanda', directed by Riccardo Salvetti.
 - IFFI 2020 and 2021 will pay a tribute to the filmmaker Satyajit Ray on his 100th birth anniversary (on 2 May 1921- 2 May 2021).
2. Nawazudeen Siddiqui has been awarded with the Golden Dragon Award at the Cardiff International Film Festival held in Wales, UK.
 - Reason: - for his contribution towards cinema.
3. PepsiCo India has been awarded with the 2019 Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) award for saving more than 17 billion litres of water through community water programs etc.
 - Other recipients of the award: Chambers Federation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Procter and Gamble Asia Pacific in Singapore and Agilis Partners in Uganda.
 - PepsiCo India has also been named as the global ACE winner in sustainable operations in the multinational enterprise category for its sustainable farming initiative in India.
 - About the Award: It was established in 1999 to felicitate the US companies that promote and uphold high standards as responsible members of their communities where they do business.
4. Greta Thunberg has rejected the Nordic Council environmental award 2019.
 - Reason: She believes that the authorities should start doing something for the environment instead of giving awards.
 - About the Nordic Council: It is an organization, founded by Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in 1952, to enhance the formal inter-parliamentary co-operation among the Nordic countries.
 - At present, it has 87 elected members.
5. Sudarshan Patnaik (sand artist) will be honoured with the Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019 during the International Scorrana Sand Nativity festival in Italy.
6. Dr Neeraj Sharma has won the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences)' for his work on next-generation lithium-ion batteries.
 - About the Award: NSW Premier of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia is awarding him with this.
 - 2019 NSW Scientist of the Year- Professor Rose Amal AC from the university has won this highest award.
7. Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice in the field of Contemporary Forms of Slavery

has been given by Harmony Foundation to:

8. Madhuri Vijay has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel - 'The Far Field'.
 - JCB Prize for Literature was instituted in 2018 by the
 - CB Prize for Literature is the richest literary honour in India, given by JCB Literature Foundation (a not-for-profit company founded in 2018 by the UK construction company- JCB).

9. A BBC documentary on the Real Kashmir Football Club has won the BAFTA Film Awards Scotland award in the 'Single Documentary' category.
 - BAFTA stands for British Academy Film and Television Arts.
 - Real Kashmir FC's coach: David Robertson.
 - The documentary was directed by Greg C Clark.

10. Miss Asia Global beauty pageant' was organized by the house of Pegasus in Kochi, Kerala.
 - Sara Damjanovic (Serbia) has been awarded with Miss Asia Global 2019 crown.
 - Nguyen Thi Yen Trang has won the 'Miss Asia' title.
 - Samiksha Singh has won the 'Miss Beautiful Face' title.
 - Leeseul Kim (Korea) and Jeanyeer Ozbot (Philippines) were awarded the 'Miss Asia Global first' and 'Miss Asia Global second runner up' titles, respectively.
 - 2020 Miss Asia Global will be held in Malaysia.

11. Ben Stokes has been awarded with the Professional Cricket Association's Player of the Year Award 2019.
 - Sophie Ecclestone was named as the women's player of the summer, becoming the first player to take the award more than once, having also won in 2018.

12. Basanta Kumar Kar (also known as the Nutrition Man) has become the 7th person in the world to receive the Global Nutrition Leadership Award 2019 at the UN-led Scaling up Nutrition Global Gathering (SUNGG) in Kathmandu, Nepal.
 - Theme of the SUN gathering: Nourishing people and planet together.

13. Venu Srinivasan (Chairman of the TVS Motor Company) has become the first India to get the Deming 'Distinguished Service Award for Dissemination And Promotion Overseas' in the field of Total Quality Management (TQM).
 - Deming prize is the highest award for TQM in the world and is sponsored by the Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE).

14. Press Council of India announced National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019 (to be presented by the PCI on the National Press Day on November 16).

15. 11th edition of NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum (NSIF) award was declared. Winners of the award will get a grant of Rs 10 lakh and a 12-month Support to Scale industry mentorship from experts.

16. 11th 'Infosys Prize 2019' was announced by Infosys Science Foundation (ISF). The award is given in 6 categories:
 - ISF is a not-for-profit trust set up in 2009.

17. 9th edition of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature has shortlisted 4 Indians among 6 novels:

- The chair of the jury panel, which announced shortlist, is Harish Trivedi.

18. BBC's 100 novels that shaped our world list has been released. Indian writers and their books included in the list are:

19. 9th edition of the RBS Earth Heroes Awards (REHA) have been declared by RBS India in different categories to those who have played significant role in combating climate change.

- Theme for 2019 awards was- 'Climate Change'.
- RBS India is the an arm of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). RBS and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) had together launched these awards in 2011 to award the people who have tried to mitigate climate change.

20. Kumar Mangalam Birla (chairman of the Aditya Birla Group) has been conferred with the ABLF Global Asian Award, in recognition of his efforts to bring Aditya Birla Group on the international level.

- Asia Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) is given by the UAE government.

21. TIME 100 Next 2019 list, an initiative of TIME magazine, highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism etc.

- From India, the list features Dutee Chand in the category of advocates of change for the society. Toppers in the list (Category-wise):

22. Abhishek Sarkar (Indian author) has won the Gemcon Tarun Kathasahitya Puraskar (literary award for his manuscript "Nishidho") during the 9th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest.

- Rafiquzzaman Roni (Bangladeshi poet) won the Gemcon Tarun Kobita Puraskar for his poem "Doshor Tamte Rong".
- The festival is observing 2019 as the year of protecting the indigenous languages.

23. National Thermal Power Corporation has been conferred with the Golden Peacock Award for Sustainability during the 19th International Conference on Corporate Governance & Sustainability held in London.

- The award is given by Institute of Directors, New Delhi.
- NTPC CMD: Gurdeep Singh

24. David Attenborough (British historian and TV presenter) will get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 given by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

- Reason: for preserving and protecting the biodiversity.

25. Virat Kohli has won the PETA India's Person of the Year for 2019 award given by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India.

- PETA President: Ingrid Newkirk

26. K. Ullas Karanth (Wildlife biologist) has been awarded with the George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science by Wildlife Conservation Society for contributing in the field of conservation.

- He is the first recipient of WCS's award.
- WCS headquarters: New York, USA
- Chairman of WCS: Alejandro Santo Domingo

27. Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Sect of Buddhism have received the Asia Society's Game Changer Award for their human rights activism.
- Drukpa Lineage was started by Gyalwang Drukpa and they currently stay at Druk Amitabha Mountain Nunnery in Nepal, Ladakh and Delhi.
28. 4th BRICS Young Scientist Forum (YSF) is held in Campinas, Brazil on the theme of "BRICS Young Innovation and Entrepreneurship". BRICS-Young Scientist conclave was also held in Campinas in Sept this year.
- Ravi Prakash has won the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize (first prize worth USD 25,000) at the 4th edition of the BRICS-Young Scientist Forum (YSF) 2019.
 - Reason: for inventing an affordable milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers.
 - Ravi Prakash is an Indian PhD scholar from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bangalore.
29. Robert De Niro (Hollywood actor) has been chosen for the SAG Life Achievement Award - highest honour given by Screen Actors Guild (SAG).
- He will be awarded at the 26th edition of the SAG's award ceremony.
 - The award is given by the American organization - Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA).
30. Tobacco Board of India was awarded the Golden Leaf award 2019 in the 'Public Service Initiative' category at the Tab Expo 2019 held in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Reason: for undertaking initiatives for Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India.
 - India is the world's third-largest producer of leaf tobacco.
31. Uttar Pradesh's police was awarded with the 3rd prize at the Dubai Police International Call Centre for its service delivered through 112 emergency number (launched in October by CM Yogi Adityanath).
- 1st prize was won by Singapore police and 2nd prize was won by the Sharjah Police, UAE.
 - 911 of US, 102 of Australia and 112 of Europe were also nominees.
32. 'Bhonsle' film has won two awards - one for 'Best Director' and the other for 'Best Screenplay' at the Asian film festival Barcelona held in Barcelona, Spain.
- Director: Devashish Makhija
 - Lead Actor: Manoj Bajpayee
33. At the 108th foundation day of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Bill Gates has presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw in recognition of her achievement in healthcare and her contribution to the society at large.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the chairperson and managing director of Biocon.
 - Prakash Baba Amte (director of Lok Biradari Prakalp) and Cyrus S. Poonawalla (CMD of Serum Institute of India) have also been awarded with the Lifetime Achievement.
 - ICMR was founded in 1911 as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) and in 1949 IRFA was renamed as ICMR.
 - CG Pandit was the first director of ICMR. Current Director General of ICMR is Balram Bhargava.

34. Luka Modric (footballer) has become the first person from Croatia to win the Golden Foot award 2019.
35. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya (Bangladeshi Singer) has been awarded with the ICCR distinguished alumni award given by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
36. Satya Nadella (CEO of Microsoft) is at the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list.
37. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has been awarded with 2 awards in the categories of 'Best non-motorized transport' and 'best green initiative in urban transport' at the 12th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2019 (held in Lucknow).
- Theme of the expo: "Accessible and liveable Cities".
 - The expo was organized by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
 - The awards were given in 6 categories of Best NMT (Non-Motorised Transport) Project; Best City Bus Service; Best Urban Mass Transit Project; Best Intelligent Transport System Project; Best Initiative for Improved Road Safety; Best City in Urban Transport Initiatives.
38. Bajrang Punia has been awarded with the 'Indian Personality of the Year Award' (Sports) at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019 held in Dubai, UAE.
- Mahant Gaurav Sharma (World powerlifting champion) has been awarded with Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award.
39. Hridayeshwar Singh Bhati (aged 17) has won the Empowerment of Person with Disabilities award 2019 under the category of Outstanding Creative Child (Male) - given by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- In 2013, he became the youngest patent holder (in both abled and differently abled categories) in the world for inventing a 6-player circular chess at the age of 9.
40. Neha Dixit (journalist) has won the International Press Freedom Awards 2019, along with other winners.
- The award is given by the Committee to Protect Journalist (HQ- New York).
 - CPJ was founded in 1981. CPJ's chairperson is Kathleen Carroll.
41. World Athletics Award 2019 (given by IAAF) has awarded Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya) with the Male Athlete of the year 2019 for becoming the world's first man to run a marathon in less than 2 hours.
- Dalilah Muhammad (USA) has been awarded with Female Athlete of the year 2019 for setting a new world record in winning 400m Hurdles Gold at the World Athletics Championships 2019.
- Note:- There were many other categories as well for which the awards had been given but only the important ones are provided here.
42. 27th edition of the Ekalabya Award 2019 has been given to Jhilli Dalabehera (weightlifter from Odisha) by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).
- Jabamani Tudu (woman footballer) and Namita Toppo (hockey player), both from Odisha, are the other winners of this prize.
 - The award is given to encourage and inspire young sportspersons to play at National and International platforms.



43. Suresh Krishna has been awarded with the first 'Quality Ratna' award by the CII Institute of Quality during its 27th Quality Summit held in Bangalore, Karnataka.

- Krishna is the current chairman of Sundram Fasteners Limited.
- He, in association with the Japan Institute of Plant Maintenance (JIPM), established the Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) club of India in 1998 and he was its first chairman.

44. 13th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (highest award in films in Asia Pacific) were given in Brisbane, Australia.

45. G Satheesh Reddy (DRDO chairman) has become the first Indian in more than 100 year, to be awarded with the honorary fellowship of Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) of United Kingdom.

- Reason: In recognition of his services towards developing indigenous missile systems, guided weapons, aerospace vehicles, avionics technologies etc. in India.
- The award is highest honour given by RAeS and also considered as equivalent to Nobel Prize in the aerospace domain. It was instituted in 1917.

46. NDTV has won the International Press Institute India award for excellence in journalism given by the International Press Institute-India.

- India chapter of the Vienna-based i.e., IPI-India has instituted the annual award in 2003 to honour the best work done by an Indian media organization/journalist.
- International Press Institute (IPI) was founded in 1950, in New York.

47. Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri (Malayalam poet) has been selected for 55th Jnanpith Award 2019.

- Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour, instituted in 1961, by the Bhartiya Jnanpith trust.
- It is given to the Indian writers who write in any of 22 Indian languages listed in Schedule VIII of Indian Constitution.

48. Rahul Adhikari has been awarded with the Karmaveer Chakra Award 2019 and REX Karmaveer Global Fellowship at the REX Conclave held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- Reason: To recognise his contribution in the education sector. He is the inventor of 'International Changemaker Olympiad' for the school children.
- The award has been instituted by the International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) along with the United Nations to honour the social actions of the citizens as a tribute to APJ Abdul Kalam.

49. Elavenil Valarivan, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Saurabh Chaudhary will be awarded with "Golden Target Award" by International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF).

- The award is a tribute to the shooter who has played best in the season.

SPORTS

1. BWF Men's Doubles latest rankings (as of 29 October 2019): -

- Top ranker - Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (from Indonesia).
- Indian ranker - Swastiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ranked at 9th position.
- Men's Singles -

• Women's Singles: -

2. Indian Olympics Committee has appointed Mary Kom as the group member and as a representative of Asian Boxers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Athlete Ambassador.
3. Minerva Punjab FC has been renamed as Punjab Football Club.
4. India women's cricket team has won the ACC Women's Emerging Asia Cup 2019 held in Sri Lanka.
 - Only 4 countries have participated in this cup - Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.
5. South Africa has won the 3rd Rugby World Cup held in Japan and lifted the Webb Ellis Cup (trophy awarded to the winner of the men's Rugby World Cup; named after William Webb Ellis - the inventor of Rugby).
 - Tendai Mtawarira (South African rugby player) has announced retirement after the world cup.
 - Captain of the team: - Siya Kolisi (also the 1st black captain of South Africa).
6. Novak Djokovic has won his career's fifth Masters title at the Paris Masters (ATP tennis tour).
 - Men's Doubles winner - N. Mahut and P. H. Herbert
7. Pooja Gehlot has won a second silver medal at the UWW Under-23 World Championships 2019 in Budapest, Hungary.
 - Ravinder (61kg) has also won a silver medal.
8. Lakshya Sen has won his career's second successive BWF World Tour Super 100 title at Saarbrücken Open in Germany.
9. Ashleigh Barty has won the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, China.
 - Doubles winner: - Kristina Mladenovic and Tímea Babos.
10. U23 Senior World Wrestling Championships 2019 (organized by the United World Wrestling) has concluded at the Budapest, Hungary.
 - Winner: Russia (145 medals in total).
 - Runner up: Iran (139 medals)
11. Parshant Singh Kanhaiya has broken a 33-year-old National under-20 pole vault record with an effort of 5.05 m in the 35th National junior athletics championship held at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
 - Vijay Pal Singh had set record in the World junior athletics championships in Athens in July 1986 in the 5.00 m.
12. Valtteri Bottas has won the United States Grand Prix 2019.
 - Lewis Hamilton was the runner up and won the sixth drivers' world championship here.
13. FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will be held in India. The emblem of world cup has been released.
14. Association of Tennis Professionals Ranking (as of 4.11.19):
 - Ashleigh Barty has topped the women's tennis rankings.

15. Kento Momota (Japan) has won his 10th title in 2019 at the Fuzhou China Open (badminton tournament).
 - Women's Singles has been won by Chen Yufei (China).
 - India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have won Bronze in the men's doubles.
16. 35th National Junior Athletics Championships 2019 was held in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
17. ITF Seniors Teams Fred Perry Cup (M50) - played in tennis, held in Lisbon & Estoril, Portugal, was won by Spain.
18. ITF Seniors Teams (W55), (M55), (W60), (M60), held in Lisbon & Estoril, Portugal.
Note: - (W55), (M55), (W60), (M60) - these are the categories of ITF Senior teams tennis tournament. In the table, the name of the tournament for each category has been mentioned.
19. India will host 2023 FIH Men's World Cup while Spain, Netherlands will co-host 2022 FIH Hockey Women's World Cup.
 - Men's world cup will take place in 2023 while women's will be held in 2022.
 - This is the 4th time that India is hosting FIH's hockey world cup. Previous 3 world cups were - Junior Men's World Cup 2016, Hockey World League 2017 and Men's Series Finals 2019 (held in Odisha in June- results in June spotlight).
20. Indian women cricket team has won the 3rd ODI match against West Indies held in Antigua.
 - Smriti Mandhana has become the fastest Indian women cricketer to score 2,000 runs in ODIs with 2,025 runs in 51 innings.
21. FIFA World Cup 2026 will be hosted by three nations - USA, Mexico and Canada.
 - 2022 FIFA World Cup will be hosted in Doha, Qatar.
22. Deepak Chahar has become the first Indian male cricketer to win a hat-trick in T20I during the third T20I against Bangladesh in Nagpur.
 - India won the T20I match.
23. Shefali Verma has become the youngest Indian to score a half century in an international match and won the match against West Indies.
 - India and West Indies are playing in the 3-series T20I match in Guyana.
24. India has won T20I series against Bangladesh held in Rajkot, Gujarat.
 - Records at the T20I match:
25. France has won their first Fed Cup 2019, title in 16 years, held in Australia.
 - Fed Cup is the one of the most prestigious international women's tennis tournament organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
 - Women's Doubles won by Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic (France).
 - Ashleigh Barty (Australia) won the women's singles. It is her 15th consecutive Fed Cup win.
26. Jannik Sinner (aged 18 from Italy) has won the Next Gen ATP Finals (tennis) held in Milan, Italy.

- Next Generation ATP Finals is an annual men's youth tennis tournament for the best 21-and-under players of the season.
 - ATP's headquarters is in London. Chris Kermode is the Chairman & President of ATP.
27. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd's hockey players have won the 123rd All India Beighton Cup Hockey Tournament held in Kolkata.
- Beighton Cup is one of the oldest field hockey tournament Instituted in 1895. It was instituted by Bengal Hockey Association.
28. International Hockey Federation (FIH) has announced to create two new world level tournaments - Hockey 5s World Cup, with its inaugural edition to be played in 2023 and Intercontinental Cup, starting 2021, as a second-division competition behind the Pro League.
- Intercontinental Cup would be an annual, 8-team, single-venue event.
 - FIH headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; FIH President: Narinder Batra
29. Thomas Dennerby (Sweden) has been appointed as the Head Coach of the Indian Women's U-17 team by AIFF for FIFA U-17 world cup 2020 to be held in India.
- AIFF is the All India Football Federation headquartered in Delhi. AIFF head is Praful Patel.
30. India will play its first day/night test match series against Bangladesh with a new pink ball at Eden Garden, Kolkata.
31. Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) has released its latest rankings in which Sumit Nagal (India) has moved up to 2 places to be at 127 rank. Rafael Nadal has retained the top spot again.
- Rohan Bopana (38th), Divij Sharan (46th) and Purav Raja (93rd) have also improved their doubles rankings.
 - ATP headquarters: London, England
 - ATP President and Chairman: Chris Kermode
32. ICC T20 ranking has been released recently:
33. FIFA has banned 3 South American football officials for lifetime on charges of corruption.
- 3 officials are: Manuel Burga (Peru) and Eduardo Deluca and Jose Luis Meiszner (both from Argentina).
34. ICC ODI ranking:
35. World Kabaddi Cup 2019 will be organized by the Punjab government in December 2019.
- Nine teams from India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan and Canada are expected to participate in the tournament.
 - About World Kabbadi Federation (WKF): WKF was founded in 2004. The headquarters of the WKF is in New Delhi.
36. 14th Asian Shooting Championship was held in Doha, Qatar.
- China topped the medal tally with 90 medals (34 golds).
 - India was at 2nd position with 70 medals (25 gold).
37. 9th edition of the World Para Athletics Championship 2019 has concluded in Dubai, UAE.

- Medal tally is topped by China with 59 medals (25 gold)
 - India was ranked at 24th position with 9 medals (2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze).
 - Gold medals have been won by Sundar Singh Gurjar (Javeline throw) and Sandeep Chaudhary (F64 Javeline throw).
 - India qualified for 2020 Paralympics sport (to be held in Tokyo, Japan).
38. Max Verstappen has won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2019.
39. Joohyung Kim (South Korean) has won the 9th edition of the Panasonic Open title (golf) held in Nuh, Haryana.
40. India won a total of 12 medals (5 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) at the Asian Youth Boxing Championship held in Ulaanbaatar (Capital of Mongolia).
- Gold winner (all women): Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg) Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) and Sushma (81kg).
 - Silver Winners: Selay Soy (49kg) and Ankit Narwal (60kg)
 - Bronze Winners: Arundhati Choudhury (69kg), Komalpreet Kaur (81kg), Jaismine (57kg), Satender Singh (91kg) and Aman (91kg).
41. Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greek tennis player) has won the men's singles at the Nitto ATP Finals held in London, United Kingdom.
- Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut have men's doubles.
 - ATP Finals (also known as the 2019 Nitto ATP Finals for sponsorship reasons) is the season-ending men's tennis tournament.
42. FIH has announced that Odisha (Bhuvneshwar) will host the home matches of the 2020 Hockey Pro League.
- All the countries will host their home town matches in the following locations (within the country).
43. For the 4th time, Brazil has won the FIFA Under-17 World Cup (men) held at Brasilia, Brazil.
44. Marc Marquez (and his Repsol Honda Team) has won the Valencia MotoGP 2019.
45. 'Grassroot Olympic - Mission Talent Hunt' programme has been launched by the Assam Olympic Association (AOA) to identify and groom sports talent in the state.
- Khelo India Youth Games will also be organized in the state.
 - CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - President of AOA: CM Sarbananda Sonowal
46. Indian Women's team has won the fifth T20I match against West Indies. Indian tour to West Indies was for 3 Women's ODI, which is a part of the 2017-20 ICC Women's Championship, and 5 Women's T20I matches.
- ICC Women's T20I Rankings:
47. India has topped the medal tally with 3 golds (total medals are also 3) at the ISSF Shooting World Cup held in Putian, China, followed by China.
- Gold Winners: Manu Baker, Elavenil Valarivan, Divyansh Singh Panwar.

48. Chitahresh Natesan (former hockey player and now bodybuilder) also known as the 'Indian Monster', has become the first Indian to win 'Mr. Universe (Pro) 2019' in 90kg category at the 11th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship held in Jeju, South Korea.
- Overall, India holds 2nd position in the team championship category at the same event. Total 23 medals (6 gold, 13 silver and 4 bronze medals) have been won by India.
 - Organizer: World Bodybuilding And Physique Sports Federation (WBPF).
49. World Athletics Council has announced Belgrade (capital of Serbia) as the host of its first-ever World Athletics Indoor Championships 2022.
- Yangzhou (China) will host the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships 2022.
50. Rafael Nadal (Spain) has won the men's singles at the Davis Cup title 2019 (tennis) held in Madrid, Spain.
- It is the sixth title for Spain.
 - Spain's Marcel Granollers and Feliciano Lopez won Men's Doubles.
 - Davis Cup is the men's tennis tournament organized by International Tennis Federation (ITF).
51. India has topped the medal tally with 28 medals (included 13 gold, 14 silver and 1 bronze) at the U-15 Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Taichun, China.
- Kazakhstan and Japan were at the 2nd and 3rd position respectively.
52. FIH (International Hockey Federation) Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in Odisha.
- This is the 2nd time in a row that India is hosting this World Cup after the first one was hosted in 2018.
53. Prithu Gupta has become the youngest grandmaster of India in chess.
54. FIFA World Ranking for the whole year of 2019 has been released.
55. Lakshay Sen has won his Scottish Open (ATP tennis tour).
- It is his 4th title since September. Before it, he has won Saarlouis Open, Dutch Open and Belgian International Tennis Tournament.
56. Korea Masters World Tour Super 300 badminton tournament was held in Gwangju, South Korea.
- Men's Singles: Kanta Tsuneyama
 - Women's Singles: An Se Young
57. ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open table tennis championship was held in Batam, Indonesia.
- Men's Singles: Harmeet Desai
 - Women's Singles: Jien Shao (Portugal)
58. 63rd National shotgun championship was held in New Delhi.
59. 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (33rd edition) - football championship of African nations - will be hosted by Cameroon.



60. Ridhima Dilawari has won the her 5th title in the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour held in Royal Calcutta Golf Course, West Bengal.
61. 6th KPIT MSLTA Challenger 2019 (part of ATP Tennis tournament) was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - Men's Singles: James Duckworth (Australia)
 - Men's Doubles: Purav Raja and Ramkumar Ramanathan
62. Lee Cheuk Yiu (Hong Kong) has won the men's singles at the Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open 2019 (badminton).
 - Women's Singles: Chen Yu Fei (Chinese)
63. Magnus Carlsen won the 2019 Tata Steel Chess India Rapid & Blitz (a part of the Grand Chess Tour) held in Kolkata, India.
 - It was the first GCT event ever to be held in Asia.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Post-Colonial Assam (1947 to 2019) book has been written by Mrinal Talukdar.
 - National Register of Citizens in Assam — It is a register maintained by the Indian Government for identification of Indian citizens of Assam state.
 - The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India. In the recent NRC, over 19 lakh out of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam were excluded from the final NRC list.
2. A survey conducted by the Ferns Nature Conservation Society (FNCS) in association with Forest and Wildlife Department has found out that the Western Ghats still has a rich diversity of butterflies with 191 species, 12 of which are endemic to this region.
 - Map of Western Ghats -traversing through Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. [WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES, NATIONAL PARKS AND BIODIVERSITY RESERVES ARE PROVIDED IN STATIC GK FOR ALL THE STATES ABOVE]
3. A new book Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us has been written by the eldest son of Donald Trump i.e., Donald Trump Jr.
4. The First Sikh: The Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak book has been written by Nikki- Guninder Kaur Singh and published by penguin publishing house.
 - The book will be released on 550th birth anniversary of guru nanak dev.
5. NASA's Voyager 2 has entered interstellar space and exited heliosphere at a distance of about 11 billion miles from Earth (well beyond the orbit of Pluto).
 - The Voyager mission (including Voyager 1 and 2) was started in 1977 to study the outer solar system.
 - Voyager 2 will study 4 planets - Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus.
 - In 2012, Voyager 1 entered the interstellar space for the first time and Voyager 2 entered the interstellar space in 2018.
6. 'Kashmir' book has been written by Chitralkha Zutshi.

7. Dudhwa National Park (Uttar Pradesh) has decided to declare baby elephant Durga as its mascot for the tourist season in 2019.
 - Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve are also located in Uttar Pradesh.
8. Ben Stokes (cricketer of England) has written the book 'On Fire: My Story of England's Summer to Remember'.
9. Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the book titled 'The Rise of Finance: Causes, Consequences and Cure' written by V Anantha Nageswaran and Gulzar Natarajan.
 - The book examines the rise of financialization globally.
10. Dhruv Prajapati (a Ph.D. student from Gujarat) has discovered two new species of spiders.
 - Named them after Sachin Tendulkar (Marengo sachintendulkar) and Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara (Indomarengo Chavarapatera).
 - Chavara is popular for spreading education in Kerala.
11. Evo Morales (President of Bolivia) has resigned from his post because of 3 weeks of violent protests for his alleged election rigging.
 - Bolivia's capital: Sucre
 - Bolivia's currency: boliviano
12. CJI Ranjan Gogoi has released the Assamese version of 'Courts of India: Past to Present' ('Bharatborshor Aadalatshomuh: Otitor Pora Bortomanoloi' in Assamese) book in Guwahati.
 - The book is a compilation of history of the courts and judicial institutions of India, right from ancient times to the modern day in 2016.
 - The book has been released by Publication Division.
13. Keshava Guha has written the book 'Accidental Magic'.
14. 'The Apology' book has been written by Eve Ensler (American author).
15. NASA has renamed the farthest icy rock in the space from Ultima Thule to Arrokoth (meaning sky in the Native American Powhatan language).
 - Reason: The previous name had some Nazi connotations.
 - The New Horizons spacecraft had founded the rock in the Kuiper Belt (which is about a billion miles beyond Pluto) in January 2019.
 - The new name has been approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).
16. India's first signal fish named as 'Pteropsaron indicum' has been discovered in Kerala.
17. An Extreme Love of Coffee: A Novel has been written by Harish Bhat.
18. 4th India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2019 was held in Shillong, Meghalaya.
 - South Korea is the partner country in the festival.
19. Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh and all other

members of Rajya Sabha have released a book "Rajya Sabha: The Journey since 1952" which chronicles the history of Rajya Sabha till date.

- Besides, a silver coin of Rs.250; and postal stamp of Rs.5.00 were also release to mark the 250th session of Rajya Sabha.
- 1st session of Rajya Sabha was in 1952.

20. Manimala Roy has written the book "From Shanties to School".

21. UNICEF has released the book 'From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha' to create awareness about the problems of underweight, obesity and anaemia among children in India.

- The book is based on the findings of the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey 2016-18.

22. "Tazkirah" novel (written by late Intizar Husain in Urdu in 1987) has been translated into English as "The Chronicle" by American writer Matt Reeck.

23. "Climate emergency" has been chosen by Oxford Dictionary as its word of the year for 2019.

- Climate Emergency is defined by Oxford as 'a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and also to avoid the possible irreversible environmental loss resulting from it'.

24. NVIDIA has developed the World's Largest GPU (graphics processing unit)-accelerated cloud-based supercomputer titled as NDv2 on Microsoft Azure.

- NDv2 allows the customers to rent a whole AI supercomputer on demand from their desk.

25. Raghuram Rajan has written a book named 'The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind' which focuses on the importance of community's growth for an economy.

- The book focusses on the trinity of Markets, State and Community as the three pillars of the society and how the 3rd pillar has received less attention.

26. Dallol Geothermal Field in Ethiopia is the most torrid zone on Earth with temperature in winters exceeding 45° C.

- This place does not have any presence of life (not even microbial).
- The research was published in the 'Nature Ecology and Evolution' journal.
- The study was conducted by the French-Spanish team of scientists led by biologist Purificacion Lopez Garcia of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) along with the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain and the Autonomous University of Madrid.

27. Simon Taufel (retired Australian umpire) has written the 'Finding Gaps - Transferable skills to be the best you can be' book.

28. "Hemant Karkare -A Daughter's Memoir" book has been written by Jui Karkare Navare.

- The book depicts the life of the former Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare (who died in 2008 Mumbai terror attacks) as a father to Jui Navare.

29. "RN Kao: Gentleman Spymaster" book based on the life of legendary Spymaster late Rameshwar Nath Kao has been written by Nitin Anant Gokhale.

- Rameshwar Nath Kao is one of the founding father of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Directorate General of Security (DGS) among other things.

30. Three books for children namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad, and Dilli ki Bulbul (in Sindhi edition) have been written by IAS officer Anita Bhatnagar Jain.

- Minister of HRD, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, has launched these 3 books.

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