



OCTOBER CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

1. The 2nd edition of the Modi-Xi informal summit is being held in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.
 - The first informal meet was held at Wuhan, China in 2018.
 - India has relaxed its e-visa policy for Chinese nationals. Now, Chinese can apply for an e-Tourist visa with a 5-year validity with multiple entries.
 - Visa fee has been reduced across categories of e-Tourist visa.
 - The existing e-conference visa, e-medical visa and 1-year multiple-entry e-business visa will continue to be issued from online platform of Indian visas.
2. Intellectual property index 2019, developed by US chamber of commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC), ranked India at 36th (from 44 position in 2018) out of 50 countries and USA at the top countries. (released in Feb 2019)
 - It ranks countries based on 45 indicators that are critical to an innovation-led economy supported by robust patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secret protection.
 - India's Strengths and Weaknesses: -
3. Social progress index 2019, developed by Social progress imperative, ranked India at 102 position out of 149 countries and Norway at the top position.
 - India's GDP PPP per capita is \$6,899 (rank - 95).
 - The index measures countries on 3 dimensions - Basic Human Needs, Foundation of Well Being, Opportunity.
 - Under these three dimensions, there are several components: -
4. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and IIT-Bombay are organizing the Global Student Solar Assembly to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as well as to promote the Gandhian idea of sustainable living.
 - India has committed to reduce its carbon intensity by 33-35% by the year 2030.
5. Trade and development report 2019, developed by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, has predicted that the World GDP growth rate (forecasted) is 2.3% for 2019 against 3% of 2018.
 - India's GDP growth rate is 6% for 2019 against 7.4% in 2018.
 - China with a 6.1% (6.6% in 2018) growth rate for 2019 reclaims the title of the world's fastest growing economy by being ahead of India by just 0.1%.
6. SDG India Index 2019, developed by NITI Aayog and United Nations, is titled as the "Localising SDGs Early Lessons From 2019".
 - The index bifurcates the states/UTs into three categories: - Aspirational, Performers and Frontrunner to measure the progress of states in localising and implementing Sustainable Development Goals.
 - India is the sixth largest economy and remains a global engine of growth and is projected to be the fastest growing major economy in 2019-20.
7. National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT and National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal have signed an MoU for implementing the 'Online Capacity Building

Programme on Cyber Law, Crime Investigation and Digital Forensics through NeGD Learning Management System (LMS)'.

- A Cyber Forensics Lab shall be setup in the premises of National Law University (NLU) Delhi to provide an Online PG Diploma Course in Cyber Law, Crime Investigation & Digital Forensics to 1000 officials.
 - Under the Digital India Programme, NeGD and NLIU will offer this course through its Learning Management System (LMS).
8. Raised Lines Foundation, a non-profit IIT-Delhi incubated start-up, has launched three bilingual tactile books (braille), on the life of Mahatma Gandhi for the visually challenged people.
- 'Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi', 'About India' and 'Incredible India' are the three books.
9. Students in the Delhi-NCR region have created 2 Guinness Book world records for environment protection on Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- First: - It is in the category of 'environmental sustainability lessons to the largest number of students at one place' wherein close to 5,000 children participated.
 - Second: - It is 'the largest number of assembly and lighting of solar lamps' in which more than 5,000 students participated.
10. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has launched three "Saksham Eco Mart" outlets to phase out plastics and sell jute and cloth bags and to provide employment to women as well.
11. Andhra Pradesh has launched the Village and Ward Secretariat system to ensure that the government services reach the last mile citizen and to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system in the state.
- Under the system, one Village Secretariat is going to be set up for every population of 2,000, with each one having close to a dozen village officials (from different departments like police, revenue, etc).
 - Village Secretariats would act as a bridge between the government and the people by providing over 500 types of services at their doorstep.
 - Earlier, the AP govt (under N. Chandrababu Naidu) focussed on the e-governance system and launched the e-Pragati platform in 2018 to bring many of the state government's services online, in partnership with EY Consultancy.
12. A 2-day "Regional Conference on Developing a Comprehensive Approach: Combating Illicit Trafficking of Afghan Opiates and Drug Situation in the Northeast (NE)" was held in Imphal, Manipur.
- Organizer: - UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office, South Asia.
13. Chhattisgarh has launched 5 new schemes namely: -
14. Telangana has become a fully electrified state after providing electricity to over 5 lakh 15 thousand households under the Saubhagya Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana "Saubhagya" was launched in 2017.
15. Delhi cabinet has approved to create the India's first sports university in Delhi. It will offer degrees to sportspersons at par with degrees in other courses at graduate, postgraduate and doctoral level.
- The bill approved by the Cabinet will be sent to Lt Governor Anil Baijal. After that, the bill will be tabled in the Delhi Assembly.

16. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) has launched a mobile app — Blood4Pet — to bring reach out to pet blood donors for collecting blood for curing dogs.
17. Odisha has launched the 'Mo Sarkar' initiative to ensure good governance and transparency in the administration at the grassroots level.
18. Ministry of Railways' Quality Council of India has conducted the Railway Cleanliness Survey 2019 which ranks three railway stations of Rajasthan - Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Durgapura - at the top position out of the total 720 railway stations.
 - Andheri, Virar and Naigaon stations in Mumbai have topped in the category of suburban stations out of the total 109 stations.
 - North Western Railway followed by South East Central Railway and East Central Railway are the top three railway zones.
 - Faizabad station has shown improvement the most.
 - Perungalathur (Chennai) is ranked at the bottom position in non-suburban category. In suburban category, Rabindra Sadan (metro railway in Kolkata) is at the bottom.
19. Urjagiri - an awareness campaign - has been launched by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat to raise awareness among people to stop power theft and to avoid power loss.
20. India and Syria have signed an MoU for up-grading the India-Syria Next Generation Center for Excellence in Information and Technology in Damascus.
 - Objective: - To upgrade the existing India-Syria Center for Excellence in Information and Technology to the Next Generation Center for Excellence in Information and Technology (NexGen-ISCEIT).
 - The NexGen-ISCEIT will work to "Train the Trainers". This initiative will help in rapid expansion of IT Sector in Syria.
21. 3rd meeting of the Drone Innovators Network Summit 2019 is being organized in New Delhi by World Economic Forum under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - India is one of the few countries to come out with drone regulations - Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), effective 1 December, 2018.
22. According to the "2019 Southwest Monsoon Season Rainfall and IMD's Long Range Forecasts" by India Meteorological Department (IMD), Haryana has the highest number of dry districts, 19 out of 21 (including three where rainfall was scanty).
 - The driest state in India is Manipur with 56% deficiency and Haryana is the second driest state with 42% deficiency.
 - Quantitatively monsoon seasonal rainfall was 110% of its Long Period Average, which is 88 cm.
 - More than 52, 1/3rd of the dry districts, are in the high-output agriculture belt of Punjab, Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh, including Delhi.
23. Peddapalli district of Telangana has topped in the Rural Swachhta Survey 2019 as the cleanest district in India.
 - Haryana's Faridabad district improved the most in the list and moved to 2nd place in 2019 from its previous rank of 71 in 2018. Haryana's Rewari district is ranked 3rd in the list.

- Tamil Nadu has been ranked at the 1st position from 11 position in 2018. Haryana and Gujarat were ranked at second and third positions respectively.
 - The survey was carried out in 17,200 villages of 690 districts.
24. 4th edition of KAZIND-2019 - a joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan has begun at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
25. PM Narendra Modi and PM of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth have jointly inaugurated the phase 1 of Light Rail Transit metro express project (developed by L&T) and first paperless E-Hospital (of ENT) in Mauritius through a video link.
26. Ministry of Tourism has launched an audio guide facility app "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites during the 3rd edition of Paryatan Parv-2019.
- An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Tourism and Resbird Technologies in 2018 to develop the app as a part of their Corporate social responsibility.
 - Apart from this, the 26th MoU was signed under the 'Adopt a Heritage, Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchan' scheme, which is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and state govt/UTs to promote tourism.
27. Govt has launched the "PRAKASH" (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony) portal to bring transparency as well as better coordination in coal supplies to power plants.
- It was launched by Ministry of Power and the Ministry for Coal and Mines.
 - The portal is developed by NTPC Ltd, Central Electricity Authority (data sourcing), Centre for Railway Information System and coal companies.
 - It will provide reports on daily power plant status, periodic power plant status, plant exception report and coal dispatch report.
28. Andhra Pradesh govt has launched 'YSR Vahana Mitra scheme' to provide financial aid of Rs 10,000 per annum to auto-rickshaw or taxicab drivers/owners.
- Rs 400 crore has been allocated for this scheme.
29. Rajasthan has become the first state in India to launch the Policy On Pneumoconiosis (a disease of lungs due to inhalation of dust) for prevention and control of the disease.
- Under the scheme, People diagnosed with pneumoconiosis will be declared permanently disabled.
 - A standing committee under the chairmanship of Rajasthan's chief secretary D B Gupta has been created to periodically review progress of implementation of the policy.
- Entitlements - pension (1,250 per month). They will get Rs 4,000 every month as pension, and their family will receive Rs 3,500 every month for five years or until their minor heirs become self-dependent. Rajasthan will also create a Pneumoconiosis Fund.
30. Ministry of Health and Family welfare has, in collaboration with WHO, re-designated National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Priority Medical Devices and Health Technology Policy.
- Aim - To assist in policy and strategy development in the provision and mobilization of technical assistance to improve health outcomes.



- NHSRC and WHO's country office have jointly developed a guidance document for the Ministry of Health's free diagnostics initiative to strengthen the agenda of Universal access to affordable diagnostics.
31. "Trans Fat Free" logo of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been released during the 8th International Chefs' Conference of 2019, held in New Delhi to strengthen the 'Eat Right Movement'.
- 'Chefs 4 Trans Fat Free' slogan was also released to help achieve the govt's target to eliminate trans-fat by 2022 (quantitatively less than 2%); with the motto 'India@75; Freedom from Trans Fats'.
 - The logo of the Green Purple initiative was also launched. This 6-month initiative aims to teach the chefs on sustainable cooking (trans-fat free cooking) methods and food safety legal requirements.
 - FSSAI's Hygiene Rating Scheme is an online rating system that aims to provide ratings to the food places.
 - WHO target to eliminate trans-fat is 2023.
32. Govt has formed a working group, headed by Guruprasad Mohapatra, to prepare the new industrial policy that would aim to make India -a manufacturing hub.
- It is the 3rd industrial policy after 1956 and 1991. The process of formulating the new industrial policy (replacing the existing Industrial Policy of 1991) was started by DPIIT in 2017.
 - National Manufacturing Policy will be subsumed under this new policy.
 - The committee will focus on to delineating the role for private sector in achieving the national targets.
33. Ministry of Defence has increased the amount of the financial aid given to the Next of Kin of all categories of battle casualty to Rs 8 lakhs from Rs 2 lakhs under Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (ABCWF).
- The ABCWF was instituted in 2017 and was implemented retrospectively with effect from April 2016 under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare.
 - At present, Rs 2 lakh is given to battle casualties in case of death/60% and above disability.
 - The previous Minister of Home Affairs, Rajnath Singh, had launched the "Bharat ke Veer" web portal in 2017 to enable people to contribute towards family of martyrs.
34. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India have signed a letter of intent for establishing the Youth Co:Lab in New Delhi.
- Purpose: - To train the youths of India in entrepreneurial skills by connecting with govt, mentors, incubators and other investors.
 - Phase-I of this programme focuses on six Sustainable Development Goals: -
35. 14th edition of the joint military training exercise between India and Mongolia - "Nomadic Elephant-XIV" has started in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
36. International Institute for Management Development (IMD) has conducted the first ever "Smart City Index 2019" which ranks Hyderabad as the top Indian city with the rank of 67.
- After Hyderabad, New Delhi is at rank 68, Mumbai is at 78 and Bengaluru is at 79.
 - A total of 102 cities were assessed.
 - IMD World Competitiveness Center's Smart City Observatory, in partnership with, Singapore University of Technology and Design has presented the report.



37. 39th World Congress of Poets (WCP) was organized by the World Academy of Arts and Culture (WAAC) at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology at Bhubneshwar, Odisha under the theme of "Compassion through Poetry".
- The WCP was founded in 1969 at Manila, Philippines by the WAAC.
38. Vishnu Nandan is the only Indian to aboard the German research vessel Polarstern, en- route on the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) expedition to understand the impact of climate change.
- Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAIC, is leading this largest ever Arctic expedition.
 - A total of 300 scientists will be on board the vessel.
39. National Health Authority (NHA) has signed a Statement of Intent with Google for strengthening the Ayushman Bharat- PM Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- Google would help provide training to NHA personnel to build their digital skills.
40. India and Bangladesh have signed various MoU during Sheikh Hasina's visit to India: -
41. Global Firepower Index or Military Strength Ranking 2019 has been released by the Global Firepower which ranks India at the 4th position globally with the Power Index score of 0.1065 and India is ranked at the 1st position in South Asia.
- The index ranks a total of 137 countries based on each nation's potential war- making capability across land, sea and air with conventional weapons. Moldova is the new country added in 2019 index.
 - As per the Global Firepower, the top score in the power index is 0.0000, which is "realistically unattainable".
 - More than 55 individual factors of each nation were assessed.
 - Top Ranker - USA (with 0.0615 score), followed by Russia.
42. India's first e-waste clinic will be set up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- Bhopal Municipal Corporation and Central Pollution Control Board have partnered to set up the clinic.
43. India's first plant to produce diesel from plastic waste has been inaugurated in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Mathura Municipal Corporation has built it on a public-private partnership (P-P-P) model with Paterson Energy Private Limited.
44. 5th World Parliament of science, religion and philosophy 2019 was organized by the MIT (Maharashtra Institute of Technology) World Peace University in Pune.
- Vishwa-Vigyan-Darshanik Award has been conferred upon Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad.
 - Philosopher Saint Shri Dnyaneshwara World Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Karan Singh.
45. Global Summit on 'Spirituality for Unity, Peace and Prosperity' was held in Mount Abu, Rajasthan.
46. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with AIIMS, has launched the first ever e-Dantseva website and mobile app to provide oral health information and also to give information on symptoms of dental/oral health problems and to suggest ways to prevent/cure them through the 'Symptom Checker', embedded in it.

- The Braille booklet and Voice-Over on Oral Health Education was also released.
 - The website has all the information about the National Oral Health Program and the list of all the dental facility and colleges, information, education and communication material.
 - The first National Oral Health Care Program was launched by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the AIIMS, in 1999.
47. India-Bangladesh Business forum meet was held in New Delhi.
- Start-up Bangladesh and Tech Mahindra; and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones signed 2 Government to Business MoU.
 - India and Bangladesh are members of the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), SAARC Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) and the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which govern the trade tariffs.
 - FDI in Bangladesh from India has more than doubled from \$243.91 million in 2014 to \$570.11 million in December 2018.
48. 10th edition of Indo-Maldives joint military exercise - Ekuverin 2019 - has begun at Aundh Mil Station, Pune.
49. 33rd edition of the India Economic Summit was organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in New Delhi.
- A 100 km electric vehicle corridor will be established in Punjab, which is part of a sustainable pilot project with the WEF's Moving India initiative.
 - According to a report released by WEF and Ola Mobility Institute, India has the potential to become the largest EV market in the world.
50. Ganga Aamantran initiative (a month long open-water rafting and kayaking expedition) to raise awareness about the importance of Ganga has been launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as part of National Mission for Clean Ganga's initiative.
- It will cover a total of 2500 km, from Devprayag in Uttarakhand to Ganga Sagar in West Bengal.
 - Purpose: - This, first and largest campaign, aims to create awareness about River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation on a large scale.
 - Personnel from the tri-services of Indian Armed forces, members from CSIR - IITR (Indian Institute of Toxicology Research) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will the initiative.
 - Wildlife Institute of India will conduct the flora and fauna census of 2019, as part of this initiative across 5 Ganga basins in UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.
 - The program will be headed by Paramvir Singh from Indian Air Force.
51. Draft of National Education Policy (prepared by the committee headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan) had proposed to set up a Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog (National Education Commission), as the apex education body under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, and vice-chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development.
- Purpose: - To increase public investment in education, technology and increase focus on vocational and adult education, among others.
 - Current News: - The centre is planning to drop the plan of setting up the commission in the wake of opposition from state governments.
52. India Meteorological Department (IMD) will collaborate with meteorological agencies in China

and Pakistan to provide climate forecast services to countries in the Hindu-Kush- Himalayan (HKH) region.

- A Regional Climate Centre would be set up as part of this collaboration. It will be under the World Meteorological Organisation.
- HKH region spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- HKH region is considered the Third Pole as it is the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region, and the source of 10 major rivers, and, therefore, particularly sensitive to climate change.

53. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in association with UNICEF has conducted the first-ever comprehensive National Nutrition Survey.

- Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalance in an individual's intake of nutrients or energy. It is of two types:
 - Undernutrition which includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age), etc.
 - Overnutrition which includes obesity/overweight and other diet-related non-communicable diseases.
- The survey recorded malnutrition that included micronutrient deficiencies and details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents.
 - Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic.
 - The survey for the first time proved the coexistence of obesity and under nutrition.
 - One in five children in the age group 5 to 9 years were stunted.
 - Tamil Nadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.
 - Parameters of the Survey : - 50 indicators were aggregated to create six sub-indicators — diet, malnutrition, iron deficiency, micronutrient deficiency, non-communicable diseases and obesity to ranked all 30 states on each indicator and sub-indicator.
 - The indicators dealt with children in three age groups - 1-4, 5-9 and adolescents in 10-19.
 - PARAMETERS of CNNS: -

54. Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana has been launched in Uttar Pradesh to empower the girl child by giving financial aid of Rs 15,000 at the birth of a girl child.

55. Ministry of Human Resource Organization has launched the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme named DHRUV for Science, Mathematics and Arts students to enhance their skills.

- Named after the pole star (Dhruv Tara), this 14-day learning programme will target 60 students from 9 to 12 Class all over the country.
- The program has been launched at ISRO head office in Bangalore and will conclude in IIT-Delhi.

56. India has been ranked 68th (decline of 10 positions) out of the total 141 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index 2019 released by World Economic Forum.

- India and Brazil (rank- 71) are the worst performing among the BRICS. While China (Rank- 28), Russia (43) and South Africa (60) are ahead of them.
- Singapore is the most competitive country while Chad is the least competitive country.
- The countries were assessed on 103 indicators divided in 12 pillars.



57. According to the Health system Strengthening Conditionality Report of states 2018-19 report released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Uttarakhand are the worst performers under the National Health Mission (NHM) scheme.

- Central govt will cut 20% of the funds to these worst performing states.
- The top performing states under the scheme were Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Assam and Dadar & Nagar Haveli.
- Under the NHM, at least 14 states/UT were penalized for not performing in various health parameters.
- Mission Steering Group of NHM has decided to increase the performance-based incentive/penalty from 10% to 20% of the NHM budget which means that 80% of the resource would be assured for the state, while 20% of the resource would depend on its performance.
- Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim could not meet the minimum criteria of full immunisation of 75%, therefore there were not considered for assessment.
- 7 parameters: - operationalisation of health and wellness centres, provisioning of mental health services in districts covered under the NHM programme, screening of 30+ population for non-communicable diseases and grading of primary health centres (both urban and rural), performance of district hospitals.

58. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has partnered with IIM-Bangalore to launch a two-year fellowship programme called Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme' to boost skill development at the district level.

- The programme is designed under Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP).
- Purpose: - To eliminate the non-availability of personnel for various programmes at national, state and district levels.
- It has been launched on a pilot basis in 75 districts across Gujarat, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

59. Government has launched the GEMINI device to provide disaster-related information to fishermen (particularly) when they are 10 to 12 km away from the coast.

- GEMINI stands for Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information.
- GAGAN is a GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation service (effective since 2015) to provide satellite-based navigation services in India through GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15.
- The entire area from Australia to Africa is covered by GAGAN.

60. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp to honour Marshal of Air Force late Arjan Singh during the 87th Airforce day.

61. 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare has been inaugurated by the Union Health Minister Dr Harsha Vardhan where the steps to achieve the target of health expenditure at 2.5% of GDP by 2025 (as set in the National Health Policy 2017) were discussed.

- A new initiative SUMAN - Surakshit Matritva Aashwasam - was launched to end the preventable maternal and new born deaths.
- Two new reports - National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey India (2015-19) and Report on National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-19, prepared with the support of AIIMS - were launched here.



62. e-Vidyabharti (tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Tele-Medicine) projects were opened for all 54 African countries by Ministry of External Affairs on the 55th anniversary of India's flagship capacity building programme - "Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation" (ITEC).

- The services will be delivered by Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.
- e-ITEC and ITEC executive (capacity building initiatives) were launched to provide innovative courses for users and professionals.
- Run by the Indian government, ITEC is a bilateral assistance programme (launched in 1964). It offers 12,000 scholarships to professionals across fields like Information Technology, Agriculture etc.

63. India has pledged \$22 million towards the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (GFTAM) during its Sixth Replenishment Conference held in Lyon, France.

- \$14.02 billion fund has been pledged for the next 3 years to save 16 million lives and eliminate AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030.
- USA is the highest donor with \$1.56 billion a year (33% of the total contribution) followed by France with \$1.29 billion donation.
- This is the largest amount ever raised for a multilateral health organization, and the largest amount by the Global Fund.

64. Council for Advancement of People's action and rural Technology (under the Ministry of Rural Development) has launched the 'SARAS Aajeevika Mela' initiative under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in New Delhi.

- Purpose: - To bring the rural women Self Help Groups under one platform and also to help them understand the demands of urban customers.

65. World's first species of eel-loach living in subterranean environments has been discovered in Kozhikode district of Kerala.

- Researchers from the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies have named it 'Pangio bhujia'.
- Eel-loaches are generally found in fast flowing streams in South and South East Asia.

66. World Wide Fund for Nature India has conducted the annual Ganges river dolphin census, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, along about 250-km-long riverine stretch between Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site began in Bijnor, UP.

- It shows that the dolphin population in the Uttar Pradesh has increased to 36 in 2019 from 33 in 2018.

67. A website and a mobile application - Sahyatri - have been launched to help the railway police in addressing the complaints of passengers from all over India and to integrate the criminal database online.

68. According to the National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey report 2019 released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 11.8% of people aged above 50 and around 10.6% of the diabetic patients are at risk of losing their vision.

- The survey conducted during 2015-2019 by the Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi, was done on more than 63,000 people aged above 50 years in 21 districts.
- The highest prevalence of diabetes was observed in the 70-79 years age group at 13.2%.
- The prevalence of blindness among diabetics was found to be 2.1% and visual impairment 13.7%.

- Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in the 60-69 years age group was 18.6%, 70-79 years was 18.3% and among more than 80 years was 18.4% while a lower prevalence of 14.3% was observed in the 50-59 years age group.
69. Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have partnered to install smart electricity meters in all households across India.
- A joint venture called IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt Ltd has been formed by the companies to operate the smart meter program.
 - Till now, EESL has installed 6.25 lakh smart meters in India.
70. Henley Passport Index 2019 (Q4 update) ranks India at 82nd position (down from 81st position in 2018) with a score of 59.
- Parameters:- It is based on the data of International Air Transport Association (IATA).
 - Japan and Singapore were ranked at the first position.
71. India has announced an additional Line of Credit of \$236 million to Mongolia (in addition to the previous \$1 billion LoC) for construction of Mongolia's first petrochemical refinery (of 1.5 MMT capacity).
- Mongol refinery project is the largest project undertaken by India under LoC programme.
72. During the 5th National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges, the Ministry of Women and Child Development announced to develop a POSHAN atlas to map crops and food grains grown all over the country.
- Purpose: - To promote regional cropping pattern and nutrition rich food in local areas.
 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Deenadayal Research Institute will help in developing the atlas.
 - NITI Aayog will develop a new ranking to acknowledge Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers of Poshan Abhiyan to help states rank districts based on health and nutritional parameters.
 - World Bank Global Nutrition Report, 2018, mentions that India spends around \$10 billion annually on malnutrition in terms of lost productivity, illness and death.
73. Ministry of Home Affairs is planning to amend the draft of Arms (Amendment) Bill to punish manufacturers and users of illegal arms.
- As per the new amendment, makers and users of "prohibited" arms would be punished with life imprisonment.
 - The government will ban the multiple gun licenses to individuals. Only 2 licensed gun will be allowed to any individual.
 - Section 25 (1AA) of Arms act 1959 will be amended to extend the punishment from 14 years to life imprisonment.
 - Illegal import of guns and their sales have been categorized as "illicit trade" and the dealers will be sent to jail up to 7 years.
 - A sports person (shooting sports) can possess a third gun (0.22 calibre rifle only), if they have been recognised in national or international events in the last two years by the central government.
74. National Blindness and Visually Impaired Survey 2019 (surveying the period of 2015-2018) has been released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with AIIMS-Rajendra Prasad Eye Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences.



- The report mentions that visual impairment has been reduced by 51.9% (2.55% in 2010) against the target of 25% set by WHO's global action plan for the Universal Eye Health (2014-19).
 - The estimated blindness has come down to 0.36% from 1% in 2006-2007—since the last survey. The survey was conducted in 24 states and UT.
 - Prevalence of blindness has been reduced by around 47% since the last survey (conducted in 2006-07) and the number of people suffering from blindness has declined from 12 million in 2006-07 to 4.8 million in 2019.
 - India is working on the WHO's goal to reduce the blindness prevalence to 0.3% by 2020.
 - In 2017, the definition of the definition of blindness was changed by India as "a person, if unable to count fingers from a distance of 3 metres would be considered "blind" as against the earlier estimation of 6 meters, adopted in 1976".
75. India has become a member of G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.
- The organization works for promoting the ethical use of smart city technologies.
 - Secretariat for the Alliance is the World Economic Forum (HQ- Switzerland).
 - Partners of this Alliance: - presidents and host nations of the G20 in 2019 and 2020; Japan and Saudi Arabia; Smart City Mission of India; Cities for All; Cities Today Institute; Commonwealth Local Government Forum; Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network among others.
76. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a mobile app - "mHariyali" and a new website "Environment Protection in Government Colonies" to encourage people to plant trees.
- The app allows automatic geotagging of plants.
 - National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed both app and website.
77. Forbes India Rich List 2019 has been released by Forbes India
78. Rajasthan has increased the unemployment allowance for transgenders to Rs 3,500 from Rs 3,000 per month under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana (Berozgari Bhatta scheme).
79. 2nd edition of India-Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) 2019 was held in Northern Bay of Bengal.
- First edition of the India-Bangladesh CORPAT was held in 2018.
80. India and USA conducted their joint military training exercise "Vajra Prahar" in Seattle, USA.
81. India and Japan will hold their joint military exercise - Dharma Guardian 2019 – in Mizoram.
82. Netherlands has been invited to participate in the 25th edition of the Technology Summit (a bilateral platform) to held in New Delhi.
- The summit aims to integrate industries, government agencies and institutes from India and other countries to interact with each other.
 - Organizer: - Department of Science and Technology and Confederation of India Industry.
 - 'NEXUS' is the central theme of the summit to focus on how India and Netherlands can Innovation through Co-creation.
 - The bilateral trade between India and Netherlands was \$6.28 billion during FY 2018-19 (April to September).
 - Netherlands is the fourth largest trading partner of India after EU, UK, Germany and Belgium.

83. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated to honour Sardar Valabhbhai Patel on his 144th birth anniversary on October 31.

- Civil Service probationers attending the first foundation civil service course, Aarambh.

84. India and Bangladesh will conduct their first ever bilateral Navy Exercise called "IN-BN" at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

85. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has announced a line of credit of \$41.6 million for setting up a 18 MW Power Plant (in Moroni) to Comoros during the first-ever high-level official visit from India to Comoros.

- India gifted medicines and equipment of \$1 million, \$1 million for transport vehicles, \$2 million for Interceptor Boats and 1000 MT of rice to Comoros.
- M Venkaiah Naidu has been awarded with 'The Order of the Green Crescent', the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros.
- India and Comoros signed 6 MoU for cooperation in the field of: -

86. West Bengal has announced to set up the Kanyashree University (only for women) in Nadia district and Kanyashree colleges across the state to empower girls.

- Kanyashree scheme, (launched in 2013), aims to empower girl students by incentivizing schooling of all teenage girls and delaying their marriages until the age of 18, the legal age of marriage.
- The scheme has two components: Annual Scholarship of Rs. 500 (to the girls of class 8-12) and One time Grant of Rs. 25,000.

87. India will produce the 175 GW renewable power installed capacity (including 100 GW of solar, 60 GW of wind, 10 GW of bio-power and 5 GW of small hydropower) by 2022, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- Recently, CRISIL ratings has released a report which mentions that India would lag behind of its target of 175 GW of renewable energy by 42%.
- Presently, India has an installed capacity of 82.58 GW of power generation.

88. India has extended a line of credit of \$30 million for rice cultivation to Sierra Leone as part of the 6 agreements signed between them.

- India will establish a High Commission in Sierra Leone to enhance cooperation in agriculture, food processing, Information Technology, infrastructure development and capacity building.
- India has so far granted \$217.5 million developmental assistance to Sierra Leone.
- India and Sierra Leone signed 6 MoU for cooperation in the field of: -

89. Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the Yuva Sahakar- Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme 2019 with an annual outlay of Rs 100 crore at the first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair, held in Delhi.

- Purpose: - To help cooperatives in the north-east region, cooperatives in aspirational districts (as identified by NITI Aayog), and cooperatives with 100% women/SC/ST/PwD members.
- The scheme is developed by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- During the Trade Fair, 75 MoU were signed.
- India (the largest milk producer in the world) signed 3 Memorandum of Interest with Sri Lanka for the supply of milk and milk products.

- Sri Lanka, Tamil Nadu milk cooperative federation and Puducherry milk cooperative federation also signed a separate agreement for milk supply.
- India is expected to produce 175 billion litres of milk in 2019, twice of the production of USA (which is the second-largest milk producer in the world).

90. India and China have designated 2020 as Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges during the 2nd India-China Informal Summit (also called 'Chennai Connect') in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

- 2020 also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of India-China relations.
- High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue mechanism will be set up between India and China to reduce trade deficit (of \$53 billion), enhance trade, services and investments.
- A sister-state link between Tamil Nadu and Fujian province of China has been established to study maritime connections between Mahabalipuram and Fujian.
- 3rd Informal Summit between India-China will be held in China (city not decided).
- Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

91. Ministry of Consumer Affairs has announced that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will rank all state capitals and 100 smart cities on the basis of quality of tap water to prevent water borne diseases. At the district level rankings will also be done.

- BIS standards will be imposed mandatorily on drinking water to ensure quality in water supply.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's data show that at least 10,738 deaths were caused due to water-borne diseases over five years to 2017.
- 'One Nation, One Standard' is also being developed by BIS to bring clarity among consumers, manufacturers.

92. HCL Technologies Chairman Shiv Nadar has topped the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2019 released by Hurun India for contributing Rs 826 crore during FY19.

- Azim Premji (with Rs 453 crore contribution) and Mukesh Ambani (with Rs 402 crore) hold 2nd and 3rd positions in the list.
- Addition Facts: - As per Companies Act 2013, it is mandatory for companies earning a net profit of Rs 5 crore or Rs 1,000 crore turnover or Rs 500 crore net worth., to devote 2% of their profit to CSR.

93. IIT-Madras has signed an agreement with ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company to jointly conduct research in energy and biofuels for 5-years.

- It is in line with the 'National Biofuel Policy' that aims to make India's biofuel industry into a \$15.6 billion economy.
- India is the 3rd highest producer of agro-residues after China and Brazil with the surplus potential of over 230 million tonnes per year.
- National Policy on Biofuels was approved in 2018, which categorizes the biofuels into 3 categories which include:
 - First Generation: bioethanol, biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels".
 - Second Generation: ethanol, municipal solid waste to drop-in fuels.
 - Third Generation: bio-CNG.

94. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched a website and app named L2Pro India (Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation) on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

- Purpose: - To help youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and small and medium industries in better understanding the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
- Developer: - Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)- DPIIT along with Qualcomm and National Law University, Delhi.
- Already, L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France.

95. 2nd phase of Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse or LOTUS-HR, initiated between India and Netherland, was launched at Barapullah drain in New Delhi.

- LOTUS-HR (launched in 2017) is a water treatment lab to treat dirty water of Barapullah Drain in Delhi before it deposits into Yamuna.
- Department of Biotechnology (under Ministry of Science and Technology), Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research along with IIT-Delhi, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) are partners in this project.

96. UNICEF has released the "The State of the World's Children Report" 2019 which looks into the issues of children, food and nutrition.

- Title of the report: - Children, food and nutrition Growing well in a changing world.
- Findings for World: - 149 million are still stunted, Globally, 1/3rd of children U-5 are suffering from malnutrition.
- 50 million are affected by wasting. 40 million children U-5 are suffering from overweight.
- Over 340 million children suffering from deficiencies of essential micronutrients (vitamins and minerals).
- Only 2 out of 5 infants under 6 months are breast-fed which could save the lives of 820, children annually worldwide
- Japan has the lowest Infant Mortality Rate.
- India has the highest number of under-five deaths in 2018 with 882,000.
- Fast-food sales grew by 113% in India.

97. Andhra Pradesh has increased the financial assistance to Rs 13,500 per annum from the earlier Rs 12,500 for the farmers under its YSR Rythu Bharosa - PM Kisan Samman Yojana.

- The amount is payable in three instalments, with the State Government contributing Rs 7,500 and the Centre Rs 6,000.
- State Govt has allocated Rs 5,500 crore for the scheme and the number of beneficiaries is initially put at roughly Rs 40 lakh.

98. According to the latest New World Wealth's 'The Wealthiest Cities Worldwide in 2019' list, New York is the top wealthiest city in the world with 65 billionaires and \$3 trillion wealth.

- Tokyo is at the 2nd position with a total wealth of \$2.5 trillion.
- Parameters: - private wealth held by all individuals living in each city.
- From India, Mumbai is the wealthiest city with a global rank of 12, followed by Delhi at 22nd rank.
- Bangalore is at the 26th position while Hyderabad came last at 28. Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad were "expected to grow strongly over the next 10 years".

99. Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah/Nikah Yojana (launched in Madhya Pradesh), the brides would get Rs 51,000 at the time of her marriage, if the groom's house has a toilet.

- Aim: - To ensure that toilets are constructed in every household in the state.

100. Facebook, in partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has initiated the 2nd phase of its digital literacy program for tribal women called GOAL - Going Online as Leaders. (1st Phase of the program was launched in March 2019)

- GOAL connects underprivileged young women from tribal areas with senior expert mentors to learn digital and life skills.
- 5000 young women will be digitally mentored in the 2nd phase.

101. Global Hunger Index (GHI) has been released by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, which mentions that India has been ranked at 102 position (95 position in 2018) out of 117 countries.

- Total 17 countries with 2019 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1-17.
- Lowest rank: - Central African Republic at 117th rank.
- Parameters: - Four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, wasting in U-5 children; child stunting, and U-5 child mortality.

102. Indian Air Force will conduct its joint military exercise -'Shinyuu Maitri'- with Japanese Air Force in West Bengal.

103. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) have released two diagnostic kits developed under 'Make in India' to control Swine and detect Antigen in cattle.

- The kits are called Blue tongue sandwich ELISA (sELISA) and Japanese Encephalitis IgM ELISA.
- Bluetongue disease is a noncontagious, insect-borne, viral disease of ruminants, mainly sheep and less frequently cattle, goats, buffalo, deer, dromedaries, and antelope.

104. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the Food Safety Mitra Scheme, Eat Right Smart Jacket and Eat Right Jhola.

- The scheme is introduced by Food Safety and Security Authority of India.
- The scheme will lead to improved ease of doing business by creating a transparent and organized ecosystem supporting food businesses wherein food businesses will be able to get trained service providers at fair prices - lowering the costs of compliance.
- A Food Safety Mitra (FSM) is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who will ensure compliance related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations in three forms- Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra.
- Eat Right Jhola is a reusable, washable and bio-degradable bag.
- Eat Right Smart Jacket for FSSAI staff to give an identity to them and ensure transparent inspection.

105. For the first time, 5th edition of World Coffee Conference and Expo 2020 will be held in India in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Theme: - 'Sustainability Through Consumption'
- Organizer: - International Coffee Organization (ICO, London) and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- This is a quadrennial event and its first four editions have been held in England, Brazil, Guatemala, and Ethiopia.

- ICO is the main intergovernmental organization operating under United Nations since its inception in 1963. The first International Coffee Agreement (ICA) entered into force in 1962 for a period of five years, after which the ICO was established.

106. Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has released the 10th edition of its World Giving Index (WGI) 2019, which ranks India at the 82nd position among the 128 countries.

- Top Country: - USA (1)
- Bottom Countries: - China (126).
- The survey collected the data between 2009-2018.

107. World Bank has released the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) report which measures the how the laws and regulations restrict women's economic opportunities and suggest measures for gender equality.

- On the Women, Business And The Law Index Scores - Belgium, Denmark, France, Latvia, Luxemburg and Sweden achieved the top rank with a perfect 100 score.
- India has 71.25 WBL Score.
- Saudi Arabia is at the bottom place in the index with 25.63 scores.

108. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have jointly released the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019 (APTIR) report which examines the non-tariff measures (NTMs) of different countries.

- Theme of the report is "Navigating Non-tariff Measures towards Sustainable Development".

Findings: -

- The report finds out that NTMs are now affecting around 58% of trade in Asia and the Pacific.
- Average cost of these measures stands at 1.6% of GDP (roughly US \$1.4 trillion globally).
- Only 10% of the Asia and the Pacific countries have NTMs for countering the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and illegal timber trade.

Suggestions: -

- The report suggests that trade costs of NTMs can be significantly reduced by moving to paperless trade and cross-border electronic exchange of information.
- It can reduce costs by 25% on average in the region, leading to the savings of over US \$600 billion annually for both governments and traders.
- UNCTAD hosted the 5th Non-Tariff Measures week and Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

109. Chenani-Nashri tunnel (9.2 km long) will be renamed after Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

- It is the longest tunnel in India.

110. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released a commemorative postal stamp of National Institute of Nutrition (headquartered in Hyderabad) during the Centenary Celebrations of the institute.

- Theme of the celebrations is "Empowering the nation through nutrition".
- The stamp was launched under the "Corporate My Stamp" scheme of India Posts, which was launched in 2016 which allows a corporate entity or an individual to print photo inside the postage stamp.
- A one-time award "ICMR-NIN-Centenary Award" was conferred upon the legendary nutrition scientist, C Gopalan.



111. India has inducted American precision-guided Excalibur artillery ammunition and indigenous Dhanush howitzer in its inventory.

- Dhanush howitzer is a 155 mm artillery gun.

112. According to the State of the World's Children (SOWC) 2019 released by UNICEF, nearly 80% Indian babies aged 6 to 23 months do not receive minimum dietary diversity.

113. Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 has been released by WHO, which mentions that India accounts for 26.9% of the global TB cases of 10 million in 2018 as against the 27% in 2017.

- India (27%), China (9%), Indonesia (8%), the Philippines (6%), Pakistan (6%), Nigeria (4%), Bangladesh (4%), and South Africa (3%) accounted for the almost 66% of the burden.
- Globally in 2018, 51% of people with TB were tested for rifampicin resistance, up from 41% in 2017.

114. 20th Livestock Census has been conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) which mentions that the total Livestock population is 535.78 million (an increase of 4.6% as compared to the previous census of 2012).

115. Indian Air Force and Royal Air Force Oman are holding the 5th edition of their bilateral Joint exercise named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V in Masirah Island, Oman.

- For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.

116. NITI Aayog has released the first edition of the India Innovation Index 2019 which has been topped by Karnataka (in larger states category), Delhi (in UTs) and Sikkim (in hilly areas categories).

- Lowest rankers: - Jharkhand (in larger states category), Lakshadweep (in UTs) and Meghalaya (in hilly areas).

117. Credit Suisse Research Institute has released the report 'The CS Gender 3000 in 2019: The changing face of companies' which ranks India at the 23rd position out of the 56 countries.

- Top ranker: - Italy and Singapore with 15% of female CEOs and 16% and 23% overall Women in management respectively.
- Lowest ranker: - Turkey is at the lowest rank with 0% female CEO and 12% overall Women in management.

118. Indian Army (AG/MP 5 & 6 - faction of Army responsible for maintaining records of personnel) has launched the Officers Automated and Structured Information System (OASIS) on the Army Data Network (ADN) to allow the officers to view their service records, raise observations etc.

119. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized the first ever Asia Health 2019 in New Delhi. It has been chaired by Jitendra Singh (Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C)

- Focus of the conference: - Serving The World's Fastest Growing Region - Through Healthcare Convergence.

120. PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the Ministry of Science and Technology have conducted a survey called 'University-Industry Linkage Index' which mentions that India's overall education sector has lagged in this index.



- State-wise: - Karnataka and Kerala have topped this index while West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar are poor performers.
- Industry linkages are found moderate in India with an overall score of 4.7 in a scale of 10.
- The survey stressed the need for reviving the Protection and Utilization of Public- Funded Intellectual Property (PUPFIP) Bill, 2008 which later withdrawn from Parliament.
- Parameters: - total 10 were assessed, including joint patents, industry consultations, placements, role of industry in developing curriculum and pedagogy.
- Suggestion: - 10 sectors for improving industry linkage through capacity building, research and development activity have been identified.

121. Kerala has become the first state in India to extend the benefits of the central Maternity Benefit Act to employees in the private sector in the field of education.

- 26-week maternity leave with salary will be allowed to them.

122. India will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022.

123. India and Philippines signed 4 agreements for cooperation in the field of maritime domain, security, tourism, science and technology and culture.

- Both nations also agreed to bolster defence and maritime security partnership.
- Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy will share the white shipping information between themselves.
- White shipping information refers to exchange of advance information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

124. 2nd annual leadership summit of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) will be held in New Delhi.

125. 9th edition of the India-US Defence Technologies and Trade Initiative's (DTTI) group meeting will be conducted in New Delhi.

- DTTI is a flexible mechanism, devised to allow smooth defence engagement between the two countries. It is not a treaty or law.
- According to the Pentagon (US Department of Defense), bilateral defence trade between the India and US is expected to reach \$18 billion by year-end.

126. Ministry of Culture has launched an e-portal and a YouTube channel of Rashtriya Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) during the 'Digital Bharat-Digital Sanskriti' program held in New Delhi (headquarters of CCRT).

- 'Dewas Ki Sanskritik Parampara' book, written by Jeevan Singh Thakur and published by CCRT, has also been released here.
- CCRT has started publishing books from the series "Untold Tales of India's Cities".
- CCRT operates under the aegis of Ministry of Culture.

127. Colonel Chewang Rinchen Setu/Bridge (named in honor of Col Chewang Rinchan) has been inaugurated over Shyok River in Eastern Ladakh.

- The bridge, built by Project Himank of Border Roads Organization, is worth Rs 100 crore with a capacity of 70 tonnes.
- The bridge is India's highest altitude all-weather permanent bridge.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has opened the Siachen Glacier at 11,000 ft (world's highest battlefield) for tourism.
128. According to a study by CARE Ratings, Telangana is ranked at the 7th place in terms of overall government's capital expenditure (capex) on infrastructure during 2015-19.
- But, in terms of capex on irrigation, Telangana has topped the list.
 - The top 10 States in the country accounted for 73% of the combined capex undertaken by all States.
 - During the 5 years except for FY18, the annual expenditure of states in absolute terms has increased annually. In FY18, it declined by 2% over previous year.
 - Together, the states have accounted for over 65% of the total capex in FY19.
129. India- Myanmar joint naval exercise 'IMNEX-19' was conducted at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- It will be conducted in two phases- Harbour and Sea.
130. Goa and Software Technology Park of India have signed 2 MoU at the Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019 to create a start-up centre and IT park in the state.
- STPI is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
 - 17 MoU have been signed by Goa govt during the summit.
 - Goa Business School IT Summit was also inaugurated.
131. India has signed 8 MoU with Slovenia during the President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Slovenia (in September).
132. Sudarshan Chakra Vahini (a 2-day long) exercise of Indian Army has been conducted at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- Artillery used: - Agni Missile, K-9 vajra and indigenously manufactured light helicopter Rudra.
133. Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman, has announced to spend \$1.4 trillion on infrastructure by 2024 during the annual meeting of IMF and World Bank at Washington DC.
- India is adopting Zero Budget Natural Farming model (developed by Subhash Palekar) to promote the use of organic seeds and natural fertilizers by farmers.
 - 2021 Annual Meeting of World bank and IMF will take place in Marrakech, Morocco.
 - G24 (a grouping of some of the most influential developing countries in the World Bank and IMF) were also present in this meeting.
134. UN World Food Programme launched the global ad campaign on global hunger and malnutrition called "Feed Our Future" displaying last year's results about the hunger.
- The ad will be launched in partnership with UFO Moviez to engage and motivate moviegoers to help create a world with Zero Hunger.
135. India and France will conduct the 5th edition of their joint military exercise 'Shakti' at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
136. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had become the first defence minister to fly the light combat aircraft Tejas (in September).

137. Government has formed a committee, to be headed by K Vijay Raghavan, for resolving the differences between Ministry of Information and Technology and NITI Aayog over the National Program on Artificial Intelligence framework.

- In May, NITI Aayog has also announced to create a 20 institutional centres for transformational AI and a cloud computing platform called AIRAWAT.
- In 2018, NITI Aayog has released a discussion paper on National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence themed as #AIForAll to highlight the gov't's role in leveraging the AI framework in India.
- The focus is on sectors like agriculture, health and education where public investment and lead would be necessary.

138. National Crime Records Bureau has released the data for crimes in India in 2017, which mentions that: -

Note: - Only remembering the rank of the top states are important.

139. Railways will initiate a Rs 18000-crore project to increase the speed of trains up to 160 kmph on the busy Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata routes by upgrading infrastructure (expected to be completed in 4 years).

- Ghana's Railway Development Ministry and Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) have signed an MoU for implementing the rail projects in Ghana.

140. INS Nilgiri, indigenously Stealth Frigate, has been commissioned into the Indian Navy at the dockyard of the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai (in September).

- It is the first of the seven Project-17A.
- Project 17 A frigate are a derivation of the Shivalik class stealth frigates with much more advanced features.
- Largest dry dock named as the 'The Aircraft Carrier Dock' has also been commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- INS Khanderi, (2nd Scorpene-class submarine) was also commissioned.

141. QS India University Rankings 2020 has been topped by IIT-Bombay, followed by IISc Bangalore at the 2nd position and IIT-Delhi at the 3rd position.

- Total 100 universities were assessed.
- Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar (IIT-BBS) has entered into the top 20 at 20th position.
- University of Calcutta and Jadavpur University are at the 11th and 12th positions and have topped the state-run universities.
- In overall NIRF ranking, IIT-Madras has been ranked at the top position. The detailed rankings are covered in April Spotlight.

142. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has organized the Startup Summit 2019 in New Delhi, where the Bharat Interface for Money - BHIM 2.0 version was launched.

- BHIM 2.0 supports additional languages such as Bhojpuri, Haryanvi and Konkani apart from the existing 13 languages. BHIM app was developed by National Payments Corporation of India in 2016.
- MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) was also launched to act as a national coordination, facilitation and interconnected centre for all activities in the tech startup ecosystem. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is the nodal agency for the implementation of MSH.

- STPI has signed 4 MoU with Intel India Pvt limited, IIM Calcutta Innovation Park, Pontaq and IBM for promoting innovation in information and communications technology.
- An Indian software products registry has also been launched to collate Indian software product database and will act as a single window portal.
- Technology Incubation Development for Entrepreneurs 2.0 (TIDE 2.0) was also launched here. TIDE scheme was launched in 2008 by MeitY to promote innovation by nurturing startups.
- TIDE 2.0 aims to strengthening close to 2,000 technology startups and empowering 51 incubation centres across the country.

143. National Cyber Security Coordinator's office, along with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has launched TechSagar - an online portal of India's technological capability.

- The portal has data of more than 4000 entities from industry, academia and research across 25 technology areas to allow businesses and academia to collaborate, connect and innovate, in future.
- TechSagar will act as a national repository of India's cyber tech capabilities and will provide timely insights about the tech infrastructure in India.

144. Minister of Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the 'Gram Manchitra' app - a Geo Spatial based app for panchayats - which will help panchayats to plan, develop and monitor developmental activities on real time basis.

- National Panchayat Awards 2019 was also conferred upon panchayats for best performance to 240 Awards out of the 2.5 lakh panchayats.

145. Assam has approved two new policies - one on job and other on land.

- Under the Job Policy, no government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after January 1, 2021 under the 'Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam' regulation passed by Assam Cabinet in 2017.
- Under the Land Policy, landless indigenous people will get 3 bighas of land for cultivation and half a bigha to construct their houses that can be sold after 15 years.

146. India is providing training on 'Anti Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT)' to the Nepalese officers at its Regional Centre of National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) in Bengaluru.

- The training is being imparted in 3 batches for training a total of 60 officers.
- NACIN is the apex institution for providing training on financial investigations and anti-money laundering matters.
- It is being carried out under the Ministry of External Affairs' Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.
- Under ITEC (launched in 1964) and its sister programme SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries are invited for bilateral training.

147. International workshop on Environmental Flows Assessment and Implementation for India has been inaugurated by the Minister for Jal Shakti at Delhi.

- The exchange of Indian, European and International Experiences was brought together by National Mission of Clean Ganga along with the Indo-German Cooperation with its project "Support to Ganga Rejuvenation" (SGR).



- Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, has released the first version of the Guidance Document on Environment flow assessment in India.

148. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will lead the Indian delegation at 18th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- Theme of the summit: - 'Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of the contemporary world'.
- It is a set of 10 principles, formulated at the Asian-African Conference in 1955, to promote world peace and cooperation.
- The theme promotes the forthcoming 65th anniversary of Bandung Principles in 2020 and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Movement in 2021.
- NAM was founded in 1961 and has 120 members as of 2012.

149. Union Cabinet has decided to hike the minimum support price for Rabi crops for the marketing season 2020-21.

- The highest increase has been recommended for lentils (increase of Rs.325 to Rs.4,800 a quintal) followed by safflower (increase of Rs.270 to Rs.5,215 a quintal) and gram (an increase of Rs.255 to Rs.4,875).
- MSP of rapeseed and mustard has been increased by Rs.225 to Rs.4,425. For both wheat and barley, it has been increased by Rs.85 to Rs.1,925 and Rs.1,525 per quintal, respectively.
- MSP for wheat was raised from the existing Rs.1,840 to Rs.1,925, while for barley it was increased from Rs.1,440 to Rs.1,525.

150. ISRO will launch 14 small spacecrafts on PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) C47, C48 and C49 missions from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- Japan's iQPS, Luxembourg's Kleos Space, Spire Global are launching the satellites on PSLV.

151. According to India TB report 2019 (released by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), India achieved a total notification of 21.5 Lakh TB cases of which 25% was from the private sector in 2018.

- Majority of the TB burden is among the working age group. The 89% of TB cases come from the age group of 15-69 years. About 2/3 of the TB cases are Males.
- Uttar Pradesh, with 17% of population of the country, is the largest contributor to the TB cases in with 20% of the total notifications (amounting to 4.2 Lakh cases).

152. Union Cabinet has approved the proposed MoU between India and St. Vincent & the Grenadines on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine.

- The MoU was signed in September 2019.
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines has become the 79th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Republic of Haiti and Republic of Paraguay are the 77th and 78th signatories of ISA.
- There are total 81 countries which have signed the ISA Framework and 59 countries have ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.
- Activities mentioned in the MoU will boost the importance of AYUSH Systems of Medicine in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

153. Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Kuwait in the field of accounting, finance and audit knowledge base for capacity building and strengthening the accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Kuwait.

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) will work together to hold and conduct technical events, seminars and conferences in Kuwait.

- Cabinet has also approved the administrative arrangement on cooperation in the field of Railways between the Ministry of Railways and the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission.

154. India's position has marginally improved to 32nd position in the Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index (MMGPI) 2019 in terms of providing pension and retirement benefits to citizens with a score of 45.8 as compared to last year's (33rd position out of 34 countries with a score of 44.6).

- Total Countries – 37
- Parameters: -

155. 19th Indo- Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (JCEC) in Stockholm, Sweden where electromobility, road safety, space research, Ayurveda, naturopathy were identified as areas of mutual collaboration.

- Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister, Piyush Goyal attended the commission where he highlighted the potential of India and Sweden partnership under the MoU in innovation, energy, healthcare, defence, Sustainable Urban Development and railways.
- Goyal also proposed to set up an investment enclave for Swedish investors in India.

156. President Ram Nath Kovind attended the India-Philippines Business Conclave and the 4th ASEAN-India Business Summit in Manila, Philippines.

- India aims to achieve the target of US\$ 200 billion by 2022.
- President Kovind (1st president from India to visit Japan in 19 years) attended the enthronement ceremony of the new Emperor of Japan - Naruhito to the Chrysanthemum Throne.
- He also laid the foundation stone of Sri Sathya Sai Sanathana Samskruti Project- a temple to be built - at Sai no Sato, Kakegawa in Japan to promote Indian culture.
- Indo-ASEAN trade has increased by 19% to reach \$96.79 billion, which India aims to increase to \$200 billion by 2022.

157. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have launched 'Tamanna' (Try And Measure Aptitude And Natural Abilities) - an online aptitude test - for class 9 and 10 students to help them make right career choices.

158. Odisha and World Bank have signed a loan agreement worth \$165 million to implement "Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture" to improve the irrigation facilities and climate resilience in agriculture.

- Focus Area: - The scheme will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture.
- Target Area: - The scheme will cover 1,28,000 hectares of land and 1,25,000 smallholder farmers.
- Objective: -The project aims to shift the focus of farmers from growing food grains, especially paddy and wheat to cultivating more nutritious vegetation.

159. For the first time, the Global Bio-India summit will be hosted by India (in New Delhi).

- Organizer: - Department of Biotechnology (DBT under science and technology ministry) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC - a subsidiary of DBT).

- Focus: - To attract investment in the field of biotechnology in India.

160. India, Nepal and Bhutan are in the process of signing the MoU to create a landscape oriented transboundary wildlife conservation park 'peace park'.

- The project was initiated by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- There is already one trans-boundary Protected Area in India and Bhutan, which includes the
- Manas landscape of Assam, and the new tripartite park will be an extension of this.
- It will protect the migratory wildlife species in the region, especially elephants. Manas National Park of Assam is located near Manas River - a major tributary of Brahmaputra river. The park is famous for its wild water buffaloes and is also a project tiger reserve, elephant reserve.

161. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has excavated a maritime center (dated around 2,0 years ago) near the banks of Swarnamukhi river in Andhra Pradesh.

- Swarnamukhi is a river in Andhra Pradesh. Kalyani Dam was constructed across its tributary Kalyani river.

162. 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change at Beijing, China.

- The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Li Ganjie, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China.
- India will host the 30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting.
- Developed countries were requested to fulfil their climate finance commitments of providing \$100 billion annually by 2020 for developing countries.
- Here, the ministers discussed about the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism).
- Warsaw Mechanism was established at COP19 (November 2013) in Warsaw, Poland to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change.
- Basic group was formed in 2009 to fight climate change.
- Palestine is the chair of the Group of 77 (G-77) for the year 2019. G-77 was established in 1964 by the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" issued at the 1st session of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

163. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan has visited Sakhalin-I oil consortium during his visit to Japan and Russia.

- Sakhalin-I oil consortium is an offshore oil production sharing consortium between ExxonMobil, Sakhalin Oil & Gas Development Co. Ltd., ONGC Videsh Ltd (20% stake), Sakhalin morneftegas-Shelf and RN-Astra on Sakhalin island in the Russian Far East.
- According to the data of World Steel Association 2019, India is the 2nd largest producer of crude steel in 2018 with 106.5 million tonnes production after China which produced 928.3 million tonnes.
- In terms of consumption,
- The National Steel Policy 2017, aims to increase per capita steel consumption to 160 Kgs by 2030-31.
- To be net exporter of steel by 2025-26.
- To build a globally competitive industry with a crude steel capacity of 300 MT by 2030-31.

164. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched a social service initiative called 'Odisha Mo Parivar' (Odisha, my family) to protect environment, encourage blood donation and the welfare of Odias in distress.

- The initiative will help Odia people who are stranded in other states or foreign countries.

- Arup Patnaik has been appointed as the convener of this initiative.
165. Gandhinagar district of Gujarat has become the first Kerosene-free district of Gujarat.
- Home Minister Amit Shah has distributed 1,000 LPG connections to the women of Gandhinagar district under the PM Ujjwala Yojana.
 - He also laid the foundation stones of several development projects under the Gandhinagar Smart City Yojana.
166. First-ever 3-day Ladakh Literature Festival has begun at Leh Palace to highlight the cultural heritage of Ladakh. It is expected to be continued as an annual event.
- On the occasion, a book titled Leh Khar Gis Khang Zigs authored by Gen Thupstan Paldan was released.
167. Kalidhar Battalion (under Ministry of Defence) has participated in the white water Rafting Expedition called 'RUDRASHILA' at Jaisalmer Military station to commemorate its 75th Raising Day.
- Kalidhar Battalion has also undertaken 'RUDRASHILA' from Jodhpur Military Station.
168. City Montessori School of Lucknow has entered into the Guinness World Record for becoming the 'world's largest school' in terms of strength of students (55,547 students in 2019-20).
- School's founder - Jagdish Gandhi.
169. Odisha, in association with UNICEF and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has launched the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to eliminate child marriages from the state by 2030.
- The state SAP will be implemented between 2019 and 2024.
170. Monsoon of 2019 in India witnessed a neutral Pacific - neither El Nino nor La Nina, a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a positive Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO).
- El Nino and La Nina are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.
 - El Nino - It is a phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific which causes dry season (deficit rain in India). In El Nino, temperature rises above a threshold of 0.5 degree Celsius.
 - Li Nina - It is a phenomenon which causes heavy rains in some parts of the world whereas in some parts it causes deficit rains. In India, La Nina causes better than normal monsoon.
 - Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) - Positive IOD warms up the western basin of the Indian Ocean to create a low pressure which causes storms and heavy rains in the South and South east Asia.
 - EQUINOO - Positive EQUINOO helps in North East Monsoon by causing heavy rains.
171. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has undertaken the IndiGen Genome project in April 2019 to conduct genome sequencing of Indians to examine the cause of genetic diseases and measures to prevent them.
- Till now, CSIR has conducted a Whole Genome Sequencing of around 1,008 Indians from different populations across country.
 - Implementing Agencies of this project are CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (New Delhi) and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (Hyderabad).
172. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has announced that 50% of the Smart Cities Mission will be completed by December 2019.
- The ministry is considering to launch the AMRUT 2.0 and Smart Cities Mission 2.0 in 2020.

- AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) was launched in 2015 by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to rejuvenate 500 cities.
- Smart Cities Mission 2.0 was launched in 2015 by Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to cover 100 cities.

173. India and US have signed a joint statement of intent during the 9th meeting India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), held in New Delhi, to develop a range of warfighting technology and systems.

- Both the nations agreed to co-develop three specific projects in the near-term (6 months), two in the mid-term and two in the long-term.
- India-US will jointly work for Aircraft carrier technology cooperation (ACTC) apart from the above projects.

174. Supreme Court has ordered in favour of Delhi govt for increasing the minimum wages of workers to Rs.14,842 per month against the national level of ^4,628 per month.

- The policy will benefit 55 lakh workers'.

175. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of state meeting in Uzbekistan to be held in November.

- India and Uzbekistan will conduct their first-ever joint army Exercise Dustlik-2019 at Chirchiq training area of Uzbekistan.
- The exercise would focus on insurgency and counter terrorism operations in a mountainous, rural and urban scenario as per the UN mandate.

176. PM Narendra Modi has shown a special interest towards Karnataka's "Sakala" system and is also considering to use it at the national level.

- About Karnataka's "Sakala" system - The programme, governed by the Karnataka Sakala Services (Amendment) Act, 2014 (originally enacted in 2011), provides 1,033 govt services to citizens on time through innovation.
- The Sakala system empowers citizens to exercise their right to service.
- After clearing 200 million applications filed under Sakala during the last seven years, the state govt aims to take it to the next level with its "paperless, faceless" tech initiatives.
- The state govt will strengthen Seva Sindhu — the online avatar of Sakala by adding features like e-sign, digi-locker and other tech interfaces and also by increasing the number of services from 301 to 500 on this online platform.

177. 15th edition of the FT ranking of Masters in Management (MiM) programmes has been released by Financial Times.

- Parameters: - The ranking has 17 criteria heavily based on salary (an alumni gets).
- Total - 111 schools participated, out of which top 100 were ranked.
- Top Ranker - University of St Gallen business school (Switzerland) for its MA in Strategy and International Management course.
- Top Indian Ranker - Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (GLOBAL RANK - 17th) for its Post Graduate Programme in Management.
- Followed by IIM-Ahmedabad at 21st position and IIM-Bangalore at 44th position.

178. Odisha has signed a Letter of Understanding with UNICEF to get the technical assistance for its "drink from tap mission".

- The mission aims to provide clean drinking water from taps on a 24X7 basis.

179. Andhra Pradesh will become the first state in India to bring port-related services under the ambit of Ease of Doing Business by launching the SMARTPORT initiative.

- SMARTPORT is an online platform under the Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act to establish a corruption-free environment in port-related services.

180. India and Saudi Arabia have signed a total of 12 agreements during the Future Investment Initiative (also known as the 'Davos in the Desert') held in Riyadh, Saudi.

- Theme of the event is "What is Next for Global Business."
- A letter of Intent was also signed between Small and Marginal Enterprises General Authority (Monshaat) of Saudi Arabia and Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog.

MoU: -

- Agreement on Strategic Partnership Council that will be chaired by Modi on the Indian side and by King Salman for Saudi.
- India is the fourth nation to sign the agreement for establishing the strategic council with Saudi Arabia after UK, France and China.
- MoU in the field of illicit trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs, chemical precursors, psychotropic substances.
- MoU in the field of military defence, industries and technology, civil aviation, small and medium enterprises, stock exchanges, petroleum and payment corporations, medical products regulations.
- RuPay Launched: - After UAE and Bahrain, Saudi Arabia will be the 3rd country in the Gulf region where India's Rupay card will be operationalised.
- 2 MoU in energy sector: - first between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd and Saudi Aramco to set up a second fuel reserve facility at Padur in Karnataka.
- Second is between West Asia unit of Indian Oil Corp. Ltd and Saudi Arabia's' Al Jeri company for setting up fuel stations in the kingdom.
- Saudi Aramco, along with UAE's ADNOC oil company, signed a deal with state-run companies in India for a 50% stake in the west coast refinery.
- India imports 80% of its oil consumption, out of which 18% is sourced from Saudi Arabia.

181. Natural farming technique has been adopted by over 2,000 panchayats in Himachal Pradesh under the state scheme of Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana.

- A target of training 50,000 farmers has been fixed for 2019 while as many as 20,579 farmers have been trained out of which 15,391 have started practicing natural farming in their fields.
- The scheme was launched in 2018 to promote 'Zero budget Natural Farming' in the state.

182. Ministry of health and family welfare has recently proposed to notify or include all medical devices under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to regulate them as per the provisions of that Act and the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

- According to the draft notification, devices intended for use on human beings or animals should be treated as drugs with effect from 1 December 2019.
- A task force on medical devices (formed in 2015) has recommended to create a Medical Device Regulatory Act which will treat medical devices distinctly from drugs and a separate chapter for medical devices should be made in the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Currently, over 10,000 medical devices are sold in the country, but only 33 categories of such devices are regulated.

183. India will open the milk bank to facilitate breastfeeding for 70% of the infants by 2025. The Target will subsequently be increased to 100%.

- The milk bank model will be based on Brazil's model.
- Minister for State for Health and Family Welfare, Ashwini Kumar Choubey has attended the BRICS Health Minister's Conference 2019 in Brazil.

184. 15th edition of G20 summit 2020 will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- India was scheduled to host the 16th G20 summit in 2021 and Italy in 2022. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi requested Italy to host the 2021 summit and allow India to host it in 2022, on the occasion of the 75th year of India's independence.

185. Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Military Industries (GAMI) and India's Department of Defence Production from India signed an MoU for collaboration in military acquisition, industries, research, development and technology.

- India and Saudi already have an operational Joint Defence Coordination Committee (JDCC) mechanism.
- India and Saudi Arabia have decided to hold their first ever joint naval exercise in March 2020 (name and venue of the exercise is undisclosed).
- In April 2019, Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) had formed a joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation to hold 50 per cent stake in Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals (RRPCL).

186. Budget carrier IndiGo has become a member of International Air Transport Association (IATA).

- IATA represents around 290 airlines across the world, comprising 82% of global air traffic.
- SpiceJet became the first Indian low-cost carrier to take membership of the IATA in March 2019.
- IATA HQ — Montreal, Canada; IATA Director General and CEO— Alexandre de Juniac

187. International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH) has developed first ever Indian Brain Atlas to study age-related effects on brain.

- A brain atlas is a brain map or a template which becomes the 'standard' against which brain abnormalities can be measured.
- The atlas found that the average brain size of an Indian was smaller in height, width and volume in comparison to people of the Caucasian and eastern races.
- Implication: - The standard MRI scans were based on the model (developed by Montreal Neurological Institute in Canada, and the International Consortium for Brain Mapping) which was based on Caucasian brains.
- The study was published in the journal Neuroscience India.

188. Tamil Nadu has become the first state in India to enact a law - Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act - for contract farming.

- Purpose: - To protect farmers in the events of major price fluctuations.
- Mechanism: - Farmers will be paid a predetermined price arrived at the time of signing agreements with buyers.
- Meaning of Contract Farming: - It refers to various formal and informal agreements between producers and processors or buyers.

189. 2nd Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in New Delhi.



- Eritrea and St. Kittis and Nevis have signed the ISA Framework Agreement increasing the total number of Signatory Countries to 83.
- President of ISA is Shri R.K. Singh who is also the current Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Skill Development Entrepreneurship.
- ISA sent country missions to eight countries over the course of 2019 - to Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Togo, and Uganda
- ISA HQ - Gurugram, Haryana.

190. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has organized the National Symposium (a common platform for holding discussion and debate) on the theme of 'United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis' (LF) in New Delhi. LF is a Vector Borne Disease.

- Organizer: - National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme
- "Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021" was signed by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare - Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- WHO had launched the Global Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF) in 2000.
- In 2018, India launched the Accelerate Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis to eliminate LF.

191. Ministry for Health and Family Welfare has released the 14th edition of National Health Profile 2019, which has been prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence. It was first published in 2005.

The report mentions that: -

- Life Expectancy has increased to 68.7 years in 2012-16 (females' is 70.2 and males' is 67.4 years) from 49.7 years in 1970-75.
- Highest population Density was witnessed in Delhi (11,320 people per sq.km) while lowest population Density was reported in Arunachal Pradesh (17 people per sq.km).
- Infant Mortality Rate declined to 33 per 1000 live births in 2016 (37 in rural and 23 in urban).
- Total Fertility Rate recorded at 2.3 in 2016 (increased to 2.5 in rural and 1.8 in urban).
- Declining birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate - In 2017, birth rate was 20.2 per 1000 population, death rate was 6.3, natural growth rate was 13.9.
- Non-communicable Diseases - 6.51 crore people were diagnosed. 4.75% were diagnosed with diabetes, 0.3% with cardiovascular disease, 6.19% with hyper tension and 0.26% with common cancers.
- Sex Ratio - improved from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011. Highest sex ration was recorded in Kerala (1,084) and lowest was in Chandigarh (690).

192. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under Ministry of AYUSH, signed an MoU the Frankfurter Innovationszentrum Biotechnologie GmbH - FiZ company of Germany during the "German/Indian knowledge exchange regarding current developments in the health care sector".

- Purpose: - To increase research in the field of genomics and incorporate latest technologies like AI and machine learning with Ayurvedic principles for the wider reach to the masses.

193. India and Netherlands will jointly conduct an exhibition titled 'India & the Netherlands in the Age of Rembrandt', in commemoration of the 350th death anniversary of Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (a Dutch painter).

- The exhibition is the first collaboration between the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai and the Rijksmuseum - The museum of the Netherlands, Amsterdam.
- Venu Rajamony (Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands) has written the 'India and the Netherlands, Past, Present and Future' book.

- Recently, Netherlands Queen Maxima, the King, Willem-Alexander were on a visit to India.
194. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is planning to declare Rangdum monastery in Kargil district, Union Territory Ladakh as the monument of National Importance.
Note: - ASI will take decision after public comments closes in two months.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Typhoon Mitag is expected to hit Taiwan and is categorized by Taiwan's weather bureau as the second-strongest typhoon level.
2. China unveiled the DF-41 intercontinental-range ballistic missile- most powerful missile in the world.
 - DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), more than any missile on Earth.
 - China has the world's largest standing army and the world's third-largest air force.
3. C40 Summit will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in October where the 'Clean Air Cities Declaration' (a set of short and long-term commitments towards cleaning the air) will be launched.
 - C40 Summit is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. CEO of the C40 Summit is Mark Watts.
4. Ecuador will withdraw from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from January 1, 2020 because of its fiscal problems.
 - However, it will continue to support efforts to stabilise the world oil market. It is one of the smallest members of the OPEC.
 - Currently, the group has 14 members.
 - It reached a \$4.2 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund in February 2019 which allowed it to receive an immediate disbursement of \$652 million and opened the door for an additional \$6 billion in loans.
 - OPEC, Russia and other producers have cut output by 1.2 million bpd since Jan. 1. The alliance, known as OPEC+, in July renewed the pact until March 2020.
5. USA successfully tested an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from its Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, across the Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
 - ICBM is the first US missile fitted with Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs), enabling it to carry up to three different warheads that can strike independent targets.
6. Empirical Systems Aerospace (California) has handed over the completely electric experimental aircraft X-57 Mod II codenamed as "Maxwell" to NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center.
 - It is NASA's first completely electric experimental aircraft.
7. China has launched the new Gaofen-10 satellite on a March-4C rocket (developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology) from its Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.
 - Gaofen-10 satellite will help in urban planning, road network design, land survey, crop yield estimation as well as disaster relief.
 - It was the 314th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

8. International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center, France has announced the discovery of the 20 new moons orbiting Saturn have been discovered by the team led by Scott S. Sheppard (from University of California).
 - The total number of moons of Saturn has been increased to 82, surpassing Jupiter which has 79 moons.
 - Out of these, 3 moons are prograde moons (moving in the same direction of the planet) and 17 are retrograde moons (moving in the opposite direction of the planet).

9. 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - The 3rd Leaders' Summit will be held in November in Bangkok when RCEP's conclusion will be announced.

10. First of its kind Robotic Mission Extension Vehicle-1 (MEV-1) has been launched on the Russian Proton rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
 - It is a commercial satellite-servicing spacecraft to assist ageing spacecrafts.
 - It was built by Virginia-based company Northrop Grumman.
 - It has been launched along with the Eutelsat 5 West B communications satellite.
 - It has a lifespan of 15 years.

11. Singapore is planning to impose a ban on the ads of beverage with high sugar content.
 - If the ban is implemented, Singapore will become the first country in the world to do so.

12. World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first ever world report on vision which mentions that nearly 2.2 billion people live with vision impairment or blindness worldwide.
 - Out of this, over 1 billion cases could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed.
 - 65 million people are blind or have impaired sight even when their vision could be corrected with a cataract operation, and over 800 million people lack access to a pair of glasses.
 - India's National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) 2016-17, has extended cataract surgery to 6.5 million people, achieving a rate of over 6,000 per million population.

13. UNICEF has now become the first UN organization to hold and make transactions in cryptocurrency and it created a UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund.
 - Ethereum Foundation will be first organization to be contributing to UNICEF in form of donations to three grantees of UNICEF Innovation Fund.

14. United Kingdom announced that it will issue a commemorative coin to mark the 150th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - The announcement was made at the annual GG2 Leadership Awards ceremony 2019 in London.
 - GG2 power list 2019 (ranking of the UK's 101 most powerful Asians) places Sajid Javid on the first place followed by Priti Patel, and Gina Miller on 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

15. NASA has launched the Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) space weather satellite from an aircraft of Northrop Grumman.
 - ICON mission is a part of NASA's Explorer Program.
 - Purpose: - It will study the Earth's ionosphere to detect dynamic zones.

16. C40 World Mayors Summit 2019 held at Copenhagen, Denmark.
 - Kolkata Govt has received the 6th C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards 2019 in the green mobility category.
 - Theme for Summit: - 'The Future We Want'.
 - Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has announced to form a special task force for implementing 'Clean Air Cities Declaration' signed at the summit.

17. The latest paper of the Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO) titled 'Earth Catastrophes And Their Impact On The Carbon Cycle' show that the anthropogenic (man-made) carbon emissions are 40-100 times greater than those from all volcanic emissions.
 - Earth's total carbon content is around 1.85 billion gigatons, according to current estimates.
 - Two-tenths of 1% of Earth's total carbon is above the surface.
 - Volcanoes and other "magmatically active" or volcanic regions release around 280–360 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere and oceans.
 - While 400 of the 1,500 volcanoes active are emitting CO₂, another 670 could be producing diffused emissions.
 - Humans release approx. 10 gigatonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year.
 - DCO is an international collaboration of more than 1,200 scientists from 55 countries (launched in 2009).
 - The study was published in journal Elements.
 - Just two-tenths of 1% of Earth's total carbon is above the surface. The rest is subsurface, including the crust, mantle and core.
 - Some natural events over 500 million years—magmatic eruptions and meteor impacts—caused catastrophic volumes of carbon out-gassing, leading to a warmer atmosphere, acidified oceans and mass extinctions.

18. 6-day plenary meeting of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was held under the presidency of China.
 - FATF's president is Xiangmin Liu.
 - The president conducts all plenary session of FATF.

19. Typhoon Hagibis and Typhoon Faxai has hit Japan.

20. UAE established the first research-based Artificial Intelligence university (at the graduate-level) in the world.
 - The university is named after the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi) as the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI).

21. USA's House of Representatives has passed a bill 'Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act' that aims to defend human civil rights in the semi-autonomous territory.
 - The proposed law would end the Hong Kong-US special trading status unless the State Department certifies annually that city authorities are respecting human rights and the rule of law.

22. State-owned China Sam Group has leased the Tulagi Island in Solomon Islands for 75 years.
 - China and Solomon have signed an agreement which also includes construction of a refinery on the island and the development of the special economic zone.

23. Italy will impose a 3% web tax from 2020 on large-scale digital companies for engaging in internet transactions.
 - Reason: - The web giants including Google collecting large profits despite paying little in tax.
24. United Nations General Assembly has added 14 new member states to Human Rights Council.
 - Armenia, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sudan and Venezuela have been appointed for three-year period.
 - UN- Human Rights Council was established in 2008. The Council comprises 47 elected Member States.
25. FATF has retained Pakistan on its Grey List and gave a 4-month ultimatum till Feb 2020, to Pakistan to curb terror-funding during its plenary session in Paris.
 - Sri Lanka has been removed from the grey list of FATF under its on-going global anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance process.
26. Nasa astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir have created history by completing the first ever all-female spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS).
 - For Koch, this is the 4th spacewalk.
27. Chile has refused to host Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum and COP25 of UN Climate Change Conference in Santiago due to political unrest. New venue are being looked at.
28. 3rd edition of G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Meeting is held under the Presidency of Japan in Okayama City, Japan.
 - Key Focus: - (i) Achievement of Universal Health Coverage (ii) Response to population aging (iii) Management of health risks and (iv) health security management including Anti-Microbial Resistance and its containment.
29. World's oldest known natural pearl (carbon-dated 5800 B.C. to 5600 B.C.) has been discovered at a Neolithic site at Marawah Island in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
30. Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) is being held in Tokyo, Japan.
 - Mr. Kajiyama Hiroshi (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan) has chaired the GFSEC ministerial meet. 2019 chair for GFSEC is Japan.
 - GFSEC was established in 2016.
31. China is developing a huge cosmic ray observation station - "Large High-Altitude Air Shower Observatory" (LHAASO) at 4,400 meters above sea level in Daocheng, to carry out detailed study about the cosmic rays.
 - The project, expected to be completed by 2020, is being carried out in participation from Australia and Thailand and other countries.
 - 12 telescopes will be erected to conduct high-precision measurement of cosmic rays with the highest energy.
32. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was

established by CAMLR Convention in 1982 (secretariat is in Hobart, Tasmania) with the objective of conserving Antarctic marine life.

- CCAMLR has 26 members.
- Currently, the organization is discussing the proposal to create a massive ocean sanctuary in east Antarctica which will protect around 1.55 million sq.km of area in the ocean in the 2-week meeting in Hobart, Australia.

33. Switzerland's glaciers have lost 1/10th of their volume in the past five years alone (highest till now).

- 20 Swiss glaciers have recorded high melt rates, according to the annual study on their state, published by the Cryospheric Commission at the Swiss Academy of Sciences.
- Due to the climate change, the volume of melting was equivalent to the country's total annual consumption of drinking water during two weeks of intense heat at the end of June and again in late July.
- A recent study by glaciologists at the ETH Zurich technical university warned that more than 90% of some 4,000 glaciers throughout the Alps could disappear by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions are not controlled.

34. Singapore has passed the Protection From Online Falsehoods And Manipulation Act 2019 to curb the circulation of fake news.

35. ASEAN Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi has declared Vietnam to be the Chair of ASEAN in 2020.

- 2019 president of ASEAN - Thailand and the theme of its ASEAN Chairmanship is "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability".
- 2018 president of ASEAN - Singapore.

36. First Global Health Security Index 2019 has been developed by Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, Nuclear Threat Initiative and Economist Intelligence Unit.

- Parameters: - 34 indicators and 85 sub-indicators divided into 6 categories.
- The index measures the preparedness of countries in the event of infectious disease outbreaks.
- The average overall GHS Index score is 40.2 out of 100 while high-income countries report an average score of 51.9.
- Total - 195 countries
- Top country - USA (with a score of 83.5 overall) followed by UK and Netherlands
- India's rank - 57th with a score of 46.5
- The countries were divided into 3 categories - Most prepare, More prepared, Least prepared. India falls into the More prepared category.

37. Cyclone Kyarr was the first Super Cyclone to have formed in the Arabian Sea in last 12 years which is moving towards Oman.

- According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), a second cyclone - Maha is brewing in the Arabian Sea. (Lakshadweep is expected to receive heavy rainfall)

38. Natural History Museum has named a tiny, blind, wingless and nameless beetle (scientific name- Nelloptodes gretae) after Greta Thunberg.

- The honey-coloured insect, measuring less than 1 millimetre, was discovered in the Kenyan capital Nairobi in the 1960s.

39. Nepal's mountaineer Nirmal Purja has become the speediest person in the world to climb 14 highest peaks (above 8,000 meters) in just 7 months.

- Before him, Italy's Reinhold Messner had become the first person to climb these 14 peaks in 1986.

40. Copernicus (initiated in 2014) is the European Union's Earth observation programme coordinated and managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA).

- Copernicus has two components - ESA's sentinels and missions from other space agencies, called Contributing Missions.
 - ESA is developing a series of next-generation Earth observation missions, on behalf of the joint ESA/European Commission initiative GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security).
 - Sentinel, which will study the Earth's monitor Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Land conditions, aims to replace the current older Earth observation missions which have reached retirement.
 - Total 5 Sentinel missions have been launched so far. Sentinel 1 is the first mission launched in 2014 while Sentinel 5P was launched in 2017.
 - Current News: - According to the data received from the Sentinel 3, five times as many wildfires in August 2019 (79,000) compared to August 2018.
 - 49% of fires were detected in Asia, followed by South America at 28%.
- Number of fires detected during August 2019

41. Sri Lanka and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have developed the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management, to be adopted by member nations, to halve nitrogen waste by 2030.

- The world grapples with the menace of air pollution which kills 7 million people prematurely every year.
- More than 30 countries endorsed UN plans for a campaign on sustainable nitrogen management called "Nitrogen for Life", which is a result of the Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution (adopted during the 4th session of the UN Environment Assembly held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya).
- Colombo Declaration has been prepared with the technical support of the International Nitrogen Management System, a joint activity of the UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Supreme Court has recommended the name of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Rajendra Menon as Chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT).

2. Pakistan has appointed Munir Akram as the country's permanent representative to the United Nations.

3. Jai Bhagwan Bhoria has been appointed as the new administrator of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC) by RBI.

- RBI has also imposed restrictions on PMC because of its over ^6,500 crore exposure - four times the regulatory cap or a whopping 73% of its entire assets of ^8,880 crore into the bankrupt HDIL.

4. Surjit S. Bhalla has been appointed as the Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund for a period of 3 years.
5. Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia has been appointed as the new principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
 - Dhatwalia has also been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the government.
 - Ira Joshi has been given the additional charge of the principal DG of the Directorate of Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - Satyendra Prakash, DG of the Outreach and Communication of the PIB, will hold the additional charge of the Press Registrar of RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India).
6. Charles Michel (former PM of Belgium) has been appointed as the president of European Council.
 - The current president - Donald Tusk- will retire by October 31.
7. PK Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC).
8. SS Mallikarjuna Rao (current CEO of Allahabad Bank) has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank, replacing Sunil Mehta.
9. Abhishek Singh has been appointed as the CEO of MyGov India.
 - MyGov website (developed by the National Informatics Centre) was launched in 2014 to bring government and common man closer by creating an interface for exchange of ideas and views for the social and economic transformation of India.
10. Amur S Lakshminarayanan has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Tata communications.
11. Sushil Chandra Mishra has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of the Oil India Limited.
12. Yalitza Aparicio (Mexican actress) has been appointed as the goodwill ambassador for indigenous people of UNESCO.
13. Rohit Gupta has been appointed as the chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).
14. Nissan Motors has appointed Makoto Uchida as its new CEO and Ashwani Gupta as Chief Operating Officer.
15. Kallam Satish Reddy has been appointed as the President of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) for 2019-2021.
 - He is the Chairman of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited.
16. Vikas Varma has been promoted as the Chief Operating Officer of Mastercard India.
17. Jasprit Bumrah has been appointed as a brand ambassador of Cultsport (sportswear brand).

18. Kais Saied has been elected as the new President of Tunisia.
19. Indra Nooyi (Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo) has become the first independent female director of International Cricket Council (ICC).
 - ICC Chairman: - Shashank Manohar.
 - ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 will be held in New Zealand.
20. World Steel Association has appointed Sajjan Jindal (CMD of JSW Steel) as Vice-Chairman for one year.
 - YU Yong has been elected as its Chairman.
 - TV Narendran and Lakshmi Mittal have been appointed as its members.
21. Rajnish Kumar (Chairman of SBI) has been appointed as the Chairman of Indian Bank Association.
22. Pankaj Kumar has been appointed as the CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
 - Braj Raj Sharma has been appointed as the chairman of the Staff Selection Commission.
23. Deepika Padukone and PV Sindhu have been appointed as the ambassadors for new initiative of PM Narendra Modi called 'Bharat Ki Laxmi'.
 - The initiative was launched to highlight the achievements of women.
24. Actor Ayushman Khurrana has been appointed by UNICEF and Ministry of Women and Child Development to raise awareness about the sexual abuse against children.
 - Khurrana has recently shot an awareness video about the Prevention of Children from Sexual Abuse (POCSO) Act.
25. Sourav Ganguly has been elected as the 39th President of Board of Control for Cricket in India.
26. Sunil Kumar has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of the MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited).
 - Pravin Kumar Purwar is the CMD of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited).
27. Stan Deal has been appointed as the president and CEO of the commercial airplanes division of the Boeing Co.
 - Ted Colbert - as president and CEO of Boeing Global Services
 - Vishwa Uddanwadiker - interim chief information officer and senior vice president of the information technology and data analytics division of the company.
28. Sukhbir Sandhu has appointed as the Chairman of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
 - Arvind Singh has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India.
29. Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



- He will be administered the oath of office by J&K High Court's Chief Justice Gita Mittal in Srinagar.
 - Radha Krishna Mathur has been appointed as the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
 - Satya Pal Malik (Previous Governor of J&K) would be sworn in as 18th Goa Governor replacing the first woman governor of Goa - Mridula Sinha.
 - P S Sreedharan Pillai is the new 15th Mizoram governor.
30. Pramod Kumar Tiwari has been appointed as the director general of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).
31. Vijayendra will be chairman & managing director of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
32. Ganji Kamala V Rao has been appointed the chairman and managing director of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) Ltd.
33. K Sanjay Murthy has been appointed as the CEO and managing director of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry).
34. Keshav Kumar Pathak has been appointed as MD of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways).
35. B Srinivas has been named as the managing director of National Horticulture Board (under the department of agriculture, cooperation and farmers welfare).
36. Filipe Nyusi (from Frelimo party) has been elected as president of Mozambique.
37. Sophie Wilmes has been appointed as the first female Prime Minister of Belgium (of caretaker govt) replacing former PM Charles Michel.
38. Dineshwar Sharma has been appointed as the new administrator of Lakshadweep.
39. Justice SA Bobde has been appointed as the 47th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind with effect from Nov 18, 2019 till 2021.
- Article 124 in The Constitution Of India 1949 permits the President of India to appoint judges of Supreme Court and High Court in consultation with the judges.
40. Amit Sachdev (Indian-American interventional gastroenterologist) has been conferred the White House Fellowship for 2019-2020 class by the President's Commission on White House Fellows.
- A total of 15 professionals have been selected in for this year's fellowship.
 - Benefits of the fellowship: - It provides an opportunity to professionals from diverse backgrounds two engage in public service for 1 year by serving in various roles in the Govt.
 - The fellowship was created in 1964 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson.
41. Rafael Mariano Grossi has been elected as the new Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. 94th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service is celebrated on October 01.
 - MNS is the only all woman corps in the Armed forces.

2. International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi by UN.
 - UN issued a commemorative stamp on the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi.
 - Lai Bahadur Shastri, the 2nd Prime Minister of India, was also born on Oct 2.

EVENTS IN INDIA ON 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GANDHI

 - Rashtriya Swachh Bharat Diwas was observed on 2nd October.
 - India's largest 'charkha' (1,650-kg spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
 - Ministry of Tourism organized the nationwide "Paryatan Parv 2019" to propagate the message of 'Dekho Apna Desh', and also to spread the message of 'Tourism for All'.
 - Digital Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi titled "Digital Gandhi Gyan-Vigyan" was also organized by Ministry of Science & Technology, in collaboration with, M/s Vizara Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
 - A special commemorative Rs 150 coin was also launched.
 - India has set the target to completely eliminate single-use plastics by 2022.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India is now open defecation-free, with an access of over 60 crore people to toilets by building over 11 crore toilets.
 - Indian Embassy in Paris partnered with French postal service company La Poste to release the commemorative stamp.
 - Several countries, including Uzbekistan, Turkey, Palestine and Monaco, are releasing commemorative postage stamps to mark the day.

3. 3rd annual World Investor Week is a global campaign observed by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to promote the investor education and protection during September 30-October 6, 2019.
 - key message of the week is online investing, digital assets and Initial Coin Offerings, as well as re-emphasizing the basics of investing.

4. World Space Week is observed from October 4-10 by the UN to commemorate the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I on October 4, 1957 and October 10 when the UN declaration for peaceful uses of outer Space came into force in 1967.
 - Theme for 2019: - "The Moon: Gateway to the Stars", celebrating the 50th anniversary of humankind's first step on the Moon on 20 July 1969.

5. First World Cotton Day is observed on October 7 in Geneva by the WTO in collaboration with UN- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD), International Trade Center and International Cotton Advisory Committee.
 - Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali) applied in the United Nations General Assembly for official recognition of a World Cotton Day.
 - India is the world's largest producers and consumers of cotton.
 - India will cover five more African countries namely Mali, Ghana, Togo, Zambia and Tanzania in the phase -II of its cotton technical assistance programme (TAP) for the region.
 - India implemented a technical assistance programme (TAP) for cotton in six African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda, from 2012 to 2018.

6. October is observed as the 'Breast Cancer Awareness Month' across the world every year by WHO.
 - In 2018, there were an estimated 2.1 million new cases of breast cancer and 627 000 deaths from breast cancer worldwide, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer.
 - Cancer is among the most common causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, with an estimated 14 million new cases and 8 million deaths in 2012, projected to rise by at least 70% by 2030.
7. World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year by UN.
 - 2019 focus is on suicide prevention.
 - Every 40 seconds, someone loses their life to suicide and to raise awareness about this, the campaign "40 seconds of action" has been launched.
 - According to the WHO, more than 800,000 people commit suicide in a year, making it the principal cause of death among people 15-29 years old.
 - Around 2.3 lakh deaths were caused due to suicide in 2016, according to the Global Burden of Disease Study (1990 to 2016), published in the Lancet Public Health journal in 2018.
 - Chennai has organized the first-of-its-kind 'Mad Pride 2019' parade on World Mental Health Day.
8. International Day of Girl Child is observed on October 11 by United Nations.
 - Theme: - Girl force: Unscripted and unstoppable
9. Indian Department of Posts is celebrating National Postal week from 9-15th October, 2019.
10. World Sight Day is observed on every second Thursday of October.
 - Theme: - "Vision First".
 - International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) observes this day to promote VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, which is a joint initiative with WHO to eliminate avoidable blindness.
 - Andhra Pradesh has launched YSR Kanti Velugu Scheme 2019 on world sight day under which the citizen of the state can test their eyes for free of cost and free spectacles will be provided.
 - The scheme will be conducted in six phases over a period of three years.
11. World Migratory Bird Day for 2019 is observed on May 11 and October 12.
 - It falls on the second Saturday in May and October.
 - Theme for 2019 - "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!"
12. International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed on October 13 by UN.
 - Theme: - "Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services".
 - United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction has launched the Sendai Framework in 2015 to promote the best practices in reducing disaster risks and losses.
 - Signed in Sendai, Japan, the Sendai Framework (2015-2030) is the successor of Hyogo Framework for action (2005-2015).
 - India's 58.6% of land is prone to earthquakes while almost a 12% of it is prone to floods and river erosion, and 68% of the cultivable land is prone to drought and 15% of land is prone to landslide.
13. World Students' Day is observed on October 15 on the birthday of 11th president of India APJ Abdul Kalam.

14. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 by the UN.
 - Theme: Acting together to Empower Children, their families and Communities to End Poverty.
 - According to UN, approx. 783 million people are living below international poverty line i.e., is 1.90 USD per day.

15. World Statistics Day is observed on October 20 by UN.
 - India observed the National Statistics Day on June 29 in commemoration of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

16. World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day, is observed on October 21.
 - The deficiency of Iodine in the body can lead to a condition called Hypothyroidism.
 - Findings of National family health survey-4 (NFHS,2015-16) shows that 93% of households are using iodized salt as compare to 73% in NFHS-3(2005-06).
 - In 1962, National Goitre Control Programme (NGCP) was launched which was renamed as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in 1992 to ensure inclusion of wide spectrum of Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

17. International Snow Leopard Day is observed on October 23 by the world.
 - Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a national-level protocol - Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) - to estimate the population of snow leopards in the India during the 4th steering committee meeting of Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) held in New Delhi.
 - The protocol will be applicable on to these 12 countries which have already pledged to protect at least 23 snow leopard landscapes by 2020.
 - According to Worldwide fund for Nature - India, the population of snow leopards is estimated to be in the range of 400-500 for India.

18. UN Day is observed on October 24 to mark the ratification of UN Charter in 1945.
 - UN has launched "UN75: 2020 and Beyond-Shaping our future together" for completing 75 years of its existence in 2020.
 - Theme: - Our Planet, Our Future.

19. World Environment Day's (observed on June 5) host country is China for the 2019.
 - Every World Environment Day has a different host country, where the official celebrations take place.
 - The day was first celebrated in 1974.

20. World Polio Day is observed on October 24 by the UN.
 - Theme: - Stories of Progress: Past and present.
 - Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) began in 1988 by World Health Organization.
 - According to the GPEI, India was announced polio-free in 2014 , along with the rest of the South-East Asia Region.
 - WHO has announced that the wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) has been eradicated worldwide, following the eradication of smallpox and wild poliovirus type 2.

21. 58th Raising Day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was observed on October 24.

- ITBP was raised in 1962 under the CRPF Act. However, in 1992, parliament enacted the ITBPF Act and the rules there under were framed in 1994.
 - Central government has approved to create over 3,000 new posts, and two new operational commands for the ITBP to guard the Line of Actual Control with China.
 - Two new commands - eastern and western - will be based in Guwahati and Chandigarh respectively.
 - These will be headed by Additional Director General (ADG)-rank officers and will guard borders starting from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.
22. Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed by Central Vigilance Commission from 28th October to 2nd November.
- Theme: - Integrity - a way of life.
23. 4th Ayurveda day is observed by Ministry of AYUSH on October 25 on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanvantari is a Hindu god who cures diseases).
- "National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award" will be awarded by Ministry of AYUSH on National Ayurveda Day.
24. Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on 29 October to commemorate destruction brought by Super Cyclone in Odisha in 1999 and to prepare ourselves for future disasters.
- Theme of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day for 2019 :- 'Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience'.
- Note: - Theme of the day is only available in Gktoday. It was not available in any newspaper.
25. World Cities Day is observed on October 31 by UN.
- The general theme is Better City, Better Life. Every year, the sub-theme keeps on changing.
 - Sub-Theme for 2019: - Changing the world: Innovations and better life for future generations.
 - The main event will be hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia (organised by UN-Habitat, the Shanghai People's Govt and Ekaterinburg).
 - Hyderabad has been designed as the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and Mumbai has been designated as Creative City of Films on the World Cities Day.
 - Chennai and Varanasi are UNESCO cities of music while Jaipur is the City of Crafts and Folk Arts.
- Extra Facts: -
- Habitat Conference: - Held in Quito (Ecuador) in 2016, this conference had set up the New Urban Agenda as standards for building and maintaining the cities. It is officially known as UN Conference on Housing and sustainable Urban Development.
 - The Habitat conferences take place once in every 20 years. The habitat I was organized in Vancouver in 1976, Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996 and Habitat III in Quito in 2016.
 - Over half the world's population now live in cities, with the number expected to double by 2050.

AWARDS

1. Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prize in six categories - Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, Peace, Economic Sciences and Literature.
2. President Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019 on the eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons.

- Vayoshreshtha awards are instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as part of the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October.

- 2019 Theme of the Day is : - "The Journey to Age Equality".

- Winners: -

[The award is given in many categories. Only the important one have been taken here]

3. Caroline Criado Perez (Writer) has won the prestigious Royal Society Science Books Prize for her book "Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men", sponsored by Insight Investment.

4. India's Kallie Puri has been awarded with "India's Most Powerful Women in Media" award at the Confluence Excellence Awards at the British Parliament.

- She is the Vice-Chairperson of the India Today Group.

5. Shanti Raghavan and Dipesh Sutariya, founders of EnAble India were awarded with the 10th Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019 for promoting employment, skilling, and entrepreneurship of the persons with disabilities (PwDs).

- The award, jointly established by Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in 2010, recognizes promising social entrepreneurs who implement sustainable solutions.

6. Kyrgyz human rights lawyer Azizbek Ashurov has won the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award 2019 for his efforts to rehabilitate the Soviet refugees and gain Kyrgyz nationality.

- The award, instituted in 1954 by UNHCR, is given to individuals doing welfare work for resettlement of refugees or displaced people.

- The award celebrates the legacy of Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian scientist, polar explorer, diplomat and first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations.

7. Swachhta Ambassador award has been awarded to Sachin Tendulkar during the 5th edition of India Today Safaigiri Summit held in New Delhi.

8. Greta Thunberg and Divina Maloum (Cameroon's peace campaigner) will be honoured with the 15th International Children's Peace Prize 2019 by the KidsRights Foundation on World Children's Day on November 20.

- The award is given annually to a child who fights for children's rights.

9. 'Spirit of Kerala', directed by Arun Joseph, has won the People's Choice award at the My Rode Reel film competition.

- The competition is considered as the 'world's largest short film competition'.

10. Arjun Bansal (aged 35) and Ankiti Bose (aged 27) have appeared into the Fortune's 2019 "40 Under 40 List".

- Arjun is the vice-president of Intel's artificial intelligence software and AI lab, and Ankiti is the co-founder of Zilingo.

11. Ramesh Pandey will be awarded the 'Asia Environmental Enforcement Award' 2019 by the United Nations Environment Programme at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

- The award recognises the achievements of individuals and public organisations in Asia to combat transboundary environmental crime.
 - Pandey had introduced M-Stripes (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive Protection & Ecological Status), a novel software-based patrolling in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (in Uttar Pradesh) on the recommendation of National Tiger Conservation Authority.
 - Dudhwa Tiger Reserve comprises the Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.
12. Leeladhar Jagudi has been honoured with the Vyas Samman 2018 by KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem".
13. 4th annual Carnot Prize has been awarded to Piyush Goyal by University of Pennsylvania distinguished contributions to energy policy in January 2019.
14. Abdul Aziz Muhamat has been awarded with the 2019 Martin Ennals Award in recognition of his services towards defending human rights.
- In order to honour Martin Ennals, former Secretary-General of Amnesty International, the Martin Ennals Award is chosen by ten leading human rights organizations.
15. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented prestigious President's Colours to the Army Aviation Corps in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- In recognition of the meritorious services rendered by Army Aviation Corps the President Colours are presented.
16. Asha Bhosle has been awarded with an honorary Doctorate of Arts degree University of Salford in England in recognition of her contribution to the field of music and her role in inspiring future generations to participate in the arts and media.
17. Russia has awarded Nick Hague (NASA astronaut), with one of its highest honours, the Order of Courage.
- He survived an aborted space launch last year.
18. 13th edition of the PII-ICRC annual awards for best article and best photograph on a humanitarian subject, have been announced.
- The awards are jointly organised by the Press Institute of India (PII) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) New Delhi Regional Delegation.
 - In 2019, the theme of the awards was 'Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Issues'.
 - Awardees in article category: - Urvashi Sarkar, Disha Shetty, Anup Sharma.
 - Awardees in photography category: - G. Sivaprasad, Rinku Raj, Bibin Xavier.
 - Special awards for best article: - Jency Samuel
 - Special awards for best photographer: - Prashant K.
19. Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), has awarded three Indian- Americans with the 'Health Council Award 2019' among others during the GOPIO health summit in New Jersey, USA.
- Purpose of the summit is to improve the health of Indian diaspora people across the world.

20. Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration has been awarded to Chandi Prasad Bhatt (Chipko Movement Founder) for the years 2017 and 2018.
 - Reason: - for promoting national integration in the country.
21. Margaret Atwood for her 'The Testament' and Bernardine Evaristo for her 'Girl, Woman, Other' have won the Booker Prize 2019.
 - Atwood and Evaristo become the first authors to jointly win the Booker Prize since 1992.
 - Evaristo has become the first black woman to win this award.
22. Leonel Messi (captain of Barcelona Football Club) has won the Golden Shoe for the 2018/19 season award for the sixth time, for scoring the highest goals at 36 in European leagues.
 - The award, also known as the "Bota de Oro", is given by European Sports Media to the player who has scored the most goals across Europe's top leagues.
23. Philharmonic Orchestra (Hong Kong) has been named as the Orchestra of The Year at the Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2019 because of their recording of Wagner's Ring cycle.
 - Recording of the Year award was given to French pianist Bertrand Chamayou for his disc of Saint-Saens piano concertos.
 - Another pianist, Vikingur Olafsson, was honoured with the Artist of the Year title.
24. Winners of the 24th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), one of the most important film festivals in Asia, held annually in Busan, South Korea: -
25. Vice President Venkaiyah Naidu has given the "Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award" to Shri K Parasaran (former Attorney General of India).
26. 20th edition of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation has been awarded to 4 Indian sites among other recipients: -
 - A total of 16 projects from 5 countries (India, Bhutan, China, New Zealand and Australia) have been recognized by international jury of conservation experts.
27. Students of Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Engineering have won two Marconi Society's Celestini Programme awards for their apps - Rakshak (women safety app) and VisionAir (app to combat air pollution).
 - Marconi Society's Celestini Programme awards, named after Guglielmo Marconi (inventor of radio), honours the people who contributed immensely towards science and humanity.
 - According to the WHO's Global Ambient Air Quality Database, India has 14 of the 15 most polluted cities in the world.
 - Celestini Programme India, in partnership with IIT-Delhi, select universities with promising engineering undergraduates and provide them with support and mentorship to help tap their potential.
28. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (USA) has won the \$1 million Berggruen Prize 2019 for philosophy and culture.
 - Reason: - For her pioneering legal work for gender equality and her support for the rule of law.
29. The first-of-its-kind DigiDhan Mission Fintech Award 2018-2019 were awarded during the MeitY Startup Summit 2019 held in Delhi.



30. Ilham Tohti has been awarded with the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought (highest human rights prize of European Union) for protecting the rights of Uighur minority people in China.
- In 2014, the Tohti was sentenced to life imprisonment for separatism-related charges.
31. Thakur Anup Singh (CMD of Marg ERP Limited) has won the 'Udyog Rattan Award' from 'Institute of Economic Studies' for promoting the use of technology in MSMEs.
- Tohti has also received the Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize.
32. Jasprit Bumrah (Bowler) and Smriti Mandhana (batswoman) won the 7th edition of Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award.
- Total 5 people won this award. Other awardees are — Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan), Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka), and Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).
 - 2019 and 2020 annual cricket publication also features Mayank Agarwal.
 - Cricketers Gundappa Viswanath and Lala Amarnath were inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame.
 - 'Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team' by Prashant Kidambi was accorded as the 'Wisden India Book of the Year'.
33. First ever National CSR Awards have been instituted by Ministry of Corporate Affairs to recognize corporate initiatives in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in partnership with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA - think-tank of the ministry).
- Total 19 companies have been awarded with 2019 National CSR Award and 19 companies have found honourable mentions.
 - The award is given in 3 categories - "Corporate Award for Excellence in CSR", "Contribution of CSR in Challenging Circumstances" and "Contribution of CSR in National Priority Areas".
 - Power Grid Corporation Ltd has received the Corporate Award for Excellence in CSR under the sub-category of CSR expenditure above 100 crore and it is the only company which spent more than Rs 100 crore for CSR.
34. UN has presented SEED awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development to organizations working towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDG).
- SEED was founded by UN Environment Programme, UN Development Program and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the World Summit on SDG, Johannesburg in 2002.
 - Aikya Organics (India) has won SEED Low Carbon Awards 2019 among other global winners.

SPORTS

1. 17th edition of IAAF World Athletics Championship 2019 has concluded in Doha, Qatar.
- IAAF World Athletics Championship 2021 will be held in Eugene, USA.
- IAAF World Athletics Championship 2023 will be held in Budapest, Hungary.
- India has been ranked at 58th position.
- Joao Vieira (aged 43) has become the oldest person to win a medal (silver) in the men's 50km race. Japan's Yusuke Suzuki won the gold medal in it.
- Allyson Felix (American track and field athlete) has broken the record of highest gold medals by winning 13 gold medals, two more than Usain Bolt's record.
- Dalilah Muhammad has broken her own world record by winning the women's 400m hurdles in 52.16 seconds (her previous record was 52.20 sec).
- US team (Wilbert London, Courtney Okolo, Allyson Felix and Michael Cherry) set the world record by finishing the 4X400 meters mixed relay in 3:9:04 seconds.

- Annu Rani has become the first Indian woman javelin thrower to enter the final at the Worlds.
- 2. BWF Rankings 2019 latest: -
 - Parupalli Kashyap has risen to 25th place from 30th position.
 - Sai Praneeth rank-12, Sameer Verma rank-17 are the other Indians in Top 20.
- 3. Denmark's Mads Pedersen wins the men's road race at the 2019 Road World Championships in Yorkshire, England.
 - He has become the first Danish winner of the event.
- 4. World Youth championship will be held in Mumbai and World Junior and Girls U20 Chess Championship 2019 will be held in New Delhi.
- 5. Aryna Sabalenka has won women's singles title in the 6th edition of WTA Wuhan Open 2019 held in Wuhan, China.
 - Duan Yingying and Veronika Kudermetova won the women's doubles title.
- 6. Indonesia has won the BWF World junior mixed team badminton championships 2019 held in Kazan, Russia.
 - India has been ranked at 12th position.
- 7. Austria's Christine Wolf has won the 13th edition of the Hero Indian Women's Open (golf) held in Gurugram, Haryana.
- 8. Alyssa Healy (Australia) has set a world record for scoring highest runs of 148 off 61 balls in women's T20I against Sri Lanka at the North Sydney Oval, Australia.
- 9. FIDE or World Chess Federation's latest ranking 2019: -
- 10. A floating basketball court, first of its kind in India, has been launched in the Arabian Sea in Mumbai.
 - It has been brought for the National Basketball Association (NBA) game, which has the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers playing two pre-season games in Mumbai (for the first time in India).
- 11. Maj Abdul Quadir Khan (Indian Army Corps of Signals) has won the silver medal in the 53rd Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship 2019 held in Batam, Indonesia.
 - It is his maiden title.
- 12. India has won Women's T20 series against South Africa held in Surat.
 - Deepti Sharma became the first Indian to bowl three maidens overs in a T20I match.
 - Harmanpreet Kaur has become the first Indian cricketer to appear in 100 T20Is during this match. She has also surpassed men cricketers Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni (both have played only 98 T20Is till now) in the T20I appearances.
 - She has also become the 2nd woman to score 2000 runs in T20I after Mithali Raj.
 - Shefali Varma (aged 15) has become the youngest woman cricketer to play a T20I.
- 13. Marc Marquez won his sixth MotoGP World title by winning the Thailand Grand Prix.

14. Naomi Osaka and Dominic Thiem won the women's and men's singles at the 2019 China Open.
15. 49th edition of World Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2019 was held in Stuttgart, Germany.
 - Organizer: - International Gymnastics Federation and German Gymnastics Federation.
 - 50th edition of World Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2021 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.
 - Simone Biles has won 5 golds at the championship, taking her total medal tally to 25 career world championship medals (which includes 19 golds), highest for any gymnast, male or female.
 - Winner: USA (Gold-5, total-8)
 - Runner up: Russia (Gold-3, total-9)
16. Australian women's cricket team has made the world record for most consecutive wins in ODI matches by winning their 18th match against Sri Lanka in the tri-match ODI series held in Australia.
 - They have broken their own record of 17 consecutive wins achieved between 1997 and 1999.
17. Manju Rani, who won a silver medal, has become the first Indian woman boxer of 18 years to enter in the finals of AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships 2019 held in Ulan-Ude, Russia.
 - M C Mary Kom, Jamuna Boro, Lovlina Borgohain won 3 bronze medals for India.
18. India won 7 medals (1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals) at the World Youth Chess Championship held in Mumbai.
 - Gold Winner: - R Praggnanandhaa
 - Silver Winners: - Vantika Agrawal, Srihari L R, Divya Deshmukh
 - Bronze Winners: - Aronyak Ghosh, Sreeshwan Maralakshikari, Rakshitta Ravi
19. Valtteri Bottas has won the Japanese Grand Prix 2019.
20. Daniil Medvedev has won the Shanghai Masters (tennis) held in Shanghai, China.
21. P.U. Chitra has won the women's 800m title in the 59th National Open athletics championships held in Chhattisgarh.
 - Dutee Chand has won gold in 200m.
22. Niki K Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavisetti has won the men's and women's categories respectively in the 25th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship 2019 held in New Delhi.
 - U-18 Girls Winner: - Rashmikaa Bhamidipatty
 - U-18 Boys Winner: - Madhwin Kamath
23. BWF Bahrain International Series 2019 winners: -
24. 18th edition of UEFA Euro 2020 (football tournament) will be held in 12 cities across countries in Europe in 2020.
25. 9th YONEX Dutch Open 2019 held in Almere, Netherlands winners: -

26. Kenya's Brigid Kosgei has set a new world record by winning the elite women's group at the Chicago Marathon in 2:14:4 seconds.

- Earlier, the record was set by Paula Radcliffe at 2:15:25s in 2003.

27. ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings 2019 released:

28. ICC Men's Test rankings has been released: -

- Virat Kohli has been ranked at 2nd spot, after Steve Smith, in the batsman category in the latest ICC Test rankings.
- Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane are at 4th and 9th spots respectively.
- In bowlers ranking, Ravichandran Ashwin has been ranked at 7th position. Jasprit Bumrah is still at 3rd place.
- All Rounders: - Ravindra Jadeja is at 2nd place and Ravichandran Ashwin is at 5th. Note: - Number 1 positions are unchanged.

29. ICC women's ODI rankings has been released: -

- ODI Team Ranking: - 1. Australia, 2. India, 3. England.
- ICC women T20I ranking team: - Australia, England, New Zealand, West Indies, India (top 5 spots respectively).

30. India have 21 medals (including six gold and nine silver) at the ASBC Asian Junior Championships 2019 held in Fujairah, UAE.

- India came second in the overall medal tally after Uzbekistan, which had 8 gold medals.
- Gold medals: - Vishvanath Suresh (46kg), Bishwamitra Chongtham (48kg), Kalpana (46kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Tanshbir Kaur Sandhu (80kg) and Alfiya Tarannum Pathan (+80kg).

31. 2020 Asia Track Cycling Championships held in Incheon, South Korea winners: -

- Individual medals: - Ronaldo Singh (Gold) and James Singh (bronze).
- Besides, Indian men's and women's junior sprint team won two bronze medals.
- India won 5 medals here.
- 2019 Asia Track Cycling Championships was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

32. Raunak Sadhwani (aged 13) has become the India's 65th Grand Master.

33. Marc Marquez has won the Motul Grand Prix of Japan held in Motegi, Japan.

34. Andy Murray has won the European Open (tennis) 2019 held at Antwerp, Belgium. • Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies won the men's doubles title.

35. Danielle Kang has won the Buick LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) Shanghai.

36. Jelena Ostapenko has won the WTA Luxembourg Open 2019.

37. Great Britain has won the 9th edition of Sultan of Johor Cup 2019 (U-21 men's field hockey tournament) held in Johor Bahru in Malaysia.

- India was the runner up.

38. Wang Hao has won the 2019 FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss held in Douglas, Isle of Man.

- Harika Dronavalli (Indian chess player) has won the 'best women's player' prize.
39. Bengal Warriors have won the 7th season of Pro Kabaddi League held at Eka Arena By Transstadia, Ahmedabad.
40. DANISA Denmark Open 2019 (in Badminton), held in Odense V, Denmark, winners: -
41. Official logo of the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympics, to be held in Paris, has been released.
42. Dronavalli Harika's (chess player) has won the women's top prize of \$10,000 along with Dinara Saduakassova of Kazakhstan for performing well in the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss held at Douglas, Isle of Man.
- Her rank is: -
43. Praveen Kumar has become the first Indian man to win a gold medal in men's Sanda event of 15th World Wushu (Chinese Kungfu) Championships held in Shanghai, China.
- Poonam (75kg) and Sanathoi Devi (52kg) secured silver medals.
 - Vikrant Baliyan won bronze in men's 60kg category.
 - World Wushu Championships are organised by the International Wushu Federation in every two years.
 - In 2017, Pooja Kadian became the first Indian to be crowned world champion in wushu in 75 kg sanda event.
44. Official mascot for Tokyo 2020 Olympics is named as MIRAITOWA.
45. China will host first expanded edition of FIFA Club World Cup in 2021.
- The competition, which currently features seven teams -- the winner from each confederation's major continental tournament -- will be expanded to 24 teams for the first time.
 - 2022 FIFA World Cup will be held in Qatar.
46. FIFA Rankings :-
47. Tiger Woods has won 82nd title of his career by winning Zozo Championship 2019 (PGA tour of golf) in Chiba, Japan.
- Woods has now become equivalent to Samuel Jackson Snead (an American professional golfer) who had won the 82 PGA titles, highest till date.
48. YONEX French Open 2019 Super 750 (badminton tour organized by BWF) has concluded in Paris, France.
49. Lewis Hamilton has won the Mexican Grand Prix 2019.
50. Papua New Guinea will participate in the men's ICC T20 world cup to be held in Australia in 2020.
- It is their first World Cup in any format in cricket.
51. ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2020 will be held in South Africa.

52. Prithvi Sekhar has won the men's singles at the 2nd edition of World Deaf tennis championship in Antalya, Turkey.
- Women's Singles: - Miyu Kita (Japan)
53. Hero Indian Super League (ISL) is India's top football championship which was started in 2014.
- Recently, All India Football Federation (AIFF) has declared to consider ISL as the top- tier football league in India by replacing I-League football championship.
 - Now, ISL champions can play in the AFC Champions League and the I-League champions would take a place in the AFC Cup. [AFC — Asian Football Confederation]
 - Bangalore Football Club was the winner of 2018-19 ISL season. 2019-20 ISL season will conclude in March 2020.
54. Roger Federer has won the Basel Open/Swiss Indoors (ATP tennis tournament) held at Basel, Switzerland.
- It is his 10th title in Basel itself.
55. CIB PSA Women's World squash championship is being held in Cairo, Egypt.
56. Minna Atherton (Australian swimmer) has set a new short course World record in the 100m backstroke at the International Swimming League by becoming the first woman to dip below 55 seconds at 54.89 sec.
- Previously, the record was held by Katinka Hosszu (Hungarian) at 55.03 sec.
57. Latest ATP Rankings as of Oct 29, 2019: -
58. U23 Senior World Wrestling Championships is being organized by the United World Wrestling (UWW) at the Budapest, Hungary. [Information: - It will conclude on Nov 3]
59. 4th CISM World Winter Games will be hosted by Berchtesgaden & Ruhpolding (Germany) 2021. The winter games are conducted once in 4 years.
- 7th CISM Military World Games (Summer) has been concluded in Wuhan, China.
 - The games are organized by International Military Sports Council (CISM).
 - Anandan Gunasekaran (para-athlete) won 3 gold medals in Track and Field event.
 - Shivpal Singh has also won gold in Men's Javelin Throw in Track and Field event.
 - Virender won gold in disabled men's Shotput.
 - Aneesh Kumar Surendran Pillai has also won gold in men's shotput.
60. Dominic Thiem has won the Erste Bank Open/Vienna Open (men's tennis ATP tour) held in Vienna, Austria.
- R. Ram and J. Salisbury won doubles title.
61. Indian cricket team will play its first- ever Day/Night Test match against Bangladesh next month in Eden Gardens in Kolkata.
62. The 2022 Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing, China.
63. Bengal Warriors (first time) has won the season 7 of Pro Kabaddi League 2019.



64. Teimour Radjabov (from Azerbaijan) has won the FIDE Chess World Cup 2019 held at Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

65. BWF World junior badminton championships (Under-19) was held at Kazan, Russia.

Winners:

66. Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has won the men's singles at the Rakuten Japan Open 2019.

- Men's Doubles: Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (France).

67. World Junior Chess Championship 2019 was held in New Delhi, India. Winners:

- Boys: Evgeny Shtembuliak (Ukraine)
- Girls: Polina Shuvalova (Russia)

68. Nour El Sherbini (Egypt) has for the 4th time won the World Women's PSA championship held in Cairo, Egypt.

- Men's PSA World Championship will end on November 15 in Cairo.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. "Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond" book has been written by Sandeep Shastri in commemoration of 113th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019.

2. Venu Rajamony has written the book titled "India and the Netherlands, Past, Present and Future".

3. "The Tech Whisperer" book has been written by Jaspreet Bindra.

4. 'The RSS: Roadmaps for the 21st Century' book has been written by Sunil Ambekar.

5. '150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma - the South African Legacy' is authored by Fakir Hassen.

6. Remains of a 5,000-year-old city (believed to be the largest site from the Bronze Age) have been excavated in Israel.

- The site is known as "En Esur".
- An earlier settlement, believed to be 7,000 years old, has also been discovered beneath this city.

7. Michelle Obama has released her 2nd book titled "Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice".

8. "Carpenters and Kings: Western Christianity and the Idea of India" book has been written by Siddhartha Sarma.

9. Andres Gimeno Tolaguera, (Spanish tennis player) passed away.

- In 1972, he became the oldest male player, at the age of 34, to win the French Open.

10. "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" book has been written by Bill Gates.

11. Alexei Leonov (Russian), first astronaut to walk in space in 1965, has died.
12. "The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China's Quest for Strategic Dominance" book has been written by Phunchok Stobdan.
13. World's fastest ant, which can travel 108 times of its own body length per second, has been discovered in the Sahara.
 - The Saharan silver ant, *Cataglyphis bombycina*, can reach 0.855 meters per second, according to Harald Wolf (professor of University of Ulm, Germany) and his colleague.
 - The study will be published in the Journal of Experimental Biology.
14. 'India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate Change and Development' book (a collection of articles on climate change) has been edited by Navroz K. Dubash.
15. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope team, led by David Jewitt of the University of California, has witnessed the first (confirmed) interstellar comet - 2I/Borisov.
 - This is the 2nd interstellar comet which is active while the first one - Oumuamua - which was discovered in 2017, was a rock.
 - It is 260 million miles away from Earth.
16. The Daughter from a Wishing Tree book has been written by Sudha Murthy.
17. Viswanathan Anand has written the 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life' book (published by Hachette India).
18. 'Bridgital Nation: Solving Technology's People Problem' book has been co-authored by N. Chandrasekaran (chairman of Tata Sons) and Roopa Purushothaman.
19. Dadu Chougule (Indian Wrestler) has passed away.
20. Dark Fear, Eerie Cities book has been written Sarunas Paunksnis.
21. White Bellbirds are the world's loudest bird according to a study (co-authored by Jeff Podos of the University of Massachusetts) published in the journal Current Biology.
22. Marieke Vervoort (Belgian Paralympic athlete) has ended her life by using euthanasia.
 - Euthanasia is the practise of legally killing oneself to relieve pain. Passive Euthanasia is illegal in India.
23. Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics book has been written by Kashi Nath Pandit's and published by Indian Council of Social Science Research.
 - The book contains the details about Kashmir since 1947 till date.
24. "Measuring Poverty Around the World" book has been written by Anthony Barnes Atkinson also known as Tony Atkinson, who passed away in 2007.
 - The book, which suggests new measures to eliminate poverty, has been completed by his colleagues John Micklewright and Andrea Brandolini.



25. A new study discovered a massive galaxy (formed around early universe) which was hidden in the cosmic dust for several years. The signal took 12.5 bn years to reach Earth.
 - Lead Author - Christina Williams.
 - Published in - Astrophysical Journal.
26. Bibek Debroy has translated two Sanskrit books - Markendya Purana and The Bhagavad Gita.
 - He has also written the book "Sarama and her Children".
27. The True Meaning of Yoga book has been written by AiR (Atman or the Soul in Ravi).
28. C Raghavachari (Veteran Journalist) has passed away.
 - Raghavachari was editor of "Visalaandhra" (Indian Telugu newspaper) for over 30 years from 1972.
29. Veteran Sport journalist and author K R Wadhwaney has passed away.
 - Wadhwaney has authored 31 books on various aspects of sports.
 - Some of his most famous books are M.S. Dhoni: A Child of Destiny (2017), Cricket War Plus Shooting, Cricket Murky Under World, Indian Cricket Controversies etc.
30. According to a study published in the Astrophysical Journal (lead author of Christina Williams), the footprints a monstrous galaxy being called as 'Cosmic Yeti' galaxy have been discovered by scientists (of US and Australia) in early universe.
 - The footprints, which were never seen before, have been discovered by using the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA).
 - The light from this galaxy has taken 12.5 billion years to reach Earth.
 - The new galaxy was forming new stars at a rate over 100 times faster than Milky Way.
31. Emperor Penguin (Antarctica's most iconic species) has been listed as 'near threatened' in the Red List of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
 - IUCN HQ- Gland, Switzerland.
32. The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra book has been written by Arupjyoti Saikia.
33. Romesh Gunasekera's new novel Suncatcher will be published by Bloomsbury.
34. Veteran Journalist Taro Chatung from Arunachal Pradesh has passed away.
 - He is also called as the "Father of the electronic media" of Arunachal Pradesh.
35. According to a study published in journal Nature Communications, in India, 36 million people would face annual flooding by 2050 and 44 million by 2100 if carbon emissions continue to rise.
 - Nearly 21 million — and not 2.8 million — are expected to be living below the High Tide Line (the farthest to which the sea reaches into the land at high tide).
 - The study employed a new software called CoastalDEM.
 - Globally nearly 110 million people live on land below the current high tide lines and 250 million on land below annual flood levels, in contrast with SRTM-based estimates of 28 million and 65 million respectively.

36. Sadako Ogata, the only Japanese and first woman head of the UN Refugee Agency during 1991 to 2000, has passed away.

- She is also the author of the book - "The Turbulent Decade, confronting the refugee crises of the 1990s".

37. Nabaneeta Dev Sen's last novel of her Bengali Naxal trilogy "Phoenix" has been translated and published under the title of 'The Parrot Green Saree'.

- The previous two books of this trilogy are "I, Anupam" and "In a Foreign Land, By Chance".
- The book has been translated by Tutun Mukherjee.

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