# Table of Contents

INTERNATIONAL NEWS ........................................................................................................... 3
NATIONAL NEWS .................................................................................................................. 6
BANKING AND ECONOMICS ............................................................................................... 30
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION ............................................................................................ 34
SPORTS ................................................................................................................................. 41
APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS ................................................................................. 46
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ............................................................................................. 51
OBITUARY .............................................................................................................................. 51
SUMMITS AND MOU’S .......................................................................................................... 51
DAYS ..................................................................................................................................... 58
People don’t need to be saved or rescued. People need knowledge of their own power and how to access it.
INTERNATIONAL

US officially withdraws from INF treaty.
• The US has officially withdrawn from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) treaty with Russia. The withdrawal has ended a Cold war-era missile treaty with Russia. This could start an arms race between the US and Russia, the world’s top two nuclear powers.

Reason:
The US accused Russia of violating the INF treaty's agreement in recent years. The withdrawal announcement was made by the US President Donald Trump. Both the countries signed a deal to put a way to improve relations toward the end of the Cold War. During the Obama administration in 2014, Russia was accused of violating the agreement by testing a cruise missile in direct violation of the accord. In turn, Russia also said that the US has violated the agreement too. The US has denied the accusation.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF):
INF treaty is a Nuclear disarmament type of agreement. It was signed on December 1987 in Washington D.C. The agreements was signed by the U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet General Secretary with an Unlimited duration. The agreement prohibits both the countries from fielding ground-launched cruise missiles that could fly between 310 and 3,400 miles. The treaty has been extremely successful in the destruction of a total of 2,692 missiles.

Malaysia seizes $240 million from Chinese state firm’s bank account
• Malaysia seized more than 1 billion ringgit ($243.25 million) from a bank account of state-owned China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Ltd (CPP). The seizure comes nearly a year after Malaysia suspended two pipeline projects, valued at $2.3 billion, on which CPP was the lead contractor.
• The Malaysian government ordered HSBC to transfer the funds held in the Chinese firm’s account to Suria Strategic Energy Resources. CPP was perplexed by the unilateral transfer of funds out of its account without notification, the firm, a unit of state energy giant China National Petroleum Corp. CPP won a contract from the government of former prime minister Najib Razak to build a petroleum pipeline stretching 600 km (373 miles) along the west coast of peninsular Malaysia and a 662-km (411-mile) gas pipeline in Sabah. The projects were suspended last July by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who unexpectedly defeated Najib in the 2018 election.

Bangladesh signed an agreement with Russia for uranium supply
• Bangladesh signed a nuclear fuel supply agreement with Russia for the uranium supply of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The deal was signed between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company TVEL in Dhaka.
• Signed by: BAEC Chairman Mahbubul Haque and the Russian firm’s commercial director and Fedor Sokolov signed the agreement in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman.
The project was approved by the Cabinet Division’s Economic Affairs Committee. The agreement says that the TVEL Joint Stock Company will supply fuel for the entire lifetime of the 2,400 MW RNPP project.

About the Project:
The project duration of RNP will be believed to 50 years. The fuel will be supplied to the country’s maiden nuclear power plant at Rooppur under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna. The first unit of the RNPP is expected to come into operation by 2022 and the second unit will be established by 2024. The cost estimated by the Bangladesh government is $12.65 billion.

Fiona Kolbinger first woman to win km cycling race
• German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km (2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race from Burgas in Bulgaria. She becomes the first woman to win one of the world’s toughest cycling races.
• She took 10 days, 2 hours and 48 minutes to complete the challenge. It includes about 40,000 metres (131,000ft) of climbing.

**SpaceX Falcon launched Israels Amos telecommunications satellite.**
• The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called Amos-17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit.
• The launch was a makeup launch for Spacecom when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded on the launch pad in 2016. Amos-17 has been designed to provide enhanced voice, video and data services to customers in Africa and parts of Europe, the Middle East, India and China.

**SpaceX's previous and recent launches:**
• Before AMOS 17, SpaceX launched the Europe’s Arianespace consortium with two satellites from its spaceport in the South American country of French Guiana using its heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket.
• The second satellite called EDRS-C is part of an effort led by the European Space Agency and Airbus to facilitate high-speed laser communications between orbiting satellites and ground stations.

**Papua New Guinea has highest number of living indigenous languages**
• United Nations report said that the Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840. India stands fourth with 453.

**UN’s concern:**
UN observes the year 2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages. UN’s Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that nearly 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing and endangered.
Totally 7,111 living languages worldwide has been listed so far. The most widely spoken languages worldwide are Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi and Arabic. These 5 languages covers around 40% of the total worldwide languages.

**Alejandro Giammattei was elected as the President of Guatemala**
• Alejandro Giammattei was elected as the President of Guatemala in a run-off in the country’s Supreme Electoral Council court. He will assume office on 14 January, 2020. He defeated the former first lady Sandra Torres from the centrist National Unity of Hope party. He won on his fourth try. He won 58.26% of the votes after 98% of voting centres had been counted. Former first lady Sandra Torres won 40% of votes.
• Alejandro Giammattei:
Alejandro Giammattei is a 63-year-old conservative candidate and former surgeon. He was the director of the country’s prison system. He was involved in a scandal over extrajudicial killings in a prison in Guatemala. In 2010, he was arrested but was acquitted after 10 months in pre-trial detention.
• Republic of Guatemala:
President: Alejandro Giammattei
Vice President: Jafeth Cabrera
Capital: Guatemala City
Currency: Quetzal (GTQ)
Official languages: Spanish
Fifth Meeting Of BRICS Minister Of Environment Held In Sao Paulo, Brazil

• Fifth BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is preceded by the 2-day meeting of BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment. The Indian delegation led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

Prakash Javadekar stated that India achieved its Nationally Determined Contributions(NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, reduction of energy intensity by 25%, increment of forest cover by nearly 15,000 sq km, Swachh Bharat Mission initiative, Waste Management Rules. The initiatives of BRICS countries and reaffirmed India’s support to BRICS cooperation.

• The BRICS Ministers delegations to join at 14th CoP (Conference of Parties) scheduled to be held from 2 – 13 September 2019 and contribute to the efforts to combat desertification and land degradation.

India free of single-use plastic campaign. The massive campaign that will be launched to make India free of single-use plastic. The Ministers of BRICS countries underlined the “Partnership on Urban Environmental Sustainability Initiative (PUESI)”. This is used to share knowledge & experience on major issues such as waste management, cogeneration, reverse logistics, sanitation, urban air quality, urban green areas.

BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Cooperation Platform was highlighted for innovations, knowledge sharing and capacity building

• It was adopted for improvement of the river ecosystem and tackling marine waste. The Ministers agreed to support the development of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework & they urged developed countries to meet their commitment under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement to provide means of implementation of climate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support.

Brazil was led by Mr. Ricardo Salles, Minister of Environment. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Dmitry Kobylkin led the Russian delegation, while the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Huang Runqiu, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment and the South African delegation was led by Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms. Barbara Creecy.

Nepal to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting.

• Nepal plans to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in September 2019. The aim is to prove the country’s role in creating an environment for the commencement of the regional summit.

India and SAARC summit:

The 18th SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2014. India is the largest member of SAARC forum. The 19th SAARC summit was supposed to held in 2016. But the summit was canceled after India boycotted the meeting. India protested after the terror attack at the military base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 2016. The attack killed 19 soldiers. After India boycotted the SAARC summit countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan walked out. India’s decision is to set up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. India also declared that it will participate only if Pakistan took steps to tackle terrorism.

About SAARC:

SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
Member states: 8 members
Headquarters: Kathmandu
Official languages: English
Shri Narendra Modi launches RuPay card in UAE.
• Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched the RuPay card. The UAE the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfill the Reserve Bank of India’s vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. India launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

RuPay Card
RuPay card scheme was conceived and launched by National Payments Corporation of India. It was created to fulfill the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

NATIONAL
Lok Sabha Clears Bill For Speedy Eviction Of Illegal Occupants From Government Houses.
• Lok Sabha passed a bill which seeks to crack down on unauthorized occupants of government residential accommodations. Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for eviction unauthorized occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation. The bill was passed by the Lower House. There is 15,416 residential accommodation under the government quota.
The proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for eviction unauthorized occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation.

Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 - History
Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The Act provides for the eviction of unauthorized occupants from public premises in certain cases. The Bill defines ‘residential accommodation occupation’ as the occupation of public premises by a person for such an occupation. The license must be given for a fixed tenure for the period the person holds office. The Bill adds a provision laying down the procedure for eviction from residential accommodation. It requires an estate officer (an officer of the central government) to issue a written notice to a person if he is in unauthorized occupation of residential accommodation. The person fails to comply with the order, the estate officer may evict such person from the residential accommodation, and take possession of it.

Government aims to enrol million workers under PM pension scheme.
• Union government enrol around 150 million workers over the next three years under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM). The pension scheme will benefit a large pool of people who earn less but form a large part of the labour market. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is targeting the bottom of the pyramid through various policy interventions, realising that they are a significant political constituency.
Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Scheme
The government is likely to achieve the 150 million number over the next two to three years. The total enrolment, 50-60 million workers will be from the construction sector. The government announced the scheme in February 2019 interim budget, promising to provide pension of ₹3,000 per month. There is a monthly contribution till the age of 60 years to get an assured pension of ₹3,000 every month. The 18-year-old starts out by paying ₹55 per month, which moves up to ₹80 at the age of 25, and ₹105, ₹150 and ₹200 for those aged 30, 35 and 40, respectively. When a regular contributor dies before the age of 60, the spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme by regular contribution or exit the scheme. Around 8% of the labour market are formal sector employees and social security benefits, including provident funds, pensions available.

Tarun Chaudhri becomes first IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump.
• Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri became the first pilot to perform a wingsuit skydive jump. He jumped 8500 feet from the Mi-17 V5 helicopter at Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This is the first time when a pilot of the IAF jumped the wingsuit skydive with the same helicopter, which he has just flown. It is a military transport variant, equipped with modern avionics and glass cockpit instrumentation. The rotary-wing aircraft has state-of-the-art navigational equipment, avionics, weather radar.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 26 July every year is celebrated in honor of the Kargil War’s Heroes. The Kargil war fought between India and Pakistan for more than 60 days. The event ended on 26 July 1999. India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders.

India drops to 7th largest economy in 2018, UK and France overtake.
• India's economy has been pushed to the seventh spot in GDP rankings in 2018 with the UK and France overtaking the country, the latest World Bank data showed. India’s GDP was $2.73 trillion while that of UK was $2.83 trillion and France was $2.77 trillion. India had surpassed France and then the UK in 2017 to become the fifth-largest economy.

PM chaired the 30th PRAGATI interaction.
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed the 30th PRAGATI platform interaction. PRAGATI is the Information and communications technology (ICT)- based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation. This is the first PRAGATI interaction of the new government.

In the session, Narendra Modi reviewed the progress in the resolution of grievances under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). He urged to achieve the government's objective of providing 'Housing for All by 2022'. He also suggested further improvements under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. He reviewed the progress of eight important infrastructure projects in the railway and road sectors spread over several states including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

CRISIL cuts India’s GDP growth to 6.9% for FY on weak monsoon rains muted corporate results.
• Credit rating agency CRISIL lowered Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for India by 20 basis points to 6.9 percent for this fiscal citing weak monsoon and slowing global growth. The GDP data for the first quarter taken into account for powering India’s growth estimates.
The development came days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India’s growth by 30 basis points for the calendar years 2019 and 2020 to 7 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively. The global analytical firm, in its latest report on the outlook for India in the financial year 2019 titled ‘Uphill trek’, the slowdown would be pronounced in the first half. The agricultural terms of trade are also expected to improve with a pick-up in food inflation, adding that farmers would benefit from income transfer of Rs 6,000 per year announced by the Centre. The sops announced so far might not be enough to pitchfork growth in this fiscal to, or above, the past 14-year average of 7 percent per annum.

CRISIL
It is a global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services. The majority shareholder is Standard & Poor’s, a division of McGraw Hill Financial and provider of financial market intelligence.

Founded: 1987
Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

LS passed the Dam Safety Bill.
• The Lok Sabha passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019. The Bill aims to provide an uniform safety procedures for the specified 5,600 dams in the country. It will also enhance the security of citizens. The introduction of the Bill will not take away the rights of the States.
• The Bill was introduced in 2010. It was opposed in various edition in the State and has never been successfully passed until now.

Provisions of the Bill:
The bill stressed the establishment of the National Dam Safety Authority as a regulatory body. The regulator will implement the policy, guidelines, and standards on dam safety in the country.
It also entails the setting up of State committee on dam safety and State Dam Safety Organisation. It will be manned by officers from the field dam safety.
The Bill will set up a national committee on dam safety. It will be set up to introduce safety policies and recommend necessary regulations.

Steps taken by Centre for Dam safety:
As several dams does not have the emergency action plan, the government has provide safety measures to around 180 dams.
For example, Centre has alloted Rs.600 crore to repair the gates of Hirakud dam. Centre has also taken efforts to change the gates of Farakka barrage. 80% of the work had been completed so far.

West Bengal launches awareness campaign Save Green Stay Clean.
• West Bengal government launched an awareness campaign named ‘Save Green, Stay Clean’ for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in the state. The campaign launched State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. The campaign was launched on August 1, 2019. The state will also observe this day every year. It also plans to distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

West Government
Government of West Bengal known as the State Government of West Bengal. It is the supreme governing authority of the Indian state of West Bengal and its 23 districts. It consists of an executive, led by the Governor of West Bengal, a judiciary and a legislative.

ICMR introduces new TB vaccines VPM and Immuvac.
The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched a trial for two new TB vaccines. This is India’s first large-scale trial. This is a large preventive TB vaccine trial. The initiative involves more than 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed TB patients from across six states of India are set to be enrolled.

Two thousand participants from each of the six states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka will enroll over the next seven to eight months. Also, seven main centres will have six sub-sites, where these trials will be conducted.

**Two new vaccines:**
The two new TB vaccines that are introduced by ICMR are:
♦ Immuvac manufactured by Cadila Pharmaceuticals
♦ VPM 1002 manufactured by Institute of India, Pune

The medicines are to be tested with three testing phases. Based on the results the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will decide and set the price of the vaccines.

**Reason for ICMR's new TB vaccines:**
To treat TB multi-drug course that usually spans six months is usually involved. Scientists from ICMR suggested that new TB vaccines other than BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin), which is 100 years old, is needed to treat TB as it has been partially effective in protecting infants and young children and it provides poor protection against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults.

**TB in India:**
Data from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s Central TB division said that the TB incidence in India has touched almost 2.8 million every year along with drug-resistant TB incidence at 1,47,000 annually. It also said that around 27% of the world’s TB incidences are from India. It has marked the highest share at a global level. In 2017, the Centre vowed to eliminate TB by the year 2025.

**NITI Aayog approves JV to acquire minerals needed for Electric Vehicles.**
NITI Aayog has approved the proposal for joint venture between National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and foreign companies. The plan is to acquire foreign reserves of strategic minerals like lithium and cobalt to power the country’s electric vehicles has moved a step closer. Therefore, the three state-owned metal and mining companies are set to form a joint venture to buy on minerals.

**Aim:**
- India has set a target to achieve an all-electric vehicle fleet by 2030. The Union Ministry of Mines has already directed three state-owned companies to aggressively look for reserves of lithium and cobalt mines.
- To attain the target, mining companies like Nalco, HCL and MECL have partnered with a German consultancy for the project. This partnership is to guide them on prospective reserves and also foreign government rules and regulations. Discussions are on, to achieve India’s target on cobalt and lithium mines as soon.
- Note: Argentina, Bolivia and Chile are the countries which have the best reserves of lithium and cobalt in the world.
- Uses: Lithium, and cobalt are used to manufacture batteries for electric vehicles in addition to other minerals like tungsten, nickel and rare earths.

**Centre moves J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019, a resolution to revoke Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir**
This will now repeal special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution was passed by Home Minister Amit Shah in the upper house. The abrogation of Article 370 will make J&K an integral part of India.

• What is Article 370?


Article 370 provided six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir:
1) The State is allowed to have its own Constitution.
2) The Central legislative powers over the State were limited to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications.
3) Only with the concurrence of the State Government, other constitutional powers of Indian Government could be extended to the State.
4) The concurrence was only provisional. The State's Constituent Assembly should ratify the provision.
5) Until the State Constituent Assembly was formed, the State Government was given authority to give concurrence. Once the State Constituent Assembly finalised the scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible.
6) Only if the State's Constituent Assembly approves the Article 370, it could be repealed or amended.

Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare an emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression.

• What's next?

After the repealing of Article 370, the government should get back the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). It is now expected that the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would return the land taken illegally from India.

**Gujarat government launched Vhali Dikri Yojna**

• Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupanilaunched the ‘Vhali Dikri Yojna’ from his hometown Rajkot, Gujarat. The scheme is introduced for the welfare of the girl child. The meaning of this scheme is Dear Daughter Scheme.

• The main details about this scheme is stated before. Vahali Dikri Yojana is launched to improve the sex ratio of girl child in the State. The successful implementation of this scheme State government allocated a budget of Rs 133 Crore.

• According to the scheme State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000. There will be a time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 at the time of marriage. It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat.

**DRDO successfully test fired QRSAM Missile**

• The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from a mobile truck-based launch unit from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha. It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile type.
QRSAM missile has been developed for the Army. The entire mission was tracked by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.

• **QRSAM:**
  QRSAM is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars. The missile uses solid-fuel propellant. It has a range of 25-30 km. The test flights had successfully demonstrated various parameters like aerodynamics, propulsion, structural performance. The missile was developed as part of Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, Prithvi missiles.

  • QRSAM has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in cooperation with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited.
  
  Previously, the first trial of QRSAM Missile was conducted on June 4, 2017. The Second missile test was conducted in May 2019 in Odisha coast.

**Lok Sabha gives nod to legislation that bans commercial surrogacy.**

  • Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, which seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and allows only close relatives of infertile couples to volunteer for “ethical altruistic” reasons.

  The bill and it is unfortunate that the country had emerged as a hub of commercial surrogacy in recent years. During the discussion on the bill, there are 2,000-3000 surrogacy clinics running illegally in India and a few thousand foreign couples resort to surrogacy practice within India, and the whole issue is thoroughly unregulated.

  The concerning unethical practices, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and exploitation of surrogate mothers. The minister cited the 228th report of the Law Commission recommended that the government enact a legislation to ensure that commercial surrogacy is banned in this country and there is only restrictive surrogacy.

**Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019,**

  The bill also aims to constitute surrogacy boards at the national and state levels. The bill aims to allow ethical altruistic surrogacy for infertile Indian married couples, within the age group of 23-50 and 26-55 years for females and males, respectively. The bill, which was passed by a voice vote, also prohibits the sale and purchase of human embryos and gametes. The government has claimed that it will also prevent exploitation of surrogate mothers and children born through surrogacy.

  India emerged as a commercial destination for foreigners seeking surrogate mothers. There have been reports on unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy, and rackets involving intermediaries importing human embryos and gametes. Women’s rights activists have supported the passage of the bill.

**Rajasthan passed bill against anti lynching.**

  • The Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Bill in the State Assembly.

  The Bill aims to provide stricter punishment to curb such Lynching incidents.

  • Rajasthan is now the second State to have a dedicated law criminalising mob lynching as a special offence. The first state to have such law in addition to other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is Manipur.

  • SC’s recommendation:
• The Bill was introduced after the recommendation by the Supreme Court in authorising the setting up of special courts, appointment of a dedicated nodal officer, and stipulating enhanced punishments.
• The bill not only criminalises the acts of lynching but also provides legal aid, relief, compensation and rehabilitation.
• Definition of Lynching as per the Bill:
  • Any act or series of acts of violence whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ethnicity falls under the category Lynching.
• Provisions of the Bill:
  • Bill makes the Mob Lynching offence cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences.
  • It gives a punishment of life imprisonment and a penalty from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to victim's death.
• After 2014, 86% of mob lynching cases that were reported in the country are from Rajasthan. The Bill was proposed after considering peace in the state.

RS passed Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill.
• The Rajya Sabha cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 on 6 August. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the Bill after abrogation of the special status granted to J&K. The upper house also adopted resolutions to repeal Article 370 and Article 35A in J&K. The Bill has been moved for consideration and passage in Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019. The lower house will also take up the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Bill 2019.
  Provisions of the Bill:
  ♦ The Bill proposed the bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories namely Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir.
  ♦ The bill has a provision of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general category (the upper caste).

Lok Sabha passes Transgender Persons Bill.
• The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 which aims for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgender persons, by a voice vote. The bill has scrapped provisions that criminalise begging by transgenders. As per the bill, a transgender is someone whose gender doesn't match with the gender assigned at birth.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away
• Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67 years old, passed away on 6th August. She suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away at AIIMS. She underwent a kidney transplant in 2016.
  Sushma Swaraj Career:
Sushma Swaraj was educated at Sanatan Dharma College in Ambala Cantonment. She earned a bachelor’s degree with majors in Sanskrit and Political Science. She studied law at Punjab University, Chandigarh.
  Political Career:
Swaraj’s political career started at her age of 25 in 1977. She became the youngest cabinet minister in Haryana in 1977. She served as the 5th Chief Minister of Delhi from 13th October to 3rd December 1998. She was a seven-time Member of Parliament. She served as MLA for three terms.
Sushma Swaraj won from Vidisha constituency in Madhya Pradesh for a second term in 2014. Swaraj took charge as Foreign Minister on 26th May, 2014. After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to hold the External Affairs Ministry. She was popularly known as the People’s Minister. She introduced a new sensitivity and sensibility in the functioning of the External Affairs Ministry.

**President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to the abrogation of article of Jammu and Kashmir**

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the abrogation of Article 370. It will now revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution to revoke Article 370 was passed by Lok Sabha on 6 August. It was passed by Rajya Sabha on 5th August. The notice issued by the President said that as from 6th August, 2019, all clauses mentioned in Article 370.

**President's approval notification:**

President approved the Bill in exercise of the power conferred by clause (3) of article 370 read with (1) of article 370 of the Constitution of India. The notification also said that all provisions of this Constitution, as amended from time to time, without any modifications or exceptions, shall apply to the State of J&K. It will not not with stand anything contrary contained in article 152 or article 308 or any other article of the Constitution or any other provision of the Constitution of J&K or any law, document, judgement, ordinance, order, by-law, rule, or agreement as envisaged under article 363 or otherwise.

**India’s Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity 2019**

Naaz Joshi made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity. She competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius. She dressed up in blue lehenga and choli and portrayed herself as the powerful Indian Goddess, who stands for 'shakti' - the feminine source of power and women empowerment.

She is a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. She was sent to her relative's house in Mumbai.

**Rajasthan passes bill against honour killing**

Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 on 5th August. The Bill was introduced by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal. The Bill aims to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.

**Provisions of the Bill:**

- The Bill provides punishment of life imprisonment or death penalty for murdering couples in the name of family honour
- If the community or family cause death of a couple or either of them, on the grounds of dishonour or disrepute to the caste, community or family will be punished with death or life imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.5 Lakh
- If the couple is grievously hurt, the community or the family will be punished with 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for life with a penalty of maximum Rs.3 lakh
- Incase of simple injuries, the community or the family will be punished with 3-5 years of imprisonment with a penalty of maximum Rs.2 lakh
- The Bill also said that the District or Sub Divisional Magistrate shall receive information or request from any person who seeks protection from any unlawful assembly or person who objects lawful marriage
♦ The Bill also says that a group can not assemble with an intention to condemn any lawful marriage in the name of vindicating the honour of family, caste or community. Participating in such groups directly or indirectly will be punished with maximum 5 years of imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.1 lakh.

**Delhi govt unveiled the Citywide WiFi project.**
- Delhi government has announced that 11,000 hotspots will be installed to provide Wi-Fi before the end of 2019. The announcement was made by CM Arvind Kejriwal. It also announced that 4,000 hotspots will be installed at bus stops. The State govt. has planned to install 1,40,000 more CCTVs in the State.

**Aim:**
The Citywide Wi-Fi project aims to help in bridging the digital divide. It will also provide motivation to education, entrepreneurship, business, employment. It will also tie in with women’s safety initiatives.

**Project implementation:**
The expenditure finance committee (EFC) has approved the 'hotspot' model to provide free internet to Delhites. The committee has also approved Rs.99 crore for the project. In the first phase, up to 15 GB usage per mobile number will be free of cost per month. The Wi-Fi signals will be available within a radius of about 50m from where the router is installed. The project has been planned to be completed by September 2020.

**ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award**
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research as a reward and recognition to journalists.
- **Nominations:**
  - All Indian journalists can be nominated and those articles that are published from the year 2019 till 2020 can be submitted. Candidates will be nominated and judged based on the standard criteria set by ISRO. The names of the selected will be declared on August 1, 2020.

**Vikram Sarabhai Award:**
Vikram Sarabhai is the father of Indian space program. He was an Indian Scientist. The centenary year celebrations of the father of Indian space programme announced the award.

ISRO institutes two categories of awards instituted in the field of journalism:
1) An award that includes a cash price of Rs.5,00,000, a medal and citation to two journalists or freelancers of print media.
2) An award that includes 3 cash prizes such as Rs.3,00,000, Rs.2,00,000 and Rs.1,00,000 to the articles or the success stories that are published in Hindi, English, or Regional languages in popular Periodicals, Science magazines, or Journals in India from 2019 to 2020.

**Tamil Book Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu Karunanidhi released by K Veeramani.**
- The book titled ‘Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi’ in Tamil language. It refers the life and work of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Dravidian Progressive Conference) (DMK) leader Late M Karunanidhi, the former Tamil Nadu chief minister launched by K Veeramani, president of Dravidar Kazhagam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The book was first published by Frontline. It is a publication of The Hindu group.

Frontline was an experienced 35 years in journalism. The book includes all the articles published in the special issue – ‘A Man and a Movement,’ It was brought out in August 2018 as a tribute to M Karunanidhi. It was launched one day before the first death anniversary of Late M Karunanidhi.
UP govt creates world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in one day on 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) chief minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath launched the mega greenery plantation drive called “Vriksharopan Mahakumbh” sets a world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in a day.
- The state entered the Guinness World Records’ for distributing 76,823 saplings simultaneously in six hours across the state. The first record made for planting Five crore saplings in the first hour i.e. from 9 am to 10 am. The 2nd record was made for planting 1.1 lakh saplings in Kasganj in presence of UP governor, Anandi Ben Patel. The 3rd record was made in Prayagraj for distribution of a record of 66,000 saplings at the same place in a certain time frame and the 4th record was made for planting 22 crore saplings in a day.
- The state announced to plant 25 crore saplings in the Van Mahotsav in 2020. Adityanath unveiled the logo of ‘Vriksharopan Mahakumbh’ and handed saplings of ‘Sahjan’ (Drumstick) to 5 rural women. The CM launched the drive by planting Harishankari, a combination of three sacred trees (peepul, pakar and banyan) at Jaitikheda area in Lucknow.

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurates interstate portability in two clusters of states

- The main objective of ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the inter-State portability of public distribution in two clusters in the adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- One Nation one ration card The one nation one ration card is the system has its ability to buy subsidized food grains from ration shops in any part of the country at low cost.

ABOUT ePOS:
The Installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices is the portability of ration card holders supported by the Aadhaar authentication. About 77 percent otherwise as More than 4.1 lakh ePoS devices are already in operational across the country. More than 85 percent ration cards in the country have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers of the beneficiaries in 25 States/UTs have either completed the installation

Significance
There are 11 States/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Tripura, have implemented the intra-State portability of ration cardholders to lift the entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shops (FPSs) within their State are expected to introduce inter-State portability from January 1, 2020.

National Health Authority plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under PM JAY Scheme

- The National Health Authority (NHA) plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) healthcare packages. The plan awaits approval from the governing body and the entire process will take around 3 month.
- The central government’s health insurance scheme are cost-effective, proven and beneficial to the patients. It will now cover the various types of medical procedures, that include chemotherapy, surgery and radiation.
• The announcement aims to give medical cover to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families of approximately 50 crore beneficiaries. The scheme will now provide coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

**RPF launched Operation Number Plate.**
• Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched Operation “Number Plate”, a Special Drive to curb unidentified vehicles. The operation was launched under the direction of DG/RPF, Sh.Arun Kumar. All Local Police and Commercial Department of Railways showed their active interest in the operation.

**Aim:**
The unidentified vehicles pose a serious threat to the security and safety of passengers and other stakeholders of railway.
RPF will identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in the No Parking areas for longer duration.
The drive was conducted from 9th August to 11th August at 466 Railway Stations all over Indian Railways. A penalty of Rs.59000 have been recovered as the charges for unauthorized parking and 549 vehicles were towed away.
All RPF and Zonal Railways were instructed to continue the activity looking into threats related to security of Railways.

**State of Art Gallery at National Crafts Museum inaugurated.**
• A Textiles Gallery at National Crafts Museum was inaugurated in New Delhi on 13 August by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani.

**Aim:**
The collection aims to help people explore, enjoy, and rediscover the world of Indian textiles through design and technology.

**Collections in the gallery:**
The Gallery consists of more than 230 different types of textiles collections more than 30 traditions. Five zones were displayed in the gallery. Zones has been named as weaving, embroidery, dying (Ikatpatola), pattern (Bandhej, Kalamkari, and Leheria) and TanaBana based on the intricacies of the textiles.
The gallery exhibits the fine Indian Craftsmanship to public. The rich collection displayed the importance of conserving India’s rich heritage of handlooms for the next generations. It will serve as a resource centre for the students of fashion technology, apparel sciences and textiles designing.
Under three categories the handlooms were displayed:
Pre Loom “Ikat”: The design that are already visualized and transferred to the yarn before the yarn is placed on the loom.
On- Loom: The design enters the loom while weaving brocade, muslin, jamdani, weaved shawls, weaved sarees.
Post Loom: Displays the techniques that can be done on cloth after it is woven-block printing, embroidery and kalamkari comes in this category.

**ONGC to invest Rs.83,000 crore to boost oil.**
• The Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is to invest around Rs.83,000 crore in 25 major projects to boost oil and gas production has stagnated in 2018. The cumulative oil and gas gain from these
projects is expected to be over 180 million tonne of oil and oil equivalent gas over 32 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) by financial year 2024.

**ONGC's production:**
ONGC already logged a net profit of Rs.26,716 crore an increase of 34% over in 2017-18. The MRPL achieved the highest ever throughput of 16.43 MT with a utilisation of 109.5%.
ONGC had launched a nation-wide Solar Chulha Challenge with 86 Solar PV cooking stoves were installed at Bacha and Jamthi in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.
In FY19 the ONGC spent about Rs.615 Crore on CSR initiatives with a focus on national campaigns of the government like Swachh Bharat, education, health and nutrition among others. The company has earned its highest revenue of Rs.1,09,655 crore in FY19 as an increase of 29% from 2018.

**Palani panchamirtham get GI tag.**
• The renowned Palani panchamirtham the prasadam at Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. It is the first GI tag to prasadam in Tamilnadu.
• The GI application of panchamirtham has made limited to the temple and the Palani town in Dindigul district by the Joint Commissioner and Executive Officer of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukoil of Palani in June 2016. The prasadam is prepared only to meet the demands of devotees not for commercial purposes.

**About Palani panchamirtham:**
• The palani panchamirtham is a Abishega prasadam for religious devotees prepared at the top of Palani Hills by labourers and the employ of the temple. The Palani panchamirtham is made by combining the five natural substances like banana, cow ghee, cardamom, jaggery and honey. Dates and sugar candies are added to it for extra flavours.
• The panchamirtham is made without adding any water, preservatives or artificial ingredients in the absence of any chemical processes. The Palani panchamirtham is made under the guidance of Mysuru’s Central Food Technological Research Institute. It is also certified by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

**About GI Tags in Tamil Nadu:**
• Geographic Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that had a specific geographical origin, quality, reputation.
• Tamil Nadu has 30 GI tags for various products including handicrafts such as Salem fabric and Kancheepuram silk, agricultural items like Virupakshi Hill banana, Erode turmeric and Madurai Malli.

**Chhattisgarh state government increases reservation for SC and OBC**
• Chhattisgarh government announced an increase in the reservation for Scheduled caste (SC) from 12% to 13% and for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 14% to 27%. This announcement was made by Chief Minister (CM) Shri Bhupesh Baghel This announcement was made on August 15 celebration at the Police parade ground in Raipur, Chattisgarh.
• The state’s reservation becomes a total of 72 percent is the highest in the country The reservation limit of 50 percent mandated by the Supreme court. The “Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi” which will be carved out of Bilaspur. This is done for better administration of the state. The state will have total districts to 28.
• Cow shelters: Cow shelters in the state will now be linked to biogas plants as a move of income generation. Also assistance of Rs.10,000/month given to Gowtham (cow shelter) committees.
• Lemru forest development: Development of the Lemru forest area as ‘Lemru elephant reserve announced. It is a mineral rich area in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. This move to take deal with the
increasing man-animal conflicts in the northern part of the state. The govt. will be launching a new scheme ‘Suposhan Abhiyan’ on October 2 2019 to fight malnutrition across the state. The special initiative to provide forest land rights to tribals in Abhujmad was launched. There are 200 food parks in the state were promised.

Online revenue payment system launched by CM of Odisha
• Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik launched online revenue payment. The main aim is to provide people with an easier way to make their land revenue payments-online on 73rd Independence Day on August 15, 2019, at Bhubaneswar. This online payment system was developed at the National Informatics Centre- Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This is an initiative of the State revenue department of Odisha under the “5-T mantra”.
• The 5T mantras are based on Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Time and Transformation. Mahatma Gandhi’s talisman dedicated as part of his 150th birth anniversary. The talisman is inscribed on a brass plate in both English and Odia language with a neat sketch of the Father of the Nation. Veteran freedom fighters Bhavani Charan Patnaik and Nilamani Samal were present.
• The newly constructed Kharavel Bhavan built at a cost of Rs.128 crore by L&T (Larsen & Toubro) on 8.3 acres of land in Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by the CM. Around 11 departments of the state government will function in this building. It have a lounge and a conference hall for the CM. The building was named after Kharavela who was a king of Kalinga.

Income Tax Department to adopt ‘taxpayer friendly’ approach
• The Income Tax (I-T) Department decided to adopt friendly approach in its dealings with the tax assesses following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s call for a mindset change among tax officials. The I-T Department to bridge the communication gap between tax officials and the assesses and sought a change in mindset amid allegations of “tax terrorism”. The issues are concerned and solve issues by treating them respectfully.
• The I-T department is set to change its approach and adopt friendly language but not at the cost of forgoing any lapses.
• The department will use friendly language in its communications with taxpayers rather than intimidating, according to a source, amid allegations of intrusive, threatening and arbitrary behaviour by the department.
• The data mining and data analytics, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is now working on ways to ensure the department makes information such as large-cash deposits or high-value transactions” available to taxpayers well in time for filing of tax returns.
• On the lines of reminders for filing returns, messages could be sent to indicate transactions while stating that they are ignored if already responded to or accounted. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduce a computer-generated Document Identification Number (DIN), which will be quoted in any notice issued by its officials.

Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme.
• Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched “School Fagadaba” (Make education better) scheme.
• The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools. The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state. The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years.
The 60 Assembly constituencies in the state selected under the 1st phase of the scheme. The state also set a target to increase enrollment of students from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session. The additional infrastructures like a modern school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities will be provided to these schools as per the Right to Education (RTE) norms.

**Amit Shah laid foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan**
- The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Assam and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong, at Dwarka, Gujrat. The Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan will be constructed with a cost of Rs.130 crore. They will give an identity to their unique culture. It aims to take forward North East (NE) while preserving its rich cultural identity, along with its development. The Central government aims for the overall development, prosperity, and peace in the North East.

**Center's measure for NE region:**
The Centre has increased the funds allocated for North East to 258% between 13th and 14th Finance Commissions. The amount increased from Rs.87,000 crore to Rs.3,13,375 crore. Centre also has increased various schemes for Northeast such as Skill Development centre, setting up of Medical College and Law College, among others.

**DoNER at doorsteps:**
Centre has been not focusing to bring North East closer to rest of India, but to bring rest of India closer to North East. It has planned to set up a 'camp secretariat' every month in North East. This initiative was named 'DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region, India) at doorsteps'. Centre also is working towards the North East road sector development scheme and train connectivity.

**LS Secretariat has banned the use of non reusable plastic water bottles.**
- The Lok Sabha Secretariat has banned the use of non-reusable plastic water bottles and other plastic items within the Parliament complex. All officers and staff of the Secretariat and other allied agencies working in the Parliament House Complex have been advised to use environment friendly biodegradable bags and other material.
- The above initiative steps by the Lok Sabha Secretariat is a step towards the call by the Prime Minister to the nation to make the country free from plastics which was set to be achieved by October 2 as the country celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

**About non-reusable plastic bottles:**
- As many plastics are safe to reuse but some contain components that may be harmful to humans and the environment that can’t be reused. Plastics made up of polyvinyl chlorides having many phthalates which a group of chemicals exposure to phthalates allergy and respiratory problems. Most plastics used for food packaging and disposable food items such as plastic plates, bowls, etc will cause toxin damage, gastrointestinal, kidney and respiratory function.
- The World Health Organization's International Agency that did research on Cancer classified styrene in plastics also possible to cause carcinogenic cancer to humans.

**MHRD launched NISHTHA.**
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA). It aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers to boost education and employment focusing on reskilling the teaching workforce.
HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched the initiative’s website, training modules, primer booklet and mobile app built for the purpose. The programme was launched in the presence of Smt Rina Ray, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy and other senior officers from MHRD, all States and UTs, Senior Policy Makers and Heads of Institutions.

About NISHTHA:
NISHTHA is the world’s biggest project. The objective of this massive training programme ‘NISHTHA’ is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. As the teachers are the powerhouse of the nation, the teachers deserve worldwide respect. Under NISHTHA, the teachers will develop their skills on Artificial Intelligence, Health, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns in a joyful learning manner.

About Training:
National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) programme is a 100 days programme of the Government. The training modules are developed at the national level for all States and UTs with their own material. The integrated programme will train all teachers as first-level counselors and responsive needs of the students in promoting joyful learning. The training Modules for NISHTHA have suggestions from the States and UTs and CBSE, KVS, NVS, School Principals and Non-Governmental Organizations such as Kaivalya Foundation, Tata Trust, Azim Premji Foundation and Aurobindo Society.

India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs.
• Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named “Bharatcraft” for MSME’s. The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like ‘Alibaba’ and ‘Amazon’. The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector. The MSME Union Minister, the Bharat Craft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth ₹10 lakh crore in the next 2-3 years.

Amazon
Founded: July 5, 1994
Founder: Jeff Bezos
Headquarters: Seattle, Washington and Arlington, Virginia, United States

Shri Amit Shah chairs the 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji.
• Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji (Goa) The dignitaries attending the meeting includes Chief Minister Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani, CM Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, CM Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant and Administrator of the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Shri Praful Patel and senior officers from the Central and State Governments.

Members of the Council
The members of the Council to the 24th meeting the issues having Centre-State and inter-State ramifications will be resolved with consensus. Home Minister stated West Zone instrumental in giving impetus to the Indian economy as the States of the Zone are contributing around 24% to the GDP and 45% to the total exports of the country. The pending issues between the States and the Centre need to be resolved on priority through the medium of Western Zonal Council. The States in Zone have been a big exporter of sugar, cotton, groundnut and fish and contributing immensely to the economic development of the country.
The issues listed in the agenda add and discuss issues relating to law & order and administrative reforms to the development of the country.

He mentioned that the Government of India has taken an initiative to assess the damage on its own, for which Central teams have already been constituted to visit the flood affected areas without waiting for the reports from the States. The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made at the last meeting.

**Council among others focused on the following issues:**

Action on the Master Plan submitted by Maharashtra Government for utilization of surplus Salt Pan Land for rehabilitation of slum dwellers was discussed at length. State Government will send a detailed proposal in two months suggesting broad contours of a transparent financial model for involvement of slum dwellers (and utilization of remaining land as per high FSI in keeping with provisions of a scheme to be formulated as per Slum Rehabilitation Act) on a competitive basis for rehabilitation of slum dwellers & transfer of land/monetization for Government of India.

**Direct Benefit Transfer**

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) done through IPPBs also everywhere covered by Core Banking Solution.

The enhancement of DBT Portal to include scheme/village-wise details by collecting real time information from respective portals of beneficiary-oriented schemes to give village level DBT fund transfer & benefits.

The detailed monitoring mechanism to ensure that investigation and trial of sexual offences/rape against girls below 12 years of age are completed within two months (POCSO Act and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018) each. Home Minister called upon the States to give their suggestions for improvements in Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

He urged the Chief Ministers to ensure regular monitoring at the Chief Secretary’s level of investigation and prosecution of cases in the courts in case of heinous offences such as Narcotics, POCSO Act, murders.

The States should fill the post of Director Prosecution without any further delay.

He stressed on the need for setting up Forensic Science Laboratories in the States. There should also be regular monitoring of all decisions in various areas narrated above through Video Conference by the Home Secretary and Special Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat.

**NITI Aayog release CWMI 2.0 report.**

- NITI Aayog has released the Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) in New Delhi. The report was launched by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti. NITI Aayog has prepared the report to supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry. The CWMI 2.0 ranks varied states for the reference year 2017-18 as against 2016-17.

Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 water-stressed blocks in 256 districts was launched by Jal Shakti Ministry on 1st July 2019. It also ensures the important water conservation interventions.

**About CWMI 2.0:**

NITI Aayog’s CWMI 2.0 will assess the economical management of water resources in all States/UTs. It is a way of cooperative and competitive ideology among the states.

It will supply data for the States with Central Ministries to formulate and implement the appropriate ways for higher management of water resources.
Rajasthans free medicine scheme secures top rank.

- Rajasthan’s free medicine scheme secured the highest position with first ranking issued by the National Health Mission (NHM) among the sixteen states of the country. NHM free drug service was introduced by the Ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) for all states/UTs.

Aim:
It aimed to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities. The theme was launched on October 2011.
The Ministry has multiplied the number of free medicines from 608 to 712 and free tests from 70 to 90. The NHM has initiated the rankings to encouraging and supporting states to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities.

Rajasthan’s free medicine scheme:
The main aim of Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) is to produce commonly used essential medicines freed from price to patients visiting government tending establishment in the year 2011-12. The scheme consists of 2 elements like free drugs and free tests.
The Free medicines theme was enforced on the Gregorian calendar of 2011 and the free check theme was introduced on World Health Day in April of 2013.
The primary part of the free check theme was enforced in hospitals connected with state medical schools likewise as district/sub-divisional and satellite hospitals.

First World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in New Delhi.

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness on 23 August in New Delhi.

Aim:
The conference aimed to impart critical competencies like empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry in global youth. It aimed to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

Organized by:
The conference was organized by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Participants:
A number of youth leaders from around the world, representing over 27 countries, and young men and women participated in the first World Youth Conference on Kindness.

Gujarat topped the CWMI 2.0 report in water management.

- Gujarat topped the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0). It was released by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. It measures the performance of states on a set of water indicators. The move comes at a time when various states across the country are facing a shortage in groundwater. The index assesses the performance of States on a comprehensive set of water indicators and reports relative performance in 2017-18 as well as trends from previous years (2015-16 & 2016-17).

Composite Water Management Index was released for the first time in 2018 to instill a sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states. It was the first attempt to create a pan-India set of metrics that measured different dimensions of water management and use across the lifecycle of water.

Report highlights:
CWMI comprises of nine themes that include attention to groundwater and restoration of water bodies.

It said that 80% of states that were assessed on the Index over the last three years have improved their water management scores.

States that topped the CWMI are Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh.

These states have further increased the scores over the last three years.

States including Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Bihar continue to be in the low-performing category.

The report said that Puducherry has been declared as the top-ranked among the UTs. This is the first time the Union Territories (UTs) have submitted their data.

Under the theme incremental change in the index, Haryana holds the number one position among general states and Uttarakhand amongst northeastern and Himalayan states.

CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated new regional office Norka Roots.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the associate workplace of the Norka Roots at the underground station business building on the MG Road Metro Station, Kochi. This project aims to implement a lot of welfare schemes for the non-resident Keralites (NRK). The Chief Minister also inaugurated the primary business venture being started by a non-resident Keralite at the Edapally underground station.

Under the Santhwana scheme, Norka-Roots has already spent around Rs.25 crore in 2018. It provided financial support to NRKs returning to their native place.

Aim:
NORKA Roots has been established by Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA). Norka’s theme to provide opportunities for the Keralites living abroad to involve with the govt. within the case of an emergency and conjointly helped to ascertain their own business within the State. The Kochi railroad line Rail Ltd (KMRL) and Norka Roots can be part of hands to produce investment opportunities to Non-Resident Keralites (NRK) in railroad line stations.

NORKA:
The Non-Resident Keralites Affairs NORKA was established in 1996. The department aimed at redressing the grievances of Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs). It also aims to strengthen the connection between the NRKs and the government. It will also address the NRKs drawback, safeguarding their rights and rehabilitating the returnees.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences ((SACON) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

The centre study the movement of chemical contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls and drugs through the food chain.

The impacts on bird species.
The ministry funded an amount of Rs 4 crore to the centre for modernization and to handle the challenges posed by the continued entry of newer chemicals into the environment.

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) is a national centre for information, education and research in ornithology and natural history in India. It was inspired by and named in honour of Salim Ali, the leading pioneer of ornithology in India. It is an autonomous organisation established in 1990 as a public-NGO partnership between the MoEF&CC, and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) under the Centre of Excellence Scheme and registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act. Its headquarters are at Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Karnataka get 3 Deputy CM and 17 ministers in its Cabinet.
• Karnataka chief minister B.S.Yediyurappa appointed three deputy chief ministers and inducted seventeen Ministers. The Deputy Chief Minister appointed are:
  ◆ Mudhol Govind Karajol (68) who is a five-time MLA
  ◆ Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan (51) MLA from Malleswaram
  ◆ Athani Lakshman Savadi (59) who is a three-time MLA

Roles and Duties:
◆ Govind Karjol will be in charge of PWD and Social welfare
◆ Ashwath Narayan will handle the portfolio of Higher Education, IT & BT, Science and Technology
◆ Laxman Savadi will carry out the duties in the Transport department.

List of Ministers:
List of other ministers (including the 3 deputy CM) are:
1. Govind Makhthappa Karajol - Deputy Chief Minister; construction Department, extra charge welfare Department
2. Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N. - Deputy Chief Minister; instruction, IT and BT, Science and Technology
3. Laxman Sangappa Savadi - Deputy Chief Minister; Transport
4. K.S. Eshwarappa - Rural Development and panchayat rule
5. R. Ashoka - Revenue Department excluding Muzrai
6. Jagadish Shettar - massive and Medium Scale Industries excluding Sugar
7. B. Sreeramulu - Health and Family Welfare excluding Medical Education
8. S. Suresh Kumar - Primary and education and Sakala
9. V. Sommanna - Housing
10. C.T. Ravi - business enterprise, extra charge Kanarese and Culture
11. Basavaraj Bommai - Home Department excluding Intelligence Wing
12. Kota Shrinivas Poojari - Muzrai from Revenue Department, Fisheries, Ports and upcountry Transport
13. J.C. Madhu Swamy - Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, extra charge Minor Irrigation from Water Resources Department
14. Chandrakantagouda Channappagouda Patil - Minies and earth science from Commerce and Industries Department
15. H. Nagesh - Excise
16. Prabhu Chauhan - husbandry
17. Smt. Jolle Shashikala Annasaheb - ladies and kid Development

Banjari village of Katni district in MP to become an integral part of the digital map of the country.
Prime Minister’s initiative among the of Digital India is the Banjari village of Katni district becomes the 1st village in Madhya Pradesh (MP) to become an integral part of the digital map of the country. The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTY) won the Digital Village Project. It has planned to build 1000 digital villages across India in this phase starting from Banjari Gram Panchayat of MP.

The project provides connectivity in every village & bridge the digital gap between rural and urban areas of the country.

Akodara village of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat is the 1st digital village in India.

The MEiTY planned to create one lakh digital villages of this kind in the next 5 years.

About Digital India campaign:

The program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 The services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology.

Fourth edition of Internet of Things India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru.

The 4th edition of India’s largest confluence of digital technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The theme of Edition is ‘Mainstreaming the Internet of Things’.

It was inaugurated by Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (GoI). The IoT India Congress 2019 will include tracks on segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, telecom, smart cities, energy, retail, cybersecurity, skills and development, IoT Standards, legal and regulatory, and agriculture.

Internet of Things (IoT)

The internet of things, or IoT, is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution (CGD). They cover 50 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 124 districts. He distributed Letters of Intent to 12 successful bidders of the round on 1st March, 2019.

After the completion of the 10th round, over 70% of the country’s population and 52.73% of the area will be covered under the CGD. As per the minimum work program approved by the PNGRB for the 10th round, 2.02 crore PNG domestic connections will be provided, 3578 CNG stations will open, and 0.58 lakh Inch-km steel pipeline will be laid.

The 9th and 10th rounds, the country is making a giant leap in the CGD. In last 5 years, the number of domestic PNG connections, CNG vehicles and CNG stations have more than doubled. India is the 3rd largest energy consumer of the world, and will become top consumer in a decade. The government aims to provide reliable, affordable, sustainable and universal access to clean fuel to all.

The present share of gas in the energy mix in the country is 6.2% compared to 24% globally, and the aim is to increase the share of natural gas to 15% by 2030. The rising consumption of energy in the country, the share of CNG will increase the most. The country will continue to harness multiple sources of energy, including fossil fuels, renewables, EVs and gas. The hydrogen fuel-driven vehicles have already been introduced in the national capital and several auto manufacturers have introduced new CNG models. Even the coal will continue to have relevance, as Coal gasification
plants are being set up. On the policy enablers to promote gas usage in India, Sh Pradhan said that CGD has been granted ‘public Utility’ status.

**City Gas Distribution (CGD)**

Around 5 lakh crore rupees are being invested in gas infrastructure which includes exploration, distribution, marketing, regasification, pipeline network laying.

Domestic gas production was 32.87 billion cubic metre in 2018-19, and is likely to go up to 39.3 billion cubic metre in 2020-21. LNG terminal capacity of 38.8 MMTPA augmented to 52.5 MMTPA in next 3-4 years. Long term contracts have been signed for importing LNG, and its sources are being diversified. The gas grid presently is 16,788 km, and work is in progress for additional 14,788 km. The ethanol blending in petrol gone upto 6% from 1%, and we have to take it to 20%.

Bio-diesel is being promoted so as Recycle Used Cooking Oil (RUCO). 2G ethanol plants are being set up to convert surplus food grains into fuel. Compressed Biogas is another field of development. The union Government’s commitment to meet the COP-21 targets the country will leapfrog next year from BS-IV to BS-VI. He said that the issues concerning the setting up of Gas infrastructure are being sorted out in consultation with the state governments. The Minister stressed on conservation and efficiency aspects.

**Seventh Community Radio Sammelan to be held in Delhi from 27 to 29 August.**

- Seventh Community Radio Sammelan will be held at Dr. BR Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi from 27th to 29th August 2019. It is organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will witness the participation of all operational Community Radio Stations across the country.
- The theme of this year’s Sammelan is ‘Community Radio for SDGs’. The representatives of the Community Radio Stations will discuss experiences and possibilities of programming for better public awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Sammelan witness discussion on various flagship schemes of the Government like the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan and efforts for Disaster Risk Reduction. Research, production, broadcasting, dissemination of social welfare messages through Social Media and content management for Community Radio Stations discussed.
- Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar will give awards to Community Radio Stations for their achievements in broadcasting development programs in various genres including Promotion of Local Culture, Most Creative and Innovative Content, Community Engagement Awards, among others.

**Rajnath Singh inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh.**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh on 29 August. The Mela was organized by Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR).
- The Ministry of Defence has asked DIHAR to work on the challenges in High Altitude Region (HAR-failure) in the coming 3 years. It is expected that DIHAR should turn the failure into JEET (Victory).

**DIHAR:**

The Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) is a constituent laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). DIHAR was set up in 1962 in Leh. It is located at an altitude of 3,500 m above the Mean Sea Level (MSL). The institute has core competence in cold arid agro-animal technology.

The institute aims to meet fresh food requirement of the soldiers at high altitude cold desert condition. It is also responsible to make the region reasonably green. The research stations of the institute are located at Ranbirpura, Ladakh; Partapur, Siachen Sector; Base Laboratory in Chandigarh and the world’s highest terrestrial R&D Centre at Changla, Ladakh.
The twelfth India Security Summit was held in New Delhi.

- The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi on 29 August. The theme of the summit is the New National Cyber Security Strategy. The summit focused on several problems including the protection of important national infrastructure, rising cyber threats like incidents, challenges, and responsibilities.

Organized by:
The summit was organized by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). It is officially supported by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Cybersecurity:
Cybersecurity is the technique of computer protecting knowledge from unauthorized access or attacks. Cybersecurity activities are to safeguard the usability, responsibility, integrity, and safety of the network.
India is the third-largest user of the web and also the cybercrime has augmented in manifold within recent years.

Cyber's New schemes:
The Ministry of Home Affairs launched a new scheme named Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to combat cybercrime in the country. The Cyber Swachhta Kendra is also a new scheme of the Government towards Digital India under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

India Launches Worlds First Ever Facial Biometric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document.
- India became the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi. He also handed over the new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers.
The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based biometric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India made a presentation on this technology at ILO.
The country is moving ahead rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The shipping sector is seeing major developments in the areas of coastal shipping, inland waterways and other maritime activities. The generation of employment in the sector, which is evident in the growing number of Indian seafarers in the international shipping industry. The total number of Indian seafarers who were employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels increased from 154349 in 2017 to 208799 this year, showing an unprecedented increase of 35%.
The development is very significant against the backdrop of the increase in seafaring activities. The new document will give a foolproof identification to our seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.
The International Labour Organisation on BSID. India ratified the Convention in October 2015. The BSID introduces modern security features. It will have a biometric chip embedded in it. The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods. At the time of data capturing the live face is cross matched through passport photo using a face matching software.
The card two optical security features - Micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern. A software has been developed for capturing the facial biometrics and its authentication through the public key infrastructure. A record of each SID issued will be maintained in a national database and its related information will be internationally accessible.

The BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. The Government notified the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Biometric Identification Document) Rules in 2016. The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them. The national data collection centers have been setup at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag & Kandla for issue of BSID. Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID.

The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000. All the existing seafarers will be given BSID within the next 2 years. After this, it is estimated that around 15000 new seafarers will be issued BSIDs annually.

**Indo Pacific 2019 Chiefs of Defence Conference was held in Thailand.**

- Indo Pacific 2019 Chiefs of Defence Conference was held in Thailand on 26 August. The conference was held during the 3 day-visit of Air Chief Marshal and Chairman Chiefs of employees Committee, Birender Singh Dhanoa to Thailand.

**Aim & Theme:**

The conference was aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence relations between the two countries. The theme for the conference was Collaboration during a free and Open Indo-Pacific. The conference shed its light on the common challenges faced by the nations.

The bilateral defence relationship with Thailand has gained a momentum that resulted in India's Look/Act East Policy together at political, economic and cultural levels. The participation of the Indian Chairman COSC would increasing defence cooperation with an Asian country for bigger interaction and cooperation in the future.

**India and Thailand relation:**

The India-Thailand defence cooperation has been initiated in 2003. It started with seven primary areas of focus to strengthen cooperation between countries. The focus on primary areas was re-enforced in a joint statement issued throughout Thai Prime Minister’s official visit to India on January 2012. Both countries have the firm of diplomatic relations in 2017. India is the natural partner of Siam for regional cooperative security initiatives.

**Shri Amit Shah presides over 49th Foundation Day of BPRD as Chief Guest.**

- Union Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah presided over the 49th Foundation Day of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) as Chief Guest in New Delhi. Minister of State Shri G. Kishan Reddy.

The organization contributing in research and development and modernization of police forces. The main aim is to maintain the relevance of an institution for 50 years. The maintenance of internal peace and a stable law and order system are essential requirements for achieving Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy. He emphasized on institutionalizing efficient systems and best policing practices so that they become a part of nature to all law enforcement officials. This can only be achieved through meticulous training, here the role of BPRD becomes essential.
The changing role of police to maintain the stability of the British empire, Sardar Patel brought forth a new paradigm for Indian police system after independence. Today the primary objective of the police is to serve people and protect their rights. He made police modernization in a changing era filled with new challenges. The 34,800 police personnel who laid their lives in the line of duty to keep India safe from internal security threats.

The police reforms is a continuously evolving, never-ending process with changing society and newer challenges. He also differentiated between police reforms and reforms in policing, and urged BPRD to take lead in the latter field, involving a paradigm shift in the approach to policing. The internal security of the country is directly proportional to high quality research and inputs for policy formulation.

He made a countrywide consultative process to make changes in IPC and CrPC and encouraged BPRD to play a leadership role. The main aim is to create skilled manpower needed to tackle complex cases requiring advanced forensic science capabilities. The growing gap between demand and supply of forensic science skills in the country.

The job of prisons should be not to punish but to deter and reform. The approach of prisons should be to create good citizens. Shri Shah expounded on the need for old systems to adapt with changing times and revamp policing techniques to meet the needs of the day. He also urged BPRD to be more proactive and expand its area of operations.

The main focus is on the concept of training the trainers, and urged police to develop domain expertise.

**Tamil Nadu 150-year-old Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees secure GI tag.**

- The Geographical Indication Registry of India finally gave Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the state of Tamil Nadu for Dindigul lock and Karaikudi Kandangi sarees.
- The handmade Dindigul locks are known for their traditional design, superior quality. They are manufactured in more than 3,125 units in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu and they are concentrated in the villages of Nagal Nagar, Nallampatti, Kodaiparai, Kammalapatti, and Yagappan Patti. The manufacturing unit is 150 years old. It is introduced by the Sankaralinga Acharya brothers.
- There are around 50 types of locks manufactured by the industry. Each lock has its own special unique name such as Mango Lock, Almirah Lock, Export Lock, and In 2013. An application filed by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Co-operative Society Ltd. These Sarees are the symbol of entire Karaikudi taluk of Sivaganga district. The hand-woven Kandangi sarees are characterized by brilliant color large contrast borders. These sarees have a tradition of 150 years. Rajiv Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Manufacturing & Sales Society Limited had applied for a tag for these sarees in 2013. The GI tagging help rural artisans & highly skilled weavers, who possess unique knowledge of traditional practices and methods. They can make & market their products domestically and internationally.

**Mumbai ranks 45th and Delhi 52nd in 2019 Worlds Safe Cities Index.**

- Mumbai ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI). Delhi got at the 52nd position. The report was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit
- The cities in the Asia-Pacific (Apac) region made up six of the top-10 safest cities with Tokyo taking the top spot. Tokyo, Apac cities dominated the SCI 2019. Singapore and Osaka got second and third while Sydney and Melbourne made it to the top-10 cities list. Hong Kong dropped out of this group since 2017. Seoul joined the top-10 cities' league taking eighth place with Copenhagen.

**Safe Cities Index (SCI)**
The Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents and measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety with indicators categorised as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. The Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka to rank within the top-three cities in the Index. The region hosts some of the lowest-scoring cities in the world, with Yangon, Karachi, and Dhaka close to the bottom of the list. The cities perform well across the categories of health security, infrastructure security and personal security their North American counterparts generally fare better in digital security, accounting for seven of the top-10 cities in this category.

**BANKING AND ECONOMICS**

**RBI relaxes ECB norms.**
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further relaxed the norms related to external commercial borrowing (ECB). It loosened the end-use restrictions with regard to working capital, general corporate purpose and repayment of rupee loans. The move comes after RBI received feedback from stakeholders.

♦ As per the relaxation, all the eligible borrowers are allowed to raise following ECBs from recognised lenders with a minimum average maturity period of 10 years for working capital purposes and general corporate purposes. The foreign branches and overseas subsidiaries of Indian banks are exempted.
♦ It also permits borrowing for on-lending by NBFCs for the above maturity and end-uses.
♦ Borrowers are allowed to raise ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of 7 years for repayment of rupee loans that can be availed domestically for capital expenditure.

**Ministry of Finance to conduct Indias first national Time Release Study for efficient trade flow.**

- The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance plans to conduct India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) between 1st and 7th August, 2019. The study is a part of the department's strategic commitment to improve the global trade.

Time Release Study (TRS):
The TRS is an internationally recognized tool to measure the efficiency of the international trade flows. It is advocated by the World Customs Organization.

**Aim:**
The exercise aims to identify and remove the obstacles that are present in the trade flow. The exercise will benefit from the export oriented industry and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

**Analysis:**
The national TRS will establish baseline performance measurement. It will also standardize the operations and procedures across all ports. The Ministry will conduct the exercise across 15 ports, including sea, air, land and dry ports at the same time. The ports cumulatively account for 81% of total Bills of Entries for import and 67% of Shipping Bills for export filed within India.

Depending on the results of the TRS, government agencies associated with cross border trade will diagnose the existing and potential bottlenecks that are barriers to the free flow of trade. The government will take remedial actions for reducing the cargo release time.
State Bank of India and Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS
• State Bank of India's Shanghai branch linked to China's National Advanced Payment System (CNAPS). It is the first Indian Bank to operationalize it. The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in China.
• The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Interbank Payment System) launched in 2015.
• Main Aim: To boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan. The participants from multiple countries across the globe participated.

Indian Bank and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ink pact
• Public sector Indian Bank inked a pact with private sector insurer Aditya Birla Sun Life to offer life insurance products to the bank’s customers. The partnership would see around 2,900 branches of the bank offering a diverse range of life insurance policies to its customers.
• Aditya Birla Sun Life insurance would work with the city-headquartered bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes. The documents were exchanged between Indian Bank Managing Director and CEO, Padmaja Chunduru, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company, MD and CEO Ajay Srinivasan.

Indian Bank
Founded: 15 August 1907
Headquarters: Chennai, India
Managing Director and CEO: Ms. Padmaja Chunduru

SBI Life Insurance, Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact
• SBI Life Insurance and Chennai-headquartered Indian Bank entered into a bancassurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter’s customers. The partnership will see for 2,851 branches of Indian Bank across the country for insurance solutions. SBI Life will work with Indian Bank to ensure sales training, product support and smooth operational processes in order to offer life insurance policies to its customers.
• Indian Bank’s customers have access to an array of life insurance products from SBI Life catering to varied life stage needs of the customer.
Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank. SBI Life Insurance said that Bancassurance as a channel has been a strong differentiator for the life insurer and it continues to explore more opportunities through partnerships with credible organisations.
• The bancassurance agreement was signed in the presence of Padmaja Chunduru and Sanjeev Nautiyal. It comes on the heels of a similar agreement between Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL), and Indian Bank.

India first Corporate credit card for SMEs launched by B2B payments startup EnKash
• EnKash launched the country's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The Freedom Card is a true commercial credit card with open acceptance. The Freedom Card aims to grow exponentially with increased credit lines and efficiencies to manage their businesses better in SMP’s will give credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.
About Corporate Card:
In India it is the first corporate card that is used to cater to the varied billing cycles as per the working capital cycles of different businesses. The Bank also offers these freedom cards in practise to the people knowledge.

- The card offers a credit limit for companies to fulfil all business payments including supplier payments, travel & entertainment expenses, utility payments, digital and cloud payments and other business expenses in short duration. The launch of the EnKash Freedom Credit Card is a natural evolution for the Company in its mission towards solving the problem of working capital and in increasing efficiencies through a payments mechanism
- Other card Features

Brex is a US-based commercial credit card company has gone on to raise millions of dollars and is currently valued at over $2.6 Billion since launch 3 years ago. Eubank is a Brazilian credit card based FinTech company started life valued at over $4.6 Billion success.

**RBL Bank with digital healthcare platform Practo launches co-branded credit card RBL Bank Practo Plus**

- RBL Bank, one of India’s fastest-growing private sector banks and Practo, India’s leading digital healthcare platform, have partnered to launch a co-branded credit card, powered by Mastercard. This industry-first credit card is available. The people are increasingly busy to pay attention to their day-to-day health needs, this is an innovative step to encourage users to think health-first on a daily basis. The card is designed to cater to customers in both metros and non-metro cities, through Practo and RBL Bank’s extensive customer base that spans across the country. The unlimited online consultations with doctors 24*7, users are guaranteed that there is an experienced qualified doctor available to them whenever there is a need - instead of relying on self-diagnosis or advice from friends and relatives.

- Benefits of RBL Bank Practo Plus credit card:
  - Unlimited online consultations with doctors 24*7 for 1 year
  - One free full-body health check-up. For every Rs100 spent on this card, cardholder earns 1 Practo HealthCash. HealthCash can be used while availing Practo services like ordering medicine, tests, online consultations (1 Health cash = 1 Rupee). The moment the credit card is issued, a Practo health plan account gets created on Practo app. The cardholders need to log in with their registered mobile number to access this plan under the “MyHealth Plan” section on Practo. The card also offers two complimentary domestic airport lounge access every quarter.

**Saudi Aramco remains worlds most profitable company**

- Saudi Aramco is the world’s most profitable company and paid out almost all its net income in dividends. The corporate titans such as Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc., and other big oil producers, many of which suffered larger declines in profit as output and crude prices fell. The Aramco paid out $46.4 billion in dividends in the first half. That included a $20 billion special payout to its owner. The Saudi government compares with a $6 billion payout last year. The particular interest to potential investors ahead of an initial public offering planned for 2020 or 2021 according to money manager T. Rowe Price Group Inc.

- Aramco, officially known as Saudi Arabian Oil Co., published annual financial statements for the first time in April, ahead of a $12 billion bond sale.
- The average selling price for Aramco’s crude fell to $66 a barrel in the first half from $69 a year earlier, while crude production held steady at 10 million barrels of oil equivalent a day. Unlike most
other energy companies, Aramco’s output is controlled by the state the world’s biggest oil exporter and the hefty royalties and taxes it pays underpin the Saudi economy.

Reliance Jio and Microsoft partner to accelerate digital transformation in India
• Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio) and Microsoft Corporation companies have a unique relationship. Their main aim is at accelerating the digital transformation of the Indian economy and society.
• This 10-year commitment combines the world-class capabilities of both companies to offer a detailed set of solutions comprising connectivity, computing, storage solutions, and other technology services and applications essential for Indian businesses.
• Jio and Microsoft aim to enhance the adoption of leading technologies like data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things, and edge computing among small and medium enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow, while helping accelerate technology-led GDP growth in India and driving adoption of next-gen technology solutions at scale.

RBI launches regulatory sandbox for Fintech companies.
• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox (RS) for the startups, banks and financial institutions. The Fintech companies can now set up their own RS for live testing of innovative products in areas like retail payments, digital KYC and wealth management.
Aim:
The framework aims to enable innovations in the financial technology space. It will also foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers. It will encourage innovations that are intended for use in the Indian market in areas where there is absence of governing regulations.
Eligibility to enter RS:
Fintech companies including startups, banks, financial institutions and any other company partnering with or providing support to financial services businesses.
Guidelines:
As per the guidelines:
Mobile technology applications, data analytics, application program interface (APIs) services, applications under block chain technologies, and artificial intelligence and machine learning applications can also be considered for testing under RS.
The sandbox entity should ensure that any existing obligations to the customers of the financial service under experimentation are fulfilled or addressed before exiting or discontinuing the RS.
Regulatory Sandbox (RS):
A regulatory sandbox refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment. The regulators can permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

Denmarks Jyske Bank unveiled worlds first negative interest rate home loan.
• Denmark’s third-largest bank Jyske Bank launched the world’s first negative interest rate mortgage. The bank handling out loans to homeowners where the charge is minus 0.5% a year. It has begun offering borrowers a 10-year deal at -0.5%. Jyske bank borrowers will make a monthly repayment, as usual, The amount still outstanding will be reduced each month by more than the borrower. Negative interest rates effectively mean that a bank pays a borrower to take money off their hands, so they pay back less than they have been loaned.
Another Danish bank, Nordea will begin offering 20-year fixed-rate deals at 0% and a 30-year mortgage at 0.5%.

About Jyske Bank:
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♦ Headquarters: Silkeborg, Denmark
♦ CEO: Anders Dam

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Ruhan Rajput honoured with Entrepreneur of the Year Award.
• Ruhan Rajput co-founder and Director of Einfolge Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019. The event was held at the JW Marriot Hotel, New Delhi. He won the award on 18 July in the category of 'Entrepreneur of the Year in Service Business. Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.

Einfolge Technologies Pvt Ltd
Einfolge Technologies Pvt Ltd is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry. The company operates to provide comprehensive research, analysis, and expert solutions. Entrepreneur India, America’s number one business magazine along with Franchise India hosted the event from 17th July to 18th July. The inspiration behind the event is to bring leading entrepreneurs, start-ups, sme, investors, global luminaries; Indian government officials etc under one roof and acknowledge them for their milestones. They are the real heroes who work day and night to make this company great and achieve new heights.

Ruhan Rajput excels as an actor and model in Bollywood. He made a debut in the film industry with Pravat Rout’s film, ‘Prarabdh’, followed by three music albums: 'Mohabataiyan', 'Khidki ka Parda' and ‘Saiyan Re’. He was starred in ‘Dil Mera’ produced by Zee Music Company. He is currently working on a music album with Arman Malik.

• India-born doctor Bhasha Mukherjee was crowned Miss England 2019 on Thursday at a ceremony in Newcastle. The 23-year-old moved to England with her parents at the age of nine and settled in Derby. Mukherjee holds two different medical degrees, one in medical sciences and the other in medicine and surgery.
President Ram Nath Kovind was awarded the National order of Merit
• President Ram Nath Kovind was awarded the National order of Merit by the President of Guinea on 3rd August. This is the highest award Republic of Guinea by African government. He was honoured for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea. It also recognised his efforts for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.
• President’s Visit to Guinea:
During his visit to Guinea, President Ram Nath Kovind signed 3 MoUs between India and Africa. The agreements aimed cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e Vidhya Bharati, e Aarogya Bharati Network Project and Renewal Energy.
Both countries also agreed on sign in the need for reform of the UN Security Council to make it reflective of contemporary realities. The leaders expressed their deep concern over the rise of extremism and terrorism around the world in the meeting. The President also announced a new Line of Credit of US$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city.

Pranab Mukherjee to receive India’s highest civilian award Bharat Ratna today.
• Former President and veteran Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee will be presented with the Bharat Ratna by President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday evening.
• Mukherjee was awarded India’s highest civilian honour, in January, along with renowned musician Bhusan Hazarika and Bharatiya Jan Sangh founder Nanaji Deshmukh.
• Kovind will present the award to Mukherjee in Rashtrapati Bhavan at 6pm. Hazarika and Deshmukh, awarded posthumously, will also be honoured at the ceremony.
• Pranab Mukherjee, 83, in his long and illustrious political career has served the country in various capacities -- Defence Minister, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister, Leader of Lok Sabha, Leader of Rajya Sabha and as the President of India between 2012 to 2017.

Vir Chakra for Abhinandan Varthaman who downed F-16 flying a MiG-21.
• Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be awarded the Vir Chakra, the country’s third highest war-time gallantry award, on Independence Day for shooting down a Pakistani F-16 during a dogfight over the Line of Control on February 27, two officials said on the condition of anonymity on Wednesday.
• The February 27 dogfight took place a day after the Mirage-2000s struck targets in Balakot in response to the Pulwama suicide attack in Kashmir in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force men were killed on February 14.
• Vir Chakra is India’s third-highest wartime gallantry award, after the Param Vir Chakra and the Maha Vir Chakra.

Fifty Six BSF Officials Conferred with Medals on 73rd Independence Day.
The operational planning, exemplary combat audacity, operational acumen and flawless conduct of the operation, the gallant Bordermen of 8 Battalion BSF Sh. Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Asstt Commandant, Sh. Sushil Singh, Asstt Commandant, HC Vinay Krishali and CT Sanjoy Pal awarded Police Medal for Gallantry.
These 4 Bordermen were instrumental in neutralizing a dreaded naxal commander in an operation launched in the night intervening 14/15 Dec 2017 in the general area of Bandhi Gude District – Malkangiri, Orissa.

**President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service - 05**
1. Sh. Om Prakash Tripathi, DIG, FHQ, BSF
2. Sh. Ashok Kumar Yadav, DIG, Ftr HQ, BSF TRA
3. Sh. Rabindra Pal Singh Malik, DIG Ftr HQ, BSF TRA
4. Sh. Balbir Singh Sandhu, 2IC (Work), FHQ, BSF
5. Sh. Sudhir Kumar Mishra, 165 BN BSF

**Police Medal for Meritorious Service - 46**
1. Sh. Sandeep Rawat, Commandant, STC BSF Chakur
2. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Kanwar, Commandant, SHQ BSF Bilai
3. Sh. Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Commandant, Ftr HQ, Jammu
4. Sh. Suman Florence Trikey, Commandant, Command HQ SPL OPS
5. Sh. C H Sethuram, Commandant, 162 BN BSF
6. Sh. Sudhindra Kumar Singh, Commandant, BIDR BSF T/PUR
7. Sh. Manish Aul, Commandant, SHQ BSF, SHILLONG
8. Sh. Sukhminderhit Singh Mand, Commandant, 56 BN BSF
9. Sh. Raja Paul, Commandant, DIG(HQ) FHQ
10. Sh. S. Shiva Murthy, Commandant, Ftr HQ Odisha
11. Sh Surinder Singh Rana, LO GDE-I Commandant, SDG(WC)BSF CHG
12. Sh. Dalbir Singh, 2nd-in-Command, 55 BN BSF
14. Sh. Madan Mohan Kandpal, Deputy- Commandant, 3 BN BSF
15. Sh. Madan Singh, Deputy- Commandant (Sports), Ftr HQ, Rajasthan
16. Sh. Anurag Kumar Azad, Deputy- Commandant, 1 BN BSF
17. Sh. Surinder Singh, Deputy- Commandant, 62 BN BSF
18. Sh. Jagdeep Kumar, Deputy- Commandant, DIG(HQ) FHQ
19. Sh. Kunj Bihari Prasad, Deputy- Commandant, Ftr HQ, M&C
20. Sh. Rameshwar Lal Bishnoi, Deputy- Commandant, 161 BN BSF
21. Sh. Lakhwinder Singh Brar, Deputy- Commandant, 91 BN BSF
22. Sh. Puran Lal Meena, Deputy- Commandant, 78 BN BSF
23. Sh. Triyugini Nath Maurya, Asstt- Commandant, 51 BN BSF
24. Sh. Murari Lal Meena, Asstt- Commandant, 151 BN BSF
25. Sh. Jacob Koshy, Asstt- Commandant, 3 BN BSF
26. Sh. Suresh Kumar, Asstt- Commandant, SHQ BSF, JAMMU
27. Sh. V Nagarajan, Asstt- Commandant (Min), STC BSF, Indore.
28. Sh. Hari Krishan, Inspector(GD), CSWT Indore
29. Sh. Kailash Babu, Inspector (G), 65 BN BSF
30. Sh. Ajeet Singh Shekhawat, Inspector (G), 78 BN BSF
31. Sh. Surender Singh, Inspector (GD), STC BSF, K/Camp
32. Sh. Sumer Singh, Sub-Inspector(GD), 133 BN BSF
33. Sh. Jawahar Yadav, Inspector(GD), 115 BN BSF
34. Sh. Pushparajan R, Inspector(GD), STC BSF, Baikunthpur
35. Sh. Ashok Kumar, Inspector(GD), 38 BN BSF
36. Sh. Rajbir Singh Tomar, Inspector(GD), 151 BN BSF
37. Sh. Hekishe Sema, Inspector(GD), 111 Bn BSF
38. Sh. Mohan Kumar A M Inspector(COMM), 179 Bn BSF
39. Sh. Dalbir Singh, Inspector(RO), STS-I Tigari BSF
40. Sh. Hayat Singh Pundhir, Sub-Inspector(GD), 96 Bn BSF
41. Sh. Ashok Kumar, Sub-Inspector(GD), 100 Bn BSF
42. Sh. Nikhil Chandra Sharma, Sub-Inspector(GD), 179 Bn BSF
43. B Chandra Sekhara Raju, Sub-Inspector(GD), 10 Bn BSF
44. Sh. Sarjeet Singh, Sub-Inspector(GD), DIG (HQ) FHQ
45. Sh. Paras Ram, Sub-Inspector(GD), 170 Bn BSF
46. Sh. Kishan Lal, Constable(Tailor), STC BSF, Indore.

JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred the Pushkin Medal 2019.
• JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred the ‘Pushkin Medal – 2019’. It is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.
Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature. It is given for outstanding contribution to Russian studies.
‘Pushkin Medal – 2019
Medal of Pushkin is a state decoration of the Russian Federation. It is awarded to its citizens for achievements in the arts and culture, education, humanities, and literature. It is named in honor of Russian author and poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin.

WCD Minister Smriti Irani distributed the Poshan Abhiyan Awards for 2018-19.
• Women and Child Development Minister distributed the Poshan Abhiyan Awards for 2018-19 in different categories in New Delhi.
The awards were given to the States, Districts, Blocks and Anganwadi Workers. The reason for their contributions in scaling up the Abhiyaan and ensuring that it reaches every household in the country. The awards are aimed at motivating the primary stakeholders and encourage large scale citizen participation in creating awareness to combat malnutrition.
Poshan Abhiyan Awards:
The Poshan Award Ceremony will be organised in the second week of October 2018 at New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development
New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development. All Awardees will be invited to Delhi to receive the award. Details of the Award Function will be issued separately.

Thirty five officers were awarded the Smart Policing Awards.
• Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference which was held in New Delhi. 35 officers were awarded the Smart policing Awards. The award recognized their work in the various police initiatives including the areas of crime investigation & prosecution, anti-insurgency, child safety, community policing, cybercrime management, emergency response, human trafficking, road safety & traffic management, smart police station, surveillance & monitoring, training & capacity building, women safety. The Minister also released a collection on ‘Best Practices in Policing’.
Smart Policing Awards:
The award was instituted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The award has been instituted for best practices in Smart Policing in India.
PM received highest civilian award in UAE and Bahrain.
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa on 24 August. The award recognizes his efforts to build a strong friendship and bilateral ties with the Gulf nation. Indian Prime Minister Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit Bahrain.

Order of Zayed:
Modi also received the Order of Zayed, UAE’s highest civilian award, by Abu Dhabi crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The award recognized his vital role in building the strategic relationship between the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured during his 3-day visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. The visit aimed to hold extensive talks with top leaders of the two countries on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The visit strengthens India's connect with the six-nation powerful Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Several alternative Muslim nations honored PM Modi with their high civilian award namely:
♦ Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen of Maldives in June 2019
♦ Grand Collar of the State of Palestine in February 2018
♦ Emmer Amanullah Khan Award of Afghanistan in June 2016
♦ King Abdulaziz Sash Award of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2016

Shri Prabhakar Singh to be awarded the 2019 Eminent Engineer Award.
• Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI)has chosen Shri Prabhakar Singh, Director General of Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for the prestigious Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019. The award recognizes his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology. He will be awarded on the Engineers Day on September 15, 2019, in New Delhi.

Shri Prabhakar Singh:
Mr. Singh is a B.Tech with Honours in Mechanical Engineering from IIT-Kharagpur. He is a post-graduate MBAfrom Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon. He has played a vital role in transforming the Premier Engineering Organisation of the Central Government. He has dedicated his Service to the Nation as an Eminent Technocrat.

Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI):
IEI was formed in September 1920 and is headquartered in Kolkata. It is the National organization for Indian engineers. IEI is the world’s largest multi-disciplinary engineering professional society in the engineering and technology world.

President conferred the Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards.
• Government has declared the Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards 2018. The awards are conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on 29 August. The award recognizes the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure. The award is given in four categories:
♦ Land journey
♦ Water journey
♦ Air journey
♦ Life Time accomplishment

Jury:
The National Selection Committee headed by Smt. Upma Chawdhry, IAS, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs selected the awardees. The committee was constituted with expert members from the field of adventure.

**Tenzing Norgay National Journeys Award:**
The Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements within the field of the journey toward the land, ocean, and air. The award is given each year to the achievements of persons within the fields of the journey. The award also aims to encourage children and develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative cooperation and fast, prepared and effective reflexes in difficult things.

**Prize:** The awardee will receive statuettes, certificates and award cash of Rs.5 lakh.

**Tenzing Norgay:** Tenzing Norgay was a Nepali-Indian Sherpa mountaineer. Norgay and Edmund Hillary were the first two individuals known to reach the summit of Mount Everest on 29 May 1953. Indian government instituted the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards to honour him.

**Awardees:**
The awardees of the Tenzing Norgay National Journeys Awards 2018 are:
- Land Adventure: Aparna Kumar, Dipankar Ghosh, Manikandan K
- Water Adventure: Prabhat Raju Koli
- Air Adventure: Rameshwar Jangra and Sherpa
- Life Time Achievement: Wangchuk.

**National sports day award winners awarded on 29 August.**
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Sports Day Awards 2019 on the National Sports Day which was observed on 29 August.

**Awardees:**
The list of National Sports Day Award winners 2019 is given below:
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:
  - Deepa Malik (Para-Athletics), Bajrang Punia (Wrestling).
- Arjuna Award:
  - Anjum Moudgil (Shooting), Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (Badminton), Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (Athletics), Pramod Bhagat (Para sports-badminton), Harmeet Rajul Desai (Table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (Wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (Equestrian), Simran Singh Shergill (Polo), Poonam Yadav (Cricket), Swapna Burman (Athletics), Sundar Singh Gurjar (Para sports-athletics) and Gaurav Singh Gill (Motorsports), Ravindra Jadeja (Cricket), Mohammed Anas (Athletics), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (Football), Sonia Lather (Boxing), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (Hockey), S Bhaskaran (Bodybuilding), Ajay Thakur (Kabaddi).
- Dhyan Chand Award:
  - Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and Manuel Fredricks (hockey), C Lalremsanga (archery), Arup Basak (table tennis).
- Dronacharya Award (lifetime category):
  - Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Mezban Patel (hockey).
- Dronacharya Award:
  - Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Vimal Kumar (badminton).

**Prestigious award to Sattriya danseuse.**
- Noted Sattriya danseuse and scholar Dr Anwesa Mahanta chosen for the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman for her contributions to the Sattriya tradition.
Sayanacharya Ghanakanta Bora, a Sangeet Natak Akademi and Padma Shri awardee, Anwesha extensively in India also overseas, including the USA, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, France, England, Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. The academic presentations in various institutions of higher learning and research. She was also awarded Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by Sangeet Natak Akademi. Currently, Dr. Anwesha is the Director of Kalpavriksha that imparts training in Sattriya dance, music and theatre. The coveted Kelucharan Mohapatra National Award instituted by Srijan, an acclaimed institution of Odissi in memory of its founder guru, is offered to both senior and young scholars and practitioners to mark the 25th anniversary of Srijan.

**Aswatha Narayana won gold in the World Skills competition.**

- Aswatha Narayana bagged a gold medal in the World Skills competition 2019 in Kazan, Russia. The event was held from 23-27 August. He won by beating 9 other competitors in the event. Along with him Lufeng Zeng from China also won Gold. He set a record by winning the title as this is the first time that an Indian contingent was participating in the tournament.
- The other participants are from countries such as Iran, Belarus, Vietnam, Korea, Germany, Brazil, Russia and South Africa.

Narayana participated in the world skills tournament in the skill water technology.

**Aswatha Narayana:**

Aswatha Narayana is a B Tech graduate in Applied electronics from CV Raman Engineering College of Bhubaneswar. He had his first experience in a technical competition in 2017. He won a state-level automated robotics competition organized by International Institute of Information Technology, Bhubaneswar. In that event, he built a robot at a cost of Rs.950.

He then participated and won second in DrishTI, an Online Contest in Circuit Design & Digital Signal Processing held by Texas Instruments in 2017. In 2018, he won the State Skill Competition and then he participated in National Skill Competition which enabled him to participate in the World Skill Competition 2019.

**Indian participants:**
The other Indians who participated in the event are Pranav Nutralapati, Sanjoy Pramanik, and Shweta Ratanpura.

**Other winners:**
- Pranav Nutralapati won a silver medal in web technologies
- Sanjoy Pramanik won bronze medals in Jewellery
- Shweta Ratanpura won bronze medals in graphic design technology

**World Skills Competition:**
The World Skills Competition is a biennial event. More than 1,300 competitors from all over the world participated in the event. It gives youth the chance to compete, experience, and learn how to become an outstanding performer in their skill of choice. India has been participating in this event since 2007.
SPORTS

Lewis Hamilton wins his seventh Hungarian Grand Prix.
• Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won his record-extending seventh Hungarian Grand Prix in the Hungaroring on Sunday. With the win, Hamilton moves to within 10 race wins of Michael Schumacher's all-time Formula One victory record of 91. Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second while Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was placed third. Hamilton now has 250 points in the drivers' standings.

Rohit Sharma surpasses Virat Kohli to shatter massive T20I record.
• India vice-captain Rohit Sharma surpassed skipper Virat Kohli to create a massive T20I record in the 2nd T20I against West Indies at Lauderhill in Florida on Sunday
• The right-handed batsman scored a half century in 40 balls after Kohli won the toss and elected to bat. In doing so, Sharma became the player with to have the most number of scores above 50 in the shortest format.

Lovlina Borgohain Won Gold In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament
• Lovlina Borgohain won gold at the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament 2019. The event held at Kaspysk, Russia. The Golaghat district of Assam, Lovlina faced Assunta Canfora of Italy in the finals. Govind Sahani (49Kg) and Jony (60Kg) grabbed bronze medals after their semi-final losses.
• Assunta Canfora at the India Open final, World Championships bronze medallist, Lovlina (69kg) was better prepared this time to tackle the wily Italian. India Open silver and a bronze from the Strandja Cup, Lovlina’s efforts and dedication have been rewarded with her first international gold medal of the year.
• India Open gold medallist champion Neeraj (57kg) in the semi-finals by stunning former world champion Alessia Mesiano 3-2, continued her impeccable form in the summit clash against Russia's Malika Shakhidova. The two judges' points being drawn at 28-28, the Strandja Cup bronze medallist Neeraj Lovlina and Neeraj in their respective finals India failed to register a flawless day as Gaurav Solanki succumbed to a 0-5 defeat to Uzbekistan's Abdulkhay Sharakhatov. The Commonwealth Games gold medallist was unable to judge his opponent's pace and power.

Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix
• Formula One Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix. He defeated Max Verstappen for a record-extending seventh time. He won 62 points clear in the championship.
• Lewis Hamilton
He is a British racing driver races in Formula One for Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport. He is one of the greatest drivers in the history of the sport.
• Hungarian Grand Prix
It is a motor race held annually in Mogyorod, Hungary. Most win: United Kingdom Lewis Hamilton.

Part-time bowler sets world record by taking 7 wickets in a T20.
• Leicestershire Foxes captain and part-time spinner Colin Ackermann recorded the best bowling figures in a T20 after taking seven wickets for 18 runs against Birmingham Bears. Malaysian spinner Arul Suppiah held the previous world record when he claimed 6-5 for Somerset against Glamorgan in 2011. More than 30 bowlers had taken six wickets in a T20 prior to Ackermann's seven-for.
Serena Williams Tops Forbes List Of Highest-Paid Sports Women

- US tennis superstar Serena Williams topped Forbes magazine’s list of the highest-paid women in sports for the fourth straight year. The business publication calculated that the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion earned $29.2 million in the 12-month period.
- Japan’s Naomi Osaka burst to international stardom with a stunning upset of Williams in the 2018 US Open final and went on to win the Australian Open in January became just the fourth woman to earn more than $20 million in a year. Osaka’s earnings at $24.3 million, putting her second on a list dominated by tennis players.
- Former Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber third on the list with earnings of $11.8 million followed by this year's Wimbledon champion Simona Halep. The highest placed athlete from a different sport was US footballer Alex Morgan, who clocked in at 12th. Morgan earned $5.8 million, most of it in endorsements.
- Indian badminton star PV Sindhu and Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn were the other non-tennis players in the top 15.

Bajrang Punia won gold in 65kg at Tbilisi Grand Prix 2019

- Bajrang Punia grabbed the gold medal in the Tbilisi Grand Prix of V. Balavadze and G. Kartozia, Georgia. Greco Roman wrestler Manjeet won bronze in the 55 kg category.
- Tbilisi Grand Prix of V. Balavadze and G. Kartozia is organized by the Georgian Wrestling Federation at the New Sports Palace, Georgia.
- Around 11 Indian wrestlers have participated in the International wrestling tournament, the Indian squad include only one Freestyle wrestler.

Indian juniors won medals at the 2019 Bulgarian Junior International Championships

- Indian juniors won three gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the 2019 Bulgarian Junior International Championships in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria on 12 August.
- Results:
  Girls singles: Samiya Imad Faruqui bt Anastasiia Shapovalova and secured 9-21, 21-12, 22-20.
  Mixed doubles: Edvin Joy & Shruti Mishra bt Brandon Zhi Hao & Abbygael Harris and secured 21-14; 21-17

Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup

- Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup in Toronto, Canada. She defeated Serena Williams.
- In the Rogers Cup men’s final, Spanish player Rafael Nadal won the title. It is his fifth Rogers Cup title. He secured 6-3 and 6-0 won Daniil Medvedev. It is his 35th Masters 1,000 tournament win.
- Results:
  Men's singles: Rafael Nadal
  Women's singles: Bianca Andreescu
  Men's doubles: Marcel Granollers, Horacio Zeballos
  Women's doubles: Barbora Krejčíková, Kateřina Siniaková
**Rafael Nadal won Montreal Masters title**
Rafael Nadal won the Montreal Masters Cup. He won the 35th Masters crown. He defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev.
He extended his record haul of Masters 1000 titles. Nadal got the title for the first time in his career. Rafael Nadal, it was the third title of 2019.

**Uttarakhand gets full member status in the BCCI by CoA.**
• Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) granted full membership in the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). This is done by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on August 13, 2019. The association inducted as a member association. It is the full member with amendments that are required to be communicated by CoA. This membership grant brought an end to long-standing dispute among Uttarakhand Cricket Association(UKCA), United Cricket Association (UTCA), Uttaranchal Cricket Association (UCA) and the CAU vying for BCCI affiliation. The Uttarakhand cricket association was also asked to appoint an electoral officer by September 14, 2019, in accordance with the approved constitution.

**About BCCI**
Headquarters- Wankhede stadium, Mumbai.
Chief executive officer- Rahul Johri.
President- Vinod Rai (interim).

**Bajrang Punia to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019**
• Bajrang Punia awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019. It is the highest country award in India. Bajrang Punia is set to be awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019. The country's highest sporting honour. Punia will be rewarded with the award for his consistent showing in the field of wrestling. His contribution in bringing laurels to the country. Punia along with Vinesh Phogat was recommended by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the prestigious award.
Punia's title at the Tbilisi Grand Prix won the gold medal by prevailing over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65kg final of the men's freestyle competition.

**His achievements**
Punia stamped his authority in the Asian circuit. He won the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China. Punia won the gold medal in the 65-kg freestyle wrestling event at the Asian Games held in Jakarta.
He defeated Japanese wrestler Takatani Daichi 11-8. He won the gold medal in the same category at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He overcame Kane Charig of Wales by Technical Superiority to clinch the gold.
Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were awarded the Khel Ratna Award.
The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand who was honored for his performance in the year 1991-92.

**Hima and Anas won gold in the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019.**
• Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in the Czech Republic. They won gold in the women's and men's 300m category respectively. India's Nirmal Tom clinched bronze in men's 300m category.
Muhammed Anas clocked 32.41 seconds to claim gold in the event. India’s Nirmal Tom clocked 33.03 seconds.

**Hima Das:**
This is her 6th gold medal this year 2019. On July 20 she clinched gold in her pet 400m event at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.

**Czech Athletics:**
Czech Athletics is an annual outdoor field competition. It is the National championship for sports in the Czech republic. It was organized by Czech athletic federation.

**India to host World Youth Chess Championship**
- For the first time ever, India is to host the World Youth Chess Championship 2019. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) won the bid to conduct the World Youth and Junior Chess championships 2019 in the country. The championship will be held from 1 October to 13 October 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The championship aims to produce many young stars and aspire to take part in such world events.

**World Youth Chess Championship 2019:**
The World Chess Federation (FIDE-Federatio Internationale des) conducts 15 World-Level Tournaments in a year.
The Youth Tournament will be held in three age categories in both the open and girls group.
The Tournament will be played in the:
♦ U-14 age groups for Boys & Girls
♦ U-16 age groups for Boys & Girls
♦ U-18 age groups for Boys & Girls
The participants include around 700 young Chess masters from over 100 Chess playing countries. Six World Champions will be crowned at this Tournament.

**Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by Kreishh Gurbaxani.**
- Mumbai Kreishh Gurbaxani is currently at the no. 2 spots in the India junior snooker rankings.
He won the 2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title. He defeated Odisha’s Asutosh Padhy for 5-4 in the 4-hour final contest. He was awarded the champion's trophy and a cheque of Rs 30,000. The runner up trophy and a cheque of Rs 20,000 were given to Asutosh Padhy.

**India clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan.**
- India won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship.
- The event held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the score 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title. The final was a tie of three matches.
- Indian Team won both the singles matches. The team comprised of Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin. Manas and Rethin won their singles matches.

**Indias Hockey team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.**
- The Indian women hockey team won the Olympic Test event with Navjot Kaur and Lalremsiami leading the side to a 2-1 win over Japan in the final. Navjot Kaur - 11th minute won the score to put India ahead but the lead was neutralized within a minute as Minami Shimizu (12') scored for the hosts. Japan Capital: Tokyo Prime Minister: Shinz Abe.

**Lt Gen Puri became first serving Lt Gen to complete 1,200 km Paris Brest Paris circuit.**
• Lieutenant General Anil Puri completed France's oldest cycling event, 1,200km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit. He became the first serving Lieutenant General-rank officer of the Indian Army. Lt Gen Puri, the 56-year-old officer completed the event by cycling non-stop for 90 hours. 367 participants represented India. Around 80 successfully completed the trek. Six army personnel secured berths at the event for having completed at least one 1,000-km non-stop cycling event during their respective careers.

1,200- km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit:
Rambouillet hosted the 1,200- km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit 2019 event. The event was started in 1931. Over 31,125 riders have managed to complete Paris- Brest-Paris Randonneur since then.

PV Sindhu won gold at the 2019 BWF World Championships.
• Indian badminton and World number five PV Sindhu won gold at the BWF World Championships 2019. She became the first-ever Indian badminton player to win a gold medal at the event. PV Sindhu defeated world number four Nozomi Okuhara of Japan and secured 21-7, 21-7. This is her fifth medal at the world championships. With this, she has become only the fourth singles player ever to have a full set of world championship medals.
In the previous editions of the World Championships, she secured:
♦ Bronze in 2013
♦ Bronze in 2014
♦ Silver in 2017
♦ Silver in 2018
♦ Gold in 2019

BWF World Championships 2019:
The Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships was held from 19 to 25 August in Basel, Switzerland. It is the 25th edition of the championship. 45 countries participated in the badminton tournament.

Result:
Men's singles: Kento Momota (Japan)
Women's singles: P. V. Sindhu (India)
Men's doubles: Mohammad Ahsan, Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
Women's doubles: Mayu Matsumoto, Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei, Huang Yaqiong (China).

Indian team won 2 Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019.
• Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh picked up the first gold for India. They defeated Switzerland rivals Andrea Vallario and Janine Hunsperger with 152-147 scores at the World Archery Youth Championships 2019.
The event is organized by the World Archery Federation in Madrid, Spain from 19 -25 August 2019. 17-year-old Komalika Bari got 2nd Gold medal in the final of recurve cadet class Defeated by Japan’s Sonoda Waka with 7-3 scores.
The Indian team of Sukhbir Singh, Sangamprit Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare won the junior compound men’s team bronze medal by beating Colombia’s Jagdeep Teji Singh Mejia, Gomez Zuluga Felipe and Toro Vasquez Manuel got 234-231scores.
The Indians scored 60 out of 60 points in the final round. The Colombian team managed only 56 points.
World Archery Federation
Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
First Vice-president: Mario Scarzella
President: Ugur Erdener.

V K Vismaya won gold in womens 400m held at MJS athletics Czech Republic.
- Indian sprinter V K Vismaya won a best timing of 52.12s and won the gold medal in the women’s 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic. The 22-year-old Indian won the yellow metal, while compatriots Poovamma Machettira and Subha Venkatesan finished second and third with timings of 53.47s and Sudha 53.67s respectively.
Vismaya scored a personal best of 52.48 at Nove Mesto and Metuj (CZE) along with the quartermilers in Europe. Hima Das recently won six gold medals in European races.

International Athletic Meeting
Headquarters : Monaco
Membership: 215 member federations
President: Sebastian Coe.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION

Cognizant’s Debashis becomes Mindtree’s 3rd CEO in its 20-yr history.
- IT services firm Mindtree on Friday named Debashis Chatterjee as its new Managing Director and CEO. Chatterjee, who previously led the digital systems and technology practice at Cognizant, will become Mindtree’s third CEO in its two-decade existence. He replaces Rostow Ravanan, who quit along with Chairman Krishnakumar Natarajan and Vice Chairman NS Parthasarathy after L&T’s hostile takeover.

Mohapatra takes charge as DG of India Meteorological Department.
- Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, 54, took charge as the Director General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi. He was appointed as DG by the Ministry of Personnel on 4 June 2019. He will replace K.J. Ramesh, who headed the weather department for over three years. IMD is to request the government to bring new technology for the weather forecasting and provide accurate information of weather.

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra:
- Mohapatra is Odisha-born scientist. He is the first Odia to reach at the top position in IMD. He has led the effective early warning systems for cyclones, including Phailin, Hudhud, Vardah, Titli, Sagar, Mekunu and Fani.
- India Meteorological Department:
  - Formed on: 1875
  - Headquarters: New Delhi
  - Functions under: Ministry of Earth Sciences
  - Minister responsible: Dr. Harsh Vardhan
  - Director General: Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
- The IMD is responsible for the weather and climate-related forecasts in the country. It is also mandated to issue warning to people about severe weather phenomenon.

OYO appoints Mandar Vaidya as CEO for South-East Asia, Middle East.

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• India's largest hospitality chain, Gurugram-based OYO has appointed Mandar Vaidya as the CEO for South-East Asia and the Middle East. Vaidya has served as a Partner at American worldwide management consulting firm McKinsey & Company for around 15 years. OYO operates in countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the region.

**State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by years after a review of his performance.**

• The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director (MD) Dinesh Kumar Khara by another 2 years with effect from August 9, 2019.

He is appointed Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years on August 10, 2016. He holds a Board level position in supervising the businesses of SBI’s nonbanking subsidiaries.

He was engaged in diverse financial activities such as Asset Management, Life Insurance, General Insurance, Custodial Services, Primary Dealership, etc.

He joined SBI as Probationary Officer (PO) and has over 33 years of experience in all sides of Commercial banking such as Retail Credit, deposit mobilization, international banking operations, branch management.

Khara worked in SBI’s Chicago office and was associated with the overseas acquisition of Indian Ocean International Bank Mauritius (now SBI Mauritius) during his stint in Overseas Expansion wing of International Banking Group. He also worked as the MD & CEO of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Limited (SBIMF).

About SBI:
Headquarter: Mumbai
Chairman: Shri Rajnish Kumar

**Ravi Shastri re-appointed as India’s coach.**

• Former India allrounder Ravi Shastri, who was re-appointed as India’s head coach on Friday by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) set up by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), responded to former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson’s congratulatory tweet. Shastri was given a second straight term as India’s coach, after he pipped Hesson and former Australia allrounder Tom Moody to retain the position.

• Shastri, who had taken over the coaching role after the 2017 Champions Trophy, is expected to continue to serve in the position till the end of the 2021 T20I World Cup.

• The three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) instituted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), comprising Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy, announced the decision after conducting interviews with the prime candidates. This will be Shastri’s fourth stint with the national team, having served briefly as the Cricket Manager (2007 tour of Bangladesh), Team Director (2014-2016) and head coach (2017-2019).

• Among all the candidates, Shastri’s record was unmatched as the team reached the No.1 ranking in Test matches under his guidance and won a series in Australia for the first time in 71 years.

**Harshad Pandurang Thakur appointed as NIHFWs director**
Harshad Pandurang Thakur appointed as the director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare. The proposal of appointment was approved by the appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The cabinet is headed by Prime Minister.

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) established on 9th March 1977 by the merger of two national-level institutions namely the National Institute of Health Administration and Education (NIHAE) and the National Institute of Family Planning (NIFP). The NIHFW, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. They acts as an ‘apex technical institute’ as well as a ‘think tank’ for the promotion of health and family welfare programs in the country.

Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
- Sri Lankan field commander appointed the new Army Commander, the President's office announced. Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, 55 take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service. President Maithripala Sirisena's office announced that Lt Gen Shavendra Silva named as the new army commander. Silva headed the Army's 58th Division in the final battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.

Critics say Silva's appointment as the Army chief may strain Sri Lanka's cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations and the defence cooperation between the US and Sri Lanka. After the brutal civil war ended, Silva served in New York as Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Mission.

According to a United Nations report, some 45,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the last months of the war alone. The United Nations and human rights groups have urged the Sri Lankan government to establish a war crimes tribunal to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity, both by the military and the Tamil militant groups. Sri Lankan governments have resisted attempts to establish an international probe, saying it is an internal issue of the island nation. The promotion of Lieutenant-General General Silva severely compromises Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability.

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
Founded: April 2006
Formation: 15 March 2006

Balesh Sharma resigns as CEO of Vodafone Idea.
- Vodafone Idea CEO Balesh Sharma resigned on Monday with immediate effect, less than a year into his job. Ravinder Takkar was appointed CEO and MD of the mobile phone company whose share price is near an all-time low amid losses and falling subscriber and revenue market shares.
- Sharma, who was chief operating officer at Vodafone India since April 2017, took over as CEO of Vodafone Idea on August 31 last year, when Vodafone India and Idea Cellular merged to create India’s largest telco by subscribers and revenue market share.
- Takkar, Vodafone Group's representative in India since 2017 and a non-executive director at Vodafone Idea, has been appointed for three years, starting August 19. Takkar has spent 25 years with the Vodafone Group and was CEO of Vodafone Romania for three years and CEO of Vodafone Partner Markets in London.
Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary.
- The Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years. His appointment as Cabinet secretary was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Gauba is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre. He initially joined as the Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat. He will now replace the incumbent P K Sinha, who is a 1977 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. Mr. Sinha is the 31st Cabinet Secretary of India.

About Rajiv Gauba:
- Gauba was born in Punjab. He is a graduate in physics from Patna University. He had served in Jharkhand as the chief secretary before returning to serve in the central government in 2016.
- Gauba took charge as the home secretary on August 31 in 2017. While serving as the Union home secretary, he has handled issues such as militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, internal security, and the Northeast Maoist problems in the central and east India besides other issues.

Dr. Ajay Kumar is appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.
- Dr. Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Dr. Kumar will replace Shri Sanjay Mitra as his tenure ends on 23 August.
- Mr. Mitra is a 1982-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre. He is currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Defence Production.

Other appointments:
- The ACC has cleared the appointment of Shri Subhash Chandra as Secretary of Defence Production. He is currently the Special Secretary Defence. He will replace Dr. Kumar. Subhash Chandra is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre.

Manmohan Singh takes oath as RS member from Rajasthan.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took oath as a Rajya Sabha member at the Parliament House on Friday. He was elected unopposed to the Upper House from Rajasthan on Monday after the BJP did not field any candidate. The bypoll was necessitated after the demise of sitting Rajya Sabha BJP MP Madan Lal Saini.

Klusener named SA's assistant batting coach for India T20Is.
- Former allrounder Lance Klusener was on Friday appointed the assistant batting coach of South Africa for the three-match T20I series against India in September. The board also announced that former pacer Vincent Barnes will serve as the assistant bowling coach, whereas former allrounder Justin Ontong will be the assistant fielding coach.

NDTV’s interim CEO Suparna Singh steps down.
- Interim CEO Suparna Singh resigned from her role with immediate effect. Singh was the former head of NDTV Convergence named as its CEO in December 2017.
- Suparna Singh informed the company that she will step down from her responsibilities as Interim CEO with immediate effect. The board resolved to appoint Suparna Singh as its CEO subject to the receipt of requisite approval from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- This approval was promptly applied for on December 12, 2017,
Suparna Singh company entered into an appointment agreement to appoint Singh as the CEO where the appointment was conditional upon receipt of such approval. Accordingly, Suparna Singh has been acting as the interim CEO during this interregnum. The media company said that the matter will be placed before the board and committee members for consideration.

CEO journalist Vikram Chandra’s resignation from the role in the year 2016.

She is the Director of Strategy at the NDTV Group.

She established and headed NDTV’s Metro Nation (its first English language, city-based channel in India) in September 2007.

The probe agency booked the media outlet’s former CEO Vikramaditya Chandra under charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption.

The company floated 32 subsidiaries in several tax haven countries to bring foreign funds to India through sham transactions.

Union Government appoints nine pvt sector experts as joint secretaries.

• The Union government appointed nine private sector specialists in various fields as joint secretaries in various ministries under its lateral recruitment policy. The appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The nine joint secretaries from among the private sector experts appointed for a period of three years or till further orders.

The appointments were cleared by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The nine joint secretaries from among the private sector experts have been appointed for a period of three years or till further orders. They have been deputed to various ministries in Level 14 of the pay matrix as per the Seventh Central Pay Commission. They adding their appointments will be effective from the day they assume charges.

Dignitaries appointed are

Those who were appointed are: Kakoli Ghosh (Ministry of Agriculture), Amber Dubey (Civil Aviation), Arun Goel (Commerce), Rajeev Saksena (Economic Affairs), Sujit Kumar Bajpayee (Environment, Forests).

The others are Saurabh Mishra (Financial Services), Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale (New and Renewable Energy), Suman Prasad Singh (Road Transport and Highways) and Bhushan Kumar (Shipping).

The posts of joint secretaries are manned by officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Forest Service (IFoS) and Indian Revenue Service (IRS) among others who are selected through a three-phased rigorous selection process undertaken by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension had invited applications for the posts of joint secretary-rank officers through lateral entry mode in June last year. The lateral entry mode, which relates to the appointment of specialists from the private sector in government organizations, is considered as an ambitious step of the Modi government to bring in fresh talent in bureaucracy.
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrima Shaha to be the first woman president of INSA

• Biologist Chandrima Shaha will become the first woman to head the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). She previously the vice-president of INSA and the director of the National Institute of Immunology in Delhi.
• She will prioritize communicating science “aggressively” and combat pseudoscience. She and the elected council of 30 members will take charge on January 1, 2020. Shaha was cricketer and also worked as a commentator for All India Radio.
• Shaha’s research focused on understanding cell death pathways. Her laboratory has worked on finding the precise mechanisms of cell death and how this process is regulated by “diverse signalling pathways” in unicellular (Leishmania parasite) and multicellular (cancer cells) models.
• The main aim is to provide a deeper understanding of cell death events that can help in the development of improved therapeutics for diseases associated with anomalous cell death. The Indian Science Congress come under fire after prominent scientists have suggested that events mentioned in Indian mythological texts have scientific explanations. Several politicians have also made pseudo-scientific claims in the past.

OBITUARY

Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passed away.

• Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away on 21 August. He was 89 years old. He died due to various old-age ailments followed by cardiac arrest.
• The veteran BJP leader served as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister from 2004-2005. He represented his traditional Govindpura Vidhan Sabha seat 10 times.
About Babulal:
• Mr. Babulal Gaur was born on June 2 in 1930 at Naugeer village in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. He worked at the Bhopal Textiles Mill and led agitations for labour rights. His political career started in 1946 as he entered in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was a founder-member of the Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh. He served as the secretary of the Jana Sangh in 1956.
• Babulal took part in several national-level movements such as the agitation against the Emergency and for Goa Independence. During the Emergency, he was detained for 19 months under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

SUMMITS AND MOU’s

India signs deal to acquire R Missiles from Russia.

• India signed a deal worth Rs 1500 crore to buy R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia. The main objective of this deal is to boost the capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) R-27 air-to-air missiles will be equipped on the Su-30MKI fighter jets.

R-27 Missile

It is a medium-range air-to-air missile. It is initially developed for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets. They developed these missiles to add the capability to the Sukhoi and MiG warfare aircraft. Indian Air Force signed Rs 7600 crore deals in the past two months. The actual design of R-27 missile was started in 1962 while its production was started in 1986. More than 25 countries are taking services of this missile. R-27 missile can destroy air targets even in adverse weather conditions. The length of the missile is 4 meter and the diameter is 0.23 meter. The weight of the missile is 253 kilograms. There are six extended versions - R-27ER1, R-27R1, R-27ET1, R-27T1, R-27EP1, and R-27P1.

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The government gave emergency purchasing powers to all three military services. Indian army can buy whatever warfare equipment is important to safeguard our borders. The powers given to security forces within three months at a cost up to Rs 300 crore.

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

**DAC approves the procurement of SDR and NGMMCB.**
- The Ministry of Defence got its approval from Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Indian Navy.
- The meeting was chaired by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. This is the first meeting in the second term of the NDA government.

**Uses:**
- NGMMCB: The NGMMCB battery will be fitted with the BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missiles.
- SDR: The SDR will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability. Software Defined Radio was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Navy’s Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE).
- BrahMos is a joint venture (JV) between the DRDO and the NPOM, a Russian military technology firm, of Russia. It can be launched from air, land and sub-sea against land and marine targets. It has been inducted into the Indian army and Navy

**Tripura insurgent group signs peace deal, agrees to lay down arms.**
- The National Liberation Front of Twipra insurgent group led by Sabir Kumar signed a peace deal with the Government of India and the Government of Tripura on Saturday. NLFT (SD) agreed to the surrender of its 88 cadres with their weapons. NLFT was responsible for 317 insurgency incidents in which 28 security forces and 62 civilians were killed from 2005-2015.

**Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL.**
- Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in a formal function held at CIAL. The agreement was signed by Captain Satish Kumar S, Officer-in-Charge, NAE and Shri ACK Nair, Airport Director CIAL.
- The MoU was aimed with the commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery. The MoU sets the standard operating procedures for CIAL and the Indian Navy. It also ensures safe, secure and uninterrupted military air operations.

**About the Facility:**
- The facility will comprise of an independent dispersal, aircraft hangar, administrative building and taxi track. The facility will be located on the northwest side of CIAL. The Naval runway at INS Garuda is not enough for the landing and take-off of long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-
submarine warfare aircraft. Hence, the CIAL runway will be used by the Military aircraft for takeoff and landing and the NAE taxy track for proceeding to and from the hangar.

**India to train Maldivian civil services officers training.**
- The India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil services officers training has been made operationalized in the ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of Maldives at Male. The training will take place in three phases upon the agreement between the two countries. The first 3 training programs will be held in September and November for 60 officers and in December for 30 officers of top management level.

**High-level discussion:**
The training program was operationalised after the discussions between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission. A high-level discussion was also held between An Indian delegation led by Shri V.Srinivas, Additional Secretary Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and a Maldives delegation led by Dr. Aly Shameem, Chairman of the Civil Services Commission of Maldives.
The subject matter of the training programs includes public administration, e-governance and service delivery, public policy and governance, information technology, urban development and planning, ethics in administration and challenges in the implementation of SDGs.

**MoU between India and Maldives:**
During the Prime Minister of India’s visit to the Maldives in June 2019, India signed MoU to provide training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil servants. Maldives Civil Service Commission signed with India’s National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The aim to emphasize India’s Neighbourhood First policy.
India is now providing its full support to the Maldives in realizing its socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.

**Power Minister Shri RK Singh approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.**
- Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri RK Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.
Accordingly, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

**Ocean Energy**
The oceans cover 70 percent of the earth’s surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient. A variety of different technologies are currently under development throughout the world. Deployment is currently limited has the potential to grow, economic growth, reduction of carbon footprint and creating jobs not only along the coasts but also inland along its supply chains.
The Government of India’s effort to reach the objectives to contemplate its Renewable Energy and climate change objectives post-2022 to explore all possible avenues to stimulate innovation, create economic growth and new jobs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint. India has a long coastline.
with the estuaries and gulfs. MNRE looks over the horizon at the development of new technology and considers the various options available to support its deployment. MNRE to support demonstration projects of proven technologies and as approved by an expert committee constituted by MNRE.

Potential Energy
The Total identified potential of Tidal Energy is about 12455 MW. It has potential locations identified at Kambhat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used. The total theoretical potential of wave energy in India along the country’s coast is estimated to be about 40,000 MW. This energy is however less intensive than what is available in more northern and southern latitudes. OTEC has a theoretical potential of 180,000 MW in India subject to suitable technological evolution.

Tidal Energy
The tidal cycle occurs every 12 hours due to the gravitational force of the moon. The difference in water height from low tide and high tide is potential energy. The capital cost for tidal energy power plants is very high to civil construction and high power purchase tariff. The sufficient power from the tidal energy potential, the height of high tide must be at least five meters (16 feet) greater than low tide. The Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat on the west coast have the locations in the country where the potential exists.

Wave Energy
Wave energy is generated by the movement of a device either floating on the surface of the ocean or moored to the ocean floor. Many different techniques for converting wave energy to electric power have been studied. Wave conversion devices that float on the surface have joints hinged together that bend with the waves. This kinetic energy pumps fluid through turbines and creates electricity. Stationary wave energy conversion devices use pressure fluctuations produced in long tubes from the waves swelling up and down. This water is allowed to runoff through narrow pipes that flow through a typical hydraulic turbine.

Current Energy
Marine current is ocean water moving in one direction. This ocean current is known as the Gulf Stream. The tidal currents with submerged turbines that are very similar in appearance to miniature wind turbines. The movement of the marine current moves the rotor blades to generate electric power.

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)
Ocean thermal energy conversion uses ocean temperature differences from the surface to depths lower than 1,000 meters, to extract energy. The research focuses on two types of OTEC technologies to extract thermal energy and convert it to electric power: closed cycle and open cycle. The working fluid, such as ammonia, is pumped through a heat exchanger and vaporized. In the open cycle system, the warm surface water is pressurized in a vacuum chamber and converted to steam to run the turbine.

Technology Objectives
The objective of the technology program is to accelerate and enhance support for the resource assessment and deployment of ocean energy in the country and to harness it for power generation and to overcome the barriers. The technology program is open to public and private sectors to carry out projects in India. Industry lead R&D proposals are invited from stakeholders, for solving problems in Indian conditions. Basic R&D is being looked after by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (example: National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai).
The stakeholders desirous of utilizing Ocean Energy are invited by MNRE for demonstration projects of proven technologies under Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDD&D) program/policy of the Ministry.

**India signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors.**
- During his two-day visit to France, Prime Minister Modi and his France counterpart President Emmanuel Macron held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors on 22 August. They signed various MoUs in different sectors.

**MoUs:**
- An administrative arrangement was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India and the Ministry of National Education and Youth of the French Republic. The MoU aimed for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training.
- The cooperation agreement was signed between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and ATOS.
- Implementing agreement was also signed between ISRO and CNES France for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness.

**Indian Army signed MoU with Tata Realty and Housing**
- Indian Army signed an MoU with Tata Realty & Housing on 22 August 2019. It is a historic milestone achieved by the Indian Army.

**Aim:**
The MoU will empower the Indian Army personnel to take over, with immediate effect, dwelling units in 13 ‘Ready to Move in’ projects of Tata Realty across India. The projects are spread over 10 cities including Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune among others at a discount ranging from 11% to 27%.
The provision also includes the Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO). AWHO has always provided quality housing for Army personnel who are deployed in remote locations across the country. Rather than building houses for the soldiers, the MoU facilitates the Army for the acquisition of homes from reputed private

**Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) signs MoU to set up AI Digital Lab.**
- IT(Information Technology) company, Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU(memorandum of understanding) to set up an AI Digital Lab powered by PlatiFi technologies(a Microsoft partner) to study issues that are relevant for business and public policy. The duo will also offer an executive 3-day non-technical program titled “Leading Business Transformation in the Age of AI”, which will kick start in October 2019, would equip business leaders with tools and strategies to transform their respective organizations to AI(Artificial Intelligence)-driven organizations.

**Microsoft**

Founded: April 4, 1975

Founders: Bill Gates.

**SIDBI partners with Incuspace for coworking space for MSMEs.**
The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) partnered with Incuspace Solutions Private Limited (Incuspace) to open a coworking space, designed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. This coworking space called @Workspaze is located in Connaught Place, New Delhi.

The initiative that intends to be a market-maker for its segment is only 50 meters away from Barakhamba Metro Station. The entrepreneurs who are at the initial stage of their entrepreneurship journey. During the first 18 months of entrepreneurship journey, an enterprise may face several challenges. At SIDBI we want to handhold entrepreneurs during this period so that they have a smooth ride in their venture. Our aim is to expand the scope of @Workspaze even in other key cities of the country. We have already started work on a similar arrangement in Mumbai," said Mohammad Mustafa, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI, in a statement.

The fully furnished office space is equipped with training and conference room, fast-speed internet, reception, refreshment, recreational area, housekeeping facilities

Under this arrangement, an MSME accelerator programme is proposed to be started shortly by SIDBI for the MSMEs and startups who will set up their offices. Our ideologies with SIDBI to facilitate a hassle-free coworking environment for MSMEs and provide resources to build strong connections with other industries to create ideas and develop business. We look forward to a long and fruitful association.

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

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RD Grow Green India Pvt. Ltd. The Technology Transfer Signing Ceremony held at the IIT Guwahati campus between T G Sitharam, Director IIT Guwahati and Rajeev Saikia, MD, RD Grow Green India Pvt. Ltd.

The drinking water contamination is a major problem in most of the states including Assam. This "chemical-free" treatment technique might be useful to the citizens in rural and urban areas. The initiative made by the team from IIT Guwahati resulted in one of the successful incubation of a company within IIT Guwahati (RD Grow Green India Pvt Ltd) taken the challenge to supply contaminant-free drinking water in the Assam state presently using the technology.

The technology is based on the 'Apparatus and Method for Removal of Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic and Microorganisms from Contaminated Drinking Water' by Prof. Mihir Kumar Purkait, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.

Mihir Kumar Purkait, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati applied potential generates the coagulant species in situ as the sacrificial metal anode (aluminium or iron) dissolves. The hydrogen is simultaneously evolved at the cathode. Coagulant species aggregate the suspended particles or precipitate and adsorb dissolved contaminants. The tiny bubbles of hydrogen and oxygen that are formed during electrolysis of water, collide with air bubbles which compel to float the pollutant particles. The choice of electrode material depends on various criteria such as low-cost, low-oxidation potential, inertness towards the system under consideration. The aluminium to be very effective and successful in iron, arsenic and fluoride removal at favorable operating conditions. The technology is equally effective for the treatment of industrial effluent including oily wastewater. RD Grow Green India Pvt. Ltd. is an incubating company at the Technology Incubation Centre in IIT Guwahati and is working on this project for the treatment of contaminated drinking water and industrial effluent as well.
The company is capable of handling Arsenic, Iron and Fluoride contamination of Assam in collaboration with the state government in an appropriate manner. The application is time-proven state-of-art-appropriate technology in every process control unit further makes the All-In-One Packaged Water Treatment Plant.

**Indian Navy signs MoU with IMD.**

- Indian Navy (IN) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India Meteorological Department (IMD) at naval Base in Kochi, Kerala. The MoU aims to handle the Cyclone Detection radar (CDR) building by IMD to the IN.
  
  The MoU was signed by the flag officer RJ Nadkarni, AVSM, VSM, Chief of employees, Southern naval service Command (SNC) and Dr. D Pradhan, further Director General of Meteorology.

**History of CDR Building:***

The CDR building was constructed during 1983–86 within the naval Base having associated with S-band Cyclone Detection radar that restricted. The ability to operate buildings by IMD is from 1987-2017 to produce weather support for civil aviation at the Kochi aerodrome. But IMD commenced in operation a replacement of Doppler radio detection and ranging (DWR) at Mundamveli in Kochi because the S-band microwave radar had become obsolete in 2017. The CDR building had been lying vacant for a few years. Now to support IN, IMD has agreed to hand over the building permanently for meteorological purposes. The building will be utilized by the Indian military Naval.

**GeM signs MoU with SIDBI to enable the growth of MSMEs.**

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and trade has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). It aims to benefit Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), ladies entrepreneurs, Self facilitate teams (SHGs), ladies Self facilitate teams and varied loan beneficiaries under MUDRA and Stand-up schemes. The MoU was signed in Delhi.

**MoU Special steps:**

The MoU will strengthen capability building through GeM-specific coaching programs of personnel from partner agencies. Special services through networking, workshops, promoting events, awards and recognition of MSMEs with special concentrate on SHGs, ladies entrepreneurs, artisans, NGOs.

**GeM MOU with SIDBI:**

The MoU of GeM with SIDBI is towards its growing partnership with money establishments to alter the growth of MSMEs and Start-ups within the country. GeM needs to empower through the payments by auto-debiting GeM Pool Account. The MoU signed with SIDBI will help to promote GeM's special initiatives like Womaniya and Start-up Runway.
National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August

The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year. To mark the occasion, the nation holds a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The function will be presided by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani. The Day is observed at Weavers’ Service Centres in different States.

Odisha’s rich tradition:
The main events are to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Bhubaneswar has been chosen for its rich tradition of Handlooms.

Aim:
The Day aims to honour the Indian handloom weavers and also highlight India’s handloom industry. It also aims to empower women and girls as they are the majority total weavers population of India. The day focuses on the contribution of handloom to the socio-economic development of the country. It seeks to increase the income of weavers.

India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement.

- The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed. Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai. Gandhi gave the call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai. The grateful country is today paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu urged the people to take part in nation-building activities in a constructive manner. He said the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi are eternally relevant. He was addressing a gathering after well-known Gandhian, Dr. Shobana Radhakrishna rendered ‘Gandhi Katha’. It is a narrative on the clarion call given by Mahatma Gandhi to the British this day to Quit India. Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel also present at the event held at the Vice President’s residence in New Delhi.

The failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to “Do or Die” in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai. The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

Quit India Movement

Quit India Movement or the August Movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942 during World War II. Demanding an end to British Rule of India. The Cripps Mission failed, and on 8 August 1942, Gandhi made a call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered in Bombay at the Gowalia Tank Maidan. The All-India Congress Committee launched a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called "An Orderly British Withdrawal" from India.

This resolution declared that the immediate ending of the British rule in India was an urgent necessity for the sake of India and for the success of the cause of freedom and democracy for which the countries of the United Nations were fighting against fascist Germany, Italy, and Japan. The resolution called for the withdrawal of the British power from India. India with all her resources would join the war on the side of those countries who were struggling against fascist and imperialist aggression.

Vikram Sarabhai’s 100th birth anniversary observed on 12 August
• Founder of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and Father of the Indian Space Program, Vikram Sarabhai’s 100th birth anniversary observed across the country.
• He established Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad on 11 November 1947 & Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962.
• He founded the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology(CEPT) and the Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD) in Ahmedabad. He also served as chairman of India’s Atomic Energy Commission.
ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-2 mission having lander called Vikram to honour the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai that is scheduled to touch down on the lunar surface on September 7, 2019.

World Photography Day observed on 19 August.
• World Photography Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science, and history of photography. World Photography Day signifies about the photography event in the world.

History
Early 19th century, photography has become an ever-increasing medium of personal expression and appreciation for countless people around the world. A photograph the ability to capture a place; an experience; an idea; a moment in time. Photographs can convey a feeling faster than, and sometimes even more effectively than words can. A photograph can make the viewer see the world the way the photographer. Photographs even transcend the passing of time - a photo from a hundred years ago can still be as appreciated now as. A photo can still by others in a hundred years time.

World Photo Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837. The Daguerreotype wasn’t the first permanent photographic image. In 1826, Niepce captured the earliest known permanent photograph known as “View from the Window at Le Gras” using a process called heliography.

The first durable color photograph was taken by Thomas Sutton in 1861. It was a set of three black-and-white photographs taken through red, green and blue filters. However, the photographic emulsions then in use were insensitive to the spectrum, so the result was very imperfect.

World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. There are 270 photographers shared their pictures and people from over 100 countries visited the website.

World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19.
• World Humanitarian Day (WHO) is observed every year on 19 August. The main aim is to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian crises around the world.

The theme of 2019 WHD campaign is #WomenHumanitarians On World

The contribution of thousands of women humanitarian aid workers who provide life-saving support to vulnerable people caught up in crises in some of the world’s most dangerous places.

History of the Day
When the UN headquarters in Baghdad was targeted by a large terrorist truck bomb, killing 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN’s top representative in Iraq. The focus is to salute the efforts of women humanitarian workers across the world who rally to people in need and are often the first to respond and the last to leave.

Around 4,500 aid workers of all genders have been killed, injured, detained, assaulted or kidnapped while carrying out their work.

Save humanitarians
The UN emphasizes that under international law, all humanitarian workers must be safeguarded. As part of this year’s WHD commemorations, the UN and partners are launching the #WomenHumanitarians global campaign to pay special tribute to and raise support for the work women do to save lives and alleviate human suffering. The dedication of these women to help the world’s most vulnerable people is admirable, particularly those women who are often the first to respond in their communities when faced with a crisis.

**Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August.**
- Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on 20 August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. Mr Rajiv Gandhi youngest Prime Minister of India.

**Rajiv Gandhi**
He was the youngest Prime Minister of the country. He became Prime Minister at the age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. He served from 1984-89.
He contributed greatly to the development of the country. He announced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernise and expand higher education programs across India. He founded a central government based institution namely Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th till 12 class. Due to his efforts MTNL established in 1986 and also created public call offices (PCOs) for spreading telephones in rural areas.

**World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August.**
- World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August across the world. The day is observed every year. The day aims to increase awareness about the issues that affect older adults. It also provides an opportunity to appreciate the elders for their dedication, accomplishments, and the services they give throughout their lives.
The day also reminds the governments of its commitment to work for the welfare of older persons. United Nations report says that by 2050, 2 billion people, over 20% of the world's population, will be 60 or older with Asia having the largest number of older persons.

**History:**
Former president of United States Ronald Reagan officially announced the day as the 'World Senior Citizens Day' after he had signed Proclamation on August 19, 1988. He declared August 21 as National Senior Citizens Day in US. The day aims to pay respect to the elderly community. On 14th of December 1990, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed to observe 21 August as World Senior Citizens Day.

**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on August 23.**
- Santo Domingo Haiti and the Dominican Republic the beginning of the uprising play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on 23 August.
This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The intercultural project "The Slave Route," should offer an opportunity for collective
consideration of the historic causes. The methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean. Director-General of UNESCO invites the Ministers of Culture of all Member States to organize events every year on that date, involving the entire population of their country and in particular young people, educators, artists and intellectuals. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Goree in Senegal (23 August 1999). The cultural events and debates were organized. The year 2001 saw the participation of the Mulhouse Textile Museum in France in the form of a workshop for fabrics called "Indiennes de Traite" (a type of calico) It served as currency for the exchange of slaves in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The UNESCO Executive Board adopted Resolution 29 C/40 at its 29th session.

International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29 August.
• The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed across the world on 29 August. The day aims to provoke the world organization, youth networks, and the media against nuclear testing. The day highlights the importance to ban nuclear tests as a valuable step towards achieving a safer world. Poisoned groundwater, cancer, leukemia, radioactive are caused by the toxic legacies of nuclear testing.

History:
UN General Assembly (UNGA) after the 64 sessions of the world organization meeting declared 29 August as International Day against Nuclear Tests. It unanimously adopted resolution 64/35 on Dec 2, 2009. The inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests was marked in 2010. Kazakhstan initiated the resolution with the support of a large number of sponsors to commemorate the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29 August 1991.

Nuclear Test:
Nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945. So far, nearly 2,000 test has taken place. The countries that have tested the nuclear weapons so far are USA, USR, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August.
• The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August every year. The Day was established by the international organization General Assembly resolution.

Aim:
The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances aims to lift awareness on enforced or involuntary disappearances that occur with arrest, detention, abduction or deprivation of the State with support by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate. Enforced disappearance became a global issue as it was not restricted to a particular region of the world. It is also concerned to stop the rising issues concerning the ill-treatment, harassment, and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.

History:
The UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution because of its concern to the increased enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world. The reason for the disappearances included arrest, detention, and abduction. The Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It then decided to
declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. The day was first observed in 2011.

**National sports day was celebrated on 29 August.**

- The National Sports Day is celebrated nation-wide on 29 August 2019. The Day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. 2019 National Sports Day marked the 114th birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.

  **Aim:**
  The Day aims to raise awareness about staying fit and healthy. The Day spreads awareness on the importance of sports and daily activities in every individual's life.

  **Dhyan Chand:**
  Dhyan Chand is popularly known as the Wizard of Indian Hockey. He secured over 400 goals in 22 years during the period 1926 to 1948. He is regarded as India's greatest hockey player ever. Under his leadership, the Indian Hockey team achieved several victories. He led India into 3 Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936.