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People don’t need to be saved or rescued. People need knowledge of their own power and how to access it.
INTERNATIONAL

- **Hong Kong in recession as protests slam retailers, tourism**
  On Thursday, the government said Hong Kong’s economy shrank 3.2% in July-September from the previous quarter, pushing the city into a technical recession.

- **North Korea conducts new test of ‘super-large’ rocket launcher:**
  South Korea's military said Thursday that the North had launched two short-range projectiles from South Pyongan province. They each flew approximately 370 kilometres.

- **Global smartphone market hits 380 million units in Q3**
  Showing a sign of recovery, the global smartphone market saw 380 million units in shipments, as compared to 379.8 million units in Q3 2018, Counterpoint Research said on Thursday. Samsung led the market with 21 per cent share with strong demand for its A and Note smartphone series while Huawei reached a record high with 18 per cent share. Realme was the fastest growing brand, reaching the 7th spot globally.

- **Pakistanis feel inflation, not Kashmir, is biggest problem facing them**
  The study, which was published by Gallup and Gilani Pakistan on Tuesday, said 53% of respondents believe the country’s economy, specifically increasing inflation, is the biggest problem facing the country. Worries of inflation is followed by unemployment (23%), the Kashmir issue (8%), corruption (4%) and water crisis (4%), the survey has said.

- **Thai king creates boot camp-style unity courses, officers to train in community service, loyalty to monarchy**
  As part of the programme, civil servants, police and teachers will get intensive training in community service and loyalty to the monarchy, according to the Thai Royal Palace.

- **US opens national security investigation into TikTok**
  While the $1 billion acquisition of Musical.ly was completed two years ago, US lawmakers have been calling in recent weeks for a national security probe into TikTok, concerned the Chinese company may be censoring politically sensitive content, and raising questions about how it stores personal data.

- **Donald Trump announces new acting US homeland security chief**
  Homeland Security is the third-largest department in the US government, overseeing a number of agencies including the Coast Guard, Secret Service and FEMA, which handles disaster preparedness, coordination and support. US President Donald Trump announced Friday that a senior department official, Chad Wolf, would become the nation’s new acting homeland security chief, a role at the center of his crackdown on undocumented immigration.

- **N.Korea test fired new multiple rocket launcher**
  North Korea conducted its third test-firing of a new super-large multiple rocket launcher. It has the ability to destroy enemy targets in surprise attacks. The North previously tested the system in August and September 2019. The two projectiles were launched from an area near Pyongyang, the North
Korean capital. The missiles travelled more than 321 kilometers cross-country and landed in the waters of the North’s eastern coast. It is expected that North Korea will continue to ramp up weapons demonstrations before the deadline set by N.Korean leader Kim Jong Un for the US. Kim Jong Un offered the US a mutually acceptable terms to salvage fragile diplomacy strained by disagreements over exchanging sanctions relief and disarmament steps.

The 8th meeting of the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) was concluded on 1 November 2019 in New Delhi.

- The 8th meeting of the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) was concluded on 1 November 2019 in New Delhi. IGEF was co-chaired by Mr. Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary of Ministry of Power from the Indian side and Mr. Christian Hirte, Secretary of State, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany. The Forum finalized the roadmap for future collaboration between the two countries, including the Flexibilisation of existing coal-fired power plants.

- Indian to invite Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

The Central government is to invite Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro as the chief guest to the Republic Day celebrations 2020. India aims to expand its outreach to South America. India and Brazil are aiming to finalize Bolsonaro’s maiden trip to India as President. If finalized, Bolsonaro would be the third Brazilian President to be invited for Republic Day celebrations.

- Commonwealth Law Ministers’ Conference 2019

The biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers’ Conference is being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 4-7 November 2019. India will be represented at the conference by Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad.

PM Modi meets Indonesian President and Thailand PM

- The leaders welcomed the 20% increase in the bilateral trade between the countries
- They agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in defence industries sector
- PM Modi discussed ways to enhance connectivity between the two countries in the areas of digital connectivity and physical connectivity.
- India and Thailand are close maritime neighbors. India’s Act East Policy is complimented by the Thailand’s Look West Policy as that of Indonesia.

The meeting also gains its importance as India and Indonesia are celebrating their 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. The countries are close maritime neighbors having historical and cultural linkages. Also India’s ‘Act East Policy’ is complimented by Indonesia’s ‘Look West’ policy.

China is world’s worst abuser of internet freedom: Freedom on Net 2019 report

- China was ranked as the world’s worst abuser of internet freedom for the fourth consecutive year and Pakistan was declared as ‘not free’ in terms of internet freedom status for the ninth consecutive year in the Freedom on the Net (FoTN) report 2019.
- The Freedom on the Net report 2019 titled ‘The Crisis of Social Media’ was released by an international internet watchdog, the Freedom House on November 5, 2019. The report recorded an overall decline in global internet freedom status between July 2018 and May 2019.
- India was given an overall score of 55 in the report and the internet freedom status in the country was reported to be ‘partly free’.
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan re-elected as President of UAE
• The UAE’s Supreme Council of the Union has re-elected His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan as its President for a fourth five-year term, in accordance with the provisions of the UAE Constitution.
• Shaikh Khalifa was first elected President on November 3, 2004 following the death of his father Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Dubai to host World Tolerance Summit with the participation of world peace leaders
• A two-day ‘World Tolerance Summit’ will be held in Dubai, UAE on November 13 and 14, 2019.
• Mathematician Anand Kumar of Super 30 has been invited to address this summit.
• The summit is an initiative of the International Institute for Tolerance, as part of UAE’s Prime Minister and ruler Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s global drive.
• Theme: “Tolerance in Multiculturalism: Achieving the Social, Economic and Humane Benefits of a Tolerant World”

INDRA 2019 to be held from December 10-19, An Indo-Russian Joint Tri-Service Exercise
• The first-ever joint tri-service exercise between India and Russia codenamed INDRA 2019 will be conducted from December 10-19.
• Company-sized mechanized contingents, fighter and transport aircraft as well as ships of respective Armies, Air Forces and Navies will participate in this 10-days exercise.

Brazil President, Jair Bolsonaro to be the Chief Guest at Republic Day 2020
• Prime Minister Modi invited the President of Brazil, Mr. Jair Messias Bolsonaro to be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day 2020. The Brazilian President has accepted the invitation with pleasure.
• Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met H.E. Mr. Jair Messias Bolsonaro, President of Brazil on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS summit at Brasilia on 13 November 2019.

Moody’s revises India GDP forecast to 5.6 % in 2019
• Moody’s Investors Service has revised its GDP growth rate prediction for India for Calendar Year 2019 to 5.6% from its earlier prediction of 5.8%.
• India’s GDP growth rate prediction for 2020 as per Moody’s- 6.6%.
• India’s GDP growth rate prediction for 2021 as per Moody’s- 6.7%.
• The rates have been released in the Global Macro Outlook for 2020-21 by Moody’s.

SL Takes Step Towards Combating Fixing & Betting, Is 1st South Asian Nation To Criminalise Them.
• The Sri Lanka Parliament has passed all three readings of a bill entitled "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports" in which offences related to corruption in sports will carry a prison term of up to 10 years, as well as various fines, reports ESPNcricinfo.
• The bill not only seeks to punish "any person related to a sport" who is directly involved in fixing, but also those who "provide...inside information", curators who prepare playing surfaces to suit betting operators, and match officials who "deliberately misapply the rules" for money.
• According to the bill, "acts of omission", which includes failure to report corrupt approaches, are also criminalised.
Trace Bribery Risk Matrix 2019: Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia.

Key Highlights of Report
- Bangladesh is in 178th position among 200 countries. The report suggests that Bangladesh has a high expectation of bribes and a high degree of government interaction in business.
- The report informs that the high risk of bribery is there due to high regulatory burden on business.
- Afghanistan (168) and Pakistan (153) are other countries where bribery risk is high in South Asia.
- In South Asia, Bhutan (52) has the least risk of bribery as it is placed at 52 in the ranking.
- India is in 78th place with a total risk score of 48.
- Bangladesh gets a score of 86 in Business Interactions with Government domain. The ranking was based on a high level of government’s interaction and high regulatory burden.

Bill Gates just overtook Jeff Bezos to reclaim his spot as world’s richest person
- Billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft Corp. co-founder, Bill Gates has surpassed Amazon chief executive officer Jeff Bezos to become the world’s richest person on Earth with a net worth of $110 billion, according to the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- Gates, 64, had briefly topped Bezos (55), whose net worth stands at $109 billion.
- Europe’s richest person, Bernard Arnault, is third with $102.7 billion.
- Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian in the list positioned at 14th spot with net worth of $56.7 billion.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa wins Sri Lanka presidential election
- Sri Lanka’s ruling party presidential candidate has conceded defeat to rival Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the Indian Ocean island nation’s election.
- Rajapaksa reached the threshold for victory of 50% plus one vote, with most of Premadasa’s electoral strongholds counted.

Joker Bagged Golden Frog Award For Best Cinematography At EnergaCamerimage Festival
- Joaquin Phoenix starrer ‘Joker’ won the Golden Frog Award for cinematography in the main competition at the EnergaCamerimage International Film Festival in Torun, Poland.
- ‘Joker’, which was directed by Todd Phillips, also won the Audience Award at the festival.
- Joker is the fourth DC comic title to cross 1 billion USD, after Aquaman (USD 1.15 billion), The Dark Knight Rises (USD 1.084 billion) and The Dark Knight (USD 1.005 billion).

IAAF officially changes its name to World Athletics
- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will now officially be known as World Athletics, a statement said.
- The IAAF was founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation but changed its name to the International Association of Athletics Federations in 2001.
- It is the international governing body for the sport of athletics, covering track and field, cross country running, road running, racewalking, mountain running and ultra running.

Oxford Word of the Year 2019: climate emergency
- The Oxford Word of the Year 2019 is “climate emergency. “
- Climate emergency is defined as ‘a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.'
• The Oxford Word of the Year is a word or expression shown through usage evidence to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year, and have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance.
• Analysis of language data collected in the Oxford Corpus shows the rapid rise of climate emergency from relative obscurity to becoming one of the most prominent – and prominently debated – terms of 2019.

Global Terrorism Index 2019: Afghanistan most impacted by terrorism
• The Global Terrorism Index released by the Australia based Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) ranks 163 countries according to the impact of terrorism on the basis of factors such as the number of attacks, fatalities, injuries and the extent of property damage.
• India has been placed at 7th position in terms of country most impacted by terrorism.
• According to the 2019 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Afghanistan recorded largest increase in deaths from terrorism.

• Top 10 countries most impacted by terrorism
  1. Afghanistan
  2. Iraq
  3. Nigeria
  4. Syria
  5. Pakistan
  6. Somalia
  7. India
  8. Yemen
  9. Philippines
  10. Democratic Republic of the Congo

US approves sale of 13 naval guns worth over $1 billion to India
• The United States has approved the sale of 13 MK45 Naval guns and related equipment to India at an estimated cost of $1.0210 billion (approximately Rs 7,331.76 crore).
• The MK 45 5 inch/62 calibre (MOD 4) naval guns will provide the capability to conduct anti-surface warfare and anti-air defense missions while enhancing interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces.
• India will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense.

CII India Europe 29 Business Forum 2019
• Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India are organising 5th edition of the India-Europe 29 Business Forum on 20-21 November 2019 at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi, India.
• Focus Sectors
  • Artificial Intelligence
  • IT & ITeS
  • Pharmaceuticals
  • Renewable Energy
  • Smart Cities, including urban transportation
• Key Outcomes Expected
• Bring together various stakeholders to facilitate dialogue on pre-identified projects.
• Focus on tangible outcomes in terms of building new business partnerships.
• Chart out a roadmap for increased trade and investment by focusing on certain sectors, capitalizing on opportunities in those sectors and removing bottlenecks.
• Create a higher level of awareness of the business climate and incentives provided by each country.

Potential Diarrhea vaccine developed in Sweden
• The researchers of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden have developed a potential Diarrhea vaccine.
• Science journal, The Lancet, reports that it has been proved safe and effective in an early-stage clinical trial in Bangladesh.
• The report said that 80 to 100 per cent of the children aged two to five years and 50 to 80 per cent of infants aged six to eleven months, selected for the study responded to all key immunity generating components of the vaccine.
• The researchers said, there is no vaccine yet for use for children and vaccine development for Diarrhea is a World Health Organization priority.

G20 foreign ministers, including South Korea’s Kang Kyung-wha, gather in Nagoya for Japan’s last turn as host
• The G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting 2019 was held in Nagoya, Japan on November 22 and 23, 2019.
• The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the EU. The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US

Marathon Man Eliud Kipchoge, Hurdle Heroine Dalilah Muhammad Win Athlete of the Year
• The pioneering marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge, who is the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, has won the World Athlete of the Year 2019.
• Besides, the 400 metres hurdles world champion Dalilah Muhammad has been named as the World Athlete of the Year 2019 in women’s category.

Lt Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza promoted to the rank of Chief of General Staff: ISPR
• The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) announced major appointments and postings on Monday, according to which Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza has been appointed Chief of General Staff.

NOMURA’S FOOD VULNERABILITY INDEX (NFVI): India stands 44
About:
• Nomura’s Food Vulnerability Index (NFVI) ranks countries on the basis of their exposure to large swings in food prices.
• NFVI has three components: (1) country’s GDP per person, (2) the share of food in household consumption and (3) the net food imports. Typically, lower per capita GDP, higher share of food in household consumption and high net food imports would make a country more vulnerable to spikes in food prices.
Key findings:
• The 50 countries most vulnerable to food price surges in the coming months largely belong to the Emerging Market group. The top 50 together account for almost 60 per cent of the global population.
• India has been ranked 44 out of 110 countries; a higher rank is worse.
• At 4.6%, India’s retail inflation for October touched a 16-month high because of the jump in food prices. Food inflation grew by almost 8% – almost double the rate of overall retail inflation. Key items that contributed to this rise were pulses (inflation rate 12%) and vegetables (inflation rate 26%) and fish and meat (inflation rate 10%).
• Nomura is an Asia-headquartered financial services group with an integrated global network spanning over 30 countries.

Ocean Dance Festival of Bangladesh begins in Cox’s Bazar on Friday
• The 2019 edition of the four day long Ocean Dance Festival was held in Cox Bazar of Bangladesh from November 22-25, 2019.
• The theme of 2019 festival was ‘Bridging the distance’ or Durotter Shetubandhan.
• Ocean Dance Festival is the largest international dance festival of Bangladesh.
• More than 200 dancers, choreographers and scholars from 15 countries participated in the festival.
• The festival aims to expand cultural tourism in Bangladesh and also to bridge the cultural and economic distances among the countries.
• It was inaugurated by State minister of cultural affairs KM Khalid.
• The festival was organised by the Nrityajog, the Bangladesh wing of World Dance Alliance (WDA).

Romania president Klaus Iohannis wins second term
• Klaus Iohannis was elected for a second term in Romania’s presidential election on 24 November, giving the executive power to the country’s center-right.
• According to partial results, he won with more than 66% of the vote, defeating his rival, former Prime Minister Viorela Dancila from the Social Democratic Party (PSD), who had 34%.
• Iohannis, former physics teacher and mayor of Sibiu, became president in 2014 and has been credited by the EU with trying to protect the rule of law.
• Romania’s president is elected every five years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

American singer Billie Eilish named Billboard’s 2019 Woman of the Year; Taylor Swift named inaugural ‘Woman of the Decade’ award.
• The famous American singer and songwriter Billie Eilish has been named as Billboard’s 2019 Woman of the Year.
• She is the youngest artist ever to be named Billboard’s Woman of the Year.
• Apart from this, pop star Taylor Swift will also be honoured with the inaugural ‘Woman of the Decade’ award.
• She will be honored for being “one of the most accomplished musical artists of all time over the course of the 2010s”
• Both of them will receive the award on December 12, 2019 at the Billboard Women in Music event in Los Angeles.

WATEC 2019 Conference Held at Tel Aviv in Israel
• The 8th edition of the World Water Technology and Environmental Control (WATEC) Conference and Exhibition 2019 was held at David InterContinental, Tel Aviv, Israel from November 18-21, 2019.
• The focus of WATEC 2019 was “Water Stewardship and Innovation – driving global leadership in the responsible planning management, and protection of water”.

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• The Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat represented India at the WATEC Conference.
• WATEC 2019 provided a comprehensive forum where water industry executives, academia, institutional investors, venture capitalists, analysts, and other experts have the opportunity to shape the future collaboration of the water technology arena.

ISRO has built ‘Vikram’ processor to guide future rockets
• ISRO has designed and built a processor named “Vikram”, which will be used in all future Indian rockets to guide and control them.
• The Vikram Processor guided the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C47 (PSLV-C47) rocket, which carried India’s Earth-imaging satellite ‘Cartosat-3’.
• It was the first time the indigenously designed processor was used in PSLV-C47 rocket.
• India has two family of rockets — PSLV and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The ISRO is also developing a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) with a capacity to carry 500 kg satellites.
• The Vikram Processor is used for rocket’s navigation, guidance and control and also for general processing applications.

First International Conference on “Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience-2019” Held in New Delhi
• Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the 1st International Conference on “Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience” in New Delhi.
• While addressing the Conference, Mr Reddy called for developing technology to anticipate disasters like landslides and develop infrastructure to quickly respond to minimise the damage.
• The Minister said that landslides have attracted global attention as they may cause huge havoc on communities, live stock, environment leading to huge loss of lives.

Renowned US rock climber, Brad Gobright, passes away after fall in Mexico
• One of the world’s most renowned rock climbers, Brad Gobright, passed away after falling off a mountain in Mexico.
• The 31-year-old from California, fell about 300 meters to his death on the El Sendero Luminoso climb at El Potrero Chico peak in northern Mexico.
• Yasuhiro Nakasone, one of Japan’s longest-reigning Prime Ministers, has passed away at the age of 101.
• Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has passed away. He was 101.
• Yasuhiro Nakasone was the longest-reigning prime ministers of the country.
• He served as Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Liberal Democratic Party from 1982 to 1987.

United Nations Development Programme launches Accelerator Lab in India to work on tackling pollution
• The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched the India chapter of its new initiative, Accelerator Labs, to address major issues facing India, including air pollution.
• The Indian lab has been housed at UNDP India office in New Delhi on November 28, 2019.
• It will be among the 60 global labs that will find, test and try to scale up innovative solutions that can help combat both climate change and social inequity.
• The aim of the initiative is faster progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN with 2030 as the deadline.
• The Accelerator laboratory has partnered with the Indian government’s Atal Innovation Mission to achieve its objectives.

NATIONAL

- Jharkhand assembly polls to be held in 5-phase from November 30, results on December 23
Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora on Friday announced the dates for the Jharkhand Assembly elections. He said elections in Jharkhand will be held in five phases, which will start from November 30 and results will be declared on December 23.

- DGCA tells IndiGo to replace faulty engines on all Airbus A320neo planes by Jan 31 at all costs
The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has ordered IndiGo to make sure that its fleet of 97 Airbus A320neo aircraft have modified versions of P&W engines by January 31, failing which they will be grounded.

- India, Germany to intensify cooperation in combating terror
India and Germany have resolved to intensify bilateral and multilateral cooperation to deal with the threats of terrorism and extremism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday after holding wide-ranging talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

After the two leaders co-chaired the fifth Inter-Governmental Consultations, India and Germany signed five joint declarations of intent and inked 11 pacts in fields such as space, civil aviation, maritime technology, medicine and education.

- Audi India cuts SUV Q5, Q7 prices by up to Rs 6 lakh for limited period
Under the 'limited period celebratory price' offer, the Audi Q5 in both petrol and diesel options will be tagged at Rs 49.99 lakh as against the current price of Rs 55.8 lakh, Audi India said in a statement. The Q7 petrol version will cost Rs 4.83 lakh less at Rs 68.99 lakh under the offer as compared to the existing price of Rs 73.82 lakh.

- This on-demand fuel pump is making deliveries, one doorstep at a time
Neogi Technologies and Research Private Limited is an enterprise that manufactures mobile fuel dispensing units enabling door-to-door delivery of diesel, kerosene, bio-diesel, lubricating oil, etc

- PM Modi arrives in Bangkok on three-day visit amid focus on RCEP negotiations
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend 16th ASEAN-India Summit, the 14th East Asia Summit and the third summit meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which is negotiating the trade deal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived here on Saturday on a three-day visit in the midst of renewed diplomatic efforts to convince India to support signing of a mega trade deal involving 16 Asia-Pacific nations to facilitate creation of the biggest free-trade region in the world.

- Working on Vikram Lander’s second landing on Moon’s south pole, says ISRO chief
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief, Kailasavadivoo Sivan on Saturday weighed in on the second landing attempt of Vikram lander on Moon’s south pole, after the first could not find success. Replying to media’s query if ISRO would attempt another landing on Moon’s south pole, Sivan replied, “Definitely”.

-Delhi’s Dwarka metro station, being visited by Angela Merkel today, has a German link
When German Chancellor Angela Merkel visits the Dwarka Sector 21 metro station on Saturday morning, there would be a deep German connection to the station -- it has photo voltaic panels on the roof built with the cooperation of a German enterprise.
Power generated by the 500-kWp ‘Roof-Top Solar Power Plant’ in the station is used to meet its requirements.
The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the German government-owned not-for-profit enterprise GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit) set up the solar plant under the Renewable Energy Service (RESCO) model.

-Kartarpur ready to welcome Sikh pilgrims for 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, says Pak PM Imran Khan
The two countries have decided that 5,000 pilgrims can visit the shrine everyday and that additional pilgrims will be allowed on special occasions, subject to capacity expansion of facilities by the Pakistani side.
Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday shared some of the dazzling pictures of the Kartarpur complex and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, saying the revered venue is ready to welcome the Sikh pilgrims for the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev.
Inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor on November 9.

-PM Modi attends India-Asean Summit; meets Thai, Indonesian leaders
PM Modi is in Thailand on a three-day visit during which he will participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summits.
The PM arrived in the Thai capital Bangkok on Saturday on a on a three-day visit during which he will also attend the 14th East Asia Summit, the third summit meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and hold bilateral meetings with various world leaders.
The prime minister’s visit comes in the midst of renewed diplomatic efforts to convince New Delhi to support signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega trade deal involving 16 Asia-Pacific nations to facilitate creation of the biggest free-trade region in the world.
-Odisha plans social registry to weed out ghost beneficiaries of social welfare schemes
Officials said the idea behind the social registry is to improve the coverage, adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of government schemes in the state as the current mix of social protection schemes remain fragmented.

- Odisha lokayukta serves notice to 6 officials for misappropriation of fund for Nagada
Nagada, a group of three villages, was in news in 2016 when the tribal children died of malnourishment and diseases prompting chief minister Naveen Patnaik to form a task force for the development of the area.
The Odisha Lokayukta has served notice to six government officials in Jajpur district over allegations of misappropriation of government funds meant for hunger hotspot Nagada, where 19 tribal children had died of malnutrition and other diseases in 2016. Sources in the Lokayukta office said notices have been served to project director of Jajpur District Rural Development Agency, block development officer of Sukinda, Jajpur town executive engineer (Rural Development-1), executive engineer (electrical) Dhabalgiri, executive engineer (rural water supply and sanitation) and Jajpur district social welfare officer.

Women Help Desks (WHDs)
-Centre is to set up Women Help Desks (WHDs) in ten thousand police stations and for Anti-Human-Trafficking-Units (AHTUs) in the remaining districts of India. The cost to be allocated for the implementation is Rs.100 crores each. The funding out will be of the Nirbhaya Fund.
Proposal: The proposal for the implementation of the project was initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It pursued the project with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- India, Uzbekistan to sign MoUs for military medicine and military education
India and Uzbekistan are planning to sign two memorandum of understanding (MOUs) concerning military medicine and military education. The 2 MoUs were signed during the three-day visit of the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Uzbekistan, the Central Asian nation.

Manoj Pande appointed as Member Staff, Railway Board
-Shri Manoj Pande, Indian Railways Personnel Service (IRPS) has taken over as Member Staff, Railway Board and ex-officio Secretary on 2 November 2019.
-Manoj Pande is a Post Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics, MBA, L.L.B. and holds a Diploma in Russian language from JNU. He has written several articles on Railway Heritage and History. He was the winner of Rs.50 lakhs in the KBC 2007.
Shri Manoj Pande has held various positions with Central Railway and in Diesel Locomotive Works, Western Railway, West Central Railway, South Central Railway, and South Eastern Railway. He served as the Principal Chief Personnel Officer for over 12 years in West Central Railway, South Central Railway and South Eastern Railway. In January 2017, he served as the Executive Director/Advisor (Training & MPP) in Railway Board.

IFFCO introduced Indias first Nanotechnology based fertilizers for on field trials
-The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced its Nano-technology based product range for on-field trials.
- It was launched at a function held in Kalol, Gujarat. The Nano-tech product includes Nano Nitrogen, Nano Zinc, Nano Copper.
The nano products were researched and developed at the IFFCO Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) at Kalol Unit. It has been identified that these nanostructured formulations effectively deliver nutrients to the plants.
-The products aim to improve soil health, reduce emission greenhouse gases. It will also ensure up to a 15-30% increase in crop production and reduce the requirement of conventional chemical fertilizer by 50%. The move is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for doubling the farmer’s income by 2022.

SCO joint exercise on urban earthquake is to be held from 4 to 7 November
The Union home minister Amit Shah is to inaugurate the four-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) joint exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue on 4 November. The exercise is hosted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The exercise will be held from 4 November to 7 November 2019.

**MV Maheshwari container cargo to sail on National Waterway 2, Brahmaputra**
A container cargo consignment vessel MV Maheshwari is to sail on inland waterways from Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) terminal at Pandu in Guwahati on 4 November 2019. The move is to implement the Centre's focus on improving connectivity to the North Eastern Region (NER). It aims to enhance connectivity through the inland waterways across India. The container cargo vessel carrying a consignment of 53 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs).

**Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders**
Ministry of AYUSH launched the National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders (NRIUMSD), which was upgraded from the Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM) at Erragadda, Hyderabad. CRUIUM was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik. The CRIUM proved its success in the treatment of vitiligo and other chronic and stubborn diseases.

**The Election Commission of India**
The Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed Shri B Murali Kumar as Special Expenditure Observer for the Legislative Assembly election of Jharkhand.

**Vigyanika to showcase Science Book Fair at IISF**
Vigyanika is to showcase science communication efforts and concepts through drama, poetry, panel discussions, and paper presentations at the 5th India International Science Festival (IISF). Vigyanika: Vigyanika is an International Science Literature Festival that has been scheduled to be held from 5-7 November 2019.

**Narendra Modi to inaugurate 5th India International Science Festival in Kolkata**
- Narendra Modi will inaugurate fifth India International Science Festival at 4 pm on Tuesday and address a gathering in Kolkata through video conferencing.
- IISF is an annual event organised jointly by science and technology-related ministries and departments of Indian government, Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), which is being held in Kolkata this year.
- This is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015.

**Agriculture Minister releases 5th edition of Wastelands Atlas - 2019**
- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today released the fifth edition of Wastelands Atlas - 2019. The Atlas, published jointly by Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland. It is helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes and schemes.
- Wastelands Atlas-2019 also provides State and district wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area in the country and will be helpful in addressing land degradation.
IBM partners with govt to launch platform for skilling students
- Tech giant IBM announced launch of SkillsBuild platform in collaboration with the Directorate General of Training under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- As part of the programme, a two-year advanced diploma in information technology (IT), networking and cloud computing will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- The platform will also be extended to train ITI and NSTI faculty in artificial intelligence (AI) skills.
- SkillsBuild offers digital learning content from IBM and partners, like CodeDoor, Coorpacademy and Skillsoft.

Finance Minister launches IT initiatives ICEDASH, ATITHI
Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled two new IT initiatives – ICEDASH and ATITHI – for improved monitoring and pace of Customs clearance of imported goods and facilitating arriving international passengers by electronic filing of Customs baggage and currency declarations.

PM Modi inaugurates Global Investors’ Meet in Himachal, pushes for investment
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Himachal Global Investors Meet in Dharamshala and made a pitch for investment and self employment.
- “Earlier, investors’ summit like these used to happen in just few cities in the country. The situation has changed today. Every state today is competing to attract business and investment,” he said at the event held in Dharamshala.
- The prime minister said that the rise in competition among states will help Indian industry grow at the global level.

ADB to give $451 mn for Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor power links
- The Asian Development Bank said it will provide a $451 million (about Rs 3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity between the southern and northern parts of the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- The total cost of the project is $653.5 million, of which the government will provide $202.5 million, the Manila- headquartered multilateral agency said in a release.
- The estimated completion date is the end of 2024.
- ADB has been assisting in developing CKIC, which covers 23 of the state’s 32 districts and 70 per cent of the state population.

Odisha government signs pact with Tata Strive, Tech Mahindra for skill upgradation
- The Odisha state government signed agreements with Tata Strive and Tech Mahindra to add new dimensions in skilling and employability of the youth.
- The agreement between Directorate of Technical Education and Training and Tata Strive is aimed at imparting life skills to the students of all 49 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the state.
- The pact between Tech Mahindra and the Biju Patnaik University of Technology will see setting up of a centre for excellence in artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- It will work on the proof of concept for real-life business problems to keep up with the market demand and enhance employability of engineering students.
• Tech Mahindra and the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation will also set up international business processing outsourcing (BPO) operations for Fortune 500 customers.

India to host ‘No Money For Terror’ meet in 2020
• India will next year host the conference of the “No Money For Terror”, the ministerial-level grouping of 70 countries that focuses on countering terror financing, terror and radicalisation.
• The group, set up in 2018, is a much smaller version of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that has a single-point agenda to crack down on terror financing.
• Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy, made the announcement at the ongoing 2nd ‘No Money For Terror’ Conference in Melbourne
• The first “No Money for Terror” conference was held in France.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine
• Inaugurating 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in New Delhi, Mr Naidu said, there is a need to develop programs and manuals to train citizens in emergency first aid procedures such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation as it will help in saving a life while waiting for emergency services. He also stressed on the need to invest in providing timely and high-quality Emergency Health Services in India.
• The Vice President expressed happiness that the Government of India has made it mandatory for all medical college hospitals to have full-fledged Emergency Departments by 2022 with an aim to improve trauma care. He stressed on the need to include Emergency medicine and trauma care in the curriculum of Undergraduate courses. He added that Medical students must be trained to deal with the whole gamut of situations relating to emergency medicine.

India, Indonesia Hold Joint Naval Exercise "Samudra Shakti" In Bay Of Bengal
• INS Kamorta, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette is jointly exercising with Indonesian Warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role Corvette in the Bay of Bengal as part of the ongoing Indian Navy – Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’
• The joint exercises include manoeuvres, Surface Warfare exercises, Air Defence exercises, Weapon firing drills, Helicopter Operations and Boarding Operations.

Temple to be built on Ayodhya disputed land, alternative land for mosque: SC rules
• The 5 judge bench of Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi has given its verdict on Ayodhya Ram Temple case (Rām Janmabhoomi – Bābrī Masjid Land Title Dispute) on November 09, 2019. Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer were the other 4 members of the bench and the decision passed by the bench was in agreement in 5-0 ratio.
• The decision by the Supreme Court is mentioned below:
• Supreme Court has cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site (area of 2.77 acres) and has given three months time to Central Government to set up a board of trustees for construction of the temple (Ram Temple) at the disputed structure.
• The bench also ruled that the Hindu organisation Nirmohi Akhara would not be the shebait, but would instead get to be a member of the trust.
• SC has directed Centre for arrangement of suitable alternative plot of land measuring 5 acres at Ayodhya for Sunni Waqf Board (for Mosque).
It must be noted that in 2010, Allahabad High Court had divided the 2.77 acres of disputed land in 3 parts. 1/3 going to the Ram Lalla or Infant Rama represented by the Hindu Maha Sabha, 1/3 going to the Sunni Waqf Board and the remaining 1/3 going to Nirmohi Akhara. However, now the SC bench has declared it invalid.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has formally inaugurated the Integrated Check Post of the Kartarpur Corridor.
- PM inaugurates Integrated Check Post and flags off 1st batch of pilgrims at Kartarpur Sahib corridor
- Kartarpur Sahib Corridor is a 4.7 kilometre long passage that connects Dera Baba Nanak Sahib in India’s Gurdaspur and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan’s Kartarpur.
- The corridor will facilitate visa-free movement but Indian pilgrims are required to carry their passports and will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara (Pakistan), which was established by Guru Nanak Dev in 1522.

Indian Railways launches three online applications for all-India rollout to strengthen IT enablement of railways
- Indian Railways has launched three applications for all-India roll out to strengthen its IT-enabled services which will help ensure proper monitoring of projects being undertaken by Railways.
- The applications, namely CRS Sanction Management System, Rail-road crossing GAD approval system and TMS for construction aim at beefing up IT-enabled services.

India’s First Elephant Memorial Opens in UP On Agra-Mathura Highway
- This memorial is a way to honour elephants that lost their lives to illegal trafficking, abuse and cruelty.
- It has been established by NGO, WildLife SOS, at the Elephant Conservation & Care Center, Mathura.

NCRB launches Report on ‘Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India’ (ADSI-2016)
- National Crime Records Bureau stated a total of 11,379 people engaged in the farming sector committed suicide in the year 2016. Maharashtra had the highest number of farmer suicide.
- The suicides in the farming sector comprised 8.7 per cent of the total suicides 1,31,008 in the country.
- All-India suicide rate of 10.3 (per lakh of population) in 2016. In cities suicide rate was 13.0.

Railways conducts ‘world’s largest’ recruitment exercise for 1.27 lakh vacancies
- The railways has successfully conducted one of the “world’s largest recruitment exercises” wherein 2.4 crore application were received for 1.27 lakh vacancies on critical safety and operational posts, the national transporter said Thursday.
- Two recruitment notifications -- one for Assistant Loco Pilots and technician and the other for Level-I (erstwhile group D) posts -- were released in 2018 for filling up about 1.27 lakh vacancies.
- Total Posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs) and technicians were 64,371 and about 47.45 lakhs candidates applied for these posts. Vacancies for Level-I posts (erstwhile group D) were 63,202 and around 1.9 crore candidates applied for these posts.
- A total of around 2.4 crore candidates applied, making it the largest recruitment exercise, the railways said.
Gujarat All Set to Get World’s First CNG Terminal at Bhavnagar Port
• Gujarat Government has given its nod for the establishment of the world’s first CNG port terminal at Bhavnagar.
• The proposal has also been approved by the Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB) under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.
• The proposed investment in the CNG port terminal project is Rs 1900 crore which will be invested by the U.K. based Foresight group and Mumbai based Padmanabh Mafatlal group joint venture.

Defence innovations conference showcasing accomplishments of iDEX to be held in Delhi
• The Ministry of Defence (MoD) organised the conference ‘Def-Connect’ in New Delhi on November 11, 2019 to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative and growth of the defence ecosystem in the country.
• Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest of the event.
• The conference was attended by all stakeholders of the iDEX ecosystem i.e. MoD, iDEX selected startups, Partner Incubators, Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), Nodal agencies (Indian Army, Navy, Airforce), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Indian Ordnance Factories (IOFs), MSMEs and Industry associations.
• Rajnath Singh informed that Prime Minister has set a target of becoming five trillion dollar economy by 2024 and a 10 trillion dollar economy within 10 to 15 years.

Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan” week-long intensive Beach Cleaning Drive in 50 identified beaches of India begin
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has started a mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches under the “Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan” from 11th - 17th November, 2019.
• This is being done to make our beaches clean and create awareness amongst citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems.
• The identified beaches are in 10 coastal States/Union Territories (UTs) namely Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.
• On completion of the drive, best three beaches will be suitably awarded along with a Certificate of Appreciation for all the participating Eco-clubs.

IAF conducts Air-Fest 2019 in Nagpur
• The ‘Air Fest-2019’ was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. It was a part of the 87th anniversary celebrations of the Indian Air Force and the 65th anniversary of the headquarters maintenance command (HQMC).
• The objective of the Air Fest was to showcase the IAF with a view to instill a sense of patriotism and motivate the younger generation to join the IAF.

IOCL gets environmental clearance to set up 2G ethanol plant in Panipat
• Furthering government’s commitment in promoting the use of environmentally friendly products, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given environment clearance to Indian Oil Corporation Limited to set up new 2G Ethanol plant at Panipat.
• The IOCL had submitted a proposal seeking environment clearance for its proposed 100 KLPD Ligno-Cellulosic 2G ethanol plant at Baholi in Panipat district of Haryana.
• The estimated investment in setting up the plant is Rs 766 crore.

About IOCL:
- Industry: Oil and Gas
- Predecessor: Indian Refineries Ltd. (1958), Indian Oil Company (1959)
- Founded: 30 June 1959
- Headquarters: New Delhi (headquarters), Mumbai (registered office)
- Area served: India, Sri Lanka, Middle East, Mauritius
- Chairman: Sanjiv Singh

PM Modi to Visit Brasilia, Brazil to Attend BRICS Summit 2019
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 11th edition of the BRICS summit to be held in Brasilia, Brazil on 13-14 November 2019.
• The theme of the BRICS summit 2019 is “Economic Growth for an Innovative Future.”
• PM Modi will be participating for the sixth time at the BRICS summit. He participated in BRICS summit for the first time at Fortaleza in Brazil in 2014.

Maharashtra under President’s rule for 3rd time
• This comes after Pre-poll allies BJP and the Shiv Sena who had won 161 seats were unable to form the government till such a long time after declaration of result on October 24, 2019.
• In the election, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 105 seats followed by the Shiv Sena 56, the NCP 54 and the Congress 44.
• Overall, this is third time that Maharashtra has come under the central rule.

The inaugural conclave on “National Capital Region -2041” was held in New Delhi
• It was organized by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).
• The theme of the conclave was “Planning for Tomorrow’s Greatest Capital Region”.

Prakash Javadekar gets heavy industries portfolio as Arvind Sawant quits
• Arvind Ganpat Sawant who till now held the portfolio of the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has resigned.
• President Ramnath Kovind has now assigned the portfolio of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises to Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. He is already in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Indian wins BRICS-Young Innovator Prize
• India has received the first prize at BRICS Young Scientist forum’s conclave in Brazil from 6-8 November.
• Ravi Prakash, who is a PhD scholar from Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Dairy Research Institute, has bagged the first position for inventing an affordable indigenously designed milk chilling unit for small to marginal rural dairy farmers.

39th India International Trade Fair to begin in New Delhi
• The Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari, will inaugurate the 39th India International Trade Fair 2019 (IITF 2019) in New Delhi’s Pragati Maidan on November 14, 2019.
• Theme- The theme of the 14-day fair (November 14-27, 2019) is ‘Ease of Doing Business’.
6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance held in New Delhi
- The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance was held in New Delhi on November 12 and 13, 2019.
- The Congress was jointly hosted by Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Welfare and Cooperation.
- APRACA Headquarters- Manila, Philippines

Gov. Gives Nod for Four Medical Device Parks For Affordable Treatment
- The Central government has approved setting up of four medical device parks in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to support Make in India initiative and provide world-class treatment at affordable prices.
- India is largely an importer of medical devices, with domestic industry accounting for about 2 percent (USD 5.2 bn) of the global industry which stands at USD 250 billion.

Food ATMs Come Up In Odisha To Feed Poor
- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has launched the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme which aims at transforming government schools into vibrant and competitive institutions.

UP govt launches e-Ganna app, web portal
- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a web portal and a mobile application named e-Ganna App, for sugarcane farmers of the state.

Sishu Suraksha App launched in Assam
- Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) has launched a mobile app named ‘Sishu Suraksha’ for the protection of rights of children of Assam.

Retail inflation jumps to 16-month high of 4.62% in October on higher food prices; reduces RBI's headroom for rate cut
- India’s retail inflation in October rose to 4.62%, breaching the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) medium-term target of 4% for the first time in 15 months.
- However, core inflation, which reflects demand in the economy, fell sharply due to weak economic conditions.

India pledges $13.5 million to UN in 2020 for development activities
- India has pledged to contribute USD 13.5 million for various operational activities of development across the UN agencies for the year 2020.
- Modi had announced a 14 million dollar grant for community development projects in the CARICOM and another 150 million dollar Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related projects.
- About 16 countries pledged a total of USD 516 million at the 2019 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, representing a considerable increase over 2018 which saw USD 425.69 million promised.

CBI sets up Unit to counter growing menace of child porn
• The Central Bureau of Investigation has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit at its headquarters in New Delhi to counter the growing menace of child porn on the internet.
• The new specialized unit under the Special Crime Investigation Wing of the agency will collect intelligence on those who are allegedly creating and transmitting such material on the internet. The unit also looks an eye on who are browsing and downloading such material.
• The perpetrators will be booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

India to host the 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics in New Delhi
• The 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-VIII) will be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in New Delhi from 18th to 21st November 2019.
• Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra DG ICAR & Secretary DARE informed that the conference will be inaugurated by the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
• Chief Guest will be Bill Gates.
• The conference will be organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, ISI-CAS, FAO, the USDA, ADB, World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Eurostat, AfDB and various other organizations.
• The theme of this year’s ICAS is ‘Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’

DPIIT establishes Development Council for Bicycle
• Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has set up a Development Council for Bicycle for vision planning in design, engineering and manufacturing of lighter, smarter, value added, safe and faster premium bicycles which are comparable with global standards for exports and domestic market.
• A Twenty-three-member Council will be headed by Secretary DPIIT.
• The constitution of the Council is for a period of two years.
• Joint Secretary, Light Engineering Industry Division in DPIIT will be Member-Secretary. The Council will have 9 ex-officio members from DPIIT and Department of Commerce, Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Health and Family Welfare, Road Transport and Highways, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Bureau of Indian Standards.

BNP Paribas mutual fund & Bank of Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund: Merger gets CCI nod.
• Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves merger of BNP Paribas (BNPP) Mutual Fund and the Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund, under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

CSIR-IMTECH signs MOU with IIT Bombay for collaborative research
• CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here today with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote collaborative research.
• The MoU will facilitate exchange of ideas, development of new knowledge and enhance high quality research acumen between the researchers and faculty of both the institutes.
• The objective of this collaboration is to carry out state of the art research in areas of healthcare especially in projects and mission where both the institutes can significantly complement each other.
Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh inaugurating Sisseri River bridge.
• Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was on two-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh on 14-15 November 2019.
• The minister inaugurated the Sisseri River bridge in the state that will connect the Lower Dibang Valley with Siang.
• The 200-metre long bridge is constructed between Jonai-Pasighat-Ranaghat-Roing road in East Siang District.

National Mission ‘NISHTHA’ launched in Jammu and Kashmir
• National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) was launched in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with its formal inauguration by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, SaritaChauhan.
• NISHTHA is a National Mission aimed at “Improving learning outcomes at Elementary level” through Integrated Teacher Trainings.
• It brings competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage to address the diverse needs of children through multiple pedagogies.

National Tribal Festival AadiMahotsav to begin in New Delhi
• Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the National Tribal Festival “AadiMahotsav” in New Delhi.
• The theme of the 15-day Mahotsav being held at DilliHaat in INA, is celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce.
• The tribal textiles manufactured by master tribal craftsmen from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South and from Gujarat in the West to Nagaland/Sikkim in the East will be the main attractions.

NHM Summit on public healthcare systems: SAANS campaign against pneumonia launched
• Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan has launched SAANS Campaign which stands for ‘Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully’.
• The aim of the campaign is to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% deaths annually of children under the age of five.
• The campaign was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat at the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations.
• The HMIS data for 2018-19 ranked Madhya Pradesh on top in the number of child deaths due to pneumonia, followed by Gujarat on second.

Vodafone Idea posts India’s biggest ever quarterly loss at Rs 50,921 crore
• Telecom firm Vodafone Idea has reported a record loss of Rs 50,921 crore for the July-September quarter 2019. This is the highest ever quarterly loss for any Indian company.
• The loss was reported as the company made a provision for the Supreme Court’s ruling on payment of average gross revenue (AGR) dues. Rs 30,774.5 crore was a one-time loss the company incurred due to the recent Supreme Court verdict.
• Reliance Communications posted a mega loss of Rs 30,142 crore, registering India’s second biggest quarterly loss after Vodafone Idea. The firm was mainly hit due to provisioning for liabilities after the Supreme Court ruling on the AGR issue. Anil Ambani has submitted his resignation as
director of Reliance Communications, even as the firm continues to remain under CIRP (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process). Four other directors, including Smt. Chhaya Virani, Ryna Karani, Manjari Kacker and Suresh Rangachar have also submitted their resignation
• Bharti Airtel posted a loss of Rs 23,044 crore for the quarter ended September 30, due to Rs 28,450 crore provisions towards adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues.

Amit Shah inaugurated 2019 Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat
• Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah has inaugurated the 15 day National Tribal Festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ in New Delhi on November 16, 2019.
• The theme of the event is: “A celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce”.  
• The aim of the event is to provide direct market access to the tribal master-craftsmen and women in large metros and state capitals.

National Agrochemicals Congress
• The 1st National Agrochemicals Congress was held in New Delhi between November 13-16, 2019.
• The theme of the event was: Country’s Status on Various Fronts of Agrochemicals.

Mumbai tops Water Quality Report for State Capitals by BIS
• The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has released the Water Quality Report for State Capitals & Delhi as analysed by Bureau of India Standards (BIS).
• Mumbai has topped the ranking, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar share the joint second spot while Ranchi is on the third. Delhi is ranked at 15th.

India successfully conducts first night trial of surface-to-surface medium-range missile Agni-II
• First night trial of surface-to-surface medium-range nuclear-capable missile Agni-II from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast. This test was carried out by the specially formed Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Army with logistic support from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
• The Agni-II is an intermediate-range two-stage ballistic missile (IRBM) which can carry a payload of 1000 kg over a distance of 2000 km.

UP CM Inaugurates North India’s First Ethanol Producing Sugar Mill in Gorakhpur
• Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated North India’s first sugar mill which will produce ethanol direct from sugarcane.
• The Pipraich Sugar Mill inaugurated in Gorakhpur is a unit of Uttar Pradesh Sugar and Sugarcane Development Corporation Limited.

India extends visa-on-arrival facility to UAE nationals
• The Indian government has decided to extend the visa-on-arrival facility to the United Arab Emirates nationals.
• It will be available to UAE nationals for up to 60 days with double entry for business, tourism, conference and medical purposes.
• It will be available only to those UAE nationals who have earlier obtained an e-Visa or a normal paper Visa for India.
• Japan and South Korea are the other two countries whose citizens are offered the visa-on-arrival facility by India.
• Citizens of around 170 countries are given e-Visa facility.

**India Inks $91 Million Loan with ADB for Comprehensive Water Management in Karnataka**
The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed USD 91 million loan under Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program (IWRM)

**Darjeeling Green Tea & White Tea receive GI Tag**
• Darjeeling Tea Association said green and white tea of the hills have been registered as geographical indication (GI) products in the country.
• These two varieties of Darjeeling tea have been registered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999, with effect from October 2019, it said.
• The Tea Board had filed an application in this regard on December 2017, the DTA said.
• This will “strengthen the protection of the intellectual property rights of the Darjeeling tea”, which is considered as “niche and luxury” products in the country and abroad.
• Of the total annual production of 8.5 million kilograms of Darjeeling tea, green tea comprises one million kilogram and white tea one lakh kilogram.

**Joint Exercise between Qatar and India (Zair-Al-Bahr 2019)**
• Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS Trikand and Patrol Aircraft P8-I arrived at Doha for the inaugural edition of the Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za’ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) being conducted from 17 to 21 Nov 19 between the Indian Navy and Qatari Emiri Naval Forces.
• Za’ir-Al-Bahr 2019 would strengthen cooperation and enhance interoperability between the two navies.
• The Exercise will include a three-day Harbour Phase and Two days Sea Phase.
• The activities during the harbour phase will include a seminar, professional interaction, official visits, sports fixtures along with social and cultural events.

**India ranked 59 in IMD World Talent Ranking Report**
• India has been ranked at 59 in the IMD World Talent Ranking out of 63 countries. Switzerland has topped the ranking.
• Denmark was placed second and Sweden was in the third place.

**12th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2019**
• The 12th Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2019 was held from November 15 to 17 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
• The conference was organised by Institute of Urban Transport (IUT) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Urban Development.
• The theme of the conference was “Accessible and liveable Cities”.

**International Principal’s Education Conference (IPEC) Inaugurated in Nagpur**
• The 3-day International Principal’s Education Conference (IPEC) was inaugurated in Nagpur, Maharashtra by the RSS Chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat on November 19, 2019.
• The conference is based on the theme “Scripting the Legends of Human Excellence through Schools.”

Meghalaya-based insurgent group HNLC banned by govt
• The central government of India has banned the Meghalaya-based insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) for its increased activities of violence and other anti-India programmes.
• The notification released by the MHA said “The HNLC along with all its factions, wings and frontal organisations has been banned for their involvement in activities aimed at breaking away those parts of Meghalaya which are inhabited by Khasi and Jainti tribals, from India.”

Lt Col Jyoti Sharma becomes first female JAG officer from Army to be deployed on foreign mission
• Lieutenant Colonel Jyoti Sharma has been appointed as the Indian Army’s female Judge Advocate General officer.
• She became the first female officer from the army to be deployed on a foreign mission.
• Lt Sharma will be appointed as the military legal expert with the government of Seychelles.
• Wing Commander Anjali Singh joined Indian Embassy in Russia as India’s first female military diplomat in an abroad mission in Sep.

Kolkata Becomes First Indian City to Install ‘Third Umpire’ RT-PCR Machines
• The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has installed India’s first-of-its-kind high-end Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) machines for quick detection of diseases like dengue, tuberculosis and swine flu.
• The RT-PCR machines will serve as a ‘third umpire’ in situations when medical reports and blood tests reveal contradictory results.
• These machines will give accurate DNA report on blood tests in order to ascertain the exact cause of illness.

IRCTC Signs MoU with Karnataka Tourism to market & run Golden Chariot train
• Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC), a tourism arm of Indian Railways, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to market and operate the Golden Chariot Train in New Delhi.
• Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) will soon hand over the reins of the train to IRCTC. IRCTC is planning a revamp of the train itineraries also to add different flavours that Karnataka has to offer.
• The new itineraries shall be a mix of history, culture, wildlife and nature. It is proposed to include Bandipur, Mysore, Halebid, Chikmagalur, Hampi, Bijapur and Goa in the itinerary.

Two fast patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard launched
• The vessels, named ICGS Amrit Kaur (102nd warship) and ICGS Kamla Devi after freedom fighters, are the third and fourth in a series of five fast patrol vessels being built by GRSE for the Indian Coast Guard Ships(ICGS).
• These two fast patrol vessels manufactured by Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers for Indian Coast Guard were launched Thursday.
• The vessels are 50 metres long, 7.5 metres wide with a displacement of around 308 tons.
• These ships are designed for a maximum speed of 34 knots with an endurance of more than 1,500 nautical miles.
• ICGS Priyadarshini and ICGS Annie Besant are the first two FPV in the series which has already been delivered to ICGS.
• The last two FPVs namely ICGS Kamla Devi and ICGS Kanaklata Barua will be commissioned shortly, after successful sea trials.

CCEA Approved Bills: November 20
Approvals made by The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on November 20, 2019 are as follows:-
• Establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH
• Ex-post facto approval for the proposal that has been approved under Rule 12 of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 with regard to removing difficulty arising in giving effect to the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019 with regard to section 3 of the Act
• Extension/renewal of the extant Pharmaceuticals Purchase Policy (PPP) with the same terms and conditions while adding one additional product namely, Alcoholic Hand Disinfectant (AHD) to the existing list of 103 medicines till the final closure/strategic disinvestment of the Pharma CPSUs
• Approved the proposal for introducing the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in order to replace the Ordinance.
• Adoption of the Patent Prosecution Highway programme
• Mitigating financial stress being faced by the Telecom Services Sector
• Introduction of International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha, after withdrawal from Rajya Sabha
• Amendments and modifications in the Toll-Operate-Transfer model and securitization of user fee receipts of NH
• ‘In-principle’ approval for strategic disinvestment in select CPSEs: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI), Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Limited (THDCIL) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO)
• Reduction of Government of India equity shareholding in select CPSEs below 51% by retaining management control
• MoU between India and Finland for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism.
• MoU between India and Comoros on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

Kolkata Becomes First City to Install 'Third Umpire' RT-PCR Machines for Speedy Detection of Dengue
• In a major step towards upholding public health, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has installed first of its kind high-end reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) machines in India for quick detection of diseases like dengue, tuberculosis and swine flu.
• These machines are to serve as a ‘third umpire’ in situations when medical reports and blood tests reveal contradictory results. “The purpose is to give accurate DNA report on blood tests in order to ascertain the exact cause of illness,”
• Tests will be conducted free of cost said Deputy Mayor of KMC, Atin Ghosh.
• Four machines have been installed in the initial stages of the project at Hatbagan in North Kolkata, Behala, Jadavpur and at Haji Mohammad Mohsin Square in central part of the city.

India to host 1st counter-terror exercise for Quad countries
• The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will host the first-ever counter-terrorism exercise for the Quad countries, including India, the US, Japan and Australia, here at its headquarters in New Delhi on November 21 and 22.
• The ‘CT-TTX’ (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) would be the first engagement among the four countries to discuss issues of common interest related to counter-terrorism.
• The purpose of the exercise is to assess and validate counter-terrorism response mechanisms in the light of emerging terrorist threats.
• The table-top exercise also aims at improving the inter-agency cooperation between different counter-terrorism and other agencies of the Quad countries.

4-day Northeast festival in Varanasi from November 23
• The 2019 edition of the ‘Destination North East’ Festival will be held at IIT BHU grounds in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
• The festival is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
• A four-day festival showcasing art, culture, cuisine, handicrafts and handlooms of the northeastern region will be held for the first time in Varanasi.
• It will be inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh.
• All 8 Northeastern states will participate the event to display their handicrafts, handloom, organic products and cultural troupes.

Bengaluru is India’s top-ranked city in new global inclusive prosperity index
• Bangalore has emerged highest-ranked Indian city in the first-ever Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICS) Index which features world’s 113 cities in terms of economic and social inclusivity.
• Three Indian city has been listed in the index.
• While Bengaluru is placed at 83rd position, Delhi (101) and Mumbai (107) are the other two Indian cities in the list.
• The index has been topped by Zurich in Switzerland.
• Vienna, Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Helsinki are the top five cities in the index respectively.
• The PICS Index has been commissioned by Basque institutions and compiled by D&L Partners.
• The index is designed to showcase not only the quantity of economic growth of a city but also its quality and distribution across populations

Microsoft rolls out the K12 Education Transformation Framework widely in India
• The Microsoft K-12 Education Transformation Framework provides a holistic framework to facilitate a comprehensive digital transformation of schools.
• It comprises of four pillars-Leadership and Policy; Modern Teaching and Learning; Intelligent Environments and Technology Blueprint.
• Microsoft India launched the framework at the second edition of the Microsoft Education Days, which was participated by more than 700 school leaders, educators, students, and Microsoft partners to deliberate on the future of learning.
• To help school principals initiate their journey of digital transformation, the program will offer a series of workshops based on each of these pillars.
• The Microsoft K-12 Education Transformation Framework is an effective, flexible platform based on the latest research and input from hundreds of academics, experts and policy makers.
• Education leaders in more than 50 countries have already adopted the Microsoft K-12 Education Transformation Framework to help plan their learning strategies in partnership with Microsoft.

Devendra Fadnavis Takes Oath as Chief Minister of Maharashtra for Second Term
• Devendra Fadnavis has taken oath as the Maharashtra Chief Minister for the second term.
• Ajit Pawar of Nationalist Congress Party has been sworn in as the deputy CM.
• President’s Rule, which was imposed in Maharashtra on November 12 under Article 356(1), has been revoked.
• The oath was administered by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Sub Lieutenant Shivangi is the first-ever woman pilot for Navy
• First woman pilot of Indian Navy will join Naval operations in Kochi on December 2, 2019 two days before the Navy Day.
• Shivangi, who had been undergoing training at the Southern Naval Command, will get authorisation on December 2, 2019 to fly Dornier aircrafts.

India ranks 8th in WHO study on physical activity among adolescents
• As per The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health report of the World Health Organisation (WHO), India has been ranked at 8th spot in terms of the lowest level of insufficient physical activity among adolescents.
• Bangladesh tops the list while USA’s adolescents figure fourth on the list of 146 countries. India is ranked eighth with an overall prevalence of insufficient physical activity in adolescents at 73.9 percent.

Army Dedicates Goodwill Park To Celebrated Soldier Lt. Naib Subedar Chuni Lal
• An Army Goodwill Park has been dedicated by the Indian Army as a tribute to the late Naib Subedar Chuni Lal, at his native Dhara village of Bhaderwah in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir.
• The park was inaugurated by the Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Ranbir Singh on November 22, 2019.
• Chuni Lal is the most decorated soldier who was awarded with
  o Sena Medal in 1987
  o Vir Chakra in 2000
  o Ashok Chakra (posthumous) in 2007

World’s biggest Islamic Congregation Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima Begins in Bhopal
• In Madhya Pradesh, the four-day Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima, world’s biggest Islamic Congregation began in Bhopal this morning. More than one million people from 54 countries are expected to attend the congregation which will continue till 25th November.
• Ijtima began in the era of Nawabs in Bhopal and now it has become the identity of Bhopal worldwide.
• The first Alami Tablighi Ijtima took place in Bhopal in 1944.

11th Agrovision: India’s Premier Agri Summit
• The Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 11th edition of Agrovision, an Agricultural exhibition, which is scheduled from 22-25 November, 2019 at Reshimbagh Ground, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
• Agrovision is one of “India’s Premier Agri Summit” to create a prosperous agrarian society where farmers are well informed about the latest practices and agriculture becomes a remunerative and attractive profession.
• The theme of the 11th Agrovision is “Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development”.
• The new Initiatives in 11th Agrovision includes
  o IT in Agriculture
  o Start-Ups in Agriculture
  o International Pavilion
  o MSME Pavilion

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat releases short documentary film "Shikhar se Pukar"
• The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released the short documentary film on Water Conservation titled “Shikhar se Pukar” by author Shri Ravindra Kumar, District Magistrate Bulandshahr.
• The film has been made to promote ‘Jalshakti Abhiyan’ and create awareness about water conservation “Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan”.

Kalaburagi Airport Inaugurated in Karnataka Under UDAN / RCS
• The Chief Minister Of Karnataka Shri B S Yediyurappa inaugurated the Kalaburagi Airport on November 22.
• The airport has been built under the UDAN-RCS Scheme of Government of India.
• With the operation of Kalaburagi airport, the North-east Karnataka region is set to have air connectivity to Bengaluru and the rest of India under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)-Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).

Chitharesh Natesan Becomes first Indian to be crowned Mr Universe 2019
• Delhi-based Chitharesh Natesan from Kerala has become the first Indian to be crowned Mr Universe 2019 title at the 11th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship (WBPF) 2019 held in South Korea from November 5 to 11, 2019.

PM Modi launches Fit India School grading system
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Fit India School grading system in schools across the country on November 24, 2019.
• The Fit India School rankings have been divided into three categories — The Fit India Schools, which is the first level of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star).
Schools can declare themselves as fit by visiting the Fit India portal. Fit India three star and Fit India five star ratings will also be given.

India to host SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators next year
- India has been chosen to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.
- Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Dr. Shekhar Mande.
- SCO has eight full time members namely: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India and Pakistan.

8th International Tourism Mart Organised at Imphal, Manipur
- The 8th International Tourism Mart has been organised at Imphal, Manipur from 23 November to 25 November, 2019.
- The Theme of 2019 International Tourism Mart is “Sustainable Tourism an engine for Economic Growth and Employment”.

India Ranks 44 in Nomura’s Food Vulnerability Index (NFVI) 2019
- India has been ranked 44 among 110 countries in Food Vulnerability Index (NFVI) 2019, compiled by Nomura Global Market Research.
- The NFVI ranks countries on the basis of their exposure to large swings in food prices.
- The higher the rank, the worse is the case.

AIIA signs MoU with Western Sydney University to promote Ayurveda
- The New Delhi based All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Western Sydney University, Australia.
- The MoU will promote collaboration in research and help in developing guidelines for integrating Ayurveda principles with modern medicine.
- The exchange of MoU took place on the occasion of the event ‘India- Australia International Education and Research Workshop’ held at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

National Tribal Craft Mela 2019 inaugurated in Bhubaneswar
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 7-day long National Tribal Craft Mela-2019 in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha on November 23, 2019.

Indian Army conduct ‘Epic Run 2019’ in West Bengal
- Indian Army conducted the ‘Epic Run 2019’ at Pedong, West Bengal on November 23, 2019 in recognition and respect for the soldiers and their Next of Kin (NOK).
- The Indian Army is commemorating the Year 2019 as the ‘Year of NOK’ (YoNoK).

OECD predicts India’s GDP growth rate in 2020 at 6.2%
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has made the following GDP growth rate predictions for India:
  - 2019- 5.8%
  - 2020- 6.2%
  - 2021- 6.4%
• The projections were made in the OECD Economic Outlook’s second edition.

Sangai Festival 2019 Commences in Manipur (21st to 30th November)
• In Manipur, week-long Manipur Sangai Festival 2019 started from Sunday.
• The ‘Festival’ is named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
• The festival is organized by the State Tourism Department and biggest festival held annually to promote tourism.
• The formal inaugural function of the festival was held at Hapta Kangjeibung at Imphal this evening.
• During the festival, cultural programmes, traditional games, folk dance and classical music will be performed by different communities of the State as well as from other States.
• The festival will conclude on the 30th of this month.

Etawah Lion Safari in Uttar Pradesh opened for public
• The Uttar Pradesh based Etawah Lion Safari, which was formerly known as Etawah Safari Park and officially as Lion Breeding Center and Multiple Safari Park, Etawah has been opened for public without the lion segment, with effect from November 24, 2019.
• The Safari was inaugurated by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan.
• It is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia, spread over an area of 350 hectares (860 acres).
• The Etawah lion safari is the first in India to have a lion breeding centre set up with an aim to develop research facility on Asiatic lions.

70th Constitution Day for India
• The yearlong nationwide activities on Constitution Day are being launched to mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, beginning November 26, 2019.
• The day 26th November is celebrated every year as Constitution Day (also known as ‘Samvidhan Divas’).
• These activities aim to reiterate and reorient the citizens towards the values and principles expressed in the Indian Constitution and encouraging all Indians to play their rightful role in strengthening the Indian Democracy.
• The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

Maharashtra CM Fadnavis resigns
• Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputy Ajit Pawar on Tuesday resigned from their posts ahead of the floor test ordered by the Supreme Court.
• The NCP, the Congress and the Shiv Sena meanwhile unanimously elected Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray as the chief ministerial candidate.
• The MVA has the support of 162 MLAs in the house of 288 and has approached the Governor to stake claim to form the government under Thackeray’s leadership.

She Shuttles Bus Services in Hyderabad
• Government of Telangana and Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) Launched She Shuttles Bus Services in Hyderabad for women employees in the IT corridor in the Cyberabad area was launched on 29th June 2015.
• The She Shuttles bus services will run on all the main roads, connecting Hitech City, Madhapur, Gachibowli, Kondapur and other areas from 8 am to 11 pm.
• One bus covers 8 km in the Inorbit-Mind Space-Cyber Tower route and another covers 12 km in the Hitech City railway station-Shilparamam-Kondapur-Gachibowli-Wipro Junction route
• The She Shuttles Bus Mobile app was developed and deployed by Votary Tech, officials said.
• The SCSC officials said that with the smart phone app the passengers can see the location of the bus and track its movement.
• SHE-Shuttles is yet another step forward towards making Hyderabad Safer and Smarter.

Indian Railway Set up Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) in Hyderabad
• The Indian Railways has set up the Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) at Moula-Ali, Secunderabad, in Hyderabad district of Telangana.
• The new entity, IRIFM, will impart professional training in management of railway finances.
• The institute was formally inaugurated by Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board.
• Rail Vikas Nigam Limited conceived and constructed the project, on a 14-acre campus at a cost of Rs 85 crore.
• IRIFM is a green building that can generate 90% of its own power needs with solar installations on the campus besides a water-recycling plant.

“Finding a Gaps” authored by Simon Taufel released
• Simon Taufel is a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year and has been a part of ICC’s Elite Panel of Umpires, till he retired in 2012.

DoT sets up committee to examine the impact of telecom tariff hikes
• The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has set up an internal committee to examine the impact of the increase in tariff hikes that Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel, and Reliance Jio have announced and will come into effect on December 1.
• This committee of secretaries is headed by the Cabinet Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba and is looking at providing appropriate relief.

Remembering 26/11
• In remembrance of 26/11, the internet paid emotional tributes on the 11th year of the Mumbai attacks.
• Around 166 people died as a result of the attack and over 300 were injured. Several officials including Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Sub-Inspector Tukaram Omble, Mumbai Anti Terrorist Squad Chief Hemant Karkare, Havalidar Gajendra Singh and Inspector Vijay Salaskar, were killed.

India Ratings projects India’s GDP growth for FY20 at 5.6%
• Fitch group firm India Ratings and Research has projected India’s GDP Growth rate for FY20 (2019-20) at 5.6%. Earlier this prediction was 6.1%.
• The new projection suggests that 2QFY20 (second quarter of 2019-20) GDP growth is likely to be 4.7 percent.

India to host naval drill Milan 2020 in March
The Indian Navy will host military drill ‘Milan 2020’ in March which will witness the participation of several countries, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said.

In a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Naik said 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.

The countries to whom invitations have been sent are Indonesia, France, Mozambique, Sudan, Israel, Qatar, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Somalia, Kenya, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Myanmar, New Zealand, USA, Tanzania, Comoros, Maldives, Brunei, Philippines, Japan, UK, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Mauritius, Cambodia, Singapore, South Korea, South Africa, Kuwait, Iran, Madagascar, Bangladesh, Russia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Bahrain, UAE and Seychelles.

CII bestows India’s first Quality Ratna award on Chairman of Sundram Fasteners’, Mr Suresh Krishna

The Chairman of Sundram Fasteners Ltd Suresh Krishna has been awarded the ‘Quality Ratna’ award by trade body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The award was given by the CII Institute of Quality during its 27th Quality Summit held in Bengaluru.

The Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda presented the award to Mr. Krishna.

Uddhav Thackeray takes oath as Maharashtra CM

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Maharashtra at Shivaji Park in Mumbai after he was named as the leader of the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance called the ‘Maha Vikas Aghadi’.

Uddhav is the first Thackeray family member to become Maharashtra’s CM. Governor BD Koshyari will administer oath to Uddhav.

47th All India Police Science Congress Organised in Lucknow

The All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) began at DGP headquarter in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on November 28, 2019.

The two-day 47th AIPSC was inaugurated by Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi.

The event has been organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).

Lucknow is hosting the event for the second time, since the inception of the Annual Mind Churning exercise in 1960. It last hosted the AIPSC in 1997.

LS passes Bill to merge Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu UTs

The Lok Sabha passed the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019.

The Bill was introduced in Lower House of the Parliament by Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy.

Merger of the two Union Territories (UTs) located along western coast, was proposed for better administration.

DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar commences on 26 Nov
• A two-day seminar “DEFCOM INDIA 2019” took place in New Delhi on November 26-27, 2019.
• The theme of the seminar was “Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness”.
• It was jointly organized by Corps of Signals, Indian Army and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) / Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

National University of Singapore tops QS World University Asia Rankings 2020; IIT Bombay top Indian
• The National University of Singapore has been named Asia’s best university in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Asia Rankings 2020.
• From India, IIT Bombay is the top-ranked institute at 34th rank. IIT-Delhi (IIT-D) dis ranked at 43. India has 96 universities ranked.
• Nanyang Technological University is on second and the University of Hong Kong is on third.

Uddhav Thackeray takes oath as Chief Minister of Maharashtra
• Uddhav Bal Thackeray has sworn-in as the 19th chief minister of Maharashtra.
• He is the president of Shiv Sena. He was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at a grand ceremony held at the Shivaji Park.
• Uddhav Thackeray is the first member from Thackeray family to become the Chief Minister and the third Shiv Sena leader to hold the top post after Manohar Joshi and Narayan Rane.
• Thackeray had been unanimously elected as the leader of the tri-party alliance — Maha Vikas Aghadi.

India successfully test fires Spike anti-tank missiles in MP
• In Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Army has successfully test fired two Spike long-range anti-tank missiles at Mhow.
• Army Chief General Bipin Rawat and several commanders witnessed the firing of the newly acquired missiles.
• Spike is a fourth generation missile which can engage any target with precision at ranges up to 4 kilo metres.
• The Spike long-range anti-tank missiles will bolster the Army’s fire power capability.

PM Modi announces $400-mn line of credit to Sri Lanka to boost development
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced Line of Credit (LoC) worth USD 400 million to Sri Lanka to boost the island nation’s development.
• Beside this, India will also extend 50 million dollars Line of Credit to Sri Lanka to fight terrorism.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Launches three books for children authored by Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain
• The Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ launched three books namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition) in New Delhi on November 27, 2019.
• These three books are a collection of stories for children and has been authored by popular writer of children’s books and travelogues and 1985 batch IAS, Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain.
• The book brings out environmental issues and topics like socio-cultural unity & cultural heritage in a very simple and interesting manner.

India Ranks 12th among 61 nations in 2019 Global Diplomacy Index, China Tops
China has overtaken the United States in 2019 Global Diplomacy Index, for having more diplomatic posts across the world than any other country, as per the Australian think tank Lowy Institute.

According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, China has 276 embassies and consulates worldwide, which is three more than the US.

India is 12th among the 61 countries with 186 embassies and consulates worldwide.

United States (273), France (267), Japan (247), and Russia (242) makes the top five nations in the index.

Government appoints Deloitte as advisor for BPCL stake sale

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has appointed Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd as advisor for the strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

Completion of the stake sale in India’s second-largest state-owned oil refiner by March 2020 could help the government mobilise more than Rs 60,000 crore, or $8.4 billion, and narrow the fiscal deficit.

Mukesh Ambani becomes 9th richest person in the world with net worth of $60.6 bn

As per the Forbes ‘The Real-Time Billionaires List’ released on November 28, 2019, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has become the 9th richest person across the globe, having net worth of $60.6 billion.

He was ranked at 13th position with $50 billion wealth in March 2019 and made a gain of over $10 billion in just eight months to be placed at 9th position.

This progress comes as Reliance Industries, the country’s most valued firm, became the first Indian company to touch Rs 10 lakh crore market capitalisation (m-cap).

Ambani has overtaken Google’s Larry Page ($59.6 bn), Michael Bloomberg ($54.7 bn), Charles Koch ($42.8 bn) and David Koch ($42.8 bn).

Top 5 wealthiest person in the list are:
1. Jeff Bezos – Amazon ($112 billion)
2. Bernard Arnault & family – LVMH ($107.2 billion)
3. Bill Gates – Microsoft ($107.1 bn)
4. Warren Buffett – Berkshire Hathaway ($86.9 billion)
5. Mark Zuckerberg – Facebook ($74.9 billion)

Former RBI deputy governor H R Khan to head micro-finance panel CRL

Shri. H R Khan has been appointed as the first chairman of the steering committee of the Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) in micro-credit. HR Khan is a Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan had jointly unveiled the ‘Code for Responsible Lending’ (CRL) for the micro-credit industry in September 2019.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to inaugurate 3rd Military Literature Festival

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the third edition of the three-day Military Literature Festival (MLF) in Chandigarh from December 13-15, 2019.

The MLF is a joint initiative of the Indian Army with the Punjab government and the Chandigarh administration.

It will present an international-level forum to foster exchange of knowledge about military literature and associated works, besides acquainting youths with the glorious military heritage.
Joint Military Training (JMT) between India and Singapore held in West Bengal
• The 10th edition of joint military training (JMT) between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) is being held at Kalaikunda Air Force Station, West Bengal from Oct 31 to Dec 12.
• Sea training component has been introduced for the first time in the joint military training (JMT).

BANKING AND ECONOMICS

Nomura slashes India’s FY20 GDP forecast to 4.9% from 5.7% earlier
• Japanese brokerage firm Nomura has cut its GDP forecast for India to 4.9 percent for FY20 from 5.7 percent earlier.
• For 2020-21 (FY21) Nomura has predicted India’s GDP Growth rate at 6.1%.

Exim Bank gives USD 30 mn line of credit to Ghana
• The Export-Import (Exim) Bank has granted USD 30 million line of credit (LoC) (about Rs 210 crore) to Ghana for potable water project in the country.
• This LoC (soft loan or loan with low interest rate) will be used for financing rehabilitation and upgradation of potable water system in Yendi.

RBI instructs banks not to charge for online transactions in the NEFT from January 2020.
The Reserve Bank of India has taken the following steps to promote digital payments:
• Mandate banks not to charge savings bank account customers for online transactions in the NEFT system with effect from January 2020.
• Operationalise the Acceptance Development Fund to increase acceptance infrastructure with effect from January 1, 2020.
• Constitute a Committee to assess the need for plurality of QR codes and merits of their co-existence or convergence from both systemic and consumer viewpoints.
• Permit all authorised payment systems and instruments (non-bank PPIs, cards and UPI) for linking with National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTags. Going forward, this will facilitate the use of FASTags for parking, fuel, etc., payments in an interoperable environment.
• Enable processing of e-mandates for transactions through UPI.

PayNearby partners with Equitas Small Finance Bank for launching micro ATMs at retail shops
• PayNearby, the hyperlocal fintech network builder, has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Equitas Small Finance Bank for launching its own micro ATMs at retail shops.
• This has been done to address the issue of money dispensing machines running dry, and PayNearby aims to deploy 1 lakh terminals in the first year.
PayNearby’s micro ATM is a cost effective and a smart cash management tool for small retail stores and traders who deal in large chunks of cash on a daily basis.

**SBI Report predicts India’s GDP for FY20 at 5% and FY21 at 6.2%**
- An SBI research report has predicted the GDP Growth rate of India for 2019-20 (FY20) at 5%. Earlier the projection was 6.1%.
- As per the report, India is expected to grow at 6.2% in 2020-21 (FY21).

**NCDEX ties up with NSE Indices to launch AGRIDEX, India’s first agri index**
- National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has partnered with NSE Indices Limited and launched India’s first agri index — ‘NCDEX Agridex’, for easy reference to price variations in agricultural commodities.
- The AGRIDEX tracks and replicates the performance of the ten most liquid commodities traded on the NCDEX’s platform.

**Rs 12,000 crore Nadu-Nedu programme in Andhra Pradesh**
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy launched the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6 in state-run schools.
- Under the scheme, the government will transform all its schools with the required infrastructure, including setting up English Labs, besides providing basic amenities like furniture, toilets, running water, compound wall, blackboard, renovation.
- In the first phase, the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme will be implemented in 15,715 schools. It will cover all schools in three years under a budget of Rs 12,000 crores. For the first year in the initial phase, Rs 3,500 crores will be spent for infrastructure development, according to an official statement.

**NCAER predicts India’s GDP growth at 4.9% in FY20**
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has predicted India’s GDP growth rate for 2019-20 (FY20) at 4.9%.
- This comes a day after Moody’s cut its calendar year 2019 GDP forecast for India to 5.6 per cent from 6.2 per cent.

**Satya Nadella tops Fortune’s Businessperson of the Year 2019 list**
- Microsoft’s Chief Executive Officer SatyaNadella has topped the Fortune’s Businessperson of the Year 2019 list. The list features 20 Businesspersons.
- Elizabeth Gaines of Fortescue Metals Group is on second, Brian Niccol is on third.
- Ajay Banga the CEO of Mastercard is the top Indian in the list and is ranked at 8th spot. JayshreeUllal of Arista is ranked at 18th.

**OECD cuts global GDP growth outlook to 2.9% in 2020**
- In its latest economic outlook report released on Thursday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) trimmed the global economic growth forecast to 2.9% in 2020, while the outlook for 2019 remained unchanged, also at 2.9%. The 2020 figure was cut from a 3% forecast in September and marks the lowest growth rate since the financial crisis.
- The outlook for the US was also revised from 2.4% to 2.3%, while the figure for next year has remained the same. Euro area’s growth was revised up by 0.1 points to 1.1% in 2019 and 1.1% in
2020. In China, the growth rate drop will be sharper, the report indicated, from 6.2% in 2019 to 5.7% in 2020.

- Also, OECD sees the global economic growth edging back up to 3% in 2021.

**RBI expands scope of SNRR account to popularise rupee in cross-border transactions**

- The Reserve Bank of India has expanded the scope of SNRR Account by permitting person resident outside India to open such account.
- Before this, only a person resident outside India, having a business interest in India, was authorised to open a Special Non-Resident Rupee Account (SNRR account) with an authorised dealer for the purpose of putting through bona fide transactions in rupees.
- Now RBI has expanded the scope of SNRR Account by permitting person resident outside India to open such account for:
  a. External Commercial Borrowings in INR;
  b. Trade Credits in INR;
  c. Trade (Export/ Import) Invoicing in INR; and
  d. Business related transactions outside International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) by IFSC units at GIFT city like administrative expenses in INR outside IFSC, INR amount from sale of scrap, government incentives in INR, etc. The account will be maintained with bank in India (outside IFSC).
- Also, earlier there was a restriction that No operations are permissible in the account after seven years from the date of opening of the account. Now this restriction of 7 years has been removed.

**RBI imposes penalty on three co-operative banks**

- The Reserve Bank of India penalised three cooperative banks — Nesargi Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Krishna PattanaSahakar Bank Niyamitha and Ron Taluka Primary Teachers’ Cooperative Credit Bank Limited — for non-submission of returns under Section 27 (2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Krishna PattanaSahakar Bank Niyamitha was fined Rs 40,000 while Nesargi Urban Co-operative Bank Limited and Ron Taluka Primary Teachers’ Cooperative Credit Bank was fined Rs 20,000 each.
- RBI said this action was in exercise of the powers vested in it under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (as applicable to cooperative societies) for non-submission of the returns under Section 27 (2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS).
- The Reserve Bank of India said it had issued a show-cause notice to the banks, in response to which the bank sought personal hearing.

**RBI announces the Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries**

The Reserve Bank of India has announced the revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries 2019-2022 to improve financial stability and economic cooperation within the SAARC region.
- The Framework is valid from November 14, 2019 to November 13, 2022. Based on the terms and conditions of the Framework, the RBI would enter into bilateral swap agreements with SAARC central banks, who want to avail swap facility.
- SAARC Currency Swap Facility came into operation on November 15, 2012. SAARC has 8 member countries.
Government to Merge 3 UP RRBs to form Baroda UP Bank
• The Ministry of Finance has decided to amalgamate three regional rural public sector banks of Uttar Pradesh namely Baroda Uttar Pradesh Grameen Bank, Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank and Purvanchal Bank into a single regional rural bank.
• These banks will be amalgamated on April 1, 2020 and will be called Baroda UP Bank.
• The Bank of Baroda will sponsor the new Baroda UP Bank and will be headquartered at Gorakhpur.
• Currently, Bank of Baroda is the sponsor of Baroda Uttar Pradesh Grameen Bank, Union Bank of India is the sponsor of Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank and State Bank of India is the sponsor of Purvanchal Bank.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Madhuri Vijay won the 2019 JCB Prize for Literature
Madhuri Vijay won the 2019 JCB Prize for Literature for her novel The Far Field. Sir Mark Tully announced the winner in a live broadcast on social media.

Serbia’s Sara Damnjanovic wins “Miss Asia Global title 2019”
The 5th Edition of ‘Miss Asia Global Title 2019’ was organized at Gokulam Convention centre in Kochi, Kerala. Sara Damnjanovic from Serbia has been crowned ‘Miss Asia Global 2019’. The title is given to the winner from the Asian region. Nguyen Thi Yen Trang from Vietnam was awarded the Miss Asia title given to the winner from the rest of the world. Samiksha Singh from India won the sub-title of ‘Miss Beautiful Face’ Title. The Next ‘Miss Asia Global Title 2020’ will be held in Malaysia.

West Bengal based writer Abhisek Sarkar wins award at Dhaka Lit-fest
• The ninth edition of the Dhaka Lit-fest started with a galaxy of writers and book lovers thronging the venue ground at the Bangla Academy.
• Over the three day of the festival 200 speakers, performers and thinkers, will take part in discussions on diverse topics.
• The special focus of this year’s lit-fest is on Indigenous Languages as the UNESCO has marked 2019 as the year of Indigenous Language Protection.
• Iconic Bangla author Shankar is the festival highlight of Bangla literature this year.
• On the first day of the event, West Bengal-based writer Abhisek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award.
• Abhisek and Rofiquzzaman won the awards for their manuscripts, “Nishiddho” and “Dhoashar Tamate Rong,” respectively.

Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari to be awarded Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by PCI
• Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism
• The award will be presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day.

**Dr Cyrus Poonawalla conferred with ABLF Lifetime Achievement Award.**

• In a befitting celebration that complements the ‘Year of Tolerance’, the 12th edition of the Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) presented its prestigious ABLF Awards to visionary leaders from across Asia, who inspire and set high standards in leadership excellence.
• Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, founder and chairman of Serum Institute of India, was conferred with the ABLF Lifetime Achievement Award in Dubai, UAE at a glittering ceremony on Thursday.
• It was in 1966, that Dr Poonawalla embarked on his journey to establish Serum Institute of India, which is now the world’s largest producer of vaccines by number of doses, producing at least 1.5 billion doses a year of life-saving vaccines used in over 170 countries to combat infection from rabies, measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, tuberculosis, influenza, meningitis, rotavirus and hepatitis B vaccines among others, thus saving the lives of at least 40 million, mostly under-privileged children across the globe, who would have otherwise perished without the availability of affordable vaccines.
• Recently Dr Poonawalla, was also conferred with the prestigious 'Degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa' by the University of Oxford, UK at a ceremony in June.
• He was also conferred with the honorary degree of 'Doctor of Humane Letters' by the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA last year for his outstanding contribution in improving the public health for all communities.

11. Tobacco Board of India awarded the Golden Leaf award 2019 in the ‘Public Service Initiative’ category at Tab Expo 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Manoj Bajpayee’s ‘Bhonsle’ Wins Two Awards At The Asian Film Festival Barcelona**

• Manoj Bajpayee starrer critically acclimed movie Bhonsle has won two prestigious awards at the Asian Film Festival Barcelona.
• The Devashish Makhija directed film Bhonsle won Best Screenplay and Best Director awards at the festival.
• The Barcelona Asian Film Festival was the 7th edition featuring more than a hundred films from 25 countries of the Asian continent.

**Greta Thunberg and Divina Maloum receive 15th International Children’s Peace Prize**

• This year, there are two different winners.
• Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg (16) and peace activist Divina Maloum (15) received the prize from Nobel Peace Prize recipient and human rights advocate Kailash Satyarthi.
• Last year, for the first time, the prize was awarded not to an individual, but to a collective (March For Our Lives)

**Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 Awards**

• The top ranked state in the list is Tamil Nadu.
• The top ranked district is Peddapalli (Telangana).
• The state with the maximum citizen participation was given to Uttar Pradesh.
• Corporates for contribution under the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign 2019 are Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA), Hindustan Unilever Limited and AMUL

**Sub Lieutenant Shivangi, 24, first woman pilot of Indian Navy to join duty on December 2**
• Shivangi, hailing from Muzzafarpur, Bihar, has created history by becoming the first Indian woman pilot to join the Indian Navy.
• She is set to join naval operations on December 2 in Kochi, two days ahead of Navy Day, which falls on December 4.
• Shivangi will join naval operations as a Lieutenant on completion of her operational training which she has been undergoing at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
• After the training, Shivangi will get authorisation to fly dornier aircrafts with effect from December 2.
• Till now, the Indian Navy’s Aviation branch has had women officers operating as air traffic control officers and as ‘observers’ in the aircraft who are responsible for communication and weapons.

Eliud Kipchoge, the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, and 400 metres hurdles world champion Dalilah Muhammad won the World Athlete of the Year awards.
• Kipchoge, claimed governing body World Athletics’ year-ending prize in Monaco after making history last month when he ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec. American Muhammad won her award after a magnificent year that saw her set a world record of 52.20 seconds at the US Trials in Iowa in July breaking a record that had stood since 2003.

Sangram Dahiya & Varsha Varman win double trap national titles at 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship
• Sangram Dahiya of Haryana has clinched double trap titles to win gold in men’s category at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.
• In women’s category, Varsha Varman of Madhya Pradesh won the double trap gold.
• Besides this, both Sangram and Varsha also won the team gold for their respective States.

Odia Weightlifter Jhili Dalabehera Bags Prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar 2019
• Odisha-based globally acclaimed weightlifter Jhili Dalabehera has been named for the prestigious Ekalabya Award 2019.
• JhiliDalabehera has won two gold, three silver and one bronze medals in international weightlifting events between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2019 to emerge as the clear winner for the 27th Ekalabya Award.
• The annual award is instituted by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT) and comprises a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation.

IFFI awards 2019: Complete list of winners:
• Golden Peacock Award: Particles
• Best Director Award: Lijo Jose Pellissery (Jallikattu)
• Best Actor (Male) Award: Seu Jorge (Marighella)
• Best Actor (Female) Award: Usha Jadhav (Mai Ghatt: Crime No. 103/2005)
• Special Jury Award: Balloon by Pema Tseden
• Best Debut Feature Film of a Director: Amin Sidi Boumediene for Abou Leila, Marius Olteanu for Monsters
• ICFT –UNESCO Gandhi Medal: Rwanda
• Special mention: Hellaro

Malayalam poet Akkitham wins Jnanpith Award 2019
Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri has won the Jnanpith Award 2019. He is popularly known by the name “Akkitham”.

He is the sixth literary personality from Kerala to achieve the Jnanpith Award. This was the 55th edition of the award.

Akkitham has published more than 45 books based on poetry, anthologies, plays and short stories.

The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their “outstanding contribution towards literature”.

**SPORTS**

- **Barcelona Players Offered To Alter Contracts To Re-Sign Neymar**
  Gerard Pique has said Barcelona players offered to alter their own contracts to help the club buy Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain last summer. Barca attempted to re-sign Neymar, sold to PSG for a world record 222 million euros ($249 million) in 2017, but the two teams were unable to agree a deal. Key players, including Lionel Messi, were eager for the Brazilian to return and Pique says they tried to help the club’s president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, complete the transfer while satisfying UEFA’s Financial Fair Play rules.

- **Lewis Hamilton Tops Charts In United States Grand Prix 2nd Practice As Sixth World Title Beckons**
  Lewis Hamilton needs only to finish in the top eight at the United States Grand Prix to be champion even if his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas wins the race.

  Ashleigh Barty claimed the 2019 WTA Finals in China
  Australian tennis player and world number one Ashleigh Barty claimed the 2019 WTA Finals in China. She defeated Elina Svitolina of Ukraine and smashed the title. She has claimed the record-breaking prize money of $4.42 million. The prize money is considered as the biggest ever amount in men's or women's tennis. She secured 6-4, 6-3, to claim the prestigious 2019 WTA Finals title

- **Novak Djokovic won the Paris Masters 2019 title**
  Novak Djokovic won the Paris Masters 2019 title. He won the title for the fifth time. He sealed his 34th Master’s title and fifth overall ATP victory of the year 2019. He defeated Canada's Denis Shapovalov. He secured 6-3 6-4 to win the title.

- **McDonald’s ousts CEO over consensual relationship with employee**
  McDonald’s chief executive officer has been pushed out of the company after violating company policy by engaging in a consensual relationship with an employee.

- **Pakistan embassy in Kabul closes visa section amid tensions**
  Closure of the visa section will come as a huge blow for many Afghans, hundreds of whom apply daily for permits to travel to Pakistan where they seek medical treatment, goods and university educations.
Pakistan’s embassy in Kabul said Sunday it was indefinitely closing its consular office in the Afghan capital due to security reasons, amid mounting tensions between the neighbouring countries. Closure of the visa section will come as a huge blow for many Afghans, hundreds of whom apply daily for permits to travel to Pakistan where they seek medical treatment, goods and university educations.

**Asian Shooting Championships: Manu Bhaker Shoots Gold After Deepak Kumar Bags Olympic Quota**
- Deepak Kumar secured India’s 10th Olympic quota in shooting while Manu Bhaker claimed the women’s 10m air pistol gold medal in the 14th Asian Championship.
- Deepak won bronze medal in men’s 10m air rifle on the opening day of the championship.
- China’s Qian wang and Ranxin Jiang won the silver and bronze respectively in Bhaker’s event.
- The Indian trio claimed the team bronze with a total of 1731, behind Korea and China respectively.

**Women’s boxing icon Adams retires due to medical advice**
- Two-time Olympic champion Nicola Adams, regarded as the pathfinder for women’s boxing, is to retire because of fears about her sight.
- The 37-year-old, who became the first ever women’s Olympic boxing champion at London 2012 when she took the flyweight crown, said she was abandoning her hopes of winning a third gold next year in Tokyo.
- Adams, who successfully defended her title in Rio, had embarked on a successful professional career and in 2018, within 18 months of doing so, had won a world title — the vacant WBO flyweight belt.

**India to host 2023 Men’s Hockey World Cup**
- After successfully hosting the 2018 men’s hockey World Cup, India will once again stage the 2023 edition of the tournament.
- India will become the first country to host consecutive World Cups after being awarded the hosting rights for the men’s 2023 edition.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced the decision on Friday following recommendations of a Task Force formed to assess the bids for the same. While the men’s event would be held from January 13-29, 2023.
- Spain and the Netherlands have been named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women’s World Cup scheduled to be held from 1st to 22nd of July.

**France Defeats Australia to Win the Fed Cup**
- France defeated Australia, 3-2, to claim their first Fed Cup title in 16 years, held in Perth, Australia.
- Fed Cup is an international team competition in women’s tennis.
- Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic of France surpassed Ashleigh Barty and Samantha Stosur, 6-4, 6-3, winning the deciding doubles match to break the tie.
- This was France’s third Fed Cup title and first since they beat the United States in 2003.
- However, Australia has till date lost all nine of the last Fed Cup finals they have appeared in.

**Kento Momota Defends Fuzhou China Open Badminton Title of 2019**
- Japan’s World number one Kento Momota defeated Chou Tien-Chen of Taiwan to win 2019 Fuzhou China Open men’s single badminton title.
• With this win, he claimed his 10th title of the year 2019.
• In women’s single, Home hope Chen Yufei claimed victory over Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara to win the title.

Shafali Verma youngest Indian to score international fifty
• The 15-year-old Shafali Verma has created history as she became the youngest Indian cricketer to score a half-century in international cricket, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar’s 30-year-old record.
• Shafali achieved the feat while playing T20 International against West Indies at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium.
• She scored 73 off 49 balls to reach her maiden fifty at the age of 15 years and 285 days.
• The batting legend Tendulkar scored his maiden Test fifty at 16 years and 214 days.

Javelin thrower Sundar Singh won gold in World Para Athletics Championships
• Javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar has won India’s second gold defending his World Para Athletics Championships title in the men’s F46 javelin throw event in Dubai. With this, India has secured three Tokyo Paralympic Games quota, along with the bronze winner Ajeet Singh and Rinku.
• India now have two gold, two silver and a bronze in the Championships.

2019 World Kabaddi Cup to be held from December 1 to 9 in Punjab
• Punjab government will organise the 2019 World Kabaddi Cup from December 1 to 9, 2019.
• The tournament would be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev ji.
• Nine teams – India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan and Canada — are expected to take part in the tournament.

India Finishes Fourth in Medal Tally with 26 Medals in 2019 Asian Shooting Championships
The 14th edition of the Asian Shooting Championships, 2019 was held from 5 to 13 November 2019 in Doha, Qatar.
• India won total 26 medals (5G-10S-11B) to be placed at fourth spot in the medal table.
• China stood first with highest number of medals (45), followed by South Korea (21) and North Korea (11).

Luka Modric Wins The 2019 Golden Foot Award
• Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric has been announced as the 17th winner of the 2019 Golden Foot Award.
• The Golden Foot Award is an international football award given to active players of at least 28 years of age for their outstanding on-field achievements, both as an individual and a team player and for their personality.

Arsene Wenger to head FIFA’s Global Football Development
• In his new role, Wenger will be chiefly responsible for overseeing and driving the growth and development of the sport for both men and women around the world.
• He will also be the leading authority on technical matters, both as a member of the Football and Technical Advisory Panels involved in The IFAB’s review and decision-making process on potential changes to the Laws of the Game
• Leaning on a highly distinguished coaching career, Wenger’s role will include a particular focus on coach education, while he will also offer invaluable contributions to an executive programme –
currently in its inception phase – tailored to encourage former professional players to enter management and which will support them through the post-career transition and bridge the gap between managerial and technical positions in football.

India’s first-ever day-night pink ball Test match to be played at Kolkata’s Eden Gardens from November 22
• In a historic move, the first-ever day-night pink ball Test match on Indian soil will be held at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata from 22–26 November 2019 against Bangladesh.
• India has not played a day-night Test match before. For Bangladesh also, it will also mark their debut test with the pink ball on the international stage.

Harmeet Desai Wins 2019 Indonesia Open TT Championship
• In table tennis, India’s Harmeet Desai, defeated Anthony Amalraj, in the final at ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open table tennis championship 2019 held in Batam, Indonesia.

Max Verstappen wins Brazilian Grand Prix 2019
• Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Belgian-Dutch) has won the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix 2019.
• The Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clashed in the race due to which Verstappen was able to take the lead and ultimately win the race.
• Pierre Gasly of France was on second position and was the first podium position for him while Lewis Hamilton remained on third.

Virat Kohli named PETA India’s 2019 Person of the Year
• Indian Cricketer, Virat Kohli has been named as the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India’s Person of the Year 2019.
• Virat Kohli is a fierce animal rights proponent who never hesitates to run out cruelty to animals any way he can.
• Earlier, this accolade has been received by Shashi Tharoor, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, Sonam Kapoor, Hema Malini, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez and former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan.

Football Delhi 1st in India to Launch Academy Accreditation and Licensing System
• In a bid to improve football, professionalise the set-up and to reach out to every stakeholder in the National Capital Region (NCR), Football Delhi has implemented the Academy Accreditation and Licensing System.
• Delhi is the first state association to do so.
• This is an effort to ensure that every small football academy in the city, including schools and NGO-operated football training centres in the NCR, benefits as Football Delhi tries to spread the sport.

Sudhir Mital elected president of Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI)
• Former Competition Commission of India chairman Sudhir Mital and Shantikumar Singh were elected as president and general secretary respectively, of the Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI).
• Kaushik Bidiwala was elected as treasurer, defeating Ashok Kumar Sahoo by 42 votes to 2.
• Mital, a retired IAS officer of Punjab cadre, was a former president and served as GFI chief from 2003 to 2007. He served as chairman of Competition Commission of India in 2018 after joining the organisation in 2014 as a member.
• Shantikumar, a former national level gymnast from Manipur, had earlier served as GFI treasurer from 2011 to 2015 and then got elected as secretary in the 2015 elections.

**ISSF World Cup Final: India tops medal tally with five gold, two silver and a bronze**

• Manu Bhaker bagged India’s first gold medal at the tournament this year in Women's 10m Air Pistol.
• Manu Bhaker broke the junior world record with her total of 244.7.
• Manu Bhaker also became only the second Indian shooter after Heena Sidhu to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISS World Cup.
• Divyansh Singh Panwar, 17, Bags India’s 3rd Gold Medal at ISSF World Cup Finals of 10m Air Rifle event on Thursday.
• Divyansh won gold in the men’s category after he shot a score of 250.1 in the final round.
• Earlier, 20-year-old Elavenil clinched the gold in the women’s 10m Air Pistol category with a score of 250.8 in the final round.

**Davis Cup final: Spain beat Canada with wins for Rafael Nadal & Roberto Bautista Agut**

• Rafael Nadal clinched an emotional Davis Cup victory for Spain over Canada when he beat Denis Shapovalov in front of a jubilant home crowd in Madrid.
• Nadal's win gave Spain an unassailable 2-0 lead and a sixth Davis Cup title.
• The world number one has won all eight of his rubbers this week to help Spain to a first title since 2011.

**Lakshya Sen wins 4th title of the season, claims Scottish Open**

• Lakshya Sen has clinched three titles out of the four tournaments that he has played since September -- SaarLorLux Open, Dutch Open, and Belgian International.
• After this win, Lakshya will break into the top-40 in the BWF rankings.
• The Scottish Open 2019 was held from November 21-24, 2019 at Glasgow, Scotland.

**India bag 28 medals including 13 gold in U-15 Asian Wrestling C'ships**

• In wrestling, India concluded its campaign at the Under-15 Asian Championships with 28 medals, including 13 gold, 14 silver and a bronze.
• The superb show by Indian grapplers continued as they won 5 gold on the last day at Taichung, China yesterday.
• For the first time, India finished on top of the team rankings in freestyle category with 225 points as all 10 wrestlers finished on the podium.
• Kazakhstan finished second while Japan was third.

**Atanu Das wins men’s recurve bronze at Asian Archery Championships**

• Archer Atanu Das won bronze in men’s recurve individual event at the Asian Archery Championships.
• Das defeated Jin Hayek Oh of South Korea 6-5 to bag the medal.
• He had also won a bronze in the recurve mixed team event with DeepikaKumari.
• Indian archers are competing as neutral athletes due to suspension of the Indian federation over the election of two presidents of the Archery Association of India in June this year.

**Odisha to host Men’s Hockey World Cup in 2023**
• The Men’s Hockey World Cup in 2023 will be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela city of Odisha.
• The announcement regarding this was made during a ceremony conducted by Hockey India and the Department of Sports, Government of Odisha at the Kalinga stadium.
• This comes after the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on November 8 announced that India will be hosting the Men’s Hockey World Cup in 2023.

Ben Stokes, Dina Asher-Smith win top SJA British Sports awards
• England’s all-rounder Ben Stokes and 200m World Champion Dina Asher-Smith were voted as sportsman and sportswoman of the year at the Sports Journalists’ Association (SJA) British Sports Awards.
• While Stokes secured more votes than six-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton, Smith received more votes than a fellow athlete and Heptathlon World Champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson.
Full list of winners:
• Sportsman of the Year: Ben Stokes (cricket)
• Sportswoman of the Year: Dina Asher-Smith (athletics)
• Team of the Year: England men’s cricket
• JL Manning Award for Services Off the Field of Play: Tracey Neville MBE (netball)
• SJA Bill McGowran Trophy for Achievement in Para Sport: Aled Davies MBE (para athletics) and Alice Tai MBE (para swimming)
• SJA Chairman’s Award: Ellen White (football)
• SJA Committee Award: John Gosden OBE (horse racing)
• SJA Pat Besford Award for Outstanding Performance of the Year: Katarina Johnson-Thompson (athletics)
• SJA Peter Wilson Trophy for International Newcomer: Jofra Archer (cricket)
• SJA President’s Award: John Blackie (athletics)
• World Sport Achievement Award for an Outstanding Achievement Competing Internationally: Josh Warrington (boxing).

Arvind Singh takes over as Airport Authority of India Chairman
• Arvind Singh, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre took charge as the chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
• Singh replaces Anuj Aggarwal, who had earlier been with the additional charge of AAI chairman
• The AAI, which comes under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, owns and manages more than 100 airports across the country.
• Prior to this appointment, Singh was the additional chief secretary (Energy) of Maharashtra government.
• He also worked as chairman and managing director of Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited and Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited.

Google India appoints former Star and Disney head Sanjay Gupta as new Country Manager
• Former managing director of Disney, Sanjay Gupta has now been appointed as the country manager and vice president of Sales and Operations of Google India.
• Gupta will take on the role starting next year and will be based in Mumbai. He will work with the teams based in Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
• Gupta will be replacing Rajan Anandan, who left the company earlier this year to join Sequoia Capital India.

Goldman Sachs India co-head Vijay Karnani to retire after 21 yrs
• The co-head of Goldman Sachs Group’s India business, Vijay Karnani, is retiring after working with the bank for 21 years, as per a memo seen by the Bloomberg and confirmed by the firm.
• Karnani, who joined Goldman Sachs in 1998, became its Indian unit’s co-CEO in 2011.
• The role will then be solely occupied by co-CEO and Chairman Sonjoy Chatterjee.

Kamala Vardhana Rao: New Chairman and Managing Director at ITDC
• India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has appointed G Kamala Vardhana Rao as the new Chairman and Managing Director.
• Prior to this, Rao, an IAS officer 1990 batch from Kerala Cadre, was the Principal Secretary, Kerala government. He has also served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15.

Senior Journalist Rajat Sharma Quits as DDCA Chief
• Senior journalist Rajat Sharma has resigned from the post of President of Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) on November 16 citing his inability to continue amidst “various pulls and pressures” within the organisation.
• Rajat Sharma said : “It seems that it may not be possible to carry on in DDCA with my principles of integrity, honesty and transparency, which I am not willing to compromise at any cost.”

Sharad Arvind Bobde sworn-in as 47th Chief Justice of India
• Sharad Arvind Bobde sworn-in as the 47th Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
• CJI Bobde has in the past served as Additional Judge at the Bombay High Court and Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.
• He was elevated as a Judge of Supreme Court in April 2013.

Arun Kumar Shukla appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Ltd
• Arun Kumar Shukla has been appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Ltd, a Personnel Ministry order said.
• Shukla is at present director (operations) in the state-owned firm.
• He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation,i.e. July 31, 2023, the order said.
• Hindustan Copper Ltd is the vertically integrated copper producing company that manufactures copper right from the stage of mining to beneficiation, smelting, refining and casting of refined copper metal into downstream saleable products.
India's first global Mega Science Exhibition ‘Vigyan Samagam’ in Kolkata
• Bringing the world’s major Mega Science projects together, India’s first-ever global Mega-Science exhibition, ‘Vigyan Samagam’, was inaugurated at the Science City in Kolkata.
• The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Science & Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Dr Harsh Vardhan, addressed the gathering through video conference.
• This multi-venue Science Exhibition, after its successful journey in Mumbai and Bengaluru, is now open for public in Kolkata.
• Vigyan Samagam will be in Kolkata till December 31, 2019.
• The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Science and Technology (DST), the funding agencies of these projects and the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, who are venue partners and having expertise in design and hosting such exhibitions, have joined hands to organize this prestigious Science Exhibition.

A New Spider Species Named After Sachin Tendulkar
• A research scholar, Dhruv Prajapati, who is pursuing a Ph. D in spider taxonomy at the Gujarat Ecological Education & Research (GEER) Foundation has discovered two new species of spiders.
• Of the two, he has named one spider species after Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar, as Marengo sachintendulkar, to show his love towards his favourite cricketer.
• The other discovered species has been named as Indomarengo chavarapater after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who played a key role in creating awareness on education in Kerala.
• The two new spider species are a part of the Indomarengo and Marengo genus of Asian jumping spiders.

NASA Captures the Brightest X-Ray Burst Ever Observed
• NASA has detected a massive thermonuclear explosion coming from outer space, caused by a massive thermonuclear flash on the surface of a pulsar — the crushed remains of a star that long ago exploded as a supernova.
• The X-ray burst, the brightest seen by NICER so far, came from an object named “J1808”, located about 11,000 light-years away in the constellation Sagittarius.

ISRO To Launch Cartosat-3 Satellite and 13 Commercial Nano Satellites
• The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch its earth imaging and mapping satellite named Cartosat-3 on November 25 from the SatishDhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
• In addition to this, 13 commercial nano satellites from the US would also be launched.
• The launch would take place onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C47).
• This will be the 21st flight of PSLV in ‘XL’ configuration (with 6 solid strap-on motors).
• The Cartosat-3 is a “third generation agile advanced satellite” with high resolution imaging capability.
• The satellite would be placed in an orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degree.

Nuclear capable Prithvi-2 missile successfully testfired off Odisha coast at night
• The trial of the surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 350 km was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the ITR at 7:05 pm.
• It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. The state-of-the-art missile uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering orbit to hit its target.
• Prithvi was inducted into the Armour of the defence forces in 2003.

UP rail coach factory to employ India-made humanoid robot Sona 1.5
• The Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh has introduced indigenously developed humanoid robot named ‘Sona 1.5’ to transport documents from one place to another.
• The full-service robot Sona 1.5 has been developed by Jaipur based Club First Technologies and will also be used for welcoming visitors, technical interaction, other types of training.
• The robot is said to be the first in the world having human-like spine technology which helps them to balance.
• In addition to this, the humanoid robot is based on navigation and mapping with the help of sensors and reach the target.

ISRO successfully launches India’s Earth imaging satellite Cartosat-3
• ISRO successfully launched India’s Earth imaging satellite ‘Cartosat-3’ from SatishDhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
• The Cartosat-3, India’s third-generation agile advanced satellite with high-resolution imaging and mapping abilities, has also been successfully injected at an orbit of 509 km.
• ISRO’s PSLV-C47 rocket also carried 13 nanosatellites of the US.

SpiceJet, Emirates sign codeshare agreement
• SpiceJet said it has signed a codeshare agreement with Emirates that will allow passengers of the Dubai-based airline to book tickets on the Indian budget carrier using Emirates’ ticketing system from early 2020.
• While passengers of Emirates will be able to access the SpiceJet network from early 2020, SpiceJet passengers travelling from India to Dubai can take benefit of Emirates’ expansive network later, opening up multiple international connections for them.
• The codeshare agreement means travellers from across the globe can book a single ticket with attractive fares to any of Emirates’ nine points across India and connect onwards to 172 domestic routes that are part of SpiceJet’s network.
• The codeshare agreement follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by both airlines in April this year.
OBITUARY

N.V. Balasubramanian Retired Judge of Madras High Court Passes Away
• Justice N.V. Balasubramanian, retired Judge of Madras High Court passed away.
• He served as the Madras High Court judge from 1996 – 2007 & as the Chairman of committees on
  fixation of fees for self-financing professional colleges and polytechnics after retiring from service.
• He worked as senior counsel & arbitrator in Supreme Court (SC) of India for 11 years.

Sahitya Akademi awardee writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen passes away
• The renowned Indian poet, novelist and academic and the recipient of the prestigious Sahitya
  Akademi award, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, passed away. She was 81.
• Dev Sen won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for her book ‘Naba-Nita’. She was also the
  recipient of the Padma Shri in 2000.
• She was the former wife of Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen.

Former CEC TN Seshan Passes Away at 86
• Former chief election commissioner (CEC), TN Seshan passed away in Chennai of cardiac arrest.
  He was 86-year old.
• Seshan was a 1955 batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre.
• He was the 10th Chief Election Commissioner of India who had led the Election Commission from
  1990 to 1996.

Dhrupad maestro and Padma Shri awardee Ramakant Gundecha passes away at 56
• Dhrupad maestro Ramakant Gundecha passed away due to a heart attack. He was 56.
• He was the younger of the Gundecha brothers duo (Umakant Gundecha and Ramakant Gundecha)
  who are well known singers of Dagavarni style of dhrupad.
• The brothers were together awarded the Padma Shri in 2012 in the field of Art – Indian Classical
  Music – Vocal – Madhya Pradesh.
• The Gundecha brothers were founders of Bhopal's Gurukul Drupad Sansthan and are known for
  reviving and performing the dhrupad, one of the oldest forms of Hindustani music.

Former Madhya Pradesh CM Kailash Joshi Passes Away at 91
• Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kailash Joshi died after a prolonged illness. He
  was 91.
• He had served as the state’s chief minister from 1977 to 1978.

The General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and former West Bengal
Minister Kshiti Goswami passed away.
Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee’s cabinet in the Left Front
Government in the State.

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kailash Joshi has passed away.
He was called as the ‘saint of politics’, served as the state’s chief minister from 1977 to 1978. He
was MLA for eight terms and also served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Cartoonist Sudhir Dhar passes away at 87
• Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dhar passed away at the age of 87 years.
• He had worked with several newspapers in his career spanning 58 years. Dhar began his career with The Statesman in 1961 after which he moved to Hindustan Times.

Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar passes away at 79
• Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar passed away at the age of 79 years due to illness.
• Sushil Kumar led the Indian navy during the Kargil War, was a specialist in hydrography and amphibious warfare.

Renowned Freedom fighter & former MP Laxminarayan Nayak passes away
• Laxminarayan Nayak, a centenarian freedom fighter and former MP, passed away in Niwari town in Madhya Pradesh due to age-related illness. He was 101.
• Nayak represented Khajuraho Lok Sabha seat from 1997 -1980.

SUMMITS AND MOU’s

PM Modi to visit Brazil for BRICS summit
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Brazil from the 13th of this month to attend the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia. The theme of the Summit this year is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future".
• Briefing media in New Delhi, Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, TS Tirumurti, said this will be the sixth time that Mr Modi participates in the BRICS Summit. His first BRICS Summit was at Fortaleza in Brazil in 2014.

India to organize NuGen Mobility summit 2019 in November
• India’s International center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) will organize a NuGen Mobility summit 2019 in November this year in association with SAENIS, SAE INDIA, SAE International, NATRiP, DIMTS, DHI, MoRTH, SIAM and ACMA
• Theme of 2019 is “Smart & Green Mobility”
• The heavy industries and public enterprises ministry said the summit would be held at Manesar, falling in the national capital region (NCR) of Indian capital - New Delhi from November 27 to 29.
• "The objective of the summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future,"
• This event will help in building a platform for bringing together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies.

Keynote address by Secretary (East) at the BIMSTEC Coastal Security Workshop (November 20, 2019)
• The first ever "BIMSTEC Conclave of Ports" was held recently at Vishakhapatnam on 7-8 November 2019.
• At this Conclave three MoUs between Ranong Port of Thailand on the West Coast and the Ports of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata on the Indian East Coast were signed.
• The workshop aims at sharing views, best practices and experiences on issues of common maritime interest.
• The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, BIMSTEC is an international organisation of seven nations - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.
• Secretary (East) Vijay Thakur Singh said BIMSTEC nations have to be mindful of security challenges, both at sea and at the coastline. She said that in the last three years, BIMSTEC has developed full security cooperation and this should continue, deepen and diversify, be it in cybersecurity, or maritime security.

New Delhi to Host First 3-day “Global Bio-India 2019” Summit from 21st - 23rd November
• The DBT, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India along with its Public Sector Undertaking, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is organizing this event.
• The event has been structured to bring together stakeholders from 30 countries, 250 start-ups, 200 exhibitors. Central and State ministries, regulatory bodies, investors, totalling to 3500 participants is anticipated.
• The event is expected to strengthen the indigenous research capabilities, bio-entrepreneurship, investments and last-mile-delivery of technology across rural India and tier-2, 3 cities.
• Theme: Power to Transform Lives: Bioscience to Bioeconomy – USD 100 Bn by 2025

India to host SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020
• India has been chosen to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.
• This decision was taken during the 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia recently.
• Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Dr. Shekhar Mande.
• Apart from this, India will be the host of Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of SCO Member States in 2020, which will approve the Draft SCO Roadmap on cooperation between research institutions of SCO Member States for the period 2021-2023.
• SCO has eight full time members namely: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India and Pakistan.
DATES
1 November - World Vegan Day
1 November - All Saints’ Day
- Significance of 1st November - After India’s independence, several linguistic groups in the country demanded statehood resulting in the establishment of the States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 which led to the formation of states like Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.
1st November 1956: Delhi became a territory of the Indian Union
On November 1, 1956, another important chapter was added to the grand old story of Delhi when it became a union territory of the Indian Union.

EVENTS
- 1 Nov, 1993 - Europe - Maastricht Treaty
  1993 : The Maastricht Treaty formally starts, establishing the European Union (EU). By 1993, 12 nations had ratified the Maastricht Treaty on European Union: Great Britain, France, Germany, the Irish Republic, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

1935 - Canada - Earthquake
Northern Canada was shaken by a violent earthquake. The center of this earthquake was detected to have been just north of Lake Ontario. In all, this quake had been felt in three Canadian provinces as well as in 17 states of the United States. It was thought to be one of the worst in history that has occurred in this region.

1952 - U.S.A. - Hydrogen Bomb
The United States detonates the world’s first thermonuclear weapon, the hydrogen bomb, on Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific.

1957 - U.S.A. - Mackinac Bridge
The Mackinac suspension bridge opens connecting Mackinaw City and St. Ignace connecting the non-contiguous Upper and Lower peninsulas of the U.S. state of Michigan. It becomes the longest suspension bridge between anchorages in the Western hemisphere.

1982 - U.S.A. - Honda
Honda opens the first car manufacturing company factory to produce Japanese cars (Honda Accord) in the United States at Marysville, Ohio.

2007 - United States - Tesco opens its first Quick and Easy in America
Tesco, the UK’s leading food retailer, begins opening its Fresh and Easy outlets in the US. It had over sixty stores, including thirty in southern California, by April 1, 2008. There were 168 stores as of September 22nd, 2010, which are based in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

2013 - Germany - Germany to Allow Third Gender
Germany is the first European country to allow parents of babies who are born with characteristics of both sexes to leave the gender line on birth certificates blank. This was done to alleviate pressure over choosing a gender and performing surgery on intersex newborns that could cause physical and
emotional harm throughout their lives. People of the third gender would have it designated by an X on their passports.

-2 November - All Souls’ Day
-1698 Scottish settlers make landfall in Panama, establishing the ill-fated 'Darien Venture' colony.
-1749 English Ohio Trade Company forms first trading post
-676 Donus begins his reign as Catholic Pope replacing Pope Adeodatus II

IMPORTANT EVENTS
1957 - Space -- Dog In Space
1957 : A dog was launched into orbit today as the first animal in space on board Sputnik 2, a Russian spacecraft, and became the first living animal to enter the Earth’s orbit.
1957 - Space -- Dog In Space
1957 : A dog was launched into orbit today as the first animal in space on board Sputnik 2, a Russian spacecraft, and became the first living animal to enter the Earth’s orbit.
1913 U.S.A. -- First Income Tax
The first American citizens receive information over the new national income tax. A married man living with his wife, who is in receipt of an income of $5,000 pays $10 a year and if his income is $10,000 he pays $60 per year.
2004 - U.S.A. - - George W Bush
2004 : George W Bush is elected president of the United States for a second term of office.
2011 - Cuba - - Cuba Allows Private Home Sales
2011 : The Cuban government has passed a law that allows citizens and permanent residents to buy and sell homes privately for the first time since 1959, marking an important milestone in free-market reform.

In 1493, 4th November Christopher Columbus discovered Guadeloupe during his second expedition.
Guadeloupe, a French overseas region, is an island group in the southern Caribbean Sea. Resembling a butterfly, its 2 largest islands are separated by the Salée River. Hilly Grande-Terre Island has long beaches and sugarcane fields.

First Football Stadium
In 1904, 4th November Harvard stadium become the first stadium specifically for football.

November 9, National Legal Services Day
• The 9th of November is selected as the Legal Services Day which was first started by the Supreme Court in the year 1995 all across the India
• it offer help and support to the weaker and poor group of sections of people which may be women, disabled persons, Scheduled Tribes, children, Scheduled Castes, human trafficking victims as well as natural calamities victims.
• The day is observed to commemorate the day when the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 came into effect, the same year.
November 10, World Science Day for Peace and Development

• The World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated each year on November 10 to highlight the important role that science play in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
• World Science Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and celebrated for the first time in 2002.
• 2019 Theme: “Open science, leaving no one behind”

November 11, National Education Day: National Education Day

• In India the National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India.
• The day was announced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008.
• Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served as education minister from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958.

World Pneumonia Day: November 12

• The World Pneumonia Day is observed across the world on November 12 every year to raise awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease.
• The theme for World Pneumonia Day 2019 is “healthy lungs for all”.

Public Service Broadcasting Day: November 12

Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on November 12 to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

World Kindness Day

• The theme for 2019 World Kindness day is empathy, encouraging people across the globe to better understand “the pains of others" and touch their lives “positively”.

Mohammad Imran appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to India

• Mohammad Imran has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India.
• The announcement was made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

World Diabetes Day : November 14, 2019

• World Diabetes Day is observed every year on November 14.
• World Diabetes Day was launched in 1991 by the IDF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the rapid rise of diabetes around the world.

International Day for Tolerance: November 16

• The International Day for Tolerance is observed annually on 16 November. The day was declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.

National Press Day: November 16

• National Press Day is observed on November 16 every year to celebrate free and responsible press in India. It also commemorates the day when the Press Council of India started functioning.

2019 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – November 17, 2019

• Purpose – to remember those killed and injured on the roads, together with their families, friends, and others affected.
• Theme 2019 – Life is not a car part
• The day was started by the British road crash victim charity, Road Peace, in 1993 and was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

Universal Children’s Day – 20 November
• Universal/World Children’s Day is celebrated on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.
• The day also marks the anniversary of adoption of Declaration and Convention of the Rights of the Child.
• In 1959, UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child
• In 1989 UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
• 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: November 29
• The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is a UN-organized day held every year on November 29.
• It is observed to mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on November 29, 1947.

Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare: 30 November
• The United Nation recognised Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is held every year on November 30 since 2005.
• The day marks tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.