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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

Romania set the record for the largest win in Twenty 20 Internationals.

• Romania set the record for the largest win in Twenty20 Internationals after it defeated Turkey in the Romania Cup 2019. Romania scored 173 runs in the match. In the game, Sivakumar Periyalwar scored 105 off 40 deliveries.

Sivakumar Periyalwar:
Periyalwar, 31-year-old, is born in Tamil Nadu. He is an engineer by profession. He moved to Romania where he now works in a software company. He played in age-group cricket tournaments before shifting overseas after completing his studies. At first, he played in age-group cricket tournaments. After that, he participated in Under-15, Under-22, and Under-25 tournaments and back to Romania in 2015. Then, he joined the Cluj Cricket Club.

India raises the issue of global oil price volatility with Russia

• India raised the issue of global oil market price volatility with Russia that is hurting the interests of both consuming and producing nations. This was articulated by India’s oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a meeting with Russia’s energy minister Alexander Novak.
• India urging its long-time ally Russia to take into account the interest of energy-consuming nations during its engagement with the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec). They play an important role in balancing global oil market both in terms of ensuring adequate supply as well as in having a responsible and reasonable price.
• Any production cut by Opec and its allies has a wide-ranging impact on energy markets, given that Opec accounts for around 40% of global production. It is expected to have a particular fallout on India due to Opec accounting for around 83% of the country’s total crude oil imports.

Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit organised in Maldives

Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) held in Male, the Maldives from September 1-2, jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the People’s Majlis (the single legislative body of the Maldives). The summit attended by Secretary-General of the IPU, Martin Chungong and senior lawmakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
The Indian delegation was led by Om Birla, 17th Lok sabha speaker and the RajyaSabha’s Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.
The Male declaration rejects Pakistan’s Kashmir issue concerns: The Malé declaration ignored Pakistan delegate QasimSuri’s concern on bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into
Union Territories(UT), raised during the summit citing the reasons that the issue wasn’t part of the summit’s agenda.
The agenda for the summit was on equal pay, youth employment, nutrition, food security and delivering the Paris agreement on climate change. The summit held discussions on the themes

- Promoting equality at work including equal remuneration and creating jobs for young people
- Achieving SDGs 2 and 3 – Nutrition and food security as drivers of maternal, child and adolescent health in the Asia-Pacific region
- Catalyzing the global agenda on climate change overcoming challenges and utilizing opportunities to strengthen the regional agenda for delivering on the Paris Agreement.
- The previous/3rd summit was held by the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2018.

**Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called Kian**

- Iranian Army unveiled a high-precision jet-propelled drone called Kian. The capacity of carrying long-time surveillance missions and attack the targets far from the country’s borders.
The unmanned military drone developed in two models. It was developed by Iranian technicians of the Army
- The tensions between Iran and the United States President Donald Trump in 2018 withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear deal -2015 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.
- The new home-grown air defense system called Bavar-373. The US withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, an agreement on Iran’s nuclear program reached in July 2015 Iran, the P5+1 (the 5 Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council-China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States + Germany) and the European Union.

**Russia to conduct 2019 Exercise TSENTR**

- Exercise TSENTR 2019 is a component of the annual exercises part of the Russian Armed Forces like an annual coaching cycle. Exercise TSENTR 2019 is conducted by the Central military commission of Russia. This year the exercise is planned to be held between 9-23 September at Donguz coaching ranges in Russia

**Aim:**

TSENTR 2019 aims to evolve drills and give practice to the participating armies in the fight against the scourge of international terrorism. It also aims to ensure military security in the strategic Central Asian region. The exercise will also focus on evaluating the preparedness of the level of the troop, the acquisition of the required skills and raising the level of interoperability and demonstrate the readiness of the participating armies.

**World’s first malaria vaccine to be introduced in Kenya.**

- The world’s first malaria vaccine is being rolled out in parts of Kenya after debuting in Ghana and Malawi earlier this year. More than 300,000 children are expected to receive the vaccine over the next
three years. Malaria infected about 219 million people in 2017, killing around 435,000 of them, most of them babies and children in parts of Africa.

**UN appoints retd Indian Army officer to lead its mission in Yemen.**
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Lieutenant General (retired) Abhijit Guha as Chair of Redeployment Coordination Committee and head of the UN Mission in support of Hudaydah Agreement. Guha, who retired from the Army in 2013, has 39 years of national and international military experience. He’s tasked with leading the UN oversight of a ceasefire agreement in the Yemeni city.

**US sanctions Iran’s central bank in highest ever sanctions on a nation.**
- US President Donald Trump announced a new round of sanctions against Iran’s central bank, calling the new penalties the highest sanctions ever imposed on a country. His remarks came days after he ordered to substantially increase sanctions on Iran. The sanctions come after the US blamed Iran for the drone attacks on two Saudi oil facilities last week. The latest sanctions action against Tehran affected the last source of funds for Iran. The action comes after Washington accused Iran for the weekend attacks on Saudi oil refineries. He ordered the Treasury Department to substantially increase sanctions on the country. Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif blasted the new round of sanctions. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi that the sanctions against Iran’s Central Bank are nothing new, but same old bans in a different form. The US to accept that the policy of sanctions is a failed one.

**CIAL won an international award for passenger satisfaction by ACI**
- Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has been selected as the best airport in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of services it offered to passengers. The airport was recognized by Airport Council International (ACI).
- The award was presented to the authorities of Cochin International Airport at the second Annual ACI Customer Experience Global Summit held at Bali, Indonesia.
- Airport Council International (ACI) conducted an annual survey in the 5-15 million passenger category in Airport Service Quality’s (ASQ) and CIAL topped among them. One airport from Indonesia has also won recognition in the same category.

**Astronomers 13-Billion-Year-Old Protocluster Galaxy Discovered**
- Astronomers have discovered a 13-billion-year-old galaxy cluster that is the earliest ever observed. The early-stage cluster called a protocluster is not easy to find Yuichi Harikane, a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan who led the international team.
- A protocluster is a rare and special system with an extremely high density. The researchers used the wide viewing field of the Subaru telescope in Hawaii to map a large area of the sky in their search.
The discovery of the protocluster, a collection of 12 galaxies, suggests that large cosmic structures were present in the very early stages of the universe which scientists believe was born 13.8 billion years ago.

- The 12 galaxies is known as Himiko, a giant gas cloud found in 2009 by using the same telescope. It is reasonable to find a protocluster near a massive object such as Himiko.

**Nepal Central Bank releases 3 coins to mark Guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary**

- The Central Bank of Nepal released three coins to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Nanak Dev. The coins with denomination of NPR (Nepali Rupees) 100, 1000 and 2500 were jointly launched by Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Chiranjibi Nepal and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri at Hotel Aloft in Kathmandu.
- The coins possess monetary value and its sale will start from September 30, the NRB said. "Proud to be a Sikh today. Proud to be a follower of Guru Nanak Dev. Sikhs residing in every part of the world that too in large numbers.
- On the occasion, both dignitaries launched a book showcasing the Sikh heritage in Nepal. It has been published by BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation in co-ordination with Embassy of India in Nepal.
NATIONAL

Uttarakhand to set up a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve

- The Uttarakhand government has determined to set up a Special Tiger Force for Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve. It will function as an abundantly required second layer of protection with the big cat. The force can have 85 posts.
- Special tiger force:
The STPF is effective in checking outlaw human intrusion into the reserve through villages situated on its fringes for 250 tigers at the reserve.
The need for such a force was being felt by life specialists and conservationists for an extended time with three-tier protection to tigers at reserves.
- About Three Tier protection:
The First layer of protection is by beat level forest guards through regular patrols.
The second layer of protection is by STPF.
The third layer of protection comes from intelligence gathering mechanism within which forest, police and central intelligence agencies personnel work along to stop crimes like cooking of tigers.

Cultural event Namaste Pacific organised in New Delhi

High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji jointly organised a cultural event, Namaste Pacific, The main aim is to showcase in India the culture of the Pacific countries.
Australian High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu highlighted the importance of people to people links between India and the countries in the Pacific region received a boost through an event like Namaste Pacific.
India became important country in the Pacific region. India is highly respected among the pacific country, and so an event like this is highly appropriate.
This is a natural gathering of countries that share a great deal together. This evening is one example of looking at the things that unite the countries of Indo-Pacific.
A curated menu including the national drink Kava from Fiji and dishes slow-cooked in an earth oven using heated rocks in a pit oven specially dug for the purpose at the New Zealand High Commission were among the cuisine showcased at the event.
Aaradhna, a multi-award-winning R & B and soul artist from New Zealand performed with her band. Aaradhna is part Indian and part Samoan and has to her credit four individual albums.
Traditional masks and artefacts from Papua New Guinea and Pacific Green furniture and other products from Fiji were also displayed.There was also a showcase of the International Solar Alliance and Pollinate Energy based in Australia, Nepal and India, and solar lanterns from Barefoot College in Rajasthan. The event saw the participation of members of the diplomatic community, government officials, business leaders, and cultural personalities.

Indian army to train women soldiers for military police
The Indian Army is all set to start coaching 100 women soldiers from December 2019. The aim is for the ultimate induction into the Corps of the military police. So far, the Indian military has 3.80% of its workforce as girls, the Air Force has 13.09% and the Navy has 6%.

**Training:**
The military plans to coach 100 soldiers every year for a cadre. The strength of every cadre is expected to be 1,700 until reviewed. The training time will be of 61 weeks which is the same as for male soldiers.

**Role of military police:**
Women will be inducted as Women military police to comprise 22% of the Corps of military police. Their role would vary from searching crime cases to helping the military-like medical, legal, academic, signals and engineering wings of the military.

**It will also include:**
- policing cantonments and armed forces institutions
- preventing the breach of rules and rules by soldiers
- maintaining the movement of soldiers
- to supply throughout peace and war
- handling prisoners of war
- increasing aid to civil police

**Defence Ministry to conduct JNAQC in Visakhapatnam**
Naval Quality Assurance Establishments is to host the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) in Visakhapatnam on 5th September. It will be hosted under the charge of Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence.

**Theme:**
The theme of the Conclave is Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges. The conclave will focus on Quality Challenges of Emerging Technologies which will provide insights on Management of Emerging Technologies in Indian Navy.

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

**Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY) Scheme**
Around 1.1 crore families will be covered under this Health Scheme. The sum insured now is Rs. 30000 for general diseases and Rs. 3 lakh per year for serious diseases. AB-PMJAY, which provides coverage of Rs5lakh per year.

**IGI gets Indias tallest ATC Tower**
Union Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

**ATC tower:**
The cost of the ATC tower is Rs.350 crore. The tower consists of three buildings: the aerodrome control tower, area approach control services building, and the administrative block. The tower is facilitated with modern air navigation systems and advanced automation systems. This will enhance safety and the capacity of air traffic operations.
The height of the ATC tower is 101.9 metres. The tower aims to reduce the pressure on controllers and provide relief to flyers from delays. The tower has over 45 workstations with better operational area visibility. The tower has multilayered security.

**Pushpa Kolhi 1st Hindu woman police officer in Pak's Sindh province.**
- Pushpa Kolhi has become the first Hindu woman to be inducted into Pakistan's Sindh Police after passing the provincial competitive examinations. Pushpa Kolhi has been posted as the Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) in Sindh. Earlier in January this year, Pakistani Hindu woman named Suman Pawan Bodani was appointed a judge to the civil and judicial magistrate.

**India ranks 34th in 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index**
- According to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) for the year 2019 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). India ranked at the 34th spot from 6 places from the 2017 report (40th rank). The index topped by Spain It is followed by France and Germany in the second and third places.

Around 140 countries were ranked based on four sub-indexes. They are ranked mainly on the basis of
- Infrastructure
- Travel and Tourism policy enabling conditions
- Natural and cultural sources and
- Enabling environment.

**India Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order was held in New Delhi**
- The India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges National Conference was held in New Delhi. The conference was composed by research organizations, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). It was organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the conference.
- India confirmed and renewed its goal to achieve $5 trillion economy by 2024-25 as outlined in the economic survey-2019. The discussion included India's cooperation with Africa in every aspect including Trade, security, capacity building, maritime cooperation, and food security.

**First Mega Food Park was held in Telangana.**
• The first Mega Food Park in Telangana was held at Lakkampally village in Nizamabad district. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The food park was promoted by Smart Agro Food Park. The Smart Agro Mega Food Park was set up in 78 acres of land at a cost of Rs.108.95 crore. The facilities in the park include a 5,000-tonne warehouse each for raw materials, finished goods, and commodities, 500-tonne deep freeze, Turmeric-Curcumin, Oleoresin Extraction unit of 5 tonnes a day, quality control lab and other related food processing facilities.

Aim:
The Mega Food parks aimed to facilitate the doubling of farmer’s income by 2022. The scheme functions along with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi which is a government initiative in which all small and marginal farmers will get up to Rs.6,000. Mega Food Parks will reduce post-harvest losses and hedge the farmer’s risk.
The Ministry aims to boost the food processing industry. If the agriculture sector grows exponentially, it will become a major contributor to double the farmer’s income and Make In India initiative of the government.

Benefits:
The Mega Food Park leveraged an additional investment of about Rs.250 crore in 22 food processing units. It generated a turnover of about Rs.14,000 crore. It is also expected that the Mega Food Parks will also provide 50,000 direct and indirect jobs and benefit about one lakh farmers.

Financial assistance:
The Mega Food Park Scheme is implemented to boost the food processing sector. The government provides financial assistance up to Rs.50 crore per Mega Food Park project.

India ranks 34th in World Travel Tourism Competitiveness Index.
• According to the reports, tourism in India is seeing an upward trend as India ranks 34th position on world travel and tourism competitiveness index. With this, India moves up six places up, and this has been driven by the rich natural and cultural resources, alongside strong price competitiveness.
The report stated, “India, which accounts for the majority of South Asia's T&T (travel and tourism) GDP, remains the sub-region’s most competitive T&T economy, moving up six places to rank 34th globally. India showed the greatest percentage improvement to its overall Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) score, which has helped it become the only lower-middle income country in the top 35.”

The 6th India China SED was held in New Delhi
• The 6th round of India-China strategic economic dialogue is being held in New Delhi. The three day event will be held on 7-9 September 2019. The dialogue will discuss various issues, including infrastructure, energy and pharmaceuticals.

Event:
The dialogue includes events like round table meetings of joint working groups (JWG) on infrastructure, high-tech, energy, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination.

**Participants:**
In the dialogue, the Indian side will be led by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and the Chinese side by Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) He Lifeng. Senior representatives from industry, policymaking and academia from both countries are participating in the dialogue.

**Former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra takes oath as Rajasthan Governor.**
- Former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra was sworn in as the Governor of Rajasthan at an oath-taking ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in Jaipur on Monday. Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat administered the oath of office to Mishra who replaced Kalyan Singh after the completion of his five-year tenure. Mishra became the 22nd Governor of the state.

**27-yr-old Anupriya becomes Odisha’s 1st tribal woman commercial pilot.**
- Anupriya Madhumita Lakra, 27, is the first tribal woman from Maoist-affected Malkangiri district of Odisha to become a commercial pilot, according to the Hindustan Times. Lakra will join the Indigo airline as a co-pilot later this month. Lakra’s father, who is a police constable, said that it was difficult for him to fund her pilot training but he took loans.

**President Kovind to become first Indian President to visit Slovenia.**
- President Ram Nath Kovind’s three-nation tour to Slovenia, Iceland and Switzerland will make him the first Indian President to visit Slovenia. "To continue India’s engagement and boost the bilateral relations.

**IPPB launched AePS services**
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) rolled out Aadhaar enabled payment system (AePS) services. IPPB become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank. The AePS services linked to Aadhaar can perform basic banking services such as cash withdrawals and balance inquiry irrespective of the bank.
- Aadhaar enabled payment services, a customer can simply authenticate his/her identity with fingerprint scan and Aadhaar authentication to complete a transaction. The banking services to customers of any bank including the 34 crore Jan Dhan account holders, by leveraging the unprecedented last mile reach of IPPB. This fulfills PM Narendra Modi’s vision set forth at the time of launch of IPPB last year of ushering in economic transformation by bringing banks to the doorsteps of the villagers and poor.
- The launch of AePS by India Post Payments Bank enhances the last mile interoperable banking infrastructure by 2.5 times. The network brings doorstep banking access to millions of underbanked
customers and gives a fresh impetus to inclusion of customers facing accessibility challenges in the traditional banking ecosystem.

DPIIT to Launch Plastic Waste Management Campaign for Swachhta Hi Sewa
• The theme of this year’s Swachhta hi Sewa is Plastic Waste Management. Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry is playing a critical two-fold role for the success of the campaign as mandated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
• DPIIT will ensure recycling of plastic waste collected on 2nd October 2019 in cement kilns and second, collect plastic waste through nationwide shramdaan on 2nd October 2019. DPIIT requested all the State Governments and Union Territories to mobilise the Industrial Parks in States and Union Territories for collection of plastic waste across all Industrial Estates, Parks, Corridors, Nodes and Industrial Areas for the Swachata hi Sewa 2019 campaign beginning from 11th September, 2019.
• The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti requested DPIIT to mandate the use of plastic waste by cement kilns and DPIIT will ensure that all collected plastic waste may be recycled in cement kilns by Diwali this year.
• DPIIT personnel will undertake Shramdaan and ensure the collection of plastic waste on and around industrial areas all across the country. DPIIT requested State Governments to sensitize Industrial Parks by focusing on Plastic Waste Management on a sustained and continuous basis.

PM Modi launched National Animal Disease Control Programme.
• PM Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The government has announced that it will fund the Rs.12,652 crore for the programme for a period of 5 years till 2024.
Aim:
The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 Million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs against foot and mouth disease (FMD). It also aims to vaccinate 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against Brucellosis disease.
The programme has two components:
♦ to control the diseases by 2025
♦ to eradicate FMD by 2030

FMD and Brucellosis:
FMD and Brucellosis diseases are very common among the livestock cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc. If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the milk loss is up to 100% which could last for four to six months.
If it is affected by Brucellosis the milk output reduces by 30%, during the entire life cycle of the animal. Brucellosis also causes infertility amongst the animals. The infection of brucellosis can also be transmitted to the farmworkers and livestock owners. Both the diseases will cause a direct negative impact on the trade of milk and other livestock products.
Kerala to introduce iWTC in Kozhikode.
• For the first time ever, the Kerala State government is to set up India’s first International Women’s Trade Centre (iWTC) in Kozhikode. It is in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Aim of iWTC:
iWTC aims to boost women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity by providing women a safe place away from home to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.
The first phase of iWTC is being implemented the Gender Park’s Vision 2020. The Phase-I is scheduled to be completed by 2021.
iWTC will provide space to promote and showcase performing arts and cultural forms like dance, music, and theatre.
Using the latest technology, it will involve women entrepreneurs and tradeswomen from the local region and connect them to world markets. It aims to build or expand their businesses

Gender Park:
♦ Gender Park is an institution that works to resolve gender inequity in development. It is promoted by the Department of Social Justice, Government of Kerala. It is headquartered at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
♦ It aims to generate a space exclusively for women development activities that emphasize entrepreneurship in service and cultural activities. It aims to provide formal education in gender studies.
♦ Gender Park also strengthens women development activities that are monitored by various departments, agencies, civil society movements, such as She-Taxi.
♦ Gender Park’s International Institute for Gender and Development (IIGD) is involved in research on gender at the local, national and international level.

Haryana launches two insurance schemes for traders.
• The State Government of Haryana launched two insurance schemes for registered small and medium traders. The schemes are Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana and Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana.
The insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh would be provided under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana. The insurance cover ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh would be provided under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana. The traders registered under the Haryana Goods and Service Tax (HGST) Act 2017 would be covered under these schemes.
The premium of people under both schemes would be paid by the State government.

UNCCD launched drought toolbox in 14th Conference of Parties.
• On the 10th day of the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) launched a drought toolbox.

**Drought toolbox:**
The Drought toolbox is a knowledge bank which can be used by vulnerable countries to reduce drought risk. It aims to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought. It is a web page which will provide the stakeholders to easily access the case studies and other resources to support action on drought preparedness. Using the toolbox, vulnerable countries, including India, can be better prepared and effectively respond to it.

**COP14:**
UNCCD was established in 1994. There are 197 countries participating in the convention. It aims to improve the living conditions of people in drylands. It also works toward maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity and to mitigate the effects of drought. UNCCD collaborated with two Rio Conventions namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**Maitree 2019, Indo Thailand Joint Military Exercise to be held.**
• The Defence Ministry of India announced a joint military exercise between India and Thailand as MAITREE 2019. The exercise is aimed to share the experience that are gained to counter-terrorism operations. The exercise will be conducted at Foreign coaching Node of Umroi in Meghalaya from 16 September to 29 September of 2019.

**About MAITREE exercise:**
About 100 Indians and Royal Thailand army RTA soldiers will participate in this joint ministry exercise. MAITREE 2019 is the third army engagement between India-Thailand. The counter operations exercise would be held in urban areas or in the jungle.

**Significance of MAITREE-2019:**
The annual Joint Military Exercise between India and Thailand is being conducted since 2006. It is aimed to improve the level of defence co-operation between the Indian Army (IA) and the Royal Thailand Army (RTA) that will foster defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the 2 nations.

**India-Thailand Relations:**
The diplomatic relations between India and Thailand were established in 1947. Each country has increased economic and business links by the exchange of high-level visits. India and Thailand were culturally joined for a hundred years and India has had a deep influence on Thai culture.

**Kapil Dev to be the first chancellor of Rai Sports University.**
• Kapil Dev Rai Sports University, Sonepat, coaching program
The Haryana Government has appointed cricket legend Kapil Dev as the first Chancellor of Rai Sports University. The minister of Haryana Anil Vij had approved the proposal to upgrade the sports university on Sept 14th in Sonepat.
Sports University of Haryana:
The Sports University of Haryana in Sonepat is conducting the educational and coaching programs in education and sports sciences and as well as in sports technology and medicine. This Course can embrace coaching for sports management, sports infrastructure engineering, sports scientific discipline, sports nutrition, sports journalism, and sports promoting.

Sports Universities in India:
The Sports University of Haryana is the third sports university established by a government within the country where others are Swarnim Gujarat Sports University in Gandhinagar, province education and Sports University in Chennai.

Kapil dev:
Kapil dev was a baseball player and he is a quick bowler. He is one of the best captains in India. Dev captained the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup. He was India's national cricket coach between 1999 and August 2000. He is retired in 1994. He is the sole player within the history of 434 wickets and scored 5000 runs in Tests. Dev was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame On 11th March 2010.

Rajasthan Government launches Jan Soochna Portal 2019
• The first-ever public information portal launched in Rajasthan promising to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement started in 1990s.
Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the portal at B.M. Birla Auditorium in the presence of former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former Law Commission chairman Justice A.P. Shah and a galaxy of RTI activists, including Magsaysay Award winner Aruna Roy.
The State government collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal, the first of its kind in the country, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform. The different sections divided into districts, blocks and panchayats, the portal empowers the common people with access to useful information.
The new web portal, named the Jansuchna Portal-2019, would ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act mandating the public authorities to disclose information in the public domain, so that people need not file applications under the law to obtain information. The statute erode the resolve to bring transparency and accountability in administration. This portal displays our government’s resolve for strict enforcement of RTI Act.
The people as well as a strong instrument for ensuring transparency in governance. She applauded the State Government's action to combine technology, justice and information. The State government will set up information kiosks in village panchayats and self-service e-mitra centres in the towns to enable the people to access the information useful for them. Initially, the information pertaining to 13 government departments such as the number of beneficiaries of
schemes, works undertaken in different areas, land records and social security pensions will be available on the portal.

Anjali Singh becomes India’s first female military diplomat
- Anjali Singh became India’s first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad.
Singh joined the Indian Embassy in Russia as the Deputy Air Attache. Singh is trained on MiG-29 fighter aircraft, joined her new assignment on September 10.
She is the first female Indian Armed Forces Officer to be posted as a military diplomat in any of the Indian missions abroad.
Singh is an AE(L) officer with 17 years of service. She is trained on MiG-29 aircraft, Air Force officer who is part of a diplomatic mission; this post is normally filled by a high-ranking officer. The air attache typically represents the chief of his home air force in the foreign country.
He typically represents the chief of his home air force.

Manipur to host UN conference on drugs on HIV AIDS
- Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla announced that the state is going to host the United Nations International Conference to discuss the issues related to drug menace, HIV/AIDS problems in the region on September 30 and October 1.
Heptualla made the announcement during the 13th Foundation Day Celebration of the Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) held at Hotel Imphal.
Chief Minister N Biren Singh to invite the home ministers of all the north-eastern states to the Conference so that the region can have a comprehensive policy to deal with such issues.
The main aim is to increase sexual crimes, women also suffer from other debilitating challenges which put them at a serious disadvantage, the Manipur Governor said. Women living with HIV/AIDS, orphans are soft targets for social stigma and discrimination and various forms of human rights violations, she pointed out.
The women-specific and women-related legislation to protect women against social discrimination, violence and atrocities among others have been enacted. However, the full implementation of such laws are hindered or delayed due to lack of awareness of the existence of such legislations.
MSCW to explore ways and means on how to eliminate all man-made social aberrations and means to prevent all crimes against women with the help of Law Enforcing Agencies of the State.
The women of the state are at the forefront in various fields including sports.
United Nations International Conference
The organization are represented in the General Assembly - one of the six main organs of the UN - to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations, such as development, peace and security, international law.
The members meet in this unique forum at Headquarters in New York for the General Assembly session.
The sitting arrangements in the General Assembly Hall change for each session. During the 74th Session (2019-2020), Ghana will occupy the first seat in the Hall, including in the Main Committees (followed by all the other countries, in English alphabetical order).

Union Minister Gehlot launches MIS portal under Accessible India Campaign.
- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot launched the Management Information System (MIS) portal for stakeholders of the Accessible India Campaign (AIC).

The MIS has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries, and states and Union Territories on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of AIC.

He stated that the portal will be useful in maintaining all the function on the digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis.

The monitoring of the places being made accessible will become more effective as there is a provision of uploading images of such features.

The portal is made fully accessible for the divyangjans.

The Secretaries of various nodal ministries including Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport and Highways, Civil Aviation, Railways and Information and Broadcasting were present on the occasion.

Management Information System (MIS) portal
A management information system is an information system used for decision-making, and for the coordination, control, analysis, and visualization of information in an organization.

Telangana to celebrate 2020 as Year of Artificial Intelligence.
- The Telangana government decided to celebrate the year of 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence. The backdrop of the emerging talent pool and renewed focus by industry and other ecosystem players on this space in the last four to five years. The Nasscom announced the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in AI and Data Sciences in Hyderabad. In addition, IIT-Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) selected Hyderabad as the place to set up their regional centre to train students in AI in partnership with the State government.

The AI and allied technologies like Cyber Security, Drones, Big Data and Blockchain. This can be gauged from the fact that we have policies dedicated to each of these sectors. The programmes into action and have decided to celebrate the year 2020 as the Year of AI. Under this initiative, we will be running hackathons, master classes and other activities throughout the year. The government agencies will give challenges and available data threats to run algorithms for the AI enthusiasts. Telangana was the first State to sign up with NITI Aayog when they prepared the AI for All document and they will be running multiple pilot programmes in the State.
The principal secretary mentioned that a very focused, strategic and systematic effort has gone into developing the infrastructure in the last four to five years. The proposed 38 km-long Bus Rapid Transit System from KPHB to Financial District and said that they will help in last-mile connectivity. The company officials that institutions like TASK and T-Hub are helping and nurturing talent and workforce in the niche technology space.

**Rajnath Singh becomes first Defence Minister to fly in Tejas fighter aircraft.**

- Union minister Rajnath Singh became the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft Tejas from the HAL airport in Bengaluru. He was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru. The minister flew a sortie in the twin-seater version of Tejas. Rajnath Singh was wearing a G-suite, a white helmet and an oxygen mask.

The Indian Aircraft Flying on Tejas an Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft from Bengaluru HAL Airport was an amazing and exhilarating experience.

Tejas successfully carried out an arrested landing a key performance, demonstrating its ability to land on board an aircraft carrier, making it a major milestone in the development of the naval variant of the fighter jet.

The IAF placed an order with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft. The IAF issued the request for proposal (RFP) to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over Rs. 50,000 crores.

Tejas is a multi-role fighter with several critical capabilities. It is meant to strengthen India’s air defence capabilities. The IAF already inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft. The Tejas is designed to carry a veritable plethora of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision guided and standoff weaponry.

**Ministry of WCD organized Poshan Maah event**

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) as part of the POSHAN Maah organized a one day camp in Shastri Bhavan in New Delhi. Rabindra Panwar, Secretary, Ministry of WCD inaugurated the Test, Treat and Talk (T 3) Anaemia and Defeat Diarrhoea (D 2) camp in New Delhi. The Ministry aims to create awareness regarding simple solutions to Anaemia and Diarrhoea.

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:**

POSHAN (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission is Government of India’s flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. It was launched by Prime Minister Modi on the International Women’s Day on 8 March 2018. The scheme has directed the attention of the country towards the problem of malnutrition and addresses it in a mission-mode.
Mukesh Ambani tops the 2019 IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List

• The eighth IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019 was released on 25 September 2019. Reliance Industries’ Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List. He has topped for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore.
• The list reported that 953 individuals crossed the Rs.1,000 crore threshold to make the list. According to IIFL, the combined wealth of top 25 in the list equates to 10% of India’s GDP and that of 953 accounts for 27%.

India ranks 44 in the World digital competitiveness rankings

• According to a global report, India has ranked 44th in World digital competitiveness rankings in 2019. India stood 48th rank in the year 2019. India has made various improvement in terms of knowledge and future readiness to adopt and explore digital technologies.
Also, according to the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 (WDCR), with great advancement in the technology sub-factor level, India holds the first position in telecommunications investment.
• Parameter:
The ranking list is produced by the IMD World Competitiveness Center. The rankings are based on various measures including the capacity and preparedness to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society. WDCR examines three factors for the evaluation of an economy. The factors namely:
♦ knowledge, the capacity to understand and learn the new technologies and
♦ technology, the competence to develop new digital innovations
♦ future-readiness, the preparedness for the coming developments.

Vikram had hard landing, NASA releases high-resolution images of Chandrayaan 2

• The United States premier space agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Chandrayaan-2’s Vikram lander had a hard landing on the Moon’s surface. While releasing high-resolution images captured by its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) during a lunar flyby.
• The Vikram lander attempted a soft landing on a small patch of lunar highland smooth plains between Simpelius N and Manzinus C craters on September 7 contact with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).The agency verify the exact location of the spacecraft. The images captured by LROC also do not pinpoint Chandrayaan 2 Vikram lander’s location but it is possible that it is hiding in shadow.
• India’s first attempt at a soft landing on the Moon. The site was located about 600 kilometers from the south pole in a relatively ancient terrain. The LRO passed over the landing site on September 17 and acquired a set of high-resolution images of the area; so far the LROC team has not been able to locate or image the lander.
Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh commissions indigenously built submarine INS Khanderi
• Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh made concerted efforts to modernize the Navy and equip it with the best platforms, weapons, and sensors to deal with any conventional and unconventional threats to India’s maritime interests. The launch of INS Nilgiri the first of the Navy’s seven new stealth frigates, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai.
• Around 70% of India’s trade by value and 95% by volume is taking place through the sea route and even a slight disruption of seaborne trade due to piracy, terrorism or conflict could have serious repercussions on the economic growth and well-being of the nation.

Pilot Project for ushering in Industry 4.0 in the country is launched
• A Pilot Project for ushering in the Industry 4.0 in the country, is launched for implementation at the Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Raebareli.
• The Ministry of Railways and Department of Science & Technology have joined hands in partnership with IIT Kanpur for taking up a unique project on Industry 4.0 launching a Pilot Project for implementation at Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli.
• The launch ceremony exchange of Ideas between Railway Board (Member Rolling Stock), Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Secretary Department of Science & Technology Shri Ashutosh Sharma, Professor N.S.Vyas of IIT Kanpur, DG RDSO Shri Virendra Kumar, General Manager MCF Shri V.M. Srivatsava some other senior Officials of the Railway Board and the Ministry of HRD.
• The department recently launched a new programme “Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (ICPS)” to foster and promote R&D in this emerging field of research.

AP government cancels Bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam
• Andhra Pradesh government collecting a ‘green tax’ besides imposing a ban on single-use plastic. The bauxite mining lease in about 1,520 hectares in Jarella of Chintapalli agency area in Visakhapatnam district, given to the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) for a period of 30 years.
• The growing pollution levels and its impact, chief minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Around one lakh tonnes of waste is being generated from pharma companies.
• The department officials to prepare a proposal within one month to promote the protection of the environment and prevention of pollution, and also asked them to study and observe various steps taken by other countries in preserving the environment. The pollution levels in Visakhapatnam are very high. It should be prevented immediately if not there will be severe consequences.
• The AP stands in first position in the country in exporting huge amount of sea products. The current pollution control board should be purified. At the same time industries should not be affected.
Indian Oil to build 1GW electric vehicle battery plant
• State-run oil refiner Indian Oil Corporation Ltd will set up a 1 Giga Watt (GW) plant to make batteries used for running electric vehicles (EVs) in partnership with an overseas start-up using a non-lithium ion raw material.
• The move fits well with the government’s strategy to facilitate the adoption of EVs in the country’s energy basket, and cut the fuel import bill. It also supports a key element of the EVs industry batteries and their recharge.
• The more efficient, less complex, very advanced and more economical, if you are looking at the car alone.
• India-centric solution. India tied-up with one company manufactured 100 per cent indigenously. The raw material is easily available in this country, whose recycling technology is extremely mature and whose recycling industry is well established in this country. The elements are known since ages, the natural resources of that particular element in this country is abundantly available, unlike in the case of lithium. For lithium, you have to depend on imports, and that too from China, because all lithium reserves today are under the possession of China. The battery plant will be set up through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed by IOC and the overseas entity. The location of the plant is yet to be decided. The 25 MW or 50 MW to pick up in the country for e-vehicles and e-mobility.

MeitY partners with Google for Build for Digital India programme
• The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a statement of intent (SoI) with Google. The agreement aimed to implement Build for Digital India programme.
Aim:
The aim of the initiative is to motivate the college students across India to innovate and produce some good technology solutions for major social challenges of India.
• Build for Digital India:
♦ Build for Digital India programme will provide engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.
♦ Engineering students across the country can apply and join the programme. Through this programme they will be able to transform their bright ideas into real-world solutions.
♦ The programme provides online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies such as machine learning, cloud, and android.
♦ The opportunities will be offered through Google’s Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks.
♦ Under the programme mentorship sessions in product design, strategy and technology to the most promising products and prototypes will be offered by Google.
Cabinet approves Rs.9300 crore capital infusion for IDBI Bank

- The Cabinet has approved a capital infusion plan worth Rs.9,300 crore for IDBI Bank. The bank will get the amount from its parent, Life Insurance Corp. of India.
- The aim of the move is to help narrow IDBI's losses and boost its lending capacity. The Cabinet cleared the IDBI Bank recapitalization plan with one-time infusion assets by the administration and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and shares of IDBI Bank jumped as much as 10.84% after the declaration.
- IDBI Bank and recapitalization plan:
  The fund infusion will empower IDBI Bank to come back to benefit and give the option of recovering its investment at an opportune time.
  The government will provide a one-time recapitalization of Rs.4,557 crore to IDBI Bank and LIC will infuse Rs.4,743 crore. LIC has a 51% share in IDBI Bank where 49% is with the government.
  In August 2018, LIC bought a 51% stake in IDBI Bank from the government and infused Rs. 21,000 crore into it to revive the lender.

PNB approved its merger with OBC and United Bank of India

- Punjab National Bank's (PNB) board has decided to give its in-principle approval for the merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India. The move is a part of the announcement of a major bank merger by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The directors of the Bank approved to commence the amalgamation process. The board also approved a capital infusion of up to Rs.18,000 crore from the government for preferential allotment of equity shares of the bank at a price determined in terms of SEBI (ICDR) Regulations. After the merger, PNB will be the country's second-largest PSB with Rs.18 lakh crore business. It will also be the second-largest branch network in India.
- Earlier, the government announced that the four major bank mergers. The merger of 10 public sector banks to be merged into four was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. After the merger, there will now be 12 public sector banks after the latest round of consolidation of PSU banks

IndiGo partners with SonyLIV to provide mobile inflight entertainment

- IndiGo announced its partnership with online video streaming service SonyLIV to offer passengers entertainment content at ₹25. The airline is expanding its footprint globally resulting in longer flights for its passengers calling for the need to provide entertainment content onboard. The airline has 50% of its new destinations in 2019 will be international ones.
- The passengers will have to download the app and the video content before they board their flight. IndiGo will provide a link to its flyers through which they avail the subscription. The flyers will have unlimited access to SonyLIV's premium content catalogue for the next 7 days.While the government has allowed airlines to provide in-flight internet connectivity as well as voice calls, IndiGo seems to have decided to not go down that route yet.
• Full-service carrier Air India provides its passengers pre-loaded entertainment content which can be viewed on screens mounted on seatbacks, while Vistara’s Vistara World App allows you to wirelessly stream content from your personal Android device. SpiceJet too announced its plans last year to provide in-flight WiFi but is yet to roll it out.

RBI makes it Mandatory for Banks to Link Retail Loans with External Benchmarks from October 1
• The Reserve Bank of India mandatory for banks to link all new floating-rate loans for housing, auto and MSMEs to an external benchmark like repo from October 1. Industry and retail borrowers complaining that banks do not pass on the entire RBI’s policy rate (repo rate). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed that due to various reasons, the transmission of policy rate changes to the lending rate of banks under the current marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) framework.
• The banks to link all new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans to MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) to an external benchmark effective October 1, 2019. The Reserve Bank already reduced the repo or short-term lending rate by 110 basis points, but the banks have reportedly passed on only up to 40 bps to borrowers.

HAL to receive 45,000 crore orders for 83 LCA fighters
• The Indian Air Force (IAF) to place orders worth around Rs.45,000 crore with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to acquire 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas fighters.
• The IAF issued a tender for 83 LCAs about two years ago and the project was stuck over the pricing issue as the government and the Air Force felt that the price offered by the HAL was slightly higher. The Defence Ministry determined the cost of the 83 LCA Mark 1A aircraft around Rs.45,000 crore and the Indian Air Force is now expected to place orders for these planes in the next few weeks.
• The LCAs have been designed and developed completely by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy presented the Final Operational Clearance (IOC)

Coffee Day sells Global Village Tech Park for 2,800 cr to Blackstone
• Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL) closed the deal to sell the Global Village Technology Park in Bengaluru to New York-based private equity giant Blackstone Group Llp. Two people familiar with the transaction confirmed the development. The sale of the 90-acre tech park was finalized at Rs.2,800 crore, according to the first person.
• The money will be credited to CDEL within the next week. The 2000 crore from the proceeds of the deal will be used to repay debts of CDEL and Rs.800 crore will go into the books of CDEL to meet its working capital requirements.
• CDEL owns Coffee Day Global Ltd (coffee business), Sical Logistics Ltd (integrated logistics), Tanglin Developments Ltd, Way2Wealth (financial services), and Coffee Day Hotels and Resorts Ltd (hospitality) obligations of at least Rs.7,653 crore.
The debt come down after Siddhartha and two CDEL subsidiaries sold their entire stake in Mindtree Ltd to Larsen and Toubro Ltd for Rs.3,200 crore, and used a part of the money to repay debt.

**Nissan CEO Saikawa resigns**

- Nissan Motor CEO Hiroto Saikawa has resigned his position. His resignation after an internal investigation that revealed falsified documents that boosted his compensation in 2013. The change increased his compensation by about 96.5 million yen (roughly $900,000 at that time), based on current foreign exchange rates.

Saikawa was appointed as CEO of Nissan after a 40-year career in April 2017. Previously he served as co-CEO with Ghosn from November 2016.
- He will be temporarily replaced by chief operating officer (COO) Yasuhiro Yamauchi. A new candidate will be announced by the company in the month of October. The company has formed a committee in June to select the CEO of the company. The committee made up of six company outsiders has now shortlisted 10 possible candidates for the post.

**UK Sinha committee recommends Telangana startup policy for startups in other states**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) backed UK Sinha committee has recommended that Telangana’s innovative model for start-ups should be assessed for possible replication in other states. UK Sinha, the former Chairman of SEBI, led committee submitted its report in June. The state's various incentives for startups and incubators are the reasons for its mention in the report.

**SBI Life Insurance signs corporate agency pact with Repco Home Finance**

- SBI Life Insurance signed a corporate agency agreement with city-based Repco Home Finance Ltd to offer the company’s range of products to RHFL customers. The partnership would see over 148 branches and 27 satellite centers of RHFL spread across the country to offer SBI Life Insurance products to its customers.
- The longevity associated with life insurance demands a very high level of consumer trust, which is built with tie-ups with highly credible distribution partners. This tie-up with Repco Home Finance is step in this direction which will help boost SBI Life’s reach to new customers across geographies.
- The tie-up will enable every RHFL customer to meet their diverse insurance needs. Consumers will have a direct access to SBI Life’s wide range of products in protection, retirement, health thereby empowering consumer to address their complete financial needs.

The agreement was signed by RHFL CFO T Karunakaran, General Manager K Prabhu and SBI Life, Regional Director, E Thirumudi Pandian in the presence of Repco Home Finance Ltd MD and CEO, Yashpal Gupta and others.

**HDFC Bank, IOC launch co-branded fuel credit card for users from non-metro cities**
• HDFC Bank in partnership with Indian Oil launched a co-branded fuel card for users from non-metro cities and towns which will be available on both RuPay and Visa platforms.
• The card was launched at an event here by IOCL’s Executive Director (Retail Sales) Vigyan Kumar and HDFC Bank’s Country Head, Payments Business and Marketing, Parag Rao. The card offers customers highest rewards and benefits on fuel consumption and will be available on both RuPay and Visa platforms.
• Customers earn reward points known as ‘fuel points’ at over 27,000 IOCL outlets. They also earn fuel points on all other spends such as Groceries, bill payments, utilities and other shopping. These points can be redeemed for up to 50 litres of fuel annually.
• The card was also simultaneously launched across 135 Indian oil outlets in Bhopal, Lucknow, Indore, Ranchi, Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, Nagpur, Shillong, Varanasi, Jalandhar and Panjim, among others.

PNB launched Preventive Vigilance portal
Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a Preventive Vigilance (PV) portal on 25 September. The bank conducted a meeting at the PNB Corporate Office to promote vigilance awareness. The meeting was chaired by Central Vigilance Commissioner Sharad Kumar.

Aim:
The Preventive Vigilance portal aims to facilitate the bank’s staff members to check procedural lapses and promote good practices.

PV Portal:
♦ The PV portal will facilitate all staff members to contribute towards arresting procedural lapses and unhealthy practices
♦ It will usher in a coherent climate conducive to banking for the modern age.
♦ The first of its kind portal includes other activities, such as the inauguration of the e-pledge mission, social outreach through technological platforms.
♦ The bank promoted the portal under the central theme Integrity-A way of Life.

Amazon India to train individuals with autism
• Amazon India announced its partnership with a non-governmental organisation (NGO) - Sol’s ARC. They planned to launch an industry first pilot programme to train young adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.
• This programme will enable their successful integration into the workforce and help them gain financial independence. Amazon.in will work closely with Sol’s ARC to create internship opportunities for them across different parts of its fulfilment network.
• The NGO would also help create awareness among Amazon employees about autism and intellectual disabilities. More than 350 associates who are deaf with speech disabilities are part of the Amazon network across the country’s fulfilment centres, sortation centres and delivery stations.

Amazon
Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States
CEO: Jeff Bezos
Founder: Jeff Bezos

India’s biggest brands HDFC Bank retains top rank for sixth time in a row.
• HDFC Bank topped the WPP-Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking for the sixth time in a row. BFSI brands have dominated the top 10 ranking list this year. According to the report, banking brands made up the largest share of the BrandZ Top 75 and owned 23% of the total brand value of $53.3 billion.
Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India retained their positions in the ranking at No. 2 and No. 5, respectively.
Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank and got 5, 6th positions recently.

In 2018, HDFC Bank’s brand value grew by 5% and was evaluated to be around $22.7 billion. While the growth of the bank’s brand value has declined from 21% in 2018 to 5% in 2019, the report states that the bank seems to buck the global trend.

Brand Z Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands
The BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands study reported an 8% decline in value of the top 20 global banks. B2B technology services, including brands like Tata Consultancy Services secured 3rd position and Infosys secured 11th position the second largest category, commanding a combined $27.8 billion in brand value. Asian Paints and Maruti Suzuki were the other brands on the top 10 list.
Jio established its larger ambitions beyond telecom, was the fastest riser in the 2019 ranking. The brand managed to solidify its place in the top 10 list at No. 9 with a 34% increase in brand value to $5.5 billion. Jio came in at No. 10 with an estimated brand value of $4.1 billion. Telecom brand Airtel retained its rank at No. 4 with a decline in brand value of 10% from $11.5 billion to $10.3 billion.
Indian unicorn brands Oyo ($2 billion), Swiggy ($1.6 billion) and Zomato ($1 billion) were newcomers to the ranking at No. 30, No. 39 and No. 61, respectively.
ICICI Bank dropped one rank and was ranked No. 10 in 2019. Together, banking and insurance brands commanded 34% of the top 75 ranking.
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FM Reviews Capital Expenditure and Payments of Maharatnas and Navratnas CPSE’s
• Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to review their capital expenditure till date and plans for the next two quarters of this financial year.
• This meeting was held as part of the series of meetings that the Finance Minister has been having with various stakeholders and the measures that have been taken to accelerate the economic growth rate.
• The Meeting was attended by Finance Secretary Shri Rajeev Kumar, Secretary DEA Shri Atanu Chakraborty & Secretary Expenditure Shri GC Murmu & Heads /Representatives of 32 CPSEs.
• The combined capital expenditure by the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Departmental Undertakings (DUs) such as the NHAI and the Indian Railways contribute in substantial measure to fixed assets creation in the economy.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

DAY NULM bagged SKOCH Governance Gold Award for the year 2019.
• Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA) in a function held at the Constitution Club of India.

Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
Launched in November 2018. PAiSA is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission. It offers end to end online solution for processing,
payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis. They claim for subvention are uploaded by banks through their CBS (Core Banking Solution) in respect of the beneficiaries of the Self Employment Programme. It is verified and approved by the ULB and State concerned. The approved claim amount gets credited directly to the beneficiary’s loan account through DBT mode. SMS is also sent to the beneficiary’s mobile number intimating the credit of subvention amount. The portal has been designed and developed through the Allahabad Bank. There are 28 States/UTs and 74 Banks including 21 Public Sector, 18 Private and 35 Regional Rural Banks have been on board on the portal. Till now approximately 1.50 lakh beneficiaries have been paid Rs. 27 Cr (approx.) as interest subvention through PAiSA.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to award PM Modi
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced the Global Goalkeeper Award 2019 for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The award recognizes his goal-oriented venture plan Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Along with PM Modi, 10 other individuals are to be awarded for their great work.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or the Clean India Mission was introduced as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 in 2014. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan meant to make India the Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019. It ensures to provide sanitation facilities to all. The campaign will be completed by 2 October 2019 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest private foundation in the world, is a private establishment founded in 2000. It is located in Seattle, Washington. The foundation is claimed by a very rich person donor Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his significant other Melinda Gates. Global Goalkeeper Award 2019 is a special award of the foundation. It celebrates a political leader who has demonstrated their commitment to the Global Goals through impactful work in their country or/and globally.

Oscars of science awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team
• The Event Horizon Telescope Team consists of 347 scientists produced the world first image of a black hole. They were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. The prize is known as the Oscars of science with prize money $3 million. The team published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy.
• Directed by Shep Doelman at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, the team spent over a decade simulating an Earth-sized computational telescope that combined the signals received by eight radio telescopes working in pairs around the world with their sights trained on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy, 55 million light-years away. Through this technique, they were able to achieve an unprecedented resolution and observe the black hole’s silhouette for the first time in history, confirming theoretical predictions about these celestial objects.
The event horizon of a black hole is the point at which its gravitational effects are strong that light cannot escape its pull.

**HRD Minister Confers CBSE Teachers Award 2018 To 35 Teachers.**
- Central Board of Secondary Education conferred Teacher's Award 2018 to 35 Teachers and Principals. The awards were given away by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank. The Union HRD Minister launched the CBSE's portal Vidyadhan on Diksha App, a Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing National Forum for Teachers and released

**CBSE's Annual Activity Calendar**
Mr. Ramesh Pokhriyal greeted all the awardees and principals and thanked them for their in nation building through teaching. The awards are a symbol of their hard work. The teachers to create a positive environment with quality and values that meet the present and future needs of students.

The HRD Minister released 10 CBSE Manuals on various subjects like art integration, experiential learning, enjoyable teaching and learning of mathematics, new initiatives, school quality assessment and assurance, 10 + 2 post-academic courses, artificial intelligence, hubs of learning and eco-club and water conservation.

State for Human Resource Development was the Guest of Honour at the event. The student is different and unique, and education should meet individual needs and nature of each student so that children become courageous, confident human beings with strong character and are able to build a bright future.

Ms. Anita Karwal congratulated the awardee teachers and said that it will give new energy to the recipients and at the same time inspire many other teachers to uplift the education sector.

**Indian Ambassador to UAE Navdeep Suri conferred with UAE Order of Zayed.**
- Sheikh Khalifa, conferred the Order of Zayed II first class. Mr Suri was given the honour in recognition of his efforts during his tenure and his contribution to the development and strengthening of relations between the UAE and India. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, presented the Order to the ambassador during a meeting at the ministry in Abu Dhabi.

Sheikh Abdullah praised the ambassador for his role in bolstering UAE-Indian relations and wished him success in his future assignments. The relations between India and the UAE to even greater heights and to try to realise a vision outlined by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces recently presented the Order of Zayed, the nation's highest civilian award to Mr Modi for forging close ties between the two countries. The award was presented by Sheikh Abdullah, who thanked Mr Stellino for his work in strengthening ties between the countries and wished him the best for the future. The Italian ambassador thanked Sheikh Khalifa and all of the government bodies for their support in making his job a success.
Julie Andrews to receive AFI Lifetime Achievement Award.
• The American Film Institute (AFI) board of trustees on Friday announced that actress Julie Andrews will be honoured with the 48th Lifetime Achievement Award. "Julie Andrews is...perfect in every way," said Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI board of trustees. She earlier won an Oscar for 'Mary Poppins' and is also known for her role in 'The Sound of Music'.

Journalist Ravish Kumar awarded first Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award.
• NDTV's Ravish Kumar was awarded the first Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award for Journalism by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust.
• He was awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award last month.

Gehlot distributed prizes to the winners of 2nd Sign Language Competition.
• Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot distributed prizes to the students of 2nd Sign Language Competition on the occasion of Sign Language Day which was observed on 23 September. The day was observed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

ISLRTC events:
Children with a hearing disability who is studying in Delhi-NCR presented jokes, stories, and essays in Indian Sign Language. The students have showcased their creativity and knowledge in their submissions.
The programme included cultural performances like drama and songs in ISL by the students and faculty members of ISLRTC and presentation of awards to children with hearing disability.

India's effort:
Government of India is committed to bringing all Divyangjans into the mainstream. ISLRTC has introduced a Dictionary of 6000 Sign Language words. It is expected that 4000 more new Sign Words will be added into it by 2020. Other efforts are being taken at the national and international level.

Government of India has instituted Sardar Patel National Unity Award
• Government of India has instituted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It will be the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the institution of the Sardar Patel National Unity Award on 20th September 2019.

Aim:
The Award recognizes the contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India. The award will be announced on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st October. The day is observed as the National Unity Day.

Award committee:
Centre has also instituted an Award Committee for the selection of the award recipient. The panel constitutes of the Prime Minister including the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretary to the President, Home Secretary as Members and three-four eminent persons selected by the Prime Minister.

**About the Award:**
The Award shall be conferred by the President. Not more than three Awards will be given in a year. The Award comprises of a medal and a citation. No cash award prize would be attached to the Award.

**Binny Bansal gets IIT Delhi distinguished alumni award**
- Flipkart Co-founder Binny Bansal has become the youngest alumnus this year to be recognized as a distinguished alumnus by IIT Delhi. He was recognized for the outstanding contribution made in entrepreneurship.

**Binny Bansal:**
Binny is the co-founder of e-commerce platform Flipkart. He co-founded Flipkart along with Sachin Bansal in 2007. He had quit as Flipkart’s Group CEO in November 2018. He has been recognized as distinguished alumni by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
- He was graduated from the prestigious institution in 2005. He is the youngest alumni to be awarded this year for his outstanding contribution made in entrepreneurship.

**Greta Thunberg, 16 year old, won alternative Nobel Prize**
- Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg was named as one of four winners of the 2019 Right Livelihood Award. The award is also known as Sweden’s alternative Nobel Prize. She was awarded for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts. The award was announced by the Right Livelihood Foundation. The awardees triggered a thirst to strive for a liveable future for all on planet Earth.

**Awardees:**
Along with Thunberg, 3 other visionaries were awarded. The award recipients are:
- Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg
- Chinese women’s rights lawyer Guo Jianmei
- Davi Kopenawa of the Yanomami people, the Brazilian indigenous leader
- Western Sahara human rights defender Aminatou Haidar.

The 4 laureates received a cash award of 1 million Swedish crowns ($103,000) each.

**Infosys won the United Nations Global Climate Action Award**
- Infosys won the prestigious United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the Climate Neutral Now category. Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, is the only corporate from India to earn the award. The award recognized the company’s efforts to combat
climate change. The award will be presented to Infosys at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) which has been scheduled to be held on December 2019 in Santiago, Chile.

Organized by:
The UN Global Climate Action Award is organized by the Momentum for Change initiative of the UN Climate Change Secretariat.
The winners were selected based on innovative solutions that address climate change and help drive progress on many other sustainable development goals, such as poverty alleviation, gender equality, and economic opportunity.

SPORTS

Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup
• Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup 2019 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She became the world champion in the women’s 10m Air Pistol event. Yashaswini Singh Deswal defeated Olena Kostevyc, 2004 Athens Olympic champion, by finishing 1.9 points ahead of her. With this win, she has secured India’s ninth Olympic quota in shooting.

Yashaswini Singh Deswal:
Yashaswini Singh Deswal is an Indian sport shooter. She is the daughter of SS Deswal who is an IPS officer. He is the deputy general of Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Her mother Saroj Deswal is the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Panchkula.

Jinson betters own 1500m national record by winning silver in Berlin, qualifies for World Championships.
Johnson clocked 3 minute 35.24 seconds to finish second behind Joshua Thompson of United States at the Olympic Stadium here.
• With his own national record shattering effort, Jinson also qualified for the World Championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 6. The World Championships qualifying time is 3:36.00.
• “I was expecting to set new national record but did not expect to win the silver. I will now go to Colorado in USA for further training and then to Doha for World Championships,” Jinson said after the event.
• “I am very happy. But my ultimate aim is to do well in Tokyo 2020.”
• Jinson had won the 2018 Asian Games gold in 1500m with a time of 3:44.72.
• ISTAF Berlin is a part of the IAAF World Challenge meetings, the second tier of global one day athletics events. It is the penultimate leg of the IAAF World Challenge meetings this year.

Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe
• Qatar unveiled the logo for the 2022 World Cup. It will hosted by the Gulf emirate displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world.
• The design is a stylised Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning. It displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolising infinity while creating a heart shape above the words FIFA.

WORLD CUP Qatar 2022
• The logo is very elegant and showing local culture with the burgundy colour of the Qatari flag, Algerian hospitality worker Mourad Bencheikh.

Anupama Swain won bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu Jitsu 2019
• Anupama Swain won a bronze medal in the recently concluded World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu 2019. The event was held in Chungju, South Korea.
• She qualified for 2022 Asian Games. She is the only Indian to participate in the championship. Jiu-Jitsu is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.

Afghanistan defeat Bangladesh to record their 1st ever away Test win.
• Afghanistan defeated Bangladesh by 224 runs at Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium to register their first-ever away Test victory. Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan became the first player to score a fifty and take 10 or more wickets in debut match as captain. Afghanistan also became the second Test side after Australia to win two of their first three Tests.

Worlds highest marathon was held in Ladakh
• The eighth edition of Ladakh Marathon was held in Leh town, Jammu Kashmir. More than 6,000 runners from different parts of India and 25 foreign countries participated in the marathon. It was sponsored by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC). The full marathons were jointly flagged off by the Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC, Leh Gyal Phunchok Wangyal and Additional District Development Commissioner Mozes Kunzang. The half marathon was flagged off by Dilbag Singh, J&K Director General of Police. The 7-km-long Run for Fun was flagged off by Lt Genl YK Joshi, GoC of 14 Corp of the Army.

Highest marathon:
All four categories marathon are held at over 11,000 feet above the mean sea level. This marathon is known as the highest marathon in the world. The 4 categories of Ladakh Marathon are 72-km Ultra Khardungla Challenge, 42-km full and 21-km half marathon and 7-km long Run for Fun.

Kenyas Kosgei sets new record in 2019 Great North Run
• Kenya’s Brigid Kosgei won the women’s half-marathon event in 2019 Great North Run in Newcastle, England. She finished the run with a time duration of 1 hour four minutes and twenty-eight seconds. Her time was twenty-three seconds faster than Kenyan Joyciline Jepkosgei on September 8th, 2019 in London.

Brigid Kosgei:
Brigid Jepscheschir Kosgei is a Kenyan marathoner before this event she won the 2018 Chicago Marathon, London marathon, She came second at the 2017 Chicago Marathon and 2018 London Marathon.

**Australia’s Megan Schutt becomes 1st woman to take two int'l hat-tricks.**
- Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt has become the first woman to claim two hat-tricks in international cricket. Schutt achieved the feat by dismissing West Indies’ last three players off the final three deliveries in the final ODI of the three-match series. She had taken her first international hat-trick in a T20I against India last year.

**India bags 34 medals in 10th Asia Pacific Youth Games.**
- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju congratulated Indian contingent for excellent performance in the 10th Asian Pacific Youth Games in Vladivostok. India won total 16 gold, 13 silver and 5 bronze medals in seven different sports.
- Indian Judokas to give strong performances yesterday as Mahesh Saini (66 kg), Vishal (81 kg) and Rohit (50 kg) won gold while Siddharth won silver. Yoshiaki won gold in the girl’s singles while the girl’s doubles team also won gold in Table Tennis. The Indian swimming team finished as the overall winners in their sport. Assam swimmer Astha Choudhury brought laurels to the State and country by winning five medals including two gold and three silver. Astha bagged gold medals in 4×50 metre mixed freestyle and 4×50 mixed individual medley relay categories. The gold medals, Astha won silver medals in 100 metre freestyle, 200 metre freestyle and 100 metre individual medley categories.
- Sports Authority of India National Cycling Academy won its first medal when Swasti Singh won the bronze medal in junior women’s 2 km individual pursuit. Kristina Titovskaya of Kazakhstan won the gold while Yanina Kuskova of Uzbekistan captured silver. Harshveer Singh had to deal with a disappointing end in the elite men’s 15 KM Scratch Race as he failed to finish on the podium. In a world-class field, the Indian finished fifth as the gold was captured by Muhammad Shaari of Malaysia.

**India won Track Asia Cup 2019.**
- Cycling sensation Ronaldo Laitonjam won at the Track Asia Cup 2019. The two gold medal on day one, the junior world champion team member created an Asian record for men’s junior 200m time trial event and later won a gold medal in the junior men’s Sprint event.
- Venkappa Shiv Kangalgutti won the gold medal in the junior men’s 3 km individual. Triyasha Paul and Nikita Nisha gave finish in the junior women’s sprint event and added two more medals to India’s tally. Paul and Nisha won medals on day one was well. India’s Punam Chand captured the silver medal falling short against Malaysia’s Emam Firdaus Mohammad Zamri who won the gold medal. India elite women’s 3 KM individual pursuit race. Elangbam Devi and Irungbam Devi gave India a silver-bronze finish in the event. The bronze medal was won by Irungbam Devi.
India’s second team is Sports Authority of India National Cycling Academy won its first medal when Swasti Singh won the bronze medal in junior women’s 2 km individual pursuit. Kristina Titovskaya of Kazakhstan won the gold while Yanina Kuskova of Uzbekistan captured silver. Harshveer Singh to deal a disappointing end in the elite men’s 15 KM Scratch Race as he failed to finish on the podium. The Indian finished fifth as the gold was captured by Muhammad Shaari of Malaysia.

Payas Jain won silver at ITTF Asian Junior and Cadet Championship.
• India made a silver splash at the ITTF World Asian and Cadet Championship as the country’s accomplished table tennis player Payas Jain and junior boys team bagged silver in Cadet Boy’s Singles and Junior Boys’ Team events.
Jain show his aggression initially but in the face of a fine attacking play by the Chinese. The Delhi paddler wilted and lost 11-13, 6-11, 8-11, 5-11 in less than 20 minutes. There was a time in the first game when Jain matched his Chinese rival and even deuced after trailing. The top-seeded Chinese converted the point at the second opportunity to go ahead.
Jain’s silver medal earned him a berth in the Asian squad will participate in the World Cadet Challenge at Wladyslawowo. India’s campaign at the championships ended with two silver medals one by the junior boys team and another by Jain.

Mayank Vaid becomes first Indian to complete Enduroman triathlon.
• Mayank Vaid becomes the first Indian to complete the Enduroman. It is a triathlon from England to France which is considered to be one of the toughest endurance competitions in the world. He is the 44th person in the world to have completed this triathlon. He is also the first Asian person to complete this triathlon in solo capacity.
He also broken the record for the shortest time taken to complete the Enduroman Arch to Arc triathlon. He completed the triathlon involving running, swimming and cycling. The time duration is around in 50 hours and 24 minutes. The previous record for this triathlon was 52 hours and 30 minutes. It is held by Julien Deneyer of Belgium.
The triathlon starts with a 140 km run from London’s Marble Arch to Dover on the Kent coast, then a cross-Channel swim (shortest distance 33.8 km) to the French coast, and finishes with a 289.7 km bike ride from Calais to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.
This is the longest point to point triathlon in the world. Only 44 persons have completed it so far. More people have climbed Mt. Everest. It is truly the toughest and most brutal triathlon in the world.
The difficulties he faced in the course of his record run. The swim and bike sections were really hard. Especially going sleepless for more than 50 hours. The most challenging part is when a swimmer starts to see the French coast and that’s when the mind plays games.
Pankaj Advani wins his record 22nd world billiards title.
• Pankaj Advani increased his tally of world titles to twenty-two by winning the fourth final within the 150 at the IBSF World Billiards Championship on 14th Sept 2019 in Mandalay of Myanmar.

About Play on finals:
India's Pankaj Advani defeated England's Mike Russell in 5-2 to enter the final of the IBSF World Billiards Championship. Thway Oo had beaten the Russell in the semifinals last year before losing to Advani within the final. Advani scored 3 consecutive centuries. The match was equally poised at 2 frames result in Pankaj Advani (India) defeated Mike Russell (England) 5-2: 150(114)-117(59), 142(142)-150(150), 152(118)-122(122), 45-151(74), 152(63)-142(85), 151(123)-96(66), 151-61. Nay Thway Oo (Myanmar) beat Sourav Kothari (India) 5-3: 151(65)-125, 151(93)-95(93), 21-152(152), 150(122)-77(68), 79(72)-151(83), 110(103)-150, 150(150)-0, 152(130)-0.

About IBSF:
The IBSF World table game Championship is the premier international and non-professional tournament for the English billiards sanctioned by the International Billiards and Snooker Federation in 1973.

Pankaj Arjan:

Bajrang Punia won a bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championships.
• Bajrang Punia bagged the bronze medal in the World Wrestling Championships. He defeated Mongolia’s Tulga Tumur Ochir 8-7 to clinch the medal in the 65 kg weight category. The wrestler was trailing to win in the match. The 25-year-old had secured a spot for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after an impressive 8-1 win over North Korea’s Jong Son in the tournament. Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian wrestler to qualify for the upcoming global games. He booked her place in the 53kg category. She bagged back-to-back gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games. In the 2018 Asian Games, she clinched a gold medal in the 50kg category.

World Wrestling Championships
World Wrestling Championships are the Amateur Wrestling World Championships organized by the United World Wrestling. The Men's Greco-Roman Wrestling tournament began in 1904, and the Men's Freestyle Wrestling tournament began in 1951. The Women's Freestyle championships were first staged in 1987.

Panghal 1st Indian male boxer to win silver at World Championships.
• Amit Panghal has become the first Indian male boxer to win silver medal at the World Championships after suffering a defeat in the final. Panghal lost with a scoreline of 0-5 to Olympic
champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in the 52-kg category final. The 23-year-old boxer defeated Kazakhstan’s Saken Bibossinov 3-2 in the semi-final.

**Koneru Humpy wins 2019 Skolkovo FIDE Womens Grand Prix**
- Koneru Humpy wins Skolkovo FIDE Women’s Grand Prix 2019 for women title at Skolkovo, Russia. The Indian grandmaster Koneru scored eight points in 11 games with six draws and five wins.
- Skolkovo FIDE Women’s Grand Prix 2019: The Skolkovo FIDE Women’s Grand Prix 2019 is a 12-player round-robin taking place in Skolkovo. It was held in Moscow from 11-22 September 2019. The game forms the 1st of four stages of the 2019-20 FIDE Women’s Grand Prix.
- It will determine two places in the 2021 Candidates Tournament. In the event, 16 players competed in the series. Each will be playing in three of the four events. The prize includes 80,000 euros, with 15,000 euros and 160 Grand Prix points for the winner.

**Shafali Verma became the youngest women player to play T20I for India**
- Shafali Verma, 15, became the youngest women player to play Twenty20 International (T20I) for India. She achieved the feat at the age of 15 years and 239 days. She played the T20I for the first time against South Africa at Lalabhai Contractor Stadium, Surat. Shafali is also the second youngest to play an international match for the Indian team after Gargi Banerji.
- **Previous record:** The previous record was held by Sneha Deepthi. Ms. Deepthi had made her debut at the age of 16 years and 204 days against Bangladesh in 2013.

**Shafali Verma:**
Shafali Verma was born on January 28, 2004, in Rohtak, Haryana. The Right-hand batswoman played for major teams including Haryana Women, Velocity. In September 2019 she was selected in India’s Women’s Twenty20 International (WT20I) team. On 24 September 2019, She made her WT20I debut for India, against South Africa.

**Visa appoints PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador**
- Visa, the payment technology company, has signed up the world badminton champion Pusarla Venkata Sindhu as its brand ambassador for two years. She will be promoting the brand through advertising campaigns.
- Apart from this, Sindhu has become an athlete member of Team Visa for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- **Team Visa:**
Since 1986, Visa has been supporting the Olympic Games as a worldwide sponsor. Visa has also signed a contract as the exclusive payment technology partner through 2032. Team Visa is the company’s global athlete support program to assist athletes who aspire to the Olympic and
Paralympic podiums. The athletes under the program are selected based on their expected demonstration of strong competitive performance at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The program has supported over 400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

**Vedaant won silver at International Swimming Championship**
- Actor R Madhavan, 14-year-old son Vedaant clinched a silver medal in the 4x100m freestyle relay for Group II boys at the Asian Age Group Swimming Championship. Vedaant, along with other participants Utkarsh Patil, Sahil Laskar and Shoan Ganguly, won a silver medal in the category.
- Thailand scored the gold medal and Japan won bronze in the third spot. India won gold in the 4x100m men's freestyle relay at the Asian Age Group Swimming Championship.
- Madhavan shared an appreciation post for the young swimmers including his son. India gets her silver medal at the Asian Games. Vedaant along with other participants Utkarsh Patil, Sahil Laskar, and Shoan Ganguly, won a silver medal in the category.

**N Srinivasan's Daughter Rupa Gurunath Becomes First Woman To Head A BCCI State Unit**
- Rupa Gurunath, daughter of former BCCI chief N. Srinivasan elected unopposed as president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA). She is the first woman to head a state unit of the Indian Board. Rupa is the wife of Gurunath Meiyappan, who is serving a life ban for his involvement in the 2013 Indian Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing scandal.
- She is elected at the TNCA’s 87th Annual General Meeting in Chennai. The TNCA’s Executive meeting decided to hold the elections. TNCA recently hit the headlines after unnamed officials, coaches and players in its franchise-based Tamil Nadu Premier League were accused of being involved in match-fixing.
- The Supreme Court allowed the TNCA to hold elections for its office-bearers.
- The results of elections will be subject to the order of the top court and legal remedies will be available to parties involved.

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) governing Indian cricket in its submissions before the apex court complained that the TNCA comply with the new BCCI constitution.

**Deepak Punia reached first rank in Wrestling Ranking**
- World Championship silver medallist wrestler Deepak Punia jumped to world number one position in 6kg. He lost the top rank in the 65kg category in the latest rankings issued by the international federation (UWW).
- He settled for a silver after an ankle injury forced him to pull out of the final against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani. The 20-year-old now has 82 points, four more than World Champion Yazdani.
- Deepak won a silver Yasar Dogu and bronze medals at Asian Championship and at Sassari tournaments. He has been rewarded for his consistent show.
APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION

PK Sinha is appointed as OSD in Prime Ministers Office.
- Former cabinet Secretary PK Sinha has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). He will replace Nripendra Misra who is the Principal Secretary of PMO. Sinha’s place will be taken by Rajiv Gauba who was appointed as Cabinet Secretary.

Nripendra Misra:
Nripendra Misra 1967-batch retired IAS officer. He has relieved his position as a senior government official. Misra was the first senior-level appointment created by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. He is an outstanding officer who has an excellent grasp of public policy associate degreed administration. Misra had retired as TRAI chairman.

PK Sinha:
Pradeep Kumar Sinha is the 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. He is the 31st cabinet Secretary of India. Before this appointment, he served as the Power Secretary of India.

Rating Agency ICRA terminates CEO Naresh Takkar.
- ICRA Ltd ousted its Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer Naresh Takkar. ICRA terminated the employment of Takkar with immediate effect over allegations of misconduct at the credit rating agency under Takkar. This is the first time a top official of a rating agency has been fired by the company’s board. ICRA Founded - 1991 Headquarters - Gurugram, India.

IndiGo appoints GE Healthcare official Aditya Pande as its new CFO.
- InterGlobe Aviation Ltd operates the country’s largest airline IndiGo appointed GE-Healthcare official Aditya Pande as its chief financial officer. He replaces Rohit Philip leaves the company on 16 September. Aditya’s decision to join the IndiGo team and welcome him to the Company. IndiGo chief executive officer Ronojoy Dutta said in a statement. His enormous and varied experience and understanding of the complexities of the various businesses he has worked will be invaluable to our future plans Dutta added. Aditya Pande, a qualified chartered accountant has over 27 years of finance leadership experience. He is currently the chief financial officer at GE Healthcare. Pande previously served GE Healthcare as it's group chief financial officer of South Asia division.

InterGlobe Aviation
Parent company: Interglobe Aviation Ltd
Headquarters: Gurugram
Lt Gen Manoj Naravane took charge as VCAS
- Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge of Vice Chief of the Army Staff in New Delhi on 1 September. He replaces Lieutenant General Devraj Anbu superannuated on August 31.
- General Manoj Mukund Naravane: Naravane was earlier heading the Eastern Command of the Indian Army. He was active in Counter Insurgency environments, both in the North East and in J&K. Naravane was a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka during Operation PAWAN.
- Lieutenant General Manoj was awarded the Sena Medal-Distinguished for command of his Battalion in J&K, the Vishisht Seva Medal for his services as the Inspector General Assam Rifles-North in Nagaland.

President Ram Nath Kovind appoints 5 new Governors
President appoints 5 Governors, Arif Mohammad Khan to be Kerala Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan appointed Telangana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya to be Governor Himachal Pradesh, Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Kalraj Mishra also appointed Governors.
Five new governors have been appointed on Sunday.
Arif Mohammed Khan has been appointed as Governor of Kerala, Kalraj Mishra will be the Governor of Rajasthan. Bandaru Dattatreya has been appointed as Governor of Himachal Pradesh while Bhagat Singh Koshyari appointed as Governor of Maharashtra. Tamilisai Soundararajan has been appointed as Governor of Telangana.
President House in a Press Communique said that all the appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices.

Paytm appoints former Google execs to head ad, cloud businesses.
- Noida-based fintech giant Paytm has appointed two former Google executives to head its advertising business and cloud offering respectively. Praveen Sharma has been appointed as Senior Vice President for the ad business, while Ankit Sinha has joined as Vice President of Paytm AI Cloud. The two will directly report to Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Misbah-ul-Haq appointed Pakistan head coach and chief selector.
- Misbah-ul-Haq has been appointed the head coach and chairman of selectors of Pakistan, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Wednesday. The former Pakistan captain was picked as head coach for a period of three years by a five-member panel that included former captain Intikhab Alam among others. Meanwhile, Waqar Younis has been appointed Pakistan bowling coach for three years.

AT&T names WarnerMedia CEO John Stankey as President, COO.
- American telecom company AT&T on Tuesday announced that WarnerMedia CEO John Stankey will take over as its new President and COO. Stankey will continue as WarnerMedia CEO and take
on the new position on October 1. AT&T had acquired Time Warner for $108 billion in June 2018. Stankey joined AT&T in 1985 and took the reins at WarnerMedia in 2018.

**Allahabad HC judge Vikram Nath named Gujarat High Court Chief Justice.**
- Senior judge of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Vikram Nath, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court on Sunday following the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation sent last month. Notably, the SC Collegium reversed its earlier recommendation to appoint Nath as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on the Centre’s request.

**Rajiv Kumar appointed as the new MD of Microsoft India**
- Rajiv Kumar as the new managing director of Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd (MIRPL). Rajiv, who is currently the Corporate Vice-President of Microsoft’s Experiences and Devices) Group. He will replace Anil Bhansali. He will continue as the Corporate Vice President of Cloud & Enterprise. The 27-year long career at Microsoft.
- The recent key contributions to Microsoft are Kaizala (an enterprise productivity chat app) and bootstrapping the campus hiring program in India resulting in Microsoft hiring the best talent from premier engineering colleges in India.
- He is developer in the Visual Basic team to Development Manager in BizTalk and then the Product Unit Manager for the Content Management Server team which became a part of the SharePoint server.

**Essel Group’s Rajesh Sethi named NBA India’s Managing Director.**
- The National Basketball Association (NBA) has appointed Rajesh Sethi as the Managing Director of NBA India effective September 12. He was most recently with Essel Group, where he held various leadership roles with the group’s entities, including SITI Networks, Zee Entertainment and Ten Sports. Sethi will oversee the league’s basketball and business development initiatives in India.

**Dr PK Mishra takes over as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.**
Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra appointed as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India. Dr Mishra varied work experience in the management of programmes relating to agriculture, disaster management, power sector, infrastructure financing, and regulatory issues outstanding career profile comprising research, publications, policy formulation and programme/project management. The major assignments such as Additional Pr. Secretary to the Prime Minister; Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India; Chairman, State Electricity Regulatory Commission and in the area of Disaster management. As Secretary Agriculture & Cooperation, he was actively involved in path-breaking national initiatives such as the National Agriculture Development Programme (RKVY) and the National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
The Prime Minister during 2014-19 Dr Mishra is credited with introducing innovation and transformative changes in human resource management, particularly appointments to senior positions.

The international experience includes research and academic work for over four years at the Institute of Development Studies (UK), negotiation and execution of ADB and World Bank projects, member of the Governing Board of the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and participation as expert/resource person in several international conferences.

He was conferred with the United Nations SASAKAWA Award 2019, the most prestigious international award in disaster management.

Dr Mishra has a Ph.D in Economics/Development Studies from the University of Sussex, M.A. in Development Economics at the University of Sussex as also M.A. in Economics with a first class at the Delhi School of Economics and B.A. Hons. (Economics) with a first class and distinction in other subjects from G.M. College (Sambalpur University) in 1970.

His publications include:


UN appoints retd Indian Army officer to lead its mission in Yemen.

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Lieutenant General (retired) Abhijit Guha as Chair of Redeployment Coordination Committee and head of the UN Mission in support of Hudaydah Agreement. Guha, who retired from the Army in 2013, has 39 years of national and international military experience. He’s tasked with leading the UN oversight of a ceasefire agreement in the Yemeni city.

Cognizant India appoints Ramkumar Ramamoorthy as new CMD.

- Cognizant Technology Solutions has appointed Ramkumar Ramamoorthy as Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India and named him head of India operations, Cognizant CEO Brian Humphries announced on Tuesday. Ramamoorthy will directly report to the company’s executive committee. He has been with Cognizant for over two decades and was appointed as Executive Director of India operations in 2017.

Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao resigns

- Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao announced his resignation which will be effective from January 16.
He became the President of ADB on April 28, 2013.
The new president will be elected in accordance with an open, transparent and merit-based procedure.
The resignation with a deep sense of satisfaction and gratitude. With support from staff, Board members, and member governments.
The expanded operations of the funding agency from USD 14 billion in 2013 to USD 22 billion in 2018 to more technologies into projects.

**Asian Development Bank**
Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
President: Takehiko Nakao
Founded: 19 December 1966
Membership: 68 countries

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**Four new Supreme Court judges appointed.**
- Four new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court. The judge's strength in the top court is 34.
  - The new judges are Haryana High Court Chief Justice Krishna Murari, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Kerala High Court Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy.
  - The Supreme Court Collegium recommended names of chief justices and high court judges for the appointment to the top court in order to fill the vacant posts.
  - The Collegium led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had considered the names the four chief justices as apex court's judges.

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**Actor Govinda appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh.**
- Madhya Pradesh government appoint filmstar Govinda as brand ambassador to promote the state’s traditions and tourist places. It is Kamal Nath government’s intention that the message about the state’s traditions and tourist destinations should reach the masses. The government plans to set up a film city in the state and plans to promote Madhya Pradesh as a destination for film making.

**Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea Bissau**
- Shri Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea Bissau. India and Guinea Bissau have maintained warm and friendly relations so far.
- Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas: Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas is a 1993 batch-IFS officer. He is presently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Senegal.
- Guinea Bissau:
  - President: José Mário Vaz
Prime Minister: Aristides Gomes
Capital: Bissau
Currency: West African CFA franc (XOF)
India and Guinea Bissau have maintained warm and friendly relations so far. The Guinea Bissau government has always been supportive of India. A regular cooperation between the countries has been happening at international fora such as the UN and NAM. In May 2010, an Honorary Consulate of India in Bissau was inaugurated.

**Bharti Airtel appoints Gopal Vittal as HR head for India, South Asia**
- Bharti Airtel has appointed Gopal Vittal as an interim chief people officer for India. The current chief people officer for India, South Asia, Gautam Anand, has resigned his position with immediate effect. Gopal Vittal is currently the CEO of the company.

**Gautam Anand:**
Gautam Anand has been working with Airtel since 2009. He was elevated to the ranks while working in different capacities. He has worked as the head of human resources for India and South Asia operations. In May 2012, he was elevated to the position of vice-president, chief of staff for CEO, India & South Asia. In this role, he was closely associated with the CEO in all aspects of business management, including performance reviews, strategic updates for the board of directors, and internal and external stakeholder management.

**Rajiva Sinha to be Appointed as New Chief Secretary of West Bengal**
- Rajiva Sinha will be the new chief secretary of West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Sinha is currently the additional chief secretary to the health and family welfare department.
- He is a 1985 batch IAS officer, was appointed the chief secretary in 2017 after the retirement of Basudeb Banerjee.

**West Bengal**
Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
Capital: Kolkata
Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee

**England woman wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor retires from International Cricket.**
- England wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor called time on her international career, a statement from the England Cricket Board.

**Sarah Taylor**
She made her England debut in 2006. She scored 6,553 international runs is second on England Women's all-time list of run-scorers. Taylor was also a magnetic keeper behind the stumps creating waves with her innovative methods that led her to 232 dismissals, the most in women's cricket. She previously goes on an indefinite break from cricket after the 2016 World T20 in India before returning for the 2017 World Cup.
Air Marshal B Suresh appointed Western Air Commander of Indian Air Force.
• The Indian Air Force (IAF) appointed Air Marshal B Suresh as Western Air Commander of the Force in New Delhi.
He will succeed Kargil war hero Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar on October 31.
Suresh (PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC) was the Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force’s Southern Air Command.
He assumed this charge from RKS Bhadauria on August 1, 2018.

Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria appointed as its new chief.
The first IAF officer to fly the Rafale fighter jet, Bhadauria was also involved in finalising the deal with France for the fighter jet.
He is also a post-graduate from Cranfield University in Shrivenham, United Kingdom.
The youngest officers to be awarded the presidential award of AVSM as a Group Captain, Suresh was awarded Vayu Sena Medal in 2001 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2019.
He was appointed as the honorary Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India on 1 March 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting decides to discontinue single use plastic
• The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has announced its plan to get rid of single-use plastic within the secretariat. The Ministry has encouraged the staffers to turn the recycled paper.
Aim:
The reason aims to implement the ban as it plans to have a clean and green environment with collective responsibility and endless methods toward achieving the goal of plastic-free surroundings. All the Ministry officials are requested to discontinue the single-use of plastic folders, plastic water bottles, and different such things forthwith and instead start/encourage the utilization of recycled paper.
Background:
On 4 July 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the people to avoid single-use plastic. Minister Prakash Javadekar advised that each one involved within secretariat and media units are ought to discontinue the utilization of single-use plastics.
OBITUARY

Author Kiran Nagarkar passed away on 5 September

- The Novelist Kiran Nagarkar passed away in hospital at the age of 77. He suffered from a massive brain hemorrhage. He was one of India’s greatest writers.

Nagarkar:

Nagarkar was born in Mumbai in 1942. He worked in journalism, advertising and education. He published his novel Saat Sakkam Trechalis in Marathi in 1974 at the age of thirty-two. He worked as screenplay, journalist, a book author, and within the advertising trade.

Awards:

Nagarkar was distinguished with the HN Apte Award for the most effective first novel. He won Sahitya Akademi Award for his epic novel Cuckold, which he wrote in 1997, in 2001 and the Dalmia Award for communicative harmony through literature. He received a philanthropist grant award of a scholarship by the town of Munich.

SUMMITS AND MOU’s

Tamil Nadu signs three agreements for healthcare collaborations in UK.

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami signed three agreements for collaboration in the healthcare sector on the first day of his UK tour. The Chief Minister is on the first leg of his three-nation tour.

The three agreements, two were Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and one was Statement of Intent. The one MoU was signed between the government of Tamil Nadu and International Skills Development Corporation The main aim is to develop the skills of the healthcare staff in the state. The MoU was between the government of Tamil Nadu and the King’s College London. King’s College London is looking to establish a branch of the college in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu’s Health Minister C Vijayabaskar and Health Secretary Dr Beela Rajesh signed a Statement of Intent with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to improve the standards to control the spread of communicable diseases like malaria and dengue. The delegation visited the Emergency Operations Centre of the London ambulance service NHS and its call centres to study the model of emergency response and dispatch of ambulances in London. The aim is to replicate the model in Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister visiting Suffolk to know more about the pricing strategy for renewable energy meet English Parliamentarians in London.

In his two-week tour, Edappadi Palaniswami will also travel to the US and Dubai to woo investors to Tamil Nadu. New York and California and meet the representatives from entrepreneurs from Tamil Nadu in the US and a few other industry leaders. He will also be a part of the Business
Investors meet in Dubai, which is jointly organized by the Indian Embassy, the United Arab Emirates and the Business Leaders Forum. He is scheduled to return on September 10.

**CBSE partners with Microsoft for capacity building of teachers for AI learning in schools.**
The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has joined hands with Microsoft to conduct capacity building programmes for high school teachers and integrate cloud-powered technology in teaching.
Meant for teachers of classes eight to 10, the programme will be conducted in 10 cities across the country, starting September 11, 2019.
As part of the programme, at least 1,000 teachers nominated by the CBSE will undergo a three-day project-based training for practical, hands-on knowledge of Microsoft 365 tools such as OneNote, Flipgrid, Teams and Outlook.
"Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a strategic lever for economic growth across nations around the world. Through this initiative, we are empowering institutions, educators and students of India to acquire early education and skills in new technologies like AI and cloud to lead that growth in that rapidly changing world.

**Gurugram traffic police partners with Google maps for traffic updates.**
- The Gurugram traffic police from the Haryana State has partnered with Google maps for real-time traffic updates. The tie-up will provide traffic-related information in real-time for public use.
- The Gurugram traffic police with Google maps will share the information such as planned road closures, diversions, traffic alerts regarding road crash, etc. The Google maps will immediately respond to the given search conditions and update the information on its public maps.
Aim:
- The reason aimed to prompt commuters to make intelligent choices in order to make their commuting experience hassle-free. This mechanism has been tested successfully and it was found working effectively.

**GeM and Punjab Government sign MoU for Setting up Project Management Unit.**
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Government of Punjab, signed MoU to set up a GeM Organizational Transformation Team (GOTT) Project Management Unit (PMU) in the state. The MoU was signed by Additional CEO, GeM, S. Suresh Kumar, and Director Industries.

**Government e Marketplace (GeM)**
GeM, the national public procurement portal launched in August 2016 transformed the public procurement landscape in the country with transparency, efficiency, and inclusion.
Their main aim is to strengthen and enable Government departments towards a market-based procurement, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has advised Ministries and Departments of Central and State Governments to consider services of GOTT on an
outcome-based self-sustenance model. GOTT will assist the buyer agency to redesign the procurement processes and enhance competencies to derive maximum benefit.

Government of Punjab is the first State which will establish GOTT PMU for effectively utilising this transformational initiative towards inclusive, efficient and transparent procurement.

It is projected that through the initiatives of GOTT PMU, Government of Punjab will be able to transact around Rs 1700 crore in terms of annual Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) on GeM platform in the first year and over Rs 3000 crore per annum, over a period of time.

India and Asian Development Bank signs 200 million dollar loan agreement.

- India and Asian Development Bank signed 200 million dollar loan agreement. The agreement which will upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra to improve road safety.

The project aims to improve the condition of about 2,100 km of rural roads to all-weather standards, with climate resilience and safety features. The main aim is to connect rural communities with productive agricultural areas and socio-economic centres. The road connectivity and better access to markets will help the farmers increase agricultural productivity and incomes.

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IFC and FIDC sign a MoU to train NBFC.

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) part of the World Bank Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), a representative body of asset and loan Financing NBFC to collaborate on the training of NBFCs in the country.

These training programs would be conducted at various centers across the country under the guidance of leading consultants from the World Bank Group.

The training programs would greatly enhance the awareness, expertise and professionalism of our member companies and medium-sized NBFCs catering to the credit needs in rural and semi-urban areas.

This would also facilitate more informed credit appraisals thereby improving the asset quality. Such engagement with a global development finance institution would further improve the credibility of the NBFC sector thereby boosting investors confidence.

India Rusia signed Contract for Modernisation of Radar and Missile Systems.

- India-Rusia signed Contract for Modernisation of Radar and Missile Systems of Delhi Class of Indian Navy Ships. Under the welfare of labor modernization, the renovation scheme would be undertaken in India in producing important hardware partnerships with the Indian trade. The
contract for modernization of Air Defence advanced Kashmir and radar Fregat MAE on P-15 of ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and JSC Rosoboronexport land in Delhi.

**Benefit:**
The modernization of radar and Missile systems would enhance well the Air Defence capability of the P-15 Ships in Delhi category missile destroyers of Indian Navy with the upgrading of their anti-Air weaponry.

**Radiolocation Fregat-MAE:**
The military service has a shipborne with 3D radiolocation is capable of providing Target Designation information to missile systems. This includes a slightly squinted phased array antenna.

**India and Mongolia signed MoUs on space cooperation.**
- India and Mongolia signed MoUs on space cooperation and disaster management during the visit of the Mongolian President in India. The aim of the MoU is to provide a new dimension to the India-Mongolia strategic partnership.

**Highlights of various MoU:**
The agreements will allow India to lend its support to Mongolia in resource management and satellite communication. The space cooperation between the countries will lead to the peaceful exploration of outer space and include remote sensing, weather forecasting, and disaster management. The MoU would provide a framework to expand mutual cooperation among the countries.

**Other agreements:**
- Another MoU was signed between the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Mongolia and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India for disaster risk reduction.
- The two countries took stock of the project to build a Cyber Security Training Centre to be established in Mongolia with Indian support.
- The military exercises between India and Mongolia named Nomadic Elephant and Khaan Quest are expected to be broadened.
- India will continue to help Mongolia with capacity building and training programmes for its citizens across diverse professions. India and Mongolia signed MoUs on space cooperation.

**India's Petronet signs MoU with US firm Tellurian to buy LNG.**
State-run Petronet has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with US-based Tellurian to import up to five million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas (LNG). As per the deal, Petronet will make an equity investment, of reportedly $2.5 billion, in Tellurian's Driftwood project in Louisiana. The companies said they’ll endeavour to finalise the transaction agreement by March 31, 2020.

**N Srinivasan’s daughter Rupa set to become new TNCA president.**
• Former BCCI president N Srinivasan’s daughter Rupa Gurunath is set to become the first woman president of a BCCI affiliated unit as she will take over the position of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) head. Notably, Rupa’s husband Gurunath Meiyappan, former Team Principal of the Chennai Super Kings, has been banned for life by the BCCI.

India and Thailand sign trade agreements for Rs 2,400 crore.
• Thailand and India have signed agreements for Rs 2,400 crores
Aim: To boost trade ties between the two countries
The pacts were across segments including rubber, construction material, food and beverages, logistics. The breakup of the agreements, Laksana Visit on his first visit to India said the agreements signed in Mumbai total 4.45 billion Thai baht (about Rs 900 crore) while in Chennai, it was 7.623 billion Thai baht (about Rs 1,500 crore).
The total trade generated by this trip is 12.075 billion Thai baht.
The main objective of the visit was to strengthen strategic partnership with India, expand new business opportunities. The Indian domestic industry can meet about 40 per cent of rubber but India requires 60 per cent of the demand to import rubber.
The Indian market was growing steadily as it was not affected by the trade war which was currently on with many other countries. The officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand Rubber Authority and many private sectors for their business opportunities. Thailand inviting Indian businesses to sign another memorandum of understanding in November and they would launch an initiative to launch Thai products to be available in the Indian market.

World Coconut Day observed on September 2nd.
World Coconut Day observed on September 2. Coconut Development Board (CDB) distribute its National Awards in various categories on the season of World Coconut Day celebration at Bhubaneswar, India. Coconut, the tree of life Sustains family well being is a theme by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community for the World Coconut Day.
History of World Coconut Day
The Coconut Development Board celebrated the World Coconut Day at NEDFI Convention Centre, Guwahati, Assam. Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi awards 15 people have exceeded in coconut farming, industry, and other coconut related activities. Assam is the next major coconut producing state in India; the CDB decided to hold the national-level function on occasion there this year. About 33,493 hectares in all seven NE states are under coconut cultivation, Assam alone is cultivating 20,368 hectares. Coconuts are members of the drupe family, and it is a fleshy fruit that has been planting in tropical regions for millions of years. On this day, Entire globe celebrates one of nature’s healthiest foods.
World Literacy Day is celebrated on 8 September
• On 8th September every year, International Literacy Day is celebrated to make people to know the importance of Literacy for people, communities and societies.
Aim:
It aims to combat worldwide problems also to promote illiteracy. The theme for 2019 is Literacy and Multilingualism.
History and aim of International Literacy Day:
On 26th October in 1966, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 8th September as International Literacy Day.

World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 is observed on 10 September
• World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 is observed on 10 September every year. The day aims to raise awareness of the risks of suicide and to fund suicide prevention activities. It also aims to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.
Theme:
The theme for the World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 is Working Together to Prevent Suicide. A survey said that every year, suicide is among the top 20 leading causes of death globally for people of all ages. The theme aims to encourage and engage with each other and to spread awareness of suicide prevention. Over 800,000 people, which is a death every 40 seconds or about 3,000 every day, die by suicide.

International Day for South South Cooperation is observed on 12 September.
• International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on 12 September. South-South cooperation is a broad framework where the South Countries have collaborated in various domains including political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. The day celebrates the political, social and economical developments made by regions and countries in the south in recent years.
Aim:
South-South Cooperation works towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). It aims to boost the progress towards implementing the SDGs. It raises the awareness of the efforts taken by the United Nation to work on technical cooperation among developing countries.
Theme:
The theme for the 2019 South-South Cooperation is From Commitment to Action — Follow up to Buenos Aires Plan of Action+40. It is a follow up to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 20-22 March 2019. The theme focuses on implementing the commitments adopted in the summit.
History:
The Day was originally observed on December 19. The day of South-South Cooperation was fully adopted by the United Nations on 12 September 2011. The day commemorates the day when the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a plan of action in 1978 to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries.

**The International Day of Democracy is observed on 15 September.**

- The International Day of Democracy is observed on 15 September. The day aims to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. The day urges all governments to respect their citizens’ right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy. The day urges all governments to respect their citizens’ right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy.

**Democracy:**
Democracy is a process which will happen only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society, and individuals. Democracy is a two-way street that is built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class.

**SDG:**
In Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG-16) democracy has been addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to SDG, democracy is the indivisible links between peaceful societies and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

**World Bamboo Day was observed on 18 September.**

- World Bamboo Day was observed on 18 September every year. It was observed by the World Bamboo Organisation (WBO). The Day aims to raise awareness to conserve and promote the bamboo industry. The days also aims to bring the potential of bamboo to protect the natural resources and the environment and to ensure sustainable utilization of bamboo. It promotes new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions around the world for community economic development.

**Centre’s action towards bamboo:**
Bamboo is known as a poor man’s timber and green gold. Bamboo grows fast, low on maintenance and has versatile potential. After China, India is the world’s second-largest cultivator of bamboo. The State of Environment report 2018 said that there are 136 species and 23 genera of bamboo spread over 13.96 million hectares in India.

In 2017, the Indian Parliament declassified bamboo as a tree on non-forest lands. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched the National Bamboo Mission with an aim to provide a boost to livelihood and environmental acreage. Also, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched a scheme named SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) with an aim to boost traditional industries and bamboo artisans.

**World Bamboo Organisation (WBO):**
WBO was initially founded as the International Bamboo Association (IBA) in the year 1991 at the International Bamboo Workshop in Chiangmai, Thailand. In 1998, IBA was re-established as the World Bamboo Organisation (WBO). WBO is a non-profit organization that aims to improve and promote the use of bamboo and the products of bamboo for the sake of the environment and economy.

**International Day of Peace is observed on 21 September.**

- United Nations International Day of Peace is observed on September 21.

**International Day of Peace 2019: Theme**
The theme of International Day of Peace 2019 is Climate Action for Peace.
The theme focuses on the need of combating climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. The climate change causes clear threats to international peace and security. Due to natural disasters millions of people are forced to leave their homes and seek safety. The food security is hampering by the salinization of water and crops.

**International Day of Peace: History**
The International Day of Peace established by the UN resolution on 1981. First time it was celebrated in 1982. It was celebrated on the third Tuesday of September each year. The main focus of declaring 21 September day as International Day of Peace is to encourage people to work in cooperation and to maintain worldwide peace.

In 2015, the United Nations member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals because it was understood that to obtain worldwide peace it is necessary to focus on the economic and social development for all people everywhere and to ensure that their rights were protected. The various issues are covered in the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment and social justice.

The Sustainable Development Goal 13 focuses on Climate Action, need for immediate call to all to lower greenhouse gas emissions, to build resilience and improve education on climate change. There is a need to encourage people about the use of renewable energy, clean technologies.

Every year UN International Day of Peace is celebrated to encourage people about worldwide peace which can be achieved by focusing on and understanding the factors of climate change.

**World Maritime Day was observed on 27 September**

- World Maritime Day was observed on 27 September every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment.

**Theme:**
The theme for the 2019 World Maritime Day is Empowering women in the maritime community. The theme aims to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality. The theme is in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme also highlights the important contribution of women within the maritime sector.
World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September
• World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September every year. For the first time, India is hosting the World Tourism Day. The Day aims to raise awareness about the role of tourism around the world. It also ensures to promote social, cultural, political and economic values.

Theme:
The theme for the 2019 World Tourism Day is Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all.
The theme focuses on:
♦ The need for fresh policies to maximize the potential of tourism. It is expected that new policies can create more and better jobs, especially for youth and women.
♦ To create jobs in tourism as it is required to reflect and incorporate ongoing advances in technology. Tourism is generating 10% of world jobs.