

**February 2019**

# **BOLT**

*Monthly Current Affairs*



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## Banking

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Reserve Bank India reduces repo rate by 25 basis points**

RBI in its bi-monthly monetary policy reduced repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% and reverse repo rate to 6% amidst low expectations for inflation. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> bimonthly monetary policy report of current fiscal.

#### **2. RBI mandates banks to treat ₹2 crore and more as bulk deposits**

RBI doubled the limit for banks to consider ₹2 crore and more as bulk deposits from the earlier ₹1 crore with an aim to enhance operational freedom of banks. Banks generally offer different rates of interest only on bulk deposits of ₹1 crore and more.

#### **3. RBI lifts cap on FPI investments in corporate bonds**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) withdrew the **20 percent limit** on investments by FPIs in corporate bonds of an entity with a view to encouraging more foreign investments. It was aimed at incentivizing FPIs to maintain a portfolio of assets.

#### **4. Indian Banking Association issues advisory guidelines for Kisan Credit card**

Indian Banking Association issued advisory guidelines which requested banks to waive off processing, documentation, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other service charges for Kisan Credit Card/crop loans up to a limit of Rs 3 Lakhs.

#### **5. RBI raised limit of collateral-free farm loan to ₹1.6 lakh**

RBI in its bi-monthly report, raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to ₹1.6 lakh from the current ₹1 lakh with a view to help small and marginal farmers. It also intends to set up an internal working group to review agricultural credit and arrive at a workable policy station.

#### **6. Srei Equipment Finance to co-lend with Syndicate Bank**

Srei Equipment Finance Limited has tied up with Syndicate Bank to provide financing for construction & farm equipment. Under the arrangement, Syndicate Bank would leverage on its low-cost funds & co-lend equipment loans with Srei at a mutually agreed rate.

#### **7. Amazon launches UPI payments in India**

Amazon has enabled payments via India's unified payments interface for customers using Android smartphones, the segment that comprises the bulk of smartphone users in the country. It has partnered with India's **Axis Bank** to issue UPI IDs to its customers.

### **8. RBI launches ombudsman scheme for digital payments**

Reserve Bank of India launched the ombudsman scheme for digital payments. The scheme will provide free of cost redressal mechanism to grievances raised by customers for digital transactions through non-banking channels. It will start working from **21 offices** of the Banking Ombudsman.

### **9. RBI takes three banks out of the PCA framework**

The Reserve Bank of India took 3 public sector banks named **Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra** and **Oriental Bank of Commerce** out of the Prompt Corrective Action framework & lifted various restrictions on lending and expansion of businesses.

### **10. YES Bank bags prestigious Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 for Innovation in Data Science**

Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 announced YES BANK as winner in 'Innovation in Data Science' category for their industry-first project 'Yes EEE (Engage Enrich Excel)'. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 hosted by Government of Goa.

### **11. World Bank, UN, SIDBI launch Rs 300 crore Women's Livelihood Bond**

World Bank, UN Women, and Small Industries Development Bank of India have joined hands to launch a new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called Women's Livelihood Bonds with an initial corpus of ₹ 300 crore. They will borrow around ₹ 50000 to ₹ 3 lakh at an annual interest rate of around 13-14% or less.

### **12. BoB ties up with German KfW for USD 130m to refinance solar units**

Bank of Baroda tied up with Germany's KfW Development Bank for funding of USD 113 million to refinance solar projects. The tie-up is part of an Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership signed in 2015.

## **News: Others**

### **1. RBI slapped Rs 1 crore fine on Union Bank of India**

RBI imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on Union Bank of India for delay in exchange of information concerning the conduct of the borrower's account with other financial lenders.

### **2. SBI to extend its YONO services to businessmen, farmers**

SBI is set to extend its YONO services to businessmen, farmers. It will offer several agriculture-related services such as seeds, climate or weather information, Kisan Credit Card loans for the businessmen, all their needs and requirements. It will be put under one card or services.

### **3. RBI slapped fine of Rs 1 crore on State Bank of India**

Reserve Bank of India levied a penalty of Rs 1 crore on the State bank of India for not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers, exercising of powers conferred under **Section 47A** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **4. Fino Payments Bank partners with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to offer sweep account facility**

Fino Payments Bank has announced the launch of a sweep account facility in association with Suryoday Small Finance Bank. This partnership would help FPB address the issue of deposit limits that all the payment banks face at the moment.

### **5. Multiple banks penalised for violating RBI norms**

RBI imposed 2 mn penalty each on **HDFC, IDBI & Kotak Mahindra Bank** for non-compliance of KYC/AML norms and ₹ 1.5 Cr each on **Allahabad Bank, BoM & IOB** for non-compliance of monitoring end use of funds, exchange of info, classification & reporting of frauds. Andhra Bank was penalised Rs 1 crore for same reason.

### **6. RBI imposes Rs 3.5 crore penalty on 3 PSU banks**

A penalty of ₹ 1.5 crore has been imposed by the Reserve Bank of India on Oriental Bank of Commerce and ₹ 1 crore each on Punjab National Bank and Bank of India for violation of various banking norms

### **7. RBI puts penalty on Syndicate, Axis Bank for rules violation**

Reserve Bank of India has slapped a ₹1-crore penalty on Syndicate Bank and ₹20 lakh on Axis Bank respectively for violating norms of direction of frauds and risk management systems.

### **8. DBS Bank's India Unit Merged with Wholly Owned Arm**

The RBI approved the merger of Singapore-based DBS Bank's Indian unit with its wholly owned local subsidiary, DBS Bank India. The merger will be effective from March 1 that will allow the foreign lender to be treated as a local bank, removing certain restrictions.

### **9. Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank, Dhanlaxmi out of PCA**

Reserve Bank of India exempted 2 public sector banks Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank & 1 private sector Dhanlaxmi Bank out of the Prompt Corrective Action framework, allowing them to restart normal lending activities and expansion of businesses.

## 10. *DCB Bank launches Open Banking Next-Gen Banking Solutions*

Development Credit Bank announced the launch of its Open Banking Platform. Over 20 start-ups, fintech, merchants, enterprises and developers will partner with DCB for access to its Open Banking Platform APIs.

## Insurance

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Life Insurance Corporation launches Micro Bachat Plan*

Life Insurance Corporation launched a new microinsurance plan 'Micro Bachat'. It offers a combination of protection & savings. It provides the coverage up to ₹ 2 Lakh. This plan is available for standard healthy lives only in the age group of 18-55 years.

#### 2. *MobiKwik offers instant life insurance for Rs 20 on its app*

MobiKwik has announced the launch of digital life insurance on its app to its users. MobiKwik partnered with **ICICI Prudential** to roll out first the group microinsurance product. It offers a life cover of ₹ 1 Lakh for a monthly premium as low as ₹ 20.

#### 3. *IRDAI spells out draft norms of standard Mediclaim policy*

According to the draft guidelines of IRDAI, the Mediclaim product will have the basic mandatory covers & no additional/add-on covers will be allowed. The minimum basic sum insured under standard product shall be **₹ 50000** with a maximum limit of **₹ 10 lakh**. Pre-hospitalisation costs (not less than 30 days) will be covered.

#### 4. *PV Sindhu signed PNB MetLife brand ambassador*

PNB MetLife signed P.V. Sindhu as its brand ambassador. She would support various initiatives under project **Damini**, a CSR initiative intended to empower girls at every stage of the journey into womanhood.

#### 5. *IDBI Bank and LIC signed Bancassurance Agreement*

IDBI Bank & LIC have signed a bancassurance agreement under which IDBI will offer LIC's insurance products at its branches. As part of the service-level agreement, the bank will become the preferred bank for LIC premium payments.

## News: Others

### **1. HDFC ERGO Launches the First-of-its-kind Trip Protector' Policy**

HDFC ERGO announced the launch of Trip Protector insurance policy. It would safeguard travellers against the cost of cancellation levied by Hotels/Airlines. It covers the cancellation of pre-booked flights & hotels for domestic and international travel.

### **2. IRDAI imposes Rs 9 lakh fine on United India Insurance for violations**

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has imposed a fine of Rs 9 lakh on state-owned United India Insurance Co Ltd for violating certain procedures.

### **3. Merger of 3 PSU general insurers to be completed by FY'20**

The government expects to complete the merger of three general insurance companies namely **National Insurance Company, United India Insurance Company and Oriental India Insurance Company** by 2019-20. It was first announced in the Budget 2018-19.

### **4. SBI General collaborates with Policybazaar for distributing travel insurance**

The SBI General Insurance has collaborated with **Policybazaar.com** to sell SBI Travel Insurance. It provides a 360-degree protection shield for consumer undertaking overseas travel for leisure or business. The maximum travel duration is **180 days**.

### **6. IndianMoney.com unit gets licence for insurance biz**

IndianMoneyInsurance.com, a subsidiary of the Bengaluru-based IndianMoney.com Group, received the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's insurance broking licence to enter the insurance business.

## Quick revision

<b>Policy/Exchange rate &amp; Reserve ratio</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Repo rate	6.25%
Reverse Repo rate	6%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.5%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.25%
Bank Rate	6.5%

## Economy

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Fiscal deficit for April-December at 112% of FY19 Budget Estimate**

Fiscal deficit for the April-December of the current fiscal has crossed 112% of the Budget Estimate. The expenditure appears to be on track with 75% in three quarters. The capital expenditure is over 70% while revenue expenditure is over 75% of the Budget Estimate.

#### **2. Government expects 7.5% GDP growth in FY20**

The finance ministry expects economic growth to accelerate to 7.5% in 2019-20 from 7.2% projected for the current fiscal. And the expected nominal growth of 11.5% for the financial year 2019-20.

#### **3. India's tourism sector registers 19% growth in 2018**

Union Minister KJ Alphons stated that India's tourism sector fetched USD 234 billion revenue in 2018, registering a growth of over 19%. India is ranked third in the tourism sector, according to the 2018 report of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

#### **4. Expert committee suggests Rs 9,750 a month as national minimum wage**

A government-appointed expert committee has proposed doubling the national-level minimum wage for a worker in the country to Rs 9,750 a month, up from a floor of Rs 4,576 at present.

#### **5. India hikes customs duty on goods from Pakistan to 200%**

The Union government has hiked the basic customs duty on all goods imported from Pakistan to 200 percent with immediate effect. This comes after India revoked the 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) status to Pakistan.

#### **6. EPFO Board recommends interest rate of 8.65% for FY19**

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation suggested an interest rate of 8.65% for FY19. The Central Board of Trustees headed by Labour Minister is the apex decision-making body of EPFO that finalizes the interest rate on PF deposits for the financial year.

#### **7. Unemployment among educated citizens rose sharply in 2017-18: NSSO**

National rate of unemployment stood at 6.1% while youth who received formal training increased from 2.4% in 2011-12 to 2.5% in 2017-18, for all age groups. Unemployment among trained persons was at 12.4% in 2017-18, compared to 5.9% in 2011-12.



## **8. India's Q3 GDP growth falls to 6.6%**

India's GDP growth moderated to 6.6% in the Oct-Dec quarter of 2018-19, the lowest in five quarters, from 7% in the previous quarter. India is still the fastest-growing major economy. GDP growth forecast was revised for the current fiscal from 7.2 to 7%.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. Indian exports to China touch \$12.7 billion in Apr-Dec 2018**

According to Commerce Ministry, India's exports to China reached \$12.7 billion during April-December 2018 with growth in shipments of marine products, chemicals, plastics, petroleum products, grapes and rice. India is poised to achieve its highest ever exports to China this fiscal.

#### **2. Wholesale inflation at 10-month low, eases to 2.76% in January**

Wholesale prices in India eased to 10-month low of 2.76 percent in January, as compared to 3.80 percent in December, due to cheaper fuel prices. WPI, grew 3.02 percent in January 2018.

#### **3. FDI during Apr-Dec 2018-19 falls 7 pc to USD 33.49 bn**

Foreign direct investment into India contracted by 7% to USD 33.49 billion during April-December in the current fiscal, according to commerce and industry ministry data. Foreign fund inflows during April-December 2017-18 stood at USD 35.94 billion.

#### **4. Govt gets ₹10,000 crore from additional offering of Bharat-22 ETF**

The government has raised ₹10,000 crore by the additional offering of Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). It would help the government move towards meeting the ₹80,000 crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

#### **5. CBIC sets up working groups to promote exports**

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs constituted three working groups to study & recommend measures to facilitate trade, promote exports and improve compliance. CBIC will use advanced data analytics tools for augmenting revenue & curbing frauds.

## Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate
Fiscal Deficit	112% FY 19 (April – Dec)
Government GDP rate	7.5% (FY 20)
Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (PF rate)	8.65%
Unemployment Rate - NSSO	6.1%
Customs Duty (Pakistan Goods)	200%
Wholesale Inflation	2.76% (January)

## State

### News: Most Important

#### **1. World Bank extends \$40 million loan for Shimla water supply**

Himachal Pradesh, central govt and the World Bank signed a \$40 million loan agreement to help provide clean and reliable drinking water to the Greater Shimla area which has been facing severe water shortages and water-borne epidemics over the last few years.

#### **2. Government to start water transport in Yamuna river in Uttar Pradesh**

The Govt will start Water transport in the Yamuna river in Uttar Pradesh. A water port will be set up in Baghpat dist. Govt is planning to export sugar from western UP to Bangladesh via Yamuna water transport which will be connected to Allahabad.

#### **3. Kerala Police introduces country's first humanoid robot into force**

Kerala Police introduced the humanoid robot called '**KP-Bot**'. It is designed to provide round-the-clock service, involving public interface and front office administration and overcome human limitations to avoid, to the extent possible, human error.

#### **4. HP Assembly passes Bill to make Sanskrit the 2<sup>nd</sup> official language**

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed Himachal Pradesh Official Language Bill, 2019 (Amendment). It was introduced to make **Sanskrit** the second official language of the state.

#### **5. Kerala, 1<sup>st</sup> state to come up with Trans Fatty Acid Action plan**

Health Department of Kerala state has come up with an action plan to generate public awareness on the harmful effects of trans fatty acids in commercially available food items and encourage the local food industry to meet the statutory limits set for TFA.

## 6. Punjab govt okays 'Smart Village Campaign' worth Rs 385 Crore

The Punjab government approved a rural development scheme 'Smart Village Campaign' worth ₹ 384.40 Crore to supplement the ongoing works to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities.

## 7. Sikkim government signs pact with Microsoft for education sector

Sikkim has signed a MoU with Microsoft to transform the educational landscape. Microsoft would support the state in integrating IT content in the state board curriculum & build student capacity via Microsoft Educator Network & Innovative Educator Program.

## 8. Thiruvananthapuram to host Attukal Pongala, a religious congregation of women

Thiruvananthapuram hosted the Attukal Pongala festival which is considered as one of the world's largest religious gathering of women on a single day. Attukal temple is also called 'women's Sabarimala' as only women perform the ritual.

## 9. India's first district cooling system in Amravati

A UAE-based international cooling provider has entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh government to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in Amravati.

## 10. International Annual Desert Festival held in Jaisalmer

The 40<sup>th</sup> International Annual Desert Festival held on the sand dune. The three-day festival exhibited rich cultural heritage of the desert state.

## 11. Boori Boot Yollo festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh's Nyishi tribe celebrated a fortnight-long Boori Boot Yollo festival. Boori Boot Yollo is observed in the month of February every year to **welcome spring** and a successful harvest.

## 12. Assam CM launches PRANAM Commission to Protect Parents of Govt Employees

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launched the **PRANAM Commission** to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for protection of parents of state government employees. If the parents of a state government employee are being ignored, then 10 or 15% of the employee's salary will be deducted and paid to the parents or differently abled siblings.

## **News: Others**

### ***1. Dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh launched***

PM Modi launched DD Arunprabha, a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh which would act as an ambassador of the culture of the state and familiarize people across India with the beauty & culture of the State.

### ***2. Kerala 1<sup>st</sup> state to Set Up Drug Price Monitoring and Research Unit***

The Kerala government has set up a price monitoring and research unit (PMRU), which would track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under Drugs Price and Control order.

### ***3. Indus river dolphin declared as Punjab's state aquatic animal***

State Board of Wildlife chaired by CM Amarinder Singh, took the decision to declare Indus river dolphin declared as Punjab's state aquatic animal. It is the second most endangered river dolphin species.

### ***4. Delhi government launches Zero Fatality Corridor***

Delhi government launched Zero Fatality Corridor. It is aimed at bringing down injuries and deaths due to road crashes. Delhi government has planned to reduce fatalities due to road crashes by 30% by 2020.

### ***5. IIFL Home Finance, Maharashtra govt sign MoU for building houses under PMAY***

IIFL Home Finance signed an MoU with Maharashtra for capacity building for affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Through this MoU, IIFL will educate customers & enlighten them about the benefits of PMAY.

### ***6. Meghalaya govt to rename Dikkibandi stadium after PA Sangma***

The Meghalaya Cabinet has decided to rename the Dikkibandi stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A Sangma who is also a former chief minister of Meghalaya.

### ***7. ₹145 crore Millennium Tower I inaugurated in Vizag***

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the 10-floor Millennium Tower-1 at Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam to promote the city as a destination for investment in IT & ITES. It is built in an area of four acres with an investment of ₹145 crore.

## 8. *Odisha launches boat ambulance service for remote areas*

The Odisha government launched a boat ambulance service to ferry patients to hospitals in remote areas at a cost of Rs 5.40 crore. Six boat ambulances would be part of the '108' ambulance service.

## National

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Govt announces Rs 6000 per year cash support to small and marginal farmers*

Under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the Govt announced ₹ 6000 per year cash support to small & marginal farmers to provide relief to the distressed farm sector. The govt announced the allocation of Rs 75,000 crore for the next fiscal. ₹ 6000 will be transferred in 3 equal instalments.

#### 2. *Govt issues guidelines to set up EV charging stations*

The government has issued a set of guidelines to set up charging stations in every 25 km for electric vehicles across the country. According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, the government expects 25% of the total vehicles on roads will be electric vehicles by 2030.

#### 3. *Cabinet approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin up to 2022*

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G: Phase II) up to 2022. The project outlay of the scheme is ₹ 76500 Crore.

#### 4. *Cabinet approves launch Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan*

The Cabinet has approved launch of Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers. The scheme aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022. The total central financial support would be ₹ 34422 Crore.

#### 5. *Emergency Response Support System for women safety*

Home minister Rajnath Singh would launch Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 states and Union territories for women safety from New Delhi. It gives access for a pan-India distressed call at **112** for a person in need in all 16 states & UTs.

## **6. Cabinet approves solar pump scheme -KUSUM**

The Cabinet approved the solar pump scheme KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan). It aims to achieve a cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar Projects by the year 2022. The centre will provide financial support of ₹ 11814 Crore.

## **7. Commerce Minister launches 'SWAYATT' on GeM**

Suresh Prabhu launched SWAYATT in New Delhi. It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through eTransactions on Government e-Marketplace. It will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem.

## **8. Rajnath Singh inaugurates cyber-crime fighting facility**

Rajnath Singh inaugurated a national cyber forensic lab & Delhi Police's cyber-crime unit '**CyPAD**'. The facility would help in solving cyber-crimes & financial frauds. Home Ministry's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) consists of seven verticals.

## **9. Operation Digital Board (ODB) launched to provide better digital education**

Govt has launched Operation Digital Board on the lines of Operation Blackboard to provide better digital education. Under the program, 7Lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th,11th std & 2 Lakh classrooms of colleges, Universities will be equipped with digital boards in the next 3 years.

## **10. India decides to stop its share of river waters which flow into Pakistan**

The government has decided to stop the share of river waters which flow into Pakistan. India will divert water from Eastern rivers namely the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej and supply it to the people in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

## **11. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation launched Shehri Samridhi Utsav**

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched an initiative Shehri Samridhi which aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission to showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group member.

## **12. Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen launches national campaign for ODF sustainability**

The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign which focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country. The campaign produced by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and has been supported by the World Bank.

### **13. India becomes world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest LPG consumer after government's Ujjawla push**

India has become into the world's second largest LPG consumer whose demand is projected to rise 34% by 2025. As per oil ministry's projections and forecasts, LPG consumption is expected to grow to 30.3 million tonnes by 2025 and 40.6 million tonnes by 2040.

### **14. Rs 11K crore World Bank fund for 700 dams in India**

The World Bank accepted the Government of India proposal for funding Rs 11,000 crore to rehabilitate around 700 dams. The two-day International Dam Safety conference concluded in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

### **15. Train 18 flagged off by PM Modi, government plans 130 such trains**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first semi-high-speed train, the **Vande Bharat Express**, carrying a contingent of journalists and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal from **New Delhi to Varanasi**.

### **16. Narendra Modi launches PM-KISAN from Gorakhpur**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The first instalment of Rs 2,000 was directly credited to the bank accounts of over 1 crore beneficiary farmers.

### **17. National War Memorial**

PM Narendra Modi dedicated the National War Memorial, New Delhi to the nation on February 25. Names of 25,942 battle casualties have been inscribed across 16 walls that consist of granite pieces bearing the name, rank and regiment of the fallen heroes.

### **18. Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti Dashboard**

Minister of Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti dashboard. It brings information from various sources on a single platform under 15 user-friendly categories. The URL of the dashboard is "**raildrishti.cris.org.in**".

### **19. Prakash Javadekar launched SHREYAS**

Prakash Javadekar recently launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through NAPS, New Delhi.

## News: Others

### **1. Centre allocates Rs 59 crore for Asiatic Lion conservation in Gujarat's Gir**

The Ministry of Environment launched a 3-year Asiatic Lion Conservation Project in collaboration with the state of Gujarat. It would focus on better management of the lion habitat, disease control and veterinary care for them.

### **2. NFDC felicitated under Miniratna Category by MSME Ministry**

As part of endeavour by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select CPSEs to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs, National Film Development Corporation of India was adjudged as winner under Miniratna Category.

### **3. India Size project launched in Mumbai by Textile Minister**

Textiles Minister Smriti Irani launched **India Size**, which aims to arrive at a standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA and the UK.

### **4. Cabinet committee approval for the creation of Agri-Market infrastructure fund**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave approval for the creation of Agri-Market infrastructure fund for development and upgradation of Gramin Agriculture Markets, with a corpus of Rs 2000 crore rupees with **NABARD**.

### **5. Ministry of Textiles to organise Mega Silk Event in New Delhi**

Textiles Ministry to organizing an event, Surging Silk - Accomplishment and way forward, in New Delhi with Sushma Swaraj as the chief guest. The focus would be on distribution of Buniyaad Tasar Silk Reeling Machines to women reelers from tribal areas.

### **6. ECI launches Voter Verification and Information Programme**

The Election Commission has launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for verifications of voters' names, new registrations, changes or corrections in the Voter Id Cards for the upcoming General Elections. A '**PwD App**' was also launched.

### **7. Govt renames DIPP as Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among other.



### **8. PM addresses 'Swachh Shakti 2019' event in Haryana**

Swachh Shakti 2019 (Kurukshetra, Haryana) was an event to recognise the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission, participated by woman sarpanchs and women associated with the 'Swachhta' campaign from across the country.

### **9. Centre increases MSP of Sugar by 2 Rs/Kg**

The Centre has increased the minimum selling price of sugar by two rupees per kilogram to 31 rupees a kilogram. It has been done by considering the rising arrears of sugarcane growers.

### **10. Rajnath Singh inaugurates Waste to Wonder Park**

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new park which houses the replicas of seven wonders of the world at New Delhi. The park, which is called the 'Waste to Wonder Park', was built by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

### **11. India's first fulldome 3D Digital theatre inaugurated**

India's first 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma in **Kolkata**. It was the first in India having a 23-metre titled dome to offer a fully immersive experience to the visitors.

### **12. Govt sets up committee to explore prepaid payments by discoms to generator companies**

Govt has constituted a panel under CEA to explore prepaid payments by state electricity distribution companies to power plants. The panel will study working capital cycles of companies & identify gaps contributing to stress in the sector.

### **13. Piyush Goyal announces "South Coast Railway (SCoR)"**

Piyush Goyal announced 18<sup>th</sup> zone named South Coast Railway with headquarter at **Visakhapatnam**. As per item 8 of Schedule 13 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Indian Railways was required to establish a new railway zone.

### **14. UM Ashwini Kumar Choubey launches national programme to eliminate viral hepatitis**

Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched a national programme aimed at eliminating viral hepatitis, recognized as an important public health problem. The aim of the programme is to combat hepatitis and achieve countrywide elimination of Hepatitis C by **2030**.

## 15. National Policy on Software Products- 2019

The Union Cabinet has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation. An outlay of Rs.1500 Crore is involved to implement the schemes under this policy over a period of 7 years.

## International

### News: Most Important

#### 1. Hindi becomes Abu Dhabi labour court's third official language

Abu Dhabi Judicial Department recognised Hindi as its third official language after Arabic and English. Workers can lodge complaints in Hindi about delayed wages, end of service entitlements, bonuses, compensations for arbitrary layoffs, notice periods and annual leaves.

#### 2. President Trump nominates David Malpass to lead the World Bank

US President Trump nominated David Malpass, an economist currently working as the undersecretary for international affairs at the Treasury Department of the US government to head the World Bank as its new President.

#### 3. The World's First Female AI News anchor unveiled in China

China's Xinhua News Agency unveiled the Agency's first female-gendered AI news presenter named **Xin Xiaomeng**. It was worked in collaboration with Chinese search engine company Soguo to produce Xin.

#### 4. J.P. Morgan Chase Becomes First U.S. Bank with a Cryptocurrency

J.P. Morgan became the first U.S. bank to create and test a digital coin for payments called the **JPM Coin**. It is intended for the bank's wholesale payments business that moves \$6 trillion around the world daily.

#### 5. PM Modi launches India Korea start-up hub in Seoul

PM Modi launched India Korea start-up hub in Seoul. It is a one-stop platform to bring Indian & Korean start-up ecosystems closer & to facilitate joint innovation b/w the 2 economies. It was abstracted as part of a joint statement b/w KOTRA & Invest India.

#### 6. ADB raised \$100 mn via offshore peso-linked bonds

The Asian Development Bank has raised \$100 million (5.22 billion pesos) from issue of Philippine peso-linked bonds in the international market for the very first time with a fixed interest rate of 5.25% and to be settled in U.S. dollar.

## **7. Facebook launches digital skilling initiative for girls**

Facebook launched a digital skilling and mentorship initiative named **GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)** across five states in India that would encourage tribal girls to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. International standard for music devices issued by WHO**

World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union issued the standards for music devices with aim to encourage safe listening practices & prevent young people from going deaf due to prolong and excessive use.

#### **2. Iran unveils first semi-heavy missile-equipped submarine**

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani unveiled the first Iranian made semi-heavy submarine. The Fateh has subsurface-to-surface missiles with a range of about 2,000 km capable of reaching Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

#### **3. US sanctions on Iran revive fortune of UCO Bank**

UCO bank which was designated as India's payment bank for Iranian oil in 2012 expects its payments for Iranian oil shipments to add more than 8 billion rupees (\$110 million) to annual earnings because of renewed US sanctions on Iran.

#### **4. Israel blast off its first Moon Mission**

Israel's first moon mission was launched by **SpaceX**. The Falcon 9 rocket blasted from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The rocket is carrying three separate spacecraft, most notably Israel's privately funded lunar lander.

#### **5. World Health Organisation: Measles cases nearly doubled in a year**

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) report, the total number of people infected with the measles virus in 2018 was the highest this decade – three times the total reported in 2017 and 15 times the record low number of people affected in 2016.

#### **6. Macedonia to join as the new member of NATO Military Alliance**

Macedonia signed an accord to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Macedonia's Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov signed the formal accord to formally join the International alliance.

### **7. *Month-long Festival of India begins in Kathmandu***

In Nepal, a month-long 'Festival of India' began in Kathmandu to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries. The festival is organised by the Indian Embassy and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre.

### **8. *Muhammadu Buhari Wins Second Term as Nigeria's President***

Muhammadu Buhari had won a second term as president of Africa's most populous country, where voters rejected a corruption-stained candidate in favour of a leader who promised to continue a campaign to eliminate graft.

## **India & world**

### **News: Most Important**

#### **1. *MoU signed between Coal Ministry and Polish Energy Ministry***

The Objective of the MoU is to foster relations in the field of coal mining and clean coal technologies through the established Joint Coal Working Group as well as research institutes and academia between the 2 countries covering the related areas.

#### **2. *India and Germany to co-operate on water and waste management***

India & Germany decided to work on developing reference documents for the textile sector, Water Governance, Marine Litter, waste to energy landfill sites, water quality management, training and capacity building of local bodies and Circular Economy.

#### **3. *MOU b/w India & Finland for peaceful uses of outer space***

MoU would provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.

#### **4. *MOU b/w India & Saudi Arabia in field of Infrastructure Investment & Tourism***

MOU was signed to attract potential investments into the infrastructure sector for creation jobs, growth of ancillary sectors. MOU was also signed for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism encouraging mutual investment in tourism projects.

### **5. *India, Sweden sign security pact to share classified information***

India and Sweden have concluded a security protection agreement that will enable both countries to share classified information with each other. The Scandinavian country is eyeing projects worth billions of dollars under the "Make in India" initiative.

### **6. *MoU between India & Argentina***

The Union cabinet chaired by Narendra Modi has given approval to Memorandum of Understanding between India & Argentina on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation. It will help in increasing India's export of medical products to Argentina.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *Bangladesh inks 4 MoUs with India to strengthen bilateral cooperation***

India and Bangladesh signed 4 MoUs in field of capacity building, training programme for 1800 bureaucrats over the next years. Also, the CBI and the ACC of Bangladesh signed MoU to be sharing expertise and developing anti-corruption mechanism.

### **2. *Letter of Intent signed for India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative***

Indian MoEFCC & Norwegian External Affairs Ministry signed a letter of Intent for joint Marine Pollution Initiative & formation of a Task Force on Blue Economy with government Officials, researchers and experts & private sector for sustainable solutions.

### **3. *India, Saudi Arabia to establish high cooperation council to boost ties***

India & Saudi Arabia will set up a high cooperation council to provide a huge impetus to bilateral ties between the nations. It would enable the two nations to discuss any problem and engage directly on various aspects including business, politics & defence.

### **4. *India - Iran to cooperate on combating terrorism***

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Iran's Dy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi agreed on close cooperation to combat terrorism in the region in the wake of heinous terrorist attacks which took place in the past few days.

### **5. *India, Sri Lanka ink MoU to establish business centre for ICT incubators in Jaffna***

India & Sri Lanka signed an MoU to establish a centre for ICT incubators in Jaffna via a grant of 25 Cr Sri Lankan rupees from India. The centre would provide chances to enable an environment for ICT & services in the Northern region inhabited by minority Tamils.

## Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State / Govt.	Currency
Norway	Oslo	Erna Solberg	Norwegian krone
Poland	Warsaw	Andrzej Duda	Polish zloty
Iran	Teheran	Hassan Rouhani	Rial
Germany	Berlin	Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Euro
Sri Lanka	Colombo	Maithripala Sirisena	Sri Lankan rupee
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud	Saudi Riyal
Finland	Helsinki	Juha Sipila	Euro
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Abdul Hamid	Bangladeshi taka
Sweden	Stockholm	Stefan Lofven	Swedish krona
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Mauricio Macri	Argentine peso

## Appointments & Resignations

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed as new CBI chief**

Rishi Kumar Shukla was appointed as the new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation. He will head the CBI for a period of two years. He is presently the chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation.

#### **2. Pradeep Singh Kharola appointed as new secretary to civil aviation Ministry**

Air India Ltd.'s Chairman and Managing director Pradeep Singh Kharola got appointed as the new secretary to civil aviation Ministry. He is a 1985 batch IAS officer who was appointed the head of Air India in November 2017.

#### **3. Anirban Mukherjee is PayU India CEO**

PayU India has named a new CEO in Anirban Mukherjee, who was still the co-chief executive of Reliance Payments. It has planned to double its loan book to about \$ 2 bn. Jitendra Gupta, MD of PayU will head the company's credit product LazyPay.

#### **4. Pramod Chandra Mody named as the next CBDT chairman**

Senior bureaucrat Pramod Chandra Mody has been appointed as chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), a top policy-making body for the income tax department. He has been working as the Member (Administration) in the CBDT.

### **5. *Sushil Chandra appointed new Election Commissioner***

CBDT Chairman Sushil Chandra was appointed the new Election Commissioner ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, making the poll panel a three-member entity again. The other two members are CEC Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner (EC) Ashok Lavasa.

### **6. *Sandeep Mohan Bhatnagar, Ashok Kumar Pandey appointed CBIC members***

Sandeep Mohan Bhatnagar and Ashok Kumar Pandey have been appointed as members in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. Pandey is a 1983-batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) officer, while Bhatnagar a 1984-batch IRS officer.

### **7. *Analjit Singh set to take over as chairman of Max Life, Max India***

Founder and Chairman Emeritus Analjit Singh will take over as Chairman of Max India & Max Life. He would be taking over the chairmanship of the two companies from Group President Rahul Khosla.

### **8. *Ashwani Lohani appointed as Air India Chairman & MD***

Ashwani Lohani to head the National carrier, Air India in as its Chairman & MD for a second term. He first headed the Air India from 2015-2017 & also served as Chairman of Railway Board in Railway Ministry.

### **9. *Suresh Vaswani appointed independent director to Vodafone India***

Vodafone Idea Ltd, which is now India's largest telecom operator appointed Suresh Vaswani as an independent director for a period of 3 years. He is an alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur and IIM-Ahmedabad.

### **10. *SC appoints former judge Justice DK Jain as ombudsman for BCCI***

The Supreme Court has appointed Justice **DK Jain** as the first court-appointed ombudsman for the BCCI. The role of the ombudsman would be to resolve the disputes relating to the players within the state cricket associations and financial issues.

### **11. *Indra Nooyi joins Amazon Board of Directors***

PepsiCo's India-born former CEO Indra Nooyi has joined Amazon's board of directors. She was PepsiCo CEO from October 2006 to October 2018, where she also served as the Chairman of its board of directors from May 2007 to February 2019.

## **12. IDBI Bank appoints Hemant Bhargava as Non-Executive Chairman**

IDBI Bank appointed Hemant Bhargava as non-executive, non-whole-time chairman. He is currently the CMD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The life insurer is now the majority shareholder in IDBI Bank with a 51% stake.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. Yes Bank senior group president Pralay Mondal resigns**

Yes Bank senior group president and head of retail and business banking Pralay Mondal resigned. He will serve till March 31, 2019. He had joined Yes Bank in 2012 and elevated to the post of Executive Directors in September 2018.

#### **2. Ricky Ponting appointed Australia's assistant coach**

Ricky Ponting has been appointed the assistant coach for the ICC World Cup 2019 in England. He previously served as an assistant coach with Australia's T20 side in 2018 and 2017.

#### **3. BFI president Ajay Singh elected as head of Elite Foundation of AIBA**

India's boxing chief Ajay Singh has been elected as president of the Foundation Board for Boxing of the world governing body of the sport, AIBA. He will have a tenure of four years.

#### **4. GC Anupama Is Astronomical Society's First Woman President**

GC Anupama has become the first woman president of the Astronomical Society of India. The recipient of the Govt. of Karnataka's Sir C.V. Raman Young Scientist Award, Anupama currently works as the dean and senior professor at the Bangalore based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

#### **5. Brij Bhushan Sharan elected as WFI President for third time**

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been elected third time unopposed as the President of Wrestling Federation of India. Along with Brij Bhushan, I.D. Nanavati has been elected as the Senior Vice President, V.N. Prasood as the Secretary General and Satyapal Singh Deshwali as the Treasurer.

#### **6. NBT appoints Govind Prasad Sharma as Chairman**

The National Book Trust has appointed educationist and author Govind Prasad Sharma as its new Chairman. NBT is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.



## Quick Revision

<b>Appointment/Resignation</b>	<b>Post</b>
Rishi Kumar Shukla	Chief, CBI
Pradeep Singh Kharola	Secretary, Aviation Ministry
Anirban Mukherjee	CEO, PayU India
Pramod Chandra Mody	Chairman, CBDT
Sushil Chandra	Election Commissioner
Ashok Kumar Pandey	CBIC Member
Sandeep Mohan Bhatnagar	CBIC Member
Analjit Singh	Chairman, Max Life, Max India
Ashwani Lohani	CMD, Air India
Suresh Vaswani	Independent Director, Vodafone India
Justice DK Jain	Ombudsman of BCCI
Pralay Mondal ( resignation)	Senior Group President, YES Bank
Ricky Ponting	Assistant Coach of Australia
Ajay Singh	President, Elite Foundation of AIBA
GC Anupama	President, Astronomical Society of India.
Govind Prasad Sharma	Chairman, National Book Trust
Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh	President, Wrestling Federation of India
Hemant Bhargava	Non-executive Chairman, IDBI Bank
Indra Nooyi	Board of Director, Amazon

## Ranks & Reports

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Assam tops in budgetary practices followed by states: Transparency International**

According to the Survey by Transparency International, Assam has topped in the ranking of best practices in the Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The states which figured lower in the ranking were Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab.

#### **2. Two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers likely to melt by 2100: Report**

A recent Hindu Kush Himalaya study warned that if global climate efforts fail, then the current emissions would lead to 5 degrees in warming and a loss of 2/3rd of the Himalayan region's glaciers by 2100.

#### **3. India moves 8 places to rank 36<sup>th</sup> in global IP index**

India has jumped eight places to rank 36<sup>th</sup> from 44<sup>th</sup> position in the seventh annual international intellectual property index 2019 of US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Centre. The Index was topped by the USA, followed by the UK, Sweden, Germany.

#### **4. India Ranks 47<sup>th</sup> Out of 100 Countries in The Facebook Inclusive Internet Index 2019**

According to the Inclusive Internet Index (3i) prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook, India has been ranked **47<sup>th</sup>** in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" score while Sweden topped the chart, followed by Singapore.

#### **News: Others**

##### **1. Smriti Mandhana secured No.1 position in ICC women's ODI rankings**

Smriti Mandhana climbed three spots in the batters' list to become No.1 in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings. Mithali Raj slipped down one spot to finish at the 5th position. Radha Yadav the bowling champ moved to 10th position.

##### **2. Kuldeep Yadav reaches career-best 2<sup>nd</sup> position: ICC T20 rank**

In recent ICC T20 rankings Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav grabbed his career-best 2<sup>nd</sup> position in bowlers while Rashid Khan from Afghanistan leads the chart. Pakistan's Babar Azam is No.1 in batsmen ranking.

##### **3. 2019 Passport Index**

As per the 2019 Passport Index released by Argon Capital, the Indian passport has jumped from 77<sup>th</sup> position in 2015 to 67<sup>th</sup> position in 2019. 25 countries now allow visa-free entry to Indian passport holders, whereas 39 nations offer visa-on-arrival.

### **Important days**

#### **News: Most Important**

##### **1. World Wetlands Day – February 2**

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on 2 February. This year's Day under the theme of '**Wetlands and Climate Change**' highlights the importance of healthy and intact wetlands to one of the most pressing challenges of our times: climate change.

##### **2. World Cancer Day – February 4**

World Cancer Day is marked on 4th February to increase awareness of cancer, and to encourage its prevention, early detection and treatment. The theme for World Cancer Day 2019 is '**I am and I will**'.

### **3. *United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February***

To achieve full and equal access and participation in science for women and girls, & further achieve gender equality, UN General Assembly declared 11 February as such. 2019 Theme: "**Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth**"

### **4. *World Radio Day to be observed across globe: 13 February***

2019 Theme: **Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace**; Aim is to celebrate radio as a forum for information and entertainment, as a bridge of communication for remote communities and its role in empowering people.

### **5. *World Day of Social Justice - 20 February***

The World Day of Social Justice is annually observed on February 20 to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication. 2019 theme for the day was **If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice.**

### **6. *International Mother Language Day – February 21***

International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on Feb 21 with the objective to promote linguistic diversity & multilingual education. '**Indigenous languages matter for development, peace-building & reconciliation**' was the theme of IMLD 2019.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – February 6***

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is celebrated on the 6th of February. The aim of the day is to encourage governments, civil society and all involved parties to implement concrete actions and increase awareness campaigns against FGM.

### **2. *World Pulses day – February 10***

The first ever World Pulses Day is observed on February 10, 2019. World Pulses Day aimed at raising awareness about the multiple benefits of pulses. 2016 was observed as the International Year of Pulses.

### **3. *World Thinking Day- 22 February***

World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries with the theme "**Leadership**".

#### 4. **Central Excise Day 2019 – February 24**

Central Excise Day was commemorated on 24 February. The purpose is to encourage the employees of excise department to carry out the central excise duty all over the India in better way in order to prevent the corruption.

#### 5. **World NGO Day 2019**

World NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) Day is an international calendar day annually observed on the 27th of February. The United Nations along with EU leaders and international organizations officially recognized it in 2014.

#### 6. **National Science Day 2019**

National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect by Tamil Physicist Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman on this day in 1928. The discovery won him the Nobel prize in physics in 1930.

### Quick Revision

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observed Day</b>	<b>Theme/ Campaign</b>
February 2	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands and Climate Change
February 4	World Cancer Day	I am and I will
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	NA
February 10	World Pulses Day	NA
February 11	United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth
February 13	World Radio Day	Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice.
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Indigenous languages matter for development, peace-building & reconciliation
February 22	World Thinking Day	Leadership
February 24	Central Excise Day	NA
February 27	World NGO Day	NA
February 28	National Science Day	NA

## Sports

### News: Most Important

#### **1. *India Captain Mithali Raj becomes 1<sup>st</sup> female cricketer to play 200 ODIs***

India captain Mithali Raj became the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs. She is the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6622 runs at an average of 51.33 including 7-hundreds. Her international career is 4th -longest behind Tendulkar, Jayasuriya & Miandad.

#### **2. *Qatar wins Asian Cup for the first time***

Qatar pulled a stunning 3-1 win over four-time champions Japan on their way to the first continental title in Asian Cup 2019. Almoez Ali of Qatar came out as top scorer.

#### **3. *Saikhom Mirabai Chanu clinches gold medal at the EGAT Cup***

World champion Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu clinched a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand. She won the **49kg category** gold with an effort of 192 kg. 16 years old Jeremy Lalrinnunga (from Mizoram) clinched silver in men's 67-kilogram category.

#### **4. *India's Rohit Sharma becomes highest run-scorer in T20 cricket***

India's Rohit Sharma has become the highest run scorer in the Twenty20 International history while playing against New Zealand in Auckland. He has slammed 347 sixes in international cricket & became first Indian and the third overall player to smash 100 sixes in T20 cricket.

#### **5. *83<sup>rd</sup> Senior National Badminton Championships held in Assam***

83rd edition of Senior National Badminton Championships begins in Guwahati, Assam. The top Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth among others are deemed to be the main attractions

#### **6. *National Championship: Saina Nehwal beats PV Sindhu***

Saina Nehwal won her second consecutive and fourth overall Senior Nationals women's single badminton title defeating PV Sindhu 21-18, 21-15 in the final in Guwahati. Sourabh Verma clinched men's title.

#### **7. *Apurvi Chandela wins gold in women's 10m air rifle***

Apurvi Chandela won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air rifle at the ISSF World Cup 2019. It is India's first medal at the event. She set a new world record by registering a score of 252.9 points in the final.

### **8. *Elise Mertens beats Simona Halep to win Qatar Open***

Elise Mertens claimed the Qatar Open title by beating top seed Simona Halep. She had already beaten Angelique Kerber and Kiki Bertens. Halep won the Qatar title in 2014. It was Elise's third win over a top 10 player in Doha.

### **9. *Ramit Tandon bags Seattle Open title***

Indian squash player Ramit Tandon defeated Egyptian Mohamed El Sherbini in the finals of Seattle Open to win the title, which was a PSA challenger squash Tour event. He rose to his career high ranking of 58.

### **10. *Harmanpreet Singh named 2018 Player of the Year by Asian Hockey Federation***

India defender Harmanpreet Singh was awarded with the 2018 Player of the Year award by the Asian Hockey Federation while women's team striker Lalremsiami bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize.

### **11. *Saurabh Chaudhary wins Gold with World Record***

India's 16-year-old shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched gold medal in men's 10m Air Pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation World (ISSF) Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi with a world record score of 245.

### **12. *Raina first Indian to score 8,000 runs in T20***

Suresh Raina has become the first Indian cricketer to reach the 8,000-run mark in T20 cricket. He crossed the mark in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019 match between Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry. Raina is the sixth highest run-getter in T20s.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *Vidarbha beat Rest of India team to secure Irani Cup***

Vidarbha beat Rest of India to retain the Irani Cup title for **2<sup>nd</sup> time** (only 3<sup>rd</sup> team after Mumbai & Karnataka to do so). Their captain Faiz wished for the entire prize money be donated to the families of the CRPF personnel martyred in Pulwama terror attack.

### **2. *Nikhat, Meena win gold medals at Strandja Memorial Boxing***

Nikhat Zareen & Meena Kumari Devi became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian women boxers to win gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. Zareen defeated Filipino Irish Magno in 51Kg category & Meena defeated Filipino Aira Villegas in the 54Kg category.

### **3. *Arthur van Doren named FIH player of the year***

Arthur van Doren of Belgium named the International Hockey Federation's Players of the Year for 2018. Netherlands' **Eva de Goede** was named the Female Player of the Year. He was one of four Belgian winners in the FIH Hockey Stars Awards for 2018.

### **4. *Jamie Chadwick won the MRF Challenge title in Chennai***

Jamie Chadwick became the first female driver to clinch the MRF Challenge title beating Max Defourny in Chennai. She scored a triple win in the final round of the season.

### **5. *Corentin Moutet clinched Chennai Open title***

French Tennis star Corentin Moutet beat Andrew Harris of Australia to clinch the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament title. This was Moutet's second Challenger title win.

## **Awards**

### **News: Most Important**

#### **1. *Sunil Chhetri awarded the 1st-ever 'Football Ratna'***

State Association of Football Delhi awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> ever 'Football Ratna' to Indian footballer Sunil Chhetri for his professionalism, dedication, discipline and passion, on and off the field and inspire Indian football fraternity.

#### **2. *Narendra Modi accepted Seoul Peace Prize***

Narendra Modi received the Seoul Peace Prize from the South Korean government in recognition of his service to international cooperation, global growth and human development in his second visit to the Asian nation after his state visit in May 2015.

#### **3. *JSPL wins FICCI CSR Award for Women Empowerment***

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd has been honoured with the prestigious 'FICCI CSR Award' for Women Empowerment. JSPL won the award for its innovative and high impact women empowerment programmes.

#### **4. *Divya Karnad, the first Indian woman to win Future for Nature Award'19***

Divya Karnad bagged the prestigious Global Future for Nature Award 2019 for her work on marine conservation. The award celebrates tangible achievements in protecting wild animal and plant species.

### **5. *Manus refugee wins global human rights award***

A Sudanese refugee Abdul Aziz Muhamat, who detained on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island for almost six years has won an international award for human rights defenders.

### **6. *"ROMA" film wins Best Picture, BAFTA Awards 2019***

British Drama "The Favourite" bagged 7 honours, and the Netflix's Mexican black and white drama "Roma" registered 4 big wins including Best Picture in British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA 2019, in London, UK.

### **7. *Amrut Cities - Top Swachhata Excellence Awards***

AMRUT cities and Municipal Corporations of Raigarh, Ambikapur and Kumbakonam have bagged the first, second and third prizes respectively of Swachhata Excellence awards 2019.

### **8. *Gandhi Peace Prize awarded***

President Ramnath Kovind awarded The Gandhi Peace Prize to Vivekananda Kendra for 2015, Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International for 2016, Ekal Abhiyan Trust for 2017 & Yohei Sasakawa for 2018 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

### **9. *National e-Governance Awards, 2019***

Dr. Jitendra Singh, presented the National e-Governance Awards, 2019 in a function organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). **IRCTC Rail Connect App** was presented the Special Jury Award.

### **10. *OSCARS 2019- 91<sup>st</sup> Academy Awards***

Period-End of Sentence, a documentary that tackles the stigma around menstruation in rural India, has won the Best Documentary Short Subject at the 91<sup>st</sup> Academy Awards. The film was co-produced by Guneet Monga and directed by Rayka Zehtabchi.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *INS Dronacharya wins Kochi area boat pulling regatta trophy***

INS Dronacharya team won the Kochi Area Boat Pulling Regatta trophy 2019 of the Southern Naval Command in Ernakulam. It is one of the most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities conducted by the Navy.



## 2. *Two consecutive wins in a row for Vidharbha in Ranji Trophy*

Vidharbha lifted the Ranji Trophy for the second time in a row in 2018-2019 edition by defeating **Saurashtra** by 78 runs. In 2017-2018 Ranji final, Vidharbha had won the final against Delhi.

## 3. *Shiv Chhatrapati awards for Smriti Mandhana, Uday Deshpande*

Uday Deshpande and Smriti Mandhana conferred Shiv Chhatrapati awards. While the Shiv Chhatrapati life-time achievement award was presented to U. Deshpande, who has dedicated his life to the traditional sport, the Shiv Chhatrapati award for players was presented to S. Mandhana.

## 4. *Playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar to be honoured with META lifetime achievement award*

Eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar has been chosen for 2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award. Elkunchwar has over 30 plays and essays to his credit including works like 'Sultan', 'Holi', 'Garbo', 'Yatanagar', and 'Atmakatha'.

## 5. *ONGC's Rajahmundry unit bags environmental excellence award*

ONGC Rajahmundry has bagged the Energy and Environment Foundation Global Clean Awards-2019 for sustained efforts in pursuit of Swachh Bharat Mission. It is awarded in recognition of its environmental management excellence.

## 6. *National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 Awards*

Narendra Modi addressed the closing ceremony of National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi & conferred the National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2019. He also launched the Khelo India App at the event.

### Quick Revision

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Football Ratna	Sunil Chhetri
Seoul Peace Prize	Narendra Modi
FICCI CSR Award	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd
Nature Award 2019	Divya Karnad
Global human rights award	Abdul Aziz Muhamat
Best Picture, BAFTA Award	ROMA
Kochi Area Boat Pulling Regatta trophy	INS Dronacharya team
Ranji Trophy	Vidharbha
Shiv Chhatrapati awards	Uday Deshpande, Smriti Mandhana
Global Clean Awards-2019	ONGC Rajahmundry
2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award	Mahesh Elkunchwar
Gandhi Peace Prize Award 2018	Yohei Sasakawa
Best Documentary Short Subject (OSCAR 2019)	Period – End of Sentence

## Obituaries

### News: Most Important

#### **1. *Best-selling British author Andrea Levy passes away at 62***

A well-known Novelist Andrea Levy died at the age of 62. Her novels were *Small Island*, *The Long Song*, *Never Far From Nowhere*, *Fruit Of The Lemon* and *Every Light In The House Burnin*. *Small Island* won the Whitbread prize, the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Commonwealth Writers' prize.

#### **2. *Noted Hindi writer Namvar Singh dies at 92***

Noted Hindi writer Namvar Singh passed away in New Delhi. He was 92. He was the first chairman of JNU's Centre of Indian Languages & received Sahitya Academy Award for literary criticism in 1971 for '*Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman*'.

#### **3. *Climate scientist W S Broecker passed away***

Wallace Smith Broecker, who popularised the term "global warming" into common use with a 1975 paper that correctly predicted that rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to a pronounced global warming passed away at the age of 87.

#### **4. *German Nobel Prize winning chemist Manfred Eigen dies age 91***

A German Nobel Prize winning chemist, Manfred Eigen, passed away at the age of 91. He was awarded half of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1967. He introduced a high frequency sound wave that could determine chemical reaction rates in the micro- and nanosecond range.

#### **5. *W.E.B. Griffin, military novelist, dead at age 89***

W.E.B. Griffin, the prolific and best-selling author of military novels, has died at age 89. His many popular series included "*Badge of Honor*," "*Clandestine Operations*" and "*Presidential Agent*."

#### **6. *Madhya Pradesh rolls out 100-day employment scheme for youths***

Madhya Pradesh government rolled out its flagship 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' that guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youths from economically weaker sections (EWS). Under the scheme each youth enrolled would get total Rs 13,500 for the 100 days period.

## **News: Others**

### ***1. Former Goa deputy CM, BJP MLA Francis D'Souza passes away***

Former Goa deputy Chief Minister and current BJP MLA Francis D'Souza died. He was 64. He was elected to Goa Legislative Assembly in 1999 and was elected to the assembly in 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017 from Mapusa.

### ***2. Telugu film director Kodi Ramakrishna dies at 69***

Veteran Telugu film director Kodi Ramakrishna died. He was 69. He made his debut in 1992 with 'Intlo Ramaiah- Veedhilo Krishnaiah' starring Chiranjeevi. He delivered several blockbusters including 'Mangamma gari Manavadu', 'Muddula Mavayya' and 'Muvva Gopaludu'.

### ***3. Bengali Singer Pratik Choudhury Passes Away at Age of 55***

Bengali singer Pratik Choudhury passed away. He was 55. He was known for his albums on contemporary Bengali songs including Mukhosh, Bhusandir Mathe, Ebar Pratik er Pallay and so on.

### ***4. Bruno Ganz, who played Hitler in Downfall, dies aged 77***

Bruno Ganz, who played Hitler in the 2004 film Downfall, died aged 77. He was well-known in German-language cinema and theatre and also had roles in English-language films including The Reader and The Manchurian Candidate.

### ***5. British actor Albert Finney dies aged 82***

British actor Albert Finney died at the age of 82. He was a five-time Oscar nominee. He played the title role in Scrooge, billionaire Daddy Warbucks in Annie, Ed Bloom Senior in Tim Burton's Big Fish and the mobster Leo O'Bannon in Miller's Crossing.

### ***6. Odisha MP Ladu Kishore Swain passes away at 71***

Odisha MP Ladu Kishore Swain passed away at the age of 71. He was member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from 2004 to 2009. He was elected to the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha in May 2014.

### ***7. Former Afghan interim President Mojaddedi dead***

Former Afghan mujahideen commander Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, who fought the Soviets and rose to become the country's interim President after the collapse of the Afghan communist regime in 1992, has died at the age of 93.

## Quick Revision

Obituary (Name)	Related Field
Wallace Smith Broecker	Climate Scientist
Andrea Levy	British Author
Namvar Singh	Hindi Writer
Gordon Banks	Footballer
Manfred Eigen	Nobel Prize winner, Chemistry
W.E.B. Griffin	Military Novelist
Francis D'Souza	Former deputy Chief Minister, Goa
Kodi Ramakrishna	Telugu Film Director
Pratik Choudhury	Bengali Singer
Bruno Ganz	Actor
Albert Finney	British Actor
Ladu Kishore	Odisha MP

## Schemes

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme launched*

All eligible unorganised sector workers who subscribe to PMSYM scheme up to 40 years of age would be entitled to a minimum monthly pension of **₹3,000**. The scheme is slated to benefit 10 crore workers over the next 5 years.

#### 2. *Bihar govt announces Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojana*

Bihar government has announced a universal old age pension scheme - Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojana- MVPY for all people above 60 years of age. All will be eligible for **400 rupees** monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community.

#### 3. *Odisha CM Launches KALIA Scholarship for Farmers' Children*

Odisha government has unveiled the scholarship, '**KALIA Chhatra Bruti**'. It would be awarded to farmer's children who are planning to pursue higher education. The Students should be the children of KALIA beneficiaries.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Chandrababu Naidu govt announces sops for farmers*

The state cabinet approved the 'Annadaata Sukhibhava' scheme under which the state government will give ₹4,000 per annum for farmers in addition to ₹6,000 announced by the Centre. Hence, each ryot can get ₹10,000 annually in two instalments.

## 2. *Uttar Pradesh launches Scheme for Adolescent girls*

Uttar Pradesh launched a Scheme for Adolescent Girls. It focuses on girls aged between 11 to 14 years who have left studies & will take steps for proper nutrition & special care for them. UP govt decided to observe Adolescent girls' day on 8th of every month.

## 3. *Arundhati Scheme in Assam offer free gold to brides*

In the recent state budget, Rs **300 crore** has been earmarked for Arundhati scheme offering 10 gm gold worth Rs 38000, limited to economically weaker sections, with annual income below Rs 5 lakh. Scheme can be availed upon formal registration of marriages.

## 4. *Odisha approves Rs 466 crore sanitary napkin scheme for girls*

Odisha government approved a Rs 466 crore Khusi scheme aimed at improving menstrual hygiene among adolescent girl students in the state. Under the scheme, free sanitary napkins will be provided adolescent girl students of Class-VI to XII in the schools of the state.

## Person in News

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Kareena Kapoor Khan named brand ambassador of Swasth Immunised India*

Kareena Kapoor Khan named as the brand ambassador of **Swasth Immunised India**, a year-long campaign initiated by Network18 and Serum Institute of India which promotes immunisation of babies under two years of age.

#### 2. *SBI UK chief awarded 'Freedom of the City of London'*

State Bank of India's UK chief Sanjiv Chadha has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City of London' award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the bilateral relations.

#### 3. *Mary Kom signed as Brand ambassador for Puma*

Sportswear brand Puma appointed World Boxing Champion Mary Kom as its new brand ambassador for a period of 2 years for their women's training category. She would be a part of advertising campaign **#DoYou** that aims to motivate women across nation.

#### **4. *Chris Gayle to play his last One-day Internationals in World Cup 2019***

West Indian batsman Chris Gayle announced that he will be retiring from One-day Internationals after the forthcoming World Cup 2019 in England. He debuted in 1999 & has scored record of 23 ODI 100s, & first ever World Cup 200 against Zimbabwe.

#### **5. *Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal becomes IAF's first woman flight engineer***

Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal scripted history by becoming the first woman flight engineer to be inducted into the Indian Air Force. Till last year, the Flight Engineer branch was exclusively the men's domain.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. *Bradley Cooper Wins 'Oscat' Award From PETA***

PETA's Film and Television Division handed out its second annual "Oscat" awards, promoting good behaviour toward animals on screen and on set. Bradley Cooper earned the Best Director prize.

#### **2. *Shane Warne named brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals***

Australian legendary spinner Shane Warne named the brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals for the **IPL 2019 edition**. He was earlier captain of the team for first 4 editions of IPL and led the team to its only IPL win in 2008.

#### **3. *South Korean footballer Ki Sung-yueng announces retirement***

Midfielder Ki Sung-yueng announced his retirement from the South Korean national team. He had hinted at retirement after the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia but decided to compete in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

## **Summits & Conference**

### **News: Most Important**

#### **1. *World CSR Congress held in Mumbai***

The eighth edition of World CSR Congress held in Mumbai. It was focussed on the integration of Sustainable Development Goals in corporate strategies, innovation and strategic alliances. Dr. Soumitro Chakraborty was honoured with 'CEO of the year' award.

#### **2. *World Government Summit 2019 in Dubai***

The 7<sup>th</sup> session of the World Government Summit began in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The main objective is to shape the future generation of governments, by bringing the public and private sectors together to collaborate with world-renowned experts.

### **3. *'International Vision Zero Conference' to Promote Occupational Safety and Health held in Mumbai***

The 3-day Conference on the **VISION ZERO** and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health held in Mumbai. The concept of 'Vision Zero' is expected to leverage the efforts of the Government of India to raise the occupational safety and health standards.

### **4. *2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-India Youth Summit held in Guwahati***

India Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-India Youth Summit on the theme "Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity" in Guwahati. Delegates from India and 10 ASEAN countries participated.

### **5. *President inaugurated 3-day International Conference on Energy and Environment***

President inaugurated a 3-day International Conference & Exhibition on Energy & Environment in **New Delhi**. It aims to deliberate and identify the R&D needs to innovate new techniques for clean, safe, symbiotic sustenance of society in the post-2020 era.

### **6. *Suresh Prabhu inaugurated 4<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Expo and Summit***

Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN Expo and Summit 2019 in New Delhi. ASEAN has emerged as the **second largest** trade partner of India in 2017-18, with a share of 10.58% in India's overall trade.

### **7. *President addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> Agri Leadership Summit in Haryana***

President awarded 9 progressive farmers with **Haryana Krishi Rattan Pursakar** for commendable work in the production of various crops & visited Agri Exhibition at International Horticulture Market which saw participation of 1.5 lac farmers from 14 countries.

### **8. *PM Modi inaugurated 13<sup>th</sup> edition of PETROTECH conference***

PM Modi inaugurated the 13<sup>th</sup> International Oil and Gas Conference PETROTECH-2019 in Greater Noida, NCR. The event underlined the need to move towards responsible pricing of Oil and Gas to balance the interests of both the producer and the consumer.

### **9. *World Sustainable Development Summit 2019***

World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 was held in **New Delhi** with the theme of '**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise**'. The Summit sought to create action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges facing developing economies.

### **10. Asia's largest early Childhood Conference - Early Ed Asia 2019 held in Jaipur**

The two-day educational event 'Early Ed Asia 2019' held in Jaipur to discuss the latest trends in teaching and research to provide a stronger foundation to our children.

### **11. 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**

JP Nadda inaugurated 4<sup>th</sup> Global Digital Health Partnership Summit. The global meeting on digital health is being hosted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with World Health Organization & Global Digital Health Partnership.

### **12. Aviation Conclave 2019**

Aviation Conclave 2019 to be organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with Airports Authority of India, AAICLAS and CII at New Delhi. Theme of the event is, "**Flying for All**" with participation from 200 delegates across industries.

### **13. Heat Wave 2019 Conference organised**

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra conducted a 2-day national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave in Nagpur.

### **14. Mobile World Congress Barcelona 2019**

The 2019 GSMA Mobile World Congress (MWC) took place in Barcelona, Spain. The MWC is the world's largest exhibition for the mobile industry featuring prominent global mobile operators, device manufacturers & technology providers. The **MWC 2020** will take place in **Shanghai, China**.

### **15. BioAsia 2019-Asia's largest Life-sciences and healthcare forum held in Hyderabad**

The 3-day 16<sup>th</sup> Edition BioAsia 2019 inaugurated in Hyderabad to strengthen a robust ecosystem for Lifesciences, Biotech, Healthcare enterprises. It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life-sciences forum. The theme was "**Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption**".

## **News: Others**

### **1. ICT Academy Bridge 2019' conference in Chennai**

The 37<sup>th</sup> edition of 'ICT Academy Bridge 2019' conference held in Chennai. It was the **largest Industry-Institute Interaction Event** in Asia. The event was themed '**Fostering India for Industry 4.0**'. ICT Academy is endorsed and recommended by **NITI Aayog**.



## ***2. PM Modi addressed YouthCon 2019 hosted by CREDAI in New Delhi***

PM Narendra Modi addressed the YouthCon 2019 hosted by CREDAI at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. Theme for the event: Next Generation aimed to enlighten the young minds of next generation of real estate builders & developers.

## ***3. I&B Ministry to organise 1<sup>st</sup> annual conference of Media Units in New Delhi***

I&B Ministry organized 1<sup>st</sup> annual conference of Media Units. The aim of the conference was to give a unique platform to the officers of the Indian Information Service working in different Media Units to converge at an All-India level and strengthen synergy between the Media Units

## ***4. IBBI organized a 2-day Workshop on Committee of Creditors***

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India jointly with **SBI** and the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs**, organised a 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind 2-day workshop on "Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public Faith" in Mumbai.

## ***5. Global Business Summit 2019***

The fifth edition of the Global Business Summit took place at Taj Palace, New Delhi. It was presented by Yes Bank and The Economic Times. It was attended by over 2,000 delegates from across the world.

## ***6. India Pharma 2019 & India Medical Device 2019 held in Bengaluru***

The two-day Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices held in Bengaluru. The Cabinet has given approval for **100 % FDI** under automatic route for **manufacturing of medical devices**.

## ***7. NITI Aayog to Organize Conference on Future of Indian Banking in New Delhi***

NITI Aayog co-hosted a conference on 'The Future of Indian Banking' which aimed to increase and elevate the discourse on the banking sector in India and help develop insights to inform the continued evolution of the Indian banking sector.

## ***8. Two-day Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019 held in Mumbai***

The Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019 organized by India held in Mumbai. The two-day conference deliberated on issues related to assuring maritime safety in the **India-ASEAN sub-region**, safeguarding our shores and promoting maritime trade.

### 9. 33<sup>rd</sup> GST Council meeting

In the 33<sup>rd</sup> GST Council meeting, GST rate on under-construction properties in normal category cut down to 5 per cent from the earlier 12 per cent. The GST Council has also reduced GST rate for affordable housing to 1 per cent from the earlier 8 per cent.

### 10. Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Skill Saathi

Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister inaugurated Nua Odisha, Dharmapada Samvaad-Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in Bhubaneswar. It aims to create a mass movement around skill development in the state and inspire youth to make the most of various skill development opportunities in the country.

### 11. Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurates VIVID 2019

VIVID-Vision Insight and Voices as India goes Digital - the District Informatics Officer meet, was organised by National Informatics Centre. It is an initiative to interact with the DIO's and to share their experiences & contribution, as digital changemakers at the grass-root level in the States.

### Quick Revision

Summit /Conference	Venue
World CSR Congress	Mumbai
World Government Summit	Dubai
International Vision Zero Conference	Mumbai
ASEAN-India Youth Summit	Guwahati
Annual conference of Media Units	New Delhi
India-ASEAN Expo and Summit	New Delhi
International Conference on Energy & Environment	New Delhi
The 4 <sup>th</sup> Agri Leadership Summit	Haryana
PETROTECH-2019	Greater Noida
World Sustainable Development Summit	New Delhi
Early Ed Asia 2019	Jaipur
ICT Academy Bridge 2019	Chennai
YouthCon 2019	New Delhi
Global Business Summit	New Delhi
India Pharma & India Medical Devices	Bengaluru
Conference on the Future of Indian Banking	New Delhi
Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019	Mumbai
BioAsia 2019	Hyderabad
GSMA Mobile World Congress 2019	Barcelona, Spain
Heat Wave 2019	Nagpur
Global Digital Health Partnership Summit 2019	New Delhi
Aviation Conclave 2019	New Delhi

## Defence

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Defence Ministry approves procurement of 73,000 assault rifles from US**

Defence Ministry cleared a long-pending proposal of the Army to procure around 73,000 assault rifles from the US under fast track mode. The US firm will have to deliver the rifles within one year from the date of finalizing the deal.

#### **2. ISRO's GSAT31 launched from French Guiana**

India's communication satellite GSAT-31 was launched successfully from French Guiana and got placed in its intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. It will provide connectivity to services like ATMs, Stock markets, & boost e-governance initiatives.

#### **3. IAF Carries Out Vayu Shakti Exercise at Pokhran**

The Indian Air Force carried out a mega exercise 'Vayu Shakti' at Pokhran. It was for the first time, the ALH and the Akash were deployed in a military exercise. The IAF also deployed the upgraded MiG-29 fighter jet in an air-to-ground role during the exercise.

#### **4. Indian Army holds annual 'Exercise Topchi'**

Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultra-light Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual 'Exercise Topchi'. The aviation and surveillance capabilities were also showcased.

#### **5. INS Trikand participates in exercise Cutlass Express 2019**

INS Trikand participated in a multinational training exercise CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19. The aim of the exercise was to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations.

#### **6. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile successfully tested**

India successfully test fired the short-range Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) from a test range along the coast of Odisha. Developed by DRDO, the missile has a strike range of 25-30 km. QRSAM will replace the 'Akash' missile defence system.

#### **7. Joint Military exercise Sampriti-2019**

8<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 to be conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh from 02-15 March 2019. Exercise Sampriti-2019 is a bilateral defence co-operation endeavour between India and Bangladesh.

## 8. Exercise Cobra Gold held in Thailand

Thailand and United States hosted the annual Cobra Gold military exercise which is one of the world's largest and longest-running international military exercises. They are joined by another 27 nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, China and India.

### News: Others

#### 1. Indian Army to co-ordinate Disaster Relief Exercise with NDMA

Sapta Shakti Command on behalf of Indian to co-ordinate EXERCISE RAHAT- Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise with National Disaster Management Authority in the month of February.

#### 2. Multinational Maritime Exercise AMAN-19 held in Karachi

The 5-day multinational naval exercise Aman-2019, in which 46 nations were taking part, held in Karachi. The purpose of the exercise is to provide a forum for understanding of each other's maritime concepts & operational cultures.

#### 3. 4 Chinook helicopters delivered by Boeing for IAF

Boeing delivered the first batch of 4 Chinook military helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the **Mundra port, Gujarat**. Chinook is a multi-role platform which can be used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment & utilised during Disaster management.

#### 4. HCIL to enable internet across Domestic Flights & Ships

The government has granted the license to provide internet across domestic flights and ships in India to Hughes Communications India Limited (HCIL). Flight internet connectivity is expected to be available from April-May 2019.

### Quick Revision

Exercise	Countries
SIMBEX – 2018	India & Singapore
Samudra Shakti – 2018	India & Indonesia
INDRA – 2018	India & Russia
Dharma Guardian - 2018	India & Japan
KONKAN - 2018	India & UK
Vajra Prahar - 2018	India & USA

## Agreements

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *NITI Aayog signed SOI with MSDF*

NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent with the **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation** to codify, document and share best practices to improve learning outcomes in public school education through systemic reforms.

#### 2. *MoU b/w Environment Ministry and University of British Columbia on forestry science*

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & University of British Columbia, Canada signed an MoU for 10 years in New Delhi to explore opportunities for future collaborations in the field of forestry science through their respective organizations.

#### 3. *ICAI signs pact with Invest India to promote foreign investment*

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India signed a pact with Invest India to promote foreign investments in the country and Indian investments abroad. The objective is to provide necessary guidance and advice to the potential inbound and outbound investors.

#### 4. *NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission partners with Adobe*

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs in India.

#### 5. *PhonePe partners with Walmart*

Walmart India partnered with PhonePe to be as a payment option at their 23 'Best Price' wholesale cash & carry stores. Customers would be able to use their app to make payments through UPI, PhonePe wallet, as well as stored credit & debit card.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Engineers India Ltd and Mongolian government sign MOU for Oil Refinery Project*

MoU is for Project Management Consultancy services for construction of 1.5 MMTPA capacity greenfield crude oil refinery in Sainshand province in Mongolia by EIL, under Line of Credit (LoC) extended by Government of India.

## 2. NTPC signs ₹5,000 crore term loan with SBI

NTPC went into a term loan agreement for ₹5,000 crore with SBI at an interest rate linked to 3-Month MCLR of the bank. The loan will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

## 3. India, EU to jointly develop water technologies

India and European Union is set to jointly take up seven research and innovations projects costing ₹320 crore to address urgent challenges in areas relating to water in India. The projects will also support transfer of European technologies to India.

## 4. IWAI, Indian Oil ink pact on fuel needs of national waterways

Inland Waterways Authority of India and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd have inked a pact to address issues regarding fuel requirement of National Waterways. The MoU would provide general modalities of cooperation leading to addressing futuristic demand of any form of energy for Inland Waterways and associated services.

## 5. FAGMIL signs MoU with Himachal Pradesh

**FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL)** signed MoU with the Himachal Pradesh government to establish a white cement plant in Sirmour district, Himachal Pradesh, at a project cost of Rs.605 cr. It will be 4th white cement plant in the country.

## Books & Authors

### News: Most Important

#### 1. Malay & Arindam Chaudhuri's new book 'What Marx Left Unsaid' released

Manish Tewari launched "What Marx Left Unsaid" – Production of Skills by Means of Skills, authored by **Malay Chaudhuri, Arindam Chaudhuri & Che Kabir Chaudhuri**. The book elaborates why human beings must earn as per their skills, which in turn determines their ability to contribute in society.

#### 2. The book 'Simplicity & Wisdom' launched

The book 'Simplicity & Wisdom' was launched. It has been written by Dinesh Sharma. The book is dedicated to Late eminent Vedanti Swami Pragananandji. The book is primarily aimed at offering saintly wisdom and guidance to lead a content and happy life.

### 3. *The Book 'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India' launched*

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the book of former Finance Minister **P Chidambaram** named 'Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India'. The book is a collection of essays on the country's atmosphere of fear and how the constitutional values are being endangered.

### 4. *Venkaiah Naidu Launches Chaturvedi's Book on 'Quality, Accreditation & Ranking'*

The book titled 'Quality, Accreditation and Ranking - A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education' edited by Dr. H Chaturvedi was released by the Vice President Naidu. The book also focuses on how to raise the quality of colleges and universities to enable them to compete globally.

## News: Others

### 1. *Ranjan Gogoi Launches Book "Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati's Approach" by Moolchand Sharma*

Ranjan Gogoi released the book 'Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice PN Bhagwati's Approach'. The book has been edited by **Moolchand Sharma**, comprising of 24 essays written in the honour of the late Justice P.N. Bhagwati, contributed by eminent persons.

### 2. *Banned Punjabi poem on Jallianwala massacre to be published in English*

The poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi', written by Punjabi writer Nanak Singh on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, was banned by the British after its publication in 1920. It has now been translated into English.

<b>Books</b>	<b>Authored by/brought by/Edited by</b>
Simplicity & Wisdom	Dinesh Sharma
What Marx Left Unsaid	Manish Tewari
Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India	Minister P Chidambaram
Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice PN Bhagwati's Approach	Moolchand Sharma
Khooni Vaisakhi	Nanak Singh
Quality, Accreditation & Ranking	Dr. H. Chaturvedi

## Science & Technology

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *AntBot, the first walking robot that navigates without GPS*

Scientists claim to have developed the first walking robot that can explore its environment and find its way home without GPS, opening new avenues for the navigation of autonomous vehicles. AntBot copies the desert ants.

## 2. *PM Modi inaugurates supercomputer 'Param Shivay' at IIT-BHU*

PM inaugurated 'Param Shivay' Supercomputer of **833 teraflop** capacity built at the cost of ₹ 32.5 Cr under National Super Computing Mission at IIT- BHU. The issues such as irrigation schemes, traffic management can be managed by this supercomputer.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Selenium nanoparticles may act like antibacterial agents*

Scientists found that nanoparticles of selenium, an essential micronutrient, can be used as an antibacterial agent. It is an antioxidant and immunity booster. Selenium nanoparticles were made by combining sodium selenite with vitamin C.

#### 2. *AI based system that translates thoughts into speech developed by scientists*

Researchers from Columbia University in the United States developed AI-based system capable to help people who cannot speak regain their ability to communicate with the outside world by reconstructing the words a person hears.

## Environment

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *A drainage-cleaning robot introduced in Chennai*

A drainage-cleaning robot named **Bandicoot** has been introduced in Chennai as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging. It has been introduced at a cost of ₹ 18 lakh. Drainage cleaning could be detected by viewing the blockages on the screen.

#### 2. *Australian mammal becomes first to go extinct due to climate change*

A small brown rat which lived on an island off northern Australia is the world's 1<sup>st</sup> mammal known to have become extinct due to human-induced climate change. Acc. to the University of Queensland report in 2016, the mammal had not been seen for almost 10 yrs.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Centre releases publication on climate action in India*

Harsh Vardhan released a publication on climate action titled '**India - Spearheading Climate Solutions**' which mentions the key actions India has taken towards combating and adapting to climate change. India has the goal of generating 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.



## 2. **2018 was 4<sup>th</sup> warmest year ever evidenced: NASA, NOAA**

A study by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration revealed that earth's global surface temperatures in 2018 were 0.83 degrees Celsius warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean deeming it as the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest since 1880.

## 3. **Monkeys declared vermin in eleven districts of Himachal Pradesh**

Monkeys have been declared vermin in 11 districts of Himachal Pradesh for a one year. Vermin species are the animals have been adversely affecting crops and causing harm to humans. In 2016, monkeys were declared as vermin in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh.

## Apps & Portals

### News: Most Important

#### 1. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana mobile app launched**

The Mobile App of PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat), the world's largest cashless health insurance scheme was launched on Google Play store. It would help to check money used, register grievances & check for nearby hospitals.

#### 2. **e-AUSHADHI portal for Online Licensing System of AYUSH Medicine**

e-AUSHADHI portal, launched at New Delhi would provide for online licensing of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy** drugs and related matters. It would also provide real time information of the licensed manufactures and their products.

#### 3. **Department of justice launches tele-law mobile app, Nyaya Bandhu**

Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a tele-law mobile app that is integrated with a dashboard & an application called Nyaya Bandhu. The pro bono legal service was built to accelerate & facilitate practicing advocates to register & connect with the beneficiaries.

#### 4. **Suresh Prabhu launched a mobile app SAFAR**

Commerce Minister launched the SAFAR Mobile App. The app helps to gauge the actual issues faced by transporters on the road. It tracks the incidence of several parameters faced by transporters and automatically records the location of the issue.

### 5. *Chennai Police launches mobile app that will help trace stolen mobiles*

Chennai Police has launched the mobile App '**DigiCop**'. Through the app, people could track the status of the stolen two-wheelers and cell phones. Also, people could verify the IMEI number, nearest police station and traffic alerts.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Infosys Launches InfyTQ – A Learning App for Engineering Students*

Infosys announced the launch of InfyTQ, a next-generation digital platform to offer the best learning and engagement experiences for engineering students in India. It is a free platform open to all engineering students in their third and fourth year across India.

#### 2. *National Testing Agency launched Mobile App for students*

National Testing Agency launched a 'NTA mobile app' to enable students for practicing or taking mock tests on their own computers or smart phones, while paying nil fees for any of the services.

#### 3. *CBSE Board to use TETRA software to balance difficulty level*

Developed by CBSE itself, Theory Evaluation Trend Analysis (TETRA) software to establish a better level playing field for students and avoid paper leaks of any kind. Software displays the live trend of average marks scored across the centres.

#### 4. *Ministry of Shipping to Launch PCS1X Maritime-Commerce Portal*

Union Minister Gadkari launched PCS1x at Regional Maritime Safety Conference in Mumbai, It is an e-commerce portal developed in record time by **Indian Ports Association** to facilitate electronic submission of trade document, resulting in faster turnaround time.

### Quick Revision:

App/Platform/Portal	Launched by
Nyaya Bandhu	Department of justice
e-AUSHADHI portal	AYUSH Ministry
SAFAR	Suresh Prabu
DigiCop	Chennai City Police
InfyTQ	Infosys
NTA app	National Testing Agency
TETRA Software	CBSE Board
PCS1x	Ministry of Shipping

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### News: Most Important

#### **1. ADB buys 14% stake in Annapurna Finance**

Asian Development Bank bought a 14% stake in Bhubaneswar based micro-financier Annapurna Finance for ₹ 137 Crore. The expansion of equity will help the firm expand its loan portfolio in asset classes such as **MSME** and **affordable housing**.

#### **2. Ministry of Finance to merge two regional rural banks in Tamil Nadu**

Ministry of Finance has decided to merge two regional rural banks and name the new entity as Tamil Nadu Grama Bank. The bank will be under the sponsorship of Indian Bank, with its head office in Salem. The merger would be effective from April 1, 2019.

### News: Others

#### **1. Kenyan arm of Bharti Airtel to merge with Telkom Kenya**

Airtel Networks Kenya signed an agreement with Telkom Kenya for merging their mobile enterprise and carrier services businesses in Kenya and operate as united entity Airtel-Telkom. The combined entity is slated to have over 31% market share.

#### **2. RBI to merge three categories of NBFCs to create new category**

RBI announced that NBFCs categorized as Asset Finance Companies (AFC), Loan Companies (LCs) and Investment Companies (ICs), will be merged into a new category called NBFC - Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC).

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