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BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking

News: Most Important

1. ***RBI working group on core investment companies submits report***

   As per the recommendations of Working Group to Review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies(CICs) headed by **Tapan Ray,** CICs will have to form board level committees, appoint independent directors and conduct internal audits.

2. ***Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Launches Instant Digital Savings and Instant Fixed Deposit Account***

   Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Digital Savings Account along with Fixed Deposit & Privilege Savings Account to offer distinctive banking & digital services to its customers. One can deposit up to a max. amount of Rs.1 Lakh in this account without KYC.

3. ***RBI increases household income limits for borrowers of NBFCs and MFIs***

   RBI has increased the household income limits for borrowers of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs) from **1 lakh** to **1.25 lakh rupees**. For urban or semi-urban areas limit has been increased from **1.6 lakh** to **2 lakh Rs**.

4. ***RBI plans PCA framework, different supervisory system for NBFCs by 2022***

   RBI contemplates a return to an earlier supervisory rating framework for NBFCs, too, while ensuring financial statement disclosures here are on a par with banks. RBI is planning a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for NBFCs by 2022.

5. ***RBI withdraws some exemptions granted to HFIs***

   Reserve Bank of India has withdrawn some exemptions granted to **mortgage finance companies** in terms of complying with regulations such as provisions and creation of reserve fund that would put them on par with other non-banking finance companies.

6. ***NBFCs with Rs 500 cr assets can go for insolvency resolution***

   RBI can seek resolution of NBFCs having assets worth of at least **Rs 500 cr** under the insolvency law. They can take up for resolution under the "generic framework" of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code by the notification specifying the categories of FSPs.

7. *MSTC Ltd ties up with Allahabad Bank to develop e-auction platform*

MSTC(Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited) tied up with Allahabad Bank for the development of a dedicated **e-auction platform** directly linked with Indian Banking Association's portal for sale of NPAs through the SARFAESI Act. MSTC is a GOI company engaged in domestic & international trading.

8. *Government e-Marketplace (GeM) partners with Indian Bank & Canara Bank for payment related services*

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has signed MoU with Indian Bank and Canara Bank. The MoU will facilitate a **cashless, paperless** and **transparent payment system** on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities.

9. *No transaction charge on NEFT payments from Jan 2020 : RBI*

According to RBI's new proposal, coming January 2020 customers may not have to pay any charges for transactions done through the popular NEFT system. Digital payments constituted a high **96 %** of total non-cash retail payments during the Oct, 18 to Sep, 19.

10. *RBI imposes a penalty of ₹5 crore on Gujarat based Mehsana Urban Co-operative Bank*

RBI imposed a penalty of ₹5 crore on Gujarat based Mehsana Urban Co-operative Bank for contravention of norms on 'loans and advances to directors, relatives and firms/concerns in which they are interested'.

11. *RBI issues new compensation norms for private & foreign bank honchos*

RBI issued compensation guidelines for honchos of private & foreign banks. If the variable pay is up to 200% of the fixed pay, at least 50% of it should be in non-cash & if the variable pay is above 200%, 67% of it should be paid via non-cash instruments.

12. *RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on Oxigen Services*

The Reserve Bank has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on prepaid payment instrument Oxigen Services for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines under the **section 30** of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

13. *FICCI signs Fintech MoU with Singapore*

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) signed an agreement with Singapore Fintech Association (SFA) to boost cooperation for development of financial technology industry in India and the southeast Asian country. The agreement is to share information about fintech and collaborate on mutually beneficial initiatives.

14. *Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates 'Mobile ATMs' to push digitisation in rural areas*

Karnataka Gramin Bank has launched 'Mobile ATMs' to boost digitisation in rural areas. The aim is to create awareness among farmers regarding bank schemes and how to use digital ATMs to repay their loans promptly.

15. *Ashok Leyland, ICICI Bank ink MoU for vehicle financing*

Ashok Leyland entered into a 2-year MoU with ICICI Bank to offer customised financial solutions to customers across India with a focus on semi-urban & rural geographies. ICICI will be a preferred financier for providing finance to Ashok Leyland customers.

16. *RBI enhances scope of non-resident rupee accounts*

Reserve Bank has enhanced the scope of '**Special Non-resident Rupee**' (SNRR) by allowing persons residing outside India to open such accounts for purposes like external commercial borrowing and trade credit in INR. Also, the restriction on the tenure of the SNRR account removed.

News: Others

1. *SEBI asks Mutual Funds to create separate portfolios for unrated debt defaults*

SEBI has decided to permit creation of segregated portfolio of unrated debt or money market instruments by mutual fund schemes of an issuer that does not have any outstanding rated debt or money market instruments.

2. *UPI transactions cross 1 billion mark in October*

National Payments Corporation of India said that the number of transactions of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has crossed 1 bn in October. Total transaction value of UPI stood at Rs **1.91 lakh Cr** during October up from Rs 1.61 lakh Cr in September.

3. *KfW to lend Rs 1735 Cr to Andhra Pradesh for zero budget natural farming*

German development bank KfW has consented to lend Rs 1735 crore to the Andhra Pradesh government for expanding Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in the State. State Govt has drawn up a plan to take up ZBNF in 1725 villages, involving seven lakh farmers.

4. *Forex reserves soar $3.5 bn to new lifetime high of $446.09 bn*

According to RBI's recent data, the country's foreign exchange reserves rose by $3.515 billion to touch a fresh lifetime high of $446.098 billion in the week to November 1, helped by increase in foreign currency assets. Gold reserves increased by $301 million to $27.353 billion.

5. *SEBI approves stricter disclosure norms for listed companies*

In case of default in repayment of loans beyond 30 days, listed companies will have to disclose the fact of such default within 24 hours. Net worth requirement of portfolio managers has been enhanced from 2 crore to 5 crore amending PM Regulations, 2019.

6. *RBI revises framework on currency swap arrangement for SAARC countries*

Framework valid from 2019-2020 provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian rupee where RBI will continue to offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of **$2 billion** though the drawals can be made in USD, euro or INR.

7. *Govt set to infuse ₹1,000 crore equity in IIFCL*

Government is set to pump in **Rs 800-1,000 crore** equity into India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) to bolster its lending capability at a time when it has emerged as a lone ranger of sorts to fund highway and other core sector projects. IIFCL is a wholly-owned GoI company set up in 2006.

8. *RBI forms advisory committee to assist DHFL in bankruptcy proceedings*

RBI has formed a 3-member advisory committee to assist the administrator of troubled mortgage lender DHFL. Rajiv Lall, of IDFC; N.S. Kannan, MD & CEO, ICICI Prudential Life; & N.S. Venkatesh, CEO, AMFI, are part of the committee.

9. *ADB to provide USD 451 mn loan to strengthen power connectivity of CKIC in Tamil Nadu*

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended a $451 million loan to strengthen power connectivity between the southern and northern parts of the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC).CKIC is part of the East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) in Tamil Nadu.

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo rate	4.90%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	5.40%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 %
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.50%
Bank Rate	5.40%

Insurance

News: Most Important

1. ***LIC allows revival of lapsed policy of over two years***

   State-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) permitted its policyholders to revive their lapsed policies of over 2 years, a move that will help improve persistency ratio. The policies that have lapsed for more than two years and were not allowed to be revived.

2. ***LIC invests Rs 2,500 crore in PNB Housing Finance***

   According to PNB Housing Finance , LIC has invested Rs 2,500 crore in the company by subscribing to its secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs). This issuance is through private placement basis with a door-to-door tenure of 10 years.

3. ***IndiaFirst Life Insurance partners with Spice Money for 'Insurance Khata'***

   IndiaFirst Life Insurance has entered into a strategic & technical partnership with **Spice Money**, for distribution / marketing of 'insurance khata' through the latter's platform, which has nearly 3 lakh customers. Insurance Khata is targeted at the informal/agriculture sector.

4. ***COCO by DHFL General Insurance launches customisable health insurance plan***

   COCO by DHFL General Insurance announced the launch of its First Retail Health Indemnity Insurance Product **COCOCure**. COCOCure allows customers to customize their policy as per their varying healthcare needs, family size, ages, and lifestyle requirements. 'COCO' is a combination of 'Connected' and 'Covers'.

News: Others

1. ***Tencent buys 10% of Policy bazaar, enters India insurance market***

   Tencent Holdings Ltd. has acquired a minority stake in Policybazaar.com valuing the Indian online insurance aggregator at **$1.5 billion**. It bought 10% of Policybazaar, half of Tiger Global Management LLC's stake in the company.

2. ***Religare Health Insurance looks at AI for claim settlement***

   Religare Health Insurance, is in the midst of deploying solutions based on AI and advanced analytics to take business to the next level. To digitally enable both its customers and channel partners, RHI provided them with a website, e-portal, and application.

3. *ICICI Lombard partners with Fino to offer sachet-based insurance products*

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited India's and Fino Payments Bank are planning to take insurance deeper into the hinterlands of the country. They are planning to launch a Dengue and Malaria policy that covers treatments pertaining to these diseases up to Rs. 10,000 at a premium as low as Rs. 49.

Economy

News: Most Important

1. *India's economy to grow 6.6% in 2020-24: OECD*

According to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), India's gross domestic product (GDP) could grow 6.6% in 2020-24, lower than its 2013-17 average of **7.4%**. It has predicted a regional GDP growth of 5.7% over 2020-24, down from 6.7% in 2013-17.

2. *Q2 GDP growth to decline to 4.9%: NCAER*

National Council of Applied Economic Research said that India's GDP growth is likely to decline to **4.9%** in the Q2 of this fiscal due to sustained slowdown in virtually all the sectors. India's economy grew at 5% in the Q1- slowest pace in over 6 years.

3. *Moody's Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast to 5.6% for 2019*

Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth forecast for current year to 5.6% from 5.8% estimated earlier, saying GDP slowdown is lasting longer than previously expected. It expected economic activity to pick up in 2020 & 2021 to 6.6% & 6.7%.

4. *NCDEX launches agricultural futures index*

NCDEX launched return based agricultural futures index partnering with NSE Indices Limited, to maintain & disseminate real time **NCDEX AGRIDEX** values. AGRIDEX tracks & replicates the performance of the 10 most liquid commodities traded on NCDEX's platform.

5. *Growth forecast for FY20 has come down to 5% from 6.1%: SBI Report*

SBI reports Growth forecast for FY20 to 5% from the earlier prediction of 6.1%. GDP growth slowed down further from 5.0% in Q1 to 4.2% in Q2 of FY20. India's GDP was already at the six-year lowest of 5.0% in Q1.SBI expect growth rate in FY21 to 6.2%.

6. ***Moody's expects Centre's fiscal deficit to rise to 3.7%***

Global rating agency Moody's expects the Centre's fiscal deficit to touch **3.7 per cent** of the GDP. For all States put together, it is estimated to be three per cent. The Centre has targeted to keep the deficit at 3.3 per cent for the current fiscal (2019-20).

7. ***Q2 GDP growth rate to slow down to 4.7%: ICRA report***

ICRA expects India's growth rate to fall to 4.7 percent in Q2 of FY20, amid weak demand and tepid investment and also the country's gross value added (GVA) at basic prices in year-on-year (YoY) basis at 4.5% for the quarter ending September of FY2020. The GDP and GVA were 5.0% and 4.9% respectively in Q1.

News: Others

1. ***Wholesale inflation eases to 0.16 per cent in October***

Wholesale prices-based inflation eased further to 0.16 per cent in Oct, as against 0.33 per cent in September. However, retail inflation for the month hit a 16-month high of 4.62 per cent due to soaring prices of food articles, including fruits & vegetables New series of Wholesale Price Index(WPI) is with base **2011-12**.

2. ***Moody's cuts India's rating outlook to negative from stable***

Moody's Investor Services changed its outlook for India's sovereign rating (Baa2) to negative from stable holding that the country's economic downturn could be structural. India's economy has decelerated to a six-year low at 5% in June quarter.

3. ***OECD trims global 2020 growth forecast to 2.9%***

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) now estimates that business activity around the world will expand by 2.9 per cent next year, a decline of 0.1 percentage points from a previous forecast issued in September. OECD forecast growth of 3.0% in the year of 2021.

4. ***India Ratings & Research lowers GDP growth projection to 5.6%***

India Ratings & Research has revised downwards its growth projection for 2nd quarter of current financial year to 4.7% & the full-year growth estimate to 5.6%. Also private final consumption expenditure growth is estimated to grow 4.9% in FY20.

5. ***Cabinet extends term of 15th Finance Commission***

The Union Cabinet extended the term of 15th Finance Commission, which is to decide on division of tax and other resources between the Centre and the States, by one-year to October 30, 2020. It will present report covering FYs 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate/Figures
OECD (GDP)	6.6% (2020-24)
NCAER (GDP)	4.9% (Q2)
Moody's (GDP)	5.6% (2019), 6.6% (2020), 6.7% (2021)
SBI report (GDP)	5% (FY 20)
Wholesale Inflation	0.16% (October)
India Ratings & Research	5.6%
ICRA	4.7% (Q2 of FY20)

State

News: Most Important

1. ***Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat***

   Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat-an initiative of GOI to pay tribute to Sardar Patel, for his contributions. This programme is being run at the behest **NITI Aayog** & it can build bonds b/w the people of various States.

2. ***UNESCO designates Mumbai as member of UCCN in the field of film & Hyderabad in Gastronomy***

   UNESCO has designated Mumbai as a member of **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** (UCNN) in the field of film & Hyderabad in the field of Gastronomy. UCCN is a network of cities which are active centres of cultural activities in their respective countries. UCCN is created in 2014.

3. ***Lucknow Railway Station installs 'Health ATMs'***

   In a bid to achieve the objectives of the Fit India programme, two 'Health ATMs' were installed by Indian Railways at Lucknow Railway Station. The kiosks promoted by YOLO Health ATM were installed which provide 16 health check-ups for Rs 50-100.

4. ***Yogi Adityanath inaugurates North India's 1st sugar mill which will produce ethanol***

   UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Pipraich Sugar Mill in Gorakhpur-a unit of UP Sugar & Sugarcane Development Corporation Limited. It is the North India's 1st sugar mill which will produce ethanol. Mill will produce more than 50,000 quintals of sugar every day.

5. ***ADB Grants $451 Million Loan to Boost Power Transmission Capacity in Tamil Nadu***

ADB has sanctioned a $451 million loan to Tamil Nadu for a project that will enable better power transfer between the southern part of the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) and the northern regions where there is higher power demand.

6. ***Ghaziabad emerges the new affordable housing hotspot***

Ghaziabad has emerged as the new affordable housing hotspot according to a joint report by Anarock & National Real Estate Development Council (Naredco) **Noida, Greater Noida** & **Ghaziabad** are the 3 cities in UP to have witnessed the maximum decline in the overall unsold housing stock in 2 years.

7. ***First ever container cargo to Assam via Indo-Bangla water route***

The first ever containerised cargo movement via Indo-Bangladesh protocol route and Brahmaputra river started from West Bengal's Haldia. The vessel MV Maheshwari, carrying 53 containers of petrochemicals, edible oil and beverage will reach the IWAI terminal at Pandu in Assam's Guwahati.

8. ***Assam, French Development Agency sign 50-million-euro agreement to restore forest ecosystems***

The French Development Agency (AFD) and the Government of Assam signed a 50-million-euro project agreement (total budget of 62.5 million euro) towards supporting the state government's initiative to restore Assam's forest ecosystems and preserve their biodiversity.

9. ***Bengaluru hosts 3-day Global Exhibition on Services (GES) 2019***

The 5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES) held at Palace Grounds, Bengaluru from November 26-28. GES is the largest services show in India and is expected to showcase India’s capability across various services sectors before a global audience.

10. ***Gujarat Govt gives approval to world’s first CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port***

Gujarat Government has given approval to the world’s first CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port. The joint venture of **United Kingdom**-based Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group will invest 1,900 crore rupees to set up a CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port.

11. ***Darjeeling green, white teas get GI backing***

Darjeeling green and white teas, whose price varies from Rs 3,000 -Rs 10,000 per kg, have received Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the domestic market, which will put to rest any doubt about their authenticity and quality.

12. *Cabinet approves establishment of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR) at Leh*

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH. Sowa-Rigpa is a Traditional Medical system of the **Himalayan belt** in India.

13. *Vulture conservation centre to come up in Uttar Pradesh*

Uttar Pradesh is planning to set up a conservation and breeding centre for the endangered vulture population. The centre, first of its kind in the state, would come up in Pharenda area of Maharajganj district, about 269 km east of Lucknow.

News: Others

1. *Punjab Cabinet passes resolution to institute Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Award*

Punjab passed a resolution to institute Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Award for Promotion of Peace and Interfaith Understanding, in commemoration of the 550th Prakash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The award would carry a citation and a cash prize of 11 lakh Rs.

2. *Army to help boost connectivity in border areas of Uttarakhand*

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat announced that the army will support Uttarakhand in its efforts to boost connectivity in border areas. He was addressing 2nd edition of **Rahbar-a state** govt-sponsored programme for development with focus on remote hilly areas.

3. *SC bans stubble burning in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana & western UP*

The Supreme Court has banned stubble burning in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh in view of severe air pollution. It also banned all construction and demolition activities along with burning of garbage and waste in Delhi-NCR region. Penalty of 5000 Rs would be imposed for burning garbage & waste.

4. *Cyclone 'Bulbul' disrupts normal life in Bengal and Bangladesh*

Cyclone 'Bulbul', which barrelled through the coastal districts of West Bengal before hurtling towards Bangladesh, claimed at least ten lives and affected over 2.73 lakh families in different parts of the state.

5. *Haryana govt decides to create new Foreign Cooperation department*

Haryana Government has decided to create a dedicated new department namely Department of 'Foreign Cooperation' in order to streamline and provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state government for the promotion of investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians.

6. ***Chhattisgarh Declares Guru Ghasidas National Park as Tiger Reserve***

Chhattisgarh government has decided to declare Guru Ghasidas National Park in the state's Korea district as a tiger reserve. Presently the state has 3 tiger reserves- **Indravati in Bijapur district, Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband** & **Achanakmar in Bilaspur**.

7. ***Hyderabad: 'She Shuttle' for women launched***

Rachakonda Police inaugurated the exclusive bus service for women passengers at Infosys, Pocharam Village in Hyderabad. 'She Shuttle' is equipped with CCTV cameras, a lady security guard & a smartphone application for every passenger with a panic button.

8. ***MoS inaugurates 'Destination North East' festival in Varanasi***

Minister Of Development Of North Eastern Region **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated 4-day North East festival in Varanasi aimed at offering an opportunity for the fusion of the 2 rich cultures of Ganga and Brahmaputra, represented by Varanasi & North East respectively.

National

News: Most Important

1. ***PM Modi inaugurates 5th India International Science Festival***

PM Modi inaugurated the 5th India International Science Festival held from Nov 5-Nov 8, by addressing the audience at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata. The objective of the festival is to instil scientific temper among the masses. Theme- **Research, Innovation & Science Empowering the Nation**.

2. ***Govt committed to achieve target of 26 billion dollar in defence industry by 2025: Rajnath Singh***

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reiterated the government's commitment to achieve 26-billion-dollar defence industry by 2025. Mr Singh was speaking at a business seminar 'India Rising', organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok, Thailand.

3. ***Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates the SARAS India International Trade Fair***

Union Minister for Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the SARAS India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. He added that empowering rural women through Self-Help Groups is one of the top priorities of the government.

4. ***Facebook partners with ministry of women and child development to promote online safety***

At the second edition of Facebook's "**South Asia Safety Summit**", Facebook India has forged a content partnership with the ministry of women and child development (MWCD) to co-create a digital literacy program which will help build awareness among new online users.

5. ***Ola & Microsoft partner to collect air quality data in Delhi-NCR***

Ola has partnered with Microsoft Research to measure street level air quality data in Delhi-NCR, to support in the government's efforts to combat air pollution. Ola Mobility Institute & Microsoft Research will conduct research to provide periodic reports.

6. ***Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad introduces FASTag Car Park facility***

India's first FASTag Car Park, which enables quick entry & exit from parking spots, has been launched at the GMR lead Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. In collaboration with **NPCI** dedicated lanes have been created at the entry & exit points at the RGIA.

7. ***Brazil President Bolsonaro to be chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations***

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations next year. PM Modi met Bolsonaro on the side-lines of the 11th BRICS Summit where he invited him.

8. ***Aadhaar card holders may be fined ₹10,000 for giving wrong Aadhaar number***

The income tax department has now allowed Aadhaar card holders to use the 12-digit biometric id number in lieu of PAN. But quoting incorrect Aadhar number might make pay a hefty fine of ₹10,000 as per the latest amendments to the Income Tax Act 1961.

9. ***IOCL to set up Rs 766-crore 2G ethanol plant in Panipat***

Ministry of Environment has granted clearance to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd to set up a Rs 766-crore 2G ethanol plant in Haryana's Panipat district. Ethanol produced will be used for blending in transportation fuel.

10. *MoEF&CC identifies 50 beaches under the Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan*

Environment Education Division of Ministry & Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under Environment Ministry will be responsible for the overall coordination for the drive in 50 beaches. The identified beaches are in 10 coastal States/UTs.

11. *Centre approves Rs 25,000 crore fund to help stalled housing projects*

Government approved a **Rs 25,000 crore** fund to help complete over 1,600 stalled housing projects. **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** will comprise Rs 10,000 crore coming from the government and the remaining being provided by state insurer LIC and SBI. AIF was first announced by FM on September 14, 2019.

12. *Kolkata International Film Festival started on November 8*

Kolkata International Film Festival will start on November 8. Satyajit Ray directed Gupi Gayen, Bhagha Bayen was the inaugural film. 214 Feature Films and 152 Short & Documentary Films from 76 countries will be screened during 8-day long festival. **Germany** is the Focus Country of this year's festival.

13. *Vice President inaugurates 21st North East Book Fair in Guwahati*

Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 21st North East Book Fair in Guwahati. It will be open to the public for 12 days. There are as many as 217 book stalls including one from Bangladesh. Fair is organised by the All Assam Publishers and Booksellers Association.

14. *IFFCO introduces India's first nanotechnology-based products for on-field trials*

IFFCO-world's largest fertiliser cooperative-introduced nanotechnology-based products on-field trials. Nanostructured formulations effectively deliver nutrients to the plants & the move will help in Modi's vision for doubling the farmer's income by 2022.

15. *TRAI fixes mobile call ring time at 30 seconds; 60 seconds for landline*

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds on mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones, in case the call is neither answered nor rejected by the subscriber. Till now there was no such limit for calls within India.

16. *Cyclone "Maha" over east-central Arabian Sea moves west-north-westwards*

Cyclone Maha over east-central Arabian Sea, moved west-north-westwards according to the India Meteorological Department reports. Cyclone Maha is all set to gain more strength & intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm over east-central Arabian Sea.

17. *Amazon launches 'Project Zero' in India*

Amazon announced Project Zero in India to ensure that customers receive **authentic goods** when shopping. It introduces additional proactive mechanisms & powerful tools to identify & remove counterfeits. Many Indian brands partnered with Amazon project test.

18. *India International Trade Fair opens with 'ease of doing business' theme*

The fourteen-day India International Trade Fair was opened by MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari. The theme for the 39th edition of the fair was 'Ease of Doing Business'. 2019 status of Partner Country - The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; 'Focus Country - The Republic of Korea; Focus States – Bihar & Jharkhand.

19. *Govt reconstitutes EAC-PM under Bibek Debroy*

The government reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) under existing Chairman **Bibek Debroy**, for a period of two years. Ratan P Watal will continue as Member Secretary of the EAC-PM.

20. *CJI's office is public authority under RTI Act: Supreme Court*

Supreme Court has held that the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a public authority under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. However, judicial independence has to be kept in mind while disclosing information in public interest.

21. *Committee chaired by Mihir Shah to draft new water policy*

The Union Water Resources Ministry finalised a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP). It will be chaired by **Mihir Shah**, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert. The committee has 10 principal members, including Shashi Shekhar, a former secretary of Water Resources.

22. *CBI sets up investigation unit for online child sexual abuse*

The Central Bureau of Investigation has set up an **online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation** (OCSAE) Prevention/Investigation Unit at New Delhi under its Special Crime Zone. The territorial jurisdiction of the OCSAE Prevention/Investigation Unit of CBI will be throughout India.

23. *Railways sets up Institute for Financial Management in Hyderabad*

IRIFM is a new entity, set up to impart professional training in management of railway finances. It was formally inaugurated by Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board, on a 14-acre campus at Moula-Ali, Secunderabad.

24. *Kalaburagi Airport Inaugurated Under UDAN*

1st flight from Kalaburagi Airport to Kempegowda Intern'l Airport, Bengaluru took off after the inauguration of Kalaburagi airport by CM BS Yeddyurappa. The airport has been built under the UDAN-RCS Scheme an estimated cost of Rs 176 crore.

News: Others

1. *Govt allocates unique Harmonized System (HS) code for Khadi*

In a move to give impetus to the export of Khadi, the govt. has allocated a separate Harmonized System (HS) code for this fabric. Khadi did not have exclusive HS code and all the export data regarding this fabric used to come under the normal fabric head.

2. *Amit Shah inaugurates SCO joint exercise on Search, Rescue*

Amit Shah inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue -SCOJtEx2019 in New Delhi. The aim of the exercise is to rehearse the disaster response mechanism & share knowledge for mutual coordination. **National Disaster Response Force** (NDRF) hosted the event.

3. *PM Modi inaugurates Global Investors' Meet at Dharamshala*

PM Modi inaugurated Global Investors' meet - 'Rising Himachal' in Dharamshala. Around 1700 investors including 200 foreign investors and Ambassadors of 11 countries participated in this mega event.

4. *International Boarding School Fair held in New Delhi on November 6*

Linden Educational Services in collaboration with The Red Pen hosted an International Boarding School Fair in New Delhi on 6th November. The event had representatives from over 25 international boarding schools across the US, UK and Canada.

5. *Ministry of Tourism participates in three-day long World Travel Market in London*

The Ministry of Tourism participated in the three-day long World Travel Market (WTM) from November 04-06, 2019 in London, UK. The theme for India Pavilion at WTM 2019 is 'Incredible India – Find the Incredible India'.

6. *MoS Sanjay Dhotre launches Shala Darpan portal for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti*

Union Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Dhotre launched the Shala Darpan Portal of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. It will integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya's with a common standard which includes around 636 schools and 2.67 million students.

7. *AYUSH Minister Inaugurates National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders*

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders (NRIUMSD) upgraded from Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine in **Hyderabad.**

8. *Union Cabinet approves sale of govt stake in five CPSEs*

The Union Cabinet gave its nod to strategic disinvestment in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd & Tehri Hydro Development Corporation India Ltd.

9. *Coal imports at major ports see a 18% dip to 51 MT in April-October*

According to latest Indian Ports Association report, Thermal coal imports declined by 17.69% to 51.10 million tonnes at the country's top 12 major ports during April-October this fiscal. Thermal coal is the mainstay of India's energy programme. India is the 3rd-largest producer of coal after China & the US.

10. *India registers 26.9 per cent decline in Maternal Mortality Rate since 2013: SRS Bulletin*

According to the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin-2016 India has registered a 26.9 per cent reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) since 2013. The decline in MMR has been from **77** to **72** per 100,000 live births among southern states and in the other states, from 93 to 90.

11. *Parliament passes Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill 2019*

Parliament Passed JBNM Amendment Bill 2019 has a provision to remove the President of the Congress party as a trustee & clarifies that when there is no Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the leader of the single largest Opposition party will be the trustee.

12. *Centre to grant ₹600 crore as interim relief to Maharashtra farmers*

Centre has decided to grant ₹600 cr. as interim relief for Maharashtra farmers whose kharif crops were affected due to heavy rains in Oct. The Centre is awaiting details from the state government & funds will be released after it certifies eligible farmers.

13. *Sports Ministry constitutes committee to review Draft National Sports Code*

Sports Ministry constituted a 13-member expert committee to review the Draft National Sports Code. The committee will be headed by former Supreme Court judge **Justice Mukundakam Sharma**. Former sports persons Gagan Narang, Bhaichung Bhutia are part of it.

14. *Lok Sabha passes Bill to merge 2 Union Territories*

The Lok Sabha passed a Bill to merge the Union Territories Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Bill was passed by voice vote with the government asserting that the merger will fast-track development of the two Union Territories.

International

News: Most Important

1. *Germany to spend 1 billion euro over 5 yrs. for green mobility projects in India*

Germany will spend 1 bn euros on green urban mobility projects over a 5-year period under the new German Indian partnership. This was agreed during Angela Merkel's visit to India & the funds will be used to finance several environment friendly projects. They agreed to cooperate on low-carbon mobility solutions.

2. *Italian movie 'Despite the Fog', opening film at 50th IFFI*

Italian movie 'Despite the Fog' was the opening at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019. The film is directed by Europe's noted filmmaker Goran Paskaljevic. The 50th edition of IFFI, began on 20th of Nov in Goa. IFFI would screen three films for differently abled. Eight movies from Russia were showcased in IFFI.

3. *Guyana will see economic growth of 86% next year: IMF*

Guyana, one of South America's smallest countries. A country of about 780,000 which shares a border with Brazil, Suriname and Venezuela in the northeast of South America, will see economic growth of 86% in 2020, according to the IMF.

4. *European Investment Bank to cease funding fossil fuel projects by end-2021*

The European Investment Bank will stop funding fossil fuel projects at the end of 2021. Under the new policy, energy projects applying for EIB funding will need to show they can produce 1 kilowatt hour of energy while emitting less than 250 grams of CO_2.

5. ***New Zealand unanimously passes climate change law***

Jacinda Ardern's historic climate legislation was passed in the New Zealand Parliament with near-unanimous support , committing the country to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and meet its commitments under the Paris climate accords.

6. ***Italy: world's first country to make compulsory climate change study in schools***

Italy will next year become the world's 1st country to make it compulsory for schoolchildren to study about climate change issues. All schools will have 33 hours per year for climate change study. Italy Education Minister Lorenzo Fioramonti proposed this.

7. ***Pakistan: First country to introduce WHO-recommended TCV in national immunisation program***

Pakistan is the first country to introduce World Health Organisation-recommended typhoid conjugate vaccine in its national immunisation program. About 1.2 crore doses of the vaccine have been supplied by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech for this initiative.

8. ***Sudan's first-ever satellite 'SRSS-1' launched by China***

Sudan's first-ever satellite for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by **China**. In 2013, Sudan established the Institute of Space Research and Aerospace (ISRA) as part of an overall plan to develop space technologies.

9. ***NASA unveils its first electric airplane***

NASA showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the **X-57 "Maxwell,"** at aeronautics lab in the California desert. It has been adapted from an Italian-made Tecnam P2006T twin-engine propeller plane. X-57 has been under development since 2015.

News: Others

1. ***Saudi Arabia approves Aramco IPO***

Saudi Arabia approved Initial Public Offering of Aramco. It will be the world's biggest IPO. Approval will be valid for 6 months. Aramco pumps about 10% of the world's oil, generated the most profit of any corporation last year with net income of $111 bn.

2. ***China and France sign deals worth $15 billion***

China and France signed contracts totalling $15 billion during a visit by President Emmanuel Macron. Deals were struck in the fields of aeronautics, energy and agriculture, including approval for 20 French companies to export poultry, beef and pork to China.

3. ***IMF cuts eurozone growth forecasts as Germany slows and Italy stalls***

Acc. to International Monetary Fund, Eurozone economic growth is set to slow more than expected as the bloc's manufacturing crisis could spill over to the larger services sector under protracted global trade tensions.19-country eurozone would grow by **1.2%.**

4. ***Sri Lanka Becomes First South Asian Nation to Criminalise Match Fixing & Sports Betting***

In a first in South Asia, Sri Lanka has criminalised several offences related to match-fixing. The Sri Lanka Parliament has passed all 3 readings of a bill entitled "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports" in which offences related to corruption in sports will carry a prison term of up to 10 years.

5. ***Nine new members elected to World Heritage Committee***

During the 22nd General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention , the General Assembly elected nine new members to the World Heritage Committee: **Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Thailand, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia** and **South Africa**.

India & world

News: Most Important

1. ***Modi embarks on Thailand visit for ASEAN-India, East Asia, RCEP Summits***

PM embarked on Thailand visit to participate in the **16th** ASEAN-India Summit, **14th** East Asia Summit & **3rd** Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. He will release commemorative coin marking the 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

2. ***Cabinet approves MoU between India, Switzerland on climate change***

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Switzerland on technical cooperation's in the field of **climate change**.

3. *India & Germany stress the need to further deepen bilateral defence cooperation*

India & Germany have acknowledged the need to further deepen bilateral defence cooperation as strategic partners to jointly address all the security challenges. Modi & German Chancellor Angela Markel-who is on a visit to India-issued the Joint statement.

4. *India & Switzerland hold bilateral meeting to discuss fight against tax evasion*

India & Switzerland held Secretary-level bilateral meeting in New Delhi & discussed cooperation in the fight against tax evasion. The first transmission of financial account information on automatic basis b/w the two countries was held in September 2019.

5. *India, Russia sign agreement to form aftersales support groups for defence equipment to boost Make in India*

India & Russia have signed an inter-governmental agreement on the manufacturing of spares, components and aggregates through joint ventures to reduce the cost and augment indigenisation. Agreement was signed at 19th IRIGC-M&MTC meeting. It was co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

6. *8th Indo German Energy Forum 2019 meets in Delhi*

The 8th meeting of the Indo-German Energy Forum concluded in New Delhi. The Forum was co-chaired by Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary of Power from the Indian side & Christian Hirte, Secretary of State-Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs & Energy, Germany. India signed 8 Implementation Agreements/ MoUs with Germany.

7. *India & Singapore agree to strengthen defence cooperation*

India and Singapore have agreed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and taking it to greater heights. Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 4th India-Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue on 20th November before concluding his two-day visit.

8. *Union Cabinet approves MoU with Finland in tourism*

Cabinet approved a MoU between India & Finland for strengthening cooperation in the **tourism** sector. The two countries will also be sharing experiences in making policies, regulation & standards in planning, implementation & development of tourism policy.

News: Others

1. *Cabinet nod for signing revised DTAC with Brazil*

Cabinet, headed by PM Narendra Modi, gave nod for signing of a revised **Double Taxation Avoidance Convention** (DTAC) with Brazil with an aim to provide tax certainty, among other things, to investors and businesses of both countries. The existing DTAC b/w India & Brazil was signed on April 26,1988.

2. *India, Europe 29 nations to cooperate in various fields*

India & Europe 29 nations to cooperate in AI, green energy, IT, pharma & smart cities. India-Europe 29 Business Forum organised by Ministry of External Affairs & CII was held in New Delhi. Central, Northern & East European countries come in Europe 29.

3. *Cabinet approves India-Chile double taxation avoidance treaty*

Union Cabinet approved Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India & Chile. The agreement helps tax-payers in these countries avoid being taxed twice for same income & applies in cases where tax-payer resides in one country & earns income in another.

4. *India announces $400 million line of credit for Sri Lanka*

India announced $400 million line of credit for Sri Lanka. PM Modi also announced a financial assistance of $50 mn. to deal with the challenge of terrorism. Sri Lanka & India will work closely to ensure Indian Ocean remains a zone of peace.

Quick revision

Country	Capital	Head of State/Govt	Currency
Thailand	Bangkok	Prayut Chan-o-cha	Bhat
Switzerland	Bern	Ueli Maurer	Franc
Germany	Berlin	Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Euro
Russia	Moscow	Vladimir Putin	Rubble
Singapore	Singapore city	Halimah Yacob	Dollar
Finland	Helsinki	Sauli Niinisto	Euro
Brazil	Brasilia	Jair Bolsonaro	Real
Chile	Santiago	Sebastian Pinera	Chilean peso
Sri Lanka	Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Gotabaya Rajapaksa	Sri Lankan rupee

Appointments & Resignations

News: Most Important

1. *Sumant Kathpalia to be IndusInd Bank's CEO*

IndusInd Bank has named Sumant Kathpalia as the new MD and CEO of the bank. He will take over from **Romesh Sobti** upon the latter's superannuation. Kathpalia, 55, is at present the head of consumer loans at the bank.

2. *Aditya Mishra appointed chairman of Land Ports Authority of India*

Senior IPS officer Aditya Mishra was appointed as the chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI). He has been appointed for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge.

3. *Gotabaya Rajapakasa sworn-in as new President of Sri Lanka*

Gotabaya Rajapakasa has been sworn-in as new President of Sri Lanka. Gotabaya claimed the presidency with a comfortable 52.25% majority over his closest rival Sajith Premadasa. He is the 7th Executive President of Sri Lanka.

4. *Justice Bobde takes oath as next CJI*

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde has been sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice India. He administered oath by President Ram Nath Kovind. Justice Bobde who hails from Maharashtra will have a tenure of over 17 months as the CJI and is due to retire on April 23, 2021.He succeeds Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

5. *Prakash Javadekar gets heavy industries portfolio*

President Ram Nath Kovind assigned Prakash Javadekar the heavy industries and public enterprises portfolio after Arvind Sawant resigned. He is already in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

6. *Mauritius elects incumbent PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth for five-year term*

Mauritius' ruling Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) has won more than half of parliamentary seats, securing incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth a five-year term. MSM won 35 of the 62 seats up for grabs while its rivals.

7. *Mindtree Chief Financial Officer Pradip Menon Quits*

Mindtree Ltd's chief financial officer (CFO) Pradip Kumar Menon has resigned after a little over a year, in the latest exit at the IT services firm after its hostile takeover by Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) in June.

8. *Masatsugu Asakawa-sole nominee for ADB's presidency*

Masatsugu Asakawa is the sole nominee for the Manila headquartered-ADB's presidency. Governors have been invited to vote on his candidacy by 30 November 2019. ADB Presidents are nominated from among its regional members & elected by its Board of Governors. He is the Special Advisor to Japan's PM & Minister of Finance.

9. *Thomas Dennerby appointed head coach of India U17 women's football team*

All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed the appointment of Thomas Dennerby as the head coach of the Indian women's U-17 team for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2020. His last assignment was with the Nigerian women's national team.

10. *Sri Lanka: Mahinda Rajapaksa sworn in as new PM*

Mahinda Rajapaksa has been sworn in as the new Sri Lankan PM after Ranil Wickremesinghe decided to resign from his post to pave way for a caretaker govt. Rajapaksa served as 2-term President. Caretaker cabinet of 15 ministers is also expected to be sworn in.

11. *Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan re-elected as President of UAE*

The UAE's Supreme Council of the Union has re-elected His Highness **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan** as its President for a fourth five-year term. President Sheikh Khalifa was first elected President of the UAE by the Supreme Council of the Union on 3rd November 2004.

12. *ITDC appoints Kamala Vardhana Rao as its new Chairman and Managing Director*

India Tourism Development Corporation has appointed G Kamala Vardhana Rao as the Chairman and Managing Director. He has served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15. He has served as Chairman of Indian Tobacco Board, Director of Fisheries Department, Director, Department of Tourism and Culture, Andhra Pradesh govt.

13. *Vijay Karnani, Goldman India co-head, to retire after 21 years*

Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s co-head for India business, Vijay Karnani, is set to retire after 21 years with the company. He joined Goldman Sachs in 1998 as an associate in equity capital markets & moved to the equity derivatives team in Hong Kong in 2000.

14. *Unilever appoints Andersen as new chairman, replacing Marijn Dekkers*

Unilever named non-executive director Nils Andersen as its new chairman to help the Dove soap maker navigate a dip in emerging market sales growth and fix its foods business. He would replace Marijn Dekkers.

15. *Nilam Sawhney becomes first woman chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh*

Senior IAS officer Nilam Sawhney has become the first woman chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh. She succeeds chief commissioner of Land Administration Neerabh Kumar Prasad, who has been holding the additional charge of the chief secretary.

16. *Indian Overseas Bank appoints Bhuwan Chandra as CFO*

Bhuwan Chandra, General Manager, attached to Balance Sheet Management Department, has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of Indian Overseas Bank, with effect from 01.12.2019. He is a Graduate in Agriculture.

17. *Uddhav Thackeray takes oath as 18th Maharashtra CM*

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray sworn-in as the 18th chief minister of Maharashtra as leader of Maha Vikas Aghadi, an alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP & Congress. He is 3rd Shiv Sena leader to hold the top post after Manohar Joshi & Narayan Rane.

18. *H R Khan appointed as chairman of MFI panel*

Former Dy Gov of RBI, H R Khan appointed as 1st chairman of steering committee of Code for Responsible Lending (CRL), a self-regulatory step for micro-credit industry making entities like banks, NBFC-MFIs & NBFCs adhere to standards of customer protection.

News: Others

1. *Chief Justices of four states' High Court took oath recently Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan takes oath as Chief Justice of Jharkhand HC*

The following Chief Justices were administrated the oath of Office by their respective states' Governor. Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan - Thirteenth Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court; Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi - Chief Justice of the Madras High Court; Justice Muhammad Raffiq – Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court; Justice Sanjay Karol – Chief Justice of Patna High Court.

2. *Manmohan Singh nominated to parliamentary standing committee on finance*

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has nominated former prime minister and senior Congress leader **Manmohan Singh** to the parliamentary standing committee on finance. He also nominated **Digvijaya Singh** to be a member of the committee on **urban development**.

3. *Arun Alagappan elevated as Chola Investment MD*

Arun Alagappan-ED of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL), has been elevated & appointed as the MD. The CIFIL board approved the appointment for a period of 5 years. CIFCL is founded on 1978 as a services arm of the Murugappa Group.

4. *Govt clears Justice Akil Kureshi's appointment as Tripura HC CJ*

The law ministry has cleared the name of Justice Akil Kureshi of the Bombay High Court for elevation as the chief justice of the Tripura High Court. The Supreme Court collegium had earlier recommended him to head the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

5. *Google India appoints Sanjay Gupta as new Country Manager*

Google has appointed Sanjay Gupta as its new country manager and vice president of sales and operations. He succeeds Rajan Anandan, who left Google to join Sequoia Capital India as its managing director. He did his engineering from Delhi College of Engineering.

6. *Pramod Kumar Agrawal elected as first-ever Indian Vice President of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation*

Pramod Kumar Agrawal, current Chairman of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), has become the first member of the Indian industry to be elected one of the three Vice Presidents of CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation.

7. *Tata Communications appoints Amur S Lakshminarayanan as MD and CEO*

Tata Communications has appointed Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan as its managing director and CEO. Prior to joining Tata Communications, Lakshminarayanan was President and CEO of Tata Consultancy Services Japan.

8. *Arun Kumar Shukla appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Ltd*

Arun Kumar Shukla has been appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Ltd. He has been appointed to the post till the date of his superannuation, i.e. July 31, 2023.

9. *Louis-Marie appointed as CEO of World Squash Federation*

World Squash Federation has appointed William Louis-Marie as its new Chief Executive Officer. The 53-year-old will take up his position at the Federation's HQ in Hastings, England. His first WSF duties will be to attend the WSF Men's World Team Championship from December 15-21 in Washington DC.

Quick Revision

Appointment	Post
Sumant Kathpalia	MD & CEO, IndusInd Bank
Aditya Mishra	Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India
Gotabaya Rajapakasa	President, Sri Lanka
Sharad Arvind Bobde	Chief Justice of India
Prakash Javadekar	Union Minister of heavy industries and public enterprises
Arvind Sawant (Resignation)	Union Minister of heavy industries and public enterprises
Pravind Kumar Jugnauth	Prime Minister, Mauritius
Pradip Kumar Menon (Resignation)	Chief Financial Officer, Mindtree
Masatsugu Asakawa	President Nominee, Asian Development Bank
Thomas Dennerby	Head of Coach, U-17 Football team
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan	President, UAE
Dr Ravi Ranjan	Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court
Amreshwar Pratap Sahi	Chief Justice of the Madras High Court
Muhammad Raffiq	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Sanjay Karol	Chief Justice of Patna High Court
Manmohan Singh	Nominee to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance
Digvijaya Singh	Nominee to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development
Arun Alagappan	MD, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd
Akil Kureshi	Chief justice of the Tripura High Court
Sanjay Gupta	Country manager & vice president of sales and operations, Google India
Naftali Bennett	Defence Minister, Israel
Vijay Karnani (Retirement)	Co-head, Goldman Sachs Group Inc
Mahinda Rajapaksa	Prime Minister, Sri Lanka
G Kamala Vardhana Rao	Chairman & MD, India Tourism Development Corporation
Nils Andersen	Chairman, Unilever
William Louis-Marie	CEO, World Squash Federation
Arun Kumar Shukla	CMD, Hindustan Copper Ltd
Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan	MD & CEO Tata Communications
Pramod Kumar Agrawal	Vice President, CIBJO
H R Khan	Chairman, Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) committee
Jabr Al-Azeeby	VP for India & Nepal ,Emirates
Bhuwan Chandra	CFO, IOB
Uddhav Thackeray	CM, Maharashtra

Ranks & Reports

News: Most Important

1. ***Mumbai tops, Delhi at bottom of tap water quality ranking***

   Mumbai has topped the quality of tap water ranking released by Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Delhi is at the bottom, with all 11 samples failing on 19 parameters. Govt has set a target of providing piped water to every household by 2024.

2. ***Mumbai is the worst city to drive in says 'Mister Auto' report***

   In the list of 100 cities, Mumbai has been ranked as the worst city to drive in according to the reports by the Mister Auto. The study ranked **Calgary of Canada** as the best city for driving due to the city's low congestion, fatalities and affordability. Mister Auto is a European car parts retailer.

3. ***Bangladesh tops business bribery risk in South Asia***

   According to the Trace Bribery Matrix, **Bangladesh** has the highest business bribery risk among South Asian courtiers. Evaluation on the bases of, business interaction with the government, anti-bribery deterrence, transparency & civil society oversight. Somalia topped overall; Bangladesh ranked 178th.

4. ***India Justice Report: Ranking States on Police, Judiciary, Prisons & Legal Aid***

   India Justice Report 2019 ranks individual Indian states in relation to their capacity to deliver access to justice. **Maharashtra** topped the list among Large & Mid-sized states while in small sized states Goa was ranked top.

5. ***Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru on Knight Frank's global index of prime residential markets***

   Delhi, Mumbai & Bengaluru figure in Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index Q3 2019. The Prime Global Cities Index ranked New Delhi as the ninth fastest growing prime residential market in the world. **Bengaluru** and **Mumbai** ranked 20th and 28th respectively. Moscow leads the index while Seoul is at the bottom of the list.

6. ***GDP growth slips to 4.5% in September quarter***

   Economy posted its weakest growth in more than 6 years as manufacturing activity contracted by 1% in the Sept quarter. GDP rose 4.5% from a year ago, down from 5 % in the previous quarter, as per NSO data. Also nominal GDP growth slipped to 6.1%.

7. ***Bangalore, Delhi & Mumbai make it on new global prosperity index***

   Bangalore emerged as India's highest ranked city at No. **83** in a new index of the world's 113 cities in terms of economic & social inclusivity, topped by Zurich. The first-ever **Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards** (PICSA) Index was released in Spain. Delhi & Mumbai ranked 101 and 107 respectively.

8. ***India ranks 59 on IMD World Talent Ranking Report; Switzerland first***

   India slipped 6 places to 59 rank on a global annual list of 63 countries, due to low quality of life and expenditure on education, according to the latest edition of IMD World Talent Ranking, which was topped by **Switzerland**. The ranking, is based on the performance in three main categories -- investment and development, appeal and readiness.

9. ***India's urban unemployment rate drops to 9.3%- Jan-March 2019***

   As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Survey by National Statistical Office (NSO), urban unemployment rate dropped to the lowest level in four quarters at 9.3 per cent during January-March 2019. Also, urban unemployment rate (UR) was 9.9% in April-June 2018, 9.7% in July-September 2018 & 9.9% in Oct-Dec 2018.

News: Others

1. ***Employment falls first time — by 9 million in 6 years: Study***

   A NEW academic paper — written by **Santosh Mehrotra** and **Jajati K Parida** and published by the Centre of Sustainable Employment at the Azim Premji University has formally concluded that the total employment in India declined by 9 million between 2011-12 and 2017-18.

2. ***India sent over 202,000 students to US in 2018-19, second largest after China: Report***

   India sent more than 202,000 students to US in 2018-19 & became 2nd largest after China according to the '2019 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange'. China remained the largest source of foreign students for the 10th consecutive year.

3. ***Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks-Potential Pathways to Reforms"-Report released***

   NITI Aayog VC Rajiv Kumar released the report on 'Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks-Potential Pathways to Reforms'. It advocated for a healthcare system for the middle class which is still not covered under any public health care system.

4. 270 mn people are migrants: World Migration Report 2020

India remains largest country of origin of international migrants, with 17.5 mn living abroad, followed by Mexico (11.8 million) & China (10.7 million). An estimated 52% are male, & nearly 2/3rd of all migrants (164 mn approx.) are looking for work. 141 mn International migrants live in Europe & North America.

5. Reliance Industries hits Rs 10 lakh crore market capitalisation, a first by an Indian company

Oil-retail-to-telecom major Reliance Industries (RIL) became the first company among listed entities to hit a market capitalisation (mcap) of Rs 10 lakh crore. Its retail business has grown phenomenally, registering a seven-fold increase in revenue and a 14-fold increase in profit in the last six years.

6. IIT-B dropped one place to 34: QS World University Asia rankings

As per latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Asia Rankings 2020, the best-performing Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) dropped one place to 34 over last year, IIT-Delhi (IIT-D) dropped three to 43.

National Statistical Office (NSO) Findings

NSO finds 80% rural households lack garbage collection facilities

NSO survey has found that 80.4% of rural households have no arrangement for garbage collection & that garbage collection was better in urban India, with the panchayat or municipality corporation making arrangements for 74.1% of the households. 48.1% rural households disposed wastewater without treatment.

India's 2.2% population suffering from disability

Persons with disability in the population was 2.2 % during July-Dec 2018 in the country, as per National Statistical Office. Prevalence of disability was higher among males than females. Among males, prevalence of disability was 2.4% & 1.9% among females.

Only 61% households used LPG for cooking as of Dec 2018

About 61% of total households used LPG for cooking in India in 2018. Only 48.3% of the rural households used LPG, while figures were much higher in urban areas at 86.6%. Survey highlighted that around 13% households received benefits of LPG connections. LPG penetration stood at 89.5% as of December 1, 2018.

More than 1/4th of households in villages have no access to toilets

Around 71.3% of rural households & 96.2% of urban households had access to toilets during 2018, as per NSO's "Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition in India" report. The survey was conducted between July-December 2018. Half the rural households in UP/Odisha had no access to toilets.

Important days

News: Most Important

1. World Vegan Day: 1st November

Vegan Day is an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general. The term Vegan was coined by **Donald Watson** and derived from the word Vegetarian. Vegan Day first occurred on November 1st, 1994.

2. 5 November: World Tsunami Awareness Day

In December 2015 UN designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise tsunami awareness & share innovative approaches to risk reduction. 2019 day focuses on reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure & disruption of basic services. 2019 day promotes Target (d) of the "Sendai Seven Campaign".

3. National Cancer Awareness Day: November 7

National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated in India on 7 November to educate people about cancer, its treatment, and its symptoms. It was first announced by the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan in September 2014.

4. World Science Day for Peace and Development : 10 November

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.2019 Theme: "**Open science, leaving no one behind".**

5. 13 November: World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day is an international observance on 13 November. It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of nations' kindness NGOs formed in Tokyo. There are currently over 28 nations involved in The World Kindness Movement.

6. World Diabetes Day (WDD): November 14

World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by IDF & the WHO in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. It is marked on the birthday of Sir **Frederick Banting**, who co-discovered insulin along with **Charles Best** in 1922. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2019 is **Family and Diabetes**.

7. 16 November: International Day for Tolerance

International Day for Tolerance is observed on 16 November by UN, committed to strengthening tolerance. UNESCO created a prize for the promotion of tolerance & non-violence-"**UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize** for the Promotion of Tolerance & Non-Violence". 1995 was declared as the International year for Tolerance.

8. 19 November: International toilet day

World Toilet Day, celebrated on 19th November, established by the World Toilet Organization is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030. 2019 Theme: **Leaving No One Behind**.

9. Women's Entrepreneurship Day: November 19

Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED) is a day on which the work of women entrepreneurs is observed and discussed. 144 nations overall recognized the first WED in 2014, which included the presentation of the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Pioneer Awards.

10. World Children's Day : 20 November

World Children's Day was first established in **1954** as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

11. World Philosophy Day : 21 November

The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts. The goal is to obtain regional contributions to global debates on contemporary challenges that support social transformations. Day was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO.

12. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women : 25 November

2019 theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is '**Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape'**. It marked the launch of 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10 December 2019, which is International Human Rights Day.

13. Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare :30 November

It provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

News: Others

1. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists :2 November

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' in General Assembly Resolution. It condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers.

2. 6 November: Intl Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War & Armed Conflict

In 2001, the UN declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. It aims to educate people about the damaging effects of war and armed conflict on the environment. EU & UN had partnered in 2008 on conflict Prevention.

3. 17 November: National Epilepsy Day

National Epilepsy Day is observed on 17 November to focus on the epilepsy disease & its prevention. It is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent seizures/fits. About 10 million people suffer from seizures associated with epilepsy in India.

4. World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims :17 November

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is an important tool in global efforts to reduce road casualties. It offers an opportunity for drawing attention to the scale of emotional and economic devastation caused by road crashes and for giving recognition to the suffering of road crash victims and the work of support and rescue services.

5. World Television Day :21 November

World Television Day is a day to renew governments', organizations' and individuals' commitments to support the development of television media in providing unbiased information about important issues and events that affect society.

6. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People : 29 November

In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.

7. National Press Day: 16th November

National Press Day is observed on 16th November every year. It is symbolic of a free and responsible press. It was on this day the **Press Council of India** started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

8. Qaumi Ekta Week(National Integration Week), 2019 observed

Qaumi Ekta Week 2019 is being celebrating from 19th November to, 25th November. It is also called **National Integration Week** and commences on the birth anniversary of the Smt. Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India. The events is organized by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH).

9. National Milk Day: 26 November

In 2014, all the dairy majors of the country, along with the Indian Dairy Association, resolved to observe Dr **Kurien's** birth anniversary on 26th November as National Milk Day. In 1970, 'Operation Flood' was launched as a National Dairy Development Board.

10. Constitution Day: November 26

November 26 has a unique historical significance as it was on this day in 1949 that the Constitution was adopted, and, thereafter, came into force on January 26, 1950, marking the beginning of India as a republic. Govt is celebrating 'Samvidhan Divas' to mark 70th anniversary.

Quick revision

Date	Day	Theme
November 1	World Vegan Day	NA
November 2	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	NA
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	NA
November 6	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	NA
November 7	National Cancer Awareness Day	NA
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Open science, leaving no one behind
November 13	World Kindness Day	NA
November 14	World Diabetes Day	Family and Diabetes
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	NA
16 November	National Press Day	
November 17	National Epilepsy Day	NA
17 November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	NA
November 19	World Toilet Day	Leaving No One Behind
November 19	Women's Entrepreneurship Day	NA
November 20	World Children’s Day	NA
November 21	World Philosophy Day	NA
November 21	World Television Day	NA
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape
26 November	National Milk Day	NA
November 26	Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)	NA
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	NA
November 30	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	NA

Sports

News: Most Important

1. ***South Africa defeat England to lift Rugby World Cup***

   South Africa lifted the Rugby World Cup a record-equalling 3rd time, after a convincing 32-12 victory over England.22 points by Handre Pollard & 2nd-half tries from wingers Makazole Mapimpi & Cheslin Kolbe ensured a comfortable win for the Springboks. It was held at the **International Stadium Yokohama, Japan**.

2. ***Pooja Gehlot wins silver in UWW Under-23 World Championships***

   Pooja Gehlot (53kg) in **wrestling** claimed India's 2nd silver medal after going down to Japan's Haruna Okuno in the finals of the UWW Under-23 World Championships. Pooja lost 0-2 to Okuno. She had entered the finals after beating Zeynep Yetgil in semi.

3. ***Korea Open Badminton: Maisnam Meiraba Luwang wins boys' singles U-19 title***

   Maisnam Meiraba Luwang clinched the boys' singles U-19 title at the Woncheon Yonex Korea Junior Open Badminton International Challenge 2019 in **Miryang, Korea**. He defeated Lee Hak Joo of Korea in a 21-10 21-13 win. Sathish Kumar Karunakaran claimed bronze.

4. ***Red Bull driver Verstappen wins Formula One's Brazilian GP***

   Red Bull's Max Verstappen won Formula One's Brazilian Grand Prix for his eighth career victory in a race which ended disastrously for both Ferrari drivers. Toro Rosso's Pierre Gasly got his first F1 podium after finishing second ahead of six-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton.

5. ***Lewis Hamilton wins sixth F1 World Championship at United States Grand Prix***

   Lewis Hamilton sealed his **sixth world** drivers' title with second place in the United States Grand Prix.He becomes the **second most** successful Formula 1 driver of all time, one championship behind **Michael Schumacher**.

6. ***2020 Hockey Pro League: India's home matches to be played at Bhubaneswar***

   Bhubaneswar will host India's home matches during the 2020 Hockey Pro League according to the IHF latest reports. The second edition of the Hockey Pro League will be played between 11th of January and 28th of June. The Pro League will feature 144 matches.

7. *Joohyung Kim won the Panasonic Open India Trophy*

Shiv Kapur faltered at the doorstep of victory as he hooked his drive on the closing Par-5 18th hole to hand Joohyung Kim from Korea, the Panasonic Open India Trophy. It was also only the 2nd time that a player other than an Indian had won the event. Panasonic Open Golf event was held in Gurugram, Haryana.

8. *Stefanos Tsitsipas beats Dominic Thiem to win ATP Finals title*

Greek tennis player **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the ATP Finals beating Austria's Dominic Thiem 6-7, 6-2, 7-6. This was the debut of Tsisipas in ATP Finals. The match, which was held at the O2 Arena in London, lasted for 2 hours and 36 minutes.

9. *Indian women clinch five gold medals in Asian Youth Boxing Championship*

Indian women have clinched five gold, while men bagged two silver at Asian Youth Boxing Championship in Mongolia. All five women finalists, Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg) Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) & Sushma (81kg) won Gold for the country. Selay Soy (49kg) & Ankit Narwal (60kg) won silver among men.

10. *China Open: Kento Momota beats Tien Chen to win 10th title of 2019*

Kento Momota won his 10th title as Japan's world No 1 defeated Taiwan's world No 2 Tien-chen to retain his Fuzhou China Open Badminton crown. **Chen Yufei** similarly successfully defended the women's title with a victory over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

11. *India to host 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup*

India will host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup from 13th to 29th of January. Spain and the Netherlands have been named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women's World Cup scheduled to be held from 1st to 22nd of July.

12. *Lakshya Sen wins SaarLorLux Open badminton tournament in Germany*

India's Lakshya Sen has won the SaarLorLux Open badminton tournament at Saarbrucken in Germany. He defeated Sen Weng Hong Yang of China in the finals. Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand had entered the final beating Kiran George in an all-Indian semi-final.

13. *Javelin thrower Sundar Singh wins gold in World Para Athletics Championships*

Javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar clinched India's second gold defending his World Para Athletics Championships title in the men's F46 javelin throw event in Dubai. Yogesh Kathuniya added a silver for India in men's discus throw F56 event.

14. *Saurabh Chaudhary wins silver medal in Men's 10m air pistol event at Asian Championship*

Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the silver medal in men's 10m air pistol event to continue India's surge at the 14th Asian Championship in Doha. He finished second on the podium with 244.5 behind North Korea's Kim Song Guk, who won the top prize with a world record 246.5. Iran's Foroughi Javed bagged the bronze.

News: Others

1. *India B lifts the Deodhar Trophy*

India B lifted the Deodhar Trophy with a comprehensive 51-run win over India C in the final in Ranchi. Shubman Gill- who was captaining India C-became the youngest-known captain to lead a side in the finals of Deodhar Trophy breaking Virat Kohli's record.

2. *World Para-Games: Sharad claims silver, Mariyappan takes bronze*

Sharad Kumar and **Mariyappan** claimed silver and bronze medal respectively in the World Para-Athletics Championships in Dubai. India has nine medals- two gold, two silver and five bronze-from the Championships. China lead the medals tally with 53 medals. They qualified for 2020 Tokyo Paralympics by the win.

3. *India set to host 2019 World Kabaddi Cup from December 1 to 9*

The 2019 World Kabaddi Cup will take place from December 1 to 9 and will be organised by the Punjab government. This year's tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev ji.

4. *Indian archers clinch 3 bronze medals at Asian Championship*

Atanu Das clinched a bronze in the men's recurve individual event against Jin Hayek Oh of Korea and also won a bronze in the recurve mixed team competition with Deepika Kumari. Indian archers are competing as neutral athletes under World **Archery** flag.

5. *Sangram Dahiya, Varsha Varman win double trap national titles*

Haryana's Sangram Dahiya & MP's Varsha Varman clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi. In men's category, Sangram shot 142/150 targets to leave behind former world champion Ankur Mittal. Varsha, in the women's category won gold over Manisha Kheer.

6. ***India bag 28 medals including 13 gold in U-15 Asian Wrestling Championships***

In wrestling, India concluded its campaign at the Under-15 Asian Championships with 28 medals, including 13 gold, 14 silver and a bronze at Taichung, China. India finished on top of the team rankings in freestyle category with 225 points.

7. ***Rafael Nadal clinches 6th Davis Cup title for France***

In tennis, world number 1 Rafael Nadal has clinched sixth Davis Cup title for Spain after beating Denis Shapovalov of Canada in front of a jubilant home crowd in Madrid. Nadal defeated Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch Spain's 2-0 win against Canada.

8. ***ISSF World Cup: Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan & Divyansh Panwar win gold medals***

India's Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan & Divyansh Panwar clinched gold medals in the ISSF World Cup Finals. Bhaker created junior world record in the women's 10 m air pistol event while Elavenil claimed gold in the women's 10 m air rifle competition.

Championship took place in Putian, China.

Awards

News: Most Important

1. ***JioTV wins IPTV Innovation Award at World Communication Awards***

Popular TV and broadcast content app JioTV has been conferred the award for IPTV Innovation at the World Communication Awards 2019, at a ceremony in London. Reliance Jio's offerings were shortlisted under four categories at the World Communication Awards.

2. ***Neeraj Sharma wins Early Career Researcher 2019 award for work on batteries***

Dr Neeraj Sharma from the **University of New South Wales** (UNSW), Sydney-considered one of the global leaders in the use of neutron and X-ray scattering methods to study materials for next-generation lithium-ion batteries has won the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences)'.

3. ***Venu Srinivasan first Indian to get Deming award for total quality management***

Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton has been conferred with the prestigious Deming 'Distinguished Service Award For Dissemination and Promotion Overseas', at a ceremony held in Tokyo.

4. ***Writer Anand selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram***

Noted writer Anand has been selected for the 27th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literary honour of the **Kerala State** government. From his novel Aalkoottam, Anand had been portraying the unique crises that the nation had witnessed with a rare finesse.

5. ***Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik receives Italian Sand Art Award***

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik received the **Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019** at a ceremony in Rome, Italy. He is a famous sand sculptor from Odisha. Neeharika Singh, Deputy Chief of Mission, represented the Embassy of India at the award ceremony.

6. ***Tobacco Board Receives 2019 Golden Leaf Award***

Tobacco Board of India has been awarded the Golden Leaf Award in the Most Impressive Public Service Initiative category, 2019, for its efforts to initiate various sustainability (green) initiatives in Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India.

7. ***David Attenborough to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2019***

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 will be conferred on renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. It is awarded to Attenborough for a lifetime of doing more to reveal the wonders of the natural world.

8. ***Virat Kohli bags PETA India's Person of the Year for 2019 award***

Virat Kohli bagged PETA India's 'Person of the Year for 2019' for his animal advocacy efforts. His efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter to officials calling for the release of Malti, an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort.

9. ***West Bengal based writer Abhisek Sarkar wins award at Dhaka Lit-fest***

West Bengal-based writer Abhisek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award for their manuscripts, "Nishiddho" and "Dhoashar Tamate Rong," respectively.

10. ***Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari awarded Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by PCI***

Rajasthan Patrika group chairman **Gulab Kothari** has been awarded the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.

11. *Malayalam poet Akkitham wins 55th Jnanpith Award*

Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award, according to an announcement by the Jnanpith Selection Board. Akkitham has authored 55 books out of which 45 are collections of poems including Khanda Kavyas, Katha Kavyas, Charitha Kavyas and songs.

12. *RAeS honorary fellowship for DRDO chairman*

Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) London, the oldest aeronautical society in the world, has conferred honorary fellowship to G. Satheesh Reddy, secretary of the department of Defence R&D and chairman of DRDO. It is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize in aerospace domain.

13. *Three Indians win Golden Target award*

Elavenil Valarivan closed the season as world No.1 in women's air rifle & will be bestowed the Golden Target award by ISSF in Munich, Germany. Award is a tribute to the best athletes of year as per annual ranking in each of the individual Olympic events Divyansh Panwar & Saurabh Chaudhary also to be awarded same.

14. *Indian Ravi Prakash wins BRICS-Young Innovator Prize*

Ravi Prakash, an Indian scholar has won the 25,000 US Dollar BRICS-Young Innovator Prize for inventing an affordable indigenous milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers.

News: Others

1. *Writer and translator Shanta Gokhale to receive Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award*

The Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019 was conferred on writer, translator and film critic Shanta Gokhale. Poet K Satchidanandan was named the Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate for 2019.

2. *Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey confers the National Entrepreneurship Awards 2019*

Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship conferred the National Entrepreneurship Awards 2019 to Enterprises and Ecosystem builders. The award seeks to instil and entrench the entrepreneurial attitude among the future generations.

3. *Dr. K. Ullas Karanth become first recipient of George Schaller Lifetime Award*

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS, New York) honoured Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, upon his retirement, with The Wildlife Conservation Society's George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science.

4. ***Dr Debabhuson Borah gets Munin Barkotoki Literary Award***

The prestigious Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018 in Assam has been given to young writer-critic Dr Debabhuson Borah for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'. The award was named after renowned writer, critic and journalist Munin Barkotoki.

5. ***Manoj Bajpayee Starrer 'Bhonsle' Wins Two Awards At The Asian Film Festival Barcelona***

Manoj Bajpayee starrer critically acclaimed movie Bhonsle has bagged two prestigious awards at the Asian Film Festival Barcelona. Directed by Devashish Makhija, the movie has won Best Screenplay and Best Director awards at the festival.

6. ***Sridevi, Rekha Awarded at ANR National Award 2019 for Lasting Impact on Indian Cinema***

Actress Rekha and the late Sridevi felicitated at the (Akkineni Nageswara Rao) ANR National Award. The annual award honours those who had created an ever-lasting impact on Indian cinema. The awards were presented by Telugu actor Chiranjeevi.

7. ***Bajrang Punia, Mahant Gaurav Sharma honoured in Dubai***

Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has been conferred the Indian Personality of the Year Award (Sports) at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019 in Dubai. World powerlifting champion Mahant Gaurav Sharma was honoured with Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award.

8. ***Particles wins the Golden Peacock Award at IFFI 2019***

'Particles' directed by Blaise Harrison and produced by Estelle Fialon won the Golden Peacock Award at the 50th International Film Festival of India in Goa, while the best director award went to Lijo Jose Pellissery for his film "Jallikattu"

9. ***Kolkata's Krishna Yadav conferred Dr. B R Ambedkar Award,2019***

Krishna Yadav of Kolkata was conferred this award posthumously for his notable efforts in social sector and remarkable works in the field of education of girls. These awards were given in various fields for exemplary contribution in film, acting, arts and culture, sports, journalism, health, education and social service.

10. ***Lionel Messi wins the 2019 Best Playmaker award***

IFFHS (International Federation of Football History and Statistics) have named Messi as the world's best playmaker in 2019.It is Messi's fourth win of this award after wins in 2015, 2016 and 2017. He joins Xavi having won four Playmaker Awards.

Quick Revision

Winner	Award
Jio TV	IPTV Innovation Award at the World Communication Awards
Lionel Messi	2019 Best Playmaker award
Krishna Yadav	Dr. B R Ambedkar Award,2019
Dr Neeraj Sharma	Early Career Researcher of the Year
Venu Srinivasan	Deming Award
Anand	27th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram
Particles	Golden Peacock Award ,IFFI 2019
Sudarsan Pattnaik	Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019
Tobacco Board of India	Golden Leaf Award
Ravi Prakash	BRICS-Young Innovator Prize,2019
Shanta Gokhale	Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award
K Satchidanandan	Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate for 2019.
Enterprises and Ecosystem builders	National Entrepreneurship Awards 2019
Dr. K. Ullas Karanth	George Schaller Lifetime Award
David Attenborough	Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace 2019
Virat Kohli	PETA India's 'Person of the Year for 2019'
Gulab Kothari	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award
Dr Debabhuson Borah	Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018
Rekha & Sri Devi	ANR National Award 2019
G. Satheesh Reddy	Honorary Fellowship, Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) London
Akkitham	55th Jnanpith Award

Obituaries

News: Most Important

1. ***Tazeen Ahmad, award-winning ex-BBC and NBC reporter passed away***

   Former BBC and Channel 4 journalist, presenter and writer Farah Tazeen Ahmad passed away aged 48. She was a well-known figure in British media, where she was among the first Muslim Asian women to rise to the top of broadcast **journalism**.

2. ***TN Seshan, former CEC passes away***

   TN Seshan, the election commissioner of India who took charge as the 10th Election Commissioner of India & transformed the way polls were conducted contested in the country passed away in Chennai. He was 86.

3. 'Kerala Rafi' Cochin Azad passed away

Popular singer Cochin Azad, who enthralled music lovers through his soulful rendition of legendary Mohammed Rafi songs, passed away. He was 62 & was the lead singer of the group's 'Rafi Nite' programme. He had a musical career spanning over three decades.

4. Noted mathematician Vashishtha Singh passed away

Renowned mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh,77 passed away. He worked at the NASA in the U.S. and IITs in India & also said to have challenged great scientist Einstein's theory of relativity. He was born in Basantpur village in Bhojpur, Bihar. He had been suffering from schizophrenia.

5. Bhopal Gas Tragedy Activist Abdul Jabbar Dies at the age of 62

Social activist Abdul Jabbar, who fought for justice to the victims and survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy passed away. He had lost his family in the world's worst industrial accident. In 1987, he started the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan. Tragedy occurred in the Union Carbide India Ltd pesticide plant.

6. Industrialist and son of Modinagar's founder, K K Modi no more

The scion of one of the oldest business families in the country - the Modi family - and the eldest son of late Rai Bahadur Gujarmal Modi (founder of the city of Modinagar), Krishan Kumar Modi ,79 passed away. He was a former president of **FICCI**.

7. Dhrupad singer Ramakant Gundecha passes away

Dhrupad maestro Ramakant Gundecha, younger brother in the Gundecha bandhu duo, passed away. The Gundecha brothers were maestros of Dhrupad and had recently celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their Dhrupad Sansthan in Bhopal.

8. Sahitya Akademi Awardee Writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen dies

Sahitya Akademi awardee writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen died. She was 81. She was a poet, novelist and short-story writer and won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for her book 'Naba-Nita'. She was also the recipient of the Padma Shri in 2000.

9. Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar passed away

Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar ,79 passed away. He was the 16th Chief of Naval Staff and oversaw Naval operations during the Kargil conflict of 1999. He recently authored a book, A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief, on PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

10. *Australian writer and TV critic Clive James dies aged 80*

Clive James, an expatriate Australian writer and broadcaster who wrote incisively and often hilariously about television, literature and current affairs, has died aged 80. James acted as **informal adviser** to Britain's Prince Charles and his ex-wife Diana.

11. *Telugu actress Geetanjali Ramakrishna passed away at 72*

Popular Telugu actress Geetanjali Ramakrishna, 72 passed away. Jr NTR introduced Geetanjali as an actress in his directorial Seetharama Kalyanam, which released in 1961. Shen then went on to prove her mettle as an actress in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.

12. *Cartoonist Sudhir Dhar dies at 87*

Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dhar, whose works have graced several newspapers in a career spanning 58 years passed away. His cartoons appeared in The Independent, The Pioneer, Delhi Times, New York Times, Washington Post and Saturday Review, among others.

News: Others

1. *Former Maharashtra minister Babasaheb Dhabekar passed away*

Former Maharashtra minister Babasaheb Dhabekar passed away. He was 89. Dhabekar was water resources minister when the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government came to power for the first time in the 1990s.

2. *Former Left Front minister & RSP leader Kshiti Goswami passed away*

Senior leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and former West Bengal Minister Kshiti Goswami ,76 passed away. He was an important face of the Left Front government in West Bengal. being in charge of several portfolios in the state. He was also the state secretary of RSP.

3. *Veteran actor Shaukat Kaifi passes away*

Veteran actor and Shabana Azmi's mother Shaukat Kaifi passed away in Mumbai last evening due to age-related illness at the age of 93. Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi.

4. *Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone dies at 101*

Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was Japan's prime minister from 1982 to 1987 and known for his friendship with Ronald Reagan, has died at the age of 101. In 1983, he became the first Japanese premier to officially visit South Korea.

5. *Brad Gobright, renowned US rock climber, dies*

One of the world's most renowned rock climbers, the American Brad Gobright,31, has died after falling off a mountain in Mexico. He fell around 300m to his death in El Potrero Chico in northern Mexico. He was best known for free soloing or climbing without any safety gear.

6. *Tamil actor Bala Singh passes away at 67*

Noted Tamil actor and theatre artist Bala Singh died. He made his debut in M Nasser-directed 'Avatharam' and went on to feature in many films, donning a variety of roles including those with negative shades.

7. *Thespian Vijay Marur no more*

Well-known theatre and media personality Vijay Marur,63 passed away. He was part of The Little Theatre that staged plays and dramatized readings. He was an alumnus of Hyderabad Public School, Loyola College, Chennai, and IIM, Bangalore.

8. *Korean Singer and Actress Goo Hara passes away*

28-year old South Korean singer-actress Goo Hara passed Goo Hara launched her career as a member of the k-pop girl group Kara, which was formed by DSP Media in 2007 and disbanded in 2016. She joined the group in 2008.

Quick revision

Obituary (Name)	Related field
Tazeen Ahmad	Former BBC and Channel 4 journalist
TN Seshan	Former Chief election commissioner of India
Cochin Azad	Singer
Vashishtha Narayan Singh	Mathematician
Abdul Jabbar	Social Activist
Krishan Kumar Modi	Former President of FICCI
Ramakant Gundecha	Dhrupad Singer
Babasaheb Dhabekar	Former Maharashtra Minister
Geetanjali Ramakrishna	Telugu Actress
Nabaneeta Dev Sen	Novelist
Vijay Marur	Media personality
Bala Singh	Actor
Brad Gobright	Rock Climbing
Yasuhiro Nakasone	Former Japanese Prime Minister
Shaukat Kaifi	Actor
Sudhir Dhar	Cartoonist
Kshiti Goswami	Senior leader of the Revolutionary Socialist Party
Goo Hara	Korean Singer and Actress
Admiral Sushil Kumar	Former Navy Chief
Clive James	Australian writer and TV critic

Schemes

News: Most Important

1. ***National Mission 'NISHTHA' launched in J&K***

   National Initiative for School Heads' & Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) was launched in the UT of J&K. It is launched across the country, with a total of 86000 Elementary teachers of Government Schools being trained in J&K under the programme. It aims to improve learning outcomes at Elementary level.

2. ***Finance Minister launches IT initiatives ICEDASH & ATITHI***

   Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled 2 IT Initiatives-ICEDASH & ATITHI for improved pace of customs clearance of imported goods & facilitating arriving international passengers. ICEDASH helps the public to know the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo. ATITHI-facilitate faster clearance by Customs at the airport.

3. ***AP launches Rs 12,000-cr scheme to introduce English medium in govt schools***

   Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy launched the **'Nadu-Nedu'** programme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6 in state-run schools. It will cover all schools in three years under a budget of Rs 12,000 crores.

4. ***FSSAI to launch Verified Milk Vendor Scheme to register unorganised suppliers***

   The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will launch the Verified Milk Vendors Scheme to address the issues of quality and safety in raw milk that is supplied directly to consumers by unorganised milk vendors.

5. ***Uttarakhand CM launches virtual classroom project connecting 500 secondary schools***

   Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a project that will connect 500 secondary schools to virtual classrooms .Virtual classes are attended through video conferences where students can meet the teacher on a real-time basis and ask questions.

6. ***J&K achieves highest road length under PMGSY in 2019***

   During 2019-20 fiscal, around 11,400 kms of different road projects against the total sanctioned length of 19,700 kms. Also against sanctioned 2,214 habitations, 1,838 have been provided connectivity as on date including 101 connected this fiscal.

7. *Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0 to be rolled out in 27 states*

The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0 that is to be rolled out from 2 Dec 2020 will focus on 272 districts of 27 states & 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh / Bihar among hard-to-reach and tribal populations which will be completed by March 2020. Aim is to achieve 90% immunisation coverage across India.

News: Others

1. *Assam approves 1 Tola Gold to Brides free of cost under Arundhati scheme*

In a unique initiative to check child marriage, Assam approves Arundhati scheme to provide 1 Tola (11.66 grams) Gold to Brides free of cost belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society. The parent's annual income should be below Rs 5 lakh.

2. *Government announces Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh for better nutritional outcomes*

Union Government announced Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh which is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones for better nutritional outcomes. It aims at reducing malnutrition through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture, among women and children across the country.

3. *DSEJ rolls out special enrollment drive 'Aao school chalein'*

Directorate of School Education Jammu has launched a special enrollment drive under the banner 'Aao School Chalein'.The prime focus of "Aao school chalein", other than increasing the enrollment in government schools, is on strengthening of pre- schooling by enrollment of age appropriate children in well-established Kindergartens in government schools.

4. *Govt sanctioned 305 projects for clean Ganga Mission: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat*

The Clean Ganga drive is a continuous process & the govt has sanctioned 305 projects at an estimated cost of over Rs 28,600 Cr. Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said there has been improvement in the quality of water of the River Ganga.

Person in News

News: Most Important

1. ***Sarita Devi elected as member of AIBA athletes commission***

   Laishram Sarita Devi of Manipur is among the 6 **boxers** from 5 continents who were elected as members of AIBA Athletes Commission. She was inspired by Muhammad Ali and turned professional in boxing in the year 2000 & she works as the DSP in Manipur Police.

2. ***Footballer David Villa to retire at end of season***

   Spain's all-time top scorer David Villa announced that he is retiring from football at the end of the Japanese topflight season. He has been playing in Japan with Vissel Kobe since the beginning of this year. He retired from international football in 2014. He won two La Liga titles with Barca and one with Atletico.

3. ***Dutee Chand named in TIME 100 Next list***

   India sprinter Dutee Chand has been named in the TIME 100 Next, an expansion of the TIME 100 list .The list highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism etc. She won two silver medals 100m, 200m- at Jakarta Asian Games.

4. ***Shafali Verma, youngest Indian cricketer to score 50 in International Cricket***

   15 yr old Shafali Verma scored her 2nd consecutive half-century to help India register an emphatic 10-wicket win over West Indies in the 2nd T-20 International at Saint Lucia. Shafali scored **73 runs** in the first T-20 International.

5. ***Businessperson of the Year 2019: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella takes No 1 spot***

   Every year, Fortune releases annual Businessperson of the Year featuring 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds and found creative solutions." India-born CEO Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in the 2019 list. **Fortescue Metals Group** CEO, Elizabeth Gaines bagged second.

6. ***Rohit becomes first Indian man to feature in 100 T20 internationals***

   Rohit Sharma became the first Indian man and second in world cricket to complete 100 T20 Internationals. He reached the milestone when he led the team in the second match against Bangladesh.

7. Nicola Adams: Two-time Olympic champion retires over fears for her sight

Two-time Olympic champion Nicola Adams has retired from boxing over fears she could lose her sight. She became the first female Olympic champion when she won gold at London 2012, retaining her flyweight title at Rio 2016.

8. *Sub Lieutenant Shivangi is the 1st-ever woman pilot for Navy*

Indian Navy is set to get its 1st ever woman pilot as Sub-Lieutenant. She would complete her training & joins naval operations on 2 December. She was inducted into the Indian Navy's Academy in Ezhimala as SSC (Pilot) and was commissioned in June 2018.

9. *Lakshya Sen wins Scottish Open title*

India's badminton star Lakshya Sen has won the Scottish Open men's single title, defeating Brazilian Ygor Coelho in Glasgow to seal his 4th title in 3 months. 18 yr old player won silver at Polish Open, won the Belgian, Dutch & SaarLorLux Open in 2019.

10. *Suman Billa to join as Director of UNWTO*

Kerala cadre IAS Suman Billa will join United Nations World Tourism Organisation at its headquarters in Madrid, Spain. He will assume charge as Director, Technical Cooperation & Silk Road Development, a specialised agency promoting accessible tourism. UNWTO works under United Nations Economic & Social Council.

11. *Magnus Carlsen wins Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2019*

Magnus Carlsen scored an impressive 27/36 to pocket $37,500 and a glittering trophy at the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2019 in Kolkata. He also regained the World number one spot in Rapid Chess and is the world number two spot in Blitz Chess.

12. *Mangala Mani is first Indian woman to live in Antarctica for 403 days*

Mangala Mani from ISRO has created history by being the first woman scientist to spend 403 days in Antarctica. The 56-year-old was part of an expedition which went to Bharati–India's research station in Antarctica, in November 2016.

13. *Arsene Wenger appointed FIFA's chief of global football development*

Arsene Wenger has been confirmed as FIFA's chief of global football development. He spent 22 years in charge of Arsenal until 2018. His role will involve focus on coaching education & a programme that is set to encourage former players to become managers.

14. *Harmeet Desai wins Indonesia Open TT Championship*

Harmeet Desai, seeded fourth, defeated **A. Amalraj**, seeded seventh, in the final of the ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open table tennis championship. This is Harmeet's second International title of the year, after the Commonwealth championship in July in Cuttack.

News: Others

1. *Sara Damnjanovic crowned Miss Asia Global title for 2019*

Sara Damnjanovic from **Serbia** crowned the 5th Edition of Miss Asia Global title for 2019, held in Kochi, Kerala. While, Nguyen Thi Yen Trang from Vietnam was crowned Miss Asia title, and Samiksha Singh from India won the sub-title of Miss Beautiful Face.

2. *Rajinikanth to receive Special Icon award at IFFI*

Actor Rajinikanth will receive the Special Icon award at the Golden Jubilee of International Film Festival of India, IFFI in Goa. The award will be presented in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, during the past several decades.

3. *First woman officer, Karabi Gogoi posted as Assistant Naval Attache in Moscow*

Lt. Cdr. Karabi Gogoi a naval engineer, will become the first woman officer from the Navy to be posted as a Defence Attache at an Indian mission abroad. She has been posted as the Assistant Naval Attache at the Indian embassy in **Moscow**.

4. *Deepika wins gold, Ankita bags silver in Asian archery Championships*

Indian archers Deepika Kumari won gold while Ankita Bhakat bagged silver medal in the women's individual recurve event of the 21st Asian Championships in Bangkok. Deepika defeated Ankita 6-0 in the one-sided final.

5. *Peter Rae re-elected as World Wind Energy Association President*

The General Assembly of the World Wind Energy Association has re-elected Hon. Peter Rae AO (**Australia**) for a third two-year term as WWEA President. Prof. Dr. Choong-Yul Son (Republic of Korea) was appointed as Honorary Vice President.

Summits & Conference

News: Most Important

1. ***7th India-US Economic & Financial Partnership meeting held in Delhi***

   7th India-US Economic & Financial partnership meeting was held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman & US Secretary of Treasury Steven T Mnuchin. Both the countries decided to continue working together for promoting growth. They also discussed capital flows investment in infrastructure.

2. ***Spain confirms offer to host COP Climate Summit***

   Spanish govt confirmed to host the COP 25 climate summit after Chile abandoned plans to hold it due to anti-government protests. Scheduled dates are December 2-13. Pedro Sanchez is the Spanish Prime Minister & Sebastian Pinera is the Chile's President.

3. ***Mangalore to host shipping, logistics summit***

   Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), in association with India Seatrade, will organise 'Karnataka Ports Shipping and Logistics Summit 2019' in Mangalore. Summit is an effort to bring together the maritime stakeholders across the country. It will highlight the economic devpmt that NMPT has fostered.

4. ***CBIC organised 29th Regional Contact Points meeting of Asia Pacific region of WCO***

   29th Regional Contact Points meeting of Asia Pacific region of the **World Customs Organization**, was organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs at Puducherry from 18th to 20th of Nov 2019. The last RCP was organised in Nov 2018 in Jaipur. WCO is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

5. ***PM Modi attends 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia***

   PM Modi attended the 11th BRICS Summit in **Brasilia** that began on 14th Nov. BRICS Business Council meeting & BRICS Business Forum will take place on 13th Nov. They will discuss intra BRICS cooperation for the economic development of BRICS societies. Theme-Economic growth & innovative future for BRICS economies.

6. ***Prakash Javadekar attends 15th meeting of Governing Council of SACEP in Dhaka***

   Environment, Forest & Climate Change 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar attended the 15th meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme in Dhaka, Bangladesh. SACEP was established in **1982**. 14th meeting of SACEP Governing Council was held in Colombo.

7. *International Conference on Soil & Water Resources Management held in New Delhi*

Secretary of DARE & DG of ICAR, **Trilochan Mohapatra** inaugurated "International Conference on Soil & Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture & Global Food & Livelihood Security" in New Delhi. Its aim is to deliberate upon the various issues of soil & water conservation.

8. *Shripad Naik Inaugurates Two-day International Conference on Yoga at Mysuru*

Union Minister of State (I/C) for AYUSH and Defence ,Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated two days International Conference on Yoga at Mysuru, Karnataka. The theme of the conference is **'Yoga for Heart Care'**. More than 700 national and international delegates are expected to participate in the conference.

9. *Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems*

Minister for MoHFW Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in New Delhi. Summit launched **SAANS (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully)** campaign to control Pneumonia. Web portal for home-based care of children was also launched.

10. *Second edition of South Asia Safety Summit in New Delhi*

Union Minister **Smriti Irani** addressed the second edition of South Asia Safety Summit in New Delhi. She stressed the need to ensure the safety of women and children in the country. By the end of 2019, every district will have an operational one-stop centre.

11. *Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine*

VP Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in New Delhi. There is a need to develop programs and manuals to train citizens in emergency first aid procedures such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation as it will help in saving a life while waiting for emergency services.

12. *India to host 'No Money For Terror' meet in 2020*

India will host the next edition of the 'No Money For Terror' conference to be held in 2020. It is organised by Financial Intelligence Units of over 100 countries, jointly called the Egmont Group.

13. *27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) inaugurated at Kolkata*

27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations was inaugurated at Kolkata. The theme of the conference was '**Sustainable Development Goals'**. COCSSO is an important platform to bring all stakeholders together to discuss statistical matters of interest.

14. *India To Host Shanghai Summit's Heads Of Government Council Meet In 2020*

India will host the 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation next year. The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.

15. *6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance*

The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance held in New Delhi. It was jointly hosted by Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), **NABARD** and Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Welfare and Cooperation, Government of India.

16. *Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 11th edition of Agro Vision*

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari stressed upon the importance of Agricultural allied businesses for the development of farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra inaugurating the 11th edition of Agro Vision- 2019, at Reshimbag Ground of Nagpur.

17. *DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar held in New Delhi*

2-day DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar was organised at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness between the 3 services- Army, Air Force & Navy. Seminar Theme: **Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness**.

18. *G Kishan Reddy inaugurates 1st Intl. Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience"*

MoS for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy inaugurated 1st Intern'l Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" calling for developing technology to anticipate disasters like landslides & develop infrastructure for minimising damage.

News: Others

1. Two-day ports' conclave of BIMSTEC held

The two-day ports' conclave of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sector Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held at Visakhapatnam. Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya inaugurated the conclave being organised for the first time.

2. 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus to be held in Thailand

The 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus held in Bangkok on Nov 19. Rajnath Singh along with 17 other Defence Ministers of ADMM-Plus countries will attend the meeting. Singh held bilateral meetings with US Secretary of Defence Mark T Esper.

3. First ever International Buyer- Seller Meet in Arunachal Pradesh

Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority(APEDA) held the 1st ever international buyer seller meet on Agri & Horticulture produce in AP. It aims to promote export of agri products and to facilitate market linkages for Agri- exports from NER.

4. Inaugural Conclave on "National Capital Region -2041" held in Delhi

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI, chaired the inaugural conclave on "National Capital Region -2041" organized by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). Currently, the Regional Plan with the horizon year 2021 was in-force. Theme , "**Planning for Tomorrow's Greatest Capital Region**".

5. Indo-French Investment Conclave at Goa

Indo French Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized 2nd Indo-French Investment Conclave focussed on sectors of Aerospace & Defense, Sustainability & Green city, Shipping & Logistics. Goa CM Pramod Sawant & MoS for Defence Shripad Naik attended the event.

6. CMFRI holds buyer-seller meet for farm products from Nov 14 -16

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute & Krishi Vigyan Kendra with the support of NABARD conducted a buyer-seller meet for food & agriculture products . Participants from Kerala, TN & Karnataka will bring their products at the meet. Three-day buyer-seller meet was held at Kochi, Kerala.

7. *Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference took place in Colombo under the theme **Equal Access to Justice & the Rule of Law**. Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad will be representing India at the conference. It was held for 4 days.

8. *Om Birla addresses 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 Countries*

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 Countries in Tokyo. The Inter-Parliamentary Union-oldest & largest parliamentary platform & the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan would host the summit.

9. *International Principal's Education Conference (IPEC) at Nagpur*

RSS Chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat inaugurated the three-day International Principal's Education Conference (IPEC) at Nagpur, Maharashtra. Super 30 founder and noted mathematician Anand Kumar was honoured with Nachiketa Sarvottama Award on the occasion of IPEC.

10. *Regional conference on 'Replication of Good Governance Practices' in J&K and Ladakh concludes*

The two-day Regional Conference on 'Replication of Good Governance Practices in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh held in Jammu with the adoption of Jammu Resolution सुशासन संकल्प: जम्मू घोषणा. It was inaugurated by UM Dr Jitendra Singh in presence of Lieutenant Governor of J&K G.C. Murmu.

11. *Gadkari inaugurates NuGen Mobility Summit 2019*

Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 at the International Centre of Automotive Technology in **Manesar, Haryana**. Theme of this event has been setup around new generation topics like e-mobility, Hydrogen Mobility & Connected Vehicles.

12. *18th World Wind Energy Conference*

18th World Wind Energy Conference held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** .It covered all aspects of the growth of wind utilisation and the related policies, science and technology, manufacturing, development, operation, integrated solutions, community involvement as well as other economic and social issues.

Quick Revision

Summit/Conference	Venue
7th India-US Economic & Financial partnership meeting	New Delhi
COP 25 climate summit	Spain
Karnataka Ports Shipping and Logistics Summit 2019	Mangalore
Inaugural conclave on "National Capital Region -2041'	New Delhi
29th Regional Contact Points meeting of Asia Pacific region of the World Customs Organization	Puducherry
11th BRICS Summit	Brasilia, Brazil
15th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP	Dhaka, Bangladesh
International Conference on Soil & Water Resources Management	New Delhi
International Conference on Yoga	Mysuru
6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations	New Delhi
two-day ports' conclave of BIMSTEC	Vishakhapatnam
6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus	Thailand
International buyer seller meet on Agri & Horticulture produce	Arunachal Pradesh
Indo-French Investment Conclave	Goa
Buyer-Seller Meet for Farm Products	Kochi
Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference	Colombo, Sri Lanka
6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 Countries	Tokyo, Japan
Second edition of South Asia Safety Summit	New Delhi
International Principal's Education Conference	Nagpur
'No Money For Terror' 2020	India
10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine	New Delhi
27th edition of COCSSO	Kolkata
19th council of heads of government of SCO	India
18th World Wind Energy Conference	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
DEFCOM INDIA 2019	New Delhi
NuGen Mobility Summit 2019	Manesar, Haryana
11th edition of Agro Vision	Nagpur
6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance	New Delhi
Regional conference on 'Replication of Good Governance Practices'	Jammu

Defence

News: Most Important

1. ***First ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise- Dustlik 2019 begins***

   First ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise-Dustlik 2019 begun at Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh & his Uzbekistan counterpart General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov presided over the Curtain Raiser of the military drill.

2. ***ISRO launches Cartosat-3 & 13 commercial nano satellites***

   ISRO launched its earth imaging & mapping satellite Cartosat-3 along with 13 commercial nano satellites from the US, on Nov 25. India's PSLV-C47 would launch the satellites, into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh.

3. ***India, US $7.5 billion defence deals for armed drones, spy planes in pipeline***

   Indian armed forces are procuring US defence equipment worth over $7 billion including Sea Guardian armed drones & naval spy planes. Another deal is the project for the acquisition of the 10 P-8I anti-submarine warfare & long-range surveillance aircraft.

4. ***India successfully carries out night-time test firing of Agni-II missile***

   India successfully conducted the 1st night trial of Agni-II, versatile **surface-to-surface medium-range nuclear-capable missile** from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The test was aimed at re-establishing the operational effectiveness of the weapon system. The missile has a strike range of 2000 km.

5. ***India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation held***

   Defence minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 19th **India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation** in **Moscow**. He is expected to hold discussions with Defence Minister of Russian Federation-General Sergei Shoigu.

6. ***Indian Coast Guard conducted ReSARAX-2019***

   The Indian Coast Guard conducted the Regional level search and rescue Workshop Exercise (ReSAREX-2019) to check preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner.

7. ***US approves the sale of naval guns worth $1 bn to India***

US has approved the sale of 13 naval guns & related equipment worth $1 billion to India to help it meet current and future threats, according to the Defence Security Cooperation Agency DSCA. The deal includes anti-surface warfare & anti-air defence **MK 45 5 inch/62 calibre (MOD 4) naval guns**.

8. ***Joint Exercise between the Qatari Emiri Navy and the Indian Navy Forces (the Roar of the Sea)***

The inaugural edition of the Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) held at Doha, Qatar. The Exercise included a three-day Harbour Phase and Two days Sea Phase. Za'ir-Al-Bahr 2019 will strengthen cooperation and enhance interoperability between the two navies.

9. ***India-US tri-services exercise 'Tiger Triumph' held in Vizag***

The maiden India-US joint tri-services **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief** (HADR) exercise named 'Tiger Triumph' is held at Visakhapatnam. The Harbour Phase commenced at Visakhapatnam from November 13 to 16.

News: Others

1. ***China completes lander test for first Mars mission in 2020***

China successfully completed a lander test in northern Hebei province ahead of an unmanned exploration mission to Mars next year. The powerful long March 5 rocket will transport the probe to Mars in 2020. China made its first lunar landing in 2013. China expects to complete a modular space station around 2022.

2. ***Biggest US-Bangladesh Navy exercise held in Chattogram***

The 2nd phase of the US-Bangladesh Navy exercise named 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019' took place in **Chattogram, Bangladesh**. It provides an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the operational activities of both the Navies. Exercise conducted from 4 to 7 November.

3. ***Maker Village becomes innovation programme partner for defence solutions***

Union Govt selected **Maker Village Kochi** as a partner for its iDEX programme facilitating the country's largest hardware deep-tech incubator to create solutions for the armed services. The DIO under the Ministry of Defence chose Maker Village as a partner.

4. ***Indian Navy commissions sixth Dornier aircraft squadron***

The Indian Navy commissioned its sixth Dornier aircraft squadron INAS 314 called Raptors, in strategically located Porbandar town of Gujarat, giving a fillip to coastal security near the sea border with Pakistan.

5. ***Indian Army successfully test-fires Spike LR missile***

Indian Army successfully fired 2 newly acquired Spike LR anti-tank missiles at Infantry School at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, which is a 4th gen missile that can engage a target with precision at ranges up to 4 kms.

Agreements

News: Most Important

1. ***Siemens signs MoUs with NTPC, TERI on decarbonisation, energy transition***

Siemens Ltd has signed a MoU with **NTPC Ltd** to analyse reference use cases of hydrogen sector-coupling for various stream applications. It has also inked a separate MoU with **TERI** for collaboration on technologies to support the energy transition in India.

2. ***IIT Kharagpur, Ministry of Shipping sign an MoU for Ship Design & Model Testing Centre***

IIT Kharagpur is set to get a Ship Design & Model Testing Centre as per the MoU signed between the college & Ministry of Shipping. 3 other MoUs were signed b/w Ranong Port (Port Authority of Thailand)& the Port Trusts of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam & Kolkata.

3. ***Tally Solutions signs MoU with the ICAI to promote digitization***

Business software provider Tally Solutions has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).As part of the MoU, Tally will be making its flagship product Tally. ERP 9 available to the ICAI members.

4. ***NBCC signs MoU with Andhra govt, to assist in monetising vacant land parcels***

NBCC has signed an MoU with the AP under which it is expected to assist the state govt in monetising its vacant land parcels & to help the govt in execution of the state's flagship programmes. AP has taken on board NBCC as Project Management Consultant. The value of the work has been estimated at Rs 8,361 crore.

5. ***SBI Card, Vistara tie-up for premium co-branded credit cards***

SBI Card and Vistara have launched a premium, co-branded credit card, which lets users avail benefits like free cancellations, lounge access, and extra frequent flyer points. Two variants have been launched -- **Club Vistara SBI Card PRIME** and **Club Vistara SBI Card**.

6. *CCRAS signs MoU with JNU and ILBS*

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences has entered a MOU with Jawahar Lal Nehru University and Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences for cooperation in the field of Research & Development and Training in Ayurveda & Traditional Medicine. CCRAS comes under the Ministry of AYUSH.

News: Others

1. *Stellenbosch University, South Africa & UNITAID ties up*

Stellenbosch University & UNITAID have signed a $18.9 million grant agreement to develop child-friendly treatments & preventive therapy for children suffering from tuberculosis. The project will be implemented in South Africa, India & the Philippines.

2. *U GRO Capital, Sunvest launch Rs 20 cr rooftop solar co-lending programme*

U GRO Capital, a technology-enabled lender to small businesses, entered into a Rs 20-crore co-lending programme with Sunvest Capital to finance purchasing of solar panels. It will provide financing to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises to buy solar panels.

3. *Sun Pharma inks licensing pact with AstraZeneca*

Mumbai based Drug major Sun Pharma has entered a licensing agreement with AstraZeneca UK to introduce certain novel ready-to-use infusion oncology products in China. The agreement will help to bring cost-effective and quality drugs to patients in China. The initial tenure of the agreement is 10 years.

4. *ACI Worldwide & Microsoft strike cloud partnership in payments space*

ACI Worldwide, a global provider of real-time electronic payment and banking solutions, announced the global strategic collaboration with Microsoft via its MPN to support the payments industry's rapid adoption of technology deployed in the public cloud.

5. *Edelweiss Housing & Bank of Baroda partner for co-lending on home loans*

Edelweiss Housing Finance (EHFL), a subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services, has entered into a strategic agreement with Bank of Baroda for co-lending of home loans. The loans will be extended to self-employed entrepreneurs and salaried customers.

Books & Authors

News: Most Important

1. ***Three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji launched at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College***

   On the occasion of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank along with Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched three books namely, Guru Nanak Bani, Nanak Bani, and Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev.

2. ***CJI Ranjan Gogoi releases Assamese version of book 'Courts of India: Past to Present***

   Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi released the Assamese version of the book 'Courts of India: Past to Present' in Guwahati. The book has published by the Publication Division. The book will be provided to all government libraries in Assam.

3. ***From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha , a book by UNICEF***

   From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha — a book by UNICEF tells how to tackle problems of underweight, obesity and anaemia among children by consuming nutritious food that costs less than ₹20.

4. ***Author Harish Bhat launched his first novel, An Extreme Love Of Coffee***

   Author and chairman of Tata Coffee Ltd. Harish Bhat has launched his first fiction novel, Titled **An Extreme Love Of Coffee**, the novel mirrors the writer's own feelings about the beverage and takes the reader on a journey of romance and adventure across the globe.

5. ***Documentary film on Water Conservation released: Jal Shakti Ministry***

   Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released a short documentary film on Water Conservation- **SHIKHAR SE PUKAR'**. The film has been made to promote 'Jalshakti Abhiyan' & is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar.

News: Others

1. ***M Venkaiah Naidu releases monograph of 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam' in Chennai***

   According to Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, science has the responsibility to add values to ancient musical traditions like Mridangam and to preserve and protect the nation's cultural heritage. He released the monograph, the **Musical Excellence of Mridangam**, at a function in Chennai.

2. ***Oxford Names 'Climate Emergency' Its 2019 Word of the Year***

Oxford Dictionaries has named "climate emergency" as its 2019 Word of the Year, choosing it from an all-environmental shortlist that also included "climate action," "climate denial," "eco-anxiety," "extinction" and "flight shame."Use of term "climate emergency" increased hundredfold last year.

3. ***MHRD launched three books which are a collection of stories for children***

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched three books which are a collection of stories for children namely ,**Kumbh, Garam Pahad** and **Dilli ki Bulbul** (Sindhi edition)in New Delhi . Authored by popular writer of children's books and travelogues Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain.

Quick revision

Books	Authors/Released by
Guru Nanak Bani, Nanak Bani, and Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank & Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Monograph of the Musical Excellence of Mridangam	M. Venkaiah Naidu
Courts of India: Past to Present	CJI Ranjan Gogoi
Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul	Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain
An Extreme Love Of Coffee	Harish Bhat
From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha	UNICEF

Science & Technology

News: Most Important

1. ***IIT Delhi to set up space technology cell in collaboration with ISRO***

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi will set up a space technology cell in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization. The cell will work for carrying out focused research projects in the space technology domain with specific deliverables.

2. ***IIT-Guwahati scientists develop paper-based sensor to check milk quality at home***

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a paper-based sensor to detect the quality of milk, without the need for special equipment and instruments. It can be applied for quick onsite analysis.

3. ***CSIR-IMTECH signs MOU with IIT Bombay for collaborative research***

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh signed an MoU here today with IIT Bombay to promote collaborative research. The MoU will facilitate exchange of ideas, development of new knowledge and enhance high quality research acumen between the researchers and faculty of both the institutes.

4. ***ISRO launches India's latest earth observation satellite Cartosat-3***

ISRO launched Earth observation satellite, Cartosat-3 successfully using the rocket PSLV in its C-47 version carrying along with it 13 other customer payloads into the intended polar sun-synchronous orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

5. ***T-Hub launches Fintech Accelerator program in partnership with DST, NPCI***

T-Hub announced the launch of the Fintech Accelerator program as well as the NPCI's txnnxt hub. For this first edition of the program, T-Hub has partnered with DST (Department of Science and Technology) and NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).

6. ***IIT researchers to create 'Gandhipedia'***

IIT Gandhinagar , IIT Kharagpur and the **National Council of Science Museums** (NCSM) have joined hands to develop Gandhipedia, an online repository of books, letters and speeches written by Mahatma Gandhi, to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary. The entire project will be done with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

News: Others

1. ***IIT-Kanpur hosts start-up event Abhivyakti***

IIT-Kanpur hosted the 2nd edition of start-up event Abhivyakti. IIT-Kanpur has one of the oldest incubations & innovation ecosystems in the country-Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST).It operates under the brand name SIIC.

2. ***Arise: India's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair***

IIT-Madras in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems launched India's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair called ***Arise***. The device helps the wheelchair-bound move from a sitting to standing position, and vice-versa, independently. It will be made available at a price of around ₹15,000.

3. ***Indian Oil launches special winter-grade diesel for UT of Ladakh***

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) launched a special winter-grade diesel that remains unfrozen up to **minus 33** degree Celsius. It will help provide year-round access to snow-capped border regions and is part of India's efforts to speed up strategic road connectivity.

4. ***Tree rings can predict climate change: Asian Dendrochronology Conference***

According to the scientists at the **6th Asian Dendrochronology Conference held in Lucknow**, Reconstructions of past responses of vegetation from different ecosystems can predict the impact of climate change on weather and other environmental parameters. Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings.

5. ***Robotic surgery facility inaugurated at Centre-run Safdarjung Hospital***

According to an official statement , A robotic surgery facility has been opened for public at the Centre-run Safdarjung Hospital. Safdarjung Hospital is the first central government-run healthcare institution to have this latest facility.

Environment

News: Most Important

1. ***Newly Discovered Species of Spider Named After Sachin Tendulkar***

Dhruv Prajapati, a junior researcher with the **Gujarat Ecological Education & Research** (GEER) Foundation, discovered two new species of spiders and named one after Tendulkar and the other after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara.

2. ***Warming effect of greenhouse gases has increased by 43%: UN***

Concentration of CO_2 rose from 405.5 ppm in 2017 to **407.8** ppm in 2018. Since 1990, warming effect of greenhouse gases surged by 43%, as per WMO annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin. The increase above annual average increase of 2.06 ppm over the past decade.

3. ***Last Sumatran rhino in Malaysia has died***

The Sumatran rhinoceros has become extinct in Malaysia, after the last of the species in the country succumbed to cancer. The Wildlife Department in eastern Sabah state on Borneo island said the rhino, named Iman, died of natural causes. IRF estimates that less than 80 are alive in world.

News: Others

1. ***Inox Wind gets SECI extension to commission 550 MW wind projects***

Inox Wind has been granted extension by state-run SECI for the scheduled commissioning of 550 MW inter-state transmission system connected wind power projects in **Gujarat**. Inox Wind had successfully commissioned 200 MW Jun-Jul 2019 out of 250 MW.

2. India sets up 31,696 MW solar power generation capacity

According to government, total 31,696 Mega Watt (MW) of grid connected solar power generation capacity has been set up in the country till October 2019. The government's target is to install 1,00,000 MW grid connected solar power capacity by December 2022.

Apps & Portals

News: Most Important

1. Santosh Gangwar Launches 3 Apps

Minister of State (I/C) for Labour & Employment Santosh Gangwar launched 3 Apps: Universal Account Number Registration, E-Inspection & Digi Locker- developed by EPFO at its 67th Foundation Day. Apps will enhance the Ease of Doing Business & promote transparency in the working in the EPFO.

2. UP govt launches e-Ganna app, web portal

UP government launched a dedicated web portal and a mobile application, **e-Ganna App**, for sugarcane farmers of the state. Cane supply slip will now be issued to the farmers by sugar mills online. It help in eradicating cane mafia and middleman.

3. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Launches 'Farmitra' App

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched mobile app 'Farmitra' catering to the specific needs of farmers. Through this app, farmers will get insurance solution along with other information & advisories which will cater to their day to day farming needs.

4. Assam Launches App named 'Sishu Suraksha'to Fight Child Trafficking

Assam launched India's first-ever dedicated mobile application named **'Sishu Suraksha'** to register complaints of child abuse and violation of child rights online. The move comes at a time when Assam is ranked among the worst performing states.

News: Others

1. Gujarat CM launches online registration portal to facilitate setting up of new MSME units

Vijay Rupani launched online registration portal to facilitate setting up of new MSME units. Waiver from approval procedure to MSME units for first 3 years had been announced. Once declaration of intent is registered certificate is issued within minutes.

2. ***Govt launches Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal***

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal, **CLAP**, in New Delhi which provides a transparent & robust real-time web-based monitoring system for credit-linked Subsidy Services, CLSS, beneficiaries.

3. ***President Kovind launched web-portal of "National Youth Parliament Scheme"***

President Ram Nath Kovind launched web-portal of National Youth Parliament Scheme i.e. available at www.nyps.mpa.gov.in. Objective of the portal is to increase the outreach of the youth parliament programme of the Ministry to hitherto untouched sections & corners of the country.

4. ***Tax dept launches web portal for exchange of information***

Tax department launched a portal that will provide information, including about procedures, related to automatic exchange of information under common reporting standard. CBDT Chairman P C Mody inaugurated the web portal on Income Tax website.

Quick Revision

App/Portal/Platform	Launched By/Developed By
Universal Account Number Registration, E-Inspection & Digi Locker	EPFO
e-Ganna App	Uttar Pradesh govt
Farmitra	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
Sishu Suraksha	Assam govt
National Youth Parliament Scheme	President Kovind
CLAP	Hardeep Singh Puri

Acquisitions & Mergers

News: Most Important

1. ***Google acquires enterprise software firm CloudSimple***

   Google has acquired CloudSimple, a leading provider of secure, high performance, dedicated environments to run VMware workloads in the Cloud, for an undisclosed sum. VMware virtualization software, which helps businesses run corporate networks and business software more efficiently.

2. ***PayPal to buy rewards platform Honey Science for $4 billion***

   PayPal Holdings Inc is to buy privately held shopping & rewards platform Honey Science Corp for USD 4 billion. The deal, for the platform that finds & applies coupon codes on popular sites will add to the PayPal's ability to help merchants deliver offers.

3. ***Airtel acqui-hires Gurugram-based startup Quikmile***

   Bharti Airtel Limited has announced that it has acqui-hired a Gurugram-based startup Quikmile for an undisclosed sum of money for working on Artificial Intelligence & the Internet of Things. Quikmile works on building technology-enabled logistics platforms.

4. ***Panasonic to sell its chip unit to Taiwan's Nuvoton for $250 million***

   Panasonic Corp is set to sell its loss-making semiconductor unit to Taiwan's Nuvoton Technology Corp for $250 million as the **Japanese electronics** giant struggles to lift its profit amid a lack of growth drivers. It sold part of the power management chip business to Japan's Rohm Co this month.

News: Others

1. ***Muthoot Finance to buy IDBI AMC***

   Muthoot Finance is set to acquire IDBI Asset Management for ₹215 crore to enter mutual fund space. The deal, which is subject to necessary regulatory approvals including markets regulator SEBI , is expected to be completed by February-end 2020.

2. ***CreditAccess Grameen to acquire Madura Micro Finance for ₹876 cr***

   Bengaluru-headquartered, Microfinance institution CreditAccess Grameen Ltd. is set to acquire 100 percent stake in Chennai-based Madura Micro Finance Ltd. in a two-step process for Rs 876 crore. Madura Micro Finance is the 11th largest NBFC-MFI.

3. *CCI approves Amazon's 49% stake acquisition in Kishore Biyani's Future Coupons*

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has finally given approval to Amazon subsidiary NV Investment Holdings' proposal to acquire about 49% stake in Future Coupons. It is under **Section 31(1)** of the Competition Act, 2002.

4. *CCI approves Adani's 23.5% stake-buy in Mumbai International Airport*

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Adani Properties' acquisition of 23.5% stake in the country's second busiest aerodrome Mumbai International Airport. Adani Properties has acquired the shares from Mauritius based Bid Services Division and ACSA Global Ltd.

Important Static and Current info-

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier BD Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Sarabananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	S.P Malik
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Devvrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Raghubar Das	Draupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Kamal Nath	Lalji Tandon
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Padmanabha Balkrishna Acharya (Add. Charge)
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Tathagata Roy
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	P S Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	RN Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V P Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang(PS Golay)	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

Complete List of Union Ministers

Union Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Varanasi, UP
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence	Lucknow, UP
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nagpur, Maharashtra
DV Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Rajya Sabha
Ram Vilas Paswan	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	NA
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Morena, M.P
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Bathinda, Punjab
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Human Resource Development	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Khunti, Jharkhand
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Amethi, UP
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Rajya Sabha(Maharashtra)
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Rajya Sabha(M.P)
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs	Rajya Sabha(Jharkhand)
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Dharwad, Karnataka
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Chandauli, UP
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Begusarai, Bihar

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