

AUGUST CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Union Cabinet has approved the increase in the number of Supreme Court's judges from 31 to 34 through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill.
 - Reason: To quickly resolve the nearly 60,000 pending cases.
2. Delhi Public Library has commenced the Mobile library bus service under its "Ghar Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak" scheme.
 - Purpose: - To provide books to the citizens of Delhi, especially to resettlement colonies, slums and rural areas.
3. India's first Rapid Rail Transit Corridor (RRTS) is being built between Delhi-Uttar Pradesh (17-km-long between Duhai-Sahibabad) and is expected to be operational by early 2023.
 - Complete Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor will be operational by 2025.
4. Union Cabinet has approved the revised Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill 2019 (revised version of the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018).
 - It will replace the Chit Fund Act, 1982.
 - The 2018 bill allows a chit to be drawn in the presence of at least 2 subscribers.
 - It proposed to increase the maximum commission of the person who manages the chit fund to 7% from 5%.
 - The 2018 Bill proposed to remove the minimum amount limit of chits at ^100, and proposed to allow the State government to set the limit of minimum amount of chit fund.
5. Cabinet has raised the subsidy of sulphur-based fertilizer to ^350/100kg from ^277 earlier under the Nutrient-based subsidy.
 - The government is expected to incur ^22,875.50 crore expenditure on total subsidy burden for nutrient-based fertilizers.
6. Cabinet approved the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, to allow 10% EWS reservation in educational institutions and government jobs alongside existing reservations.
7. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan scheme aims to enrol 150 million workers of unorganized sector in this scheme over the next 3 years.
 - The scheme was launched in February 2019.
8. NITI Aayog's Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC) have been opened up in New Delhi with a focus 484 backward districts to provide access to latest technologies for innovation to these areas.
 - India is the 3rd largest consumer of energy in the world.
 - These ACIC (opened as part of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission) aim to facilitate innovation in energy sector.
9. Andhra Pradesh has passed 'School Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission Bill, 2019' to set up a state commission to monitor the school fees and implement the Right to Education Act, 2009 in the state.

- According to 2011 Census, Andhra Pradesh has the higher number of uneducated people (due to financial burden) at 33% as compared to national average of 26%.
10. Wing Commander of Indian Air Force, Tarun Chaudhari has become the first pilot to do a wing suit skydive jump.
 - He jumped off from 8500 feet from Mi-17 helicopter on Kargil Diwas (26 July).
 11. IIT-Kharagpur and Tata Medical Centre have partnered to set up the first-of-its-kind Comprehensive Digital Archive of Cancer Imaging (CHAVI).
 - CHAVI is being opened under the National Digital Library Initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 - It will set up a data of images for cancer patients and for radio oncology (a method of controlled use of radiation to treat cancer).
 12. IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Lucknow based Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has devised a molecular framework to destroy superbugs.
 - Superbugs is a drug-resistant bacteria that is estimated to kill 10 million people across the globe by 2050.
 13. USA will incur foreign military sales worth \$670 million to support C-17 military transport aircraft of India.
 - Purpose: - To increase ability of C-17 to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) assistance in the Indo-Pacific region.
 14. According to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Chhattisgarh and Telangana processed the maximum of its solid waste as of Nov. 2018.
 - Chhattisgarh processed almost 84% of its total 601,885 metric tonne per annum (MTPA) of solid waste generated.
 - Telangana generated a total 2,690,415 MTPA and processed 73% of it.
 - Maharashtra was the top solid waste producing state with 8,22,38,050 MTPA and processed only 44% of it.
 15. UK and India launched a joint initiative- "Innovation for Clean Air" for two years to provide opportunities to various stakeholders to test interventions related to air quality and e-Vehicle integration.
 - Partners: - Indian Institute of Science- Bangalore (IISc), Confederation of Indian Industries, C40 Cities and Clean Air Platform.
 16. Ministry of Tourism is developing various areas in India into theme based tourist circuits to promote tourism under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
 - Themes of the circuit are: Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Buddhist, Tirthankar.
 - Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15 to develop theme-based tourist circuits across India.
 17. Cabinet approved the MoU signed between ISRO and Bolivian Space Agency to co-operate in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space.

18. Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and Bahrain on co-operation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space.
19. Cabinet approved to set up ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in Moscow, Russia.
 - It will enable ISRO to collaborate with Space agencies in Russia and neighbouring countries.
 - It is the 3rd unit, previous two units were established in (Washington) USA and (Paris) France.
20. For the first time, the 22nd edition of National Conference on e-Governance 2019 will be held in North-eastern India (in Shillong, Meghalaya).
 - Theme: - 'Digital India: Success to Excellence'.
 - Organizer: - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Meghalaya Government and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.
 - 'Shillong Declaration on e-Governance' has been adopted at the conference to make e-Governance facilities available to each and every citizens of India.
 - Central and State Governments would collaborate to improve the implementation of India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA) to enhance citizens' experience in govt. services.
21. Tamil Nadu has received the Rs 6.22 crore from Centre under the Silk Samagra program for the development of its silk industry.
 - It currently produces 2,072 metric tons of silk as of March 2019.
22. Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India 2018 report recently released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) mentions that 5 tiger reserves in Karnataka have an overall score of 80.47.
 - The report which ranks tiger reserves on various parameters, claims that major improvements were seen in Kali and Bhadra tiger reserves (Karnataka).
 - It is a 10% increase from the MEE evaluation in 2014 which indicates "better protection status" of the reserves.
23. Maharashtra has launched the first-of-its-kind "Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System" (AMBIS) to help police investigations.
 - Function: - It is an upgraded version of Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which includes iris detection along with fingerprint.
 - It detects criminals based on the available biometric data as well as accidental finger/palm-prints collected from crime scenes.
24. IIT-Kanpur has developed the world's first robot hand (with two-fingers) to help the patients of stroke and paralysis.
 - The project was approved by Ministry of Human Resource Department, in collaboration with British Council in 2018.
 - Prof. Ashish Dutta and K S Venkatesh (IIT-Kanpur) partnered with Prof. Girijesh Prasad (University of Ulster, UK) to develop this product.
25. One Nation One Ration Card scheme has been launched in 4 states namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat on the pilot basis.
 - It is expected to be extended to whole India by 2020.



26. Water Stress Index, released by Verisk Maplecroft, mentions that India is at the 46th position as a water stress country in the world.
- Parameters: - Water consumption rates of households, industries and agriculture, available water resources, and population burden on water.
 - 11 cities out of India's 20 largest cities are facing an 'extreme risk' of water stress.
 - India is considered as a 'high risk' country in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index.
 - USA is the top waste producing nation and recycles the minimum portion of it.
27. Ministry of Culture has included Nepali and Santhali for the 'Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artistes in the Fields of Culture' in the sub-field of Literature.
- Nepali and Santhali languages are among the 22 official languages of India mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
28. Ministry of Human Resource Development has inaugurated 'Indian Air force Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion' in National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi.
29. Department of Revenue under Ministry of Finance, will conduct 1st National Time Release Study (TRS) to allow faster movement of cargo across borders to benefit traders.
- World Customs Organization uses TRS to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
30. IIT-Kharagpur has developed a Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) technology to generate energy from solid waste with high moisture content.
31. PM Narendra Modi attended his 30th interaction through PRAGATI (a multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation).
- PM reviews the progress made under various schemes including Saugamya Bharat Abhiyan. PRAGATI is an interactive platform (developed by PMO team with the help of National Informatics Center) launched by PM Modi in 2015. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (under Ministry of Social Justice) has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) in 2015 to achieve universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.
32. A report titled as "Building Better Courts (Surveying the Infrastructure of India's District Courts)" released by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and Tata Trust, mentions that Delhi is at the top position in terms of infrastructure with 90% score.
33. Bureau of Indian Standards, in association with lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), will set up "Pashmina Testing Centre" in Leh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Aim: - To set BIS standards for Pashmina and check quality of Pashmina.
34. "Save Green, Stay Clean" campaign was launched in West Bengal to raise awareness about planting trees.
- Tree cover has been increased to 19% from 11% in past 8 years.
35. Indian Army and Energy Efficiency Service Ltd. have signed an MoU to employ more e- cars for the use of Army personnel in New Delhi, to give a boost to the e-vehicles.

36. For the first time, two TB vaccines- IMMUVAC and VPM1002 are being tested on a large scale by Indian Medical Council Research.
- It will be first done in 12,000 households in Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka states.
37. Maharashtra will develop the world's first fastest Hyperloop to connect Mumbai with Pune at a cost of \$10 billion.
- Hyperloop = It is a proposed mode of passenger or freight transportation through which a pod may travel free of air resistance or friction at high speed.
38. 15th India-US Defence Policy Group meeting 2019 was held in Washington, USA.
- Agenda: - To promote co-operation between defence industry and start-ups.
39. Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance Containment (MPSAP- ARC) has been released to fight antimicrobial resistance in the state.
- MP is the 2nd state (after Kerala) to release an action plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance.
40. Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Agriculture have together launched a mobile app - "Meghdoot" (in vernacular language) to provide climate related guidance to farmers.
- App Developers: - India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
 - It will be launched in 150 districts initially and will be extended to whole India later on.
 - Also, IMD has developed new website to provide weather and climate information.
41. Microsoft India and Apollo Hospitals Group have partnered to set up the National Clinical Coordination Committee (NCCC).
- Function: - NCCC will advise on the effective use of Artificial Intelligence in cardiovascular treatment.
 - AI-powered Cardiovascular Disease Risk Score API (application program interface) will be built on Microsoft Azure to predict the risk of disease.
 - Aim: - To reduce Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and attain WHO's target of reducing the risk of premature deaths (between 30 to 69 years of age) from NCD by 25%, by 2025.
42. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the 'Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile' from Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
43. ISRO will build the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Peenya, Bengaluru.
- Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM) would be the priority of this centre to protect the Indian space assets from collision with inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, or any other space debris.
44. IIT-Delhi has showcased its innovative projects (supported under the Uchhtar Avishar Yojana and IMPRINT schemes of Ministry of Human Resource Development) at the TechEx.
45. "Economic Valuation of Tiger Reserves in India: A Value+ Approach" Phase- II (2016-19) report has been released by National Tiger Conservation Authority.



- Aim:- To highlight the economic value of tiger of conservation to humans.
- Authors: - Centre for Ecological Services Management at the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Findings: - The total monetary valuation of these 10 tiger reserves range between Rs. 5094.91 crore to 16202.11 crore annually.
- Reserves: - 10 tiger reserves were surveyed in Phase II which include:

46. Parliament has passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill 2019 to revoke the Article 370 and Article 35(A).

- It also seeks to form two new Union Territories (one- J&K with legislature and second- Ladakh without legislature).
- Article 370 was enacted in 1954 and Article 35A was added to the Constitution through a Presidential Order- The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954.
- Article 370 (under Part XXI of the Constitution): - defines that state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians.
- Article 35A (also known as Permanent Residents Law): - defines the permanent resident of the Jammu and Kashmir. It bars any person from outside J&K from acquiring property in the state.

47. Rajya Sabha has passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019, which seeks to give power to government to frame laws to regulate the cab aggregators in India.

- The bill, for the first time, recognized cab aggregators (like Uber and Ola) as a separate entity as digital intermediaries or marketplaces which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation.
- The bill allows taxi aggregators to obtain licence from state government as it is a state subject.
- Cab aggregators will also have to comply with Information Technology Act, 2000.

48. According to Global Witness's (human rights watchdog) report, at least 164 land and environmental activists were murdered in 2018 (207 deaths in 2017).

- Philippines (30 murders) became the most dangerous place for activists and indigenous communities, by overtaking Brazil.
- India witnessed 23 deaths related to environmental activism in 2018 with the biggest single massacre in Tamil Nadu (murdered 13 people) after protesting the environmental impact of a copper mine.
- Guatemala recorded the sharpest rise, with 16 deaths in 2018, roughly 5X more than 2017.

49. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has decided to launch 200 projects worth Rs 3,000 crore for development of North-East Region.

50. Ministry of Environment has approved the Kosi-Mechi Interlinking project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar at a cost of Rs 4,900 crore.

- The first major river interlinking project- Ken-Betwa project- of India has been initiated in Madhya Pradesh.
- Functions: - It will divert surplus water of Kosi river to Mechi River (a tributary of Mahananda river) of Mahananda basin.

51. India's 1st 3-D smart traffic signal - 'Intelights' (having a wireless sensor system) has been installed at the traffic crossing near Quark City in Mohali, Chandigarh, Punjab.
- It has been designed by start-up - Anukai Solutions.
52. President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Guinea, Benin and Gambia (all West African nations).
- Budget 2019: - India will launch 18 new missions across Africa.
53. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has exempted armoured and specialized vehicles of armed and paramilitary forces from adhering to BS-VI norms w.e.f. April 2020.
54. Ministry of Environment has proposed a draft 'National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019' which aims to use of natural resources efficiently with minimum negative impact on environment.
55. Rajasthan has launched a new higher education model named as Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE.
- Purpose: - It will enable the distribution of faculty teachers and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level.
 - It will benefit the colleges which lack infrastructure and face the deficit in teacher availability.
56. Ministry of Environment has unveiled the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which is part of a World Bank-funded project.
- Aim: - To effectively manage the infrastructure plans on the coastal zones and to enhance the coast resource efficiency and resilience.
 - Till now, only 3 coastal States - Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal - have prepared Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans with support from the World Bank.
57. 3rd edition of ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) - India's largest education brainstorming event will be hosted by Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- Theme: - 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'.
58. Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli district) has got the 'Geographical Indication' tag for producing Pathamadai Silk Mat.
59. IIT- Guwahati (research team led by Parameswar K Iyer and Siddhartha S Ghosh) has developed a low-cost, hand-held device to detect bacteria without indulging in time consuming cell culture and microbiological assays.
- The study has been published in the Journal of Materials Chemistry of Royal Society of Chemistry.
 - The device has an Organic Field Effect Transistor (OFET) which is an electronic device that works on the principle that a bacteria has electric charges on its surface, which is registered and read by OFET.
60. Budget 2019: - 10,000 new farmer producer organisations (FPOs) will be created in the next five years to strengthen farmers.
- A study published by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) emphasized on to encourage these FPOs to directly trade in the commodities futures market to eliminate the need of middlemen.

- With this, farmers could make their cropping decisions based on next year's prices rather than last year's rates and can trade on National Commodity and Derivates Exchange (NCDEX).
 - NCDEX is an online commodity Exchange on the nation-level to provide a commodity Exchange platform to trade in a wide spectrum of commodity derivatives.
61. Andhra Pradesh's Police Department has launched the "Cyber Mithra" program aimed at ensuring women safety and help the victims of cyber-crime.
- As part of this, women can register complaints through toll-free helplines and a WhatsApp number.
 - A Facebook page 'AP Police Women Safety Cyber Space' has also been launched.
62. National Deworming initiative had been launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2018 to provide quality healthcare to more than 32 crore children.
- Purpose: - To make high quality healthcare accessible to every child and up to the last mile.
 - National Deworming Day is being observed on February 10 and August 10 each year since 2015 to administer albendazole vaccine to children from 1-19 years of age group in schools and Anganwadi centres.
63. Ministry of Health has released the Report Card on "Breastfeeding & Infant & Child feeding Practices" which mentions that Manipur is the top state in terms of breastfeeding practises in India.
- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.
 - Parameters: - 3 indicators are early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.
64. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) - which will be fitted into BrahMos missile- and a Software Defined Radio.
- SDR has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Bharat Electronics Ltd. and Navy's Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment.
 - DAC has also approved amendments to the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), 2016, to improve the ease of business.
65. New changes proposed under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provides for treatment of money laundering as a 'stand-alone crime' and gives more power to Enforcement Directorate to conduct investigation.
66. IIT-Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) have partnered for developing turbines to generate electricity through ocean waves.
- The project is being funded by Ministry of Earth Sciences.
67. UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) have partnered to develop a skill development program for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
- It is a part of the ongoing MNRE-GEF-UNIDO project jointly implemented by UNIDO.
 - MNRE-GEF-UNIDO stands for Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - Global Environment Friendly - United Nations Industrial Development Organization.
68. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched the e-version of Rozgar Samachar (newspaper) to create awareness about new jobs in government sector.

- Employment News/Rozgar Samachar paper (launched in 1976) is published by Ministry of I&B.
69. MoU signed between Uttar Pradesh government and Netherlands have been for another 5 years till 2024.
70. India (total 46 countries signed it) has signed the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation.
- The treaty provides a uniform framework for enforcing international settlement agreements which results from mediation and it will boost ease of doing business in India.
 - It will assure foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution.
71. A 12-member committee, headed by Justice Mukundakam Sharma, has been formed to select the awardees of: -
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award (award for sports coaches), Dhyan Chand Award (lifetime achievement), Rashtriya Khel Protsahan, & National Sports Awards.
72. India's 1st underwater train (16-km long) will be launched under Hooghly river in Kolkata, West Bengal.
73. Ministry of Human Resource and Development has launched the Samagra Siksha - Jal Suraksha drive to create awareness among school students about water conservation.
- Target: - To save 3,650 litres of water in 10 years (1 ltr. in 1 day) with the help of school students.
74. University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to use Swedish software- 'Urkund' (free of cost) for detecting plagiarism in the thesis of Ph.D. students.
- It will be used by 900 universities (public and private). Earlier, Turnitin software was used by UGC.
75. 'Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme', under the notation AQ series, has been launched, for the year 2019, to discourage people from investing/transacting with 'suspicious' NBFCs.
- Under the scheme, an incentive (cash prize) will be given to encourage the habit of savings in people.
76. Odisha has released the Agriculture Policy 2019 draft to strengthen farmers with a special focus on landless labourers in the state.
- Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme, launched in 2018-19, aims to provide financial aid of ^25,000 per farm family over 5 seasons to small and marginal farmers for purchase of inputs.
77. Uttar Pradesh has made the world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in 1 day on 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement (started on 8 August 1942).
- UP has entered into the Guinness World Records' for simultaneously distributing 76,823 saplings in just 6 hours across the state.
78. Digi Vyapari- Safal Vyapari initiative has been launched by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) along with HDFC Bank, Mastercard, Common Service Centres and Global Linkers.

- Purpose: - To promote digital payments among merchants by integrating the traders on the e-commerce platform by creating a digital showroom for each of them.
79. Jharkhand has launched the Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana (a direct benefit transfer scheme) to provide financial assistance of Rs 5,000-25,000 to farmers having less than 1 acre to 5 acres of land (5,000 to 1 acre; 10,000 to 2 acre so on).
- It aims to benefit approx. 35 lakh farmers and Rs 3000 crore will be deposited into beneficiaries' account by September-October.
80. Ministry of Agriculture is planning to launch a "Uber for tractors" app to facilitate hiring of farm equipment on rent easily.
- Currently, there are more than 38,000 custom hiring centres which rent out 2.5 lakh pieces of farm equipment every year.
81. Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake located in Katihar district of Bihar, has been declared as state's 1st 'Community Reserve'.
- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and Ganga in the south and east.
 - It has become the 15th Protected Area in Bihar with more than 90 bird species (including 30 migratory birds) are found on this site.
82. Central Govt., Tripura State Govt. and National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) to surrender 88 cadets of the NLFT (a terror outfit).
- Surrendered cadets would get benefits under Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme, 2018 of Ministry of Home Affairs.
83. India and Bangladesh set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilization of Ganges water (received by Bangladesh) under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.
- A framework for temporary water-sharing agreement for 8 rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta has been prepared.
 - Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-basin is the world's 2nd largest hydraulic region.
 - Hydraulic Region:- Hydraulics is a mechanical function that uses liquid pressure to create force that is applied at one point and is transmitted to another point
84. Ministry of Defence has extended the benefits of Child Care Leave to single male service personnel along with woman officers for taking care of child with 40% disability (without any restriction of age limit of child).
- Minimum period of CCL that can be availed in each case has been reduced to 5 days from earlier limit of 15 days.
85. A research published in the 'Lancet Global Health' shows that 1/3rd of the Indians suffered severe lung damage after successful treatment of TB.
- A total of 2,000 Indian patients of TB were assessed and the result shows that lung infections has caused failure of 40% of the patients' lung capacity in most cases.
 - The study was conducted by University of Dundee (Scotland) and Respiratory Research Network of India and funded by British Lung Foundation and European Respiratory Society.

86. Virasat-e-Khalsa museum located in Punjab has created a record for having highest visitors in a day at 20,569 on 20 March, 2019.
- It will be included in the Asia Book of Records as the most visited museum in Asian sub-continent on a single day.
87. Central Government is planning to cover Cancer treatment into Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- According to World Health Organization, cancer is the second-most common disease in India with a high mortality rate of about 0.3 million deaths per year.
 - As per Government's data, an estimated 2.25 million people are suffering from the disease, with over 11 lakh new cancer patients being registered each year.
 - In 2018, total 7,84,821 (Men: 4,13,519; Women: 3,71,302) deaths were caused due to Cancer.
88. ISRO launched "Space on Wheels" exhibition inside the bus along with commemorative coins, a Coffee Table Book and a photo album on the life and work of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Sarabhai (founder of ISRO).
- ISRO has launched for an year- long programme across 100 selected cities.
89. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to extend Rotavirus vaccine to all states and UTs by September 2019 to achieve the target of ending diarrhoea in children by 2022.
- The rotavirus vaccine was recommended by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), in the Universal Immunization Programme(UIP).
90. Ministry of Health has re-initiated the process of amending the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003.
- Amendments Proposed: Ban on the sale of loose cigarettes and heavy fines on violation of rules.
 - Aim: - To effectively implement WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
91. Census 2011: - Out of the total domestic migrants (moved for employment purposes), only 63% have got the full time work, 25% were part-time workers and 12% were unemployed.
92. Bar Council of India (BCI) has declared a 3-years moratorium (temporary prohibition of an activity) for establishing new law universities (except National Law University).
- BCI has also mandated to improve faculty and infrastructure of law universities and the universities with poor infrastructure and faculty will be shut.
 - BCI was established under the Advocates Act, 1961.
93. Indian Army has launched 'Mission Reach Out' to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in J&K after the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A by passing the 'J&K Reorganization Bill'.
- A high level 'Mission Reach Out' conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station.
94. India's first-of-its-kind clinical ecotoxicology facility has been launched at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.
- Purpose: - It will diagnose the diseases caused by environmental toxins which contaminate water, food and air.

- Ecotoxicology refers to the branch of science that deals with the nature, effects, and interactions of substances that are harmful to the environment and ecological entities such as population.
95. Madhya Pradesh has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Madad Yojana' to provide help the tribal families in the event of birth or death of a family member.
- Upon the birth, 50 kg of rice or wheat will be given and in the event of death 100 kg of rice or wheat along with utensils for cooking food would be given.
 - 40 Eklavya Schools would be set up in tribal areas to provide quality education.
96. Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation has entered into the Champions Book of World Records for making the longest (15-km) Tricolor flag by forming a human chain from Raipur ,Chhattisgarh.
97. Delimitation Committee has begun the process of delimiting the constituencies in J&K after the J&K Reorganization Bill has increased the number of seats to 114 from 107.
- The committee is headed by Justice Kuldip Singh.
 - Delimiting will be done on the basis of Census 2011.
 - Delimitation Commission (established under the provisions of Delimitation Act, 2002): - The main task of the commission is to redraw the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
98. India-Russia Cooperation in the Russian Far East forum was held in Vladivostok, Russia. (5th edition of Eastern Economic Forum will also be held here in Sept).
- India and Russia have set a target to upscale bilateral trade between them to \$30 billion by 2025 as compared to the \$8.3 billion trade in 2018-19.
99. A high level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), headed by Injeti Srinivas, has recommended Ministry of Finance to align schedule 7 of Companies Act 2013 with Sustainable Development Goals.
- Schedule 7 describes the kinds of activities that qualify as CSR.
 - It also recommended to make CSR expenditure tax deductible. Indian companies spend approx. Rs.15,000 crore a year on CSR.
 - Companies having CSR-prescribed amount below ^50 lakh may be exempted from forming a CSR Committee.
 - Companies should be given 3-5 years to use up funds meant for ongoing CSR projects before unspent amount is compulsorily transferred to the designated state fund.
 - It has also suggested to create "green channel" for quicker clearance for Mergers & Acquisitions deals.
100. According to Ministry of Health data, 57.3% of personnel practising allopathic medicine do not have a medical qualification at present.
- India has a poor doctor-population ratio of 1:1456 against the World Health Organisation standards of 1:1000.
 - Section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, prohibits a person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State.
 - A total of 11,46,044 allopathic doctors were registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on December 31, 2018.

101. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 5th edition of Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, an AI-enabled 'mSBM app' and 'Swachh Nagar' (a waste management app).

- Apart from this, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit was also launched to ensure that no untreated waste-water is released into the environment.
- mSBM app has been developed by National Informatics Centre.
- A song (sung by Kailash Kher and Monali Thakur) featuring Kangana Ranaut has also been released on the theme of "Swachhta Adhikar Hai".

102. According to Department of Agricultural Research and Education data, stubble burning incidents have been reduced by 41% in 2018 under the 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi' scheme (launched in 2018).

- More than 4500 villages of Punjab and Haryana were declared as Zero Stubble Burning Villages during 2018.
- The scheme's budget is Rs.1151.80 Crores. Happy Seeder or Zero Tillage Technology was adopted in 8 lakh hectares of land in North- Western States of India.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the implementing agency for this scheme.

103. Government has made wearing of helmets by children above 4 years of age under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019.

- Section 129 of the original Motor Vehicles Act 1988 has been replaced with the amendment mentioning that: -
"Every person above four years or age, driving or riding or being carried on a motorcycle of any class or description shall, while in public place wear protective headgear conforming to such standards as may be prescribed by the Central Government".

104. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had announced price ceiling on orthopaedic knee implants in 2017 so that their cost does not increase beyond 10% in a given year.

- NPPA (estb. in 1997 under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) controls the prices of essential medical drugs and enforces the Drugs Prices Control Order (issued by Govt. under Essential Commodities Act).
- Sales of knee implants has been increased by 30% during the period of July, 2018 to June, 2019 due to affordable cost.

105. Western Ghats Ecological Expert Panel (known as Gadgil Commission), headed by Madhav Gadgil (formed in 2010 by Environment Ministry) suggested that the large- scale cultivation of single commercial crops on steep slopes (which is leading to soil erosion and increased run-off) should be shifted.

- It also suggested to control massive encroachment and deforestation in the catchment areas of major rivers.
- It recommended issuing a moratorium on ongoing projects of dams and mines that can impact water resources, until a Western Ghats Ecology Authority was set up to decide whether to allow them to progress or not.

106. Karnataka has launched "E-Step" initiative to empower student start-ups as part of the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS).

- Under the initiative, students/startups/entrepreneurs will be trained about the basics of entrepreneurship.
107. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) has launched 5th Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) named Kanaklata Barua for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Kolkata.
- This is the last FPV of the 5- FPV series to be built by GRSE for ICG.
 - First FPV developed by GRSE is ICGS Priyadarshini (commissioned in March 2019).
108. President of India has approved the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA) Bill, 2019 under which individuals can be declared as terrorists, if they are found to be linked with terrorist.
- Their properties will be seized and travel ban can be imposed upon them once they are declared as terrorists.
109. Global Investors Summit 2019 will be held in Srinagar, J&K.
- Purpose: - To attract investment to J&K.
 - Organizer: - Confederation of Indian Industries and J&K Trade Promotion Organisation.
110. Naval Air Enclave (NAE) -a naval aviation facility in Kochi- has signed an MoU with Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL) to start Naval air operations from the airport.
111. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan will now focus on solid and liquid waste management.
- Also, Swachhta Survekshan (SS) Grameen Phase-2 of 2019 has been launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - SS-2019 has covered 4,237 cities and Indore was ranked the most cleanest city and Bhopal- was ranked as the cleanest capital.
112. Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched 'Operation Number Plate' to verify and curb the unauthorised parking in the railway premises.
113. National Green Tribunal has asked the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to reduce the timeline for National Clean Air Program (NCAP).
- NCAP (launched in Jan 2019) aims to reduce the air pollution by 20-30% by 2024.
114. According to Indian Readership Survey 2019 Q2 (released by Media Research Users Council), Hindustan Times is the top read English newspaper in major markets of India with 3,50,000 issues.
- Mint is the 2nd most read paper in major markets with 3,10,000 issues.
115. PM Narendra Modi has announced to create a new post- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)- to bring efficiency in the operation of Defence forces.
- Functions of CDS: - CDS will be the head of the all three forces and supervise their operations for optimum utilization of resources.
 - Besides, the government will invest Rs 100 Trillion in infrastructure building.
 - Govt. will spend Rs 3.5 Trillion in the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure safe drinking water to all households by 2024.
116. Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh has dedicated the 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi'- a memorial and museum being built in Kartarpur, to the victims of Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

117. DRDO has selected 154.42 hectares of forest land (major part in Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary) for setting up a missile test launch facility at Gullalamoda village in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.
- An equivalent area (154.42 ha) of mangrove and mudflat adjacent to the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary would be included in the sanctuary.
118. Article 371H of the Constitution provides the special status to Arunachal Pradesh.
- Article 371F gives special status to Sikkim.
119. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel has announced to convert the Lemru forest area in Korba district into an "Elephant Reserve" to reduce the human-animal conflict.
- Besides, the reservations for OBCs and SCs have been increased to 27% and 13% respectively (earlier it was 14% for OBCs and 12% for SCs). For ST the quota is same at 32%.
 - A new district - named as "Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi" - will be created out of the existing Bilaspur, taking the total number of districts to 28.
120. Five female wild buffaloes will be transferred from Assam's Manas National Park to Chhattisgarh's Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Global population of wildlife buffaloes is approx. 3,400 out of which an estimated 3,100 (91%) live in Assam.
121. Andhra Pradesh has launched the 'Grama and Ward Volunteering System' to provide corruption-free governance, transparent and efficient delivery of welfare scheme to the every citizen.
122. India's first museum dedicated to postal communication in India has been set up at the Museum Road, Bengaluru which stores all the old-age postal stamps, phone models etc.
123. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Minister of External Affairs) has signed 4 MoUs with China to organize 100 activities in coming months during his visit to Beijing, China.
- 2nd Meeting of Indo-China High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges Held in Beijing, China.
 - Jaishankar also inaugurated the 4th India-China Media Forum 2019 in Beijing.
124. Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Tata Educational and Development Trust will build the 'Indian Institute of Skills' in Mumbai on a Public- Private Partnership basis to provide both modern and traditional skills to people.
- Government is also planning to set up two more institutes in Ahmedabad and Kanpur.
 - 7 candidates have been selected from Maharashtra in the 45th WorldSkills 2019 (known as Olympics of Skills) to be held in Kazan, Russia in August 2019.
125. IIT-Hyderabad and Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (Punjab) researchers have developed a process for producing synthesized bone implant materials from waste eggshells.
- The study was published in the journal Ceramics International.
126. Japanese Ship, JS Sazanami (Commander Shoji Ishkawa) has visited Kochi, Kerala on a 2-day goodwill visit.
- JS Sazanami will depart for Bahrain from here.

127. Ministry of Railways has launched CORAS (Commandos For Railway Security), a special unit of Commandos for the Railways Protection Force to strengthen security of railways.
- Ministry will set up a commando training centre in Haryana to train these commandos.
128. PM Narendra Modi has been declared as the new chairman of the reconstituted Inter-State Council.
- Article 263 of the Constitution mandates to establish an Inter-State Council to resolve the inter-state disputes and discuss issues of common interests of states.
 - Standing committee of the Inter-State Council, headed by Amit Shah, aims to provide assistance to the council.
129. Palani Panchamirtham (given as 'prasadam') at Murugan temple in Palani, Tamil Nadu has been given the Geographical Indication tag.
- It is the first 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu to get the GI tag.
130. India's first space museum has been inaugurated at B M Birla Science Centre in Hyderabad by ISRO and B M Birla Science Centre.
131. Ministry of Textiles has signed MoU with 16 states out of 18 selected states for developing skills of about 4 lakh workers under the 'SAMARTH' (technical name is Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector- SCBTS).
- Two states- J&K and Odisha did not sign MoU.
 - SAMARTH is a skill development scheme of Ministry of Textiles, launched in 2017. It aims to train 10 lakh persons over 3 years (2017-20) at a budget of Rs. 1300 crore.
132. India has granted \$1 million to United Nation Special Purpose Trust Fund (UN-SPTF) for Resident Coordinator System.
- UN-SPTF is a specific fund established by UN Secretariat to manage all contributions as well as financial transactions of Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective manner.
133. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting released a song titled Watan on the occasion of Independence Day 2019.
- Singer: - Javed Ali.
 - Lyricist:- Alok Shrivastav and Music Composer:- Dushyant.
 - Producer: - Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati.
134. Tamil Nadu will trifurcate (divide into three districts) its Vellore district to carve out two new districts namely Ranipet and Tirupattur.
- After trifurcation, total districts in Tamil Nadu would be 37.
135. Air India has become the first Indian airline to operate a commercial flight- Boeing 777 aircraft (Delhi to San Francisco) over the zero degrees North Pole flights overflying polar region.
136. World's first museum dedicated to the life of saint of 16th century Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has been inaugurated in Kolkata, West Bengal.
137. Indian Navy's multilateral exercise 'Milan' 2020 will be held at Visakhapatnam for the first time.

- Milan has always been conducted from Andaman and Nicobar since its inception in 1995 until last year.
138. Assam's first-ever CNG-fuel station has been inaugurated at Dibrugarh, Assam.
139. India has become the first nation in the world to develop a National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)- prepared by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- Purpose: - To regulate all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD) under regulatory provisions of the Medical Device Rules, 2017.
 - In India, diagnostics follow a framework based on Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945.
 - NEDL will help govt. to assess the different types of diagnostics required to be made available in the country.
 - WHO had released the first Essential Diagnostics List in 2018.
140. Mizoram has been granted GI tag for Tawlhlohpuan (a woven fabric) and Mizo Puanchei (a colourful Mizo shawl) and Kerala got the GI tag for Tirur betel vine from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
141. Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain will begin the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 (their annual bilateral exercise) at the English Channel, UK.
- INS Tarkash and UK's HMS Destroyers will participate in it.
142. Ministry of Defence has formed a 12-member committee, headed by Apurva Chandra, the Director-General (Acquisitions) to review the Defence procurement procedure.
- Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009 will be reviewed by the committee.
 - DPP 2006 contains policies for procurement/acquisition of services or goods for Defence from the capital budget of the Defence Ministry.
 - DPM 2009 contains principles & procedures for procurement of goods and services for the Defence Services, organisations and establishments.
143. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched a Hackathon called "San-Sadhan" to sensitize and develop the PwD accessible toilets people under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- According to Census 2011, approx. 2.68 crore are Persons with Disabilities (PwD).
 - Rights for PwD Act, 2016 mandates for universal access of PwD at public premises.
144. 2nd meeting of the High Powered Committee of Chief Ministers, headed by Devendra Fadnavis, has decided to impose Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in emergency cases such as famine and war only (where the prices rise by over 50% of market rates).
145. 40 participants from 9 countries have participated in the 54th edition of Know India Programme (KIP).
- KIP is a 25-day orientation program, launched in 2004, organized by Ministry of External Affairs to acquaint Indian diasporic youth with Indian culture etc.
146. India has granted Rs 400 crore to Bhutan for promoting its exports.

- In 2018, India has provided Rs 5,000 crore to Bhutan to support its 12th five-year plan.
147. Odisha Wetland Authority has approved a plan at an estimated investment of Rs.180 crore for conservation of Chilika Lake (India's largest brackish water lagoon) and Ansupa Lake (State's largest freshwater lake).
148. For the first time in India, aluminium coaches will be installed in the metros (total 102 coaches will be fitted in Pune Metro Project).
- The order for manufacturing of the these coaches has been given to a consortium formed by Kolkata-based wagon manufacturer Titagarh Wagons with its wholly- owned subsidiary Titagarh Firema SPA.
149. Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) has launched a campaign - 'Save The Uterus' to sensitize its members (total 40,000 doctors) about the ill-effects of hysterectomy and various ways to prevent it.
- Hysterectomy is the surgery to remove all parts of uterus.
150. Manipur has launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme to improve overall infrastructure and to provide quality education in the government schools.
- 1 Higher Secondary School from each of the 60 Assembly constituencies will be selected under the phase-1 of the scheme.
151. IIT-Madras has developed a new Robotic hand called "GraspMan" which has similar abilities to human hand.
152. 'Hazratganj Chauraha' in Lucknow, UP has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' to commemorate the first death anniversary of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- A memorial for Vajpayee named as "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built.
153. Ministry of Civil Aviation has formed a panel to review the additional taxes that airlines have to pay while uplifting Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) from airports across India.
- Ministry is planning to implement a direct billing mechanism between airline companies and airport operators to remove the multiple taxes such as 'throughput charges', 'into plane charges' and 'fuel infrastructure charges'.
 - Direct billing can annually save up to Rs 400 crores of airlines as ATF currently accounts for 40% of their total expenditure.
154. Ministry of Human Resource Development will launch the world's largest teacher training program called NISHTHA (National Initiative on School Teachers Head Holistic Advancement) in August 22 to train over 42 lakh teachers.
- International Conference titled "Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global", held in New Delhi, was organized by National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of the silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995.
155. Supreme Court has upheld the validity of an amendment to the Section 7 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) which gives homebuyers the status of a financial creditor.
- According to SC, Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act must be in harmony with IBC and Consumer Protection Act (CPA) to safeguard interests of homebuyers.

- Implication: - Now, an aggrieved homebuyer can seek relief under three laws—Rera, CPA and IBC.
156. PM Modi (India), Australia and Spain have been invited as special partners for the 45th edition of G7 Summit 2019 to be held in Biarritz, France.
- Agenda: - Economy, foreign policy, environment, with a specific focus on tackling inequalities.
157. Ministry of Home Affairs has fixed the retirement age of all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years.
158. A report by Greenpeace (NGO) "Global SO2 emission hotspot database: Ranking the world's worst sources of SO2 pollution" shows that India is the top emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO2).
- NASA's Ozone Monitoring Instrument satellite has tracked that India has more than 15% of all the SO2 hotspots.
 - Writer of report: - Sunil Dahiya and Lauri Myllyvirta.
 - The largest SO2 emission hotspots are found in Russia, South Africa, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Serbia.
159. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is drafting the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 2019 to amend the MTP Act, 1971.
160. PM Modi, during his visit to Bhutan, has inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan (built with Indian assistance), which will export its surplus electricity to India.
- MoU signed for Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network to utilize South Asia Satellite in Bhutan to be developed with ISRO's assistance.
 - The currency swap limit for Bhutan has been increased under the SAARC currency swap framework. An additional \$100 million will be available to Bhutan under a standby swap arrangement to meet its foreign exchange requirement.
 - PM launched RuPay Card in Bhutan.
161. Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) will launch a new scheme called "Supra" (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) to fund science research projects.
- High Risk-High Reward (HRHR) Research scheme, launched in 2017 by SERB, was similar to Supra and now it has been withdrawn.
 - SERB operates under the Department of Science and Technology.
162. India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to boost research and innovations in the chemical industry.
- Also, Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) will be set up in Valsad, Gujarat, at a cost of Rs 54 crore, to benefit tribal students and plastic industry.
163. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative in 2018.
- Purpose: - To set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

164. Academy of Maharashtra Research, Upliftment and Training (AMRUT) will be set up in Maharashtra for the upliftment of general category people belonging to EWS quota.
- AMRUT will be an autonomous institution similar to BARTI, SARTHI and MAHAJYOTI located in Maharashtra.
 - In Maharashtra, Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) works for SC, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) works for Maratha and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Research and Training Institute (MAHAJYOTI) work for OBCs.
165. Karnataka has implemented Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2019 (an amendment to 2015 rules) to classify Nicotine as "Class A poison" to strengthen the ban on electronic cigarettes.
- High Powered Committee on Tobacco Control, headed Vandita Sharma, recommended the ban on e-cigarettes.
166. Prasar Bharti will introduce two new awards- 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' and 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in commemoration of Late Neelum Sharma (anchor of DD News).
167. National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) has signed a MoU with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to achieve the objective of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (NSM) through training, skill development and capacity building programmes launched by NISE.
- NSM was launched in 2010, as part of National Action Plan on Climate Change (launched in 2008) to generate 20 GW of solar power by 2022, which was increased to 100 GW later on.
168. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has designed the Mobile Metallic Ramp for Indian Army.
- Purpose: - For provide strategic mobility of armoured and mechanised units of Army.
169. Amazon (HQ- USA) has opened its largest ever, in the world, office building in Hyderabad, Telangana.
170. Ministry of Defence has approved to create two new vigilance cells -one for corruption and the other for human rights violations- in the Army headquarters in New Delhi.
- Vigilance Cell on Corruption will be headed by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).
 - Vigilance Cell on Human Rights will be headed by Additional Director General (who will be subordinate to Vice Chief of Army Staff).
171. A study conducted by NGO Udayan Care (supported by TATA Trusts and UNICEF) in Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan shows that 40% of children who leave shelter homes after turning 18 are unable to complete schooling.
- 50% of them, did not find employment and almost 70% were unaware about the after-care entitlements under the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015.
 - 48% of them belong to government-run shelter homes and 52% were from NGO-run institutions.
172. Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department, in association with Pace Educational Trust, has launched Super 50 initiative to train 50 meritorious tribal students for medical and engineering exams.

173. "Agrarian Crisis and Farmers' Suicides: An Empirical Study of Endemic State" report conducted by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is based on a 2017-18 primary survey of 200 families affected by farm suicides.

- The report, submitted to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), analysed Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana (states having maximum number of suicides).
- Average income of farm suicide families was ₹3,523 per month in 2016-17, below ₹4,561 estimate of National Sample Survey Office in 2012-13.
- 92% of farm suicide families were not enrolled in the PM Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Majority of the deceased members (70%) were in the age group of 20-50 years, while 59% were illiterate.

174. India Economic Summit 2019 will be organized in New Delhi by World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- Aim: - To promote strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN nations.
- Theme: - 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.
- Sheikh Hasina (PM of Bangladesh), Sania Mirza (UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia), Heng Swee Keat, Shobana Kamineni, and Shailendra Singh will be the co-chairs for the Summit.

175. According to Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, "Housing for All" target under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will be achieved in 2020 (against the deadline of 2022).

- Under the PMAY- Urban, 24 lakh houses have been handed over to beneficiaries and 50 lakh houses will be given by end of 2019.
- PMAY aims to provide Rs 1.12 crore houses to all by 2022.

176. Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy- RK Singh has launched the first of its kind index "SARAL-State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index" to evaluate states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

- Karnataka is ranked at 1st position followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh respectively.
- It has been produced by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, in collaboration with Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and Ernst & Young.
- Parameters: - Robustness of Policy Framework, Consumer Experience, Implementation Environment, Business Ecosystem and Investment Climate.

177. India will introduce a flexible e-tourist visa for more than 160 countries based on tourist footfall.

- e-tourist visa fee would be higher for peak season of July to March and a considerably lower fee during lean period of April to June.
- Fee for e-visa with a validity of 30 days to 5 years ranges between \$10 and \$80.

178. Ministry of Tourism has handed over 3 new MoUs and 5 new Letters of Intent (LoIs) for the prospective 'Monument Mitras' (private or public sector companies and individuals who adopt tourist sites will become monument mitras).

- Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) portal has also been launched to provide certification as a tourist facilitator to individuals who enrol in the IITFC program.

- Government will double the tourist footfall by 2024. There were more than 85 lakh visitors according to the new Incredible India website (launched in 2018).

179. National Health Mission has ranked Rajasthan at first position among 16 States for effectively implementing its free medicine scheme (launched in 2011).

- Parameters: - Total 10 measures including stock of drugs, value of drugs about to expire and compliance with the drugs and vaccine distribution management system.

180. Haryana government has increased the income limit for qualifying as Below Poverty Line beneficiary from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per month.

- BPL income limit at National level is Rs 27,000 per annum.

181. Discovery India and World Wide Fund (WWF) India have partnered with Forest Directorate (West Bengal) and local communities to protect Sundarbans forest.

- It will be a part of the global movement "Project CAT - Conserving Acres for Tigers" and to reduce tiger-human conflict.
- Two Sundarbans Ecological Observatories will be set up, in collaboration with Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, to look into the effects of climate change.

182. Minister of Sports Kiren Rijiju and Baichung Bhutia have jointly launched the first-of-its-kind in Asia, campaign named "Op-Blue Freedom" as a part of their parent project- Special Forces Adventures (SFA) for PwD and able-bodied people.

- Aim: - To train adventurous people in skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.
- Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme.

183. Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index has ranked Delhi at 10th position as the fastest growing prime market globally, followed by Bengaluru at 15th and Mumbai at 30th position.

- Berlin (Germany) is at the top position while Istanbul (Turkey) and Vancouver (Canada) are the weakest markets.
- This index recorded the luxury residential prices (cost of living) across 46 cities globally.

184. India and Lithuania have signed two MoU - Agriculture and Allied sectors and Cultural Exchange Program from 2019-21 during Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu's visit to Lithuania.

185. India-Europe 29 Business Forum 2019 will be held in New Delhi in November to strengthen cooperation between India and the 29 countries of Europe.

- Estonia has been invited at the forum by Indian VP Venkaiah Naidu during his visit to Estonia.
- Bilateral trade between India and Estonia stands at \$172 million.
- MoU was signed between India and Estonia for cooperation in the field of e- governance, emerging digital technologies and Cyber-Security.

186. Army Welfare Housing Organization of Indian Army and Tata Realty have signed an MoU to provide accommodation to Army personnel at a discount of 11% to 27%.

- Army Welfare Housing Organization (constituted under Indian Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860) provides housing to Army personnel.

187. Ministry of Railways has mandated to completely remove single-use plastics from all railways stations w.e.f., from 2nd October 2019.

188. Indian Government has opened 137 mountain peaks for foreigners in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim to promote tourism.

- Tourists need to obtain Mountaineering Visa (MX) for mountaineering and trekking.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has mandated the expedition teams to take prior permissions from Department of Telecom for carrying satellite phones.

189. Census 2011: - India has 469 Urban Agglomerates (UA) which attracted 109 million migrants out of which 31 million were in 5 UAs namely Delhi (42%), Greater Mumbai (54%), Hyderabad (64%), Kolkata (37%) and Bengaluru (52%).

- Greater Mumbai, Hyderabad (part of undivided AP) and Bengaluru had witnessed a higher population of migrants than the people born there.
- UAs is a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths or two or more physically adjoining towns together with or without outgrowths of such towns.
- Out of the remaining 78 million, 14.6 million moved to Chennai, Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad and Ghaziabad.

190. Ministry of Health has proposed to ban the production and import of e-cigarettes by imposing a jail term of 3 years with Rs 5 lakh penalty for repeated offences.

- Rs 1 lakh penalty and 1-year jail term has been proposed for the first-time offenders.
- India is second to China in terms of smoking with more than 9 Lakh people dying every year due to tobacco-related diseases in India.

191. According to World Health Organization's data, leprosy cases in India have increased to 66% in the world.

- WHO had declared India leprosy-free in 2005. Now, in 2016-17 a total 1,35,485 cases of leprosy were recorded.
- Currently, India has 108 discriminatory laws against persons with leprosy and the law commission is working on the "Elimination of Discrimination Against People Affected by Leprosy" (EDPAL) Bill.
- Leprosy is endemic in 128 districts in India with a prevalence rate of 1 per 10,000.
- WHO launched the Global Leprosy Strategy 2016-20 to eliminate leprosy.

192. India and Zambia signed 6 MoU for cooperation in the fields of: -

193. 1st World Youth Conference on Kindness has been organized by UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in New Delhi.

- Theme: - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World- Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi'.
- Total 27 countries participated in it. It aimed to inspire youth to contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals.
- 10th edition of UNESCO MGIEP's publication 'The Blue Dot' was also launched.

194. Common Service Centre (CSC) e-Governance Services India Ltd. has signed an MoU with Ministry of Panchayati Raj to digitalize all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in India.

- Aim: - To provide easy access to government services and social schemes in rural areas and promote rural BPO (business processing outsourcing).
195. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Nepal's Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) have signed an MoU for improving on food safety and standards.
- India has given Rs 153 crore (2.45 billion Nepali Rupees) for building houses in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts during the 5th Indo-Nepal Joint Commission conference in Kathmandu.
 - India also gave Rs 80.71 crore (out of the Rs 500 crore commitment) for building roads in Nepal.
196. India-USA bilateral 2+2 Intersessional meeting 2019 was held in Monterey, California.
197. Akshaya Patra Foundation has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to achieve its target of feeding 5 million children by 2025 through its mid-day meal program.
- Currently, it feeds 1.76 million children per day in 12 states.
198. From India, Statue of Unity (Gujarat) and Soho House (Mumbai) have been included in the TIME Magazine's "World 100 Greatest Places" 2019 list.
199. Ministry of Women and Child Development has set a target to reach out to 44 crore people in a month-long Poshan Abhiyaan.
[Details of the scheme is covered in Govt. Scheme 2018 PDF]
200. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has classified 'ocean energy' (including all its forms) as renewable energy.
- Now, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) will have to purchase ocean energy among other sources under the non-solar renewable purchase obligations (RPO).
 - RPO mandates SERC to purchase a certain percentage of power from renewable energy sources.
201. Punjab government and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for implementing Sustainable Development Goals.
- Under it, a Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) will also be set up in Planning Department in Chandigarh.
202. Ministry of Textiles has launched 'Project SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution)' to promote sustainable fashion in order to protect and promote clean environment.
- Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), United Nations in India, and IMG Reliance are the participants in this project.
203. Ministry of MSMEs will launch Bharatcraft portal (an indigenous version of e-commerce marketing platform) to boost the marketing and sales of MSMEs.
- Also, MSME Ministry has set a target to increase the contribution of MSMEs in the manufacturing sector to 50% against the present level of 29% in the next 5 years.
 - MSMEs contribute 40% towards the total exports.
204. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has decided to waive off the lease rent of Rs 30,000 per Mega Watt (MW) for wind power projects.
- It will provide clean energy at cheaper rates.

205. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended "Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Second Amendment Rules, 2008" rules to issue new set of pictorial warning on tobacco packets.

- A new helpline- QUIT LINE CALL 1800-11-2356- will be provided on the packet.
- As per 2nd Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2016-17), 61.9% of cigarette smokers, 53.8% of bidi smokers and 46.2% of smokeless tobacco consumers thought about quitting in the age group of 15 years because of warning label on packets.

206. NITI Aayog, in association with Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Rural Development, released the 2nd edition of "Composite Water Management Index 2019" (measuring performance for 2017-18 against the base year of 2016-17), ranks Gujarat at the top position in water management.

- 9 parameters were used to assess 25 states (excluding J&K, Manipur, Mizoram and West Bengal) and 2 UTs (Delhi & Puducherry).
- It divides states in 3 categories: Himalayan (topped by Himachal Pradesh followed by Uttarakhand), Non-Himalayan (top- Gujarat followed by Andhra Pradesh) and UTs- topped by Puducherry.
- Incremental Performance: - Uttarakhand improved the most and was ranked at top in Himalayan category while Haryana topped in Non-Himalayan category.
- Jharkhand (34), Bihar (38), and Uttar Pradesh (39) are the low performing states.

207. National Food Laboratory under the FSSAI's control (in a PPP model- a first of its kind approach in food lab sector) has been established in Ghaziabad, UP.

- The lab also has two training centres- Food Safety Solution Centre and Centre for Microbiological Analysis Training.
- In 2016-17, 23.4% samples of food was found adulterated, while 26.4% samples in 2018- 19 were adulterated.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest samples of food adulteration with 45%, followed by Jharkhand (40%), and Tamil Nadu (37%).
- Almost 23,441 (or 36%) out of the total 65,028 adulterated samples were found in Uttar Pradesh in three years.

208. Haryana will launch the Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana to provide financial benefit of Rs 6,000 p.a. (Rs 500 p.m.) to families with annual income of less than Rs 1,80,000 per annum or a total land holding of less than 2 hectares.

- Life insurance of Rs 2 lakh (given in case of death) would be provided to beneficiaries between 18 to 50 years at a premium of Rs 330.

209. 4th edition of "Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2000-2018" report released by TRAFFIC (wildlife trade monitoring network) mentioned that 1,977 tigers were killed between 2000 and 2018 across 32 countries and 382 were seized live.

210. A study conducted by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) shows that more than 22,000 children were employed as child labourers in mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar (highest mica mining states of India along with Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh).

- A total 4,545 children in the age group of 6-14 have left education.

211. India has granted \$4.2-million for the development of Shri Krishna Temple in Bahrain during PM Modi's visit to Bahrain.

- PM Modi (first Indian PM to visit Bahrain) has been awarded with 'King Hamad Order of the Renaissance'.

212. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has formed 'Advisory Board for Banking Frauds' (ABBF), chaired by T.M. Bhasin, to examine bank fraud of over ^50 crore and recommend action.

- Banks would refer fraud cases above ^50 crore to the ABBF and on its recommendation, the bank would take further action in such matter.
- ABBF, earlier called as Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds, examine cases which involves General Manager level officers and above in the PSB.

213. According to the IMF's "Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2018", India has failed to comply with multiple requirements of Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) (a mandatory practice for all IMF members) for the year 2018.

- As per the report, India has not maintained timely data for 2018. The last National Crime Records Bureau data was released in 2016 and accident statistics was in 2015.
- India defaulted in three categories: - First: delays in data dissemination, Second: India did not list a data category in Advance Release Calendars despite being mandated by SDDS. Third: Absence of data dissemination during a particular period.
- India has exceeded 100 day timeline for data dissemination in multiple cases, in comparison to BRICS nations.
- SDDS initiative (launched in 1996) aims to guide members to enhance data transparency to assess economic situations of individual countries. India joined it in 1996.

214. Indian Air Force plans to replace the current 116 Jaguars with 80 jets (with more powerful Honeywell F-125IN engines). The phase out plan will start from 2023.

- First Jaguar with DARIN-III upgrades (done by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.) has completed corporate flying last week.
- Jaguars will get the first wing-launched short-range air-to-air missile (ASRAAM) of European missile-maker MBDA.

215. IIT-Delhi and DESMI (Denmark company) have partnered to setup 'DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste to Wealth' at IIT Delhi.

- Purpose: - To clean water bodies in the city.

216. United States Coast Guard (USCG) ship Stratton has arrived at Chennai port as a part of a goodwill visit to take part in the Indo-USCG joint exercise off the Chennai port.

- From Indian side, ICG Shaurya and ICG Abheek ships and Chetak helicopter took part in the exercise.

217. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has inaugurated the 'National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology' at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- Aim: - To study the impact of environment contamination on birds.

218. PM Narendra Modi has declared to observe September 2019 as the Poshan Abhiyan month.

- In 2018, Gujarat had launched PURNA project (Prevention of under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls) to eliminate malnutrition among girls in between 14 to 18 years.

219. India and UAE discussed ways to strengthen the commitment of \$75 billion investment in India by UAE.

- UAE is the 3rd largest trade partner of India with approx. \$60 billion worth of bilateral trade.
- UAE is also the 4th largest exporter of crude oil to India.

220. A research paper prepared by over 20 scientists across the world would help in understanding Clouded Leopards' Habitat and Migration Corridors And Laid Out Conservation Strategies.

- From India, Dampa tiger reserve- Mizoram was chosen for survey which shows that highest population of clouded leopards was found in this reserve.
- In Dampa, forest cover has been reduced by 35% and clouded leopard detection fell by 25%.
- India has added clouded leopard in the Recovery Program For Critically Endangered Species in 2018.

221. Maharashtra has inserted the 'son of the soil' clause into its new industrial policy to reserve 80% of jobs for the local youth.

- The state plans to increase investment in MSMEs to Rs 10 lakh crore and increase jobs up to 40 lakhs by 2023-24.

222. Amazon has partnered with Director General of Resettlement and Army Welfare Placement Organization to provide jobs to the army personnel and their families across its centres.

223. National AIDS Control Organisation (under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) have signed an MoU for enhance the outreach in AIDS and drug addiction.

224. Banjari village in the Katni district of Madhya Pradesh has become the first village to be integrated in the Digital India mission.

- Digital India program aims to create 1,000 digital villages across the country in this phase.
- Digital India program was launched in 2014 under Ministry of Electronics and IT to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

225. 4th edition of the 'IoT India Congress 2019' two-day event (organized by Institution of Engineering and Technology) was held in Bangalore under the theme of 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.

- The IoT India Congress is the platform of platforms for the Internet of Things.
- Aruna Sundararajan, Arvind Tiwary, and Dr. Dhananjaya Dendukuri were awarded with the 'Thought Leadership Awards' for their excellence and leadership in the IoT.

226. India and France will jointly develop and operate World's first space-based automatic identification system (AIS) satellites to track merchant ships on a real-time basis in the Indian Ocean.

- France's Centre national d'etudes spatiales (CNES) and ISRO signed agreement to develop a constellation of satellites.

227. Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference 2019 will be held in Bangkok, Thailand under the theme of "Collaboration in a free and Open Indo - Pacific".
- Indian Air Force Chief ACM BS Dhanoa will represent India.
228. Astra Rafael Communication System - India's first private sector firm to manufacture software defined radios in multiple variants has been established at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- India-Israel partnered to establish it.
229. According to Census 2011, census towns in India have increased from 1,362 in 2001 to 3,894 in 2011.
- Census towns are the areas which have not been defined as towns by state govt. but have urban characteristics such as a minimum population of 5,000 (with 75% of men in working population) and a population density of 400 persons per sq. km.
230. The high-level committee on implementation of Assam Accord has sought public comments on the implementation of clause 6 of Assam Accord.
- The committee was formed in Jan 2019 and headed by M.P. Bezbaruah, but recently it has been reconstituted and Biraj Kumar Sarma has been appointed as the new head of the committee.
 - Clause 6 of Assam Accord: - It grants "Assamese people" the "constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate" to "protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage."
231. World Vision India (NGO) and IFMR LEAD have jointly released the 'Child Well-Being Index 2019', which mentions Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh at the top 3 positions respectively.
- Madhya Pradesh is the worst-performing state followed by Meghalaya and Jharkhand.
 - 24 indicators in 3 dimension were considered: - healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.
232. The committee, headed by Balram Bhargava (director-general of Indian Council of Medical Research), has denied to create a new category for 'drug-eluting stents' (DES) and mandated to control the prices of stents in India.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has started controlling the prices of DES in 2017 after classifying it as Schedule 1 drugs (in 2016).
 - The new category would allow stent makers to avoid price ceiling.
233. Ministry of Environment has maintained that India will restore 5 million hectare of its degraded land by 2030.
- In 2011-2013, India had a land degradation area of 29.3% (or 96.4 million hectares) of the total land area.
234. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has developed a National Digital Library under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).
- NMEICT was launched in 2009 by MHRD to enhance teaching and learning process through ICT.
 - National Digital Library has been integrated with UMANG App.
235. India and France signed MoU for cooperation in the field of: -

236. PM Modi has launched Rupay Card in UAE (earlier was launched in Bhutan and Singapore).
- PM Modi launched the commemorative postage stamps in UAE on Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th anniversary.
 - PM Modi, in his Bahrain visit, signed MoU in the fields of culture, space, solar energy and RuPay card.
237. Boeing (USA) has delivered its 11th C-17 Globemaster III Transport Aircraft to Indian Air Force to increase the efficiency in airlift requirements.
238. Tamil Nadu has launched the 24 hour TV channel- Kalvi Tholaikkatchi (covering the syllabi from 1st to 12th standard) for school students in Chennai.
- 40 Amma Police (specific police unit for women and girl child safety) vehicles were also flagged off.
239. Ministry of Tourism has launched the integrated No Objection Certificate (NOC) Online Application Processing System to grant permission to National Monuments Authority for construction around the protected monuments in six states.
- 6 states: - Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand and Telangana.
 - The portal has been designed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) portal and has been integrated with ISRO's 'Smarac' mobile app.
240. Union Cabinet has approved the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to be presented at UN Climate Summit 2019 to be held in New York.
- India has pledged Rs 480 crore to CDRI for technical and research projects, setting up secretariat and funding recurring expenses of CDRI for the next 5 years.
 - Coalition's secretariat will be set up in New Delhi. It aims to help countries to enhance their infrastructure abilities as per their vulnerability and disaster risk.
241. India, has become the world's first country to issue a Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), developed in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), to boost employment in the coastal shipping sector.
- The total number of Indian seafarers (employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels) has increased by 35% from 2017 to 2019.
 - BSID will help in identifying Indian seafarers from any location in the world (with embedded chips in them) and thus increase their employment.
 - BSID is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of International Labour Organisation on BSID (India ratified the Convention in 2015).
242. Microsoft India has launched the first-of-its-kind in India, "Digital Governance Tech Tour" to guide and train the government's IT officials about the high-tech skills.
- Microsoft will train 5,000 govt. employees with 12 months.
243. Union Cabinet has approved Rs 24,375 crore for establishing 75 new medical colleges in unserved areas by 2021-22 as part of the Phase-3 of an ongoing centrally sponsored scheme.
- 58 new medical colleges were approved under Phase-I, and 18 were approved under Phase-II.
244. Iran is planning to end the preferential trade agreement with India, which allowed both countries to eliminate tariffs on each other's imports, by the end of 2019.

- India and Iran are also planning to engage in a barter trade system to avoid threat of US sanctions.
245. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has signed an MoU with Indian Navy for handing over the charge of Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building in Kochi to the Navy.
- Indian Navy will utilise CDR building for meteorological purposes.
246. 12th India Security Summit, organized by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), was held in New Delhi.
- Theme: - "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy".
247. Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched "Janaushadhi Sugam" mobile app to help people in locating Janaushadhi generic medicines and stores easily.
- "Jan Aushadhi Suvridha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin" (launched in 2018) will now be available at only Rs 1 per pad instead of earlier price of Rs 2.5.
248. Three new committees have been formed to carve out modalities for converting the state of J&K into a Union Territory.
- First Committee: - Headed by K K Sharma, this 12-member committee will look into the administrative procedures.
 - Second Committee: - Headed by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, this 5-member committee will take care of financial matters.
 - Third Committee: - Headed by Shaleen Kabra, this 6-member committee will look into the staff requirement for UT of J&K and Ladakh.
249. Eastern Economic Forum (to be held in Sept): Russia plans to offer conventional submarines to India on a govt-to govt basis under the "Project 75I".
- It is also a possibility that Russia will offer Su-57 (Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) to India.
 - Project 75I was approved in Jan 2019 by Ministry of Defence to develop six conventional submarines for Indian Navy under 'Make in India'.
 - Russia is also building 200 Ka-226T Utility helicopters for Indian Army and Air Force.
250. Delhi government has launched the 'Jai Bhim Mukhya Mantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana' in 2018 to provide the free entrance coaching to the students of SC families with annual income to less than Rs 6 lakh.
- The govt is planning to extend the benefits of the scheme to OBCs and EWS students as well.
251. Maharashtra cabinet has approved the Nar-Par-Tapi water inter-linking multipurpose project to provide 52 TMCft of water to Marathwada and northern regions of Maharashtra.
- Par-Tapi-Narmada river interlinking project aims at diverting "surplus" water from west flowing rivers like Par, Nar, Ambika and Auranga basins to eastern Maharashtra.
 - Maharashtra has signed an MoU with Israel for technical support for building the Marathwada Water grid project to fulfil water need of Marathwada region (comprising 8 districts).
 - Maharashtra has also approved the Rs 100 crore for 'Chul Mukh, Dhur Mukh' (Smoke-free campaign) scheme to provide LPG connections to 41 lakh families by March 2020.

252. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has provided Rs 47,436 crore to 27 states for afforestation, to be utilized as per the provision of Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016.
- CAF is a compensatory fund raised from industrialists who destroy the forests.
 - 54,000 crore has been received from industrialists in past decade.
253. Tamil Nadu has received the GI Tag for Dindigul lock and Kandangi Saree.
254. Union Cabinet of India has approved the signing of the MoU with Peru for cooperation in the field of medicinal plants.
255. Madhya Pradesh has become the number one state in Jal Shakti Abhiyan for conserving the water.
- An app has also been launched by the Municipal Corporation of MP to install a total of 50,000 water harvesting systems in Indore.
256. India's Foreign minister S Jaishankar has visited Hungary, Russia and Poland.
257. Ministry of HRD has launched the 'Shagun' app which is an online integrated junction of various education portals to bring transparency in education system.
- The app has a feedback procedure structured for parents and all the details about the education system in the country as well as detailed information about schools.
258. Odisha will extend the benefit of MAMATA scheme to all pregnant women of Particularly vulnerable Tribal group (PVTG) for another 5 years.
- Mamata, launched in 2011, is a conditional cash transfer maternity benefit scheme to reduce infant and maternity mortality rate by improving their health and nutrition.
259. For the first time, Peacock Parachute Spider has been located outside its habitat (Eastern Ghats) at the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests in Tamil Nadu.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has categorised it as Critically Endangered.
260. National Green Tribunal committee headed by Justice S P Garg has recommended to give Unique Identification Numbers to water bodies in Delhi after mapping them on GPS to conserve them.
261. According to Census 2011, inter-district migration, in pursuit of education, has increased by 62% to 5.45 million in 2011 as compared to 3.36 million in 2001.
- More than 1,00,000 people migrated to only 2 districts of Bengaluru and Pune.
 - 4 districts of Andhra Pradesh alone, had witnessed 70,000-75,000 migrants each for educational purposes.
 - Of the 62% migrated for education to urban areas, about 1/2 of them moved from rural areas. Another 31% moved from one rural area to another and 7% went from urban to rural areas.
 - 62% of female migrated before the age of 19 as against 54% of males.
262. According to the Safe Cities Index 2019, released by Economist Intelligence Unit, Mumbai ranks at 45th position while Delhi is at 52nd.
- Tokyo is the safest city while Lagos (Nigeria) is the most unsafe city in the world.

- Parameters: Urban Safety Indicators such as digital, health, infra and personal security.
 - India and China's populations are expected to increase by 1.4% over the next decade.
263. Arunachal Pradesh has the highest (about 60%) of India's total potential in harnessing hydropower.
- Presently, India has an installed capacity of 360.456 GW out of which 13% or 45.4 GW is hydropower.
264. Uttarakhand has decided to form a Special Tiger Force (having 85 posts) for Corbett Tiger Reserve.
- Three-tier protection to tigers at reserves include: 1st layer protection by beat level forest guards through regular patrols; 2nd layer protection by Special tiger force; 3rd layer protection includes intelligence-gathering mechanisms.
265. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched Angikaar Campaign to bring all the PMAY (U) beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat and Ujjawala Schemes.
- Ministry has approved 88 lakh houses against the demand of 1.12 crore.
 - Ministry also launched the e-course on vulnerability atlas, in collaboration with School of Planning & Architecture and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council, to raise awareness about the natural hazards.
266. Central TB Division of Ministry of Health has signed an MoU with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore high-tech ways to combat tuberculosis (TB).
- According to the WHO data, India records nearly 27 lakh TB cases every year and 4.23 lakh people die because of TB.
267. India's first automated battery charging and swapping station for e-buses has been inaugurated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- India's first electric vehicle charging station was launched in Nagpur by Ola and Indian Oil Corporation in 2017.
268. Maharashtra has approved International Standard Zoo and Biopark on forest land at Gorewada in Nagpur.
- The state has also approved to form a Special Purpose Vehicle of Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra and a Joint Venture Company of private investors under PPP mode of financing, with 51% government stake.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) Best Student Cities Ranking 2019, ranks London as the world's best city for students for the 2nd consecutive year followed by Tokyo and Melbourne.
 - Bengaluru (global rank- 81) is India's best student city, followed by Mumbai (global rank- 85), out of a total of 120 cities.
- China and USA have jointly developed a computer model to accurately predict air pollution levels in India.
 - Function: - government will get help in forecasting aerosol pollution conditions in winter and prepare action plan to control pollution.

- The study was published in the journal Science Advances.
 - Over 1.2 million people died in India due to air pollution in 2017, according to State of Global Air 2019 Report.
3. Nigeria has become the 4th country which joined the Global Coalition Group of the Willing on Pollinators to protect pollinators.
 - Currently, there are 28 signatories in this group.
 - The pollination services annual market value is estimated at \$235 billion to \$577 billion worldwide.
 4. 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
 5. 8th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) 2019 was held in Beijing, China.
 6. Netherlands has banned Burqa, niqab, motor helmets and ski masks at public places.
 - France was the first European country which banned wearing of a full-face veil in public places in April 2011.
 7. Franky Zapata (from France) has become the first person to cross the English Channel on his Flyboard Air, a jet-powered hoverboard.
 - The English Channel is the body of water that links the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and separates Southern England from Northern France.
 8. United Kingdom and USA have formed a collision- "International Maritime Security Mission" to protect ships in the Strait of Hormuz (from Iran's "piracy attacks").
 - No other nation has been included in this mission yet.
 9. 34th Asian Summit was held in Bangkok, Thailand under the theme of - Advancing Partnership For Sustainability.
 - The 2019 presidency of ASEAN is with Thailand.
 - Conclusion: - It was decided to set up ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Centre (AJCCBC) in Thailand among other things.
 - ASEAN Summit is a biannual meeting held twice in a year, and next summit will also be held in Thailand.
 - 26th Asean Regional Forum was also held in Bangkok, Thailand.
 10. World Resources Institute's "Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas" shows that nearly a quarter of world's population in 17 countries are facing extremely high water stress, bordering on the condition of taps running dry.
 11. Iran has disclosed three precision-guided missiles Yasin, Balaban and a new series of Ghaem in Tehran.
 - Yasin is a smart, guided missile with folding wings, Balaban is guided by GPS and sensors and Ghaem is a heat-seeking missile.
 12. Bill Gates (\$105 Billion net worth) has become the 2nd richest person in the world again in the Bloomberg Billionaire Index 2019.

- Earlier, Bernard Arnault had been named as the 2nd richest person.
13. China has been designated as a 'currency manipulator' by USA.
- Reason: - China has allowed its currency (yuan) to fall below the level of 7 per US dollar and Chinese firms have also stopped buying US's farm produce.
 - Currency Manipulator refers to a country which interferes in the international market to manipulate the currency rate.
14. Bangladesh has signed a deal with Russia to supply of uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant during the entire life cycle of the nuclear plant.
- They have signed 'spent fuel sent back' agreement in 2017 for management of the nuclear waste of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.
15. USA has withdrawn from its Intermediate- Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INFT) with Russia alleging non-compliance of Russia.
- INFT (formally known as Treaty Between USA and USSR on Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles) was an arms control treaty signed in 1987 to ban land-based ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers.
16. USA has added \$4.4 billion import duty on wooden Chinese cabinets.
- US's commerce department would collect cash deposits from importers of the wooden cabinets and vanities from China, based on 229% subsidy rates.
17. According to a UN's Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report- titled as special report on 'Climate Change and Land', global warming can be reduced below 2 degree Celsius level by 2100 only by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission.
- The report suggests that dietary changes can reduce land degradation and GHG gas to 8 billion tonnes by 2050.
 - The land surface air temperature has increased by 1.53° Celsius. Globally, total 37% of the GHG is contributed by food sector.
 - Wheat production has been reduced by 5.2% due to global warming.
18. UK-based University of Leeds, has created the world's thinnest gold named as "nanoseaweed" which is 0.47 nanometres - almost 1 million times thinner than finger nail of human.
- The study has been published in the journal Advanced Science.
19. Papua New Guinea (island nation) has the maximum number of living languages- 840 presently, according to Ethnologue (total 7,111 are living languages in the world).
20. All SCO members will jointly participate in the military exercise "Tsentr (centre) 2019" under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Orenburg, Russia (in Sept).
- The exercise was decided in the 34th SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan earlier this year.
 - Iran, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, and Belarus are the special invitees in the exercise.
 - SCO members: -
21. A communication satellite of Israel - AMOS-17 (built by Boeing) has been launched on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket as a replacement Amos-5 satellite.

22. Kajin Sara lake (also locally known as Singar) has been recently discovered in Manang district of Nepal.
- It is likely to set a new record by becoming the world's highest lake at an altitude of 5,200 meters (1,500-metre-long and 600-metre-wide). [Official measurement are yet to be announced].
 - Currently, Tilicho Lake is the highest lake in the world at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal.
23. A study published in the journal Global Change Biology mentions that 88% of the 126 freshwater species are on the verge of extinction.
- The study assessed the species in 72 countries.
 - Extinct Species: - Yangtze dolphin.
 - Population of Mekong giant catfish in Mekong river (home of world's largest catfish in southeast Asia), stingray, gharial crocodiles in India, European sturgeon fell by 97% since 1970 across Europe, North Africa and Asia.
24. Jyske Bank (Denmark) has launched the world's first home loan with negative interest rate at (-) 0.5% per year for a period of 10 years.
- Mechanism: - The borrowers will repay the loan on a monthly basis but the outstanding amount will be reduced each month by more than the amount paid by borrower.
25. Regional Cooperation for Economic Partnership's intersessional meeting will take place in Indonesia.
26. "Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations" the first- ever global assessment of forest biodiversity released by World Wide Fund for Nature in association with Zoological Society of London and UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre shows that: -
- Globally, forest wildlife population has declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to habitat loss, degradation, over-exploitation and Climate change.
 - The report includes data of 268 species (455 populations) based on the Living Planet Index methodology.
 - Major decline is among mammals, reptiles, and amphibians (particularly from the tropical forests).
27. 28th session of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) Ministerial meeting 2019 on Climate Change has been concluded in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 25th edition of Conference of Parties of United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Santiago, Chile in December 2019.
 - BASIC ministers urged developed countries to fulfil their commitment of helping developing nations by providing financial aid of \$100 billion annually by 2020, over and above their 0.7% of Gross national product commitment with respect to Official Development Assistance.
28. 5th BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Partnership on Urban Environmental Sustainability Initiative (among BRICS) for sharing knowledge & experience on major issues such as waste management, sanitation, air quality, green cover etc. was discussed.
 - Discussion were also held about BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Cooperation Platform.

29. US based Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given approval to Pretomanid (a new drug) for treating extensively drug resistant Tuberculosis (XDR TB).
 - It is used in combination with bedaquiline and linezolid called as BPaL regimen.
 - As per WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report 2018, approx. 4.5 lakh people across the world have multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) and nearly 37,500 people have XDR-TB.
 - India has 24% of MDR-TB cases in the world.

30. USA has put the Chinese nuclear power company (a major state-owned company) and three of its subsidiaries on its export blacklist i.e., "entity list".
 - Reason: - Accusations of stealing US technology for military use.

31. Okjokull glacier (Iceland) has completely lost its status as a glacier due to climate change.
 - July 2019 was the hottest month.

32. NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission took first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock made by particles and electromagnetic waves launched by Sun.
 - MMS mission was launched in 2015 to study Earth's magnetosphere.

33. USA has agreed to sell 66 Lockheed Martin-built F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan for \$8 billion.

34. USA startup Cerebras Systems has developed World's largest processor with 1.2 trillion transistors called Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine.
 - The chip has a memory of 18 GB and is 56 times larger than Nvidia GPU.

35. Russia has sent its first humanoid robot named as Fedor/Skybot F850 on International Space Station (ISS) to assist astronauts.

36. According to the "Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis" report released by World Bank, water pollution can affect a total of 1/3rd of potential economic growth in heavily water polluted areas.
 - Nitrates increases childhood stunting by up to 19%.
 - Enough food to feed 170 million people is lost to saline water indicating a possible dearth of food in near future.
 - When Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) passes a certain threshold, GDP growth in downstream regions is lowered by 1/3rd.
 - In middle-income countries - where BOD is a growing problem - GDP growth downstream in highly polluted areas drops by 1/2.

37. NASA's Europa Clipper Mission to study Jupiter's smallest moon Europa in-depth is expected to be launched by 2023.

38. SAARC's foreign ministers informal meeting is expected to be held in Nepal in September 2019 on the sidelines of 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.
 - 20th SAARC Summit will be held in 2020 (venue not confirmed).

 - 19th SAARC summit was scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan in 2016 (which was not conducted due to political reasons).

39. Asia-Pacific Group (APG) has put Pakistan in its "enhanced expedited follow-up list" (or blacklist) for terror-financing and money laundering.
 - APG on Money Laundering is the FATF-style autonomous regional body founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand.
40. Iran has developed "Bavar-373" (its new indigenous air missile defence system).
 - Bavar-373 is a long-range road-mobile surface-to-air missile system unveiled in 2016.
41. 'Euromoney' has named DBS bank as the 'World's Best Bank' in its 2019 Awards for Excellence.
 - DBS has also been named as Asia's Best Bank and Singapore's Best Bank in 2019 Awards for Excellence.
42. 4th United States-India Maritime Security Dialogue was held in California, USA.
43. Serbia has become the 73rd official non-regional member of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
44. Indonesia has decided to shift its capital city from Jakarta to Borneo Islands.
 - Reason: - Over-burden on the city and concerns that by 2050, 1/3rd of it would be submerged.
45. Pakistan and China have started the 8th edition of their joint military exercise- Shaheen VIII in Holton, China.
46. CITES- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora- 71st and 72nd meeting of standing committee and 18th Conference of Parties meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - CITES lists plants and animals in 3 appendices based on the degree of protection needed by them.
 - Here, Vivek Menon was also awarded with Clark R Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award 2019 for his contribution towards protecting wildlife.
47. 2nd High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (UNSSC), or BAPA+40 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 - Purpose: - to carve out a way for achieving sustainable development goals 2030.
 - UNSSC or BAPA+40 refers to the technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South.
 - South-South cooperation, came into existence after the adoption of the 'Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries' (BAPA) by 138 UN Member States in Argentina, in 1978.

APPOINTMENTS

1. S.S Deswal has been appointed as the Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).
 - He is the current DG of Indo-Tibetan Border force and NSG is an additional charge for him.
2. Atish Dabholkar has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.



- ICTP is an international research institute for physical and mathematical sciences, operating under a tripartite agreement between the Italian Government, UNESCO, and International Atomic Energy Agency.
- 3. Ram Raghavan has been appointed as the Managing Director of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd.
- 4. Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as the chief of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- 5. Girraj Prasad Gupta has been appointed as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- 6. Abhay Thakur has been appointed as the next permanent representative of India to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
 - ECOWAS is a regional political and economic union of 15 countries of West Africa.
- 7. Siddhartha Mohanty has been appointed as the MD and CEO of LIC Housing Finance.
 - He was earlier appointed as the Chief Operating Officer of LIC Housing Finance.
- 8. Ananth Narayanan has been appointed as the CEO of e-pharma company- MedLife.
 - Narayanan has also been recognized as the co-founder of MedLife after investing an undisclosed amount in the company.
- 9. Kandikuppa Sreekant has been appointed as the new Chairman and MD of Power Grid Corporation of India.
- 10. Valentina Sampaio has become the first transgender model of the Victoria's Secret.
 - Victoria's Secret is an American designer, manufacturer, and marketer of women's lingerie, womenswear, and beauty products.
- 11. Dinesh Kumar Khara's tenure as MD of State Bank of India has been increased for 2 years.
- 12. Chandrima Shaha has been appointed as first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
 - INSA (HQ- Delhi; Estb.- 1935) is the apex body of Indian scientists representing all branches of science and technology.
- 13. Malabar Gold and Diamonds has appointed Anil Kapoor as its brand ambassador.
- 14. Justice Madan Lokur has been appointed as the non-resident panel of Supreme Court Judge of Fiji.
 - It is the first time that an Indian has been appointed to the Supreme Court of another country.
- 15. M S Dhoni has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Cars24 (a used cars selling platform). Dhoni has also bought equity in Cars24.
- 16. VG Somani has been appointed as the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), who will now head the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
 - CDSCO aims to ensure the circulations of safe and quality drugs within India and approves new drugs.



17. Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare for 5 years.
18. Ravinder Takkar has been appointed as new MD and CEO of Vodafone Idea.
19. Rajiv Gauba has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary for 2 years.
20. Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) has appointed Sandeep Sinha as its new CEO.
 - Chairman: - Mallika Srinivasan.
21. Amit Nayyar has been appointed as the new president of Paytm.
 - Earlier, Madhu Deora had been promoted as the president of Paytm on August 19. Now, Paytm has appointed a new president which is Amit Nayyar.
22. Shalija Dhami (Indian Air Force's Wing Commander) has become India's 1st female flight commander of a flying unit (of a Chetak helicopter).
23. Pramod Agrawal has been chosen as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Ltd. by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
 - PSEB's decision needs to be approved by Central Government.
24. Pramod Chandra Mody has got one year extension as the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Breastfeeding Week 2019 has been observed between August 1-7 in 120 nations.
 - Theme: - "Empower parents, Enable Breastfeeding".
 - It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration signed in 1990 by WHO, UNICEF and other organizations to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.
2. 5th National Handloom Day is observed on August 7 across the nation with a focus to empower women. (1st handloom day was observed in 2015).
 - More than 50% of total weavers population of India live in Eastern and North Eastern Regions and most of them are women.
3. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on August 9 by UN.
 - Theme: - Indigenous Peoples' Languages
 - According to UN's data, approximately 370 million indigenous people live across 90 countries in the world.
 - According to UN Human Rights Experts, 4 in 10 indigenous languages are at risk of disappearing. Total 7,000 indigenous languages are spoken in the world.
4. World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10.
 - Theme 2019: - 'Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)'.

- Rajasthan has become the first state to implement the biofuel rules 2019 to promote the use of biofuels instead of fossil fuels.
5. World Elephant Day is observed on August 12. (First one was celebrated in 2012).
 - Singapore has declared to ban on domestic ivory trade w.e.f. September 2021.
 - However, international ivory trade has been banned under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) since 1990.
 6. International Youth Day is observed on 12 August by UN to bring the issues faced by youth in the attention of international community.
 - Theme for 2019: - 'Transforming education'.
 - It supports Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goal 2030 to ensure equitable and inclusive education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 7. World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13.
 - According to National Health Portal, approx. 5 Lakh people, in India, are dying due to lack of organ availability.
 8. National tribal festival called as "Aadi Mahotsav" will be held for August 17-25 in Leh- Ladakh under the theme of "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce".
 - It is an initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
 9. World Humanitarian Day (WHD) 2019 is observed on August 19 by UN.
 - Campaign for 2019: 'Women Humanitarians'.
 10. Every year on the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi on 20th August, Sadbhavana Divas or Harmony Day is observed. (2019 is 75th anniversary of Gandhi)
 11. 2nd International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21, 2019 by UN.
 12. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23 by UNESCO.
 - Theme for 2019: - Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice.
 - Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award was instituted in 1992.
 13. National Sports Day is observed on August 29 on the birth anniversary of Major Dhyhan Chand.
 - Fit India Movement, to encourage fitness in everyday lives, was launched on this day by PM Modi and Ministry of Sports.
 - An Advisory Committee of 28-members, headed by sports minister Kiren Rijiju, has been formed to advise government on the Fit India Movement.
 14. National Eye Donation Fortnight is observed every year from Aug 25- Sept 8, 2019.
 - Aim: - To create awareness about eye donation and to motivate people to pledge their eyes for donation after death.
 - According to WHO, corneal diseases are among the major causes of vision loss and blindness, after cataract and glaucoma.

15. International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) is observed on August 29 every year by UN (since 2010).

- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was introduced in 1996 to ban nuclear testing. Unfortunately, this has yet to enter into force.

AWARDS

1. Kapil Dev will be awarded with the Bharat Gaurav - highest honour of The East Bengal football club.

2. Dinesh Tiwari (Advocate) has been awarded with 'The Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019', by the Society Magazine.

- Reason: - His excellence in the field of law.

3. Dr Vinayak S Hiremath has been awarded with 'Pride of Nation Award' by the Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister of India) at a ceremony held on Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26).

4. Ruhan Rajput (Co-founder and director of Einfoolge Technologies Pvt Ltd.) was awarded with 'Entrepreneur of The Year Award 2019' by Entrepreneur India (an American business magazine) and Franchise India.

- He has won this award in the category of 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Service Business-BPO/KPO'.

5. NDTV Journalist Ravish Kumar has been chosen for the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019 (Asian version of Nobel Prize) for his ethical journalism.

- This Award is named after the 3rd President of Philippines, and is given by Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

6. From India, Statue of Unity has been shortlisted for "The Structure Award 2019" given by UK-based Institution of Structural Engineering Award.

- A total of 49 monuments across the world have been selected for this award (to be announced in November 2019).

7. Andy Serkis (Actor and Director) has been chosen for the "International Honor for Excellence" (highest award of International Broadcasting Convention- IBC).

- Reason: - For his excellence in depicting extraordinary humanity in the computer-generated characters.

8. Cricketer Arun Lal has been conferred with Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal.

9. Naaz Joshi has, for the 3rd consecutive time, won the title of Miss World Diversity 2019 held in Port Louis, Mauritius.

- She is the first person to win the title for three consecutive years and also the first transwoman from India to win it.

10. Rhiannon Giddens (singer and musician) and late Frank Johnson (musician) will be awarded with the first 'Legacy of Americana Award 2019'.

- Americana Music Association and National Museum of African American Music have partnered to establish the inaugural Legacy of Americana Award in Music.

11. Shah Rukh Khan will be awarded with 'Excellence in Cinema' award at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, Australia.

- Theme of the Festival: - Courage.

12. Bharat Ratna Award 2019 has been awarded to Pranab Mukherjee, Late Nanaji Deshmukh, and Late singer Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika.

13. ISRO has announced a new category of award - 'Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research' which will award journalists who contributed towards the space science and technology etc.

- This year is celebrations of 100 years of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the father of Indian space programme.

14. 66th edition of the National Film Awards 2019 (given in 31 categories) has been announced.

- Best Film on Social Issues: - Padman (director: - R. Balki)
- Best Film on Environment Conservation: - Paani (Marathi) directed by Adinath Kothare.
- Best Feature Film: - Hellaro (Gujarati) directed by Abhishek Shah
- Best Director: - Aditya Dhar for Uri: The Surgical Strike
- Best Actor: - Ayushmann Khurrana (Andhadhun), Vicky Kaushal (Uri: the Surgical Strike)
- Best Actress: - Keerthy Suresh (Mahanati)

15. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has announced the 4th edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2019 to honour the entrepreneurs.

16. NITI Aayog has launched the 4th edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards under the theme of 'Women and Entrepreneurship'.

- WTI are provided under the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog.

17. Rajasthan has been awarded with the "best innovation and initiative leadership" award for its achievements in higher education at the 14th "World Education Summit" held in New Delhi.

- Bihar School Examination Board has won an award in 'government's initiative to promote and develop the technologies' category for promoting technology in conducting exams.
- Purpose of the summit is to focus on the academic sector, challenges and opportunities in the respective field.

18. Priyam Chatterjee has become the first Indian chef to be awarded with the "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto" (Order of Agricultural Merit) honour by France.

- Reason: - For promoting gastronomic activities in India.
- Gastronomy is the study of relationship between food and culture, the science of good eating.

19. Journalist Rajdeep Sardesai has been awarded with the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award given by the Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust for his outstanding political reporting.



20. ISRO Chairman K. Sivan has been awarded with Dr APJ Abdul Kalam award by Tamil Nadu.
21. Prakash Jadhav has received the Kirti Chakra (gallantry medal) on 73rd Independence Day.
 - Vir Chakra has been conferred upon Abhinandan Varthaman.
 - These awards are announced twice a year - 1st on Republic Day and 2nd Independence Day.
 - Order of precedence of the awards is Param Vir Chakra, Ashoka Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.
22. British Academy of Film and Television Arts- Los Angeles branch (BAFTA LA) will honour actor Steve Coogan with the "Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for excellence in Comedy" 2019.
23. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman and a Certificate of Honour to various scholars on Independence Day.
 - Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman (introduced in 2002) is given for contributions in 9 languages namely- Sanskrit, Prakrit, Persian, Pali, Arabic, and Classical languages of Oriya, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu.
 - Certificate of Honour (with Rs 5 Lakh prize) is awarded to scholars of 60 years or above.
24. Kumarasamy Thangaraj (chief scientist at the CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad) has been awarded J C Bose Fellowship 2019 for his contribution in the field of population and medical genomics.
 - JC Bose Fellowship (named after scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose) is awarded in the field of science and engineering.
25. Start-up TouchVision (incubated by IIT-Delhi) has won the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019 for developing a multisensory kit for visually impaired people.
 - The award (started in 2010) is given by National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, with the support of Mphasis, to honour people doing work for PwD.
26. Meeta Narain (JNU Professor) has been awarded the 'Pushkin Medal - 2019' (highest honour given to an Indian scholar by Russia).
 - It is the highest honour given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for contributing to Russian studies abroad.
27. Deepa Malik (Para Athlete) and Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) have been selected for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019.
 - Dronacharya Lifetime Achievement Award: - Merzban Patel (Hockey) Rambir Singh Khokhar (Kabaddi) Sanjay Bhardwaj (Cricket).
 - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Maka) Trophy, 2019:- Panjab University, Chandigarh.
28. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has presented the 4th edition of ANUBHAV awards, 2019.
 - ANUBHAV portal was launched in 2015 to create a digital repository of experience of retired personnel.
 - An award scheme- ANUBHAV Awards- was started in 2016 to incentivize the contribution of these retired people.



29. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDNER) has awarded 'Smart Policing Awards' (instituted by FICCI) to Haryana and Pune police at Homeland Security 2019 Conference, held in New Delhi.
30. Scarlett Johansson (with \$56 million) has topped the Forbes's world's Highest-Paid actresses list of 2019 followed by Sofia Vergara (\$44.1 million) and Reese Witherspoon (\$35 million).
31. Akshay Kumar is at the 4th position (pay- \$65 Mn) in the Forbes's Highest-Paid Actors 2019 annual list while Dwayne Johnson is at 1st position (with \$89.4 Mn).
32. Serena Williams (US tennis player) topped Forbes list of the highest paid sports women for the fourth consecutive year.
- She earned \$29.2 million in one year ending June 1.
 - Naomi Osaka (Japanese) is 2nd in the list with \$24.3 million.
 - From India, PV Sindhu is at 13th position on a tie with Madison Keys with \$5.5 million earning.
33. 'Maitri' mobile application has been awarded with bronze medal at the global tech competition called Technovation Challenge' held in San Francisco, USA.
- Maitri was developed by Amity International School students to connect children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes to remove their loneliness.
 - Technovation is world's largest technology and entrepreneurship programme for girls.
34. Taylor Swift (with \$185 million of annual earnings) has been ranked first in 'World's Highest-Paid Women In Music' 2019 list of Forbes.
- Beyonce is at the 2nd rank (with \$81 million earnings).
 - Taylor Swift is also ranked at 1st position in the Forbes' Highest-Paid Celebrities 2019 list followed by Kylie Jenner.
35. Likee has entered into the Guinness World Records 2019 for making the largest online video album of over 1 lakh people waving Indian flag during its 'No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN' campaign.
36. Prabhakar Singh (Director-General of Central Public Works Department) has been chosen for Eminent Engineer Award 2019 given by Institution of Engineers (India).
37. The first of its kind in India, Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism for 2019 were awarded to: -
- Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC) and Kalinga Institute of Industrial MTechnology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, had signed an MoU, in Feb 2019, to institute the Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism (to be given annually).
38. Gagan Narang has been chosen for the award of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2019 in recognition of his contribution towards spreading shooting sport in India.
39. Vigil van Dijk (footballer) has won the UEFA's Men's Player of the Year and Defender of the Season Awards in football.



40. Indian documentary film 'I'm Jeeja' (Director- Swati Chakraborty) has won the top award in 'Under 30 minute' category at the 14th 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues' festival.
- Total 10 films from 9 countries were awarded in this one-of-its-kind international travelling film festival on disabilities.
 - The festival is co-founded by UNESCO, UN's Information Centre for India and Bhutan, and a New Delhi-based NGO, Brotherhood.
41. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) has won the 2019 SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its 'Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access' (PAiSA).
- PAiSA (launched in 2018) is a centralized-IT platform under DAY-NULM (designed by Allahabad Bank) for quick processing of loans under Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

SPORTS

1. Ellyse Perry (Australian) has become the first cricketer (of either gender) to score 1000 runs and take 100 wickets in T20 format during the women's Ashes tour in England.
2. For the first time, Oval cricket ground (in England) has named a room after a woman player- Janette Brittin in the member's pavilion.
- Janette Brittin is one of the pioneers of women's cricket and a legend woman cricketer from England.
3. Vidit Gujrathi has won the Biel International Chess Festival held in Biel, Switzerland.
4. FIFA has increased the number of teams for the Women's World Cup from 24 to 32 from 2023 World Cup onwards.
5. National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has decided to drop out para shooting events from all its competitions including the national championships.
- Instead, mixed skeet event will be part of the National championships and also events for juniors will be conducted.
6. Badminton World Federation released their latest rankings: -
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy -Chirag Shetty have been ranked at 9th in the men's doubles category.
7. Four Football players :- 3 from Kyrgyzstan - Kursanbek Sheratov, Vladimir Verevkin and Iliaz Alimov, and Abduaziz Mahkamov (from Tajikistan) have been banned for life by Asian Football Confederation.
- Reason: - Match-fixing in AFC Cup in 2017 and 2018.
8. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the men's doubles title at Thailand Open BWF Super 500 Badminton Championship 2019 held in Bangkok.
- They have become the 1st Indian Pair to Win (Badminton World Federation) BWF Super 500 Tournament.
9. Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula 1 of Hungarian Grand Prix 2019 (motor race).
- Mick Schumacher won the Formula 2 race in Hungarian Grand Prix.

10. Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling) won the Gold medal in the Poland Open held in Warsaw, Poland.
11. Alex Marquez won the Czech Moto2 Grand Prix (motorcycle racing) held in Brno, Czech Republic.
 - Marc Marquez won Czech Moto Grand Prix (recording the 50th win of his career).
12. Dominic Thiem won the Kitzbuhel Clay Court Tournament 2019 (organized by Association of Tennis Professionals) held in Kitzbuhel, Austria.
13. Borussia Dortmund Football club has won the 10th edition of German Super Cup 2019, also known as DFL-Supercup (football).
14. Lovlina Borgohain and Neeraj won the gold medals at the 21st edition Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament 2019 held in Kaspiysk, Russia.
 - It was organised by European Boxing Confederation (EUBC).
 - India won 6 medals - 2 golds, 1 silver and 3 bronze.
15. Algeria has won the Africa Cup of Nations 2019 (men's football championship) held in Cairo, Egypt.
16. 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification championship will be organized by Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Qatar from June 2019 to November 2021.
17. Dwayne Johnson, also known as "The Rock", has announced his retirement from World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
 - He is an American actor, producer, and a professional wrestler.
18. Hinako Shibusawa (Japanese) has become the 2nd Japanese woman to win a major international medal at women's British Open LPGA (Golf tournament) 2019 held in Woburn, England.
 - Her nickname is "Smiling Cinderella".
19. 16th edition of Toyota Thailand Open BWF Super 500 Badminton Championship 2019, held at Bangkok, Thailand, winner: -
 - Men's Singles: - Chou Tien-chen (Taiwan)
 - Women's Singles: - Chen Yufei (China)
20. Fiona Kolbinger has become the first woman to win 4,000 km (from Bulgaria to France) cycling race in the Transcontinental Race (Cycle) 2019.
21. Shally Pearson (an Australian hurdler) has announced retirement.
22. India has been awarded with Bronze medal for the IAAF World Race Walking Cup 2012 held in Saransk, Russia.
 - History: - India had won the 4th position while Ukraine was at 2nd position. Recently, a member named Ruslan Dmytrenko of Ukraine's team has been disqualified for violating anti-doping rules and this has led to India's ascending above to 3rd position.
 - China had won the event.

23. Steve Smith (Australian cricketer) has become the second fastest batsman to score 25 centuries in 119 innings in the test matches, by overtaking Virat Kohli (127 innings).
 - Number 1 batsman with highest test centuries is Sir Don Bradman with just 68 innings.
 - He has become 5th Australian to score hundreds in both innings of an Ashes Test.
24. Surya Shekhar Ganguly has won the Belt and Road China Hunan International tournament 2019 held in Hunan Province of China.
25. R. Praggnanandhaa (aged 13) has finished 3rd in the Abu Dhabi International blitz Chess tournament 2019.
26. Washington Open (Citi Open) 2019 Tennis tournament for men and women was organized by ATP and WTA respectively.
 - Men's Singles: - Nick Kyrgios (Australia)
 - Women's Singles: - Jessica Pegula (America)
27. For the first time, 10th edition of Asia Swimming Federation (AASF) Asian Age Group Championships 2019 will be hosted by Bangalore, Karnataka.
 - It will be organized by Swimming Federation of India (SFI) and it has approved by FINA (International Swimming Federation) as a qualifier event for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
28. World Archery Federation has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI).
 - Reason: - Internal dispute in the AAI.
 - Implication : - The last event in which Indian athletes can participate is the world youth championships in Madrid (in August 2019).
29. World Women's Boxing Championships 2019 will be held in Russia in October.
30. Dutee Chand (Sprinter) has signed agreement with PUMA for a formal association (to be included in the list of world class PUMA athletes).
31. Colin Ackermann (South African) has set a new world record in T20 cricket format by taking 7 wickets in just 18 runs.
 - The match in this T20 series- Vitality Blast was held in England and Wales- was played between Leicestershire Foxes (Colin's club) and Birmingham Bears.
32. BCCI has agreed to come under the jurisdiction of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
33. Chinese Taipei has won the Asian Under-23 Men's Volleyball Championship 2019 held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
34. Mahak Jain (tennis player) won her first ATP tour title at Nairobi, Kenya.
35. India won 6 medals-3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze at the Bulgarian Junior International Badminton Championships 2019 held in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria.
 - Indian Gold Winners: - Samiya Imad Faruqui, Edwin Joy and Shruti Mishra, Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt.

36. Chennai Lions has won the Ultimate Table Tennis League held in New Delhi.
37. Bajrang Punia has won gold medal at Tbilisi Grand Prix 2019 held in Tbilisi, Georgia (a country at the intersection of Europe and Asia).
 - Vinesh Phogat has won gold (her 4th consecutive gold) at the Medved event in Minsk, Belarus.
38. Sourabh Verma has won men's singles title in the Hyderabad Open BWF Tour Super 100 tournament.
 - Women's Singles Title: Yeo Jia Min (Singapore).
39. Rogers Cup (Tennis), also known as Canadian Cup, was held in Toronto, Canada.
 - Winner of 139th edition of Men's Singles: - Rafael Nadal
 - Winner of 128th edition of Women's Singles: - Bianca Andreescu
40. Spain's U-20 team has won the Cotif Cup (football) tournament held in Valencia, Spain.
 - India's U-20 women team (won 2, lost 2 matches) has won a third placed trophy and the Fair Play Award for its good performance.
41. Aishwarya Pissay has become the first Indian women to win FIM World Cup 2019 (motocross racing) held in Varpalota, Hungary.
42. Chess World Cup will be held in Khanti-Mansiysk, Russia in September.
43. Thailand Women's Cricket team has made a world record by winning the 17th successive T20-I match in the ongoing quadrangular series in the Netherlands.
 - Earlier the record was made by Australian Women's team with 16 victories.
44. For the first time since 1998, cricket has been added in the Commonwealth Games by adding Women's T20I series.
 - It will be played in 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham, UK where 8 international cricket teams will participate.
 - Beach volleyball and Para-table tennis games have also been added.
 - Shooting sport will not be a part of this game.
45. Wesley Sneijder (Netherlands' most-capped footballer) has announced retirement.
46. YONEX BWF World Senior Championships 2019 (organized by Badminton World Federation) has been won by Ajith Haridas and Vijay Lancy (both at 40+ age) in men's doubles category, held at Katowice, Poland.
 - Men's Singles: - Hirofumi Fujino (Japan)
47. PT Usha has been appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission for a second time.
 - The other members of the commission are Olga Rypakova (Kazakhstan), Wang Yu (China), Lee Hup Wei (Malaysia) and Saad Shaddad (Saudi Arabia).

48. Cricket Australia has disclosed its first elite cricket policy to include transgender people in its Cricket team following ICC's guidelines for the same.
49. Simone Biles (American) has become the world's first woman gymnast to make a "triple-double" floor exercise landing at the US Gymnastics Championships 2019 held at Kansas City, USA.
50. Egypt's women's team has won the WSF World Junior Squash Championship 2019 (organized by CIMB Foundation) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- USA will host the 2019 WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship in December.
51. Global T20 Canada 2019 has been won by Winnipeg Hawks cricket team held in Ontario, Canada.
52. USA Central (girls) and USA West (boys) have won the 2019 Junior NBA (National Basketball Association) Global Championship held in Orlando, USA.
53. Deepak Punia has won gold in the Junior World Wrestling Championships 2019 held at Tallinn, Estonia.
- In total, India has won 3 medals including 2 bronze by Sajan Bhanwal and Viky.
54. Cricket Association of Uttarakhand has been recognized as a full member by the BCCI.
55. Liverpool (it is their 4th title) has won the 44th edition of UEFA Super Cup (Football) held in Istanbul.
56. A new hockey academy namely 'Naval Tata Hockey Academy' has been inaugurated at the Kalinga stadium, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to promote sports in the state.
- The academy is named after Naval H. Tata to recognize his contribution to hockey.
57. India has won T20 Physical Disability World Cricket 2019 held in Worcester, England.
- Organiser: England and Wales Cricket Board.
58. Indian Army team has won the 5th edition of 'International Army Scout Masters Competition 2019' held in Jaisalmer Military Station, Rajasthan.
- The competition was held in India for the first time.
59. For the first time, India has won the Gold medal at the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Junior Track Cycling World Championships 2019 held in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Indian Team Winners:- Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh, James Singh and Rojit Singh.
 - Egypt (Cairo) will host the 2020 UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships.
60. Chennai City Football Club has partnered with 'uhlsport' (German sports goods supplier) to develop grassroots football in Tamil Nadu and across India.
61. Virat Kohli has become the 3rd cricketer to have a stand named after him at the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium in recognition of his sport abilities.

- Bishan Singh Bedi and Mohinder Amarnath were the earlier cricketers to have a stand named after them in the stadium.
62. Athletics Federation of India will organise the Indian Grand Prix-VI in New Delhi in September as a qualifying event for the World Championships.
- For male athletes, the events will be 400m hurdles, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, javelin throw and 4x400m relay.
 - For women, the events will be 100m, 200m, 400m and the long jump.
 - World Athletic Championships 2019 will be held in Doha, Qatar.
63. Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won gold medals in women's and men's 300m races respectively at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event held in Czech Republic.
64. France has won the mixed triathlon test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics held in Tokyo.
65. Mahak Jain (tennis player) won a singles and doubles title (with Sathwika Sama) at the \$15,000 ITF women's tournament held in Nairobi, Kenya.
66. World Para Powerlifting Championships 2019 was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- Malaysia's Bonnie Bunyau Gustin (aged 20) has made a world record by lifting 207kg in 65 kg men's category and won 2 Gold medals.
 - Folashade Oluwafemiayo (Nigerian) has made the world record in women's category by lifting 150 kg and Enkhbayar Sodnompiljee (Mongolia) have made the world record the men's category by lifting 247 kg.
67. India has won the U-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held in Kazakhstan.
- Gold Winner: - Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Pranav Rethin.
68. Esow Alben (India) has won two medals at the UCI World Junior Track Championships 2019 held in Frankfurt, Germany.
- India won a gold, silver and bronze each and was ranked sixth in the medals tally.
69. Daniil Medvedev has won the ATP Masters 1000 held in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.
70. Mumbai will host the World Youth Chess Championship 2019.
71. World Wrestling Championships 2019 will be held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan in September, 2019.
72. Former Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- MCC is a cricket club founded in 1787 in London, England.
73. For the first time, 9th edition of Rugby World Cup 2019 will be held in Asia (in Japan).
- Rugby (originated in England) is the third largest international sport after Olympics/Paralympics and FIFA World Cup.
74. AIBA World Boxing Championships 2019 will take place in Yekaterinburg, Russia in September.

- 11th edition of Women's AIBA World Boxing Championships 2019 will be held in Ulan-Ude, Russia in October.
75. Paytm has received the sponsorship rights of title for international and domestic matches of BCCI.
76. Para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia has become the 1st Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of USA.
- He was a part of the Indian para-swimming team of 6 members. Rohan More was the coach of the team.
77. Two pre-season games of the NBA India Games 2019 will be held in Mumbai.
- It is the first time North American sports league teams (Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers) will play in India.
78. India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has been suspended by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for 6 months for non-compliance with International Standard for Laboratories.
- Implication: - NDTL has been prohibited from carrying out any anti-doping activities.
79. Alex Rins has won the British Motorcycle Grand Prix (MotoGP) 2019 held at Silverstone circuit, UK.
80. PV Sindhu has become the first Indian shutter to win the gold at BWF World Championship 2019 (Badminton) held at Basel, Switzerland.
- Sai Praneeth has won a bronze in men's singles category.
81. Shanghai 2019 Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage 2, held in China, winners: -
- Men's Recurve: - Lee Woo Seok; Women's Recurve: - Kang Chai Young
 - Compound Men: - Braden Gellenthien; Compound Women: - So Chaewon
82. Komalika Bari has won gold medal in Recurve Cadet Women category in World Archery Youth Championships 2019 in Madrid, Spain.
- Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh (junior mixed team) won gold.
 - Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare (junior compound men's team) won the bronze medal.
83. Jasprit Bumrah has become the fastest Indian bowler to take 50 wickets (11 test matches) in Test cricket in the 2-day test series against West Indies, held in Antigua and Barbuda.
- R Ashwin was the previous fastest bowler to take 50 wickets.
84. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) of India has won 10 medals (5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) at World Police and Fire Games 2019 (WPFG) held at Chengdu, China.
- Gold Medals to India: -
 - WPFG-2021 Venue: Rotterdam, Netherlands.
 - WPFG-2023 Venue: Winnipeg, Canada.
85. Jin Young Ko has won the CP Women's Open 2019 (LPGA- Golf tour) held at Magna Golf Club, Canada.

86. Zurich will host the IAAF Diamond League in 2020 and 2021.
- Diamond League is an annual series of elite track and field athletic competitions started in 2010.
87. Kento Momota has won the men's singles at the BWF World Championship 2019 held in Basel, Switzerland.
- Men's Doubles: - Mohamad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia).
 - Women's Doubles: - Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan).
88. Anil Puri has become the first serving Lt. General-rank officer of the Indian Army who completed the France's oldest cycle competition- 1200 km long Paris Brest-Paris circuit (PBP) 2019.
- Audax Club Parisien (cycling club in Paris) has organized it.
89. Athletics Federation of India has chosen Nestle Milo as its title sponsor for National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet 2019 (NIDJAM).
- NIDJAM is one of the world's largest talent hunt programmes for a single sport (for U-14 and U-16 athletes).
90. Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) has decided to rename the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium.
- The ground will continue to be called the Feroz Shah Kotla.
91. A new mobile app "IndTokyo" has been launched by Arhan Bagati (Awareness and Impact Ambassador of Paralympic Committee of India) to help para-athletes track place in Tokyo during the 2020 Paralympics Games.
- 16th edition of 2020 summer Paralympics Venue: Tokyo, Japan
 - 17th edition of 2024 summer Paralympics Venue: Paris, France
92. 3rd leg of Dream Big Challenger - UTR tennis tournament will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- UTR- Universal Tennis Rating is a global tennis player rating system to produce an index of players' skill.
93. ICC Men's Cricket Rankings: - Best Batsman- Virat Kohli followed by Steve Smith
- Best Bowler - Pat Cummins followed by Kagiso Rabada (7th- Jasprit Bumrah)
 - Best Team - India.
94. Cecil Wright (West Indies) has announced retirement from cricket at the age of 85.
95. India has won 12 medals at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships was held in Basel, Switzerland.
- 3 Gold medals: - Pramod Bhagat in men's singles; Manasi Joshi in women's singles; Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar in men's doubles.
 - 4 Silver medals and 5 Bronze medals were also won by India.
96. 45th WorldSkills Competition 2019 was held at the KAZAN EXPO International Exhibition Centre in Kazan, Russia.
- India won 4 medals :- 1 gold by S Aswatha Narayana, 1 silver by Pranav Nutalapati and 2 bronze medals by Sanjoy Pramanik and Shweta Ratanpura.

97. Ashish Kasodekar has become the first Indian to complete the 555 kms long "La Ultra The High" marathon in Ladakh.
98. VK Vismaya (sprinter) won gold medal in women 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting - Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) held in Brno, Czech Republic.
 - Poovamma Machettira won silver and Subha Venkatesan won bronze.
99. Jalaj Saxena has set a record of scoring 6000 runs in first-class cricket during 58th season of Duleep Trophy 2019-20 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - He has also taken 300 wickets in first-class cricket.
100. International Champions Cup 2019 (football tournament) has been won by Portugal football club- Benfica in men's category.
 - ICC Women's Cup was won by Lyon Football Club of France.
101. Italy has won the maximum medals (1-gold and 2-bronze) at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun 2019 was held in Lahti, Finland.
102. Asian Women's Volleyball Championship 2019 (held in Seoul, South Korea) has been won by Japan's team.
103. Ding Liren won the 2019 Sinquefeld Cup held at St. Louis Chess Club, St. Louis County in USA.
104. FINA World Junior Swimming Championships 2019 was held in Budapest, Hungary.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. NASA's TESS has discovered the First Super Earth named as GJ 357d outside solar system which could be habitable. It is 31 light years away from Earth.
2. "Interrogating Indus inscription to unravel their mechanism of meaning conveyance" published in Palgrave Communications (a Nature group journal) states that Indus Valley inscriptions were written logographically.
 - Logographically means by using word signs. The inscriptions were not written with phonograms (sounds symbols).
 - The study was authored by Ms. Bahata Ansumali Mukhopadhyay.
3. "Tools and Weapons: The Promise and The Peril of the Digital Age" book has been co-authored by Brad Smith (President of Microsoft) and Carol Ann Browne.
4. Hilary Clinton and her daughter Chelsea Clinton have co-authored a book called "The Book of Gutsy Women" which honours famous women personalities.
 - The book includes stories of more than 100 influential women including Mary curie, Greta Thunberg etc.
5. Author Toni Morrison has passed away at 88.

6. The fossils of the world's smallest monkey (lived 18 million years ago) have been discovered in Amazon forests by Duke University (USA) and National University of Piura (Peru).
 - It was published in journal Human Evolution.
7. Fossils of a giant sized parrot (almost 1 meter tall and weigh 7 kg), which is named as *Heracles Inexpectatus*, have been found in near St. Bathans, New Zealand.
 - The study was published in the Biology Letters.
 - The fossils were first discovered in 2008.
8. A book- *Oru Manidhan, Oru Iyakkam* on the life and work of former CM of Tamil Nadu and DMK president M. Karunanidhi has been released.
9. A sequel to *Emerging India* (2012) book- '*Resurgent India*' has been written by Bimal Jalan.
10. Sandra Pascoe Ortiz (Mexican researcher) has invented a new technique to make biodegradable plastic from cactus leaves (juice).
11. '*The Diary of Manu Gandhi*' has been released by National Archives of India, in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
 - Originally written in Gujarati, this diary has been translated by Dr. Tridip Suhrud.
12. '*Listening, Learning and Leading*' book based on the life and works of M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office as Vice President of India has been released.
13. Sanjay Suri has written book- "*A Gandhian Affair*" that studies "India's portrayal of love in cinema" in 60s and 70s era.
14. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched "*JAYA HO*" book which records the historic "*Praja Sankalpa Yatra*" (an election campaign walkathon of Reddy) from Idupulapaya to Ichchapuram (covering 3,648 km).
 - The book has been completed under the journalist K Ramachandra Murthy.
15. A book on the life of actress Sridevi - "*Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar*"- has been written by Satyarth Nayak and has been published by Penguin Random House India.
16. Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics and University Observatory (Germany) has discovered a Super Massive Black Hole (SMBH) with a mass of 40 billion suns (solar masses).
 - The discovery is published in *Astrophysical Journal*.
 - It is twice the size of two huge black holes and is located in the midst of Holmberg 15A galaxy (galaxy located in the centre of Abell 85 galaxy cluster).
 - It is located at a distance of 700 million light years from Earth.
 - It is expected to be 4 to 9 times larger than expected galaxy's stellar mass.
17. Rajiv Dogra has written his 3rd novel "*Second Night*".
 - The first two novels are "*Where borders bleed: An insider's account of Indo-Pak Relation*" and "*Durand's curse: A line across Pathan Heart*" (based on the Durand Line- the border line of Pak and Afghanistan).

18. 'Kashmir's untold story: Declassification' book has been written by filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defence analyst Maroof Raza.
 - The book covers the entire history of Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning i.e., 1889 to 2019.
19. "100 Years of Chrysostum", a biographical documentary on Philipose Mar Chrysostum, has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest documentary.
 - Chrysostum (aged 102-year-old) is the Metropolitan Emeritus of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.
 - The film has been directed and scripted by Blessy.
20. A giant guitar (70-foot-tall) made from metal waste, prepared by Industrial Training Institute- Odisha, has entered the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records.
21. "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story" has been written by Mihir Dalal.
22. Chandrayaan-2 has sent the photo of Mitra crater (named after Indian scientist and pioneer of radio technology Sisir Kumar Mitra) on moon's surface.
 - International Astronomical Union (IAU), which is responsible for naming planetary features in solar system, had named the crater after Mitra in 1970.
23. "Obama: The Call of History" book has been written by Peter Baker (published by Penguin India).
24. Jessi Combs (car-racer) died in a car race held at Harney County, USA while trying to make a record.
25. NASA's InSight lander has named a rock on Mars as 'Rolling Stones Rock' in honour of the English band- 'The Rolling Stones'.
 - NASA's InSight mission is led by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).