



SEPTEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2019

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Malabar River Festival, Asia's biggest White-Water festival, takes place in Kerala.
2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google have signed a statement of intent to initiate the 'Build for Digital India' programme.
 - Under it, engineering students will be trained to learn new technologies like machine learning, cloud computing etc. to address social problems.
 - These will be provided through Google's Developer Student Club network and other Google Developer networks.
3. Global Happiness Index 2019, released by Ipsos, ranks India at 9th position with 77% score (a 6% fall from 83% score in 2018) among the total 28 countries.
 - Australia and Canada are at the top spot (at 86% score each) while Argentina (34%), Spain (46%) and Russia (47%) are at the bottom spots.
 - Parameters: - physical health, living conditions, hobbies and interests, personal safety and security, purpose in life, satisfaction with present life, money, friends.
4. India has launched the "Samudrayaan" mission to send 3 humans to sea-bed at a depth of 6,000 meters for 72 hours (a usual submarine can go up to 200 meters) by 2021-22.
 - Purpose: - To explore mineral resources and conduct study of the oceans.
 - National Institute of Ocean Technology is the anchor of this project.
 - 'Samudrayaan' is a part of Ministry of Earth Sciences' Deep Ocean Project for mining of rare minerals. [details of deep ocean project is covered in July Spotlight]
5. Election Commission of India will host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru.
 - India will take over as A-WEB's Chair for the period of 2019-21.
 - An International Conference on "Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections" will be held during the event.
 - A-WEB (established in 2013 in Song-do, South Korea) is the world's largest association of Election Management Bodies and has 114 members in total.
 - A-WEB's vision is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide. Its permanent secretariat is Seoul.
6. Two Indian Navy warships- INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan have reached Laem Chabang Port at Bangkok, Thailand for a port call.
 - The port call is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Thailand.
7. High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea have jointly organised the "Namaste Pacific" event to showcase the culture of the Pacific region in New Delhi.
 - Aim: - To strengthen ties between India and Pacific nations.
8. India's tallest Air Traffic Control tower (102 metre tall) has been established at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
 - Purpose: - To enhance safety and efficiency of air transport management services.

9. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the draft "Health Care Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and damage to Property) Bill 2019".

- Rs 2-10 lakh penalty and a jail term of up to 3-10 years (maximum) will be imposed on persons committing violence against the doctors and hospital premises.

10. PM Modi will be conferred a Global Goalkeepers Awards by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation during his visit for the 74th UN General Assembly in New York, USA in September for his "Swachch Bharat Abhiyan" (launched in 2014).

11. Ministry of Power has tightened norms for stressed assets of power companies to ensure payment compliance in both discoms and power generating companies.

- In March, Coal linkages (supply assurance) of power plants that cancel PPAs (power purchase agreements), due to payment default by discoms, were allowed to be valid for 2 years.
- Also, power plants with no PPA with Coal India will be allowed the Coal linkage for one year.
- Now, it has been suggested to allow Central/state gencos to act as aggregators of power.
- Power stations which cancel PPAs (for payment default by discoms) will sell electricity only through the govt's DEEP portal or power exchanges at market- determined price for maximum 2 years.
- Target: - To de-stress power plants with aggregate capacity of 40,000 MW.

12. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has developed the digital National Laboratory Directory to provide all information regarding standards of products and testing infrastructure in India.

13. Rajasthan has launched the Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana (AB-MGRSBY scheme) by merging the Central scheme of Ayushman Bharat and state scheme-Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme (BSBY).

- The number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme has been increased from 1 crore to 1.1 crore.

14. A high-level group (HLG) on health sector, headed by Randeep Guleria, formed by the 15th Finance Commission, has recommended to declare 'Right to Health' as a fundamental right on the 75th Independence Day in 2022.

- Implication: - If the right to health is declared as a fundamental right then, state would have to provide for it, irrespective of its funds.
- Further, it recommended to amend the constitution to shift the subject of health from the state list to the concurrent list.
- It also suggested to separate training for medical teachers and service providers and prohibit medical college teacher from practising as private professionals.
- The report says there should be a common exit exam for undergraduate medical students qualifying from both public and private medical colleges.

15. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) services headquarters - CGHS Bhawan - in New Delhi.

- Govt aims to make CGHS services (started in 1954) to 100 cities by 2022.
- In 2014, CHGS were available in 25 cities, the number has now increased to 71 cities.
- A new scheme of Annual Health Check-up of CGHS beneficiaries was launched for the pensioners of 75 years and above.

16. 5th Aqua Aquaria India, 2019 (largest aquaculture exhibition in India) was inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana.
 - Theme: - "Taking Blue Revolution to India's hinterland".
 - It is a biennial exhibition organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

17. IIT-Kharagpur has partnered with Amazon Web Services to develop the 'National Artificial Intelligence Resource Platform' to promote learning and development in AI.
 - The initiative has received funding from Ministry of Human Resources Development, as part of the National Digital Library (NDL) of India project.
 - NDL was launched in 2018 by MHRD to make digital educational resources available to all citizens of the country.

18. 72nd Regional Committee Session of the WHO's South-East Asia Region was held in New Delhi.
 - India has pledged \$2 Lakh for the execution of the preparedness stream under the South-East Asia Health Emergency Respond Fund (SEARHEF).
 - Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness was also adopted by the members of the WHO's committee.
 - Sri Lanka was recognised for eliminating measles; Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand for becoming the first four countries from the region to control Hepatitis B; and Maldives for eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis.

19. Delhi government's Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana has been extended to SC/ST/OBC/EWS students (qualifying 10th and 12th) with family income not more than Rs 8 Lakhs p.a.

20. According to the PURE study published in the Lancet, high income countries (HIC) witness deaths from cancer as much as twice to the deaths caused by cardio-vascular disease (CVD) in the low income countries (LIC).
 - In LIC, deaths from CVD are three times that of the cancer. Highest mortality was witnessed in LIC and lowest in HIC.
 - Authors: - Salim Yusuf and V Mohan.
 - Total 1.62 Lakh individuals in 21 countries were assessed.
 - According to another study "Modifiable Risk Factor, Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality" (published in Lancet), indoor pollution is the major cause of CVDs.

21. India will contribute \$22 million to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) as part of its 6th replenishment cycle (2020-22).
 - In the current funding cycle (2018-21), the Global Fund has given \$500 million to India.
 - As a donor, India has contributed \$46.5 million so far till 2019. India joined Global Fund in 2002 both as recipient and as a donor.

22. Asia's first 5th Generation - Virtual Reality (VR) based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre has been launched at the Automobile Association of Southern India Centre (AASI), Chennai by Rotary International District 3232.
 - Purpose: - To train 200 Ambulance drivers free of cost in the initial 6 months, under 'Safe Drivers Campaign'.

23. Uttar Pradesh has partnered with World Bank to fund the 'pro-poor tourism' (PPT) of UP govt. (specially focussed on Agra and Braj areas).
- The project is worth \$57.14 million. World bank will provide 70% of the cost and 30% of it will be borne by UP govt.
 - Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project (approved in 2017) aims to increase employment and eliminate poverty through tourism.
24. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched first-ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi, UP to recycle the wasted pottery.
- In 2018, KVIC had also launched REPLAN (Reducing Plastic in Nature) to remove existing waste plastic material and use it in a semi-permanent manner to reduce overall plastics.
25. India and Russia have targeted to increase their bilateral trade up to \$30 billion by 2025 against the present \$11 billion trade.
26. The multi-ministry campaign to prohibit the single-use plastics in the country, will be administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- The ministry will also finalise the pending policy for Extended Producer Responsibility, especially on milk packets.
 - Department of Industrial Promotion will ensure that all cement factories use plastic as fuel, while National Highway Authority of India will use plastic in making durable roads.
27. Rajasthan has become the first state to launch a pilot project to reduce the weight of school bags of children.
28. Uttar Pradesh's Police has launched a 'C-Plan' mobile app to curb communal tensions across the state (in far-flung villages also).
- The app will help commoners to report the incidents of communal tensions as well as allows police to cross-verify the information.
 - 10 people named as "Sabhrant-10", chosen from every village, will act as informants of police.
29. Haryana govt has waived off ^4,750-crore interest and penalty on crop loans taken from cooperative banks, Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, District Cooperative Central Banks and Land Mortgage Bank.
30. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 9- member working group, headed by Atul Sahai, to review its March 2016 guidelines on trade credit insurance.
- Trade credit insurance is an insurance policy that protects the businesses from loss caused by protracted default, insolvency or bankruptcy etc.
31. One-day Joint India- NDB workshop on Enhancing NDB's engagement with Indian private and public sector was held in New Delhi.
- New Development Bank (NDB, set up-2014; HQ- Shanghai, China) is the first Multilateral Development Bank established by BRICS countries to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies.
32. Department of Science and Technology has selected the IIT-Kharagpur for setting up the

Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI) and approved Rs 125 crore funds for a period of 3 years.

- SATHI is the central govt's initiative to extend help to the academic institutes, start-ups, research institutes, and manufacturing units in the neighbouring regions.

33. 15th edition of the military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2019, conducted by Indian and US special forces, will be held at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA.

- This joint exercise is hosted alternately between the two countries.

34. Ministry of HRD has granted the tag of "Institute of Eminence" to IIT-Kharagpur, IIT- Madras, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, Banaras Hindu University.

- For private universities: - Vallore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwas Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard ,Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology; Bharati Institute have also been issued the Letter of Intent to grant this status.
- The public universities will receive Rs 1,000 crore from the govt. and operational autonomy for transforming into the world-class institute.
- UGC started the practise of granting "Institutions of Eminence" tag in 2017 to encourage the institutions to become world-class institute.
- Total 20 institutes have been recommended by UGC for this status.

35. PM Narendra Modi has unveiled the "Act Far East" policy at the 5th edition of Eastern Economic Forum to boost India's engagement with the Russian region.

- India granted a special line of credit of \$1 billion to Russia for the development of resource-rich Russian region.
- India has concluded 50 agreement worth \$5 billion with Russia.
- Russia has offered the joint design to develop the conventional submarines with air independent propulsion (AIP) for Indian Navy through an Inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with full access to technology and intellectual property rights.

36. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the "Eat Right Movement" to encourage people to eat the right kind of food for the next 365 days, while launching the POSHAN MAAH.

- Eat Right Movement is aligned with Poshan Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat, Anaemia Mukht Bharat and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- FSSAI has prescribed a 25% limit on Total Polar Compounds in cooking oil to avoid harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

37. India will set up a Centralized Technology Vertical (to be operational by next year) under the CBI to connect investigators from across the country for information sharing among them on a real-time.

- Purpose: - To tackle the menace of cyber-crime.
- It was decided at the first-ever "National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Forensics", organized by CBI in New Delhi.

38. 72nd session of WHO's Regional Committee for South East Asia Region (held in Delhi) has adopted the resolution to eliminate Measles and Rubella/Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) from the region by 2023.

- Measles take around 5 Lakh lives in the region while rubella/CRS cause about 55,000 children in the region.
- Since 2014, the region is focusing on to eliminating these diseases.

- Bhutan, North Korea, Maldives, Sri Lanka & Timor Leste have eliminated measles. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Timor Leste have controlled rubella.
39. Ministry of Culture and Tourism has flagged off 25 new moving science museums (buses) in the 115 aspirational districts to inform the rural students about the science and technology (including the 1 for Ladakh also).
- The Mobile Science Exhibition programme was originally launched as the Mobile Science Museum in 1965 by Ministry of Culture.
40. Gujarat has, for the first time, signed a sister-state MoU with Delaware state of America to strengthen mutual ties.
41. India and Maldives (Maldives' 1st MLAT) signed a Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters (MLAT) treaty to effectively carry out legal prosecution and investigation.
- 4th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference was organized in Maldives under the theme of "Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges".
42. A report on Status of Tiger Habitats in high altitude ecosystems was released by Ministry of Environment, which studies the compatibility of tiger habitats and the need for their conservation in high-altitude areas.
- It was prepared by Global Tiger Forum, in collaboration with, Bhutan, India and Nepal govt, World Wide Fund for Nature and supported by Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
43. Rajasthan and UNESCO have signed an MoU to preserve the cultural and folk heritage of Rajasthan.
- UNESCO will develop a special tourist circuit and 10 new cultural hubs in Jodhpur, Bikaner, Barmer and Jaisalmer for around three-and-a-half years, in collaboration with Contact Base (NGO).
44. India and Russia signed MoU during the 20th India - Russia Annual Summit (on the sidelines of Eastern Economic Forum) for cooperation in the road transport and road industry and to combating customs violations in 2019-2022.
- Russia and India will jointly hold a high level tiger forum in 2020.
 - Russia will hold the 2nd International Tiger Conservation Forum (also called the Second Tiger Summit) in 2022, the first Summit was held in St. Petersburg in 2010.
45. 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) is being held between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy.
- INS Kesari and Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi along with both navies's Maritime Patrol Aircrafts are participating in CORPAT.
46. Ministry of Finance has set up a new task force, headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary - Atanu Chakrabarty, to identify the economically and technically viable infrastructure projects for India to be completed within 2019-20 to 2024-25.
- The budget for creating the "national infrastructure pipeline" is Rs 100 Trillion.
47. Cabinet Committee on Security has cleared the Rs 5,000 crore fund for procurement of Akash (indigenous missile system) for the India Air Force (IAF).

- The number of Akash, ordered by IAF, has been increased to 15 and number of squadrons has been increased to 6 from 2.
48. Indo-Lanka annual joint naval maritime exercise -SLINEX - will start from Vishakhapatnam.
49. Japan-India-US trilateral maritime exercise "MALABAR 2019" will start in September.
- During India-Japan Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue in Tokyo, both countries considered ways for second edition of 'SHINYUU MAITRI 18' (1st bilateral exercise between the air forces of India and Japan held in 2018).
 - Japan also participated as observer in the India-US bilateral exercise "Cope India" in 2018.
50. India and South Korea signed 2 MoU for promoting defence educational exchanges and mutual logistical support for the navies of both countries during the Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019.
- K9 VAJRA-T 155mm/52 (a tracked self-propelled howitzer) was procured by India from South Korea in 2018.
51. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Microsoft India have partnered to training school teachers (from class 8-10) about the AI and cloud computing.
- In Phase-1, 1000 teachers from 10 cities will be trained.
52. Minister of Food processing, Harsimrat K Badal, has inaugurated the 1st Mega Food Park promoted by Smart Agro Food Park at Nizamabad district, Telangana.
- The Park will leverage an additional investment of about ^250 crore in 22 food processing units and generate a turnover of about ^14,000 crore.
53. Cricketer Rohit Sharma, in association with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India and Animal Planet, has launched the "Rohit4Rhino" campaign to conserve Rhinos and create awareness about it.
- The campaign will be launched on Animal Planet (an American documentary TV channel) on "World Rhino Day" on 22 Sept.
 - Rohit Sharma joined the WWF in 2018 as its brand ambassador.
54. First-ever Conference on Military Medicine for SCO members will be held in Delhi in Sept. under the SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020.
- Aim: - To share best practices in the field of military medicine and to build capacities.
55. National Green Tribunal has constituted a committee including officials from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to prepare an action plan for conservation of endangered the Great Indian Bustard.
- The committee is tasked to prepare the strategy for execution of Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) recommendations.
56. Indian Air Force has organized an ultra-marathon of over 4,500 km from Kargil (Dras War Memorial) to Kohima (War Cemetery) to commemorate 20 years of 'Vijay Diwas' (Kargil War).
- It aims to promote the Fit India Movement.
57. IIM-Udaipur has started the first-ever Masters course in digital discipline to provide the digital skills to the professionals to make them efficient leaders in the emerging digital environment.

- IIM-Udaipur has signed various MoU with digital industries for this program (which will start in April 2020).
58. Karnataka government has announced to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka region (having six districts) as Kalyana Karnataka.
- Reason: - To remove the colonial name or connection with the Nizams.
59. Indian Railways has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "Fun Zone" at the Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh to entertain waiting passengers.
- The project was developed under NINFRIS (New, Innovative Non Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme) of the Ministry of Railways.
60. Ministry of Home Affairs assured the states that it would not revoke the Article 371 at the 68th Plenary session of North-Eastern Council held in Guwahati.
- Article 370 and 371 were part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950 and Articles 371A through 371J were added to it later on to give special provisions to 11 states.
61. Ministry of Women and Child Development has felicitated the states and districts for improving the sex ratio at birth (SRB) under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, 2015.
- States wise- Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were felicitated for improvement in SRB, along with the 10 districts.
 - Out of the 10 districts, Kameng district (Arunachal Pradesh) has shown greatest improvement in SRB from 807 in 2014-15 to 1,039 in 2018-19.
 - Nationally, SRB was 918 in 2015 and now it has increased to 931.
62. Ministry of Power has formulated a new tariff policy for the discoms which will levy a surcharge, equivalent to the commercial rate of interest, on the defaulting discoms.
- The details of tariff policy and UDAY scheme are yet to be revealed.
63. Nilgiri tahr, also known as Nilgiri ibex's population has increased in the Mukurthi National Park (Tamil Nadu) from 568 in 2018 to 612 in 2019.
64. Anupriya Lakra, from Maoist-hit Malkangiri district in Odisha, has become the first woman pilot from this remote area.
65. India has announced \$1 million financial aid to The Bahamas which is afflicted by Hurricane Dorian.
66. PM Narendra Modi will launch the National Animal Disease Control Programme (central sector scheme) on Sept 11 as a major step towards doubling farmers income.
- Phase 1 of the program aims to provide Rs 12,652 Crores for a period of 5 years till 2024 to vaccinate over 500 Million Livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD.
 - It has two agendas: - To reduce Brucellosis and foot and mouth diseases in animals by 2025 and completely eliminate them by 2030.
 - It will vaccinate 36 Million Female Bovine Calves against the Brucellosis disease.
 - PM will also launch National Artificial Insemination Programme. (Insemination is an artificial method of putting male sperms in female animals through sexual or asexual modes).

67. Knight Frank's report 'Insights on Co-living: An Asia-Pacific Perspective', ranks Beijing, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Mumbai at the top 5 spots in the co-living index.
- Mumbai is the India's most preferred co-living space followed by New Delhi (overall rank - 11) and Bangalore (overall rank - 19).
 - Total 20 cities Asia- Pacific were measured on 6 parameters - tech and financial hub, venture capital deals & growth, housing affordability, university population, general population & human development index, and quality of life.
68. 1st ever helicopter summit 2019 has been organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Indian Air Force was invited to discuss about the "Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) at National level.
69. India has increased the target for land restoration from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030 during the 14th Conference of Parties of UN Convention to Combat Desertification held in Greater Noida, UP.
- 3 species - Indian Cheetah, pink-headed duck and Great Indian Bustard have become extinct due to desertification of land.
 - "New Delhi Declaration" will be released to combat desertification.
70. Central Govt. has constituted a 3-member advisory committee, headed by Sanjay Mitra, to look into the distribution of asset and liabilities of J&K between J&K and Ladakh.
- The committee has been formed under the section 84 and 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
 - Section 84: - It allows distribution of assets and liabilities between the 2 new UTs.
 - Section 85: - Allows Central govt to form an advisory group for this purpose.
71. A first of its kind study conducted by Nutrition International, in collaboration with AIIMS, Delhi and Indian Coalition for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), mentioned that Tamil Nadu (61.9%), Andhra Pradesh (63.9%), Rajasthan (65.5%), Odisha (65.8%) and Jharkhand (68.8%) are the lowest salt consuming states.
- Gujarat produces 71% of salt in India followed by Rajasthan at 17% and Tamil Nadu at 11%.
 - States with more than 99% of households having access to adequately iodised salt were Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.
72. Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (under Ministry of Home Affairs) has released the "SRS Based Abridged Life Tables, 2013-17" mentioning that overall life expectancy in India has improved to 69 years from 68.7 in 2012-16.
- In 2013-17, Kerala with 75.2 years retains at the top position and Uttar Pradesh with 65.0 years, has the lowest life expectancy at birth.
 - Total life Expectancy between 2013-17: - 69.0 (Male- 67.8 and Female- 70.4)
 - Life Expectancy in Urban Area:- Total- 72.4; Male- 71.2; Female- 73.7
 - Life Expectancy in Rural Area: - Total- 67.7; Male- 66.4; Female- 69.0
73. Maharashtra govt will develop a disaster risk management tool, in collaboration with United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) for assessing the disaster threats and their solutions.
- USTDA, in its report, has estimated that losses from floods in the Mumbai

Metropolitan Region are \$2 billion (^14,350 crore) during 2005-15 while death toll is over 3,000 during the decade.

- The recent floods in western Maharashtra are estimated to cause ^6,813 crore damage.

74. India's first paperless State Legislative Assembly building has been inaugurated in Jharkhand. (Himachal Pradesh became India's first hi-tech digital legislative assembly in 2014).

- Indian Parliament will become paperless from next session.

75. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced to create a digital database on infrastructure, traffic, education, health, sanitation, safety and population for over 4,000 smart cities by 2024.

- In the phase 1, 100 cities under the 'Smart City Mission' would be covered by March 2020, and in phase 2, 500 cities will be brought under the project by 2022.
- The ministry is also planning to monetise this data.

76. Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council has prepared the first-of-its-kind report titled "Mid-Monsoon 2019 Lightning" with inputs from Indian Institute of Tropical Management-Pune and ISRO, reports the lightning incidents in India.

77. NITI Aayog has chosen McKinsey & Co. for developing India's first digital capability centre (DCC) to train manufacturing companies in next generation technology.

- Govt will bring together industry, academia, and research to help set up a DCC, which has to be driven by the private sector.

78. India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC) will be set up Kozhikode, Kerala to allow women to open their ventures and to participate in international trade.

- The 1st phase of iWTC, being executed under the gender park's "Vision 2020", is scheduled to be completed by 2021.
- Gender Park (launched in 2016) is an institution promoted by the Department of Social Justice of Kerala, to resolve the gender inequity issues.

79. A multilingual Mobile App "CHC Farm Machinery" was launched during the National Conference on Crop Residue Management held in New Delhi.

80. India and ASEAN have decided to review the free trade agreement signed between them in 2009 (effective from 2010) to make it more business friendly during the 16th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting with India held in Bangkok, Thailand.

81. "Global Top 50 IB Schools 2019" list has been released by UK-based education consultancy 'Education Advisers Ltd', assessing top International Baccalaureate institutes.

- Top 10 IB institutes: -

82. Two insurance schemes - Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana and Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana have been launched in Haryana for small and medium farmers.

83. DRDO has successfully conducted the 3rd test of the indigenously developed Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

84. LOT Polish Airlines will operate the first-ever direct flight (5 times a week) between India (New Delhi) to Poland (Warsaw) to boost economic ties between the two nations.
85. A major exercise-HimVijay- will be conducted for a month in October in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with Army's newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) involving 15,0 troops.
- IBGs are special units, each tailor made based on threat, terrain and task.
86. According to a study published in "The Lancet", Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and India are the top 4 countries respectively with highest burden of Malaria in 2017.
- Of the 219 million cases of malaria reported globally in 2017, nearly 10 million (4%) were from India.
 - Unique Case: - In 2017, 71% of total cases reported in Tamil Nadu occurred in Chennai.
 - According to a WHO's report of 2017, out-of-pocket spending should not exceed 20% of total health expenditure.
87. Samsung has developed two apps - Good Vibes for deafblind and Relumino for people with low vision - to help people in India.
- Good Vibes: - created in partnership with Sense India; will help deafblind people understand messages through Mores Code.
 - Relumino: - created in partnership with National Association for the Blind (Delhi); help people see images better.
88. Tamil Nadu has got the GI tag for its sweet- Srivilliputhur palkova.
89. 8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER8) is being hosted by Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, described about the Energy Vision of India (launched in 2016), which is based on four pillars i.e. energy access, energy efficiency, energy sustainability and energy security.
 - 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) will be held in 2021 in New Delhi.
 - 17th edition of International Energy Forum (IEF17) will be held in China in 2020.
90. Central Govt is planning to set up a "National Genomic Grid" in line with the National Cancer Tissue Biobank (NCTB) to increase research in cancer and make treatment available to all patients.
- Purpose: - It will collect samples from cancer patients to study genomic factors influencing cancer and identifying the right treatment modalities for the Indian population.
 - NCTB is a joint initiative of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and IIT- Madras and has a capacity to collect 50,000 genomic samples from cancer patients.
91. Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued the Life Skills curriculum named as "Jeevan Kaushal", which has been prepared by UGC, for under-graduation programs.
- Aim: - To train the ug students in the life skills apart from theoretical knowledge.
92. Times Higher Education has released the 16th edition of World University Ranking 2020, which ranked more than 1300 universities from 92 countries.
- Top 5 universities: -

- Rank of Indian Universities: -
 - Parameters of Ranking: - teaching, research, citations, international outlook and industry income.
93. "Drought Toolbox" (a website) has been released during the COP-14 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to help vulnerable countries find one- stop solution of drought related issues on "Drought Preparedness Day" on Sept 11.
- The drought toolbox is developed through the close partnership among UNCCD, World Meteorological Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation and other institutions and global bodies.
 - FAO has also presented a report - proactive approaches to drought preparedness - on its sidelines.
 - FAO, in collaboration with UNCCD, WMO, Global Water Partnership, and Integrated Drought Management Programme as a contribution to the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture prepared this report.
 - The number of undernourished people in drought-sensitive countries has increased by 45.6% since 2012, according to FAO's 'State of Food Insecurity in the World' 2019 report.
94. Punjab has become the first state in India to sign an MoU with Government e- marketplace (GeM) for setting up the GeM Organizational Transformation Team (GOTT) Project Management Unit (PMU) in the state.
- GeM (launched in 2016) aims to facilitate efficient procurement of goods and services by the various govt departments and ministries.
 - Among the Central Public Sector Units, SAIL India has already signed MoU for setting up of GOTT PMU.
95. J&K governor Satya Pal Malik has launched the Market Intervention Price Scheme (MIPS) in J&K for procurement of Apples worth Rs 8,000 crore to help apple growers in the state.
- Under the MIPS, apples will be procured and marketed by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), and apple growers will get more remuneration for various grades of apple.
 - The scheme has been approved by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs.
96. The 2nd Multi Modal Terminal built has been built at Sahibganj in Jharkhand at a cost of ^290 crores on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- 1st Multi Modal Terminal was built at Varanasi in 2018.
97. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is planning to link social media accounts with it.
- NATGRID is an online database which aims to connect intelligence agencies on a secure platform.
 - NATGRID project is still under development and was announced after the 26/11 Mumbai attack in 2008. But the project was gathered pace in 2016 after appointment of CEO Ashok Patnaik (current ceo of project is Ashish Gupta).
 - According to Ministry of Home Affairs, National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) will become operational by January 2020.

98. 3rd edition of the RE-INVEST expo, organized by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has been postponed to October 2020 due to the economic slowdown.
- India has also previously postponed the RE-INVEST in 2016 also.
99. India has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own standards (conforming to international norms) to over 100 countries, including European nations, according to Bureau of Indian Standards.
- India is the 4th country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on bulletproof jacket.
100. ONGC has signed an MoU with Assam government for drilling of 220 oil and gas wells in the state at a cost of Rs 13,000 crore.
- It is in line with PM Modi's call for reducing import by 10% by 2022 and Northeast Hydrocarbon Vision 2030.
101. Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has given the second Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, Netra, to the Indian Air Force.
- DRDO developed it in association with Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems.
102. India delivered the 'Pulathisi Express' made under the "Make in India" campaign to Sri Lanka.
- It was inducted through an Indian line of Credit to Sri Lanka, provided through RITES Limited and Integral Coach Factory (in Chennai).
103. India has become the 16th country to join the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub (AMR- R&D).
104. Ministry of Human Resource and Development will introduce Artificial Intelligence study at the school level by partnering with the technology leaders like Intel.
- HRD Minister launched the CBSE's portal Vidya Daan.
 - Vidya Daan is a repository of content prepared by the teachers by uploading study materials for students of class 6th to 10th on an on-line platform, Diksha App.
 - Diksha App was launched in 2017 to serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. All teachers across nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.
105. India and Thailand will hold their joint military Exercise Maitree-2019 at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- Both nations have already carried out a similar exercise twice in the past one month and this is the 3rd exercise between them.
 - As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to South East Asia and Western Pacific, INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan made a port call at Laem Chabang, Bangkok.
106. Ministry of Railways and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed an MoU for facilitating green initiatives.
- Indian Railways & CII have been working together on Green Rating & Energy Efficiency Studies of Railway's Production Units & major workshops since 2016.
 - In last 3 years, 50 Railway units and other facilities have achieved GreenCo certification.
 - CII developed the GreenCo Rating System to facilitate Indian industries make a substantial improvement in their environmental performance.

107. UNESCO will publish an anthology of writings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev in world languages to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- Indian Govt has also released the commemorative coins and postage stamps on this occasion.
108. Rajasthan has launched the online Jan Sochna Portal under its Rajasthan Innovation Vision (RAJIV) to give a boost to the RTI Act, 2005 and strengthening the Section 4(2) of the RTI Act which was not implemented properly earlier.
- Presently, the portal provides information of 23 schemes from 13 departments.
109. NELCO has become the first company in India to launch the maritime communication services to provide quality broadband services to the maritime sector.
110. Tamil Nadu's CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has signed MoU with 41 companies to attract Rs 8,835 crore investment, during his three nations visit to USA, UK, and UAE.
- These MoU will provide jobs to over 35,000 people.
 - Tamil Nadu govt. tied up with International Skills Development Corporation (ISDC), a skill development company based in London, UK for skilling the health work force.
 - London school of hygiene and tropical medicine and TN signed a Statement of Intent to control vector borne diseases, especially malaria and dengue.
 - King's College Hospital, London, will establish a flagship hospital in Tamil Nadu that the government will facilitate.
 - Palaniswami launched the Yaadhum Oore (the world is our home) scheme (including a portal for the scheme) for non-resident Tamils willing to invest in projects in TN.
 - Business Leaders Forum (BLF), investors roundtable, was hosted by the UAE's Ministry of Economy, Indian Embassy to UAE, Consulate General of India in Dubai, and India Trade and Exhibition Centre.
111. Special Training Program for 1,000 Maldivian Civil Servants will be undertaken by National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) at Mussoorie and Delhi.
- NCGG (India) and Maldives Civil Service Commission (CSC) had signed an MoU for capacity building in June 2019.
112. INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan have been reached Malaysia for the bilateral exercise.
- Sea phase of the exercise - 'Samudra Laksamana' - has commenced off the Malaysian port of Kota Kinabalu.
113. High Commission of India in Singapore has organized the region's first international Business and Innovation Summit on India at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Singapore.
- The Summit had two inter-related conferences: first - "India-Singapore: The Next Phase" and second - "InSprenur 3.0": the 3rd edition of the India-Singapore Innovation and Start-up platform launched by the High Commission in January 2018.
 - InSprenur 3.0 will focus on fintech, SMEs digital platforms, connecting start-ups in India and ASEAN, cyber security, artificial intelligence, future of data, Industry 4.0, and health and bio biotech.
114. Gujarat has again topped in the perception-based LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) index, released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry along with Deloitte.

- LEADS Index attempts to establish the base line of performance in the logistics sector based on the perception of users and stakeholders at the state level.

- Nine Parameters includes infrastructure, quality of logistics, services, timeliness of cargo delivery, regulatory process and safety of cargo.

115. COP-14 of UNCCD was held in New Delhi under the theme of Investing in Restoration to Unlock Opportunities.

- Biggest Tribal movement to promote tribal enterprise through Bamboonomics in the country was launched at "The Indian Perspective through Bamboonomics" session at 'COP 14 UNCCD : TRIFED-GIZ'.

- "Delhi Declaration" has been finalized and member countries have agreed to make 'land degradation neutrality' by 2030, a national target for action.

116. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the proposals for procurement of equipment of about Rs 2,000 crores which includes indigenous production of special ammunition for T-72/T-90 tanks to give a boost to Make in India campaign.

- DAC has also approved the indigenous production of the 125mm Armour Piercing Fin Stabilised Discarding-Sabot (APFSDS) gun for T-72/T-90 tanks.

- DAC also approved the procurement of mechanical minelayer (self-propelled) which is being developed by DRDO.

117. Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and DRDO have successfully conducted the first-ever arrested landing of Light Combat Aircraft (Navy) named "Tejas" at a shore-based facility, INS Hansa in Goa.

- LCA (Navy) is the naval version of indigenously developed Tejas fighter aircraft being developed for the IAF.

118. Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Dal Poshit Yojana' to provide pulses at a low price to beneficiaries.

- Under the scheme, 2 Kg of pulses per month would be made available to 23.32 lakh ration card holders.

- Chick pea will be made available at Rs 44 per kg against its current market price of Rs 65 to 70.

119. Haryana has raised the income limit for people seeking to enrol in the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme of up to Rs 1.8 lakh per annum.

- Central Govt has decided to celebrate September 23 as 'Ayushman Bharat Divas' (Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY is completing one-year), while September 15 to 30 will be celebrated as 'Ayushman Bharat Pakhwada'.

120. Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan has been chosen as the head of the panel to study issues related to non-personal data and suggest the ways to regulate it.

121. USA overtakes Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the world's top oil exporter for the first time earlier this year with total oil exports to nearly 9 million barrels per day, according to International Energy Alliance.

- IEA has estimated the growth in global oil demand in 2019 at 1.1 million bpd and 1.3 million bpd for 2020.

122. Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER), first of its kind centre, was launched at the IISc-Bangalore for conducting research in energy.

123. 15th Indo-US Economic Summit 2019 was organized by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce- North India Council (IACC- NIC) in New Delhi.

- As per the Indian government data, India's exports to the US during 2018-19 were worth about USD 52.4 billion while imports bill stood at USD 35.55 billion.
- US trade deficit with India during 2018-19 stood at USD 16.85 billion, lower than USD 21.26 billion in the 2017-18.
- World Bank will sanction Rs 3,000 crore for the Ministry of Food Processing to finance mini and mega food parks across the country.

124. Indian Council of Medical Research, in association with US Consulate of Kolkata and the USA Department of Health and Human Services, inaugurated India's first National Anti-microbial Resistance Hub in Kolkata.

125. "Jaldoot" bus has been launched in Pune, Maharashtra to tour in eight districts in the next two months to create awareness about water conservation.

- Developer: - Pune-based Regional Outreach Bureau of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

126. Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, is a preventive detention law, allows the State government to detain a person up to two years without a trial.

- PSA allows the State to hold a person without producing them in court.

127. Govt aims to link wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme to an updated inflation index, which will be revised annually.

- Purpose: - To boost rural consumption demand.
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, market wages for men were higher than MGNREGA wages by 74% in FY18, while for women, the difference was 21%.

128. Article 341 of the Constitution provides certain privileges and concessions to the members of Scheduled Castes.

- First list of SCs with regards to a state/UT will be issued by President after consulting concerned state Government.
- The clause (2) of Article 341 provides that, any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from the list of SCs can be done through an Act of Parliament.

129. National Green Tribunal has launched the e-filing portal/e-court where the aggrieved party can file complaint online without any hassle under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

130. Supreme Court has mandated that NGOs which are "substantially" financed by the government fall under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

- They are categorized under the "public authority" category in Section 2(h) of the RTI Act.

131. Ministry of Defence has signed a ^5,500 crore contract for developing additional indigenous

Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, ^70,000-80,000 crore worth of contracts are expected to be signed with Indian industry.

- Govt aims to build a \$10 trillion economy by 2032.

132. Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district has organized the first ever only women marathon on the theme of anti-drug addiction.

- NGO Dogra Kranti Dal has organized it.

133. Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur has launched Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline 1100 (Chief Minister's Service Resolution Helpline) for speedy redressal of public grievances.

- HP has become the fourth state after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to have a CM helpline number.

134. Indian Air Force has signed a contract of Rs 300 crore for procurement of 100 Spice- 2000 bombs ('building blaster' version) under the emergency procurement route from Israel.

- Israel has delivered the first batch of these bombs at the Gwalior Air Base - home to IAF's Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft fleet and they are the only fleet which can fire the Israeli bombs.

135. Singapore, India and Thailand have started the first edition of their trilateral naval exercise - SITMEX - at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy are participating in it.
- It will have two phases - sea phase (in the Andaman Sea) and shore phase (at Port Blair).

136. DRDO has handed over the advanced wargaming software to Navy to enable Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train personnel by using the latest technological and computing tools.

- Developer: - Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (DRDO's premier lab) and MWC, Visakhapatnam.

137. Ministry of HRD and External Affairs have launched the 1000 Ph.D. fellowship program for students from ASEAN nations in IITs.

- The fellowship programme has a total budget outlay of Rs 300 crore (approx. \$45 million) is the single-largest capacity development initiative of India in its partnership with ASEAN.
- IIT-Delhi has been chosen as the coordinating IIT for the fellowship programme.
- In January 2018, India announced to provide the fellowships during 25th Anniversary ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi.

138. IAF has launched the Astra missile -developed by DRDO -from Sukhoi-30 MKI off the coast of Odisha as part of user trials.

- Astra missile has a 15-kg high-explosive pre-fragmented warhead and it is a beyond visual range air-to-air missile.

139. Kerala govt and Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) have jointly signed an MOU with the Health Ministry of Maldives for strengthening the cancer care facilities in Maldives.

140. National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCC- R&D) has been launched at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

- NCCC- R&D is a national consortium on clean coal research and development with IISc leading it.

- An Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) equipped with modern facilities was also launched.

141. Ministry of Home Affairs has tightened the norms of Foreigners Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2011, mandating that each member of an NGO seeking registration under FCRA will have to file an affidavit declaring that s/he has no connection with any activity of communal disharmony or with any act of religious conversion.

- Under the 2011 rules, only key functionary and top office bearers were required to give affidavit to receive grants under FCRA.
- MHA has increased the value of articles gifted for personal use from Rs 25000 to Rs 1 lakh in a financial year by amending rule 6A.
- In case of emergency medical aid during a visit abroad, the acceptance of foreign hospitality has to be intimated to the govt within 30 days instead of 60 days earlier.
- The rules have been amended in 2012, 2015 and 2019 for NGOs seeking FCRA licences.

142. An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), named as Rustom 2, of the Defence Research and Development Organisation was crashed during a trial in Chitradurga district, Karnataka.

143. ISRO and DRDO have signed an MoU for providing assistance in the Gaganyaan mission.

144. Union Cabinet has cleared an ordinance to ban the production, import, export, distribution, sale, storage and advertisements of electronic nicotine delivery system, (ENDS) or e-cigarettes.

- So far, 27 countries have banned e-cigarettes. 400 brands of it are sold in India in 150 different flavours.

145. Ministry of Labour & Employment will appoint a CEO, for the first time, who would be executive heads of Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

- At present, EPFO and ESIC work more like autonomous bodies run by trustees and board respectively.
- Central govt would appoint chairman and vice chairman of the two bodies, as per the provisions of draft of Code on Social Security, 2019.

146. First of its kind International Conference on Sustainability Education 2019 held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi

- Organizer: - Mobius Foundation (the Climate Reality Project, India) in partnership with UNESCO's New Delhi office.
- Agenda: - sustainable education, climate change education and environmental education in the current course curriculum were discussed.
- South Asia's first environment school named World Environment School has been launched at Coorg, Karnataka.

147. India signed MoU with Iceland for cooperation in the field of Fisheries collaboration, Cultural cooperation and Iceland also declared exemption from Visa for Indian diplomatic.

- With Switzerland, India signed MoU in the field of climate change, Alliance in science and technology and for Renewal of Hindi chair at the University of Lausanne.
- With Slovenia, India signed MoU in the field of investment, sports, culture, river rejuvenation (Clean Ganga Mission), science and technology and standards.

148. Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) signed an MoU with 2,000Watt Smart City Association from Switzerland for development of carbon-neutral smart townships in the Pune.

149. Tamil Nadu has launched the electric-vehicle policy to attract ^50,000 crore in investments and create 1.5 lakh new jobs.

- 100% road tax exemption for all types of EVs (till 2022), capital subsidies, reimbursement of State GST, subsidy on land cost and special incentives for job intensive EV projects will be provided.

150. Maharashtra has become the first state in India to implement 'vertical property rules' under which a property card (equivalent to ownership documents) will be distributed by the state govt to house owners of flats, buildings etc.

- Maharashtra Land Revenue Record of Rights and Registers for Apartments and Buildings Rules, under the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (MLRC), 1966, will be brought in to provide a property card for flat ownership and to tackle property- frauds.
- The current property cards, or 7/12 extract (a property document where there are no city survey numbers) will become the main document of ownership, once it gets implemented.

151. Ola has signed an MoU with Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) for providing the benefits of the scheme to its drivers and their families.

- Initially, the scheme will be provided in NCR and later on it will be extended to other cities.
- Launched in 2018, AB-PMJAY provides a health cover of ^5 lakh in government and empanelled private hospitals to 10.74 crore economically disadvantaged families.

152. Punjab has launched the 'Mobile Phones to the Youth' scheme to distribute smartphones among all students of class 11 and 12 to acquaint the students with digital platform.

- In the Phase 1 of the scheme, mobile would be distributed to the girls of class XI-XII of govt schools from December.

153. According to a study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the average levels of one of the worst pollutants, the small PM2.5 particles, have declined by 25% during the 3 years from 2016-18.

- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal also claims that Delhi is the only State in the country where the reduction in air pollution has been recorded.
- Also, 95% of Delhi's industries now uses CNG and Delhi is the first State to achieve this. Out of 1,542 industries in Delhi, 1,457 industries have been converted into CNG- powered industries.

154. Google is launching an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Lab in Bengaluru.

- Google has also partnered with BSNL for expanding Wi-Fi hotspots in villages in Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra.
- Google disclosed a new phone line service, in partnership with Vodafone Idea, to allow people to access the Google Assistant feature through a phone number.
- Google is also bringing its technology of tokenisation to India to enable payments through a system of 'tokenized' cards by using a digital token on the phone rather than actual card number to be used by the debit and credit card holders.

- Google is also creating a 'Spot Platform' to allow merchants to create their shop fronts within the Google Pay app. Google is partnering with National Skill Development Corporation India, along with other firms, for it.

- Google has also introduced its search engine in seven indigenous languages.

155. Delhi Police has launched the Tatpar app - amalgamates all the websites and mobile applications of Delhi Police - for facilitating easy access to police services.

- e-FIR, pay traffic challan, a missing mobile phone report can be filed from the app itself.
- It is designed by the Ministry of IT along with National e-Governance Division.

156. According to the study "Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2017" published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health, the targets set under the Poshan Abhiyan or National Nutrition Mission (NNM) for reduction in prevalence of stunting, underweight, low birth weight and anaemia in women and children by 2022 are aspirational and cannot be fulfilled on time.

- NNM was launched in 2018. The study was conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 2/3rd of the 1.04 million deaths in children under five years in India are still caused by malnutrition.
- The disability-adjusted life year (DALY) rate attributable to malnutrition in children varies 7-fold among the States and is highest in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.

157. Government has circulated the draft social security code, which merges existing 8 labour laws, will also include the gig economy workers and provide social security scheme benefits to them and their families.

- The social security benefits include coverage under education, pension, maternal and health welfare schemes.
- The exact number of gig workers is unknown, but a 2017 study by consulting firm EY suggest that nearly one out of four gig workers in the world are in India.

158. Maharashtra govt will set up 'Swachh Bharat World University' to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary at the Wardha in Vidarbha region near Nagpur.

- A seven-member committee, headed by the Minister of Education Vinod Tawde, has been set to take the task ahead.
- Central govt set up an international Hindi University in Wardha earlier.

159. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has developed a Management Information System (MIS) portal under the Accessible India Campaign.

- Purpose: - It will bring all the nodal ministries and States/UTs on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of Accessible India Campaign on a real time basis.
- Accessible India Campaign was launched on 3rd December, 2015 on International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

160. OP Jindal Global University of Haryana has been conferred the 'Institution of Eminence' status by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

161. Central govt has entered into an allotment agreement with West Bengal Power Development



Corporation (WBPDCCL) for Deocha Pachami Dewanganj-Harinsingha coal block (world's 2nd largest block) located in West Bengal.

- WBPDCCL has been allocated the block spread over 12.28 square km with estimated reserves of 2102 million tonnes for power generation under the provisions of Coal Block Allocation Rules, 2017, made under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957.

162. Indian Department of Posts has commenced its International Speed Post (EMS) Service to six nations - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia.

- EMS or Express Mail Service allows users to track the movement of the item on the internet while delivering them faster.
- India Post currently provides speed post service to 100 countries.

163. India has set the target of becoming a \$10 trillion economy by 2030-32 and also to make defence industry worth \$26 billion by 2025.

- India has a target to become a \$5 Tn economy by 2024. The target needs Rs 70,000 crore investment and can create up to 3 million jobs.
- Defence exports were Rs 10,745 crore in 2018-19 which will be increased to Rs 35,0 crore by 2025.

164. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and IBM Technology have partnered to train 10,000 faculty members from ITIs across India in AI technology in 1 year.

165. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched the Margadarshak, Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses, Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree Feedback of Faculty programs.

- WAVE Summit theme is 'Make your own bag'.
- Under the Margdarshan and Margadarshak program, topmost institutions will mentor other institutions, so that they can improve their rankings and follow best practices of the mentor institute.
- AICTE 7th Pay Regulation provides for the collection the 360-degree Feedback Data to be submitted by the education institutes.

166. Nasscom's Data Security Council of India, Ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) and Google India have collaborated to launch the 'Digital Payment Abhiyan' awareness campaign.

- Purpose: - To educate end-users on the benefits of digital payments and urge them to adopt security and safety best practices.
- The campaign will launched in seven languages -- Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and Marathi.

167. Ministry of Home Affairs will set up the world-class style National Police University in Greater Noida, UP.

168. Delhi govt has launched the Champions Campaign against Dengue.

- Earlier, he had also launched 10Hafta 10Baje 10Minute campaign.

169. INS Khanderi (to be commissioned on Sept 28) has been delivered by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd to Indian Navy in Mumbai.

- Khanderi is the 2nd of the six Scorpene Class submarines to be built by Mazagon for Indian Navy under Project 75 by 2022.

170. Indian Green Building Council under the confederation of Indian Industry (CII-IGBC) has awarded Secunderabad Railway Station with the CII-IGBC Green Platinum rating for its green initiatives.

- Secunderabad comes under the South Central Railway zone.
- The station has been awarded with ISO 14001-2015 Certificate- Environmental Management system.

171. Forbes Best Business Schools rankings 2019 has been released for 1-year courses in which International Institute for Management Development (IMD) Lausanne, Switzerland has topped in the 1-year course.

- From India: - Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad has been ranked at 7th position globally and at 1st position in Asia.
- SP Jain Global has also increased to 12th position.
- Parameters: - more than 100 schools and 17,500 alumni were surveyed for their net cumulative earnings after choosing MBA as their career.

172. Indian Railways has installed the first polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle crushing machine in Mumbai Rajdhani Express as part of its Swachh Bharat and Go Green missions.

173. Indian Army conducted the exercise named 'Chang Thang' in Eastern Ladakh bordering China to test and improving its war-fighting capabilities.

174. According to the "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities" report published by WHO/UNICEF under its Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, open defecation has been reduced by 47% in India between 2000-2017.

- 43% people have gained access to basic sanitation facilities.
- A total of 91 nations decreased open defecation by a total strength of 696 million people, with 3/4th of this reduction was witnessed in Central and Southern Asia.
- Globally, 2.1 billion people gained access to basic services and 807 million people gaining access in Central and South Asia and 698 million in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia.

175. Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has launched the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) scheme to improve higher education with AI technology.

- Also, MHRD aims to create a National Alliance with EdTech companies through a PPP model.
- EdTech companies would be responsible for developing technology and manage registration of learners at free of cost through the National NEAT portal.
- AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme.
- MHRD will form an apex committee for administration of this scheme and the Independent Expert Committees would be set up for evaluating and selecting the EdTech solutions. (The scheme will be operationalize in Nov 2019)

176. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme for pregnant women and lactating mothers has crossed 1 crore beneficiaries.

- The total amount disbursed to the beneficiaries under the scheme has crossed Rs. 4.0 crores.
- Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan are the top five States/UT in the country in implementation of PMMVY.
- Odisha and Telangana are yet to start implementation of the scheme.

[DETAILS OF THE SCHEME IS COVERED UNDER THE GOVT SCHEME DOC]

177. 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union was held in New Delhi.

- Bilateral Trade: - between India-Belgium = USD 17.2 billion (41% growth) and between India-Luxembourg = USD 161.98 million (150% growth) in 2018-19.
- Cumulative FDI inflows to India from Belgium and Luxembourg were around \$1.87 billion and \$2.84 billion respectively during April, 2000 to June, 2019.

178. Chandigarh Police has launched the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App' to help the general public.

- Chandigarh Police is the first in the country to introduce e-beat book system.

179. QS' Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 lists which ranks the top 500 universities on five parameters - Employer Reputation, Alumni Outcomes, Partnerships with Employers per Faculty, Employer-Student Connections and Graduate Employment Rate has been released.

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, University of California, Los Angeles, The University of Sydney and Harvard University are the top 5 universities respectively.
- Indian Universities: - IIT-Bombay is at the top position with a 111-120 band ranking, up from 141-150 band last year.
- IIT Delhi and IIT Madras formed the three best ranked Indian institutes in the latest rankings at 151-160 band and 171-180 band respectively.

180. National Conference on Agriculture- Rabi Campaign 2019 was organized in New Delhi.

- 285 million tonnes production in food grains was recorded.
- Rice recorded an all-time high production of 116 million tonnes, wheat at 102.5 million tonnes in 2018-19.

181. UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) initiative has been launched to provide affordable treatment to the genetic disorders of new born babies.

- It is supported by the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology and aims to:-

182. According to the Minister of Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal, the government is considering the Higher Education Commission of India Bill which will repeal the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987.

- Also, there is one provision in the draft which allows foreign universities to operate and open campuses in India, according to a news article.
- Higher Education Commission of India (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Act 2018 will be presented in winter session of Parliament.

183. Census 2011: - Migration data shows that 48% of residents living in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, were migrants in 2011.

- During 2001-11, the proportion of migrants in Hyderabad saw the greatest increase of 39% among the six metros, followed by Chennai with 26 percentage points, and Bengaluru with 15 percentage points.
- Mumbai with 11 percentage points and Delhi with 0.8 percentage points had witnessed the lower inflows.

- Of all the new migrants in the six metros, 81% had migrated from other urban areas.
- Around 90% of migrant inflows to Hyderabad and Chennai was from (undivided) Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, respectively.
- Other than Delhi, Bengaluru had the lowest share of own-state migrants (68%), followed by Mumbai (81%).

184. 46.4 lakh hospital treatments worth Rs 7,500 crore (60% of the amount was spent in tertiary sector) have been recorded under the PM-Jan Aarogya Yojana in its one year of operation (launched in 2018).

- Ayushman Bharat- PM-JAY has saved Rs 12,000 crore of the beneficiary families, according to Indu Bhushan (CEO of Ayushman Bharat).
- It has been implemented in 32 states/UTs currently and 10 crore beneficiary cards have been issued.

185. 7th meeting of the UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments was held in Abu Dhabi.

- Both sides discussed the implementation of the bilateral agreements in the context of the Air Services Agreement between India and UAE and the MoU, with the emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ras al-Khaimah and Sharjah.

186. Ministry of Commerce has sent the draft of National Logistics Policy to Cabinet for approval which have the following provisions: -

- It aims to set up a central portal, which will be a single window market place to link all stakeholders, to provide end-to-end logistics solutions to companies.
- It will also increase the warehousing capacity to bring down the cost of logistics for traders.
- Presently, logistics cost account for 14% of GDP, which the govt wants to reduce to 9%.
- Ministry of Commerce, in association with Deloitte, has prepared the LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2019 which ranks Gujarat at the top position in terms of ease of logistics in the state among the 22 other states.
- Among UTs, Chandigarh has topped and Tripura has topped among hilly states.
- 9 parameters: - Availability of logistics infrastructure, quality of logistics infrastructure, quality of logistics services provided by the service providers, ease of arranging logistics at competitive rates, timeliness of cargo delivery, ease of track and trace, safety/security of cargo movement, state facilitation and coordination and efficiency of regulatory processes have the criteria to judge performance.

187. Union Ministry for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has launched a new scheme 'Assistance for Deep Sea Fishing' for the fishermen in Tamil Nadu as a sub-part of 'Blue Revolution Scheme'.

- Under the scheme, Rs 300 crore assistance would be provided by the union government to the state.
- It is a Centrally-sponsored scheme at a total cost of Rs 1600 crore out of which Central govt's share is Rs 800 crore and Rs 320 crore will be borne by the state.
- The scheme will be implemented in 4 districts of Palk Bay, including Ramanathapuram district and will prevent fishermen from crossing the IMBL (International Maritime Boundary Line).

188. India and USA will hold their first tri-services amphibious exercise - Tiger Triumph - from November at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

- It is being organised under the aegis of the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff.

189. Ponung Doming has become Arunachal Pradesh's first woman Lieutenant Colonel.
190. Cyberdome, Kerala police department's premier facility to prevent cybercrime and mitigate security threats, has roped in experts from Israel for training to crackdown cybercrime.
191. New Jersey -Gujarat and New Jersey - Telangana have signed a sister state agreement during New Jersey governor Phil Murphy's visit to India.
- List of MoU signed between India and New Jersey.
192. Assam has launched the 'Abhinandan' scheme to provide "fiscal relief" to students by providing a subsidy of ^50,000 to all the students with an active education loan account.
193. Ministry for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched the "Krishi Kisan App for Geo Tagging" mobile app to provide the information of high-yielding crops and seeds in the nearby area to their farmers.
- It will also help in geo-tagging and geo-fencing of crops and give weather forecast message to farmers.
194. Delhi police has launched the integrated helpline number "112" and the street crime patrol van named 'prakhar'.
195. A national survey conducted under the NITI Aayog had identified at least 54,130 manual scavengers from 170 districts of 18 states in the country.
- Prohibition of Employment As Manual Scavengers And Their Rehabilitation Act was enacted in 2013.
196. Ministry of Home has launched a single-window system for issuing licences to private security agencies.
- The ministry would streamline the licensing regime under The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
197. Ministry of Environment has released the National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019 draft which aims to double the recycling rate of key materials to 50% by 2025 and enable upcycling of waste.
- The policy targets to develop a circular economy by recycling the materials, and by increasing the efficiency of use of these resources.
 - At least 96% of India's mining capacity is located in the 13 mineral-rich states of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Goa and Rajasthan.
 - It will ensure 75% recycling rate for vehicles made before 1990, 85% recycling rate for vehicles made between 1990 and 2000, and 90% recycling rate for vehicles made after 2000.
 - The plan is to establish 20 official dismantlers and equal number of PRO across major urban centres by 2020.
 - The draft policy seeks to achieve a 100% recycling and reuse rate polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic by 2025 and 75% reuse and recycling of other plastics by 2030.
 - Recycling rate for construction and demolition waste should reach 50% by 2025 and 75% by 2030.

- The policy also emphasizes the need to develop codes and standards for quality of secondary raw materials so that by 2025, at least 30% of total public procurement of materials for civil construction can be from recycled materials.
- According to UN International Resource Panel's Global Material Flows Database, India's estimated annual material consumption is 7.42 billion tonnes, second only to China's 34 billion tonnes.

198. National Conclave on 'Enhancing Energy Efficiency in MSME sector' was organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in New Delhi.

- Knowledge Management Portal "SIDHIEE" was also launched under the BEE's MSME Programme to train MSMEs for the early adoption of energy efficient technologies.
- Development Commissioner, MSME has signed an MoU with DG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency for enhancing energy security in MSMEs.

199. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has announced the financial aid of Rs 6,000 and free legal aid for the victims of triple talaq under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.

- The govt had launched the Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2008-09 which was restructured as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram in 2018 under Ministry of Minority Affairs to spur development of minorities.

200. India and Mongolia have signed 4 MoU during Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga's visit.

201. Free drugs scheme has been launched for 651 tea garden hospitals in Assam under which free medicines will be provided to these hospitals.

- WHO-GMP certified drugs will be supplied directly from over 100 drug manufacturers.
- Assam has also launched the "Aponar Apon Ghar", a home loan subsidy scheme, for all the permanent citizens of the state, to provide a subsidy of Rs 2.5 lakh on loans of up to Rs 40 lakhs for the purchase or construction of the first house.

202. Revised National Tuberculosis Programme (RNTBP) received notification of TB cases by 21.5 lakh persons, which is an increase of 16% in 2018 as compared to 2017.

- The increase is the highest so far and the estimated TB incidence in India stands at 27 lakh.
- Ministry of Health has launched the 'TB Harega, Desh Jeetega' campaign, along with the National Tuberculosis (TB) Prevalence Survey.

203. Kashmir's saffron has finally been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.

204. India has announced a \$150-million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects during the India- Pacific Islands Developing States Leaders' Meeting.

- India has also declared to give \$12 million for the member-states to implement high- impact development projects in an area of their choice.

205. Fifth edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in Kolkata, West Bengal in November.

- Theme: - 'RISEN India' — Research, Innovation and Science Empowering the Nation.
- Organizer: - Vijnana Bharati and Ministry of Science and Technology.

206. 344 individuals have witnessed a net drop in wealth compared to 2018 in the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019.

- A total of 112 individuals have dropped out from the 2019 list.
- Although, India's condition is still better than Hurun China Rich List 2019 registered 266 dropouts.
- The number of Indians in the list has grown from 831 in 2018 to 953 in 2019 (total no.), the number of dollar billionaires has reduced from 141 to 138.

207. Trilateral naval exercise - Malabar - between India, Japan and US has started off the coast of Sasebo, Japan.

208. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) offshore patrol vessel 'Varaha' has been commissioned at the Chennai Port Trust in Tamil Nadu.

- It has been developed by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd.

209. Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIT-Delhi signed an MoU to enhance research projects and other academic activities.

210. Ministry of AYUSH has unveiled the "Professor Ayushman" comic book (prepared by National Medicinal Plants Board) to raise awareness about the medicinal plants among children.

- AYUSH Ministry aims to open 4,200 AYUSH health and wellness centres under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

211. Cabinet has approved the proposal of National Policy on Electronics 2019 in February, which seeks to replace the National Policy on Electronics 2012.

- The Policy aims to make India a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing - (ESDM) by developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.
- Targets: Promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM for economic development to achieve a turnover of \$400 billion by 2025. This will include targeted production of 1.0 billion mobile handsets by 2025, valued at \$190 billion, including 600 million mobile handsets valued at \$110 billion for export.
- Apart from this, the govt in Digital India roadmap released in August 2014, has set "net zero imports" in electronics by 2020.

Salient Features of NPE 2(119)

- i. Create cco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector: Promoting domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM.
- ii. Provide incentives and support fa manufacturing of core electronic components.
- iii. Provide spccial package of incentives for mega projects which are extremely high-tech and entail huge investments, such as semiconductor facilities display fabrication, etc.
- iv. Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.
- v. Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sctors of electronics, including grass root level innovations and early stage Start-ups in emerging technology areas such as 5G, iof/ Sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Virtual Reality (VR>, Drones, Robotics, Additive Manufacturing. Photonics, Kano-based devices, etc.

- vi. Provide incentives and support for significantly enhancing availability of skilled manpower, including re-skilling.
- vii. Special thrust on Fabrication Chip Design Industry, Medical Electronic Devices Industry; Automotive Electronics Industry and Power Electronics for Mobility and Strategic Electronics Industry.
- viii. Create Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector.
- ix. Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives to improve national cyber security profile.

212. The first ever India-Caricom leaders' summit was held in New York.

- Here, India has announced a \$14-million grant for community development projects in a grouping of Caribbean nations and another \$150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related works.
- Caricom stands for Caribbean Community and Common Market.

213. Govt has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to PM, under the chairmanship of Bibek Debroy for a period of 2 years.

- Now, the total number of members in the council has been reduced to 4 from 5, which include 2 full time and 2 part time members.
- Full time Members: Ratan P Watal (Member Secretary) and Bibek Debroy.
- Part time Members: Dr Sajjid Chinoy and Aashima Goel.

214. 16th Global SME Business Summit 2019 was held in New Delhi under the theme of "Making Indian MSME globally competitive".

- Organizer: Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industries.
- Target of MSME Ministry is to increase the GDP contribution of MSME from 29% to 50% in the next 5 years.
- Increase export contribution of MSME from 49% to 60%.
- "Bharat Mart" - a new selling website for MSMEs - has also been launched to increase their sales through online mode in local and international market.

215. Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Bijli Meter Yojana has been launched by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to provide power subsidy to the tenants in Delhi.

- Under the scheme, tenants will get a prepaid meter at a security deposit of Rs 3,000 for getting the meters from BSES Yamuna, BSES Rajdhani and Tata Power.
- Currently, the power subsidy of 100% is provided on the consumption of electricity of up to 200 units and 50% for 201-400 units.

216. Odisha govt, in collaboration with UNICEF, has launched a mascot "Tikki Mausii" to raise awareness about the women and child nutrition and about the govt's policies for the same.

- Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti (Odisha) are the implementing agencies of the mascot.
- A state level communication strategy was also launched for the raising awareness about the women and child nutrition.

217. DRDO and Central University of Jammu have signed an MoU for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology at the university to increase research.

218. Swiss based International Institute of Management Development (IMD) has released the annual

"IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019" which measures 63 countries, in total, based on their capacity to adopt digital technology.

- Top 5 Countries: - US, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland
- India was ranked 44th (4 places up from 2018).
- Asian countries like Korea, China (22nd from 30th position), India and Indonesia saw the biggest rise in their positions.
- Parameters: - Knowledge, Competence and Future readiness.

219. India's first indigenous high temperature fuel cell has been developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial research under the flagship program "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative".

- Fuel cell is most suitable for distributed stationary power applications to help India replace diesel with green fuel and reduce crude oil demand.

220. Delhi high court has launched a mobile app for lawyers and litigants to access court facilities digitally.

221. FICCI organized its annual MASCRAGE 2019 (Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade schedule) in New Delhi under the theme of "Containing Counterfeiting and Smuggling and Piracy: A Winning Strategy".

- It was organized by FICCI Cascade (Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting activities destroying the enemy).
- FICCI Cascade has released a report "Invisible Enemy: Impact of smuggling on Indian economy and employment". The report found out that smuggling is majorly affecting five sectors - readymade garments, textiles, tobacco products, capital and consumer durable goods.

222. Ministry of Railways, Department of Science & Technology (DST) and IIT-Kanpur launched the 'Industry 4.0' under the aegis of "Technology Mission for Indian Railways" (TMIR) at the Modern Coach Factory in Raebareilly district, Uttar Pradesh.

- Implementing Ministries are Railways Ministry, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Science & Technology.
- It is expected to contribute at least 25% to GDP.
- DST has recently launched a new programme 'Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (ICPS)' to foster and promote R&D in this emerging field of research.
- Industry 4.0 refers to the current trend of automation, inter-connectivity and data exchange in manufacturing technologies to increase productivity.

223. 3rd edition of Bloomberg Global Business Forum 2019 was held in New York under the theme of Restoring Global Stability.

- Bloomberg National Brand Tracker 2018 survey ranked India as the top performing Asian economy in attracting global investment.
- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also informed about their new strategic paper 'India 2022- Investing in the relationship', which is a continuation of the NZ Inc. India Strategy 2011.

224. ISRO has started the Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis), to detect space hazards to Indian satellites at a budget of Rs 400 crore.

- It will enhance India's space situational awareness (SSA) capabilities. India's SSA would be the first for low-earth orbits, or LEO.

- NETRA aims to capture the geostationary orbit which is at 36,000 kilometres.
- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is an initiative by the US and Canada to share selective debris data with many countries.

225. 21st session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Health Organisation Coordinating Committee of Asia for 2019 was held in Panaji, Goa.

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in collaboration with the WHO and FAO, has organized this 2nd session of the Coordinating Committee in Asia.
- Codex Alimentations Commission elected the committee in July 2015 initially and re-elected it in July 2017.

226. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched the Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) to bring reforms in Department of Posts to quickly redress the grievances of the public.

- The portal is designed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

227. IIT-council has decided to allow direct entry to foreign students, including OCI Cardholders with foreign passport to appear for the JEE Advanced examination to provide impetus to foreign students at the IITs.

- While Domestic students have to qualify the JEE Main examination to be eligible for JEE Advanced examination.
- As per the decision of the IIT-council's meeting, headed by Minister of HRD Ramesh Pokhriyal, academically weak students in IITs who are not able to secure the required marks will now get a choice to opt for a 3-year BSc degree instead of BTech without dropping out of the institutions midway.

228. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conducted first-ever National Nutrition Survey in collaboration with UNICEF analysing the period of February 2016 and October 2018. [The survey is yet to be made public].

Findings of the Survey: -

- Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic, 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure.
- A quarter of 5-9 and 10-19 year-olds were thin for their age, one in five children 5-9 years' old were stunted. A total of 1.12 lakh children and adolescents (0-19 years) were surveyed for height and weight measurements and 51,029 children (1-19 years) for biological samples.
- It is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies through blood and urine samples, anthropometric data as well as details of non-communicable diseases.

229. Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Mr Jurin Laksanawisit has visited India where he signed trade agreements for Rs 2,400 crore to boost trade across segments including rubber, construction material, food and beverages, logistics.

- Association of Furniture Manufacturers & Traders, India and Thai Hevae Wood Association (THWA); Thailand-India Business Council and GlobalLinker; and Thailand- India Business Council and Bombay Industries Association (BIA) signed MoU to create an online platform for SMEs from both the countries.
- Thailand will sign an MoU with Bigbasket in November to promote Thai products through Thai flagship stores on Bigbasket's platform.
- It was announced during Thai-Indo Business Networking (TIBN), organised by the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) and Ministry of Commerce, Thailand.

- Agri-Trade Supply Chain Alliance was also launched to ease the trade relations and increase trade commodity supply between both the countries.

230. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has created a 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029) to sustain the behavioural change brought in by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G).

- It will ensure that no one is left behind, and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.

231. Kerala has topped in the larger states category in the School Education Quality Index 2019 (SEQI), released by NITI Aayog.

- Tripura has topped in the category of "Small States: Overall Performance and Rank, 2015-16 and 2016-17".
- Chandigarh has topped in the category of "UTs: Overall Performance and Rank, 2015-16 and 2016-17".
- Parameters: - Performance was judged on the basis of several parameters, such as education outcome, governance, enrolment rate, language and mathematics skills, transition rate, and drop-out rate, among others.
- Among the 20 large states, 18 improved their overall performance score between 2015-16 (base year) and 2016-17 (reference year).
- The index was developed in collaborations with the Ministry of human resource development, state governments, the World Bank and sectoral experts.

232. 7th annual World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) began in Mumbai under the theme of Prosperous Society: Stronger Society.

- WHEF 2020 will be organized in The Hague, Netherlands.

233. PM Modi has launched the "Bharat Ki Lakshmi" campaign to honour the women, during his man ki baat radio talk.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. South Asian Speakers' Summit 2019 was held in the Maldives.
2. Hurricane Dorian (a category 5 storm) has hit the Bahamas (country on Lucayan Archipelago, in the Caribbean).
3. 42nd session of the Human Rights Council will be held in September in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - 41st session of the council was also held in Geneva, Switzerland.
4. The design of world's first space hotel named as Von Braun Space Station (developed by The Gateway Foundation) has been revealed.
 - The hotel (having all facilities like a normal restaurant) is expected to be ready by 2025.
5. First ever Joint ASEAN-US naval exercise (AUMX) has begun at the Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand (in the disputed region of South China Sea).
6. 72nd World Health Assembly was held in May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

7. Iran has indigenously developed a high-precision jet-propelled drone called "Kian".
8. Vienna, Austria is the most liveable city in the world (for the 2nd time), according to Global Liveability Index 2019 of 140 cities released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
 - Parameters: - stability, culture and environment, education and infrastructure and health care.
 - Delhi's ranking declined by 6 spots to 118 while Mumbai's rank is down 2 places to 119.
 - Melbourne (Australia), Sydney (Australia), Osaka (Japan) are at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions respectively.
 - Damascus (Syria) is the world's least livable city, preceded by Lagos (Nigeria) and (Dhaka) Bangladesh.
9. Hong Kong has scrapped the Hong Kong Extradition Law.
10. World Travel And Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019 has been released by World Economic Forum which ranks Spain at the top position followed by France, Germany, Japan and US.
 - India is ranked at 34th position (improved from 40th position in 2017) out of the total 140 countries assessed in this biennial index.
 - Yemen is at the 140th position, preceded by Chad (139) and Liberia (138).
11. Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019 was held in Seoul, South Korea.
 - Theme: - 'Building Peace Together: Challenges and Vision'.
12. 40th Assembly of International Civil Aviation Organization will be held in Montreal, Canada.
13. UNICEF, along with Sri Lanka govt, has organized the 3rd edition of South Asian Parliamentarian Conference for Children 2019 in Colombo.
 - Purpose: - To discuss the ways to ensure that all children get their rights.
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed in 1989.
14. Plenary session of the 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand where it was agreed to end the negotiations on the deal in November 2019's meeting.
 - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a 16- member grouping which includes ASEAN nations and the six Free Trade Agreement partners, including Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.
 - India's trade deficit with China stands at \$53.6 billion and with RCEP, it is \$105 billion in 2018-19.
 - 16th ASEAN India Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting and the 7th East Asia Economic Ministers Summit are also being held in Bangkok.
15. OPEC+ group's Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE where they can cut the oil supply in global market.
16. 24th World Energy Congress 2019 (a triennial event) will be organized in Abu Dhabi, UAE by the World Energy Council to explore new strategies in global energy.
 - Theme: - "Energy for Prosperity".
17. Taiwan has accused India of levying higher import duty on Information and communication technology goods in World Trade Organization.

18. Thailand has become the first country in Asia to issue plain cigarette packaging (followed the WHO's guidelines) to make the smoking packet appear less attractive.
 - Australia became the first country to issue plain cigarettes packets in 2012.

19. UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its first-ever "Digital Economy Report 2019" that analyses the world's digital economy.
 - US and China are the top wealth creators in the digital economy, whereas Africa and Latin American countries are lagging far behind.
 - US and China account for 90% of the market capitalization value of the world's 70 largest digital platform companies, 75% of all blockchain technologies patents, 50% of global spending on IoT, and more than 75% of the cloud computing market.
 - Global Internet Protocol (IP) traffic: -
 - Seven "super platforms" - Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Google, Facebook, Tencent and Alibaba - account for 2/3rd of the total market value of the top 70 platforms.

20. According to the latest list of top 10 countries in press censorship, released by US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Eritrea is the world's most censored country.
 - Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

21. California has passed a bill known as AB 5 to revive the gig economy.
 - The bill allows companies like Uber or Lyft to treat contract workers as employees.
 - Gig Economy refers to a labour market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.

22. 22nd Session of UN Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCPRD) is being held at Geneva, Switzerland.
 - India's first Country Report on disability, submitted to UNCPRD in 2015, was taken up for consideration.
 - In India, Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act was enacted in 2016.

23. European Central Bank (ECB) has reduced its deposit rates to (-) 0.5% to incentivize the banks to lend more and encourage depositors to invest in projects rather than deposit in banks.

24. China has sent three satellite - ZY-1 02D (a resource satellite) and BNU-1 along with one other small satellite - from its Long March-4B carrier rocket.
 - Purpose: - To study climate change, urban construction, natural resources asset management etc.

25. Vietnam has inaugurated the Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm named as 'Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex' which can produce 688 million kWh of electricity annually.
 - It is a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B. Grimm Power Public Company.
 - It has been constructed on the Dau Tieng Reservoir - the largest artificial lake in Vietnam.

26. 23rd Session of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) was held at St Petersburg, Russia.
 - 15th edition of UNWTO Award were also held.

27. Russia's annual military strategic and operational exercises - Centre 2019 - has begun along with six other countries.

- Forces from China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan will join Russia's Central Joint Strategic Command (JSC) for exercises.

28. USA has ordered more sanctions on Iran after Saudi Arabia showed evidences of Iran's involvement in attacks on Saudi Aramco. [details of sanctions have not been revealed yet]

- Saudi Aramco contributes 5% (5.7 million barrels per day) of the global oil supply.

29. UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs released the "International Migrant Stock 2019" mentions that the number of international migrants in the world had reached an estimated 272 million in mid-2019 (51 million more than in 2010).

- India has 17.5 million diaspora in 2019 - constituting 6.4% of the total world migrant population - which is largest in the world.
- After India, Mexico has been ranked 2nd with 12 million migrants, followed by China (11 million), Russia (10 million) and Syria (8 million). 1/3rd of all international migrants originated from only 10 countries.
- USA hosted the highest number of international migrants at 51 million about 19% of the global population. Region wise - European region hosted the highest number of the immigrants at 82 million in 2019.
- The percentage of international migrants of the total global population has increased to 3.5% from 2.8% in 2000.
- Bangladesh is the leading country of origin for migrants in India, the report stated.

30. 63rd International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference was held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna.

- National Cancer Grid (NCG) Vishwam Cancer Care Connect was also launched in Vienna by KN Vyas, Secretary Department of Atomic Energy & Chairman Atomic Energy Commission.
- India is planning to open 21 nuclear reactors which will add around 15000 MW of power generating capacity.

31. Russia has officially ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It first signed it in 2016.

32. The World Meteorology Organization (WMO) report on The Global Climate in 2015-2019 mentions that the average global temperature between 2015-2019 would be the hottest of any five-year period on record.

- It is estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) era and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015.
- The report was prepared by WMO in association with Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019.
- CO₂ grew 2% in 2018, reaching a record high of 37 billion tonnes.
- Arctic summer sea ice has also declined at a rate of 12% every 10 years over the past 40 years, with the four lowest values recorded between 2015 and 2019.

33. Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), established by Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube was launched in 2017 to disrupt terrorist abuse on their respective platforms.

- GIFCT mission statement is "Prevent terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms."
 - It will operate as an independent organization with executive director and a team, as it was decided at the UN General Assembly.
34. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a 50 KW 'Gandhi Solar Park' worth \$1 million at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.
- Gandhi Peace Garden was also inaugurated at UN Headquarters. Consulate-General of India in New York, Long Island-based NGO Shanti Fund and the State University of New York-Old Westbury will plant 150 trees here.
35. PM Narendra Modi has launched the global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.
- CDRI, supported by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and based in Delhi, is an international partnership that will support countries- developed and developing- to build climate and disaster resilient infrastructure.
 - By 2050, 68% of the world's population will live in urban areas.
 - More than 2/3rd of economic loss is caused by damage to infrastructure.
 - In Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016, PM Modi announced the need for formation of CDRI.
 - Apart from this, 66 countries have agreed to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.
36. 64th edition of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is being held in Kampala, Uganda.
- Indian delegation is led by Om Birla.
 - Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference (founded in 1989) is the main event here focusing on to the issues that affect women, including women's involvement in leadership.
 - The commonwealth has grown from 8-member countries when it was formed in 1949 to 53 member states at present.
37. 28th round of negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be held in Danang, Vietnam.
38. European Union's top court has ruled that Google does not have to apply the "right to be forgotten" globally.
- Implication: - It means google only needs to remove links from its search results in Europe - and not elsewhere - after receiving an appropriate request.
 - Background: - French firm, CNIL ordered the firm to globally remove search result listings to pages containing damaging or false information about a person.
 - Right To Be Forgotten:- Also known as the "right to erasure", the rule gives EU citizens the power to demand data about them be deleted, introduced in 2014.
39. 25th Conference of Parties of the climate change summit will be held in Chile in December 2019.
- UN General Assembly organized a high-level meeting on universal health coverage under the theme "Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World," to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage.
 - Leadership Group for Industry Transition was also launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York to guide the people about measures for converting into a low-carbon economy.

- The group was launched by India and Sweden (along with Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the UK, and a group of companies) and supported by World Economic Forum, Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, Stockholm Environment Institute and European Climate Foundation, among other partners.
- Now, 77 countries committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

40. NASA has successfully launched the RamanSat 2 miniature satellite designed by 17-year-old student Aabhaas Sikka.

- Sikka developed the satellite during his internship with SPACE India with the help from Sachin Bahmba (SPACE Group Founder and CMD) along with the company's research team.

41. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has presented a new report (this is the third in a series of special reports that have been produced by the IPCC over the past 12 months).

- Previous reports looked at the measures of tackling the global warming, if the temperature rises above 1.5° C by the end of this century and looked at the climate change and its impact on land.
- This new report on climate change emphasizes the impact of global warming on the oceans which are warming rapidly since 1970.
- Since 1993, the waters have absorbed more than 90% of the extra heat generated by humans over the past decades, and the rate at which it has taken up this heat has doubled.
- According to this new report, global average sea levels could increase by up to 1.1m by 2100, in the worst warming scenario.
- 90% of the coral reefs would disappear due to the acidification of the oceans (caused by the dissolution of CO₂).
- 70% of the near surface permafrost would thaw (melt) which will release CO₂ and methane into the environment by 2100.

42. USA has delayed the proposed ban on the H-4 EAD (employment authorisation document) visa, which allowed the dependent relatives -spouse and children- of H1-B visa holders to stay in the US.

- Indians are the biggest beneficiaries of H-4 visa.
- H-1B visa allows US employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

43. Hazza Al Mansouri has become the first (Emirati) person from UAE to go into space on ISS.

- UAE plans to send an unmanned probe to Mars by 2021. It has named its Mars mission as Hope.

44. Bangladesh, Myanmar and China have formed a tripartite monitoring group mechanism for repatriation of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

- The agreement between the Myanmar and Bangladesh was signed in 2017 for the same purpose and the first meeting of the group will be held in October.
- China is only helping the two countries in implementing the agreements they already have.

45. China has inaugurated its second international airport and world's largest single-structure airport terminal named as Daxing International Airport in Beijing.

- Beijing Capital International Airport became the second busiest airport in the world with more than 100 million travelers passing through its three terminals in 2018.
- China will surpass the USA as the world's biggest air travel market by 2022.

46. Japan has launched the world's largest transport spacecraft - Kounotori8 also known as HTV8 - to International Space Station from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Tanegashima space centre.
- The spacecraft (with a capacity of 5.3 tonnes) was launched from H2B rocket.
47. SAARC Council of Ministers foreign ministers' meeting will be held in New York.
- It will be chaired by Nepal.
 - 13th Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Nadi, Fiji, on the theme "Financial Inclusion" in May.
48. Bangladesh, Indonesia and South Africa have recently joined the Partnering For Green Growth And The Global Goals 2030 (p4g) initiative.
- P4G was launched in 2018 to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.
 - Other P4G partner countries are Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, and Vietnam.
 - Its first summit was held in 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark and it is a biennial event.
 - The Copenhagen Commitment was also signed at the 1st summit.
49. A new continent/8th continent named as Greater Adria has been found hidden in the Mediterranean region after analysing all the mountain ranges from Spain to Iran.
- The research (published in the journal Gondwana Research) analysed how a piece of continental crust (with the same size of Greenland) had once separated from North Africa and got submerged under Southern Europe.
 - The continent is majorly submerged under the mantle of Southern Europe and only a strip of land (the only remaining part of this continent) runs from Turin through the Adriatic Sea is visible.
 - Majority of the mountains in the European region have been formed by the collision of Greater Adria (which separated from Gondwana landmass) with the Europe.
 - Utrecht University's (Netherlands) geologists, along with scientists other from Oslo and Zurich, have discovered this continent.
50. International Astronomical Union has named an asteroid, which was discovered in 2006, after the Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj (classical vocalist/singer).
- He is the first Indian musician to receive this honour.
 - The asteroid/minor planet is located between Mars and Jupiter, and was discovered by the Cataline Sky Survey, whose telescopes are based in Arizona in the USA.
51. World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2020 will be held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- From India, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will attend this meeting at the the invitation of WEF President Borge Brende.
52. A new mineral 'Goldschmidtite' or $(K,REE,Sr)(Nb,Cr)O_3$, (named in honour of Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the founder of modern geochemistry) has been discovered inside a diamond from a mine-Koffiefontein pipe in South Africa run by De Beers.
- Lead Author: - Nicole Meyer from University of Alberta's Diamond Exploration Research and Training School), Canada.
 - The finding is published in American Mineralogist.



APPOINTMENTS

1. Lt. Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane has been appointed as the Vice-Chief of Indian Army.
 - He will hold the top-most position after the Army Chief Bipin Rawat's retirement in December (until the appointment of a new chief).
2. Vivek Kumar Johri has been appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force.
3. Paytm Money (wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications) has promoted Pravin Jadhav as its MD and CEO.
4. Chief Election Commissioner of India - Sunil Arora has taken the Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for 2019-21 from Romania. [details of A- WEB is mentioned in Sept 1 & 2 doc]
5. Rakesh Srivastav has been appointed as the MD of Nissan Motors India Pvt Ltd.
6. Jonathan Hall has been appointed as the General Counsel and Company Secretary of International Cricket Council (ICC).
7. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena has got a three years extension.
8. Vijay Kumar Chopra has been appointed as the Chairman of Press Trust of India and Vineet Jain as its Vice Chairman.
9. Daniel Zhang has been appointed as the new Chairman of Alibaba after the founder Jack Ma resigned.
10. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new managing director of Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd.
11. Nirvik Singh has been appointed as the first chief operation officer (COO) of New-York based global advertising company - Grey Group.
12. Ashish Bhasin has been appointed as the Asia Pacific Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Japanese ad company Dentsu.
13. Ranveer Singh has been appointed as the new global brand ambassador of JBL (audio equipment maker).
14. Tamilisai Soundararajan has become first woman governor of Telangana as well as the youngest governor of any state in India at the age of 58.
 - Andhra Pradesh's Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has become the oldest governor in India at the age of 85.
 - Soundararajan is the 2nd governor of Telangana (since its formation in 2014) after ESL Narasimhan.
15. Indian Banks Association (IBA) has included Mahabaleshwara MS (MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank) in its managing committee.

- IBA has public sector, private sector and foreign banks with 253 members.
16. PepsiCo India has appointed Hima Das as the brand ambassador for its sports drink brand Gatorade, who will join the PV Sindhu and javelin star Neeraj Chopra as brand ambassadors.
 17. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Retired Lt. Gen. Abhijit Guha as the head of the UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement, Yemen.
 - Guha will be the chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, which will work towards redeploying forces of the Yemeni warring parties in accordance with their agreement.
 18. Justice P Lakshmana Reddy (retired) has been appointed as the first Lokayukta of the Andhra Pradesh after its bifurcation in 2014.
 - AP government amended the Lokayukta Act to enable the appointment of a retired judge as Lokayukta.
 19. The parliamentary panels and standing committees have been constituted for the 17th Lok Sabha session.
 - Total 21 panels have been formed and only important ones have been mentioned here.
 20. Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become the India's first woman officer to be posted as a military diplomat (Deputy Air Attache) at an Indian mission abroad in Russia.
 21. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy has been appointed as the CMD of Cognizant India and will head of India operations.
 22. Krishna Murari, V. Ramasubramanian, S Ravindra Bhat, and Hrishikesh Roy have been appointed judges in the supreme court (taking the total number of judges to 34).
 23. Robert O'Brien has been appointed as the National Security Advisor of USA.
 24. Justice Sunil Gaur has been appointed as the chairman of the Appellate Tribunal for Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) Act.
 25. Government has appointed Air Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria as the next Chief of Air Force for 2 years, as the present Air Force Chief, B.S. Dhanoa will retire on September 30.
 - Dhanoa will pass the Chairmanship of the Chiefs of Staff Committee to the Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat.
 26. Samuel Joseph Jebaraj has been appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of IDBI Bank for a period of 3 years w.e.f., September 19, 2019.
 27. Madhukar Kamath has been appointed as the chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC).
 28. Altico Capital has appointed Sanjeev Agarwal as its CEO.
 29. Govinda has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh state for promoting its traditions and tourist places.



30. RBI has approved the reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as MD & CEO of Federal Bank for another year until 2020.
31. Nilesh Shah has been appointed as the Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India.
32. Ashish Kumar Guha has been appointed as the chairman of CG Power.
33. International Association of Athletics Federations has re-appointed Sebastian Coe as its President.
 - President of Athletics Federation of India, Adille Sumariwalla also re-elected as member of the Council of IAAF for a second term.
34. Actor Madhuri Dixit has been appointed as "goodwill ambassador" of Maharashtra Assembly polls (that are scheduled for October 21).
35. Kristalina Georgieva has been appointed as the managing director of the International Monetary Fund.
 - Prior to this appointment, she was the CEO of World Bank.
36. American actor and film producer Samuel L. Jackson will provide his voice to Amazon's Alexa.
37. Rupa Gurunath has become the first woman president of a BCCI state association i.e., Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.
38. Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) has appointed the Vaijinath M. Gavarshetty as its CEO and key managerial personnel of the company w.e.f., October 1, 2019.
39. Suresh Chitturi has become the first Indian and Asian to be appointed as the Chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC) for 2 years.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of Charity is observed on 5th September by UN.
 - It coincides with the death anniversary of Mother Teresa.
2. National Nutrition Week is observed from Sept 1 - Sept 7 every year by Food and Nutrition Board of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
 - It was started in 1982.
3. International Literacy Day is celebrated annually on 8 September by UN to improve world literacy levels.
 - Theme: - Literacy and Multilingualism.
4. SIWI organization has observed the World Water Week from Aug 25 to 30 under the theme of "Water for Society - Including All".
 - Dr Jackie King received the 2019 Stockholm Water Prize during the conference for her contributions to global river management.

- Mission Paani (initiated by News18 and Reckitt Benckiser owned Harpic, along with Amitabh Bachchan) was also launched at the global level during the conference held in Stockholm, Sweden.
5. World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in association with World Health Organization and World Federation for Mental Health.
 - Theme: - "Working Together to Prevent Suicide".
 - Campaign named "40 seconds of action" which will conclude on World Mental Health Day (10 October) was also launched.
 - WHO released "Preventing Suicide: A Resource For Pesticide Registrars And Regulators".
 6. Hindi Divas is observed on September 14.
 - 1st Hindi Divas was observed in 1953. Under Article 343 (1) of Indian constitution, mandates Hindi (written in Devnagiri script) would be the official language of Union.
 - More than 52 crore or 43.63% of Indians speak Hindi as their mother tongue, followed by Bengali and Marathi, according to Census 2011 data.
 - e-Saral Vakya Kosh App and e-Saral Maha Shabda Kosh App were also launched to promote Hindi.
 - Hindi Week or Hindi Saptah was also observed starting from 14th September.
 - Rajbhasha awards were also given. The names of Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar (which was instituted in 1986) has been changed to Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar, and Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Gyan-Vigyan Maulik Pustak Lekhan Puraskar has been changed to the Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar.
 7. International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on 12 September.
 - Theme: - From Commitment to Action — Follow up to Buenos Aires Plan of Action+40.
 8. International Day of Democracy 2019 is observed on September 15 by UN.
 - Theme for 2019: - Participation.
 9. India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania celebrate Engineer's Day on September 15 in memory of engineering pioneer of India Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, popularly known as Sir MV.
 - Theme for 52nd Engineering Day 2019: - Engineering for change.
 10. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer or World ozone day is observed on September 16 by UN for the 25th year.
 - Theme: - 32 Years and Healing
 - Montreal Protocol was signed in 1987 to protect ozone layer and phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals.
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), for providing Competency Enhancement of System Houses and MSMEs in foam manufacturing sector for ensuring smooth and sustainable phase out of HCFC-141b.
 11. Telangana government has declared 2020 as Artificial Intelligence year in Telangana.
 - Telangana has also tied up with NITI Aayog for running pilot projects in the state.
 - A booklet on 'Montreal Protocol - India's Success Story' was also launched.

- NASSCOM is setting up a Centre of Excellence in Data Sciences and AI here, which is expected to start its activities in 2020.
 - IIT-Khargapur will open its regional centre in Hyderabad to train students in AI in partnership with State government.
12. September 17, 2019 has been observed as the first-ever World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) by WHO.
- WHO has adopted the resolution to observe this day as WPSD during its 72nd session in Geneva.
 - Theme: - "Patient Safety: a global health priority"
 - Slogan: - Speak up for patient safety
 - Data Facts: - 4 out of 10 patients are harmed in the primary and ambulatory settings and up to 80% of harm in these settings can be avoided.
 - 134 million adverse events occur each year due to unsafe care in hospitals in low- and middle-income countries, contributing to 2.6 million deaths annually.
 - WHO and the UK Government partnered to establish the Global Patient Safety Collaborative.
13. World Bamboo Day is observed on September 18 by World Bamboo Organization.
- Bamboo Forum of India celebrated the day under the theme of 'Bamboo for sustainable development goals'.
 - According to the State of Environment report 2018, India is the world's second- largest cultivator of bamboo (green gold) after China, with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares.
 - National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was initially started as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2006-07 and was subsumed under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during 2014-15 and continued till 2015-16.
 - Later on, in 2018 restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched to ensure holistic development of the bamboo sector.
 - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) is being implemented by the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
14. September is being observed as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah or National Nutrition Month under the theme of 'Complementary Feeding'.
15. World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September every year.
- Theme: - Raising awareness and challenging stigma.
 - Alzheimer is a degenerative disease of the brain that slowly degrades brain cells (neurons).
16. International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on 21 September.
- Theme: - 'Climate Action for Peace'.
17. The 3rd Saturday of September is observed as the International Coastal Cleanup Day every year (21st September in 2019).
- 2019 International Coastal Cleanup Day Animal is The Pelican.
18. World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22 by World Wide Fund for Nature.
19. World Rose Day is observed on September 22 to motivate the survivors of cancer.
20. International Day of Sign Languages is observed on September 23.

- Theme: - Sign Language Rights for All.
 - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre has decided to enter 4,000 new words in the Indian Sign Language dictionary in 2020.
 - The first edition of this dictionary was launched in 2018.
21. Ministry of Jal Shakti has organized the 6th India Water Week on the theme of "Water Cooperation - Coping with 21st Century Challenges" on September 24, 2019.
22. National Day of Public's Republic of China is observed on 1st October.
- The day is observed by China, Hong Kong and Macau (China was founded in 1949).
23. Antyodaya Diwas Day is observed on September 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (since 2014).
24. World Pharmacists Day is observed on September 25 under the theme "Safe and effective medicines for all".
- International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the global body of pharmacists, came into existence on this day in 1912.
25. World Maritime Day is observed on September 26 by International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Theme: - "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community".
 - IMO Convention entered into force in 1958.
26. World Tourism Day is observed on September 27 by United Nations World Tourism Organization.
- Theme: - "Tourism and Jobs — A Better Future For All".
27. International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed on September 26 by UN.
- On this day, 12 new states have joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
 - Bangladesh, Kiribati, Laos, Maldives, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador countries have ratified the treaty.
 - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapon (ICAN) came up with a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (in 2017) which has currently 79 signatories (including India) and 32 states parties.
 - Ratification by a total of 50 countries is required for a treaty to get into force.
28. World Environment Health Day is observed on September 26 by International Federation of Environment Health.
- Theme: - Climate change challenges, time for global environmental health to act in unison.
29. World Heart Day is observed on September 29 to raise awareness about the cardio-vascular disease.
- In May 2012, world leaders committed to reducing global mortality from non- communicable diseases by 25% by 2025.



30. UNESCO observes 28 September as the "International Day for Universal Access to Information" (since 2016).
 - Theme: - "Leaving No One Behind!".
31. International Translation Day is observed on September 30 by United Nations.
 - Theme: - "Translation and Indigenous Languages".
32. World Deaf Day is observed every year on the last Sunday of the month of September (29 September in this year).
 - International Week of the Deaf is observed on September 23- 29 under the theme of "Sign Language Rights for All!".

AWARDS

1. HPCL has won the 'Best Navratna' award in 'Manufacturing Category' at Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2019 for a 2nd consecutive year.
 - Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards have been instituted to recognize and felicitate the top performing PSUs in India.
2. Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) has been conferred with the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' award by Vatican City for his efforts towards establishing peace and harmony.
3. 19 sportspersons, including Gaurav Singh Gill who has become the first motorsport athlete to win the prestigious Arjuna Award 2019.
 - Dhyan Chand Award/Lifetime Achievement Award: Manoj Kumar (wrestling), C Lalremnunga (archery), Arup Basak (table tennis), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and Manuel Fredricks (hockey).
4. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2018 (highest award in adventure sports) has been awarded to 6 adventure sport personalities.
5. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in J&K has topped the 'Swachh Iconic Places' list released by Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for being the "Best Swachh Iconic place".
 - The shrine will be awarded at the Swachh Mahotsav, organized by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
6. Eric Cantona has been awarded with the 2019 UEFA President's Award.
 - UEFA President's Award (given by Union of European Football Associations) recognizes the special efforts, outstanding achievements, professional excellence etc.
7. Ministry of Skill Development (MSD) has organized the "Kaushalacharya Samadar 2019" to felicitate 53 trainers for training a future-ready and skilled workforce.
 - MSD has announced to Kaushalacharya Samadar to be an annual event. India would need 2.5 lakh skill trainers by 2022.
 - An MoU was signed by Directorate of General Training and Kaushalya Kameshwar Techno Solution Pvt Ltd to provide training in Industrial environment in mining sector courses.
8. Odisha State Disaster Management Authority has won the IT Excellence Award 2019 for its

application "SATARK" (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) for disaster management.

9. Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus awarded as the best 'Swachh Iconic Place' under the Swachh Bharat Mission during the Swachhta Mahotsav 2019 by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
 - Sikkim and Gujarat were awarded for Open Defecation Free and behavior change, and Power Grid Corporation was awarded for its contribution to the Swachh Bharat Kosh.
 - Ministry of Railways has been awarded as "Best Ministry for Implementation of Swachhata Action Plan for 2018-19".
10. Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration (347 scientists) have won the "Oscars of Science" award for producing the first image of Black Hole.
 - The award is given by a group of entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley, California.
11. Pradeep Dash will be awarded with the 40th edition of Sarala Puraskar for his poetry "Charu Chibar O Charjya".
 - Pandit Harmohan Khuntia will be awarded 'Ila Panda Sangeet Samman' and Lalat Mohan Patnaik will be awarded with 'Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman'.
 - Sarala Puraskar is the top honour in literature in Odisha given by IMPaCT (the social wing of IMFA Ltd).
12. Cipla Chairman Yusuf Hamied has been elected as the honorary fellow of Royal Society in recognition of his services in the field of Science.
13. 19th Annual Asian Achievers Awards were given: -
 - Anil Agarwal (Chairman of Vedanta Resources) has been conferred the lifetime achievement award here.
14. Visitor's Award 2019 has been presented by President Ram Nath Kovind to: -
 - Visitor's Award (instituted in 2014) promotes the healthy competition among Central Universities to motivate them to adopt good practises.
15. Navdeep Singh Suri, outgoing Indian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been conferred with the Order of Zayed II (UAE's highest civil honour).
 - Suri will be succeeded by Pavan Kapoor.
16. 76th Venice International Film Festival Awards 2019 was held at Venice, Italy organized by La Biennale di Venezia and was officially recognized by FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Association).
17. Geoffrey Boycott and Andrew Strauss (England cricketers) have been given the knighthood honours in the Theresa May's resignation honour list.
18. Hero Moto Corp CMD and CEO Pawan Munjal will be inducted in the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame for promoting golf, football, field hockey and cricket at an international level.
19. Megha Engineering and Infrastructures (Meil) has received the award for best outstanding concrete structure of 2019 for Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project by Indian Concrete Institute (ICI).

- ICI has also given the best concrete structure award to Amazon building and Khajaguda to Nanakramguda concrete road in Hyderabad.
20. UNESCO has presented the literacy prizes for 2019: -
- King Sejong Literacy Prize (named after the Sejong the Great King of Korea) is an annual prize awarded to two institutions or individuals "for their contribution to the fight against illiteracy."
 - Confucius Prize (named after Chinese scholar Confucius) recognizes the activities of individuals, governments or NGOs working in literacy serving rural adults and out- of-school youth, particularly women and girls.
21. 17 Indian peacekeepers (including 5 women), deployed with the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), have been awarded medals by UN in recognition of their service.
- UNMISS was launched in 2011 to help establish peace and security, and conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, and strengthen its govt to govern effectively.
22. IPS officer Chhaya Sharma has been chosen for the 2019 Asia Society Game Changers Award for redefining the role of female police officers, along with six others.
- She led the investigation into the brutal 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape.
23. Anurag Kashyap's film 'Gangs Of Wasseypur' has been ranked at the 59th position in The Guardian's 100 Best Films of 21st century list.
- "There Will Be Blood" directed by Paul Thomas Anderson is at the top spot followed by "12 Years a Slave" directed by Steve McQueen.
24. Arcadia Education Project (a school project in Bangladesh) has won the Aga Khan Architecture Award 2019 in Kazan, republic of Tatarstan, Russia.
- Architect of the project is Saif Ul Haque.
 - Other winners: - Alioune Diop University Teaching and Research Unit in Senegal; Palestinian Museum; Public Spaces Development Programme in Tatarstan; Revitalisation of Muharraq in Bahrain; Wasit Wetland Centre in UAE.
25. Veteran music director Usha Khanna to be honoured with Maharashtra government's "Lata Mangeshkar Award" for the year 2019-20.
26. Raghu Rai is the first recipient of the inaugural edition of the Acadmie des beaux-arts Photography Award - William Klein (which carries a monetary reward of 1,20,000 euros).
- Established this year, the award will be held biennially and is named after the American-born French photographer and filmmaker William Klein.
 - The award will be given in the field of photography.
27. Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina has been awarded with the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award for her contribution towards maintaining a healthy relation between India and Bangladesh.
- The award was introduced in 2015 and presidents of the Maldives, Ghana and Mauritius earlier received the prestigious award till now from the Dr Kalam Smriti International Advisory Council.
28. 71st Emmy Awards started with the distribution of Creative Arts Emmy Awards to 41 awardees.

- HBO fantasy epic Game of Thrones alone took 10 awards, the most of any series in the kick off to this year's Primetime Emmys.
29. 44th Toronto International Film Festival 2019 award, held in Toronto, Canada. Winners:
30. Agnes Kharshiang has won the 11th International Hrant Dink Award.
- The award is named after the Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink who was killed in 2007, and is given to individuals who work to make a world free from discrimination, racism and violence.
31. Lucy Bronze has won the 2019 UEFA Women's Player of the Year award.
- Lionel Messi bagged the Forward of the Season award for the 2018-19.
32. America's Sarah Thomas has become the first person to swim the English Channel four times without stopping.
33. Kapil Pathare (Director of VIP Clothing Ltd) has been awarded with an honorary Doctorate in Business from Ballsbridge University for his contribution towards entrepreneurship.
- He was also awarded with the Global Leaders Award 'Enterprise Edition 2019' in Dubai by Madhur Bhandarkar for promoting entrepreneurship and small business at the International, National, and Regional level.
34. Anand Kumar (Super 30 founder and noted mathematician) has been awarded with the Education Excellence Award 2019 by Foundation For Excellence for imparting education to the poor and needy students at the Foundation's 25th anniversary.
35. Moti Bagh (a documentary based on the life of a farmer Vidya dutt from Uttarakhand) has been nominated for Oscar 2020.
- Directed by Nirmal Chander Dandriyal, the film is jointly produced by Doordarshan and Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT).
36. 20th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards were given: -
37. Actress Neena Gupta has won the Best Actress award for Badhai Ho, while her film 'The Last Color' won the Best Feature Film award at the Indian International Film Festival of Boston, USA.
- 'The Last Color' is directed by Vikas Khanna and Badhai Ho is directed by Amit Sharma.
38. National Geoscience Awards for the year 2018 were presented to 22 scientists from across the country.
- Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi has received the Award for Excellence for his contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research.
 - Sohini Ganguly, of Goa University received the Young Scientist Award-2018 in the fields of petrology, volcanology and geochemistry.
 - National Aero-geophysical Mapping Program covering 27 lakh line km of Obvious Geological Potential by the GSI, the mineral potential zones would be identified leading to auctionable mineral blocks.
 - The GSI has doubled its exploring activity with 400 mineral projects in the current field season.

39. Kerala has won three awards at the PATA Awards 2019 during its PATA Travel Mart 2019 held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- An ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom (Kerala) under its Responsible Tourism mission; for Kerala tourism campaign advertisement 'Come Out and Play7 and the website www.Keralatourism.org won three awards.
 - Kerala received the highest number of PATA awards in South Asia region this year.
40. A new civilian award - Sardar Patel National Unity Award - has been notified by the PM Narendra Modi. It was announced last year only.
41. Ravish Kumar has received the first Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award (instituted by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust, founded in memory of the journalist in Bengaluru).
- Three books titled 'Delhi Nota' written by D Umapathi, 'Free Voices' by Ravish Kumar translated as 'Maatige Enu Kadime', and 'Neera Nade' by Prof Vinaya Okkunda were launched at the event.
42. Sonu Nigam has been honoured with the 'Magnificent Performing Arts Award' at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards held in London.
43. Zoya Akhtar's 'Gully Boy' has entered into the Oscar's 2020 as the official entry from India.
44. Game of Thrones has won the Best Drama Award at the 71st primetime Emmy's Awards 2019. It has won 12 awards (highest number of awards for a web series).
45. Actor Billy Porter has become the first black gay man to win the Emmy award in the Lead Actor in a Drama category for his role as ballroom emcee Pray Tell in Pose.
- Three related, but separate, organizations present the Emmy Award: the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.
46. Mathematician Adam Harper (Assistant Professor with the University of Warwick, England) will be awarded with the SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019.
- SASTRA-Ramanujan Award was instituted in 2005.
47. Amitabh Bachchan will be awarded with the Dadasaheb Phalke award 2019 for his "outstanding contribution for the growth and development of Indian cinema".
48. Bangladesh's PM Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with prestigious 'Vaccine Hero' award by the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisations (GAVI) for Bangladesh's outstanding success in immunising the children.
- 'Vaccine Hero' award was introduced by GAVI to recognize people doing excellent work to vaccinate children.
 - GAVI Alliance is a global health partnership of public and private sector organizations dedicated to "immunisation for all".
49. USA's Megan Rapinoe has won the FIFA women's Best Player of the Year 2019 award.
- Other Awardees

50. Pooja Desai has become the first woman from Gujarat to be crowned as Mrs India - Pride of the Nation 2019.

- The beauty pageant, organized by Glamour Gurgaon, honours the married woman.

51. Right to Livelihood Award 2019 is being awarded to four people - Greta Thunberg, Davi Kopenawa Hutukara and Yanomami Association (for protecting Amazon forest), Moroccan activist Aminatou Haidar, and Guo Jianmei (for her work for women's rights in China) by the Right to Livelihood Award Foundation.

- The award is also known as Alternative Nobel.

52. Infosys has won the prestigious United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category.

- Infosys is the only company from India to win the award for its efforts to combat climate change.

53. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019, annually given in the field of science and technology by Centre for Scientific and Industrial Relations (CSIR), were presented at the 78th foundation day of CSIR.

54. Payal Jangir (aged 17) has become the first person from India to receive the Changemaker Award 2019 from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for her efforts to eliminate the child marriage in her village in Alwar, Rajasthan.

- PM Modi has also received the "Global Goalkeepers Award" in 2019 for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

55. V J James (novelist and short story writer) won Vayalar award 2019 for his novel 'Nireeswaran' as the best literary work.

- The award has been instituted by Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust, in memory of poet and lyricist Vayalar Ramavarma.
- The award is given for the best literary work in Malayalam.

56. Cochin International Airport Limited (Cial) has been awarded with the best airport by the Airport Council International (ACI) for the services it offered to passengers.

- Cial emerged as the topper in 5-15 million passenger-category airports in the Asia- Pacific region for the year 2018.
- The annual Airport Service Quality awards by ACI recognise and reward the best airports in the world based on ASQ departure survey.
- Cial received the recognition at the 2nd Annual ACI Customer Experience Global Summit held at Bali, Indonesia.

SPORTS

1. Hopewel Elias Higher Secondary School (Meghalaya) won the 60th edition of U-17 Junior Boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2019.

2. Charles Leclerc won his first Formula One race at the Belgian Grand Prix 2019 (motor racing).

3. Jasprit Bumrah has become the 3rd Indian Cricketer (after Irfan Pathan and Harbhajan Singh) to score a hat-trick in test cricket match at the test series against West Indies.

- His hat-trick is the 44th in Test Cricket's history.
4. 36th National Games 2019 will be organized in Goa in 2020 by Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
 5. India won the 6th edition of SAFF (South Asian Football Federation Championship) U- 15 men's tournament 2019 held in West Bengal.
 6. Nadubhagam Chundan (the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club) has won the 67th edition of Nehru Trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha, Kerala.
 - Nehru Trophy for boat race was instituted to commemorate the visit of PM Jawaharlal Nehru to the area and his boat ride in the lake.
 7. Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka) has become the highest wicket taker in T20I format, in the test series against New Zealand.
 - He has taken 99 wickets in 74 matches by breaking the record of Shahid Afridi (98 wickets).
 8. Jinson Johnson has won the silver medal in 1500m (by breaking his own national record at 3 minute 35.24 seconds) at the ISTAF Berlin event 2019.
 - Joshua Thompson (USA) has won the Gold medal.
 - ISTAF is an annual track and field athletics meet at the Olympia-stadion in Berlin, Germany.
 9. Tajinder Pal Singh Toor won a silver medal in shotput at the V. Koci memorial athletics meet at Decin, Czech Republic.
 - Tomas Stanek (Czech Republic) won Gold.
 10. For the first time, Arunachal Pradesh will host the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2019 (organized by All India Football Federation) in its East Siang District.
 11. ICC Men's test ranking 2019:
 - Top Batsman: - Steve Smith (2nd- Virat Kohli)
 - Top Bowler: - Pat Cummins
 - Top All-Rounder: - Jason Holder
 12. Srihari Nataraj has won the gold medal in men's 100m freestyle at the 73rd Glenmark National Senior Aquatic Championships 2019 held at Bhopal, MP.
 - Gold Winners: -
 13. India has won 9 medals (5 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze) at the ISSF World Cup Pistol/Rifle 2019 held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Gold winners are:-
 - Mixed air rifle: India (Apurvi Chandela, Deepak Kumar)
 - Mixed air pistol: India-A (Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary)
 - Women's 10m air rifle: - Elavenil Valarivan
 - Men's 10m Air Pistol: - Abhishek Verma
 - Women's 10m air pistol: - Yashaswini Singh Deswal
 14. Rishabh Pant has become the fastest wicket keeper of India (surpassing MS Dhoni) with 50 dismissals in 11 matches in the latest test-series of India vs West Indies.

15. 22nd edition of FIFA World Cup 2022 will be hosted by Qatar.
16. Anupama Swain has won bronze medal in the World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu held in Chungju-si, South Korea.
17. Afghanistan's Rashid Khan has become the youngest test captain in the world (when he led his side in their one-off match against Bangladesh) at the age of 20 years.
 - Previously, Tatenda Taibu (Zimbabwe) was the youngest test captain.
18. Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan has won the U-17 girls Subroto Cup (football).
 - Subroto cup (named after Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee) is one of the famous inter-school football tournament in India.
19. Rafael Nadal (his 19th Grand Slam Title) and Bianca Andreescu have won the US Open 2019 in men's and women's category respectively.
 - There are 4 grand slam tennis tournaments of ITF: - Australian Open, Roland Garros (French Open), Wimbledon (British Open), US Open.
 - US Open 2019 other winners are: -
20. Charles Leclerc has won the Formula One race of Italy Grand Prix 2019.
21. India has won gold in the 10th Asia-Pacific Youth Games badminton competition in Vladivostok, Russia.
 - Pranav and Meghana have won gold in men and women's singles.
22. Vaidehi Choudhary has won the \$3000 Asian Tour Women's Tennis Tournament 2019 held in New Delhi.
23. Kenya's Brigid Kosgei has broken the world record as the fastest female half-marathon runner at the Great North Run 2019 held in United Kingdom.
 - Mo Farah won in the men's category for the sixth time in this world's most popular half marathon.
24. Lasith Malinga has become the world's 1st cricketer to take 5 international hat-tricks during his match against New Zealand.
 - Also, he became the first bowler to take 100 wickets in T20I format.
25. Women's Tennis Association (WTA) has announced its latest rankings (as of Sept 9, 2019): -
 - Novak Djokovic is at the top position in the Association of Tennis Professionals' latest rankings.
26. India won 3 bronze medals at the Asia Junior Soft Tennis tournament held in Bulacan, Philippines.
27. ICC T20I 2020 World Cup for men and women will be held in Australia.
Winners: - U-18 boys - Aniket Patel; U-18 girls - Aadhya Tiwari and Tushita Singh and a bronze in U-15 girls.

28. Mehuli Ghosh has won the National Shooting Trials held in New Delhi.
29. India topped the medal tally with 10 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals at the Track Asia Cup Cycling Competition in New Delhi.
- Uzbekistan finished 2nd with 4 golds and 3 silvers while Malaysia finished 3rd with 4 golds and 1 silver.
30. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in 2014 to prepare the athletes for Rio Olympics of 2016 and Tokyo Olympics of 2020 by giving financial assistance to them.
- Now, 10 boxers including Mary Kom, Amit Panghal etc have been included in the scheme.
 - Now, TOPS covers 2024 Paris Olympics also.
31. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has derecognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for its violation of National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 under the clause I (ix) and (x) of Annexure-III of this code.
- Reason: - PCI had replaced its President Rao Inderjit with J Chandrashekhar and passed the resolution that no public servants would be elected to its executive.
32. Jessica and Nelly Korda will become the first sisters to play together in the 16th edition of Solheim Cup 2019 (one of the world's top women's golf tournament) being held in Gleneagles, Scotland.
33. Sourabh Verma has won the Vietnam Open Super 100 (badminton) held in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam.
34. Australian Megan Schutt has become the 1st woman to score 2 white-ball hat-tricks in the test series against West Indies held in Antigua.
- Thus, Schutt became the first Australian woman to claim a hat-trick in ODIs.
- Pankaj Advani won the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) Championship held in Myanmar.
35. Ranveer Duggal has won bronze at the International Billiards Snooker Federation's (IBSF) World U-16 Snooker Championship 2019 held in Tyumen, Russia.
36. India's Payas Jain has won silver at the 25th Asian Junior & Cadet Championships 2019 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Yuanyu Chen of China won gold).
- India won 2 silver medals - one by Payas Jain and other by Junior boys team.
37. Steve Smith has become the first cricketer to score 10th consecutive half centuries against one nation (England) in the Ashes series held at the Oval Stadium, London.
- Earlier, Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan) held this record with 9 fifty.
38. 7th edition of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2020 will be held in India.
39. India won the Asian Cricket Council's U-19s Asia Cup 2019 held at Colombo, Sri Lanka for the 7th time.
- Player of the match award - Atharva Ankolekar (India)

- Player of the series honour - Arjun Azad (India)
40. Pankaj Advani won the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship held in Mandalay, Myanmar.
 - He has increased his tally of world titles to 22.
 41. Spain has, for the second time, won FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 held in Dongguan, China.
 - FIBA world men's rankings 2019: First - USA, Second - Spain, followed by Australia, Argentina and France.
 42. Marc Marquez has won the San Marino Grand Prix 2019.
 43. Kenya's Geoffrey Kamworor has made a world record (in 58min 01sec) at the Copenhagen Half Marathon.
 44. Europe has won the Solheim Cup 2019 (women's)
 45. ICC Men's Test Rankings:
 46. Myanmar hosted first-ever Myanmar International Series 2019 held at National Badminton Stadium in Yangon.
 47. Indonesia's Rory Hie won the maiden Classic Golf and Country Club International Championship 2019 in Nuh, Haryana.
 48. India clinched 125 medals in Western Asia Youth and Junior Chess Championship 2019 held in New Delhi.
 49. Afghanistan has created a new record of most consecutive T20I victories after achieving their 12th successive T20I at T20I tri-series held in Dhaka.
 50. Mayank Vaid has become the first Indian and 44th person in the world to complete the Enduroman triathlon from England to France (which is considered to be one of the toughest endurance competitions in the world).
 - Vaid also broke the record for completing the triathlon - 'Enduroman - Arch to Arc' triathlon - in the shortest time.
 51. Yonex Belgian International 2019 (badminton) concluded: -
 52. German club Borussia Dortmund has become the grassroots partner of the World Sports (a sports consulting firm) for developing youth football and also help train Indian coaches.
 53. Yonex-Sunrise Vietnam Open 2019 (badminton) concluded: -
 54. Hopewel Elias HSS (Meghalaya) boys won the Subroto Cup under-17 football tournament in New Delhi.

55. Karolina Pliskova (her career's 15th singles WTA title) won the WTA (Women's Tennis Association) title at the Zhengzhou Open 2019 held in China.
 - Nicole Melichar and Kveta Peschke won the doubles title.
56. Sumit Nagal (India) has been ranked at 159th position (a 15 places jump) in the latest ATP rankings.
 - Prajnesh Gunneswaran - 82 rank (rose three places)
 - Ramkumar Ramanathan - 179 rank (three spots decline)
 - In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan are at 43rd and 49th positions. Leander Paes at 78.
 - In the WTA rankings, Ankita Raina is India's top-ranked player at 191 followed by Pranjala Yadlapalli at 338.
57. Novak Djokovic (269 weeks) has surpassed the record of Jimmy Connors of being ranked at the 1st position at ATP rankings for highest number of weeks.
58. India U-16 team has qualified for the 2020 AFC U-16 Championship finals to be held in Bahrain.
59. 14th edition of the ISSF Asian Shooting Championship will be held in Doha, Qatar in November.
60. Badminton World Federation's JUNIOR RANKINGS released: -
61. Beijing has released the official mascots for the 2022 winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics 2022.
 - 2028 Summer Olympics will be held at Los Angeles, USA.
62. Indian men's football team's ranking has slipped to 104 position (one place lower than earlier) in the latest FIFA rankings 2019 (as of 19 Sept 2019).
 - Indian Women's football team rank - 57 (as of 12 July 2019) in the latest ranking.
63. Vinesh Phogat has won the bronze medal at the Wrestling World Championships 2019 held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. She also booked a place in Olympics with it.
64. South African cricketer Kyle Abbott created world record by taking 17 wickets against Somerset in the 120th Specsavers County Championship 2019 held in England.
 - He is playing for Hampshire in this first-class cricket.
65. ICC has banned the Sri Lankan cricketer Akila Dananjaya for illegal bowling action for 12 months.
66. India will hold the NBA basketball game in Mumbai for the first time ever.
67. Daniil Medvedev has won the St. Petersburg Open 2019.
 - Divij Sharan (India) and Igor Zelenay (Slovakia) have won doubles title.
 - Divij had also won the USD 125,000 Ningbo Challenger with Matthew Ebden (Australia) a fortnight ago.
68. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga has won the Moselle Open held at Metz, France.

69. Koneru Humpy (India) has won the FIDE Women's Grand Prix series held in Skolkovo, Russia.
 - 2019-2020 FIDE Women's Grand Prix is a part of the Women's World Championship cycle.
70. Uzbekistan has topped the overall medal tally with 5 medals (including 3 gold and a silver and bronze each) at AIBA World Boxing Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia.
 - India won two medals in total. Silver: - Amit Panghal (in 52kg flyweight category) and Bronze: - Manish Kaushik (in 63 Kg category).
71. Sebastian Vettel (from Germany) has won the Singapore Grand Prix 2019.
72. Fenesta National tennis championships will be held in DLTA Complex, Delhi from Sept 30.
73. Carolina Marin won the women's singles at the China Open held in Changzhou, China.
 - Kento Momota won the men's singles.
74. Naomi Osaka has won the Pan Pacific Open (women's outdoor hardcourt tennis tournament) held in Tokyo, Japan.
 - Chan Hao-ching and Latisha Chan have won the doubles title at the 36th edition of Toray Pan Pacific Open 2019 (professional women's tennis tournament) held in Osaka, Japan.
75. Naomi Osaka has also won the Japan Women's Open 2019.
76. Karolina Muchova has won the women's title at the Korea Open (tennis) held in South Korea.
77. Azlan Shah Kamaruzaman has won the doubles round at the Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia (a part of the Asia Road Racing Championships).
 - India's Rajiv Sethu finished in the top-15 in the final race.
78. French players Melissa Alves (women) and Auguste Dussourd (men) have won the Nash Cup PSA (Professional Squash Association) Challenger Tour held in London, Canada.
79. Ministry of Sports will create 20 National Centres of Excellence (NCE) to train athletes in the developmental group for 2024 Paris and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
 - In this first-of-its kind move, each NCE will be earmarked for four to six specific sport.
 - The NCEs will have a single scheme running in them for elite athletes to end the differentiation in training and other facilities between athletes within the same campus.
 - Till now, 20 SAI facilities have been identified as National Centre of Excellence.
80. India has won 5 medals (1 silver and 4 bronze) at the World Wrestling Championships held at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
 - Deepak Punia won Silver medal.
81. Yinzhou International Men's Tennis Challenger 2019 will be held in Ningbo, China in October.
82. Nelly Korda (American) has won the Lacoste Ladies Open De France golf tour 2019.
 - It is her first LET title.

83. Women's Rugby World Cup 2021 will be held in New Zealand.
84. Malvika Bansod has won the title at the Maldives International Future Series Badminton tournament held in Male, Maldives.
85. India won four medals including two individual bronze and two silver (in junior men and women team events) at the 9th Asian Shotgun Championship held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Bronze winners: - Abhay Singh and Parinaaz Dhaliwal in the junior men's and women's skeet competition.
 - Kirti Gupta and Bhowneesh Mendiratta won the bronze medal in the junior mixed trap competition.
 - Kirti and Bhowneesh had earlier won the individual gold and helped the teams to the silver and gold medals respectively.
 - Bhowneesh Mendiratta won two gold medals in the junior men's trap and the team event.
86. Manipur has won the title in the 25th edition of senior women's National football championship held in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Panthoi Chanu was named the 'best goalkeeper'.
87. Indian cueist Laxman Rawat has won the IBSF World 6-Reds title held in Mandalay, Myanmar.
- Nutcharat Wongharuthai (Thailand) has won the women's title.
88. Peter Gilchrist has won the Myanmar Open Billiards Championship 2019 held in Mandalay, Myanmar.
89. ICC T20I rankings for 2019 released: -
90. UEFA Champions League 2021 final will be played in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- UEFA Champions League 2022 will be played in Munich, Germany.
 - UEFA Champions League 2023 will be played in Wembley, London.
 - 2021 Europa League final will be played in Seville, Spain.
 - 2021 UEFA Super Cup match —between the winner of the Champions League and Europa League —will be played in Belfast, Ireland.
 - 2020 UEFA Europa League final will be held in Gdansk, Poland.
 - 2020 UEFA Champions League Final will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.
91. Western Storm has won the Kia Super League 2019 (Women's Cricket Super League) held in England and Wales.
- It was organized by England and Wales Cricket Board.
92. PV Sindhu has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Visa for two years.
93. Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta pair won the IBSF World snooker team event held in Mandalay, Myanmar.
- Now, Advani has increased his tally of world titles to 23.



94. Iran has won the 20th Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship 2019, organized by Asian Volleyball Confederation in Tehran, Iran for the third time.
- India qualified for the 2020 Asian Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament to be held in China.
95. Kantawat Leelavechab (Thailand) has won the Maldives International Future Series 2019 held in Male, Maldives.
- Vaibhaav and Prakash Raj (India) won the men's doubles title.
 - KuoYu Wen and Lin Wan Ching (Chinese Taipei) won the women's doubles title.
 - Lu Chia Pin and Lin Wan Ching (Chinese Taipei) won the mixed doubles title.
96. Team Europe has won the Laver Cup 2019 (men's hardcourt tennis tournament), for a record third time, against the Team World held in Geneva, Switzerland.
97. Srihari Nataraj has won the gold in the men's 100 metre backstroke at the 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championship held in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Manna Patel won the gold in 50 m backstroke.
 - The quartet of Srihari Nataraj, Anand Anilkumar, Sajan Prakash and Virbhawal Khade won the gold in the 4x100m men's freestyle relay.
 - Kushagra Rawat has also won two gold medals.
 - India has finished with a total medal tally of 64 medals (20 gold, 24 silver and 20 bronze) at the 10th Asian age swimming group championship.
98. United World Wrestling (UWW) has released its latest rankings: -
99. Japan has become the third nation to complete a four-peat in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division-A basketball tournament held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- South Korea and China are the other two nations to have achieved this feat.
100. Lewis Hamilton has won the Russian Grand Prix 2019.
- India's Jehan Daruvala finished third at the Russian Grand Prix (in the FIA F3 championship).
101. World women's boxing championships will be held in Ulan-Ude, Russia, from October 2019.
102. Kento Momota has won the BWF Korea Open Super 500 badminton tour held at the Incheon, South Korea.
- China's He Bingjiao has won the women's final.
 - Women's Doubles: Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong
 - Men Doubles: Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto
103. India lifted the SAFF under-18 football championship for the first time held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
104. China won 29 gold, 14 silver and 10 bronze medals at the IWF (International Weightlifting Federation) World Weightlifting Championships 2019 held in Pattaya, Thailand.
105. Tom Lewis has won the Korn Ferry Tour Championship (PGA tour in golf) 2019 held in Indiana, USA.



106. Indian Athletics Grand Prix- VI (organized by Athletics Federation of India) has concluded in Patiala, Punjab.

Winners: -

107. 10th edition of 2019 IAAF Diamond League 3 concluded in Brussels, Belgium.

Winners: -

108. Alex de Minaur has won the Huajin Securities Zhuhai Championships (ATP tour) held in Zhuhai, China.

109. 24th edition of 2019 ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Championships has concluded in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

- Men's Singles - Xu Xin
- Women's Singles - Sun Yingsha
- Men's team event - India
- Sathiyam Gnanasekaran has been ranked among the top 25 table tennis players.

110. India has won total 16 gold, 13 silver and 5 bronze medals in seven different sports at the 10th Asia-Pacific Youth Sports Games held at Vladivostok, Russia.

111. Chengdu open 2019 held in Zhuhai, Beijing and Shanghai has been won by Pablo Carreno Busta.

- Nikola Cacic and Dusan Lajovic won the doubles title.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has developed the biggest-ever computer chip-RV16XNano (with a 6-bit processor) by using carbon nanotubes in place of silicon.

- The study was published in Journal Nature.

2. 'Jin Dhoondha Tin Paaiyan' book has been written by IPS officer OP Singh.

3. A Short History of Indian Railways book has been written by Rajendra B. Aklekar.

4. Francesco Maria Columbu (an Italian bodybuilder, powerlifter, actor, and author) has passed away.

5. "India's Lost Frontier - the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan" book has been written by Raghvendra Singh.

- The book illustrates the history of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, earlier known as the North-West Frontier Province.

6. "First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks" book has been written by journalist Sophie Ansel.

7. Nuakhai is one of the greatest harvesting festival of western Odisha.

8. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas were named the best dressed of 2019 by People magazine.



- Jennifer Garner has been named 2019's 'Most Beautiful Woman' by People magazine.
- 9. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has released two books 'Loktantra Ke Swar (Khand 2)' and 'The Republican Ethic (Volume 2)' which are a collection of President Ram Nath Kovind's selected speeches.
- 10. Kiran Nagarkar (an Indian novelist, playwright, film and drama critic and screenwriter) has passed away.
- 11. "The splendid and The vile" book has been written by Erik Larson.
 - The book is based on the bombarding of London by Nazi in 1940-41.
- 12. Jhelum Biswas Bose has written the "Phoolpur: Indian Flowers, Their Myths, Traditions and Usage" book.
- 13. Coffee Table Book titled 'Glorious Diaspora- Pride of India' has been released by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
 - The book contains brief profiles of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards recipients from 2003 to 2019.
- 14. "Rethinking Good Governance: Holding to Account India's Public Institutions" book has been written by former CAG of India Vinod Rai.
- 15. "Fortune Turner: The Quartet that Spun India to Glory" book has been written by Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj.
 - The book tells about the victories of 4 cricketers: - Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekar and S. Venkataraghavan.
- 16. "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" book, based on the life of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, has been authored by Vikram Sampath.
 - It is the first volume of the two-volume series by Sampath.
- 17. Cryodrakon boreas (a new species of pterosaur) has been discovered as the largest flying animal of all times according to the new study published in Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.
 - According to David Hone (lead author of the study), it must be 10 m tall and weigh 250 kg.
- 18. For the first time, Survey of India (the oldest scientific department of India) will deploy 300 drones to map the country.
 - The Survey is affiliated to Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 - It will map 75% of India's geography (about 2.4 million sq km of 3.2 million sq km) within next two years.
- 19. Neermahal Jal Utsav is a three days long festival, being celebrated in Agartala, Tripura on the Rudrasagarlake.
- 20. Astronomers using NSF's Green Bank Telescope have identified a record breaking neutron star - MSP J0740+6620 - with the highest mass yet known.
 - The study was published in the Nature Astronomy journal.

21. "The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas" book written by the journalist Dhaval Kulkarni.
22. Being Gandhi book has been written by Paro Anand to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
23. "Turbulence & Triumph: The Modi Years" have jointly authored by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan.
24. Venkaiah Naidu released the 'Himalayan Odyssey' book, written by Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.
 - It is an English translation of the Malayalam original - 'Haimavathabhuvil', written by Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.
25. Fernando Ricksen (footballer from Netherlands) has passed away.
26. Zoological Society of London and London's Natural History Museum have discovered a new species of giant Chinese salamander (scientific name is Andrias sligoi) - world's largest amphibian.
 - The study was published in the journal "Ecology and Evolution".
 - 3 distinct species of Chinese salamanders are Andrias davidianus, Andrias sligoi and another new discovery yet to be named.
27. Shondol dance (the royal dance of Ladakh) has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Ladakhi dance as 408 women gathered for this dance.
 - It was performed during the annual Buddhist carnival Naropa festival near the Hemis Monastery, Ladakh.
 - It was organised by the Live to Love India, Drukpa Charitable Trust, and the Young Drukpa Association.
28. From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 Explosive Ideas that Made (and Are Making) Modern Medicine book has been authored by Roopa Pai.
29. Permanent Record is the memoir of Edward Snowden.
30. "India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765" book has been authored by Richard M Eaton.
 - This book mainly focuses on the rise of Persian culture.
31. 'Girl Power: Indian Women Who Broke The Rules' book has been authored by Neha J Hiranandani.
32. Davo Karnicar (Slovenia) - the first person to ski down Mount Everest completely - has passed away at 56.
33. "Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy" book has been written by Subramanian Swami.
34. Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi has written the book "Loss" which is a memoir on death and grief, drawing on a string of personal losses - of his parents and a beloved pet.

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- The Last Song of Dusk, The Lost Flamingoes of Bombay, The Rabbit & the Squirrel are his other books.
35. A new species of cat snake has been named as "Thackeray's cat snake" (scientific name "Boiga thackerayi") named after the Tejas Thackeray found in Sahyadri tiger reserve in Maharashtra.
- The new species was published in the journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.
36. Bathukamma is an annual floral festival, observed in Telangana and some parts of Andhra Pradesh.
37. "The Game of Votes: Visual Media Politics and Elections in the Digital Era" book has been written by Farhat Basir Khan.

PLANET.E