

The Most Important Current Affairs August 2019

Government announces Mega Merger of Public Sector Banks

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced a **big consolidation of public sector banks**. Under the scheme of amalgamation, **10 public sector banks** are to be merged **into four banks**. After the amalgamation, the total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks.
- The amalgamation of banks will be in the following manner:
 - Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India to be merged into one single bank, with business of Rs 7.95 trillion to make **India's 2nd largest bank**.
 - Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank are to be merged to become the **4th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 15.2 lakh crore.

- Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be merged to become the **5th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 14.6 lakh crore.
- Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank to become the **7th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 8.08 lakh crore.
- The government has also announced capital infusion of over **Rs 55,000 crores** into public sector banks:
 - PNB (Rs 16,000 crore),
 - Union Bank of India (Rs 11,700 crore),
 - Bank of Baroda (Rs 7000 crore),
 - Indian Bank (Rs 2500 crore),
 - Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 3800 crore),
 - Central Bank (Rs 3300 crore),
 - UCO Bank (Rs 2100 crore),
 - United Bank (Rs 1600 crore) and
 - Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs 750 crore).

66th National Film Awards

- The **66th National Film awards** have been announced by **Rahul Rawail**, head of the **Jury for feature films**. The Jury unanimously conferred the **award for the Most Film Friendly State** to **"Uttarakhand"** for furthering the growth of the film industry in the state including creating an environment for ease of filming in the state.
- The list of **Award winners** under the **different categories** is mentioned as under:

Sr. No.	Category	Winner
1	Best Feature Film	Hellaro (Gujarati Film)
2	Best non feature film	Son Rise by Vibha Bakshi and The Secret Life of Frogs by Ajay and Vijay Bedi
3	Best Director	Adhitya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike
4	Best Actor	Ayushmann Khuranna for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
5	Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
6	Best Supporting Actor	Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
7	Best supporting actress	Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
8	Best Action Direction	KGF Chapter I
9	Best Choreography	Padmaavat for Ghumar
10	Best Cinematography	MJ Radhakrishnan for Olu (Malayalam)
11	Best Educational Film	Sarala Virala
12	Best Popular Film	Badhaai Ho
13	Best film on Environment issues	Paani
14	Best Debut Film of a Director	Naal (Marathi)
15	Best Film for National Integration	Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
16	Best film on Social Issues	Padman
17	Best Child artist	P V Rohith (Kannada), Sameep Singh (Punjabi), Talha Arshad Reshi (Urdu) and Shrinivas Pokale (Marathi)
18	Best Children's Film	Sarkari Area Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod

Sr. No.	Category	Winner
19	Best Special Effects	KGF
20	Special Jury Award	Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachud Rai
21	Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Paani
22	Best Lyrics	Nathichirami (Kannada)
23	Best Music Direction (Songs)	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Padmaavat
24	Best Music Direction (Background score)	Uri : The Surgical Strike
25	Best Sound Design	Uri : The Surgical Strike
26	Best Female playback Singer	Bindu for Mayavi Manave (Kannada)
27	Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh for Bhinte Dhill
28	Best Original Screenplay	Chi La Sow
29	Best Adapted Screenplay	Andhadhun
30	Best Dialogues	Tariqh
31	Best Hindi Film	Andhadhun
32	Best Urdu Film	Hamid
33	Best Telugu Film	Mahanati
34	Best Assamese Film	Bulbul Can Sing
35	Best Punjabi Film	Harjeeta
36	Best Tamil Film	Baaram
37	Best Marathi Film	Bhonga

RBI reduces repo rate by 35 bps in 3rd Bi-monthly policy

- In its 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting, the Reserve Bank of India has reduced the policy repo rate by 35 basis points (bps). The MPC has also decided to maintain the accommodative stance of monetary policy. The main decisions taken in the 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meetings are:
 - The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was reduced from 5.75% to 5.40%. The benchmark rate is now at its lowest since April 2010.
 - The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 5.15%.
 - The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate revised to 5.65%.
 - RBI has also reduced the real GDP growth for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%

Ravish Kumar wins Ramon Magsaysay award 2019

- Indian journalist Ravish Kumar has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for "harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless".

- The Magsaysay award was started in 1957 and celebrates the memory and leadership example of the former Philippine president Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay. It is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader. Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. The awardees are presented with a medallion with a right side facing profile image of Ramon Magsaysay along with a certificate.
- The other winners of the award are:
 - Ko Swe Win (Myanmar): He is a human rights defender and the chief editor of Myanmar Now news agency.
 - Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand) is human rights activist and a leading human rights defender in Southern Thailand.
 - Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) is a musician who has served in the music faculty of the University of the Philippines and has conducted free workshops for thousands of students all across the country.
 - Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth and a South Korean agrarian movement leader who pioneered wasteland cultivation, and strove to demonstrate through his work that life as a farmer can be fulfilling and productive.

India slips to 7th largest economy in 2018

- According to the World Bank, **India** has been pushed to the **7th place** in the global **GDP rankings** in 2018. In 2017, India had emerged as the 6th largest economy.
- The **US** remains the top economy with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion in 2018. **China** was the 2nd largest economy with \$13.6 trillion, while **Japan** took the 3rd place with \$5 trillion. India's GDP was at \$2.7 trillion in 2018, while UK and France were at \$2.8 trillion. India still remains **the fastest-growing major economy in the world**.

Forbes highest paid actors list 2019

- Bollywood Actor **Akshay Kumar** has made it to the **4th position** on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list. Akshay has raked in **\$65 million**. Hollywood star Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.
- Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 listed by Forbes:
 1. Dwayne Johnson (\$89.4 million)
 2. Chris Hemsworth (\$76.4 million)
 3. Robert Downey Jr. (\$66 million)
 4. Akshay Kumar (\$65 million)
 5. Jackie Chan (\$58 million)
 6. Bradley Cooper (\$57 million)
 7. Adam Sandler (\$57 million)
 8. Chris Evans (\$43.5 million)
 9. Paul Rudd (\$41 million)
 10. Will Smith (\$35 million)

Scarlett Johansson tops Forbes highest-paid actresses list

- For the second consecutive year, **Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson** has topped the Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors in the world. Spurred by the success of her summer Marvel film Avengers: Endgame, the 34-year-old actor's earning reached **USD 56 million**.
- Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actresses Of 2019 listed by Forbes:
 1. Scarlett Johansson – \$56 million
 2. Sofia Vergara – \$44.1 million
 3. Reese Witherspoon – \$35 million
 4. Nicole Kidman – \$34 million

5. Jennifer Aniston – \$28 million
6. Kaley Cuoco – \$25 million
7. Elisabeth Moss – \$24 million
8. Margot Robbie- \$23.5 million
9. Charlize Theron- \$23 million
10. Ellen Pompeo – \$22 million

RBI to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh crore to government

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has given its approval to transfer a sum of **Rs 1,76,051 crore** to the Government of India, comprising of **Rs 1,23,414 crore** of surplus for the year 2018-19 and **Rs 52,637 crore** of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework. The decision was taken on the recommendations of the Expert Committee to Review the Extant Economic Capital Framework for RBI. The panel was led by former RBI Governor **Bimala Jalan**.
- In November 2018**, the RBI decided to form a committee to review the **Economic Capital Framework** for the Reserve Bank. Hence, the **six-member panel was constituted on December 26, 2018**. Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan was given the responsibility to head the panel and to submit its report. As a result, the panel has recommended a surplus distribution policy under which the central bank has to transfer its surplus reserves to the Indian government. These recommendations target the level of realized equity which has to be retained by RBI within the overall level of its economic capital. The Jalan panel has set a range for this component which is reflected in the central bank's balance sheet. The range has been set at **5.5%-6.5% of the contingency fund**.

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National Sports Awards 2019

- Selection Committee for the Sports Awards 2019 has announced the **National Sports Awards 2019**. National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Selection Committee for the Sports Awards 2019** was headed by **Justice Mukundakam Sharma**, Retired Judge, Supreme Court.

- Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh each. A trophy and citation is given to the entity in the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, 2019. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies and certificates. Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments will be given MAKAT Trophy, award money of Rs. 10 lakh and certificate.
- The complete list of awardees:

Sr. No.	Award	Name	Discipline
1	RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD	Sh. Bajrang Punia	Wrestling
2	RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD	Ms. Deepa Malik	Para Athletics
3	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Regular Category)	Sh. Vimal Kumar	Badminton
4	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Regular Category)	Sh. Sandeep Gupta	Table tennis
5	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Regular Category)	Sh. Mohinder Singh Dhillon	Athletics
6	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Life-Time Category)	Sh. Merzban Patel	Hockey
7	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Life-Time Category)	Sh. Rambir Singh Khokhar	Kabaddi
8	DRONACHARYA AWARD (Life-Time Category)	Sh. Sanjay Bhardwaj	Cricket
9	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Athletics
10	ARJUNA AWARD	Mohammed Anas Yahiya	Athletics
11	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. S. Bhaskaran	Body Building
12	ARJUNA AWARD	Ms. Sonia Lather	Boxing
13	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Ravindra Jadeja	Cricket
14	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam	Hockey
15	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Ajay Thakur	Kabaddi
16	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Gaurav Singh Gill	Motor Sports
17	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Pramod Bhagat	Para Sports (Badminton)
18	ARJUNA AWARD	Ms. Anjum Moudgil	Shooting
19	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Harmeet Rajul Desai	Table Tennis
20	ARJUNA AWARD	Ms. Pooja Dhanda	Wrestling
21	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Fouaad Mirza	Equestrian
22	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu	Football
23	ARJUNA AWARD	Ms. Poonam Yadav	Cricket
24	ARJUNA AWARD	Ms. Swapna Barman	Athletics
25	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Sundar Singh Gurjar	Para Sports (Athletics)
26	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth	Badminton
27	ARJUNA AWARD	Sh. Simran Singh Shergill	Polo
28	DHYANCHAND AWARD	Sh. Manuel Fredricks	Hockey
29	DHYANCHAND AWARD	Sh. Arup Basak	Table Tennis
30	DHYANCHAND AWARD	Sh. Manoj Kumar	Wrestling
31	DHYANCHAND AWARD	Sh. Nitten Kirrtane	Tennis
32	DHYANCHAND AWARD	Sh. C. Lalremsanga	Archery
33	RASHTRIYA KHEL PRO TSAHAN PURUSKAR	(i) Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation(ii) GoSports Foundation	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent'
34	RASHTRIYA KHEL PRO TSAHAN PURUSKAR	Royalaseema Development Trust	Sports for Development

Article 370 and Article 35A revoked from J&K

- A series of historical decisions which includes the scrapping of **Article 370 & Art-35-A** and the introduction of "**J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019**" were taken during the session of Rajya Sabha. **Article 370** was providing special autonomous status to the Indian state "**Jammu & Kashmir**" which will be no longer applicable from today. The Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 2019 made by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind was published. Once this order was tabled by the home minister, it came into force immediately and supersedes the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 1954. All the provisions related to the state of Jammu & Kashmir mentioned in the order will apply to the state. With the above proceedings, Home Minister moved a resolution in Rajya Sabha that all clauses of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will not be applicable in the state.
- With this, Union Government scrapped **article 370 and 35A in J&K** and introduced a new bill named "**J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019**".
- **Article 370** was providing special autonomous status to the Indian state "Jammu & Kashmir". Now, the government's decision to revoke article 370 will revoke the special provision which grants power to J&K to have its own constitution. As a result, J&K will have to adhere to the constitution of India much like the rest of the country and people from outside J&K will be able to buy property in the state and settle here.

Prime Minister launches Fit India Movement

- On the occasion of **National Sports Day (29th August)**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the Fit India Movement at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi. During the event, PM appealed to the nation to join this fitness movement and make a '**Fitter & Better India**'.
- The nation-wide Fit India Movement aims to motivate every Indian to incorporate simple, easy ways of staying fit in their everyday life.

New Governors Appointed in 5 Indian States

- A total of five governors have been appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind, including the transfer and appointment of **Kalraj Mishra**.
- **Kalraj Mishra**, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, was transferred and appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan. He will replace Kalyan Singh.
- Taking over Mishra's role as Himachal governor is former Union minister **Bandaru Dattatreya**.

- Tamil Nadu BJP president **Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan** has been appointed as the Governor of **Telangana**, replacing ESL Narasimhan.
- **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has been appointed as the new Governor of **Maharashtra**. Koshyari will replace Vidyasagar Rao.
- **Arif Mohammed Khan** has been appointed as the **Kerala** governor in place of P Sathasivam.

Most Awaited "Assam's National Register of Citizens List" Released

- State coordinator of the National Register of Citizens, **Prateek Hajela** has released the most awaited **Assam's final National Register of Citizens list**. The list has been made accessible online and at all NRC seva kendras in the state. The process of NRC Update was started in the state of Assam as per order of the Supreme Court of India in 2013. The **NRC took five years** and **Rs 1,220 crore** before getting published.
- **Important findings of the NRC:**
 - ✚ From the **3.29 crore** applicants, a total of **3.11 crore** people have been found eligible for inclusion in final NRC list.
 - ✚ **19.06 lakh** people have been excluded from the final NRC list.
 - ✚ Those excluded from the final NRC list will have **120 days** to approach the **Foreigners' Tribunals**. If a person is dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision, he/she can appeal against it.
 - ✚ Foreigners tribunals is a place where bona fide citizens, whose names do not figure in the final NRC, can approach to challenge their exclusion.
 - ✚ To accommodate excluded people, **detention camps** have been set up across the state of Assam.
- The **NRC list** is the **biggest exercise** India has undertaken to expel illegal immigrants residing illegally in India. The updation process of NRC was carried out under **The Citizenship Act, 1955**, and according to the rules framed in the **Assam Accord**.

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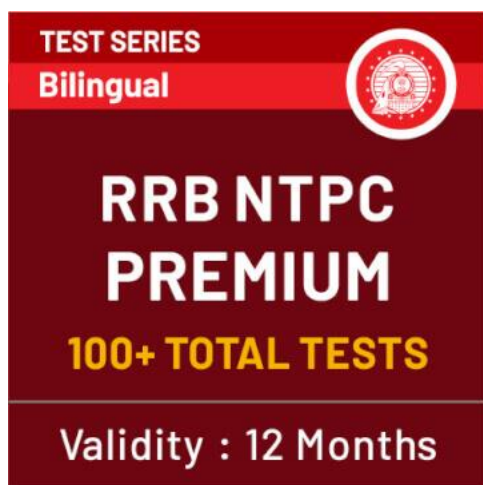
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Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a **penalty on 2 online payment solutions providers: Mobikwik Systems Private Limited** has been slapped a fine of **Rs 15 lakh** while **Hip Bar Pvt Ltd** faced a fine of **Rs 10.85 lakh**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has relaxed norms for end-use of money raised through **external commercial borrowings** for corporates as well as liquidity starved non banking lenders.
- The **postal department** has decided to convert the **India Post Payments Bank** into a **small finance bank**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** allowed "**Bank of China**" to offer regular banking services in the country.
- The **State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch** is now connected to **China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS)**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a collective penalty of **Rs 11 crore on 7 public sector banks** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on '**Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts**'.
- RBI has imposed a fine of **Rs 1 crore on Corporation Bank** for non-compliance of norms related to cyber security framework for banks, frauds classification and reporting.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to set up a "**Central Payment Fraud Registry**". The registry will track frauds in the **payment systems**.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has approved **Singapore Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd** to operate jointly in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar**. The two entities will create a new platform for trading called **NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)-SGX Connect**.



- The Reserve Bank of India will make available the **National Electronic Funds Transfer** system on a **24x7** basis from **December 2019** as per the **Payment System Vision 2021 document**.
- Private sector bank, **RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo** have partnered to launch an industry-first co-branded health **credit card**. This credit card is powered by **Mastercard**.
- **The Central government** has rolled out scheme for liquidity support to **NBFCs**. The partial guarantee scheme will allow state-run banks (PSBs) to purchase assets of non-banking and housing finance companies (NBFCs and HFCs). NBFCs will be able to sell **20% of standard assets**, worth up to **Rs 5,000 crore**, as on March 31. The Department of Economic Affairs will provide government guarantee of up to 10% of the fair value of assets purchased by a bank from a stressed **NBFC or HFC**.
- According to the **Reserve Bank of India**, the transactions which should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer as the '**free ATM transactions**' includes transactions failed at ATMs due to technical reasons and non-availability of currency in ATMs, and use of ATMs for non-cash withdrawal transactions such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes, funds transfer.
- As per the latest **RBI data**, **India's forex reserves** has reached the highest ever valuation of **\$430.57 billion**.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments). The maximum limit for such a transaction will be **Rs 2,000**.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has announced a new mechanism to reward insider trading informants to uncover insider trading cases. The reward would be **10 per cent** of the money collected, subject to a **maximum amount of Rs 1 crore**.
- **Bandhan Bank** launched a co-branded credit card in association with **Standard Chartered bank**.
- Public sector Bank, **Indian Bank** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tata AIG General Insurance**. The MoU offers the latter's diverse range of general insurance policies benefiting the bank's customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings
- **Canara Bank** has launched India's first **OTP facility for ATM withdrawals**. OTP facility will be provided on cash withdrawals of above **Rs 10,000** in a day.
- **Indian Bank** has opened **MSME CPC** (centralised processing centre) in **Chennai** with an aim to give a boost to the bank's MSME portfolio.

Economy Current Affairs

- Ratings agency **CRISIL** has cut its forecast for **India's GDP growth** by **20 basis points** for FY **2019-20**. It has lowered **India's GDP growth** to **6.9% from 7.1%**.
- **India Ratings and Research** has revised its projection of India's GDP growth in the financial year 2019-20 to **6.7%**.

Business Current Affairs

- **Microsoft** has acquired **data privacy, governance service** firm **BlueTalon**.
- To protect consumers' interest, the **Centre** has **proposed guidelines for e-commerce firms that entail a 14-day deadline** to effect refund request, mandate e-tailers to display details of sellers supplying goods and services on their websites and moot the procedure to resolve consumer complaints.
- **Mastercard** announced the launch of **Identity Check Express**, a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution that aims to redefine the e-commerce journey for Indian consumers.
- **Bengaluru** based Housing startup "**Grextor Living**" which is a co-living provider, has acquired **i2Stay**.
- **National Payments Corporation of India** has announced that **Aadhaar enabled Payment System** has crossed the milestone of over **200 million transactions during July 2019**. The transaction count of AePS stood at **220 million in July 2019**.
- Business-to-business payments startup **EnKash** has launched the country's **first corporate credit card** called '**Freedom Card**' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.
- Cab aggregator **Ola** announced acquiring of **Pikup.ai**, an Artificial Intelligence start-up based in Bengaluru.

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Schemes/Committees by the Union & State Government

- "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020. To implement the scheme successfully, the centre has kick started inter state portability of ration card pairing two states each.
- The Department of Heavy Industry has sanctioned **5,595 electric buses** under the phase II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme.
- Jammu and Kashmir, District Administration **Udhampur** has launched a helpline, "**Jeene Do**" to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques PCPNDT Act under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
- **Culture and Tourism Minister** flagged off a **mobile library bus service** under scheme "**Ghar Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak**" which aims to reach out to readers in **Delhi**, especially those in slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.
- **One Nation-One Ration Card** scheme launched on a pilot basis in **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra** and **Gujarat**.
- **Gujarat Chief Minister** has launched the '**Vhali Dikri Yojna**' from his home town Rajkot, Gujarat. The scheme for the **welfare of the girl child**.
- **The Andhra Pradesh government** will launch the Navodayam scheme which is an outreach programme for thousands of ailing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana' under which money would be directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers in the state.
- **Chief Minister of Punjab** has launched a universal health insurance scheme "**Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana**" benefiting nearly 46 lakh families. With this scheme, covering **76% of the state's population**.
- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launching the "School Fagadaba" scheme to improve the infrastructure of government schools in the state.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi **Anil Baijal** launched a '**QR Code Scheme**' on the **Himmat Plus** app in Delhi. This mobile app launched by the Delhi Police to ensure the safety of women.

States Current Affairs

- The **rasagola**, a popular dessert of **Odisha**, has received the **geographical indication tag** from the Registrar of Geographical Indication.
- **Odisha Chief Minister** announced in the State Assembly that the **Sachivalaya or Secretariat building** in Bhubaneswar will now be called '**Lok Seva Bhavan**'.
- The **Innovating for Clean Air (IFCA)**, is a **UK-India joint initiative** providing Indian and UK stakeholders opportunities to test interventions related to **air quality** and **EV integration**, was launched in **Bengaluru**.
- The **West Bengal Government** has launched an awareness campaign '**Save Green, Stay Clean**' for preserving the **greenery** and **keeping the environment clean**.
- **Maharashtra** became the **first state to adopt a digital fingerprint and iris scanning system** to aid police investigations.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** State Home Minister has flagged of **5 Anti-Riot police vehicle**, also known as **Vajra**, from Police Headquarter in Itanagar.
- **Maharashtra** has launched an initiative **Mission Shakti to train** athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics.
- The **Rajasthan Assembly** passed Bills against mob lynching and honour killing, which make the cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences with life imprisonment and a fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
- The Centre has approved a **Kosi-Mechi** river interlining project in Bihar. Estimated cost of the project is **Rs 4,900 crore**.
- Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati inaugurated the new higher education model, titled **Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence (RACE) in Rajasthan**.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 200 million** loan for improving road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra.
- Uttar Pradesh's "**Vriksharopan Mahakumbh**" drive has created world record after planting more than **22 crore saplings**. The drive was launched on the occasion of 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement.
- The event, **organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam** Foundation has entered the Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour) after thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a **15-km long national flag** by forming a human chain ahead of the Independence day. **The event was held in Chhattisgarh**.
- Jammu and Kashmir administration will host a **3 days global investors' summit** from October 12 in Srinagar.
- The Panchamirtham is an '**abhishega prasadam**' of the Murugan temple has been bestowed with the Geographical Indication tag. The Murugan temple is situated in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Tawlhlohpuan & Mizo Puanchei** from Mizoram, and Tirur betel vine from Kerala has received the Geographical Indication tag.

- **5 New fish species discovered** in Arunachal Pradesh and their names are **Mystus prabini, Exostoma kottelati, Creteuchiloglanis tawangensis, Garra ranganensis, Physoschistura harkishorei**.
- The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan of lakes "**Chilika and Ansupa**".
- **Karnataka government** has amended the **Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015** and notified Nicotine as "**Class A poison**".
- India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology will be set up in **Gujarat**.
- **Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department** launched an academic programme "**Super 50**". Super 50 programme will mentor 50 most meritorious tribal students from the State and prepare them for engineering and medical exams.
- **24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council held was held in Panaji, Goa**. Western Zonal Council is a forum for the Centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences on issues related to health, security and social welfare.
- Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** launched heritage postal stamp of **Bandra station** in Mumbai, Maharashtra on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.
- **Tamil Nadu** government launched its exclusive 24x7 education channel '**Kalvi Tholaikkatchi**' (**Education TV**).
- The **Maharashtra** cabinet has cleared the "**vertical property rules**" to create a database of all flats, buildings and commercial complexes. The "**vertical property rules**" would **prevent property-related frauds**.
- **Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees** have received Geographical Indication (**GI**) tags.
- Chief Minister of **Meghalaya** launched the '**Walk to Work**' campaign in the state. The campaign is a part of **Fit India Movement**.
- The **Uttarakhand** government has decided to form a **Special Tiger Force** for Corbett Tiger Reserve.

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Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **President of Sri Lanka** has appointed **Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva** as 23rd Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
- **Rajiv Kumar**, Secretary Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance, was designated as **Finance Secretary**.
- Eminent fashionista, social entrepreneur and philanthropist **Priya Priyadarshini Jain** has been felicitated with the prestigious '**Indian Woman of Influence**' award at the House of Lords, the United Kingdom Parliament, **London**.
- IPS officer **V.K. Johri** has been appointed as the next **Director General (DG)** of the country's largest border guarding force, **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- **Girish Bapat** has been appointed the **chairman** of the "**Estimates Committee**" of the parliament.
- **Lt Gen Paramjit Singh**, who has vast experience in counter-terror operations, will be the next **Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)** of the Indian Army.
- **The Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG)**, country's self-regulatory industry body for the online fantasy sports gaming sector, announced the appointment of **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri** as its **ombudsman** and **ethics officer**.
- **The Appointments Committee** on Cabinet has given the additional charge of the post of **Director General Narcotics Control Bureau** to **Rakesh Asthana**.
- IAS Officer **Guruprasad Mohapatra** assumed charge as the **secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.
- **Ravi Kapoor**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, assumed charge of the **office of Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi**.
- **Atish Dabholkar**, a theoretical physicist from **India**, has been appointed as the new director of **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** in **Trieste, Italy**. He will succeed **Fernando Quevedo**, who has led the centre since 2009.
- **Giriraj Prasad Gupta**, Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, took over as the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.
- **Noel Quinn**, the head of HSBC's Global Commercial Banking unit will replace John Flint as the interim **CEO of HSBC**.
- **Indian IT company Mindtree Ltd** has announced the appointment of **Debashis Chatterjee** as its new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**.
- State-owned **Power Grid Corporation Director (Finance)** **Kandikuppa Sreekant** assumed the charge of the chairman and managing director of **Power Grid Corporation of India**.
- **Chandrima Shaha** is set to be the **1st woman president** of the Indian National Science Academy.
- **Ghotu Ram Meena** has been appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to the Republic of Congo**.

- **Legendary Indian sprinter P.T. Usha**, one of India's greatest athletes, has been appointed as a member of the **Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission**.
- **Harshad Pandurang Thakur** has been appointed as the director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.
- Digital payments player **Paytm** announced the promotion of its Chief Financial Officer **Madhur Deora** as the company's President.
- **Ravinder Takkar** has been appointed as the **MD and CEO of Idea-Vodafone**. He will replace **Balesh Sharma**.
- **Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** appointed as a Cabinet secretary for two years. He will replace **P.K. Sinha**.
- **Ajay Kumar** has been appointed as **Defence Secretary**. He will replace **Sanjay Mitra**.
- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** was appointed as the new **Union Home Secretary**. He is currently serving as an officer on special duty in the home ministry. He replaces **Rajiv Gauba**.
- **Suparna Singh**, interim **CEO of NDTV** has resigned with immediate effect.
- Digital payments company **Paytm** has appointed ex-Goldman executive **Amit Nayyar** as **president** in the financial services business of the company.
- Senior diplomat **Pavan Kapoor** has been appointed as India's **Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates** by the Ministry of External Affairs. He will replace Navdeep Suri.
- **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** has selected **Pramod Agarwal** as the next chairman of **Coal India**.
- Former human rights lawyer **Lionel Aingimea** won the **presidential** election of the pacific nation **Nauru** by defeating his rival David Adeang by 12-6 votes.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister has approved the **extension** of the tenure of **CBDT Chairman Pramod Chander Mody**.
- **ICRA Ltd** ousted its Managing Director and group Chief Executive Officer **Naresh Takkar**.
- The Cabinet has approved the appointment of **P.K. Sinha** as "**Officer on Special Duty**" in the office of the Prime Minister.

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Sports Current Affairs

- A **9 member Indian Army** team has left for **Belarus** to compete in the **Sniper Frontier Competition** as part of the **International Army Games** scheduled on 03 Aug to 17 Aug 2019.
- Former France and Manchester United **defender Patrice Evra** has announced his **retirement**.
- American **Collin Morikawa** has won the **US PGA** title at the **Barracuda Championship**. This was his **1st win in the US PGA title**.
- **Tamil Nadu** girl **Jerlin Anika** has won the **gold medal** in the **World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships** held in **Taipei**.
- Olympic champion **Dalilah Muhammad** shattered one of the longest standing records in **women's athletics** with a superb display to clinch victory in the **400m hurdles** at **US Championships**.
- **Prithvi Shaw** has been suspended by **Board of Control for Cricket in India** for 8 months for a **doping violation**.
- The **International Cricket Council** has named **Michael Gough** of **England** and **Joel Wilson** of the **West Indies** in the **Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Umpires** for 2019-20 season.
- Former **India player** and Andhra Ranji captain, **Y. Venugopal Rao** has announced his **retirement** from all forms of cricket.
- The **International Cricket Council** has launched the **inaugural World Test Championship** thus setting the stage for a long tournament in **red-ball cricket** to determine the World Test Champion. The **top 9 Test teams** will compete in the 2-year long tournament.
- The **3rd edition** of **Khelo India Youth Games 2020** will be held in **Guwahati**. The Games will see a participation of more than 10,000 athletes and officials.
- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** wins **German Grand Prix** held in **Hockenheim, Germany**.
- **Nikoloz Basilashvili** wins the **German Tennis Championships**.
- **Egan Bernal** became the **1st Colombian** to win the **Tour de France** which finished in **Paris, France**.
- **Australia** all-rounder **Ellyse Perry** became the **first cricketer** of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring **1000 runs** and **taking 100 wickets** in the **T20 format**.
- Soccer body **CONMEBOL** suspended **Lionel Messi** from **international matches for three months** because of **accusations of corruption** he made at the **latest Copa America**.
- **Formula One Mercedes** driver **Lewis Hamilton** defeated **Max Verstappen** to win the **Hungarian Grand Prix**.
- **India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** defeated **Li Jun Hui** and **Liu Yu Chen** to win the men's doubles final of the **Thailand Open badminton championship** in **Bangkok**.
- Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** has been named as **Professional Cricketers Association's** Player of the month of July 2019.
- **South African bowler Dale Steyn** has announced his **retirement from Test cricket**.
- **Vinesh Phogat** won gold in women's **53kg category** at **Poland Open wrestling tournament** in **Warsaw**.
- German cancer researcher **Fiona Kolbinger** won the **mixed annual 4,000km(2,485 miles)** cycling **Transcontinental Race** from **Burgas in Bulgaria** to **Brest in France**.
- **Australia's reigning** world-champion hurdler **Sally Pearson** announced her surprise retirement due to injury.
- Australia's **Nick Kyrgios** kept his composure and captured the **ATP Washington Open** title, defeating Russia's 10th-ranked **Daniil Medvedev**.
- **Legendary Uruguay striker** **Diego Forlan** has announced his retirement from professional football.
- The 77th anniversary of the **August Kranti Din** or **Quit India Movement**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed.
- **South African batsman Hashim Amla** has retired from all formats of international cricket.
- **The World Archery (WA)** has suspended the **Archery Association of India** for violating its guidelines.
- The **Cricket Australia** has announced new transgender inclusive policy. This policy will enable transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels.
- **Rafael Nadal** wins in **Montreal** to win **35th Masters crown** and also extended his record haul of **Masters 1000 titles**.
- **Chennai Lions** defeated **Dabang Delhi** to win the **Ultimate Table Tennis league**.

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Current Affairs

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- **Bajrang Punia** defeated **Iran's Peiman Bibyani** to win gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix held in **Tbilisi, Georgia**.
- **Indian Badminton star Sourabh Verma** defeated Singapore's Loh Kean Yew to clinch the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open.
- **Aishwarya Pissay** made history by becoming the first Indian to win a world title in motorsports as she won the FIM World Cup in women's category after the final round of the championship in **Varpalota, Hungary**.
- **Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu** wins Rogers Cup tennis tournament 2019 held in Toronto, Canada.
- **The Netherlands'** most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced his retirement from football.
- **Simone Biles makes history** with a never-before-seen "triple-double" floor exercise landing. She performed the landing featuring "two flips and three twists" in U.S. Gymnastics Championships held in Kansas City.
- **Cricket** has been included in the **Commonwealth Games** for the 1st time since 1998 in Kuala Lumpur. Women's T20 has been included for the 2022 edition CWG to be held in Birmingham.
- **Liverpool** defeated **Chelsea** in the finals to win **UEFA Super Cup held in Istanbul**.
- **Deepak Punia** defeated Russia's Alik Shebzukov in the 86 kg junior freestyle event to win the gold medal at the Junior World Championships held in Talinn, Estonia and become the 1st Indian in 18 years to win a Junior World Championship title.
- **India** defeated **England by 36 runs** in the finals to win the inaugural T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series 2019 held in England.
- **Indian cyclists** team comprising of **Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh**, have won the gold medal in the Team Sprint event at World Junior Track Cycling Championships held in Frankfurt, Germany. This is India's first ever gold medal in a global cycling competition.
- Former all-rounder **Ravi Shastri** has been appointed as the head coach of Indian cricket team for another two years.
- **Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas** have won a gold medal and Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event.

- India have won the gold medal at the **Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship** held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the summit clash to win the title.
- **Australian player Marnus Labuschagne** has become the 1st Concussion Substitute player in the history of International cricket.
- **Former Australian** pace bowler **Mitchell Johnson** has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- **Former Chelsea, Arsenal and England football player** Ashley Cole aged 38, announced his retirement from football.
- **Former India paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth's** life ban has been reduced to 7 years by BCCI. The Ban will end in 2020. This order was passed by BCCI Ombudsman, Justice (Retd.) DK Jain.
- **Indian Para Swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia** has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America. Satendra holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels.
- **B.N.S. Reddy** beats Bruce Barrios of the U.S. in the men's singles final to win the gold medal at the World Police and Fire Games. The tournament was held in **Chengdu, China**.
- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India** has announced that mobile payments and e-commerce company "Paytm" has retained the title sponsorship rights.
- **Former Indian opener Vikram Rathour** appointed as team India's new batting coach. He will replace Sanjay Bangar.
- The Indian team of **Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla** and Tushar Phadtare clinched a bronze medal in the junior compound men's team event in the World Archery Youth Championships in **Madrid, Spain**.
- Ace Indian shuttler **PV Sindhu** has won the **World Championships title** defeating Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in the final at Basel, Switzerland. She has become the **first Indian** to book a gold medal at the World Championships.
- In football, **Gokulam Kerala FC** won the **129th Durand Cup**, defeating heavyweights Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
- Spain motorcycle racer, **Alex Rins** of the Team **SUZUKI ECSTAR** defeated Marc Marquez by 0.013 seconds to win the **British Grand Prix**.
- India's **Komalika Bari** became **recurve cadet world champion** at the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain.
- West Indies pacer **Cecil Wright** has announced his **retirement** from all forms of **cricket** at the ripe old age of 85.
- Indian team created history by winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the world's biggest international vocational skill competition, 45th WorldSkills Kazan 2019, Russia.

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- **Ajantha Mendis**, the mystery spinner from **Sri Lanka**, has announced his **retirement** from all forms of **cricket**.
- Liverpool Football player **Virgil van Dijk** has won **UEFA's Player of the Year award** and England's footballer **Lucy Bronze** won the **Women's Player of the Year award**.
- Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary won the bronze medal in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro. While Elavenil Valarivan opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event.
- Indian sprinter **VK Vismaya** has won the **gold medal** in the **400m** run at the International Athletic Meeting- Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic.

Summits And Conferences

- The **22nd National Conference on e-Governance** will be held in Shillong, **Meghalaya**. The **theme** of the conference is '**Digital India: Success to Excellence**'.
- Foreign Ministers from South East Asia attended the **52nd ASEAN summit** in **Bangkok**.
- **Human Resources Development Minister** inaugurated Technology Expo at IIT Delhi to showcase the latest innovation in the field of science and technology.
- In the **10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)** in Thailand's Bangkok, the Ministers adopted the new MGC Plan of **Action 2019-2022** that envisages project-based cooperation in the seven areas.
- The **3rd edition** of India's largest education brainstorming event, the **Scoo News Global Educators Fest (SGEF)** will held in the city of lakes, **Udaipur**.
- The **2nd All India Annual Conference** of Indian Information Service Officers was held in **New Delhi**. The Conference was organized with a view to attain greater integration of all Media Units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in order to further amplify government communication.
- The **3rd International Electric Vehicle** Conclave was inaugurated at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana.
- **Union Environment minister** launched a website '**uncdcp14india.gov.in**', which contains all the information related to **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14)**, which will take place at **Greater Noida, India**.
- The **5th meeting of India-Nepal** Joint Commission will be held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The Joint Commission Meeting will review overall state of bilateral relations and various areas of cooperation.
- The **Group of 7 or G7 Summit** has begun in Biarritz, **France**. It is an informal meeting between France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada as well as the European Union. India has been invited as a special guest in the summit.

- The **4th edition** of India's largest confluence of digital technology, the **Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019** held in Bengaluru, **Karnataka** with the theme of '**Mainstreaming the Internet of Things**'.
- The **2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD)** Conference with a theme "**Collaboration in a free and Open Indo - Pacific**", will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. In this conference, India will be represented by Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.
- The 7th '**Community Radio Sammelan**' will be held in **New Delhi**. The theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'.
- The **12th India Security Summit** was held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was "**Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy**".
- Research Designs and Standards Organization organized the "**Mega Vendor Meet 2019**" at **Lucknow**.

National News

- Indian Navy Ship **LCU L-56**, the 6th of the **Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class ships**, was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, at Naval Dockyard.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, is an initiative of **NITI Aayog** is all set to launch a new program for **community innovation** in New Delhi to make innovation ecosystem socially inclusive as well as to ensure equitable distribution of infrastructure for innovation across the country to encourage the spirit of innovation.
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** at the **110th Annual Day celebrations** of **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** inaugurated the laboratory complex (Lab 3) at NCDC and the new building of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).

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- Indian Railways 'Northeast Frontier Railway zone' has started a unique initiative to earmark a special portion of the SLR coach with **pink** colour.
- The Government of India begins the **7th Economic Census** from **Tripura**. **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** will conduct the census.
- The 5th international Dharma-Dhamma** conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of State Kiren Rijiju.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has invited **Nepal** to be the **partner country** for this year's '**Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019**' scheduled to be held at **Kurukshetra**.
- During the President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to **Gambia**, India has promised to extend an assistance of **USD 500,000** to Gambia.
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel** has launched **Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)** in New Delhi, to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level.
- Lok Sabha Speaker** has announced that the **Lower House** will become **paperless** from the next session.
- Cabinet has approved the setting up of **ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU)** at **Moscow** in **Russia**.
- Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri** has become the **first Indian Air Force pilot** to perform a wingsuit skydive jump.
- Scientists at IIT Hyderabad** have developed low-cost, environment-friendly **solar cells** by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make **kumkum or vermilion**.
- A joint venture company **Khanij Bidesh India limited** has been set up with the participation of 3 Central Public Sector Enterprises: **National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited** and **Mineral Exploration Company limited**.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** in collaboration with **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)** will work together to promote the pashmina products at the high-level market for the proper value of this fine product of **pashmina (Lena-Ladakhi)**.
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has launched a competition for designing a **Postage Stamp** along with the **First Day Cover** to commemorate **Golden Jubilee** edition of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated exhibitions on **Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi** at the "**Ebunjan Theatre**" in the **Gambia** to commemorate the **150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi**.
- National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, celebrated its 65th Foundation Day in New Delhi.
- The Rajya Sabha has passed the **Consumer Protection Bill, 2019**. The bill will lead to setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- India contributed 5 million USD** to the UN Palestine refugee agency and called for ensuring sustained financial support for the organisation's work. The amount was hand over to the United Nations Relief and **Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees**.
- The Rajya Sabha has passed a Bill for more judges in Supreme Court. The bill proposed an increase in the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from **30 to 33 judges**.
- Union HRD Minister will launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.
- The NITI Aayog** will launch the **4th Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards** in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has signed **National Medical Commission Bill**. The NMC bill aims at mega reforms in the medical education sector and will replace the nearly **63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act**.
- President has approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- The Khadi and Village Industry Commission has launched "**Leather Mission**" on World Tribal Day. Under this mission, the commission will give leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, hosted an 'At Home' reception for freedom fighters. The reception was hosted on the occasion of the **77th anniversary of Quit India Day (August 9)** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- On the nation's Independence Day, Air India will become the 1st Indian airline to fly over the North Pole while connecting **New Delhi and North America**.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister has released a patriotic song "**Watan**" to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019.
- Central government has made "**Headgear**" mandatory for children above 4 years while travelling on a motorcycle. Only Sikhs wearing turban have been exempted from the provision of Section 129 that makes helmets mandatory for all riders of motorcycles above 4 years of age.

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- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has launched an app "**Swachh Nagar**" that will allow users to have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected by their urban local bodies.
- **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name "**Operation Number Plate**" to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parking and even in the 'No Parking' areas for a longer duration.
- Prime Minister has announced the appointment of a Chief of **Defence Staff**. The Chief of Defence Staff will be above the three Service Chiefs.
- **The Inter-State Council** has been reconstituted with **Prime Minister** as its chairman and 6 Union ministers and all chief ministers as its members. Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the standing committee of the **Inter-State Council**.
- National Tribal Festival "**Aadi Mahotsav**" has begun in **Leh-Ladakh**. The theme of the festival is "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce".
- India has contributed **\$1 million** to the **UN Special Purpose Trust Fund** for the Resident Coordinator System. The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.
- The Union Minister of Human Resource Development inaugurated the International Conference titled "**Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global**" in **New Delhi**.
- **Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju** and former India football captain Baichung Bhutia **flagged off Op-Blue Freedom**. This is an initiative in which a group of armed forces veterans train sports enthusiasts in survival training and self-defence.
- **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement)** is the training programme to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level across the country. This is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.
- **Amazon** has opened its largest campus in the world in **Hyderabad**.
- Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named "**Bharatcraft**" for **MSME's**. The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like '**Alibaba**' and '**Amazon**'.
- The Health Ministry has notified the new warnings on "**Tobacco packs**". The text messages that will be printed on the packs are "**tobacco causes painful death**". A quitline number "1800-11-2356" will also be printed on the packs.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the **first-ever World Youth Conference**. The theme of the conference was '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**'.
- "**Hunar Haat**" has proved to be an effective programme to provide employment and employment opportunities to master artisans.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched the **RuPay card**, making the **UAE** the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.
- **National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology** as inaugurated at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON) in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**. The centre would study the movement of environmental contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals etc.
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated FSSAI's **National Food Laboratory (NFL)** in **Ghaziabad** on the occasion of 13th anniversary of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the **National Digital Library of India** project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
- Mobile application "**Janaushadhi Sugam**" was launched. It will enable people to search for Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers.
- **India** has become the **first country** in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**, capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.
- The **Union Environment Ministry** has transferred **Rs 47,436 crore** to **27 States** for **afforestation**. The amount has been released from the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund**.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the **world's largest** Integrated Online Junction for School Education '**Shagun**' in New Delhi.

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International Current Affairs

- The U.S. Embassy in Nepal has organized a **South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp** in Kathmandu.
- The United States has officially labeled China a **"currency manipulator"**. The US has accused China of using yuan to gain "unfair competitive advantage" in trade.
- **Bangladesh** signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its **2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP)**.
- **5 lakh Rohingya refugees** living in **Bangladesh** have been issued identity documents by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- **Iran** unveiled 3 precision-guided air-to-air missiles named the **"Yasin", "Balaban"** and a new series of the **"Ghaem"**.
- **South Korea** has decided to remove Japan from its preferred trade list because **Japan** has failed to uphold international principles while managing its export controls on sensitive materials.
- **Alejandro Giammattei** has been elected as new **president of Guatemala**.
- **Iceland** commemorated the loss of **1st glacier "Okjokull"**, lost due to climate change. A bronze plaque bears the inscription **"A letter to the future"** was unveiled by Iceland in a ceremony.
- **Pakistan Prime Minister Office** has announced a **3-year extension of General Qamar Javed Bajwa's** tenure as Chief of Army Staff.
- **Iran** has unveiled new missile defence system **"Bavar-373"**. This is also Iran's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system which has been inducted into the country's missile defence network.
- **Pakistan** has been placed on the blacklist of the **Financial Action Task Force's Asia Pacific Group**.
- **Russia** launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor. This reactor loaded with nuclear fuel.
- **Johnson & Johnson** has been ordered to pay **\$572 million** for Opioid addiction crisis in the US.

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Defence Current Affairs

- **India** has signed a deal worth around **Rs 1,500 crore** to acquire **R-27 air-to-air missiles** from **Russia** to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft.
- **India successfully test-fired** its all-weather tracked-chassis **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM)**, jointly developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Bharat Electronics Ltd**, from a mobile launcher at launch complex III of the Integrated Test Range at **Chandipur in Odisha**.
- The **5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition** with teams from **8 countries** including India, China and Russia as participants was inaugurated at the Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of the Southern Command.
- **INS Tarkash** has arrived in Norway for a 3 day visit as part of Western Fleet Overseas Deployment.
- The Army has launched **"Mission Reach Out"** to ensure that basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of **Article 370** and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Japanese ship "JS Sazanami"**, visited Kochi on a 2 day goodwill visit. **JS Sazanami**, a Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force Ship is a missile destroyer.
- **Union Home Ministry** has fixed the retirement age of all **Central Armed Police Force personnel at 60 years**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army. MMR has been designed and **developed by DRDO**. It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.
- An Indo-Israel joint venture's **"Astra Rafael Communication System"** was inaugurated in Hyderabad. The Joint Venture is between **Astra Microwave** and Israel's **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems**.
- Indian Air Force's Wing Commander **Shaliya Dhami** has become the **first female officer** in the country to become **Flight Commander** of a flying unit.

Ranks and Reports

- **London** has named the **world's best city** for students for the **2nd consecutive year**, beating **Tokyo** and **Melbourne** that came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, on a new worldwide ranking.
- **Tarava police station** in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in India in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
- **Serena Williams topped** the List Of Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 published by Forbes.

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- **Manipur** has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.
- **Karnataka tops** the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index which was launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and **State Power Utilities**.
- **Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and Mumbai's Soho House** have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World's greatest places, in a compilation of 100 new and newly "noteworthy destinations."

Important Days

- **August 6 marks** the anniversary of the atomic bombing in **Hiroshima** during **World War II**.
- India celebrates **National Handloom Day** every year on **7th August**. Bhubaneswar has been chosen as the venue for the celebrations of the day for its rich tradition of Handlooms.
- **World Biofuel Day** is observed every year on **10th of August** to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The **theme for the year 2019: Production of Bio-diesel from Used Cooking Oil**.
- **The International Youth Day 2019** is observed across the world on **12 August** with the theme "**Transforming education**".
- **World Humanitarian Day** is observed across the world on **August 19** and this year World Humanitarian Day 2019 is set to celebrate Women Humanitarians and their undying contribution in making the world a better place.
- **Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on 20 August every year** to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the **75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi**.
- United Nations observes **21 August every year** as International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

- United Nations observes **22 August every year** as "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief".
- **World Photography Day** is celebrated on **19 August** every year.
- United Nations observes **23 August every year** as "International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition".
- **United Nations observes International Day Against Nuclear Tests** on **29 August every year** to increase awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.
- **United Nations observes 30 August every year** as **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** to prevent enforced disappearances and bring to justice those responsible, as enforced disappearance has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society.

Agreement Signed/ MoU

- **Acko General Insurance**, an insurtech company, **has partnered with Zest Money**. This partnership will help Zest Money customers cover their monthly EMI payments during times of crisis.
- **India and Bangladesh** have agreed to set up a **Joint Technical committee** for optimum use of Ganges water.
- **Discovery India and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** India have partnered with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities to preserve Sundarbans.
- **India and Benin** signed 4 MoUs on **education, health and e-visa facilities and an agreement on the fresh line of credit of 100 million US dollars** by India to finance development projects in **Benin**.
- Minister of State for Defence and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar signed MoU to **enhancing defence co-operation, review joint exercises** and training provided to **Myanmar Defence Services**.
- **Prime Minister of Nepal** inaugurated **India-Nepal Logistics Summit** between **India and Nepal** in **Kathmandu**. The **theme** of the summit was "**Transforming Logistics Landscape**".
- **India, Mozambique** sign **2 MoUs** to strengthen defence cooperation. The two MoUs include an agreement on sharing **white shipping information** and another on **co-operation in the field of Hydrography**.
- **WhatsApp** has partnered with **NITI Aayog**, under the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** to announce its plan to support and promote women entrepreneurs in India.
- **Australian Super and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan** will invest **\$1 billion** each in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Master Fund.

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras partnered with National Institute of Ocean Technology to harness electricity from ocean waves.
- The National Institute of Solar Energy and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have signed an agreement to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has extended bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024. The previously inked MoUs sought cooperation and exchange of the knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management including restoration of water bodies and mobility planning.
- Indian Bank has entered into a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.
- Reliance Jio and Microsoft announced a partnership to accelerate the digital transformation in India. Under this deal, Microsoft will bring in the Azure Cloud on Jio Network and target the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift.
- The Naval Air Enclave in Kochi and Cochin International Airport Limited have signed a MoU for commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery.
- I-League champion Chennai City FC has announced a strategic partnership with German sports goods supplier "uhlsport".
- Wipro announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G.
- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Jammu and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) have signed a (MoU) to work jointly to achieve the objective of National Solar Mission through training programmes.
- Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO) and Tata Realty & Housing have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU enables the personnel of Indian Army to immediately take over dwelling units.
- BookMyForex.com, a marketplace for foreign exchange and remittances, has partnered with YES Bank to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card for Indian overseas travellers.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has partnered with Denmark-based firm to start DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste-to-Wealth at IIT-Delhi.
- The Department of Social Justice signed an MoU with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) to enhance outreach on AIDS prevention, address the risk of HIV transmission among all substance users.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited (Incuspaze) to open a first-of-its-kind co-working space named @Workspaze, exclusively designed for MSMEs and startups.
- The Indian School of Business (ISB) and Microsoft India announced a new partnership to take forward their shared vision for an AI-empowered India.
- India Meteorological Department (IMD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to hand over Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to naval forces for meteorological purposes. The building is set to be utilised by Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC).
- Government e-Marketplace has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India. The MoU aims to benefit MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups
- The Steel Users Federation of India has signed an MoU with the Bombay Stock Exchange to launch trading in steel futures.
- IIT Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RD Grow Green India Pvt for Technology transfer for safer drinking water.
- The Central TB Division of the Health Ministry has signed an MoU with Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence, to explore the application of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology in its fight against TB.

Awards & Recognition

- Vidisha Baliyan, a 21 year old girl from Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar city, was crowned the Miss Deaf World 2019 title in the international beauty pageant held in Mbombela, South Africa.
- Padma Awardee Sudarsan Pattanaik has won the People's Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in the U.S.
- Veteran star Meryl Streep will be honoured Tribute Actor award at the 2019 in 44th Toronto International Film Festival.
- East Bengal club will officially start the centenary celebrations on its foundation day with a glittering ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium and will award Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav.

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- **Ruhan Rajput**, a renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious **Entrepreneur Award 2019**.
- **DD News** is awarded with "**Champions of Empathy Award**" for spreading awareness about hepatitis.
- The **winners of the Ramon Magsaysay award 2019** are: **Ravish Kumar** (Indian Journalist), **Ko Swe Win** (Myanmar's human rights defender), **Angkhana Neelapajit** (Thailand's human rights activist), **Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab** (Philippines's musician) and **Kim Jong-Ki** (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues.
- A research team at **IIT Kharagpur** has developed a technology "**Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC)**" which can **generate energy from solid waste** with high moisture content.
- **Bhasha Mukherjee**, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor was crowned **Miss England 2019**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has been awarded the **National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea** for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea.
- **India's transsexual woman Naaz Joshi** was crowned Miss World Diversity 2019. This event was held in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- **Actor Steve Coogan** will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honour during the 2019 Britannia Awards.
- ISRO has announced its "**Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research**" to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- The **4th edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards**, instituted in a bid to recognize and encourage outstanding Indian Entrepreneurs and catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.

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- **Barcelona's Lionel Messi** has been awarded **UEFA's Goal of the Season award 2018-19** for his **free-kick against Liverpool**.
- The **Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports (I/C)** conferred the National Youth Awards. The awards were conferred to **20 individuals (aged between 15-29 years)** and 3 organizations for excellent work and contribution in different fields of development and social service.
- **Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman** will be honoured with the **Vir Chakra on Independence Day**.
- **Priyam Chatterjee** became the **1st Indian chef** to be awarded the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto' by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.
- **Rajasthan wins the "best innovation and initiative leadership award"** for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.
- **Tamil Nadu government** has awarded Indian Space Research Organisation's **chairman K. Sivan with its Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award**.
- The **United Arab Emirates** will honour the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the "**Order of Zayed**", the highest civilian award of the country.
- A **biographical documentary "100 Years of Chrysostum"** will receive Guinness Award in the category of longest documentary. This documentary is based on the life of Philipose Mar Chrysostum, scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy.
- **Dr K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)** was awarded JC Bose Fellowship.
- **Navneeth Murali, an Indian-American teenager** from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest.
- **JNU Professor Meeta Narain** was conferred the '**Pushkin Medal - 2019**'. Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.
- **Women and Child Development Minister** distributed the **Poshan Abhiyaan Awards for 2018-19**. The awards were given to the States, Districts, Blocks and Anganwadi Workers for their contributions in scaling up the Abhiyaan.
- **Prabhakar Singh**, Director General, Central Public Works Department has been chosen for the '**Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019**'.

- **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018** announced to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure, to encourage young people to develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative teamwork and quick, ready and effective reflexes in challenging situations. The award has been given in the following categories: Aparna Kumar, Shri Dipankar Ghosh, Shri Manikandan K (Land Adventure), Prabhat Raju Koli (Water Adventure), RameshwerJangra (Air Adventure), Wangchuk Sherpa (Life Time Achievement)
- Indian documentary film **"I'm Jeeja"**, directed by Swati Chakraborty, has won the award in the **'Under 30 minute'** category at the 14th edition of the **'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'**.
- Former Manchester United forward player **Eric Cantona** will be honoured with the **2019 UEFA President's Award**.
- ONGC's CMD **Shashi Shanker** was honoured with the **Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors (IOD) 2019**. The theme of ceremony was **'Future Boards: Leading Strategy to Embrace Sustainability'**.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NULM**), has been conferred the prestigious **SKOCH Governance Gold Award** for its initiative "Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAISA)"
- **Maitri** Mobile app clinched the bronze medal at the **Technovation Challenge**. It is the world's largest technology and entrepreneurship programme for girls, held in San Francisco, US.

Science and Technology

- **Scientists** have developed an automated system that uses **artificial intelligence (AI)** to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time.
- The Super-Earth planet named **GJ 357d** was discovered in early **2019** owing to **NASA's** Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a mission designed to comb the heavens for exoplanets.
- A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has developed a portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays.
- **US carrier rocket** Falcon 9 loaded with **Israeli AMOS-17** communication satellite successfully lifted off from a space centre in Florida, spacecraft manufacturer **SpaceX**.
- **Researchers from IIT Kharagpur** have developed a low-cost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using blood taken from a **fingerprick**.
- **Chinese telecom giant Huawei** unveiled its own operating system which will be called the **HongmengOS**, also known as the **HarmonyOS**.

- **Ankita Gulati** from **IIT Delhi** was awarded the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019 for developing a multisensory kit named Touch Vision. This Kit aims at digital inclusion for 253 million persons with visual impairment globally.
- **Artificial intelligence (AI)** company Cerebras Systems has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor named Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine(WSE). This chip has 1.2 trillion transistors.
- **Russia launched** an unmanned rocket carrying a **life-size humanoid robot named Fedor**, to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.
- **NASA announced** that it has named a rock on **Mars in honour of the iconic English band, The Rolling Stones**.
- **Intel Corp** launched its latest processor, it's first using artificial intelligence (AI), designed for large computing centres. The name of the chip is **Nervana NNP-I or Springhill**.
- **Microsoft India** launched a program **'Digital Governance Tech Tour'** under which it will train 5000 government employees over the next year on AI (artificial intelligence) and cloud computing skills.

Books & Authors

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** released a **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's** book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading".
- **The book, titled 'Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar'** will be launched on **Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary**. The book is written by author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak.
- Culture Minister will launch the book **"The Diary of Manu Gandhi"**. The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of **150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
- The book titled as **"Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story"** is written by **Mihir Dalal** and will be published by "Pan Macmillan India".
- A new book titled **"Obama: The Call of History"** written by **Peter Baker** has been released.

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Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- **The Virasat-e-Khalsa** Museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.
- **Infosys** announced the launch of its state-of-the-art **Cyber Defence Center** in Bucharest, Romania.
- **Pakistan** has opened a **1,000 year old Hindu temple** in eastern city **Sialkot** for worship for the first time since partition on the demand of the local Hindu community.
- The **birth anniversary** of a great **novelist** and **celebrated storyteller** **Munshi Premchand** is celebrated on **31 July** every year.
- **143rd birth anniversary** of freedom fighter **Pingali Venkayya** is celebrated on **2nd of August**. He was a **freedom fighter** and the **designer of the flag** on which the **Indian national flag** was based, was **born on this day in 1876** near Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)** being observed from **1st to 7th August 2019** and his theme is **"Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding"**.
- **French inventor Franky Zapata** is 1st person in history to cross the **English Channel** on the jet-powered hoverboard.
- **ISRO** has set up a **Space Situational Awareness Control Centre** at **Peenya in Bengaluru** to protect high valued space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions.
- **Mohali traffic police** have launched **3-D Smart Traffic Signal** devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- The **scientists at the University of Leeds**, have created the world's thinnest gold measuring 2 atoms thick or million times thinner than a fingernail.
- **Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting** has launched e-Rozgar Samachar. Rozgar Samachar is the corresponding version of **Employment News (English)**.
- The country is celebrating the **100th birth anniversary** of scientist and innovator **Dr Vikram A Sarabhai**. He is considered as the father of India's space program.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to legislation for bifurcation of **Jammu and Kashmir**, and two Union Territories, **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh** will come into existence on October 31.
- **IIT Kanpur** has developed a kit in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to spread awareness about **sexual abuse** among children. The kit can be used in classrooms for kids aged **between 8-12 and in a group of 30-35 students in one session**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. **The British-era bunker was discovered in 2016**.

- India is the world's largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide. According to an analysis of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace.
- **Indian Railway's 2nd double-decker Uday (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air Conditioned Yatri)** Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has declared Ocean Energy as renewable energy status.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **\$4.2 million** redevelopment project of the **200-year-old Sri Krishna temple** in Manama, Bahrain.
- The Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated **Project SU.RE(Sustainable Resolution)** which aims to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- **Amazon India** has launched a **Military Veterans Employment programme** in the country to create employment opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across the company's fulfilment centres, sort centres and delivery centres in India.
- The Delhi and District Cricket Association (**DDCA**) decided to rename Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as **Arun Jaitley Stadium** in the memory of its former president of DDCA.
- The application "**IndTokyo**" was launched to help **para-athletes** to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the **2020 Paralympics Games**.
- The Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge) has launched an integrated NOC online Application Processing System for National Monuments Authority in New Delhi.
- **Delhi** government will launch mega 10-week campaign against **dengue** and **chikungunya**. The campaign has been titled as **"10 Hafte, 10 Baje 10 minute Har Ravivar, Dengue Par War"**.
- **Air India**, India's national airline, will **ban the usage of single-use plastic** aboard its flights from October 2, 2019.

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Obituaries

- India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya** passed away.
- Naval war hero and Kirti Chakra awardee Commander **Noel Kelman** passed away.
- Congress (MLA) from the Mukerian assembly seat in Punjab, **Rajnish Kumar Babbi** passed away.
- Socialist leader and former MLA of Palghar **Navnitbhai Shah** passed away.
- Veteran Bengali actor **Nimu Bhowmik** passed away.
- Former **Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra** passed away. He was 3-time Chief Minister of Bihar.
- Doordarshan Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner **Neelum Sharma** passed away.
- Veteran music composer **Mohammed Zahur Hashmi**, popularly known as **Khayyam** passed away. He was also a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Padma Bhushan.
- Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi** winner Professor **Niranjan Singh Tasneem** passed away. He was awarded Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for his novel 'Gawache Arth'.
- Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Babulal Gaur** passed away.
- Former Union finance minister and senior **BJP leader Arun Jaitley** passed away.
- Ivory Coast** music star DJ Arafat passed away.
- Freedom fighter Dayanidhi Nayak** passed away. Nayak has struggled against the British Government during the **Quit India movement**.
- Senior advocate and former **Additional Solicitor General Amarendra Sharan** passed away. Sharan was the Additional Solicitor General in the Supreme Court from 2004 to 2009.
- Argentina World Cup-winning team football player **Jose Luis Brown** has passed away.
- Veteran **Bollywood actress Vidya Sinha** passed away. She was renowned for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film "Rajnigandha".
- Former India and Tamil Nadu **cricketer V.B. Chandrasekhar** passed away. He represented India in 7 ODIs.
- Damodar Ganesh Bapat** from Chhattisgarh, a noted social worker and Padma Shri award winner, passed away.
- Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist **Kanti Bhatt** passed away.
- Cricket commentator Anant Setalvad**, who used to draw pictures of the game's progress on airwaves with his fine command of the English language passed away.
- Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** passed away. She was the 1st full time woman external affairs minister of India.
- Toni Morrison, the 1993 Nobel laureate** in literature passed away. She was the 1st African American woman to win the Nobel in literature.

- Former **Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister S. Jennifer Chandran** passed away.
- Former **Padma Shri award winner** and educationist **Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy** passed away.
- Harley Race**, American professional wrestler passed away.
- Veteran director **J Om Prakash** passed away.
- Former **Andhra Pradesh** congress state Minister **M. Mukesh Goud** passed away.
- Former RBI Deputy Governor and Noted economist Subir **Vithal Gokarn** passed away. He had the distinction of being the youngest RBI Governor at the time.
- Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader **S. Jaipal Reddy** passed away.
- Meghalaya** Assembly Speaker and former Meghalaya Chief Minister **Donkumar Roy** passed away.
- Former **Gujarat MP Vitthal Radadiya** passed away.
- Former **cricketer Malcolm Nash** passed away. He was Glamorgan's legendary left-arm bowler who took 993 first-class wickets in a 17-year career and became famous after Garfield Sobers hit him for six sixes in an over.
- Veteran actor **Russi Taylor**, who voiced **Disney's Minnie Mouse** for more than 30 years, has passed away.

Countries| Capital| Currencies| PM| President

- President of Taiwan: Tsai Ing-wen; Currency of Taiwan: Taiwanese Dollar.
- Prime Minister of Nepal: K P Sharma Oli; Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu; President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari; Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee.
- President of Myanmar: Win Myint; Capital of Myanmar: Naypyitaw.
- President of Benin: Patrice Talon; Capital of Benin: Porto-Novo; Currency of Benin: West African CFA franc.
- Capital of Pakistan : Islamabad; PM of Pakistan: Imran Khan; President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.

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- Prime Minister of Mozambique: Carlos Agostinho do Rosario; Capital of Mozambique: Maputo.
- CEO of Microsoft : Satya Nadella.
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai, Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Nepal Prime Minister: K P Sharma Oli; Capital: Kathmandu.
- Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister: Kiren Rijiju.
- Prime Minister of Nepal: K P Sharma Oli; Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu.
- President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari; Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee
- President of Gambia: Adama Barrow; Capital: Banjul.
- Capital of Thailand: Bangkok, Currency of Thailand: Baht.

International or Indian Organizations/Companies in News

- Headquarters of the UN: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945; Secretary General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- MD & CEO of CRISIL: Ashu Suyash.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Director General: Surina Rajan.
- Headquarter of Northeast Frontier Railway zone: Maligaon, Guwahati.
- Headquarter of NCDC: New Delhi; NCDC Established in : ?1909.
- Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog: Rajiv Kumar, CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- BSF Established in: 1 December 1965; Headquarters of BSF: New Delhi.
- Headquarters National Institute of Solar Energy: Gwal Pahari, Gurugram.
- Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys: Salil Parekh.
- ICC Chairman: Shashank Manohar; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Headquarter of ISRO: Bengaluru; Established in: 15 Aug 1969.
- Chairman of DRDO : G Satheesh Reddy, Established in : 1958; Headquarters of DRDO: New Delhi.
- Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft: Satya Nadella.

States| CMs| Governors| Capital| Ministers| Static General Awareness

- Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel: Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Chief Minister of Bihar: Nitish Kumar; Governor of Bihar: Phagu Chuhan.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation: Rao Inderjit Singh.
- Governor of Jammu & Kashmir: Satya Pal Malik.
- CM of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal.
- Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Human Resources Development Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister: Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Ministry: Prakash Javadekar.
- Chief Minister of Bihar: Nitish Kumar; Governor: Phagu Chuhan.
- Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting: Prakash Javadekar.
- Minister of State (In. Charge) of the Ministry of Power: Raj Kumar Singh.
- CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra
- CM of Maharashtra: Devendra Fadnavis; Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh: Pema Khandu; Governor Of Arunachal Pradesh: B. D. Mishra.

Other Static General Awareness Current Affairs

- Chief of the Army Staff: General Bipin Rawat.
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.

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