



Monthly G.K Capsule

October- 2019

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National News

1. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launches 'YSR Vahana Mitra' Scheme

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the "YSR Vahana Mitra scheme" in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh.
- Under which the government will provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per annum to owner-driver of an auto-rickshaw, or taxicab with the aim to meet their insurance premium, licence fee and other recurring expenses.

2. India's 1st plant to produce diesel from plastic waste opened in Mathura

- India's 1st plant to produce diesel from plastic waste in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh has been launched by Mathura MP (Member of Parliament) Hema Malini with the aim to fulfill Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's dream of a Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The plant, working on a full scale at the Mathura Municipal Corporation (MMC), built on public-private partnership (P-P-P) model for which the MMC has signed a contract of 9.5 crore with Paterson Energy Private Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The specialty of this plant will be that 6 tons of plastic will be used to make diesel every day.

3. Tourism Ministry launches App "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India

- Tourism Ministry has launched the Audio Guide facility "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites) on the occasion of "Paryatan Parv 2019".
- An MoU for Gol Gumbad, Delhi with Government of Delhi and Resbird Technologies was also exchanged for the development of Tourism Amenities.
- Audio guide odigo offers Government of India verified content, with visuals & voice over support. With Audio Odigos, tourists will now enjoy a more enriching experience and take back historical insights of the Indian culture and heritage.

4. Uttarakhand CM launches awareness campaign 'Urjagiri' to stop power theft

- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat launched an awareness campaign "Urjagiri" which aims at stopping power theft and saving.
- The Chief Minister emphasised on the need to speed up the process for wider awareness to avoid power loss in Uttarakhand.

5. Big gift for J&K: Amit Shah flags off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express

- Speaking at the launch of the Vande Bharat Express, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express is a big gift for Jammu and Kashmir's development and for promoting religious tourism. He added that Article 370 was the biggest roadblock in Jammu and Kashmir's development."
- "Within 10 years, it will be one of the most developed regions," Amit Shah said.
- At the launch of the Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express, Union minister Piyush Goyal said the Railways will connect the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari before 15th August, 2022.

6. Haryana tops list of states with most dry districts

- As per the recently released report, "2019 Southwest Monsoon Season Rainfall and IMD's Long Range Forecasts" by IMD (India Meteorological Department), Haryana had the highest number of dry districts, 19 out of 21, including three where rainfall was scanty.
- Haryana was the 2nd most rain deficit state in India after Manipur (the most rain deficit with a recording of 56%). Haryana recorded rainfall of 255.2 mm against a normal of 438.6 mm, results to a deficit of 42 percent.

- Over third of the dry districts (52), are in the high-yield agriculture belt of Punjab, Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh, including Delhi.

7.3 Railway stations in Rajasthan emerged as top clean stations: Railway cleanliness survey 2019

- Three railway stations of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Durgapura have topped the Railway Cleanliness Survey 2019, conducted at 720 railway stations by the Ministry of Railways.
- Mumbai's Andheri, Virar and Naigaon stations have topped the total 109 stations in the category of suburban stations.
- Among the railway divisions, North Western Railway stood at the top, South Eastern Railway at the second position and East Central Railway at the third position.

8. Arogya Manthan event was organised by the National Health Authority, to mark the completion of one year of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the valedictory function of 'Arogya Manthan', a two-day event organised by the National Health Authority, to mark the completion of one year of 'Ayushman Bharat' or 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PM-JAY).
- It has been organised to mark the completion of one year of 'Ayushman Bharat' or 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'
- The purpose of the 'Arogya Manthan' is to provide a platform for all the crucial stakeholders of PM-JAY to meet and discuss the challenges faced in the implementation of the scheme in the past year and to forge new understanding and pathways towards improving implementation.

9. Delhi govt first in country to implement Street Vendors Act, says CM Kejriwal

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi government has become the first government in the country to implement the Street Vendors Act.
- "Street Vending Act was passed in 2014. The law was good but it was never implemented in the country. Delhi government is the first government to implement it. Under that law, Street Vending Committees have to be formed. These committees have already been formed in Delhi. The notification has been passed in this regard," the Chief Minister said while addressing a presser here.
- The Chief Minister also said that street vendors were facing harassment due to not being organised and not have any legal status.

10. Kerala Tops Niti Aayog's School Education Quality Index in List of 20 States

- Kerala has emerged on top among 20 large states in terms of quality of school education, followed by Rajasthan and Karnataka, while the most-populous Uttar Pradesh was ranked at the bottom position during 2016-17, according to a report released by the Niti Aayog.
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- The report, titled 'The Success of Our Schools-School Education Quality Index' (SEQI) and jointly released by the Niti Aayog, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the World Bank

11. 5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy begins at the MIT World Peace University

- The three-day event 5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy will be held at the MIT World Peace University in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The theme of the programme this year is 'role of science, religion and philosophy for world peace and well-being of mankind'.
- The primary objective of the event was to create and promote interfaith and inter-religious movement for World Peace.

12. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches trans-fat free logo

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the "Trans-Fat Free" logo during the 8th International Chefs Conference.
- The campaign to end trans-fat is seen as one of the important steps to accelerate the 'Eat Right India' campaign led by the FSSAI under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- "In compliance with the Food Safety and Standards (Advertisement and Claims) Regulations, 2018, food establishments that use trans-fat free fats/oil and do not have industrial trans-fat more than 0.2g/100g of food are eligible to display the logo," .

13. Delhi government launched Farishte Dilli Ke scheme

- The Delhi government launched the Farishte Dilli Ke scheme on 8th October after the successful trial run of the good Samaritan scheme. The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal. The trial of the scheme saved 3,000 lives. The Delhi Police supported the scheme.
- The scheme aims to help accident victims, burn victims and acid attack victims and take them to hospitals.
- As per the scheme, the samaritans who help accident victims will also not be liable to any questions from the police.

14. Centre to amend Arms Act, stricter punishment to curb proliferation of illegal weapons

- Union Home Ministry proposed amendments to the Indian Arms Act, 1959. The Ministry also submitted the draft for the act. The draft Arms (Amendment) Act 2019 was aimed at curtailing the proliferation of arms and ammunition.
- The ministry proposed a new section, 25 (6) for the prohibition of firearms or ammunition by members of an organised crime syndicate.
- The penalty includes a minimum punishment of 10 years in prison and maximum punishment of life imprisonment till death.

15. Government launches mhariyali app to encourage people for planting trees

- Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri launched a mobile app, 'mHariyali', which is aimed to encourage public engagement in planting trees and other such green drives.
- People can upload information/photos of any plantation done by them, which is linked to the app and will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in.

16. Government launched SUMAN scheme

- The government launched the Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) scheme on 10 October 2019. The scheme was launched by Union health minister Harsh Vardhan.
- Under this scheme, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to avail free healthcare benefits.
- The government said that India's maternal mortality rate has declined from 254 per 1,00,000 live births in 2004-06 to 130 in 2014-16. Also, the infant mortality rate came down from 66 per 1,000 live births to 34 per 1,000 live births during 2001 and 2016.

17. Mumbai 12th richest city globally; total wealth at USD 950 billion

- India's financial capital Mumbai, with a total wealth of USD 950 billion, has been named among the top 15 wealthiest cities globally, while New York topped the list.
- It is the only Indian city to feature in the top 20 list of wealthiest cities in the world. Delhi is on 22nd position and second Indian city after Mumbai on the wealth intelligence firm. Bangalore is on 26th spot while Hyderabad came last at 28. Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad were expected to grow strongly over the next 10 years. The three cities have been named under the 'cities to watch' category in the report.
- New York City (NYC) topped the list with a total wealth of \$3.0 trillion. The city is home to the highest number of millionaires and billionaires than any other city in the world.

18. India's first 'Garbage Cafe' opens in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur

- Chhattisgarh Health Minister T S Singhdeo here inaugurated a 'Garbage Cafe', which will provide free food in exchange for plastic waste.
- The cafe, situated in Ambikapur, which bagged the title of the second cleanest city in India, through the initiative, will provide impetus to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'plastic-free' India resolve.
- The concept of this cafe is that people can get their plastic waste weighed and enjoy a warm meal in return.

19. Centre plans 'Vigyan Jyoti' to help girl students to opt for STEM education

- Centre is to launch Vigyan Jyoti, a program to help girl students inculcate interest in areas like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- The move comes after the assessment that a meager percentage of women are in the STEM area.
- Department of Science and Technology (DST) data said that females comprised 24% of the total pass-out students in STEM subjects in engineering, 22% at the postgraduate level, 28% at M.Phil, and 35% at the Ph.D. level.
- Vigyan Jyoti initiative aims to stir up interest among the Indian girl students to get into the STEM educational areas. The initiative will be launched in October 2019.

20. Air India becomes world's first airline to bring aircraft to runway using taxibot technology

- Air India has become the first airline in the world to use taxibot on an A320 aircraft with passengers onboard at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The taxibot is a pilot-controlled semi-robotic aircraft tractor, bringing the aircraft from the parking bay to the runway and vice versa.
- The engine of the aircraft remains shut while using the taxibot, which saves fuel & also reduces carbon emissions. The engine is switched on only when the aircraft reaches the runway. Taxibots will only be used for departing flights. Its use will reduce fuel consumption by 85% compared to bringing the aircraft engine on.
- Air India CMD (Chairman and Managing Director) started the use of a taxibot for commercial flight with the departure of AI 665 flight, which was carried to runway using Taxibot at terminal 3 of the Delhi airport – to Mumbai.

21. Indian Railways launched Sewa Service trains

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Sewa Service trains on 14 October 2019. He flagged off the Delhi-Shamli daily passenger train from the New Delhi railway station.
- The objective of Sewa Service trains is to improve and provide last-mile connectivity for those traveling from villages and small towns to major cities.
- Indian Railways announced that it is to launch 10 Sewa Service trains.

22. Vardhan launches 'food safety mitra' scheme for scaling up 'Eat Right India' movement

- On the lines of 'arogya mitras', the government launched a scheme for engaging 'food safety mitras' to sensitise street food vendors on hygiene aspects and assist businessmen to comply with standards and facilitate licensing and registration.
- Apart from strengthening food safety, this scheme would also create new employment opportunities for the youth, particularly with food and nutrition background, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

23. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi. Chiefs of the three forces & DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy were also present on the occasion.
- The discussion included efforts taken by DRDO to ensure technological advancement of the Indian forces to safeguard the country.
- It was suggested that DRDO can play a significant role in becoming a catalyst in the absorption of technology.

24. Indian Railways to become net zero carbon emitter by 2030

- Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it will become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030. The move will be a part of India's strategy to combat climate change.
- The announcement was made by railways and commerce minister Piyush Goyal at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK in New Delhi. India is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China, and is among countries most vulnerable to climate change.
- Indian railway is the world's largest railway network. It has a rail network of around 1,25,000 km under single management. IR is to go green by setting up solar power generation capacities in its large tracts of land along its network.



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The banner features a woman sitting at a desk with a laptop, with a potted plant next to her. The background is a gradient of purple and blue.

25. India ranked 102 in Global Hunger Index 2019.

- The 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicates that the level of hunger and under nutrition worldwide falls into the serious category. As per the index, India ranks 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3.
- India has slipped from 95th rank in 2010 to 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), with the increase in the prevalence of wasting (low weight for height) among children with score under 5 contributing the most to the country's poor performance.
- Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores less than 5. There were only four countries in the alarming hunger category are Madagascar, Chad, Yemen and the Central African Republic in the extremely alarming hunger category. The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

26. Livestock population in India up by 4.6% in seven years

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) released a census report of livestock population for the year 2019 on October 16. The data revealed that the livestock population in India has grown by 4.6% from 512 million in 2012 to about 536 million in 2019.
- The population of cows showed an impressive increase of 18% over the previous census. The numbers of other cattle have marginally increased but cows are accounted for one-fourth count of total livestock population of India.

27. Odisha's first Robot Restaurant opens in Bhubaneswar

- Odisha's smart city Bhubaneswar gets its 1st Robo Chef Restaurant in Odisha. The Robot Restaurant opened at the Infocity DLF tower of Bhubaneswar claims to be the first restaurant in Eastern India where two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged.
- The robots are developed at a Jaipur-based startup using SLAM technology, and it automatically navigates like humans, follows the routes and instructions. Not only this, after serving the food, the robots will also ask you for feedback in Odia that 'Are you happy'.
- Earlier Chennai and Bengaluru had introduced smart restaurants with robots machines imported from China.

28. Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council abolished; reduced to Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh

- Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council got abolished on October 18, 2019 under Section 57 of the J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019. With this, the J&K state has now been reduced to two Union Territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- J&K and Ladakh will now be UTs from November 1, 2019. The J&K Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was passed by the Parliament in August 2019.
- The staff members of the J&K Council need to report to the General Administration Department (GAD) by October 22, 2019. On the other hand, the Council Secretary has been asked to transfer all records regarding the Council Secretariat to the Department of Law under the Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

29. Hailakandi becomes first Assam district to introduce leave applications online.

- Hailakandi has become the first district in Assam to introduce a digital system and the state government employees will need to file their leave applications online.
- The government employees working under the district administration can proceed on leave only after getting a digital approval.
- Each employee has been allotted a login ID and password to apply for leave in the 'Manav Sampada' website.

30. India to host 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022

- India won the vote for hosting the 91st General Assembly of the Interpol in India in 2022, which will be part of celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence.
- According to an Ministry of Home Affairs press note, voting in this regard took place today at the 88th General Assembly of the Interpol at Santiago Chile with India winning with an overwhelming majority.
- The General Assembly is INTERPOL's supreme governing body and comprises delegates appointed by the governments of member countries. It meets once a year and takes all the major decisions affecting general policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods, finances and programmes of activities.

31. President Kovind Gifts Goddess Tara Statue To Philippine Counterpart

- President Ram Nath Kovind gifted a statue of goddess Tara to his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte, highlighting the ancient cultural connections between the two countries.
- President Kovind arrived in the Philippines as part of his five-day state visit to the country. In Hinduism and Buddhism, the goddess Tara is regarded as a form of "shakti" (power).
- "President Kovind gifted the statue of goddess Tara to President Duterte of Philippines. The gift highlights the ancient cultural connections between the two countries. The Golden Agusan Tara statue was discovered in the Philippines in the last century.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Scotland becomes first part of the UK to ban smacking children

- Scotland has become the first part of the United Kingdom to ban the smacking of children. The country introduced a law that makes smacking the children a criminal offence for parents and carers to use physical punishment against a child.
- The law change is aimed to give children the same protection from assault as adults. This law has brought Scotland into line with United Nations recommendations. Currently, the parents and the carers are allowed to use reasonable physical force in order to discipline children.

2. India slips 10 places to 68th on global competitiveness index

- India has moved down 10 places to rank 68th on the annual global competitiveness index, largely due to improvements witnessed by several other economies.
- Singapore, meanwhile, has replaced the US as the world's most competitive economy.
- India, which was ranked 58th in the annual Global Competitiveness Index, compiled by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), is among the worst-performing BRICS nations along with Brazil (ranked even lower than India at 71 this year).

3. India ranks 82nd in Henley & Partners Global Passport Index 2019

- The latest Henley & Partners Global Passport Index 2019 was released. In the report, India is currently ranked at 82nd place in 2019, which is one place down from its previous rank of 81 in 2018. Japan and Singapore both hold the most powerful passport by ranking 1st in the list.

4. India to have first-ever Olympic Hospitality House in Tokyo during the Summer Games

- India will have its first-ever Olympic Hospitality House in Tokyo during the Summer Games next year.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and JSW Group on Thursday announced a partnership to build the facility.
- Many of the Olympic participating countries have their own hospitality houses during the Games but this will be the first time India will be having one to showcase its culture and heritage.

5. TCS named India's overall most outstanding company in Asiamoney's 2019 poll

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as the overall most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney's 2019 outstanding companies poll.
- Asiamoney's various investor surveys recognized TCS as the most awarded company of the decade in India including awards like the best-managed companies award, the corporate governance poll.

6. World Giving Index: India ranks 82, USA tops the list

- India ranked 82 spots among the 128 countries surveyed in the World Giving Index (WGI).
- The average figures for India over the past decade show that 34 per cent people helped a stranger, 24 per cent donated money and 19 per cent volunteered or donated their time.
- According to the WGI, the USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.

7. Qatar Pledges to End 'Kafala' Employment Laws That Tie Foreign Workers to Employers

- The energy-rich nation of Qatar is pledging to fully eliminate a labour system that ties foreign workers to their employer and requires them to have their company's permission to leave the country. According to the United Nations' International Labor Organization, said yesterday that Qatar planned to end the so-called 'kafala' system there.
- The ILO says workers would be able to freely change employers under draft laws described as being 'expected to come into force by January 2020. The ILO says Doha is also considering a minimum wage.

8. Italy to introduce 3% web tax on digital giants from 2020

- Italian scheme to yield about 600 million euros (\$662 million) a year alternative revenues will allow it to avoid a scheduled increase in sales tax.
- Italy and European Union members have long complained about the way web giants collect considerable profits in their countries to pay only a few million euros in taxes each year. The EU failed to agree to tax the firms.
- France and the United States reached a deal in August to end a standoff over a French tax on big internet companies, with France repaying companies the difference between the French tax and a

planned mechanism being drawn up by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Mexican actress Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

- The United Nation's Cultural Agency UNESCO has appointed Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as its goodwill ambassador for indigenous peoples.
- The 25-year-old actress made history as the first indigenous performer nominated for a best actress honor at the Academy Awards this year for her performance in the film "Roma", in which she speaks in an indigenous language and in Spanish.
- She will be helping the UNESCO's work among the indigenous peoples across the world by preserving their cultural heritage and environment knowledge and fighting for equal access to education.

2. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Mo Sarkar' initiative

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik rolled out 'Mo Sarkar' programme which finds its roots in the Gandhian philosophy of giving people their voice in daily governance.
- The objective of 'Mo Sarkar' is to improve governance by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism displayed by the Government officers.
- "Mo Sarkar" programme has been launched in 21 district headquarters hospitals and medical colleges at Cuttack, Sambalpur and Berhampur.

3. Amrit Lugun appointed India's next envoy to Greece

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Amrit Lugun as the next Ambassador of India to Greece. Lugun will be taking up the assignment shortly.
- Amrit Lugun is a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Previously Lugun served as the country's ambassador to Sudan and Yemen respectively.

4. Former Indian cricketer, Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of CAC

- Following a conflict of interest complaint, India's 1983 World Cup-winning captain, Kapil Dev has resigned as the chairman of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) days after Shanta Rangaswamy stepped down from the 3-member committee.
- CAC also stars Anshuman Gaekwad in addition to Kapil and Shanta. The trio were named in the CAC after Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and V.V.S. Laxman refused to be part of the process for selecting India's women's coach in 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) member Sanjeev Gupta filed a complaint against the CAC, where the coach-elect committee members are playing multiple roles simultaneously.

5. Government appoints economist Surjit S Bhalla as Executive Director for India at IMF

- Eminent economist Surjit S Bhalla appointed as the Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Bhalla (71) will succeed former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who died in the US on July 30 after a brief illness.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Bhalla for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders.

6. SS Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the new MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank

- SS Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive of the Punjab National Bank (PNB). Currently serving as chief executive of the Allahabad Bank, Rao will replace Sunil Mehta of PNB and will head the Delhi based bank till September 18, 2021. S S Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the new MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Department of Financial Services' proposal for Rao's appointment as PNB's CEO. Rao had also previously worked as Executive Director (ED) in Syndicate Bank.
- PNB is currently under three-way amalgamation process with Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India.

7. Justice Rajendra Menon will be the new Chairperson of Armed Forces Tribunal

- Justice Rajendra Menon will be the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi as the Chairperson of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT).
- Justice Rajendra Menon is the former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The current Chairperson Justice Virender Singh is retiring on October 6.
- The provisions of Finance Act related to the appointment procedure to members of The Tribunals is under challenge delayed until the matter is decided.

8. Suresh Chitturi appointed International Egg Commission chief

- Suresh Chitturi, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of India's leading poultry firm Srinivasa Farms, has been appointed as chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC) for the next two years.
- The appointment was made at the IEC Global Leadership Conference in Copenhagen in Denmark.
- He will be the first chair from Asia in the history of the institution, as he assumes the role of the Chairman of IEC.

9. India Today's Kalli Purie named one of India's most powerful women in media

- India Today Group Editorial Director for Broadcast and New Media Kalli Purie was honoured as one of India's most influential women in media, marketing and advertising.
- It is noteworthy, that only two weeks back, she was also honored with the 'Outstanding Media & Entertainment Award' at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.

10. International Astronomical Union names asteroid after Pandit Jasraj

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj. The asteroid formally known as a minor planet, is located between Mars and Jupiter.
- It was discovered on November 11, 2006, by the Catalina Sky Survey. The privilege of naming a planet is first given to discoverers, who have 10 years to propose a name.
- Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj is an exponent of Indian classical vocal music. Jasraj is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

11. Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma is new Punjab lokpal

- Halfway through its term in office, the Congress government appointed Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma as Punjab Lokpal. However, it failed to amend the Punjab Lokpal Act, 1996 thereby leaving the chief minister and cabinet ministers out of its ambit.
- The post of lokpal was lying vacant since April 23, 2018 after then Lokpal- justice Satish Kumar Mittal (retd.) had resigned from the post. Lokpal holds the office for a term of 6 years.
- Justice Sharma had served as judge of the Punjab and Haryana court from March 22, 2006, to October 26, 2010.

12. PM Modi releases postage stamp in honor of Marshal of IAF, Arjan Singh

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has released a commemorative stamp of Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) late Arjan Singh in honor of his exemplary service to our nation.
- The stamp was issued at an event of 'at home' programme of the IAF to mark its 87th raising day in New Delhi.

13. Mastercard India appoints Vikas Varma as COO

- Mastercard India, payment technology major, elevated Mr Vikas Varma as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the firm. He will take up the responsibility related to new partnerships and development of digital payment solutions and has been serving the firm since 2005.

14. Alexei Leonov, the first human to walk in space passes away

- Alexei Leonov, the legendary Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human to walk in space 54 years ago and who nearly didn't make it back into his space capsule, has died in Moscow at 85.
- During this mission, on 18 March 1965, Leonov exited the spacecraft and walked for 12 minutes and 9 seconds.
- Showing just how much of a space pioneer Mr. Leonov was, NASA broke into its live televised coverage of a spacewalk by two Americans outside the International Space Station to report Mr. Leonov's death.

15. Kishan Dan Dewal concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to Georgia

- As per the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI), Shri Kishan Dan Dewal (Indian Foreign Service –IFS officer of 2003 batch), has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to Georgia, with residence in Yerevan.
- He succeeds Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan. Dewal is presently serving as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia.

16. Anoop Kumar is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary

- Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is appointed as the new Union Law Secretary. This is the first time such an appointment has been made.
- Anoop Kumar is currently the serving District and Sessions Judge in the North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi. He will serve in the position till 30 March 2023, or until he attains the age of 60.
- Normally, the posts of Secretary for the Legal Affairs and Legislative Department are held by Indian Legal Service Officers.

17. Shri J.P.S. Chawla assumes charge as new Controller General of Accounts

- Government of India has appointed J. P. S. Chawla as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. He will replace Girraj Prasad Gupta.
- Prior to assuming the charge of CGA, Chawla served as Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) where he was instrumental in the finalisation of the accounting procedure and operationalisation of GST Network (GSTN) before the national rollout of GST.
- He also played a key role in the integration of the IGST refund payment network of CBIC with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) as part of the Government of India's decision to digitise all Government receipts and payments through the PFMS portal of the Office of Controller General of Accounts.

18. Mastercard ambassador MS Dhoni launches 'Team Cashless India' to push digital payments

- Mastercard, along with cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, launched a nationwide initiative 'Team Cashless India' to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments.
- The initiative 'Team Cashless India' brings consumers and merchants to the forefront of the digital payments dialogue. The campaign encourages all Indians to nominate one or more merchants who currently do not accept digital payments.
- Mastercard will work together with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), acquirer banks and fintech companies to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.

19. Worldsteel elects Sajjan Jindal as vice chairman; T V Narendran, Lakshmi Mittal as members

- Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director, JSW Steel has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of World Steel Association (Worldsteel).
- He is appointed for a period of one year. The association also elected YU Yong, Chairman, HBIS Group Co, as Chairman. Apart from this, the board also elected a 14-member Executive Committee.
- Apart from this, the board also elected a 14-member Executive Committee. Other elected members of association include– T V Narendran, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Tata Steel, and Lakshmi Mittal, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ArcelorMittal. Furthermore, RL Steels and Energy Limited (India) elected as regular members and Steel Ministry's Joint Plant Committee (JPC) as an affiliated member.

20. CJI Ranjan Gogoi names Justice Bobde as successor

- Justice Bobde, who is second in seniority in Supreme Court as of now, would become the 47th Chief Justice of the country and shall take oath of office on 18 November. He will demit office on his retirement on 23 April, 2021
- Chief Justice Gogoi, who is scheduled to retire on November 17, has sent his recommendation in writing to the government.
- The Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court prescribes that the "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office".

21. Friends star Jennifer Aniston claims record for fastest to reach one million Instagram followers

- Friends star Jennifer Aniston has taken Instagram by storm, joining the platform and rapidly setting a new record for the fastest time to reach one million followers in just 5 hours and 16 minutes.
- Aniston, whose first photo post was a selfie with her fellow Friends cast members, kept her introduction to the photo and video sharing social media network simple with a bio that read 'Friends call me Jen'.

Banking

1. New version of return filing portal to be launched by GST Network

- The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is to launch an improved version of the GST return filing portal on 22 October. It aims to make the process easier. The announcement was made by the GST Network CEO, Prakash Kumar.
- GST has reduced complexity by lowering the number of forms to be filed by businesses. Previously it was 495 under as many as 17 central and state laws.
- Data that is shared by indirect tax administration with the income tax department has helped in detecting mismatches. Currently, there are 12.3 million registered GST taxpayers.

2. ICICI Bank launches new FD scheme called “FD health”

- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI Bank) launched a new Fixed deposit (FD) scheme called “FD health” which provides investors a complimentary critical illness cover on 33 critical illnesses for the customers who are in the age bracket of 18-50 years.
- For the first year, free of cost insurance cover will be provided which can be renewed later. Critical illness cover of Rs 1 lakh from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company will be provided on opening an FD of Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for tenure of at least 2 years.
- Earlier, ICICI Bank had launched FD Life (FD offering a free term life insurance) and FD Invest where interest from FDs is invested in monthly Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) of a mutual fund.

3. RBI guidelines for ‘on tap’ payment systems

- RBI has issued some instructions and guidelines authorisation of payment systems. It includes minimum net worth criteria for different players.
- The government has decided to offer on-tap authorisation for Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU), White Label ATMs (WLAs) and Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
- As per the guidelines, interested entities should have a minimum of 100 crore rupees net worth and should be maintained at all times.



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4. State Bank launches debit card with EMI facility on POS

- In order to provide a superior and affordable shopping experience to its customers, Indian multinational, public sector bank, the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the “Debit Card EMI facility” for its existing customers. Under this service, the consumer can opt for an EMI (equated monthly installment) period ranging from 6 months to 18 months.
- Some other major benefits that customers get while using this service are zero documentation, no processing fees, no need for branch visit, instant disbursement and zero cost EMI at select brands.
- This facility can be availed in less than one minute, irrespective of the amount of balance in existing savings account. EMI will commence one month after the completion of the transaction.

5. Reliance MF renamed as “Nippon India Mutual Fund”

- Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as “Nippon India Mutual Fund“. The organization was renamed following the purchase of 75% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management by Nippon Life Insurance.
- Nippon India Mutual Fund has become the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company in India. Sundeep Sikka will continue to lead company as the CEO.

6. Reserve Bank gives final approval for the formation of the proposed Kerala Bank

- The country’s central bank, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its final approval of Kerala government’s long-pending proposal of setting up its own ‘Kerala Bank’, by amalgamating 13 district co-operative banks (DCBs) with Kerala State Co-operative Bank.

7. Moody's cuts India's growth forecast to 5.8% from 6.2% for FY20

- The International rating agency Moody's has reduced India's gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20(Fiscal Year20) from its previous estimate of 6.2%. This downgrade in GDP was due to deceleration to an investment-led slowdown which has broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation.

8. RBI approves merger of district co-operative banks to form Kerala Bank

- All 13 district co-operative banks (DCBs) operating in Kerala would be amalgamated with Kerala State Co-operative Bank to form the Kerala Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India has given the final approval for the merger of district co-operative banks in Kerala. The combined entity will be called the 'Kerala Bank'.
- After receiving the RBI's nod, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed hope that the Kerala Bank will help accelerate development of the state.

9. Yes Bank appoints ICICI Bank's Anita Pai as COO

- The bank announced the appointment of Anita Pai as its chief operating officer and Jasneet Bachal as its chief marketing officer.
- Anita Pai was the Senior General Manager and Head of ATM Business, Branch banking Service and Phone Banking at ICICI Bank. She has also been associated with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited and HDFC Limited.

10. India jumps to 7th spot in Brand Finance Nation ranking

- An annual report on the most valuable and strongest nation brands named Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019 was released by Brand Finance in which India was ranked 7th from 9th rank of 2018 with 18.7% growth in brand value to \$2,562 bn.
- The list was topped by the United States of America (USA) with 7.2% growth in brand value to \$27,751 bn.
- Singapore emerged as the world's strongest nation brand with the Brand Strength Index (BSI) score 90.5 out of 100.Only India jumped to the 7th spot whereas no new countries made it to Top 10

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Mexican actress Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

- The United Nation's Cultural Agency UNESCO has appointed Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as its goodwill ambassador for indigenous peoples.
- The 25-year-old actress made history as the first indigenous performer nominated for a best actress honor at the Academy Awards this year for her performance in the film "Roma", in which she speaks in an indigenous language and in Spanish.
- She will be helping the UNESCO's work among the indigenous peoples across the world by preserving their cultural heritage and environment knowledge and fighting for equal access to education.

2. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Mo Sarkar' initiative

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik rolled out 'Mo Sarkar' programme which finds its roots in the Gandhian philosophy of giving people their voice in daily governance.
- The objective of 'Mo Sarkar' is to improve governance by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism displayed by the Government officers.
- 'Mo Sarkar' programme has been launched in 21 district headquarters hospitals and medical colleges at Cuttack, Sambalpur and Berhampur.

3. Amrit Lugun appointed India's next envoy to Greece

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Amrit Lugun as the next Ambassador of India to Greece. Lugun will be taking up the assignment shortly.
- Amrit Lugun is a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. Previously Lugun served as the country's ambassador to Sudan and Yemen respectively.

4. Former Indian cricketer, Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of CAC

- Following a conflict of interest complaint, India's 1983 World Cup-winning captain, Kapil Dev has resigned as the chairman of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) days after Shanta Rangaswamy stepped down from the 3-member committee.
- CAC also stars Anshuman Gaekwad in addition to Kapil and Shanta. The trio were named in the CAC after Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and V.V.S. Laxman refused to be part of the process for selecting India's women's coach in 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) member Sanjeev Gupta filed a complaint against the CAC, where the coach-elect committee members are playing multiple roles simultaneously. Kapil Dev, along with being the head of CAC, is a commentator, owner of a Floodlight company and a member of the Indian Cricketers Association. Gaikwad, on the other hand, is a BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)-accredited committee member besides owning an academy.

5. Government appoints economist Surjit S Bhalla as Executive Director for India at IMF

- Eminent economist Surjit S Bhalla appointed as the Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Bhalla (71) will succeed former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who died in the US on July 30 after a brief illness.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Bhalla for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders.

6. SS Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the new MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank

- SS Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive of the Punjab National Bank (PNB). Currently serving as chief executive of the Allahabad Bank, Rao will replace Sunil Mehta of PNB and will head the Delhi based bank till September 18, 2021. S S Mallikarjuna Rao is appointed as the new MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Department of Financial Services' proposal for Rao's appointment as PNB's CEO. Rao had also previously worked as Executive Director (ED) in Syndicate Bank.
- PNB is currently under three-way amalgamation process with Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India.

7. Justice Rajendra Menon will be the new Chairperson of Armed Forces Tribunal

- Justice Rajendra Menon will be the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi as the Chairperson of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT).
- Justice Rajendra Menon is the former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The current Chairperson Justice Virender Singh is retiring on October 6.
- The provisions of Finance Act related to the appointment procedure to members of The Tribunals is under challenge delayed until the matter is decided.

8. Suresh Chitturi appointed International Egg Commission chief

- Suresh Chitturi, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of India's leading poultry firm Srinivasa Farms, has been appointed as chairman of the International Egg Commission(IEC) for the next two years.
- The appointment was made at the IEC Global Leadership Conference in Copenhagen in Denmark.
- He will be the first chair from Asia in the history of the institution, as he assumes the role of the Chairman of IEC.

9. India Today's Kalli Purie named one of India's most powerful women in media

- India Today Group Editorial Director for Broadcast and New Media Kalli Purie was honoured as one of India's most influential women in media, marketing and advertising.
- It is noteworthy, that only two weeks back, she was also honored with the 'Outstanding Media & Entertainment Award' at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.

10. International Astronomical Union names asteroid after Pandit Jasraj

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj. The asteroid formally known as a minor planet, is located between Mars and Jupiter.
- It was discovered on November 11, 2006, by the Catalina Sky Survey. The privilege of naming a planet is first given to discoverers, who have 10 years to propose a name.
- Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj is an exponent of Indian classical vocal music. Jasraj is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

11. Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma is new Punjab lokpal

- Halfway through its term in office, the Congress government appointed Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma as Punjab Lokpal. However, it failed to amend the Punjab Lokpal Act, 1996 thereby leaving the chief minister and cabinet ministers out of its ambit.
- The post of lokpal was lying vacant since April 23, 2018 after then Lokpal- justice Satish Kumar Mittal (retd.) had resigned from the post. Lokpal holds the office for a term of 6 years.
- Justice Sharma had served as judge of the Punjab and Haryana court from March 22, 2006, to October 26, 2010.

12. PM Modi releases postage stamp in honor of Marshal of IAF, Arjan Singh

- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has released a commemorative stamp of Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) late Arjan Singh in honor of his exemplary service to our nation.
- The stamp was issued at an event of 'at home' programme of the IAF to mark its 87th raising day in New Delhi.

13. Mastercard India appoints Vikas Varma as COO

- Mastercard India, payment technology major, elevated Mr Vikas Varma as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the firm. He will take up the responsibility related to new partnerships and development of digital payment solutions and has been serving the firm since 2005.

14. Bureaucrat Braj Raj Sharma appointed as Chairman of Staff Selection Commission.

- The Centre has cleared appointments of several senior bureaucrats in multiple ministries and departments with Braj Raj Sharma and Pankaj Kumar being appointed chiefs of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), respectively.
- The appointments were approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- According to the official order, Braj Raj Sharma, a 1984 batch IAS officer working as Secretary in the Home Ministry's Department of Border Management, has been given the charge of SSC chairman.

Science Tech & Defence

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will receive first Rafale fighter aircraft by France

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to participate in the handing over ceremony of the first Rafale fighter jet by France to India on October 8, 2019. The Defence Minister will also perform the Shastra pooja on the occasion and fly a sortie on the fighter aircraft.
- The Defence Minister who will leave from New Delhi on October 7 for a two-day visit to France will also meet French President Emmanuel Macron and hold the annual defence dialogue with the French Minister of Armed Forces, Florence Parly.
- Rajnath Singh will address the CEOs of the French Defence industry on October 9, during which he is expected to urge them to participate in the 'Make in India' initiative.

2. Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter detects charged particles and its intensity variations on Moon

- Chandrayaan 2's Orbiter payload, in its first few days of observation, detected charged particles, and its intensity variations, the Indian Space Research Organisation. The CLASS instrument on Chandrayaan-2 is designed to detect direct signatures of elements present in the lunar soil.
- The Sun provides a rich source of x-rays to illuminate the lunar surface; secondary x-ray emission resulting from this can be detected by CLASS to directly detect the presence of key elements like Na, Ca, Al, Si, Ti and Fe,
- The flash photography requires one to await an opportune time for Sun to be active, CLASS in its first few days of observation could detect charged particles and its intensity variations during its first passage through the geotail during September

3. Mongolian joint military training exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV

- Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV, being conducted over a period of 14 days, will commence from 05 Oct 2019. The exercise will be conducted from 05 Oct 19 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh.
- The Mongolian Army is being represented by officers and troops of the elite 084 Air Borne Special Task Battalion while Indian Army is being represented by a contingent of a battalion of RAJPUTANA RIFLES.
- Nomadic Elephant-XIV aims to train troops in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate. It aims to enhance defence co-operation and military relations between the two countries. The exercise will provide a platform to share the experiences and best practices of the two countries and gain mutually during the joint training.

4. Google dedicated its Doodle to honor Dr. Herbert Kleber

- Google dedicated its Doodle to honor the American psychiatrist and pioneering substance abuse researcher's work Dr. Herbert Kleber on the 23rd anniversary of his election to the National Academy of Medicine.
- Dr. Herbert Kleber dedicated his life to treating drug addiction. He spent more than 50 years studying the causes of substance abuse and developing treatments to reduce the effects of withdrawal. His work changed the view of addiction and treated and helped save countless lives.

5. World first satellite Sputnik I launch by Soviet led US to create NASA

- The Soviet Union launched the world's first artificial satellite Sputnik I on October 1957. The US-Soviet Cold War, Sputnik's launch directly led to the foundation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- The Weight of the Sputnik is 83.6 kg, the 58-cm-wide satellite transmitted signals for 21 days before losing speed and burning up in the atmosphere in 92 days.

6. Land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile successfully test-fired

- India successfully test-fired a land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile from Chandipur coast in Odisha's Balasore district.
- DRDO conducted the test-fire successfully. The missile, with a strike range of 290 km, can be fired from land as well as sea-based platforms. BrahMos is a joint venture between the DRDO and the NPOM of Russia.

7. KAZIND-2019 Joint Military Exercise between India and Kazakhstan conducted at Pithoragarh

- Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2019 between India and Kazakhstan will be conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The exercise will comprise of nearly 100 soldiers from both Indian and Kazakhstan Army who would be sharing their experience gained during conduct of various counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in the past.
- Exercise KAZIND-2019 is the 4th edition of an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India. The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with an emphasis on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.
- During the exercise, aspects of emerging trends of global terrorism and hybrid warfare have also been included. The joint military exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation further fostering bilateral relations between the two nations.

8. Bilateral Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India (JIMEX 18) to Commence at Visakhapatnam

- Bilateral maritime exercise JIMEX-18 between India and Japan commenced in Visakhapatnam, which was marked by Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships Kaga, an Izumo-class helicopter destroyer, and Inazuma, a guided missile destroyer.
- The third edition of JIMEX will witness the participation of the Japanese ships, under the command of Rear Admiral Tatsuya Fukada, commander of Escort Flotilla-4 (CCF-4).
- The participating ships include INS Satpura, a multi-purpose stealth frigate, INS Kadmatt, an anti-submarine warfare corvette, missile corvette and INS Shakti, the fleet tanker.

9. India celebrated its 87th Air Force Day on 8th October 2019.

- The year 2019 is special because the Indian Air force received the first of 36 long-awaited Rafale fighter jets. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on a visit to France will receive the fighter jets.
- IAF is conducted a spectacular air display ceremony will take place at the Hindon Air Force base near Delhi. IAF showcased its Chinook and Apache helicopters for the first time. Both these helicopters were acquired from the United States and inducted within the last few months.
- The Air Force Day 2019 will be celebrated in the presence of IAF chief Birender Singh Dhanoa and senior officials of the three armed forces.

10. India receives 1st Rafale fighter jet built for Indian Air Force

- India has got the 1st Rafale fighter jet "RB-001" built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in France. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the 1st Rafale combat jet aircraft at Production Unit of Dassault Aviation in France.
- However, the first batch of jets will arrive in India only in May 2020. Defence Minister also held the Annual Defence dialogue with his French counterpart Florence Parly.
- The RB in the aircraft designation stands for IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria who as then Deputy Chief of IAF led the Indian negotiation team and had a major role in the contract negotiations.

11. First-of-its-kind satellite servicing spacecraft MEV-1 Launched on Russian Rocket

- First satellite-servicing spacecraft named “MEV-1” (Mission Extension Vehicle-1) was launched on Russian Proton rocket that took off from Russia’s Baikonur Cosmodrome (launching site for spacecraft) in Kazakhstan.
- It was developed by American global aerospace and defense technology company Northrop Grumman.

12. Naval bilateral exercise between India and Bangladesh is being held

- The maiden naval bilateral exercise between India Navy (IN) and Bangladesh Navy (BN) is being held from 12 October to 16 October 2019 at Visakhapatnam, India.
- The IN-BN exercise aims to strengthen mutual ties between India and Bangladesh.
- Two naval vessels, Bangladesh Navy Ships (BNS) Ali Haider, a Type 053 frigate, and BNS Shadhinota, a Type 056 stealth guided missile corvette, are participating in the first bilateral exercise.

13. Indian Air Force to begin joint military exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' with Japanese counterpart

- The Indian Air Force will be carrying out a joint military exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' with Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from 17 to 23 October.
- The exercise will be held at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh town in West Bengal. "C-130 J aircraft of the Special Operations Squadron of IAF and C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron of JASDF will participate in the exercise.
- The focus of the exercise will be to undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among the two forces.

14. Army Wife Achieves Individual Guinness World Records :

- Kiran Uniyal, w/o a serving Colonel of Indian Army has created Individual Guinness World Records for “The most full contact knee strikes in three minutes (one leg) (female), 263 strikes” & “The most full contact knee strikes alternate legs in one minute (female), 120 strikes”. The earlier records were of 177 strikes and 102 in female category respectively.
- The objective of both her records was to promote martial arts for girls and women safety and self-defence. While creating the record for the most full contact knee strikes for three minutes, she surpassed the existing male category record of 226 knee strikes.
- Kiran Uniyal created her 1st Individual Guinness World Record for “The most full contact elbow strikes (one hand) in 3 minutes, 466 strikes”, which also featured among the Best of Guinness World Record official video of Jan 2019. She has so far achieved 15 World Records, including 10 Guinness World Records in Martial Arts, Fitness and Social Work.

15. India, Oman Begin Joint Training Exercise 'EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V'

- Indian Air Force is participating in a bilateral joint exercise with Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), dubbed as EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V at Masirah Air Force Base in Oman. The Joint Exercise will be held from 17 to 26 October 2019.
- The last Indo-Oman Air Force exercise was held in 2017 at Jamnagar, City in Gujarat.
- This is for the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.

16. Indian Army begun to digitize its official records under its new programme called “OASIS”

- The Indian Army has begun to digitize its official records under its new programme called “OASIS”- Officers Automated Structures Information System. Under the programme, the records of the army officers are to be digitized. The software is to be hosted in the Army’s intranet.
- The records are expected to be digitized in 5-6 months. Oasis will also carry the photographs of the dependents of the army officers. This is essential to prevent frauds where people create fake dependent cards.

- The records are expected to be digitized in 5-6 months. Oasis will also carry the photographs of the dependents of the army officers. This is essential to prevent frauds where people create fake dependent cards.

17. Defence forces organises DANX-19 in Andaman

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the 2nd edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19).
- The components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility, namely ensuring the territorial integrity of the A&N Islands.
- In addition to internal forces from ANC, accretional forces from Mainland comprising ships and aircraft, Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.2. India-UK collaboration creates a hand-washing robot:Pepe

Important days

1. World Teachers' Day: 5 October

- The aim of World Teacher's Day is to acknowledge the significant role of educators across the world. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO's 1966 recommendation concerning the status of teachers. This year's theme: 'Young Teachers: The future of the Profession'.
- The UNESCO adopted the recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel in 1997 to complement the 1966 recommendation by covering teaching and research personnel in higher education.
- UNESCO's Recommendation sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standard

2. World Space Week being celebrated from October 4-10, 2019

- The World Space Week (WSW), proclaimed in 6 December 1999 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly is observed annually from October 4-10 under the resolution (A/RES/54/68).
- The week commemorates the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I on October 4, 1957, and its entry into force, on 10 October 1967, based on the Treaty on Principles governing the activities of use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies in states' exploration.
- The theme for the year 2019 is "The Moon: Gateway to the Stars", celebrating the 50th anniversary of humankind's first step on the Moon on 20 July 1969.

3. PM Modi pays tribute to Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary on 2nd October.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled the grit and determination of Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary.
- He recalled the grit and determination of Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary.

4. International Day of Older Persons: 1 October

- The United Nations observes 1 October every year as International Day of Older Persons.
- The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing in today's world.

Theme: The Journey to Age Equality.

- The theme focuses on pathways of coping with existing and preventing future old age inequalities.

5. International Translation Day is observed on 30 September

- International Translation Day observed in bringing nations together, contributing to the development and strengthening world peace and security. This day provides a great opportunity to spotlight the important work of translators, interpreters and others in the language service industry.

Theme

- The theme of International Translation Day 2019 is "Translation and Indigenous Languages".

Aim:

- It focuses on the indigenous languages that are in danger of disappearing. As it is important to preserve and protect the languages of millions of indigenous people around the world. Languages for indigenous people are an integral part of their culture. And it is said that when a community loses its language, it is on the way to lose its culture too.

6. World Habitat day observed on October 7, 2019

- The World Habitat Day is observed every year on first Monday in October all over the world. This year it was observed on October 7, 2019 with the theme "Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth".
- The aim of this day is to reflect on the state of cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter. The theme for 2019 aims to promote the contribution of innovative frontier technologies such as automation, robotics, electric vehicles, renewable energy technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to sustainable waste management to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.
- In 1985 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day through Resolution 40/202. It was first celebrated in 1986.

7. The first-ever World Cotton Day was celebrated by the WTO on October 7, 2019 .

- World Trade Organisation, WTO will host the first World Cotton Day (WCD) celebrations in Geneva . This event stems from the application by the Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali) to the United Nations General Assembly for its official recognition of a World Cotton Day, reflecting the importance of cotton as a global commodity.
- The five-day event of World Cotton Day being observed at Geneva. The plenary session will be attended by heads of states, heads of international organisations and executives from the private sector.
- World Cotton Day will celebrate the many advantages of cotton, from its qualities as a natural fibre, to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption. World Cotton Day will also serve to shed light on the challenges faced by cotton economies around the world because cotton is important to least developed, developing and developed economies worldwide.

8. World Post Day is observed on 9th October

- World Post Day is observed on 9th October every year. On this day the posts in many countries introduce/ promote new postal products and services. On this day, the postal employees are awarded for good service.
- The day aims to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives. The day also marks the contribution given by the postal services to the social and economic development of countries.
- The day also aims to generate awareness of their Post's role and activities among the public and media on a national scale

9. Breast cancer awareness month observed from October 1-31, 2019

- The Breast Cancer Awareness month is observed annually from October 1 till October 31 in order to raise awareness about the disease and also to raise funds for its research, diagnosis, prevention, etc. Breast cancer awareness month PV Sindhu launched AR app
- Indian shuttler PV Sindhu launched world's first 'Life-size Augmented Reality'(AR) technology in the "ABC of breast health" app. It is an initiative of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, to create awareness and also help in early detection of breast cancer. The AR feature will be operational in a month in the app.

10. World Mental Health Day observed on October 10, 2019

- The World Mental Health Day(WMHD) is observed annually on the 10th of October in order to raise awareness on mental health issues and the efforts needed to support mental health.
- It is organised by the World Federation for Mental Health with World Health Organisation's support, the International Association for Suicide Prevention(IASP) and United for Global Mental Health(United-GMH).
- The theme for 2019 is "suicide prevention".

11. World Migratory Bird Day: 12 October

- World Migratory Bird Day is observed on 12 October every year. It is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds.
- **Theme for 2019:** Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution

12. International day for disaster reduction observed on October 13, 2019

- On October 13, 2019, International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) has been observed to promote global culture towards risk awareness and disaster reduction. The theme for the year 2019 is "Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services".
- In 1989, the International Day for Disaster Reduction was started by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- According to the UN, the primary objective is to focus on the target of the Sendai Framework, which highlights "Substantially to reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and education facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

13. World standards Day observed on 14 October 2019

- World Standards Day (WSD) was celebrated on 14 October, 2019. It is observed annually by the members of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as a way of tributing the global experts, developing technical agreements published in national and international standards.
- The 2019 theme for WSD is "Video Standards Create a Global Stage". The aim of WSD is to raise awareness on the importance of standardization to the global economy.

14. International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

- The International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15th October. The day recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing.
- This year's theme is "Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience".
- This year's theme highlights the important role that rural women and girls play in building resilience to face the climate crisis.

15. World Student's Day observed on October 15 2019

- World Student's Day is observed annually on October 15 by the United Nations(UN) declaration in 2010. The day is celebrated commemorating the birth anniversary of former President(11th president) of India Shri Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who wished to be identified as a teacher and then as anything else.
- This year, 2019, marks the 88th birth anniversary of Shri Abdul Kalam, who was also known as the "Missile Man of India" for his work Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology.

16. World Food Day: 16 October

- World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honor of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.
- The theme for WFD 2019 is "Our Actions Are Our Future".
- This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food security and nutritious diets for all. The main focus of this day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right.

17. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the people who are struggling and living in poverty. Poverty should be eradicated, mainly in developing countries.
- The theme for 2019 is Acting together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty. The theme focuses on providing a chance for people who struggle to live and who live in poverty to express their concerns to be heard.
- On 22 December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution 47/196 to observe 16 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The year 2019 marks the 27th anniversary of the declaration by UNGA.

Sports

1. Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian to reach 100 T20 International matches

- Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian to play 100 T20 International matches. Harmanpreet, who captains India in the shortest format of the game, turned up for the team in their sixth T20I against South Africa in Surat to achieve the milestone.
- Harmanpreet Kaur is among 10 female players who have reached the three figure mark in terms of appearances. New Zealand's Suzie Bates and Australia's Ellyse Perry top the list with 111 appearances.
- Harmanpreet herself is tied with Pakistan's Bismah Maroof and West Indies' Stafanie Taylor with 100 appearances.

2. Australia's Alyssa Healy creates world record becoming highest scorer in women's T20I

- Australian cricketer Alyssa Healy created world record for the highest individual score in women's T20I(Twenty Twenty International) by scoring 148 runs off 61 balls against Sri Lanka in the third and final match at the North Sydney Oval in Australia. She surpassed teammate Meg Lanning's previous world record score of 133 runs.
- Healy, recently completed 100 T20I appearances in the last ODI (One Day International) against Sri Lanka, and made century off 46 balls, the second fastest in history and fastest by an Australian. She also created record for the fastest T20 century by and Australian.

3. Avinash Sable is the first Indian man to qualify for World Championships

- India's Avinash Sable qualified for the finals of the men's 3000-meter steeple chase under dramatic circumstances after bettering his own national record at the World Championships in Doha. Avinash became the first Indian man to qualify for a track event final. He clocked 8 minutes 25.23 seconds bettering his earlier national record of 8:28.94, to finish seventh in the first round.

- The Athletics Federation of India filed an appeal and it is blocked twice during the race, and he got a favourable decision.

4. National Basketball Association brings first-ever floating basketball court in India

- India got its first-ever Floating Basketball Court in the Arabian Sea near Bandra Worli Sea link. It was installed by the National Basketball Association on 2 October.
- NBA India had announced that the first-ever NBA game would be organized in the country in October in Mumbai.
- The NBA India Games 2019 has been prepared to feature the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers, who will play two pre-season games on October 4 and 5 at the Dome, NSCI, SVP Stadium.

5. PV Sindhu slips to number 6th, Kashyap rises to 25th position: BWF Rankings 2019

- As per the recently released BWF (Badminton World Federation) Rankings 2019, World Champion women's shuttler PV Sindhu (24) has slipped a rank to 6th due to poor performance in the last two weeks but Parupalli Kashyap (33) has benefited from a good performance and is in 25th position.
- Sindhu, who was earlier in the fifth position, had eliminated in the first round of the 2019 China Open (held in Changzhou, China) and 2019 Korea Open (held in Incheon, South Korea). While, Kashyap has the advantage of reaching the semi-finals of Korea Open.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag remain 12th in men's doubles while Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy moved up one place to 19th in women's doubles.

6. Annu Rani Becomes First Indian To Qualify For Women's Javelin Throw Final

- Annu Rani became the first Indian to qualify for the women's javelin throw final in World Athletics Championships. She did her best attempt of 62.43m which is a National Record.
- She finished fifth in the qualifying round of World Athletics Championships in Doha, a place above the current World Record holder Barbora Spotakova. Annu Rani had smashed her own national record during the qualification round of the World Athletics Championships.
- She is 27-year-old Annu opened the qualification round Group A with a 57.05m before sending the iron spear to a distance of 62.43m in the second round. Those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 63.50m or 12 best performers from Group A and Group B taken together will qualify for the final round.

7. Deepak Punia ranked world's best wrestler in 86 kg category, Bajrang loses top rank

- Deepak Punia has been ranked world number one in 86 kg category in the latest rankings issued by the International Wrestling Federation. Bajrang Punia, on the other hand, lost his top rank in the 65kg category.
- Deepak Punia is also one of the four Indian wrestlers to have secured their place at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. He currently has 82 points, four more than the previously top-ranked wrestler, Hasan Yazdani from Iran.
- In other categories, Ravi Dahiya entered the top 5 ranking list in the 57 kg category, while Rahul Aware was pushed to the second rank with his bronze in the World Championship.

8. Pakistan's pacer Mohammad Hasnain becomes youngest player to take a T20I hat-trick

- Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain became the youngest ever cricketer to take a hat-trick in T20I (Twenty 20 Internationals) cricket in the 2nd T20 match against Sri Lanka at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan during the Sri Lankan cricket team tour in Pakistan. He is 19 years and 183 days old.
- It was his second T20I match. Mohammad Hasnain becomes youngest player to take a T20I hat-trick. He dismissed Bhanuka Rajapaksa (32), Dasun Shanaka (17) and Shehan Jayasuriya (0) off consecutive deliveries.
- He became the ninth player to take a hat-trick in T20I cricket and 2nd Pakistani cricketer.

9. Naomi Osaka beats Ashleigh Barty to win China Open

- Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the China Open held in Beijing, China. She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty with a score of 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.
- This was a third title of 2019 for Osaka and fifth in her short career.

10. India maintains second position in latest ICC women's ODI rankings, Australia tops the list

- International Cricket Council (ICC) women's One Day International (ODI) rankings, India has maintained its second position and has also increased its points lead over England which is ranked at the 3rd position. The list was topped by Australia.
- In the women's T20(twenty-twenty) rankings, India currently ranks at the 5th spot and the list is topped by Australia. England and New Zealand ranks 2nd and 3rd respectively.

11. Spanish tennis player Andres Gimeno passes away at the age of 82

- Andres Gimeno Tolaguera , the Spanish tennis player who became the oldest man to win the French Open in the professional era, has passed away at the age of 82 after a long illness.

12. Lakshya Sen won the Dutch Open men's singles title at Almere

- Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen won the Dutch Open men's singles title 2019 at Almere, Netherlands. This is his maiden Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title. He won the title by defeating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit. He secured 15-21 21-14 21-15 to defeat Onodera.
- Lakshya Sen currently ranked 72nd. He had won the Belgian Open in September and reached the finals of Polish Open 2019.

13. ICC changes super over rule for all its major events

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has changed the super-over rule for all its major events following the uproar over the outcome of the men's World Cup final this year when England was declared winners against New Zealand on boundary count.
- As per new rule, in case of a super over tie, there will be a repeated super over until one team has more runs than the other.

14. Zimbabwe, Nepal readmitted as ICC members

- Zimbabwe and Nepal were re-admitted as ICC members in a meeting held in Dubai. Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020.
- Zimbabwe Cricket had been suspended from membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) with immediate effect in July this year. Nepal had been banned in 2016 for "governmental interference" as well.

15. Yashasvi Jaiswal becomes youngest batsman to score double century

- The 17-year-old Mumbai teenager Yashasvi Jaiswal make history as he became the youngest cricketer in the world to score a double century in One Day cricket.
- He playing in his debut Vijay Hazare season. He scored 203 off 154 balls against Jharkhand at Alur, Karnataka. His score comprised 12 sixes and 17 fours.

16. Raunak Sadhwani becomes India's 65th Grandmaster

- Raunak Sadhwani (13) has become India's 65th Grand Master. He crossed the required mark for achieving this feat and earned a rating of 2500.
- Vladimir Kramnik, former world Champion, was his trainer and master.
- World Chess Federation FIDE gives the title of Grand Master to the chess players according to their rankings.

17. Viswanathan Anand revisits his best games and losses in a new book Mind Master "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life"

- Indian Chess player, Viswanathan Anand has penned a new book titled "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life". The book, published by Hachette
- In this book he revisits his greatest games and worst losses, his unique experiences of playing against the best minds, and the methods he employs to prepare for wins, cope with disappointments and, simply, stay in the game.

Books & Authors

1. A new book entitled '150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma - the South African Legacy', by Fakir Hassen launched in Johannesburg, South Africa

- Author and journalist Fakir Hassen's new 160-page coffee table book entitled '150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma - the South African Legacy' launched on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The book chronicles commemoration of Gandhi's activities, including his birth and death anniversaries & his visit in South Africa, which was stifled by the apartheid-era minority white government and revived after former president Nelson Mandela.
- The book has chapters including statues, busts and exhibitions, awards and accolades, both to Gandhi and to others made in his name, the Phoenix Settlements (Mahatma Gandhi's home during his stay in South Africa) and Tolstoy Farm communes that he initiated in Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa

2. Book by India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, titled "India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future" released

- A book penned by Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands Venu Rajamony titled 'India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future,' was released in Amsterdam.
- The book gives an insight into the cross-cultural legacy between the two countries and was released at a function attended by the king and queen of the Netherlands.
- The first copy of the book was received by Dutch King Willem-Alexander in presence of all high officials. The book has been published by Bombay Ink.

3. Book titled 'The RSS: Roadmaps for the 21st Century', written by Sunil Ambekar released

- The book titled 'The RSS: Roadmaps for 21st Century', written by Sunil Ambekar, the organising national secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), was released in New Delhi by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.
- It is published by Rupa Books. It describes the challenges of 21st century social, cultural life and lists the RSS' response to the same.



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4. Book titled “Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond” authored by Sandeep Shastri set to be released

- Book titled “Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond” authored by political analyst Sandeep Shastri commemorating Late Shastri’s 113th birth anniversary on October 2, 2019 is set to be released.
- It is published by Rupa Publications. It depicts the early influences, political associations and historical decisions of Lal Bahadur Shastri, India’s second prime minister.

5. Bill Gates’ new book is about climate change

- The founder of Microsoft Corporation and American philanthropist Bill Gates’ new book will be about climate change, and will look at possible solutions to prevent an environmental crisis, UK-based publishing house Allen Lane has announced.
- In “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need”, Gates will explain why he cares so deeply about climate change and what makes him optimistic that the world can prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

6. Book titled, “The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China’s Quest for Strategic Dominance” penned by Phunchok Stobdan released

- A distinguished academician, diplomat, author and foreign policy expert, Phunchok Stobdan’s new book “The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China’s Quest for Strategic Dominance”, published by Penguin Random House India, describes the several unknown insights into the India-China, India-Tibet and China-Tibet relationships.
- The author describes the dalai Lama factor which caused the Buddhist Himalayas to be in a state of flux, especially in the current India-China relationship.

Awards

1. Ben Stokes Wins PCA Players' Player of Year Award

- Ben Stokes voted Players Player of the Year at the Professional Cricketers Association awards. Stokes played a starring role in England’s first 50-over World Cup triumph culminating in his dynamic man-of-the-match display in their dramatic final win against New Zealand in July.
- He was honored for those achievements by scooping the Reg Hayter Cup ahead of fellow nominees Simon Harmer, Ryan Higgins, and Dom Sibley.
- Other award winners included ODI player of the summer Chris Woakes, Test player of the summer Stuart Broad, and County Championship player of the year Harmer.

2. Sachin Tendulkar gets most effective Swachhata Ambassador Award

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the most effective Swachhta Ambassador award to Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

3. Kavitha Gopal becomes first girl student to win President of India Prize

- Kavitha Gopal has become the first girl student of IIT Madras to be honoured with the President of India Prize. She received the honour and medal from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 56th convocation of Indian Institute of Technology Madras.
- The President of India prize is conferred to recognize outstanding academic performance by a student. In the 60 years of IIT Madras history, this is the first time that the ‘President of India Gold Medal’ has been conferred to a girl student. Only male students had won the prize earlier at the institute.

4. Sanjay Kapoor awarded Most Inspiring Indian Bollywood Actor in UK

- Sanjay Kapoor appointed for most of the inspiring Indian Bollywood Actor in UK. The actor has been a part of some of the best films in the past. The actor has been recognised for all the performances he has put together, and in fact, he is also relatively popular. The actor also received an award for his performance.
- He has received an award at the House of Common Parliament of the United Kingdom, for being the Most Inspiring Indian Bollywood Actor.
- Dil Sambhal Ja Zara to the web series and my recent Bollywood release Mission Mangal. The web series has recently been nominated at the Emmys which feels great. It is a 30 minutes video which is being present.

5. Grammy awardee, Drummer Ginger Baker passed away at the age of 80

- English drummer Peter Edward Ginger Baker is familiarly known as Ginger Baker and co-founder of the rock band “Cream” passed away at the age of 80 in England due to old age ailments.
- Born on August 19, 1939 in London, England Ginger Baker’s music career spanned for 6 decades and emerged as the first superstar percussionist. He won the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of fame in 1993 as a member of ‘Cream’.

6. IFS officer Ramesh Pandey selected for Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by UNEP

- Senior Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey has been selected for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- The 1996-batch IFS officer, posted as Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow and Secretary, UP State Bio-diversity Board, is known for his investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers. Pandey will receive the award on November 13 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.
- The citation said that the excellent work in combating trans-boundary environmental crime by Mr Panday has been recognised by the selection panel. The purpose of the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards is to publicly recognise outstanding achievements by public organisations and individuals in Asia to combat transboundary environmental crime.

7. “Spirit Of Kerala” wins People’s Choice Award

- Short film from Kerala “Spirit Of Kerala” has won the People’s Choice Award at the recently concluded My Rode Reel film competition.
- The film won the honour beating 1,680 entries. The short film is based on a boat race and directed by Arun Joseph.
- My Rode Reel film competition is touted as the ‘world’s largest short film competition’.

8. Olga Tokarczuk and Peter Handke win the Nobel Prize for Literature for 2018 and 2019 respectively

- The Swedish Academy’s Nobel Committee has decided to award 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature Polish author Olga Tokarczuk “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life” and 2019 Nobel Prize in Literature to Austrian author Peter Handke “for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience.”
- **About Nobel Prize:**
- It is a set of annual international awards bestowed for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, economics, and the promotion of peace.

9. International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October 2019

- The United Nations observes International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October every year. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls’ empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

- International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.
- The theme for 2019: Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable.

10. Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali, 43, Wins Nobel Peace Prize

- Hailed as a visionary and reformer, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his efforts to resolve the long-running conflict with neighbouring foe Eritrea.
- Abiy was honoured "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea," the Nobel Committee said.
- The award is seen as a welcome boost for Africa's youngest leader as he faces worrying inter-community violence ahead of a parliamentary election in May 2020.

11. Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, along with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer win 2019 Nobel Economics Prize

- Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, his wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." The award recognized their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.
- Banerjee was educated at the University of Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1988. He is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to his profile on the MIT website.
- The research conducted by this year's laureates has considerably improved the ability to fight global poverty.

12. Mumbai's Flora Fountain and four others Win UNESCO Heritage Awards

- Mumbai's iconic 155-year-old Flora Fountain and two different heritage landmarks within the nation's monetary capital are among the many 4 websites which were chosen from India for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The 4 winners from India, embody one from Ahmedabad — Award of Distinction for Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Administration (IIM); and three from Mumbai — Award of Benefit for Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue and Our Girl of Glory Church; whereas Honourable Point out for Flora Fountain.

13. Atwood and Evaristo won the 2019 Booker Prize

- Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo have been announced as the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize.
- This is the first time joint winners are announced. Atwood won for *The Testaments*, her sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, and Evaristo won for her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*. The winners were awarded at a ceremony at London's Guildhall on 15 October.

14. Lionel Messi wins sixth Golden Shoe Award

- Lionel Messi has been presented with the European Golden Shoe for the sixth time, extending his own record as another incredible La Liga campaign was recognized.
- Messi earned the award, which is given to the player who scores the most league goals across Europe's top divisions, by finding the net 36 times in 34 La Liga appearances in 2018-19.
- His efforts helped Barca to successfully defend the La Liga title as he claimed the Golden Shoe for the third successive season. The Argentina superstar was presented with the Golden Shoe at a ceremony in Barcelona, where his sons Thiago and Mateo handed him the latest trophy in a career laden with them.

15. Veteran actor Deepti Naval was honoured with the Excellence in Cinema Award at Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival

- Veteran actor Deepti Naval was honoured with the Excellence in Cinema Award at the opening ceremony of the 21st Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star on Thursday night.
- Naval made her acting debut with "Junoon" in 1978. In her career spanning over 40 years, she has acted in more than 60 films. Some of her iconic films include "Kamla", "Chashme Baddoor", "Mirch Masala", "Rang Birangi", "Firaq", "Leela" and "Memories in March"

Obituaries

1. Farook Khan, a prominent Indian-origin journalist dies in South Africa

- Farook Khan, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa passed away. He hailed from Maharashtra.
- He had started the Miss India South Africa Pageant as part of the Miss India Worldwide Pageant.

2. Noted Nephrologist and Padma Shri Awardee H L Trivedi passed away at the age of 87

- Noted Nephrologist (specialist in the study of kidney functions) and Padma Shri Awardee Dr Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi passed away at the age of 87 due to age-related illness. He was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, in 2015 for his contribution as a nephrologist to the society.
- He was the founder-director of the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Center in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

3. Hollywood tycoon Eric Pleskow passed away at the age of 95

- On October 1, 2019 American-Austrian film producer Eric Pleskow, the Hollywood tycoon, passed away at the age of 95 in United States(US) due to old age ailments. He was the president of the film company United Artists from 1973 to 1978 and then as co-founder of Orion Pictures where many films under these film companies won Oscar awards.
- Born in April 24, 1924 in Vienna, the capital of Austria, Eric's famous films include 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest', 'Rocky', 'Amadeus', 'Platoon', 'Dances with Wolves' and 'The Silence of the Lambs'.
- He had been the president of the Vienna International Film Festival (VIFF), or Viennale, since 1998.

4. Legendary singer Jose Jose passes away

- Legendary Mexican singer Jose Jose who was often called 'El Principe de la Cancion' or 'The Prince of Song, passes away.
- In a career of more than four-decade, the singer sold millions of albums and picked by 6 Grammy nominations.

5. Veteran Bollywood actor, Viju khote passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Bollywood veteran actor Viju Khote, best known for playing the role of 'Kalia' in the film Sholay, has passed away at his home in Mumbai, Maharashtra due to multiple organ failure.
- He was 77. Bollywood actor, Viju khote passed away. Born on 17 December 1941, khote was most remembered for his work in more than 440 films in Hindi and Marathi cinema.
- The several popular feature films that Khote was a part of also included, Robert in Andaz Apna Apna (1994), Maan Singh in Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak (1988), Shirish Appa in Ventilator (2016) & TV (Television) show Zabaan Sambhalke (1993). He was the brother of Bollywood's famous actress Shubha Khote.

6. Sara Danius, first female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body passes away

- First female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body, Sara Danius passed away.

- She was a literature critic, professor and writer, served as the first female permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy between 2015 and 2018.

7. Veteran broadcast journalist P.V. Krishnamoorthy passes away

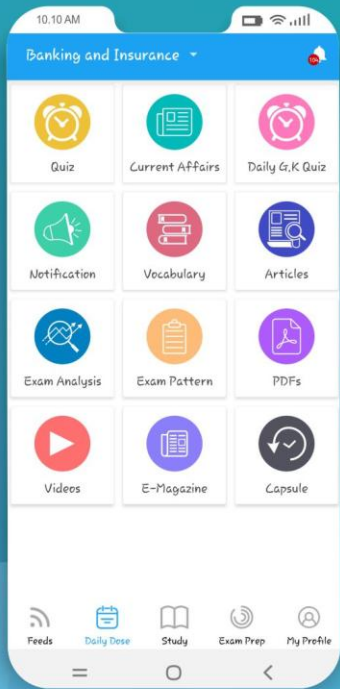
- P.V. Krishnamoorthy, veteran broadcast journalist, died at his residence in Chennai. He was 98. He is survived by his two sons, including P.K. Balachandran, a Colombo-based journalist.
- Born in Yangon, Myanmar on April 1, 1921. He did graduation in English literature there and as a World War II refugee from the Southeast Asian Country, he joined External Services Division, All India Radio (AIR), as news reader/announcer in 1944.
- He went on to become Station Director of the AIR in Chennai and Kolkata and of the Doordarshan Kendra in New Delhi and Mumbai.

8. Renowned painter Kalidas Karmakar passes away in Dhaka

- Internationally acclaimed painter of Bangladesh Kalidas Karmakar passed away in Dhaka. He was born on January 10, 1946, in Faridpur district, he completed his graduation from the Government College of Fine Arts and Crafts in Kolkata in 1969.
- He was awarded Shilpakala Padak in 2016 and the Ekushey Padak in 2018 by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution to fine arts.

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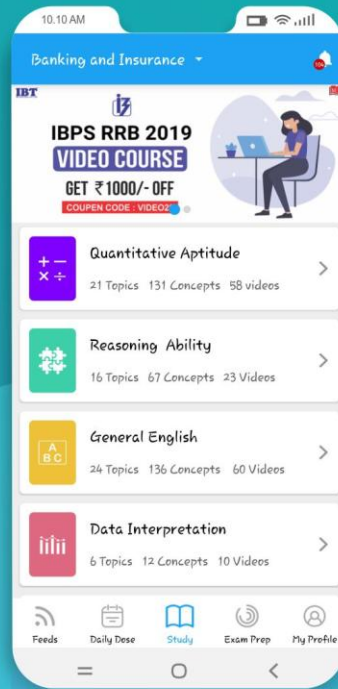
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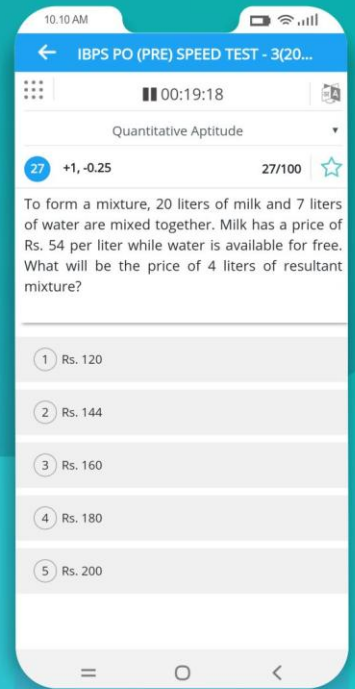
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