



Monthly G.K Capsule

JULY- 2019

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National News

1. Rajasthan government has launched Student Police Cadet (SPC) scheme

- The Rajasthan government has launched Student Police Cadet (SPC) scheme, a Police training program, for class 8 and 9 students on July 18. The training aims to curb rising adolescent delinquency and strengthen teenagers mentally and physically. Also, it aims to make the students aware of basic laws and legal procedures.
- All aspects of public and personal life have been developed for the SPC training.
- It would be imparted at three levels which includes:
 - ✓ indoor classes
 - ✓ outdoor activities
 - ✓ visits to relevant places and offices

2. Kerala Government to set up India's First-ever Elephant Rehabilitation at Rs 105 cr

- The Kerala government will set up India's first elephant rehabilitation centre named Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from Thiruvananthapuram, at an outlay of Rs 105 crore. The phase 1 of the project was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan in June 2019.

3. First-ever Himalayan States Conclave to be hosted by Uttarakhand on July 28, 2019

- The first-ever Himalayan States Conclave will be hosted by Uttarakhand on July 28, 2019 with the main focus on sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region. It will be held at Mussoorie. The event will discuss the common issues pertaining to states located in the Himalayan Region like environmental protection, Himalayan culture and economic development. Himalayan States Conclave.
- Along with the administrators and specialists, the conclave will host the Chief Ministers of the Himalayan states – Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- Rajiv Kumar, Vice President of Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, will also be a part of the conclave. The key points adopted at the Himalayan conclave will be presented as a draft to the Niti Aayog. This will help to frame policies for the region's development.

4. Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill aims the establishment of a Central University and Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh.
- The total outlay for the Central University project is Rs 902.07 crore and for Tribal University is Rs 836 crore.
- The Tribal University will offer research facilities in the fields of art, culture and technology to the tribal population.

5. Health Ministry to launch a "Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan" in Delhi

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will launch a Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in Delhi to accelerate measures for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya.
 - It will start from 17th to 19th July, 2019 in Delhi through active involvement of people's representatives, officers from Government of India, Government of NCT Delhi, all three Delhi Municipal Corporations, New Delhi Municipal Council, Railways and Cantonment board and other stakeholders to combat malaria, dengue and chikungunya.
 - Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr Harsh Vardhan.
1. **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimhan.

6. Pakistan to allow 5,000 Sikh pilgrims per day to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib

- After the second meeting of officials of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Office (FO) informed that Pakistan would allow 5,000 Sikh pilgrims per day throughout the year to visit Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib situated in Kartarpur, Narowal District, Pakistan. It was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev. The first meeting was held in Atari, India on March 14, 2019.
- The decision was taken in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment to operationalise the corridor for the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, Punjab and ease visa-free movement of Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Sahib. The experts from India & Pakistan also discussed technical details of the Kartarpur Corridor.

7. President appoints Governors for Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Anusuiya Uikey as Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has been named as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

8. 12 beaches in India selected for Blue Flag certification

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has selected 12 beaches in India for 'Blue Flag' certification. 12 beaches in India selected for Blue Flag certification.
- The 12 beaches : It includes Bhogave (Maharashtra), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), Golden (Odisha), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

9. Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019. This bill aims to allow NIA to probe terrorist acts against Indians and Indian interests abroad. The Bill seeks to give more power to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- **Aim:**
- The Bill also aims to create Special Courts for trial of scheduled offences under Acts like Atomic Energy Act (AEA), 1962, and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967.
- Bill also seeks cyber-terrorism and offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, offences under Explosive Substances Act (1908), manufacture or sale prohibited arms and human trafficking.
- The amendments will allow NIA to probe cybercrimes and cases of human trafficking. In every state there is only one NIA designated court and these courts would only take NIA cases and not others.

10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to share his thoughts in Mann Ki Baat on July 28

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares his thoughts with the people in the country and in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on All India Radio. The second edition of the programme after Mr Modi for the second term.
- Prime Minister invited the people to share their ideas. They can share their views in MyGov Open Forum
- The toll-free number 1800-11-7800 to record a message for the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi explained about the important issues through the monthly programme.
- The awareness campaign should focus on water-related problems. He planned to start a mass movement for water conservation and resolve to save every drop of water scarcity in several parts of the country.
- He called for an awareness campaign which should focus on water-related problems and also propagate ways to save water.

11 .Tamil Nadu to get two new districts

- The total number of districts in the state will be raised to 35.Tenkasi District would be carved out of Tirunelveli and Chengalpet District would be established by splitting Kanchipuram district.
- Tirunelveli and Kanchipuram remain vast in area and splitting them would be beneficial for better administration. Revenue Minister R.B.Udhayakumar created a few more districts by splitting bigger revenue units is being considered.
- A new district with Kumbakonam as its headquarters are announced.

12. HRD Ministry launches new UGC Scheme “Paramarsh” For Higher Education

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) launched a Scheme called “Paramarsh” of University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.
- **Aim:** This scheme aims at mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions to develop quality assurance in Higher Education.
- **Mentorship:** Under the scheme, the prime Mentoring institutions will provide regular mentoring to colleges to help achieve high-quality standards. For mentoring they will get the financial assistance & also the option of appointing an expert, who can be paid a fellowship amount of Rs 31,000 per month.
- **Hub & Spoke model:** The Scheme will be implemented through a “Hub & Spoke” model where mentor institution -called ‘Hub’ has the responsibility of guiding mentee institution (through secondary branches ‘Spoke’) for self-improvement.Target: For mentoring, the scheme targets 1000 Higher Education Institutions.
- **Benefits:**

i. The scheme enhances the overall quality of the mentee institutions and enhances its profile as a result of improved quality of research, teaching and learning methodologies.

ii. It will help in providing quality education to the 3.6 crore students who enrolled in Indian Higher Education system.

iii. The mentor institution will also get NAAC accreditation.

Feature: It will also facilitate the sharing of knowledge, information, and opportunities for research collaboration and faculty development in Mentee Institutions.

13. Ambikapur of Surguja district, Chhattisgarh gets India’s first ‘Garbage Cafe’ for Ragpickers

- The municipal officials of Chhattisgarh have launched a unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India’s first ‘Garbage Cafe’ for Ragpickers. The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.
 - Ragpickers who collect 1 kg of plastic waste will receive a full meal and those collecting 500g will be served breakfast. There is also a definitive plan to provide shelter to over 100 homeless people in the city.
 - The plastic collected by the municipal corporation will be used to construct roads.
 - Ambikapur city had received 5 star rating of ‘Garbage Free Cities’ and under Central government’s Swachh Survekshan 2019 rankings, it was declared India’s second cleanest city after Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
1. **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Achanakmar WLS, Badalkhol WLS, Bhoramdev WLS, Sarangarh-Gomardha WLS, Semarsot WLS, Sitanadi WLS, Tamor Pingla WLS, Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS, Pamed Wild Buffalo WLS, Bhairamgarh WLS, Barnawapara WLS

14. Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru tops “most digitised cities” list: Razorpay report 2019

- According to the 2nd edition of payments solution company Razorpay Software Pvt Ltd’s digital transactions quarterly report, ‘The Era of Rising Fintech’, Bengaluru got the top

position in the list of “most digitised cities” in the April-June 2019 quarter accounting for highest card payments.

- Cities list: Bengaluru is followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi.
- States list: The top five digitised states are Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and New Delhi.
- Development: The report noticed Tamil Nadu is among one of the most developed states in India ranked 4th in contribution in digital transactions with its capital, Chennai’s share was highest at 57%.
- P2M category: At the national level, Payments made through credit and debit cards was at 50% in the pay to merchants (P2M) category in the April-June quarter against 56 percent in the January-March quarter.
- Growth: Usage of credit and debit cards also grew by 22% during the two quarters.
- Contribution: The top three sectors contributing to the growth were food and beverage (29%) followed by the gaming industry (15%), financial services (14%).The report predicts that 40 % of digital payment transaction would be driven by consumers and businesses in Tier-II regions(manufacturing industry) by 2020.

15. "Vivekadeepini" book released by the Vice President of India:

- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released the book ‘Vivekadeepini’ in ten languages.
- It is a concise book of aphorisms that contains glimpses of India’s wisdom. The book will be published by Vedanta Bharati.
- Uttarakhand was named among best performing states in ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ scheme
- Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country’s five best performing states under the National Programme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.
- As per the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, the State received this recognition for its consistent performance in respect of sex ratio at birth.
- In addition to Uttarakhand, Haryana has bagged three awards, including one state-level and two district-level awards, for consistent performance in respect of the sex ratio at birth (SRB).The two districts of Haryana which won the award are Bhiwani and Mahendragarh.

16. India’s first elephant rehabilitation centre will be set up at Kerala’s Kottoor:

- India’s first elephant rehabilitation centre will be set up by the Kerala State Government in its ecotourism village of Kottoor.Rs.105 crore has been allotted to this project which was launched by Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan.Kerala’s Kottoor
- At present, the center has only 15 elephants and it will be increased once work has been completed.The centre will have an elephant museum, mahout training centre, super-specialty hospital, a retirement home and crematorium for the animals, will house orphaned, injured and older elephants.
- Now the state has 507 captive elephants & forest department plans to admit more captive elephants.The centre will be set up with 65 hectares of natural forests area will have elephant safari and other activities to attract tourists.

17. Madhya Pradesh will soon be able to produce its own seeds:

- The Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Seed Federation will produce its own seeds in addition with distribution and marketing of certified and high-quality seeds to farmers. The brand name of seeds to be ‘Sah-Beej’ produced from next Rabi season.
- The decision was taken in a meeting Board of Directors’ held under the chairmanship of Govind Singh, Minister for Cooperatives in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Seed societies in the state linked with seed federation will help in the marketing of seeds.

- Training will also be given to members of seed societies through agriculture science centres to make them competent and empowered.

18. Phase-II DBT in fertilizer subsidy launched:

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers launched the Phase-II of the Direct Benefit Transfer of Fertilizer Subsidy.
- DBT in fertilizer subsidy is a step in the direction of bringing ease of living in the lives of farmers through use of modern technology and plugging leakages, pilferages and black marketing.

19 . Lal Bahadur Shastri Statue unveiled by PM:

- The Prime Minister unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi.
- It is built by Northern Coalfields, a subsidiary of Coal India.

20. India – ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’ Meeting held in New Delhi

- India – Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Troika Trade Ministers’ Meeting was held in New Delhi for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal, Acting Minister of Commerce of Thailand, Ms. Chutima Bunyapraphasara, Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Enggartiasto Lukita, Secretary General, ASEAN, Lim Jock Hoi and Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Chair of RCEP, Iman Pambagyo attended the meeting.
- India emphasized on adherence to the RCEP guiding principles in order to balance high ambition on goods tariff reduction with addressing of sensitives in bilateral pairings between India and China through temporary and permanent deviations/ exclusions.
- China had demanded that India should eliminate duties on more than 90% of the items from the country, as it is willing to do in case of the ASEAN, Japan and South Korea. But India has tentatively offered to eliminate duties on 74% of items from China as part of the RCEP deal. It also highlighted to stress on possible mechanism to address persistent and wide imbalances in trade.

21. Prasar Bharati signs MoU with IIT Kanpur for research collaboration

- India’s largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharati has signed an MoU(Memorandum of Understanding) with IIT,Kanpur(Indian Institute of Technology) for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi.
- This will help in boosting research activities in the broadcasting field.
- The areas of cooperation would be Direct to mobile broadcasting, Convergence of 5G, Artificial Intelligence(AI), Incubation Centre and internship for students of IIT, Kanpur at Prasar Bharati .\

22. Haryana launched a 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal for farmers.

- The Chief Minister of Haryana Government Manohar Lal Khattar has launched online portal named "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" (<https://www.fasalhry.in/>) for farmers to directly avail crop related benefits of state government schemes after self -reporting their land and crop-related details. The farmers who will register on the portal required to upload information like the name of crop sown, area under cultivation, cropping month, bank account number and mobile number at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or Atal Seva Kendras (ASK) or with the help of VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneurs)by end of July.

- Each farmer, who registered on the portal get a financial incentive of Rs 10 per acre or part thereof subject to a minimum of Rs 20 to maximum Rs 50. It will enable farmers to avail the subsidy on agriculture implements easily & make damage assessment during natural calamities and disbursal of relief in cases of crop damage easier and other financial assistance under different schemes.
- The state government will get the accurate data of area and name of crop cultivated in various parts of the state and it is a step forward towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of doubling the farmer's income by 2022.

23. UP has highest number of senior citizens with more than one crore 54 lakh

- Rattan Lal Kataria ,the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment stated that Uttar Pradesh(UP) has highest number of senior citizens with more than one crore 54 lakh followed by Maharashtra with one crore 11 lakh.Totally the country has over 10.38 crore senior citizens.
- Schemes: For the betterment of senior citizens, the centre has launched various schemes to lead a socially secured life. And since 2017,the ministry has launched Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana for senior citizens belonging to BPL (Below Poverty Line)category, who are suffering from age-related disabilities.

24. “Operation Thirst” launched by RPF

- RPF launched “Operation Thirst” to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in the railway premises.
- During the operation, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands.

25. Rajghat coal plant to be turned into solar park

- The Delhi government has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into a solar park. A 5,000 KW of solar power will be produced at the 45 acre plant site.
- The coal-based plant, whose current units were commissioned in 1989, has been lying in a shutdown mode from 2014.

26. WCD implements a Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances called “Swadhar Greh”

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD), Government of India implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for the rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity.Swadhar Greh.
- Support: It envisages providing shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security for the women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, victims of domestic violence, family tension, and natural disaster.
- Helpline: The ministry also implementing Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence.
- OSC: As a part of Nirbhaya Framework, One Stop Centres(OSC) has been established for violence affected women across the country with the help of States/UTs (Union territory).
- Facilities: OSC formed under One Stop Centre Scheme provides legal and psycho-social counseling & other facilities include temporary shelter, police facilitation and medical support to the women affected by violence.

27. Chandigarh best performing state in the field of education in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) informed that in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18, Chandigarh was ranked best among States and Union territories (UTs) in the field of education.
- The Index ranked the states on the basis of 5 parameters including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance process. 36 States/ UTs were ranked in the Index.

28 Tamil Nadu to be the first state to manufacture electric cars: Minister

- M C Sampath, minister for industries stated that South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer Hyundai plans to launch its electric car for India and the global market from Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars. Tamil Nadu to be the first state to manufacture electric cars
- **Key points:**
- **Motive:** The Tamil Nadu (TN) State Government aims to attract the multinational companies that are moving out of China after the US(United States)-China trade dispute.
- **Investment:** Tamil Nadu ranks 3rd in capital investment in the industrial sector with Rs 4.02 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 8.14 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 5.02 lakh crore).
- **Industrial o/p:** The state which has 37,220 factories (the most in India followed by Maharashtra (27,010 units) and Gujarat (25,966 units)) also ranks 3rd in total industrial output(o/p), with Rs 7.66 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 12.22 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 10.74 lakh crore).
- **Workforce:** TN has a high number of persons engaged in the factory at 24.08 lakh persons which are 25% higher than the next state Maharashtra.
- **Eco-friendly initiative:** The TN Industries Development Corporation (TIDCO) is selecting a consultant for preparing a report on developing a greenfield airport near Chennai.
- **Defence:** The state also aims to attract Rs 10,000 crore in the defence sector for five years.

29. Meghalaya is the first state in India to ensure water conservation

- Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure water conservation with its State Water Policy. The draft water policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. Meghalaya.
- The policy aims to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic, sanitation & livelihood development to all residents of the state, ensure the protection and conservation of catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.
- It will be implemented through active participation of the community by constituting a Water Sanitation Village Council at the village level.

30. Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned as Punjab Cabinet Minister

- Navjot Singh Sidhu, Congress leader, resigned as Punjab Cabinet Minister from the Amarinder Singh cabinet. He had submitted the resignation letter dated June 10, 2019 addressed to the then Congress President Rahul Gandhi. Navjot Singh Sidhu.
- Cabinet reshuffle, Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh had divested Sidhu of the key portfolios of local government, tourism and cultural affairs and allotted him power and new and renewable energy sources ministry. But he did not assume the new charge.
- He was also left out of the consultative groups formed by the chief minister on June 8, 2019.

✚ 31. Bonalu festival kicks off in Telangana:

- The annual Bonalu festival kicked off at the Jagadamba temple in historic Golconda Fort, Telangana.
- Bonalu is celebrated every year in the state during the first month of the monsoon season. Bonalu is the "state festival" of Telangana.

✚ 32. UGC approves a scheme "STRIDE" to boost research culture in India

- University Grants Commission has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' to boost research culture in India. It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- An Advisory Committee has been set up by the UGC under the chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan to oversee the entire scheme.
- **Objectives of STRIDE:**
- To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.
- To fund multi institutional network high impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.

✚ 33. Krishi kiosk, a scheme for farmers was launched in the state of Haryana.

- Om Prakash Dhankar, Haryana agriculture, and farmers' welfare minister launched 'Krishi kiosk' for farmers at Panchkula, Haryana.
- The kiosk comes under state's 'Digital Kisan Suvidha' plan, will give farmers information about government schemes and also help them file claims under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' Scheme.
- It has been connected with the Deputy Commissioners' offices of the state, and a telephone facility has also been made available for farmers, who in turn could give information through telephone.

✚ 34. Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- Union Jal Shakti Minister has launched a water conservation campaign 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan', with an emphasis on 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.
- The campaign will run through citizen participation during the monsoon 1st July-15th September. An additional phase II will run from 1st October-30th November for states receiving the northeast retreating monsoons.
- The campaign will focus on five aspects: water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation.

✚ 35. High Powered Committee for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'

- Prime minister has constituted a high powered committee of chief ministers for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income.
- Maharashtra chief minister will be the convenor of the committee. The committee has been asked to submit its report within two months.

The other members of the committee include:

- H.D. Kumaraswamy, Chief Minister, Karnataka
- Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister, Haryana
- Pema Khandu, Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh
- Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister, Gujarat
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
- Kamal Nath, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh
- Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister, Agriculture Rural Development and Panchyati Raj.
- NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand will be the member secretary of the committee.

✚ 36. 'Tamil Yeoman' butterfly was declared as Tamil Nadu state butterfly.

- Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) butterfly species has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. Tamil yeoman is a tawny-coloured creature with a dark brown outer ring.
- It is among the 32 butterfly species found in Western Ghats. It is endemic to Western Ghats
- It is also known as Tamil Maravan which means warrior. These butterflies could be found mainly in hilly areas. Tamil Nadu has become the fifth state in the country to announce its state butterfly. Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

✚ 37. Campaign to eradicate AES and JES launched in UP

- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh have launched the IInd phase of Communicable Disease Control and Dastak Abhiyan 2019.
- The campaign is launched to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease.
- The state wide program was organized under the banner of Health department and UNICEF. iv. Chief Minister flagged off the vehicles of awareness campaign and also honored the Dastak Yoddhas by awarding certificates.

✚ 38. Most Powerful Passport 2019: Japan tops, India ranks 86th

- As per the Henley Passport Index 2019 Japan and Singapore have the world's most powerful passports. Both the countries secured top position out of 199 countries, thanks to passports which allow visa-free or visa-on-arrival travel to 189 places.
- South Korea now sits in second place on the index along with Finland and Germany, with citizens of all three countries having access to 187 destinations around the world without a prior visa.
- India stands at 86th position in this index with a mobility score of 58. India shares this 86th position with Mauritiana and Sao Tome and Principe.

✚ 39. South Central Railway commissions longest electrified tunnel in Andhra Pradesh

- The South Central Railway (SCR) has added yet another feather in its cap by commissioning the longest electrified tunnel.
- The 6.6 km long tunnel, which is an engineering marvel, is constructed between Cherlopalli and Rapuru railway stations in a horseshoe design.
It is part of the recently completed Obulavaripalli - Venkatachalam new railway line

International News & Foreign Affairs

✚ 1. India, China to carry out major military exercise 'Hand in Hand'

- Continuing to expand military to military engagements, India and China will be carrying out a major military exercise called 'Hand-in-Hand' in Meghalaya this year.
 - The planning conference for the exercise will be held next month. The exercise will take place at Umroi, Meghalaya. It is at the company level, meaning around 100-120 infantry troops from both sides will be participating.
 - It will be based on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- About Meghalaya
1. Capital: Shillong
 2. Governor: Tathagata Roy
 3. Chief minister: Conrad Sangma

✚ 2. World Bank planned to offer \$250 million to Kerala

- World Bank would offer a loan of \$250 million to the Kerala Government for the Resilient Kerala project
- The main aim is at enhancing the state's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change in the wake of last year's floods.

- The World Bank recently signed a \$250 million loan agreement to help Kerala enhance its resilience against natural disasters and climate change.

3. China gifts warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka

- China has gifted warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka. As a new member of the Lankan Navy, the 'P625' frigate will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats.
- The Type 053 frigate was commissioned into China's People's Liberation Army Navy in 1994 as the Tongling.

4. India & Italy to establish fast-track mechanism to facilitate investment

- In a meeting which was held in New Delhi, it was decided by India and Italy to establish a fast-track mechanism for companies and investors of both countries to help the Italian companies and investors in India and Indian companies and investors in Italy.
- In this regard, the documents were exchanged by the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Ramesh Abhishek and Ambassador of Italy to India, Lorenzo Angeloni.
- It is aimed to identify and solve problems faced by Italian companies and investors with their operations in India. It will be a platform for discussion of general suggestions from the point of view of Italian companies and investors with regard to ease of doing business in India.

5. WHO declares Ebola outbreak in Congo a global health emergency

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Ebola outbreak in Congo a global health emergency and demanded that the world redouble its efforts to control it.
- This decision came after 2,512 cases of Ebola surfaced in Congo and 1,672 people died since August 1, 2018. The emergency committee also “expressed disappointment about delays in funding which have constrained the response”.
- The July 17 declaration is the fifth such public health emergency since 2005 after H1N1 influenza virus pandemic (2009), resurgence of wild poliovirus (2014), west Africa Ebola virus outbreak (2014) and Zika virus outbreak (2018).

6. Palau Becomes 76th Country to Join ISA

- Palau, an archipelago of over 500 islands in Oceania, became the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

7. Sri Lanka signs agreement with India to upgrade railway lines

- Sri Lanka has signed an agreement with India to upgrade tracks in a key railway segment connecting the north and south at a cost of \$ 91.26 million.
- This is the first time in 100 years that the 130 km-long-tracks, running from Maho town in the North Western Province to Olanthai in the Northern Province, are being upgraded.
- The contract agreement for concessional financing was signed in Colombo between the Government of Sri Lanka and IRCON International Ltd (India).

8. Li Na, Mary Pierce and Yevgeny Kafelnikov inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

- Chinese tennis great Li Na, France's Mary Pierce and Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia were inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame. They all are two-time Grand Slam singles champions.
- Li Na reached the world No. 2 ranking and was a champion at the French Open and the Australian Open. She is the first Asian to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame.

- Pierce is a former world No. 3 in singles and doubles, and a four-time major champion. She has won the singles title at the Australian Open, singles and doubles titles at Roland-Garros, and a mixed doubles title at Wimbledon.
- Kafelnikov is a former world No. 1, Olympic Gold Medalist, and the winner of four major doubles titles.

9. World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- On July 4, 2019, The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute started its functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Outpatient Department (OPD) of the institute was inaugurated by the Health and Family Welfare Minister of Bangladesh Zahid Maleque. World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute.
- It is a 500-bed hospital with 50 Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and 12 operation theatres. It will provide advanced treatment to burn patients in Bangladesh.
- It was built at a cost of over 500 crore Taka.

10. Sri Lanka inaugurates model village built with Indian assistance

- Sri Lanka has inaugurated first model village built with Indian assistance. The village is a part of housing project meant for war affected people.
- India has partnered with the ministry of housing and construction and cultural affairs of Sri Lanka to build 100 model villages with Indian grant of Rs 1,200 million.

11. Sharjah issues 1st permanent residency visa to Lalu Samuel

- Sharjah's first Golden Card visa was issued to an Indian expat businessman Lalu Samuel. The move is a part of the permanent residency system tailored for investors.
- The Golden Card is a 10-year long-term visa eligible for investors and entrepreneurs to engage them in the renaissance and development of the UAE.
- Lalu Samuel is a Chairman and Managing Director of Kingston Holdings and Chairman of Sharjah Industry Business Group.

12. Saudi Arabia adopts Digital India & 'equality of women' motto for Haj 2019

- Indian Haj mission in Saudi Arabia adopts Digital India and 'equality of women' motto for the empowerment of Muslim women pilgrims & to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of the Government of India's initiative of Digital India.
- Indian Haj Information System Key points: App for Grievance redressal: An App called "Indian Haj Information System" has been introduced to receive grievances and feedback from Hajis to improve the service.
- It also connects the pilgrims with Qadimul Hajjaj (Haj service coordinators, who were deployed to assist pilgrims during the Haj), of their respective States.

13. France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020

- France will impose green tax up to €18 on plane tickets from 2020. The move aims to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
- A similar tax was introduced in Sweden in April 2018, which imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket in a bid to lessen the impact of air travel on the climate.

14. Sri Lanka eliminates measles

- Sri Lanka has become fifth country in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.
- The other countries in the region which have achieved this feat are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste.

15. Ukraine inaugurates world's largest Metal Dome

- Ukraine has inaugurated the world's largest movable metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl plant.
- It is a 108-meter high dome which weighs 36,000 tonnes.

16.USISPF second annual leadership summit held in Washington

- The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum 2nd annual leadership summit held in Washington. "US India Bilateral Trade Report" was released on the occasion.
- Some findings of the report are:
- US India bilateral trade could reach USD 238 billion by 2025.
- Sectors such as defence trade, commercial aircrafts, oil and LNG, coal, machinery and electronics are areas of potential growth.
- The US-India trade balance has grown 3.8 per cent on an average in favour of India.

17.France became the first country to pass GAFA tax on digital giants

- France became the first country to pass GAFA (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon) Tax on digital giants in defiance of a probe ordered by the United States (US) President Donald Trump.france-gafaKey Points:
- It will levy a 3% tax on total annual revenues of the largest tech firms providing services to French consumers.
- It will help to plug taxation gaps.

18.First Global Conference for Media Freedom held in London

- The First Global Conference for Media Freedom 2019, hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada, was in London, UK. It was co-hosted by Chrystia Freeland, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Jeremy Hunt, the UK Foreign Secretary.
- The conference was structured around 4 themes: protection and prosecution, including impunity, national frameworks and legislation, building trust in media and countering disinformation and media sustainability.
- The new Global Media Defence Fund, administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will support, train and provide legal support to journalists in the most dangerous parts of the world.The UK will provide 3 million pounds and Canada will provide Canadian Dollar 1 million contribution to the new fund.

19. The US House passed a Bill to remove 7% cap on issuing Green Card

- The United States (US) House of Representatives passed a Bill 'Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, 2019 or HR 1044' which removes the present 7% country-cap on issuing Green Cards. A Green Card allows a person to live and work permanently in the US.Green Card.
- According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the bill increases the per-country cap on family-based immigrant visas from 7% of the total number of such visas available that year to 15% and eliminates the 7% cap for employment-based immigrant visas
- It was passed by the 435-member House by majority of 365-65 votes.It establishes transition rules for employment-based visas from FY 2020-22 by reserving a percentage of EB-2 (workers with advanced degrees or exceptional ability), EB-3 (skilled and other workers) and EB-5 (investors) visas for individuals from other than the two countries that get the largest number of such visas

20. Abu Dhabi is hosting the ISALEX19, the International Security Alliance (ISAs) first joint security exercise.

- Abu Dhabi is hosting the ISALEX19, the International Security Alliance (ISAs) first joint security exercise.The exercise will simulate a real-life security threat in a virtual context.
- It also aims to test the readiness of the different teams and to evaluate the tools, strategies and procedures developed jointly between member countries.
- ISALEX19 is based on the unexpected scenarios where the teams of the ISA countries will operate according to different security theories and strategies in order to test the readiness of the

international teams in facing security threats. The realistic experience in the exercise is one of its kind in the world.

✚ 21. New Zealand bans single-use plastic shopping bags

- New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags. Under the new rules, thin plastic single-use shopping bags can no longer be supplied, but reusable carriers are allowed.
- Companies that break the ban will face heavy penalties, including fines of up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars.

✚ 22. China tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), JL-3.

- China has tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), JL-3. The JL-3 is expected to have a range of around 14,000 kilometers, with a capacity to carry 10 independent guided nuclear warheads.
- It is expected to reach targets farther away with higher accuracy and capable of carrying more warheads than China's current SLBMs.
- A submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) is a ballistic missile capable of being launched from submarines.

Banking

✚ 1. Bimal Jalan panel report on surplus RBI reserves 'finalised'

- Bimal Jalan led six-member panel on Economic Capital Framework (ECF), formed by RBI has finalised its report on surplus RBI reserves.
- The panel has recommended that surplus reserves held by the central bank should be transferred to the government in tranches over three to five years.

✚ 2. HDFC Bank GDRs Terminated, Delisted From Luxembourg Stock Exchange

- India's leading private sector bank, HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation) has terminated and de-listed its 22 outstanding global depository receipts (GDRs) from the Luxembourg Stock Exchange citing low trading volume of GDRs.
- The listing and admission to trading of the HDFC Bank GDRs on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange will be cancelled. HDFC board has approved the proposal for termination of the GDR program and delisting of 22 GDRs, which are outstanding and listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange in April 2019.

✚ 3. ADB cuts India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for FY20

- Asian Development Bank lowered India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for the current fiscal year.
- India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020, slightly slower than projected in April, ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019.

✚ 4. Andhra Bank rolls-out AI chatbot "ABHi" in Telangana

- A medium-sized public sector bank in India, Andhra Bank launched its AI (Artificial Intelligence) interactive assistant called "ABHi" at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana. AI chatbot "ABHi" Key points:
- **ABHi:** It uses new-age technologies include to understand the customer query and fetch the relevant information from possible knowledge base in a matter of milliseconds.
- **Creation:** ABHi is powered by AI startup Floatbot.ai (Bangalore) in partnership with IT (Information Technology) company Netxcell Limited (Hyderabad).
- **Benefits:** Customers will be able to get the information instantaneously 24x7, anytime by using ABHi & can also connect and know details from ABHi through (www.andhrabank.in) over Mobile/Desktop browser, Facebook Messenger and over voice using Google Assistant. It would also converse with customers on Whatsapp.

- **Queries:** Andra bank customers can ask details on digital banking, loans, banking services, govt. schemes, insurance, senior citizen, RuPay Offers, Aadhaar services, payment mode, lodge a customer complaint, know nearest Branch / ATM on Google map, recharge prepaid mobile, etc., on chat anytime.
- ABHi would also enable banking services such as balance check, ordering a cheque book, view mini statement, recent transactions in future.

5. ABIPBL to shut down within 18 months of launch

- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank (ABIPBL) which had started its operation on February 22, 2018, will shut down its operations within 18 months of launch due to “unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable”. ABIPBL is a joint venture by Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd (51% stake) and Idea Cellular (49%).
- The bank has made full and complete arrangements for the return of deposits to the customers. It will restrict further credit to the accounts from July 26, 2019.
- It will be the first payments bank to close down after this set of niche banks were started by former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan in 2015.

6. RBI panel moots changes in timings for foreign exchange market

- Internal committee of the RBI has suggested that the foreign exchange market could function from 9 am to 9 pm. At present, the currency market works from 9 am to 5 pm. The panel suggested call money market timings could be extended till 6 pm instead of the 5 pm now.
- The extension of market timings is expected to provide benefits such as better pricing of post market hours information/data, improved onshore price discovery and a possible shift of offshore volumes to onshore.

7. Exim Bank signs Loan Pact worth \$124 Mn For Infra, Health Projects In Papua New Guinea, Senegal

- The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has signed a loan agreement of providing \$124 million (over Rs 850 crore) to Papua New Guinea and Senegal governments to finance infrastructure and health care projects.
- Exim bank has extended Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 100 million to the Government of Independent State of Papua New Guinea for the purpose of financing infrastructure related projects (\$60 million is to go for Bayer-Madang road project and \$40 million for Hoskins-Kimbe road project).
- Exim Bank has also extended Line of Credit of \$24.50 million to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the purpose of financing up-gradation and rehabilitation of Health Care System.

8. SBI's Anshula Kant appointed as MD and CFO of World Bank

- Anshula Kant, the managing director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI) has been appointed as managing director (MD) and chief financial officer (CFO) of the World Bank (WB). Since September 2018 she has been a Managing Director and member of the World Bank Board.
- Kant has more than 35 years of expertise in finance, banking will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group. She will also have to work closely with the World Bank CEO on the mobilization of the International Development Association (IDA) of WB and other financial resources.
- Kant joined SBI in 1983 as a probationary officer and also served as the Deputy MD of Operations for National Banking Group. She has been a Managing Director and member of the Board since September 2018.

9. Money in Swiss banks: India slips to 74th place

- India has moved down one place to 74th rank in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with Swiss banks, while the UK has retained its top position, as per data released by the central banking authority of the Alpine nation. India was ranked 73rd last year, after jumping 15 places from its 88th position a year ago.
- An analysis of the latest annual banking statistics released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB) shows that India remains ranked very low when it comes to money parked by Indian individuals and enterprises in Swiss banks, including through their India-based branches, while accounting for just about 0.07 per cent of the aggregate funds parked by all foreign clients of Switzerland-based banks.
- In comparison, the top-ranked UK accounted for more than 26 per cent of the total foreign funds parked with Swiss banks at the end of 2018.

10. No charges on NEFT, RTGS money transfers from 1 July

- As per Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20, the Reserve Bank of India will stop imposing additional charges on Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems from 1st July, 2019.
- This has been done to provide an impetus to digital funds movement.
- The real time gross settlement (RTGS) system is meant for large value instantaneous fund transfers and the national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) system is used for fund transfers of up to Rs 2 lakh.

11. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed the National Mission on Natural Language Translation worth Rs 450 crore for next 3 years.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will put forward the proposal of National Mission on Natural Language Translation with an outlay Rs 450 crore for next 3 years before the Union Cabinet.
- It is one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

12. SBI, NIIF in pact for funding infrastructure projects

- The State Bank of India has signed a memorandum of understanding with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects.
- The scope of the agreement includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Kalraj Mishra appointed the Governor of Himachal Pradesh

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kalraj Mishra as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- Acharya Devvrat has been transferred from Himachal Pradesh and appointed as the governor of Gujarat.

2. Chandrakant Kavlekar sworn in as the new Deputy CM of Goa

- Chandrakant Kavlekar to be the new Deputy Chief Minister of Goa. He will replace Vijai Sardesai as the deputy chief minister of Goa.
- Kavlekar is also known as Chandrakant 'Babu' Kavlekar. He is an Indian Politician from the state of Goa. He is a four term member of the Goa Legislative Assembly. On 11 July 2019 he left Indian National Congress and joined Bharatiya Janata Party.

3. Shah Rukh Khan will be felicitated with an Honorary Doctorate by Melbourne's La Trobe University

- In recognition of the contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment through Meer Foundation and for the achievements in the Indian entertainment industry, Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood actor, will be felicitated with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Melbourne-based La Trobe University at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) at Bundoora, Australia.

4. Justice AK Sikri appointed as the Judge of SICC

- The President of the Republic of Singapore Halimah Yacob appointed Justice AK Sikri, the former judge of the Supreme Court, as an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) with effect from August 1, 2019. His term will expire on January 4, 2021. At present, SICC has 16 international judges. AK Sikri.
- He retired as a Supreme Court judge on March 6, 2019. He also served as Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court, and Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. He was appointed as a judge of the Delhi High Court in 1999.
- Recently, he was appointed as the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).

5. Krishna Saksena is the author of the book 'Whispers of Time'.

- The book titled 'Whispers of Time' has been authored by Dr Krishna Saksena. The story witnesses three generations in the author's long life of 90 years in which she found a great difference. If the first was too strict and severe in clinging hard to traditions, the second had softened down to new values of love and helpfulness. In a way it was a beautiful world of togetherness. But this world soon dwindles into a world of selfishness and deceit.
- The series of events are developed in a powerful manner that makes the novel both real and revealing.
- The book has recently unveiled by Smriti Zubin Irani, the Union Minister of Textiles & Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD), at India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi.

6. Shailesh Tinaikar assumes charge as Force Commander of UN mission

- Newly appointed Force Commander of the UN mission in South Sudan, Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar assumed charge in Juba last Saturday. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had announced the appointment of Tinaikar in May. In a tweet, the UN mission said Tinaikar was officially welcomed by a guard of honour.
- Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India assumes charge as Force Commander of United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- Shailesh Tinaikar has been awarded the Sena Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal for Distinguished Service.

7. Bhupesh Baghel the Indian CM inaugurated 'Jan Choupal' program to hold public meetings in the state.

- The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the 'Jan Choupal' program in Raipur, Chhattisgarh for holding public meetings once every week to discuss the issues of the people.
- In order to resolve the issues of people, the concept of this program has been taken from the practices of ancestors in the village. So that people can come and discuss their issues in the meeting.

8. Padma Shri awardee Raghu Ram receives FRCS of Thailand

- Popular breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee P.Raghu Ram has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand at the 44th annual congress of the Royal College in Pattaya themed “ASEAN collaboration in value-based surgery”.Raghu Ram receives FRCS of Thailand.
- The highest recognition bestowed by the Institute in recognition of Raghu Ram’s bold vision coupled with an intense body of work that has paved towards significantly improving the delivery of breast healthcare in India & also in recognition of his contribution in promoting the highest standards of surgical education in India through his association with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England.
- It was conferred by professor Tanaphon Maipang, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand.With this, Raghu Ram achieved the rare distinction of having been conferred FRCS from six Royal Colleges include London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ireland, and Thailand & from the American College of Surgeons.In 1995, he qualified to become a surgeon and he had 24 years of experience. He also created awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

✚ **9.Sarada Kumar Hota has taken charge as the Managing Director of National Housing Bank.**

- Government of India, Canara Bank General Manager (GM)Sarada Kumar Hota assumed charge as the National Housing Bank (NHB) Managing Director.
- It lasted for a period of three years.
- He succeeds Sriram Kalyanaraman. He served as the managing director of Can Fin Homes. A subsidiary of Canara Bank. NHB wholly owned by the Government.

✚ **10. K. Natarajan has sworn in as the 23rd chief of ICG**

- K. Natarajan took over as the Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- He is the 23rd chief of India’s coastal security force.
- He took over from Rajendra Singh, who was the first Director-General to be appointed from within the force. Prior to taking over as D-G, Mr. Natarajan was the Coast Guard Commander, Western Seaboard.

✚ **11. NS Viswanathan, recently re-appointed as RBI's Deputy Director.**

- The Appointment Commitments of the Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of NS Viswanathan as Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year with effect from 4 July.
- Earlier on June 24, RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigned six months before the scheduled end of his term to return to New York University.

✚ **12.Zaira Wasim Bollywood actress recently decided to quit bollywood due to religious reasons.**

- Zaira Wasim, Dangal fame actress, announced her decision of quitting Bollywood and acting career.Zaira Wasim released a statement on Twitter and Facebook that reads she no longer wants to be a part of the bollywood as it drove her away from her 'imaan' and her relation from religion.
- It's been more than 24 hours since Zaira Wasim announced her decision to quit films.
- she revealed that her profession was threatening her relationship with her religion.

✚ **13.Aparna Kumar becomes first IPS officer to complete Seven Summit challenge by scaling Mt Denali.**

- After hoisting India’s tricolour on Everest, IndianPolice Service (IPS) Officer and DIG Frontier in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Aparna Kumar summited Mount Denali in Alaska, USA becoming the first civil servant to climb the rare mountain.
- She started her final climb on June 15 and had planned to finish it around July 10. However, owing to the clear weather conditions on the mountain, Kumar managed to finish her climb 10 days before her estimated date.
- The IPS Association congratulated the officer for her “unflinching spirit & unflappable mind” that has made India a proud nation inspiring many people.

✚ 14. Manoj Kumar Nambiar elected chairman of MFIN

- Microfinance Institutions Network has elected Manoj Kumar Nambiar as its chairman.
- MFIN comprises 56 NBFC-MFIs and 40 associates including banks, small finance banks and NBFCs.

✚ 15. N S Vishwanathan gets extension by one year as RBI deputy governor

- The government and the RBI started looking for a replacement of Vishwanathan and a few internal candidates were identified.
- The portfolios got reshuffled based on the availability and seniority of deputy governors for the past 15 years. Acharya's resignation complicated the matter because two deputy governors would be leaving the central bank in a month's interval
- Acharya set to leave on July 23. The central bank refused for power sector loans. The Supreme Court turned down the RBI's objections.

Science Tech & Defence

✚ 1. ISRO calls off Chandrayaan 2 launch due to technical glitch

- India's ambitious moon mission, Chandrayaan-2 has been called off due to a technical snag in just 56 minutes and 24 seconds before its scheduled launch. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed that the launch had been cancelled after a technical snag was detected in one of the launch systems of the GSLVMkIII-M1 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III).

✚ 2. Chairperson: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

- Russia launches space telescope Spektr-RG
- Russia launched a space telescope from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. It was a joint project with Germany. The Russian space agency, showed a Proton-M rocket carrying the Spektr-RG taking off from the launch pad.
- The Spektr-RG, is a space observatory intended to replace the Spektr-R, known as the "Russian Hubble", Spektr-R was launched in 2011 to observe black holes, neutron stars and magnetic fields. Its successor will take up similar duties.

✚ 3. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has given a new date for the re-launch of Chandrayaan 2.

- The rescheduled take-off of India's ambitious Lunar Mission will now take place on July 22 at 2.43 PM from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota. Earlier, Chandrayaan 2's launch on July 15 was called off in the final hour of the countdown.
- ISRO informed that there was a technical snag that developed in the launch vehicle system and a "measure of abundant precaution" it called off that day. Revealing Chandrayaan 2' new launch date and time, ISRO tweeted: "Chandrayaan-2 launch, which was earlier called off due to a technical snag on July 15, 2019, is now rescheduled at 2:43 pm IST on Monday, July 22, 2019." This was not the first time when a mission involving India's powerful GSLV was postponed by ISRO.
- GSLV has a dozen successful missions to its credit out of 16 so far, four missions failed as well

✚ 4. DRDO successfully tested Nag missiles in Pokhran

- DRDO successfully tested Nag missiles in Pokhran ranges.
- The system includes a third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).
- The Nag Missile has top attack capabilities that can effectively engage and destroy all known enemy tanks.

5.Operation 'Sudarshan' launched along the Pakistan border

- BSF has launched the operation 'Sudarshan' to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.
- It was launched on July 1 and will cover the entire 1,000-kms length of the India-Pakistan International Border.
- The Border Security Force is the primary force guarding this frontier as the 'first line of defence'.

6.Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrives in Morocco

- Then Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived at Tangier, Morocco today for a three-day visit. The visit is part of an ongoing Overseas Deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe. The visit seeks to strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Morocco.
- INS Tarkash, commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev, is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions.
- The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and is under the operational Command of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

7.India successfully tests a new version of Brahmos missile

- India has successfully tested the vertical steep dive version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.
- Made in India 'Brahmos Aerospace' is also ready with a longer 500 km range version of the Brahmos missile that can be fired from Sukhoi 30 fighter jets.
- BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture company owned by the governments of India and Russia and its missiles are produced in India.

8.Arctic mission will trap scientists in ice to study climate

- In a couple of months, the German icebreaker RV Polarstern, a hulking ship will set out for the Arctic packed with supplies and scientific equipment for a year-long mission to explore the planet's frigid far north.
- The icebreaker will be the base for scientists from 17 nations studying the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.
- Scientists plan to sail the ship into the Arctic Ocean, anchor it to a large piece of sea ice and allow the water to freeze around them, effectively trapping themselves in the vast sheet of white that forms over the North Pole each winter. The organizers say that the project is unprecedented in scale and ambition.

9. Beryllium-7,new method has been identified for predicting monsoon.

- Lucrezia Terzi, a researcher at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCKCEN), has come up with a new way of predicting the monsoon at a science and technology conference organised in Vienna by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO).
- The new method measures how much Beryllium-7 (an isotope of the element Beryllium) is present in the air. The Be-7 is chosen because it is created only in the stratosphere, when cosmic rays hit and break the nuclei of nitrogen and oxygen.
- Due to the sun warming the oceans differently at different latitudes, and the spin of the earth, water-bearing air moves up and down in circular fashions, which is the basic cause of the monsoons. When air flows down from the stratosphere (upwards of 33,000 feet from the earth's surface), it brings with it some Be-7. That makes the strong connection between the amount of Be-7 and the timing of monsoons.

10. Russia successfully launched its Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with 33 satellites

- On July 5, 2019, The Russian space agency Roscosmos has successfully launched its Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with a hydrometeorological satellite and 32 small satellites. It was

launched from the Vostochny spaceport in the Far Eastern Amur Region aimed at solving problems of space weather research and monitoring the movement of civil aircraft. Russia successfully launched its Soyuz-2.1a

Key points:

- This was the 5th launch of a spacecraft for civilian purposes and to provide images of clouds, the surface of the Earth, ice and snow covers. It also obtains data on sea surface temperature, the state of the ozone layer as well as level of humidity, which will help to provide accurate meteorological forecasts.
- The hydrometeorological satellite of Russia, Meteor-M No.2-2 put into a target orbit with a height of about 832 km. The small satellites were developed by Germany, France, the US, Israel, Britain, Sweden, Finland, Thailand, Ecuador, the Czech Republic, and Estonia.
- This launch will allow accessing the outer space & reducing the dependence of Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

11. Kalyani JV gets missile kits order

- A joint venture of a Kalyani group firm and Israel's Rafael Advanced Systems has secured a \$100 million contract for manufacturing 1,000 Barak-8 MRSAM missile kits.
- Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems will manufacture the kits at its production facility near Hyderabad and supply them to Bharat Dynamics for further integration.
- The product will be used by the Indian Army and the Air Force.

12. Indian Army places an order for procuring Israeli anti-tank Spike missiles

- Indian Army has placed an order for procuring anti-tank Spike missiles from Israel under emergency purchases powers to meet operational preparedness. The deal was approved by Army in April 2019 after emergency purchase powers granted to three armed forces after February 14, 2019, Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed followed by Balakot airstrike.
- Anti-tank Spike missiles: It is designed and developed by Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It can be fired from different platforms -vehicles, helicopters, ships and ground launchers.
- Speciality: It is known for its precision targeting with an ability to pierce even bunkers. It can hit targets at a range of four kilometers and can be deployed in both mountains and plains. It can be deployed even along the Line of Control (LoC).
- Power: Under the emergency provision, the forces can make procurement up to Rs 300 crore.

13. Russia Successfully Launched Spektr-RG, a powerful X-Ray Observatory, into Space

- The Russian space agency has successfully launched Proton-M rocket carrying the Spektr-RG (Spectrum Roentgen Gamma) space telescope from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- Joint Project: The Spektr-RG, developed together with Germany (German space agency, DLR) create a three-dimensional (3D) X-ray map of the universe and expected to detect 100,000 galaxy clusters, 3 million black holes, tens of thousands neutron stars, and magnetic fields.
- **Structure:** The observatory includes two X-ray mirror telescopes:
 - A German-built eROSITA (Extended Roentgen Survey with an Imaging Telescope Array).
 - A Russian-built ART-XC (Astronomical Roentgen Telescope X-ray Concentrator).

14. Indo-French Joint Air Exercise Garuda-VI Begins

- The Indian and French Air Force has started Garuda VI exercise at Mont de Marsan in France.
- The exercise is scheduled to take place from 1 July to July 12, 2019, in France.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprises of 120 air-warriors and four Sukhoi 30 MKI along with an IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft.

15. Odisha to host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019

- Department of Sports and Youth Service of the Odisha government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and Odissi Tennis Association (OSTTA).
- They decided to host the 21st Commonwealth Championship for the year 2019. from July 17-22, 2019 at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- Commissioner-cum-secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department, Odisha, Vishal K Dev signed the Mou with Senior Vice President, TTFI, S. N. Sultan and President, OSTTA .N. Gupta in the presence of Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik and Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Tusharkanti Behera.
- They received the entries from 14 associations, consisting of India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan.
- The previous two Commonwealth Championships were held in India in 2013 and 2015.
- India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria and Pakistan they will participate in men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

Important days

1. World Youth Skills Day observed globally on 15th July

- World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was observed on July 15, 2019. It is celebrated to create awareness on the importance of investing in youth skills development. The theme for the year is "Learning to learn for life and work".
- WYSD in India
- On the occasion of WYSD, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) partnered with Canada-based BetterU to provide opportunities for India's youth to gain access to learning at affordable prices.
- Aim is to integrate NSDC's current solutions and technologies and collaborate with its partners to strengthen current systems.
- The fourth anniversary of the Skill India Mission was also observed with the main function held in New Delhi.

2. International Justice Day observed on 17th July, 2019

- World Day for International Justice is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day is observed annually on 17th July to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice.
- On 1st June, 2010, the Review Conference of the Rome Statute which was held in Kampala (Uganda) and the Assembly of the State Parties decided to celebrate 17 July as the International Criminal Justice Day.
- This day is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998. With the help of this treaty International Criminal Court (ICC) was established. In 1998 since that day, 139 countries have signed the Courts treaty and nearly 80 States, representative of every region of the world, have ratified it.

3. Theme of the International Day of Cooperatives 2019 was Coops 4 decent work.

- United Nations International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July and this year it was observed on July 6, 2019.
- It's aim is to create awareness on cooperatives and promote international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace.
- The theme for 2019 is "Coops 4 decent work". It is the 25th United Nations International Day of Cooperatives and the 96th International Cooperative day. It was celebrated for the first time in July 1923 by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA).

4. World Population Day 2019 observed on July 11

- World Population Day was observed on July 11, 2019. It creates awareness on the growing population issues. Population issue may be family planning, gender equality, child marriage,

human rights, right to health, baby's health etc. World Population Day 2019 Key Points: It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989.

- It was inspired by public interest in Five Billion Day celebrated on July 11, 1987. It was on this date, the world's population reached five billion people.
- 2019 World Population Day calls for global attention of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
- China is the most populous country in the world followed by India. India's 35% population is living in 3 states- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- According to data provided by the Pew Research Center, India will try to accommodate 1450 million people in the year 2100 and will also surpass China.

5. National Doctors' Day: 1 July.

- India observe 1st July as the National Doctors' Day. The day is celebrated to recognize the contributions of physicians to individual lives and communities.
- National Doctor's Day is also celebrated to honour the legendary physician Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- Dr Roy was honoured with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna on February 4, 1961.

6. 2nd anniversary of GST to be celebrated as "GST Day" on 1st JULY.

- India will celebrate 1st July as the "Goods & Services Tax DAY". This year, it is the second anniversary of the implementation of historic tax reform of Goods & Services Tax.
- The introduction of GST in the Indian economy has replaced a multi-layered, complex indirect tax structure with a simple, transparent and technology-driven tax regime.

Books & Authors

1. New book to tell untold stories from Kargil War

- "**Kargil: Untold stories from the War**", the book published by Penguin Random House, is authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat.
- On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War, this new book will revisit the freezing battle grounds of the 1999 conflict through untold stories of its bravest soldiers.
- The book that is based on Rawat's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families, will take the readers to the treacherous Himalayan mountains where some of the Indian Army's bloodiest battles were fought.

2. Sports Minister launches AIFF Golden Baby Leagues Handbook

- Sports Minister has launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20.
- The launch marked the renaming of the 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to under 12 both for girls and boys.
- The handbook is a guide to help the stakeholder to organise the Golden Baby League.

Sports

1. Archer Deepika Kumari won silver in Tokyo Olympic test event

- Indian archer Deepika Kumari won silver at the Ready Steady Tokyo test event for the 2020 Olympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan. She lost to Korean An San in straight sets 6-0. She was ranked 4th in the qualification round.

2.Djokovic beats Federer to win fifth Wimbledon title 2019

- Serbian Novak Djokovic won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- This is Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.
- Here is the Complete List of Winners of the Wimbledon 2019 (with their Respective Countries)

Sr. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	R. Federer (Switzerland)
2	Women's Singles	S. Halep (Romania)	Serena Williams(USA)
3	Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia)	Nicolas Mahut (France) and Edouard Roger Vasselin (France)
4	Women's Doubles	S W. Hsieh (Taiwan) and B. Strycova (Czech Republic)	G. Dabrowski (Canada) and Y. Xu (China)
5	Mixed Doubles	I.Dodig (Croatia) and L. Chan (Taiwan)	R. Lindstedt (Sweden) and J. Ostapenko (Latvia)

- Hima Das sprints to 3rd international gold within two weeks
- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das(24) from Assam clinched her 3rd international gold within two weeks in women's 200m race with a time of 23.43 seconds and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (Kerala) also won gold in the men's 400m with the time of 45.21 seconds at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic.

3. PV Sindhu to spearhead Indian campaign at Indonesia Open Badminton

- PV Sindhu won the Indian campaign at the Indonesia Open Badminton tournament beginning. The tournament took place at Jakarta.
- Sindhu will play her opening game against Japan's Aya Oori. Saina Nehwal will not take part in the tournament. Kidambi Srikanth is placed at 8th position.
- B. Sai Praneeth and HS Prannoy are other Indians seen in action in the Singles. Srikanth face Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, Praneeth take on Wong Wing Ki of Hong Kong. Prannoy meet second-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi. Ashwini Ponnappa, N. Sikki Reddy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are among those will figure in the Doubles.

4.Kiran More appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach

- Kiran Shankar More (56), Indian former cricketer & wicket-keeper has been appointed as the interim coach of the USA (United States of America) cricket team. He replaces the head coach Pubudu Dassanayake of Sri Lanka, whose contract was to end by March 2019 but was extended to December 2019 resigned due to differences with USA Cricket Board. Kiran More appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach.
- He is from Vadodara, Gujarat. The USA Cricket has also appointed former India spinner Sunil Joshi as spin bowling advisor, and Pravin Amre and Kieran Powell as advisors for the batting department. In June 2019, More was also appointed as the USA's director of cricket.
- He played for India in 49 Tests and 94 ODIs (One Day Internationals), has served as the Chairman of the Indian selection committee and also was the wicketkeeping-consultant of Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

✚ 5. Indians bagged 6 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze at Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno

- Indian athlete Mohammad Anas won gold in men's 400m and Hima Das won gold in women's 200m event at Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno in Czech Republic.
- Indians bagged 6 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.

✚ 6. India to host ISSF World Cup from March 15 to 26, 2020 in New Delhi

- On July 15, 2019, International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages. ISSF World Cup in rifle/pistol/shotgun events to be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020.
- The dates for the event were approved by the ISSF Executive Committee. It will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, from March 4 to 13, 2020. The World Cup in rifle, pistol and shotgun, a test event for the Olympics, will be held in Tokyo, Japan from April 15 to 27, 2020, followed by the World Cup in rifle and pistol in Munich, Germany, from June 2 to 9, 2020.
- The combined World Cup for all three events will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from June 22 to July 3, 2020.

✚ 7. Boxing legend 'Sweet Pea' Pernell Whitaker passed away in Virginia, US

- On July 14, 2019, Pernell Whitaker, former Olympic boxing gold medalist and four-weight world champion, passed away after he was hit by a vehicle in Virginia, United States. He was 55 years old. The American professional boxer who competed from 1984 to 2001 was nicknamed as 'Sweet Pea'. Sweet Pea' Pernell Whitaker passed away
- Born on January 2, 1964, in Norfolk, Virginia, he fought 46 times as a professional, where he won 40 with 17 knockouts. He won Olympic gold at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles, gold at the 1983 Pan American Games, silver at the 1982 World Championships and also won world titles at lightweight, light welterweight, welterweight and light middleweight
- He was named as the fighter of the year by Ring magazine in 1989 and was also regarded as the best pound for pound boxer in the world during the early to mid 1990s. In 2002, the Ring magazine ranked him the 10th greatest boxer of the last 80 years and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007.

✚ 8. Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah maintains top spots in ICC ODI ranking 2019

- As per the ODI (One Day International) rankings 2019 released by the ICC (International Cricket Council), right-handed top-order batsman, Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah have retained their top numbered position following the conclusion of the World Cup. Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah.
- Batsman list: Kohli tops the list with 886 points followed by Rohit Sharma, who is just five points behind Kohli. Babar Azam (Pakistan) got a 3rd position with 827 points. Faf du Plessis (820) of South Africa and Ross Taylor of New Zealand (817) are on the 4th and 5th position respectively.
- Pace bowlers chart: Jasprit Bumrah got the 1st position with 809 points followed by Trent Boult (New Zealand). Kagiso Rabada (South Africa) is on 3rd with 694 points and is followed by Pat Cummins (Australia's) with 693 points. Maiden world cup title: England have regained the first position with 125 points in the ICC ODI Team Rankings after they lifted their maiden Cricket World Cup. India is on the 2nd place with 122 points. New Zealand got the 3rd position (112 points) followed by Australia (111). South Africa (110) and Pakistan (97) are on the 5th and 6th position respectively.
- All-rounder rankings: Shakib Alasan remains at the top with 406 points followed by Ben Stokes of England (319) and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (310).

9. Vijayveer wins his 3rd gold at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup

- Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, combining with Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to clinch the men's 25m pistol.

10. Sachin Tendulkar 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- International Cricket Council has inducted India's batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, South African pace legend Allan Donald and two-times World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick into the ICC's Hall of Fame.
- Other Indians on the list are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid.
- Sachin Tendulkar has 34,357 runs across formats and is the only batsman to have 100 internationals hundreds under his belt.
- Static/Current Takeaways Important For SBI Clerk Mains:

11. Prithu Gupta of Delhi is India's 64th Grandmaster

- Prithu Gupta of Delhi, aged 15 years, became India's 64th Grandmaster (GM). He achieved the rating stipulation of 2500 points by beating Germany's Lev Yankelevich in the fifth round of the Portuguese League 2019.
- He is a Class X student of Modern School (Vasant Vihar), Delhi. His achievement came 31 years after Viswanathan Anand had become India's first Grandmaster.
- D Gukesh is the youngest GM of India at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days.

12. World Youth Cup: Arinjeeta Dey wins silver medal

- Arinjeeta Dey, a 10-year-old girl, has won a silver medal in the World Youth Cup held in Umag, Croatia.
- The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association.

13. Gold medals for India in Kutno Athletics Meet

- Indian athletes have won 4 gold medals in the Kutno Athletics Meet held in Poland.
- Following is the list of winners in the different categories:
- Hima Das won the gold while V.K. Vismaya bagged the silver in the women's 200m race.
- Muhammed Anas won the gold in men's 200 m race.
- M P Jabir won the gold while Jithin Paul bagged the bronze medal in the men's 400m hurdles. P Saritaben (gold), Sonia Baishya (silver) and R Vithya (bronze) won the women's 400 m race.

14. RBI Board Finalises 'Utkarsh 2022'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, which met in New Delhi, finalised a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank. This medium term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism, sources aware of the board meeting.
- "It is a three-year road map for medium term objective to be achieved for improving regulation, supervision of the central bank," said a source. "Worldwide, all central banks strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism, everybody is formulating a long-term plan and a medium-term plan.
- So, the RBI has also decided it will formulate a programme to outline what is to be achieved in the next three years," the source added.

15. Vinesh, Divya wins gold at Wrestling Grand Prix of Spain

- Wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won a gold medal in the 53kg category, while Divya Kakran has won the gold medal in the 68kg category at the Grand Prix of Spain.
- Pooja Dhanda (57kg) has won a silver after losing the title clash to Russia's Veronika Chumikova.

16. Gold medals for India in Commonwealth Championships

1. Rakhi Halder and Davinder Kaur has won a gold medal each in the senior women's section of weightlifting in the Commonwealth Championships.
2. Davinder Kaur has won the gold medal in women's 59kg event. While Rakhi Halder has won the gold medal in the 64kg category. The Championship is taking place in Apia, Samoa.

17. India to host COP-14 of UNCCD from September 2- 13, 2019

- The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar in the presence of Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of UNCCD and the UN Under-Secretary-General informed that India will host the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2- 13, 2019 at India Expo Mart Limited in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh with the focus on 3 crucial issues- desertification, land degradation and drought.
- Participants: 197 countries are expected to participate in the global conference. India has adopted various initiatives to address the issues of land degradation & desertification like:
- It is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of worlds degraded and deforested land under restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. In India, 3.5 years maiden phase will be implemented in the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, and Karnataka.

18. FIFA U-17 World Cup 2019 to be hosted by Brazil

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) U-17 World Cup draw was held in the Home of FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland. The 18th edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup for the year 2019 will be hosted by Brazil between 26 October and 17 November 2019.
- The opening match will be held at the Estádio Bezerrão in Brasília (Gama). The other venues are Goiânia's Estádio Olímpico, Estádio da Serrinha and the Estádio Kléber Andrade in Vitória (Cariacica).
- Opening Match: Brazil and Canada will contest in the opening match on October 26, 2019.

Awards

1. "Find the Incredible You" campaign of the Tourism Ministry wins PATA Gold Award 2019

- The Ministry of Tourism's campaign, "Find the Incredible you" has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2019 under the "Marketing – Primary Government Destination" category.
- **Aim:** The campaign which focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country won the award among 198 entries from 78 organizations and individuals worldwide.
- **Find the Incredible You:** It was launched as part of 'Incredible India 2.0' Campaign. Series of transformative experiences of foreign through unique storytelling in the format of autobiographies with the tagline "Find the Incredible You" were launched under the campaign, which had shifted strategy focus from external experience of tourist destinations to internal experience of travelers themselves.

- **PATA Gold Award:** These awards are given by PATA to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding contribution towards the promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.
- **Incredible India 2.0:** It was launched in September 2017 to take campaigns to the next level. It had shifted from generic promotions undertaken across the world to market-specific promotional plans and content creation.
- As part of the 2.0 Campaign, 5 new television commercials were produced by Tourism Ministry, which was aired on the television and social media globally. These were:
- **Yoga:** “The Yogi of the Racetrack”
- **Wellness:** “The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones”.
- **Luxury:** “The Maharani of Manhattan”.
- **Cuisine:** “The Masala MasterChef”.
- **Wildlife:** “The Sanctuary in Paris”.
- **Annual release:** The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its promotional initiatives annually releases Global Media Campaigns under the ‘Incredible India’ brand-line in the Television, Print, Digital, and Social Media, in key and potential source markets overseas.

2. 'Gully Boy' wins hearts in South Korea, awarded at Bucheon film festival

- Film-maker Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'Gully Boy' has won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award at the 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.
- NETPAC Jury Committee, comprised of NETPAC members and film professionals, select the best Asian Film from World Fantastic Blue section, which features newer genres and varied stories of comedy, fantasy and drama, read a statement.
- 'Gully Boy', which features actors Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, is based on the lives of street rappers. The film has performed well in the Indian and overseas market.

3. NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR

- National Aluminium Company Limited has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility fund in social development.
- NALCO started a scheme "Aliali Jhia" in 2015 to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. NALCO is an Odisha based Navaratna Company.

4. Mark Tully presented the Lifetime Achievement Award at UK-India Awards 2019

- Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully awarded as the Lifetime Achievement Award
- The award was provided in order to recognize his contributions to the IJK-India relationship.
- The annual UK-India Awards honors special talents and organizations which are worldwide influenced. Their main aim is to strengthen UK-India ties.
- The 2019 UK-India Awards marked the conclusion of the annual UK-India Week in London.

Obituaries

1. P Rajagopal, Saravana Bhavan founder passed away in Chennai

- Founder of popular South Indian food chain Saravana Bhavan, P Rajagopal, who convicted in a murder case passed away due to a Heart attack in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was 72.
- He was born in Punnaiyadi, Tuticorin District of Tamil Nadu. He had surrendered before a local court to serve a life sentence in a murder case and had been shifted to Vijaya Hospital after the Madras High Court passed an interim order.

- For murdering an employee in October 2001, he had surrendered along with another accused earlier to serve life term after the Supreme Court rejected his plea seeking more time on grounds of ill-health.

2. 3-time Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit passes away

- Former Delhi Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Shiela Dikshit passed away at a hospital in the national capital. She was 81 years old.
- She was suffering from a heart ailment for a long time. Dikshit was admitted to Escorts Fortis hospital in Delhi on Saturday morning.
- Dikshit served at the Chief Minister of Delhi for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013. Presently, she was holding the office of Delhi Congress president. She even contested in the 2019 Lok Sabha election against BJP's Manoj Tiwari from the North-East Delhi parliamentary seat.

3. Former Indian football team goalkeeper AU Celestine passed away at the age of 73

- AU Celestine(Tamil Nadu), Former India football goalkeeper passed away after a brief illness. He was 73.
- He played for the Tamil Nadu state men's team as a goalkeeper in Senior Nationals in the 1965 and 1969 National Championships and also represented India in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in 1969. In 1967, He joined Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Madras.
- He worked as a talent spotter of All India Football Federation (AIFF) and he trained the underprivileged children in North Madras area in Football and help them with their education. He also served as a coach for the Tamilnadu State Junior, Sub Junior and Women's teams.

4. Professional motorcycle racer, Carlin Dunne passes away

- Professional motorcycle racer, Carlin Dunne passes away.
- He unfortunately suffered a fatal crash during Ducati Streetfighter V4 prototype run at Pikes Peak Hill Climb. He was also known as "The King of the Mountain".