



Monthly G.K Capsule

November- 2019

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National News

1. Odisha govt inks LoU for 'drink from tap mission' with UNICEF

- ✦ In a bid to provide quality drinking water to every urban household in the state, Odisha has inked a Letter of Understanding (LoU) on "drink from tap mission" with the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF.
- ✦ According to the Housing and Urban Development Department, UNICEF will provide technical cooperation to the government of Odisha for implementation of the "drink from tap" program which aims at providing piped quality drinking water supply to each household on a 24-hour basis, in first phase 1.20 lakh people are going to benefit.
- ✦ "Investment in water is a critical layer of foundation to make Odisha a healthy society and eventually a productive state," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said.

2. Disabled voters, people older than 80 years can now vote through postal ballot

- ✦ The disabled and people over 80 years of age can now cast their vote through postal ballot, the government said, in a move that will help increase voter turnout.
- ✦ At present, voting through postal ballot is available to armed forces and those assigned poll duties.
- ✦ On the recommendation of the Election Commission, the Ministry of Law and Justice has amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, allowing senior citizens and person with disabilities in the absentee voter list.

3. With Theme 'Integrity-A Way of Life' MIA launches 'Vigilance Awareness Week' from 28 Oct-2 Nov

- ✦ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) will be observing the Vigilance Awareness Week from October 28 to November 2 on a theme of 'Integrity- A way of Life'.
- ✦ This is observed every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31st October) falls. This awareness week campaign affirms our commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation.
- ✦ The CVC has the mandate under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 to fight corruption and to ensure integrity in public administration.

4. After Diu, Government Plans To Make Ladakh Self Reliant On Renewable Energy

- ✦ Ladakh, India's newest union territory could soon be running on renewable energy. Tapping into its natural advantage due to the cloudless days and a clear mountain sky in Ladakh, the government is all set to make the mountainous region energy self-sufficient.
- ✦ According to Anand Kumar, secretary, ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) the UT currently has a demand of around 53 MW and new solar plants are planned to be added by the end of 2020 to make the area completely run on renewable energy.

5. Nirmala Sitharaman released a special coin on Paramahansa Yoganandas 125th birth anniversary:

- ✦ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a special commemorative coin on Paramahansa Yogananda to mark his 125th Birth Anniversary on 29th October.
- ✦ He was recognized globally by the message of his that brought harmony.

6. Rajnath Singh to represent India at SCO heads of state meeting:

- ✦ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of state meeting, which is to be held in Uzbekistan on 2 November.
- ✦ Mr. Singh is to embark on a three-day visit to Uzbekistan from 1-3 November.
- ✦ He will also hold a meeting with Uzbekistan's defence minister.

7. Arunachal Pradesh is hosting the 7th edition of Tawang festival

- ✦ The 7th edition of the Tawang Festival kicked off on October 29, 2019 in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster had declared the festival open.

8. Tamil Nadu becomes first State to enact law on contract farming

- ✦ Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to enact a law on contract farming with President Ram Nath Kovind giving assent to the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.
- ✦ Stating this in an official release, the State government said the law would safeguard interests of farmers during times of bumper harvest or fluctuating market prices.
- ✦ The farmers would be paid at a pre-determined price, which had been arrived at the time of signing agreements with buyers.

9. Jammu and Kashmir bifurcated: India has one less state, gets two new Union Territories in J&K, Ladakh

- ✦ On the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today, the state of Jammu and Kashmir has formally transitioned into two Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✦ With this change, India now has 28 states and 9 Union Territories. The process of transition begins with the swearing-in of the two newly-appointed Lieutenant-Governors in Srinagar and Leh.
- ✦ Among the first changes, the radio stations in Jammu, Srinagar and Leh have been renamed as All India Radio, Jammu; All India Radio, Srinagar; and All India Radio Leh. "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are taking a step towards a new future

10. The Overseas Citizens of India will now be eligible to apply for National Pension System

- ✦ OCI will now be eligible to apply for NPS at par with NRIs. The permission to permit OCI to enroll in NPS was given by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. The decision is one of the endeavours of PFRDA towards promoting and developing NPS and increasing pension coverage in country.
- ✦ As per a notification issued by Finance Ministry, now, any Indian citizen, resident or non-resident and OCIs are eligible to join NPS till age of 65 years.
- ✦ It was initially notified for Central government employees joining service on or after 1 January 2004. The NPS was subsequently adopted by almost all State Governments for its employees and was later extended to all citizens of India (on a voluntary basis) from May 2009, to corporate in December 2011 and to Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in October 2015.

11. Odisha to partner Nobel laureates' J-PAL

- ✦ Odisha Government is all set to partner Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), co-founded by Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, for targeted intervention in a set of social sectors including poorest of the poor through policy formulation and evaluations based on experimental research.
- ✦ This is the first comprehensive partnership J-PAL would have with an Indian State after the Banerjee-Duflo duo was conferred the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel, simply known as the Nobel Prize for Economics.

12. Bamboo Technology Parks to be set up in the two new UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

- ✦ The Union Minister of State (I/C) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, said Bamboo Technology Parks will soon be set up in the two new Union Territories of Jammu-and-Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✦ "This will be a gift from the DoNER Ministry to the two UTs that came into existence today," he said chairing a review meeting of the DoNER Ministry.

13. Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah to inaugurate SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue Exercise (SCOJTEX)-2019

- ✦ Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue (SCOJTEX-2019) on 04th November, 2019 at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi.
- ✦ Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai will be the chief guest for closing ceremony scheduled for 07th November, 2019.
- ✦ The four day long simulation exercise shall be held from 4-7 November, 2019 at Delhi. The participants of all 08 member countries namely China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan shall be participating in this exercise.

14. International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

- ✦ The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is a UN-recognized day observed annually on 2 November.
- ✦ The day draws attention to the low global conviction rate for violent crimes against journalists and media workers, estimated at only one in every ten cases.
- ✦ This year's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, is focused on local journalists.

15. Govt to set up anti-human trafficking units in all districts using Nirbhaya Fund

- ✦ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development will be setting up anti-human trafficking units in all districts of the country with the help of Nirbhaya Fund. The announcement in this regard was made by Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani.
- ✦ Besides these anti-human trafficking units, women help desks will also be set up in all police stations across the country using Nirbhaya Fund. The initiative is an example of interdepartmental cooperation leading to effective governance in the country.
- ✦ This initiative will strengthen women safety as well as will instill a greater sense of security among them. The step will also go a long way in addressing women and children safety in the country.

16. Finance Minister launches IT initiatives ICEDASH, ATITHI for improved customs clearance

- ✦ Finance Minister unveiled two new IT Initiatives - ICEDASH and ATITHI for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods and facilitating arriving international passengers.
- ✦ ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public to see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.
- ✦ The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.

17. WHO will identify online shopping as addictive disorder by 2024

- ✦ By 2024, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will identify online shopping as an addictive disorder, as millions abuse digital commerce and encounter financial stress, predicts research firm Gartner.
- ✦ Consumer spending via digital commerce platforms will continue to grow over 10 per cent year over year through 2022, according to its top strategic predictions for 2020 and beyond.
- ✦ The ease of online shopping will cause financial stress for millions of people, as online retailers increasingly use artificial intelligence (AI) and personalisation to effectively target consumers and prompt them to spend discretionary income that they do not have, it said.

18. IFFCO launches nano-tech based fertilizers for on-field trials

- ✦ The world's largest fertilizer cooperative Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced India's 1st nanotechnology-based product range by introducing Nano Nitrogen, Nano Zinc, Nano Copper for on-field trials at an event held at its Kalol unit in Gujarat.
- ✦ The products were produced at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) in Kalol unit. The first phase of the launch was tested with support from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)/Indian

Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These nanostructured formulations effectively deliver nutrients to the plants.

- ✦ Other benefits of these Nano-products include a reduction in the requirement of conventional chemical fertilizer by 50%, up to 15-30% increase in crop production, improvement in soil health, reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases.

19. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library society reconstituted, all Congress leaders replaced: PM is President and Defence Minister is Vice-President

- ✦ The Centre reconstituted the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library society by removing Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Karan Singh as its members. It instead inducted Home Minister Amit Shah, TV journalist Rajat Sharma and censor board chief Prasoon Joshi, among others, PTI reported. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the society's president and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh its vice president. The Centre also inducted Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Prakash Javadekar, V Muraleedharan and Prahlad Singh Patel.
- ✦ The committee has been cut down from 34 members to 28. The reconstitution gains significance as the government plans to extensively revamp the museum.
- ✦ "The term of the members is for a period of five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the order dated November 5 said. Former Culture Secretary Raghavendra Singh was appointed the museum's director in October for a six-month period.

20. MCG organises 'Ganga Utsav' in Delhi to spread awareness about river cleaning

- ✦ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in coordination with the Jal Shakti Ministry, organised 'Ganga Utsav' in the Major Dhyanchand stadium in the national capital to mark the 11th anniversary of Ganga being declared as the national river.
- ✦ The event was organised in a bid to create awareness and gather public participation in the efforts to clean River Ganga and its tributaries.
- ✦ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Director General of NMCG Rajiv Ranjan Mishra also attended the event.

21. India, Indonesia hold Joint Naval Exercise "Samudra Shakti" In Bay Of Bengal

- ✦ India is jointly exercising its anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kamorta along with Indonesian warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role corvette, in the Bay of Bengal as part of an ongoing bilateral exercise "Samudra Shakti".
- ✦ The joint exercise include, manoeuvres, surface warfare exercises, air defense exercises, weapon firing drills, helicopter operations and boarding operations.
- ✦ "INS Kamorta, an anti-submarine warfare corvette, is jointly exercising with Indonesian warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role corvette in the Bay of Bengal as part of the ongoing Indian Navy-Indonesian Navy bilateral exercise "Samudra Shakti" from November 6-7," the Indian Navy said in a statement.

22. Khadi gets separate unique HS code, export to get a boost

- ✦ Khadi has once again come out of its customary veil, marking its presence in the exclusive HS code bracket, issued by the central government on 4th Nov'19 to categorize its products in export. In a long-awaited move to make export of Khadi, exclusively categorized from the general league of textile products, the ministry of commerce and industries has allocated separate HS code for this signature fabric of India this week.
- ✦ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said that this decision of government will open a new chapter in the field of Khadi export. Earlier, Khadi did not have its exclusive HS code. As a result, all the data regarding export of this signature fabric used to come as a normal fabric under the textile head.
- ✦ Now, we will be able to keep a constant eye not only on our export figures, but it will also help us in planning our export strategies.

23. Kalapani an integral part: Nepal objects inclusion of unresolved territory as part of India in new maps

- ✦ A few days after India redrew the political map of Jammu and Kashmir after scrapping Article 370, the Nepal government strongly objected to the inclusion of 'Kalapani' under the Indian Territory.
- ✦ In the new political maps released by India, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir while Gilgit-Baltistan is in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✦ However, the Nepal government made it clear that Kalapani is an integral part of the country and that talks are still on between New Delhi and Kathmandu over this "unresolved" area.

24. CBSE to observe Fitness Week in the second and third week of November as part of Fit India Movement

- ✦ In an attempt to promote fitness among school children, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be observing Fitness Week in the second and third week of November as a part of Fit India Movement.
- ✦ The prime objective of the initiative is to bring about a behavioural change in school children from spending "Passive Screen Time" to "Active Field Time". As many as 22,000 CBSE schools from all over the country will participate in this first-of-its-kind endeavour.
- ✦ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju expressed his happiness over CBSE's move and said Fit India Movement is the need of the hour.

25. The National Steel Policy released on November 8, 2019 aims at developing globally competitive steel industry.

- ✦ The National Steel Policy that was released on November 8, 2019 aims at developing globally competitive steel industry. It aims at creating 300 million tons of steel per annum by 2030. The policy was released by Ministry of Steel.
- ✦ The policy aims at promoting scientific collection and processing activities of recyclable ferrous and non-ferrous scraps. The objective of the policy is to produce high quality ferrous scrap that helps to increase high quality steel production.
- ✦ It also promotes the '6R' principle. It includes Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Recover, Remanufacture and Redesign

26. Maharashtra tops list of states delivering justice, followed by Kerala: Report

- ✦ According to 'India Justice Report 2019', Maharashtra is the top state in delivering justice to its citizens followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana in the first-ever ranking of states on their capacity to deliver justice to citizens.
- ✦ The ranking is part of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2019, an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS- Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- ✦ The India Justice Report brings together, in the first such exercise, otherwise soiled statistics, from authoritative government sources, on the four pillars of justice delivery - police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

27. Aiming at clean and beautiful beaches, Environment Ministry launches Swachh Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan

- ✦ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a mass cleanliness drive "Swachh – Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan" to make beaches clean and create awareness amongst the citizens.
- ✦ The cleanliness drive will be undertaken at 50 identified beaches during November 11-17, 2019. The identified beaches are in 10 coastal States/Union Territories (UTs) namely Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. The beaches have been identified after the consultation with the States/UTs.

28. Maharashtra under President's rule for 3rd time in 59-year history

- ✦ President's rule was imposed in Maharashtra on November 12, 2019 upon the recommendation of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyar.
- ✦ The Maharashtra Governor decided on sending the state under the direct rule of the centre after both the BJP and Shiv Sena failed to form the government within the given deadline.
- ✦ Shiv Sena has approached the apex court protesting against the Governor's move to reject its request demanding extra time to prove the majority.

29. Karnataka: Supreme Court upholds disqualification of 17 rebel MLAs, can contest bypolls:

- ✦ The Supreme Court has upheld former Karnataka Speaker's decision to disqualify the 17 rebel MLAs of the Congress and JD(S) in Karnataka.
- ✦ The court has, however, allowed them to contest elections.
- ✦ The MLAs were disqualified by the Legislative Assembly KR Ramesh Kumar ahead of the floor test of the HD Kumaraswamy government.

30. CJI under RTI Act: A rare case where Supreme Court ruled against itself

- ✦ The Supreme Court, in a historic ruling, directed that the office of Chief Justice will now come under the Right to Information Act.
- ✦ Earlier the CJI office was kept out of the purview of the RTI act.
- ✦ The Supreme Court stated that the CJI office was a public authority and that its secrecy will remain intact during RTI filing.

31. Children's Day: Now an App to Report Child Rights Abuse, Assam Govt. Launches Initiative

- ✦ Since the beginning of 2019, at least 125 complaints have been reported to the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Right (ASCPCR) — including those concerning child marriage, child trafficking and child sexual abuse. Apart from these, there are many that go unreported.
- ✦ This Children's Day, November 14, as a remedy, the ASCPCR is launching Sishu Suraksha, a mobile application to lodge complaints on child rights violation, and address them in an appropriate and timely manner.
- ✦ To file a complaint earlier, one would require to write a formal letter to the ASCPCR head office in Guwahati. Available on iOS and Android platforms, the app can be used by anyone in the state to lodge complaints. The complaints, in turn, will be directly sent to the commission.

32. Andhra CM launches 'Nadu-Nedu' program aims at transforming govt schools on Children's Day

- ✦ Turning a new leaf over education sector, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme which aims at transforming government schools into vibrant and competitive institutions.
- ✦ The Chief Minister said that his YSRCP-led state government will overcome all the challenges and clear every hurdle as the goal to meet the requirement of what the fast-changing technology in the world expects from youth, ten years from now.
- ✦ The scheme will be implemented in 15, 715 schools in the first phase and will cover all schools in three years' time with a budget of Rs 12,000 crores. For the first year, Rs 3,500 crores will be spent for the development of the infrastructure.

33. Supreme Court: CJI Ranjan Gogoi's last working day today, Bar Association to organise farewell ceremony

- ✦ Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi is set to formally retire from his post on November 17, but November 15 is his last working day at the Supreme Court, marking which the Supreme Court Bar Association will organise a farewell ceremony this evening.
- ✦ CJI Gogoi sat with Chief Justice designate Sharad Arvind Bobde in Court 1, according to tradition, and issued notices in all the 10 cases listed in the Court today for today. He also thanked all the lawyers who addressed him in his honour.

- ✦ Ranjan Gogoi was serving as the 46th Chief Justice of India, after succeeding 45th CJI Dipak Misra. On November 17, Gogoi will be succeeded by Judge Sharad Arvind Bobde.

34. National mission 'NISHTHA' launched in j&k

- ✦ National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) was launched in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with its formal inauguration by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Sarita Chauhan.
- ✦ The event was attended by around 300 teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and Chief Education Officers, DIET Principals and Educational Administrators.
- ✦ The event was attended by around 300 teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and Chief Education Officers, DIET Principals and Educational Administrators.

35. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches SAANS campaign to curb pneumonia deaths in kids

- ✦ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan launched 'SAANS', a campaign aimed at reducing child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15 per cent of deaths annually of children under the age of five.
- ✦ SAANS, short for 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully' was launched by the Union Health Ministry to mobilise people to protect children from pneumonia, and train health personnel and other stakeholders to provide prioritised treatment to control the disease.
- ✦ The government aims to achieve a target of reducing pneumonia deaths among children to less than three per 1000 live births by 2025, a senior health department official said.

36. Mumbai tops ranking for quality of tap water, Delhi lowest

- ✦ According to a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) study, Mumbai ranks the highest in the quality of water among capital cities in states where samples of tap water were tested. In Mumbai, all 10 samples of tap water passed the BIS test.
- ✦ Second in the list is Hyderabad, where only one sample failed. However, at the bottom of the list is Delhi, where all 11 samples failed the BIS test — thereby reaffirming that the capital city has the poorest water quality, the BIS study put.

37. Pakistan becomes the first country to introduce WHO approved typhoid vaccine.

- ✦ Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce a new typhoid vaccine as the country grapples with an ongoing outbreak of a drug-resistant strain of the potentially fatal disease. The vaccine, approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), will be used during a two-week immunisation campaign in southern Sindh province.
- ✦ The new vaccines have been provided by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to the Pakistani government free of cost.
- ✦ In 2017, 63 per cent of the typhoid cases documented and 70 per cent of the fatalities were children, according to a joint press release from the Pakistani government, WHO and Gavi.

38. National Tribal Festival Aadi Mahotsav to begin in New Delhi

- ✦ Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the National Tribal Festival "Aadi Mahotsav" in New Delhi.
- ✦ The theme of the 15-day Mahotsav is celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce. It will be held at Dilli Haat in INA, New Delhi.
- ✦ The tribal textiles manufactured by master tribal craftsmen from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South and from Gujarat in the West to Nagaland/Sikkim in the East will be the main attractions.

39. Rajya Sabha hits new milestone as 250th session begins

- ✦ History was made when the Rajya Sabha convened for its winter session. It was the upper House's 250th session and came 67 years after its first sitting on May 13, 1952.

- ✦ With the landmark 250th session of Rajya Sabha commencing chairman M Venkaiah Naidu released a publication on a day earlier that commemorated the upper House's journey since its first sitting barely five years after India's independence from the British colonial rule.
- ✦ Through the course of its 67-year existence, the upper House has passed 3,924 bills, discarded many, and expelled three MPs, and overseen the only impeachment proceedings in India's Parliamentary history.

40. Union Minister Smriti Irani and Bill Gates launch Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

- ✦ Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) and Textiles, Smriti Irani, along with Bill Gates, co-chair of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) here on Monday. A press note from the WCD Ministry said, "The BPKK will be a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes."
- ✦ "The government has created a separate Ministry of Jal Shakti which is now working on providing clean drinking water to every household in the country," she said adding in September this year Poshan Maah was celebrated and in one month 36 million Poshan related activities were held across the country," she said.
- ✦ The minister further said that the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Scheme (PMMVY) has reached out to 10 million beneficiaries by compensating for wage losses and since 2013 maternal mortality rate has come down by 26.9 percent.

41. NITI Aayog released a report on "Health Systems for a New India"

- ✦ On November 18, 2019, NITI Aayog released a report on "Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks-Potential Pathways to reforms". The report provides a framework to build a rigid health system for India.
- ✦ The financing structure of the health care system in the country has to be changed. The out-of-pocket expenditure should be reduced and the spending should be directed towards purchasing capabilities.
- ✦ The financing structure of the health care system in the country has to be changed. The out-of-pocket expenditure should be reduced and the spending should be directed towards purchasing capabilities. It suggests to extend the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the cashless insurance scheme to cover entire country. The scheme is now focusing on 10 crore poor families.

42. Golden Chariot Train to Restart Service from March Next Year

- ✦ The luxurious Golden Chariot train will start running from March next year, Indian Railways. The announcement was made after the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corp (KSTDC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to market and operate the Golden Chariot train.
- ✦ The Golden Chariot is South India's only luxury train. Its services were, however, suspended by the Karnataka government temporarily on account of huge losses.
- ✦ The Golden Chariot, which started running in 2008, began as a joint initiative of the Karnataka government and the Indian Railways. It is an 18-coach-long train with 44 guest rooms. At least, 84 passengers can enjoy the train ride at one time.

43. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by the Parliament

- ✦ Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by the Parliament after it was passed in Rajya Sabha today. The Bill was earlier passed in Lok Sabha on 2nd August 2019. It seeks to make apolitical the trust that runs Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial by removing the clause pertaining to the President of INC as a permanent member of the trust.
- ✦ The Bill also amends to include the Leader of Opposition recognised as such in the House of the People (Lok Sabha) or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in that House as a member of the trust.
- ✦ The Bill also amends that a nominated trustee may be terminated before the expiry of the period of five years by the Central Government.
- ✦ Jalliawalan Bagh massacre has completed its 100th anniversary and after 100 years, it is necessary to build Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial as National Memorial in true sense. These amendments will make this Memorial a National Monument in true spirit.

44. Google removes '2020 Sikh Referendum' app from Play Store

- ✚ According to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's demand, IT giant Google has removed the secessionist, "anti-India" mobile application '2020 Sikh Referendum' from its Play Store with immediate effect.
- ✚ The app had asked the general public to register themselves to vote in the 'Punjab Referendum 2020 Khalistan'. A website with the address of www.yes2khalistan.org was also launched on the same lines for the same purpose.
- ✚ During analysis of the said application and the website in the DITAC Lab, Punjab, it was found that the data of voters registered through the app was also linked and stored in the web server of the website, namely www.yes2khalistan.org, created and handled by 'Sikhs For Justice' (SFJ), an Association banned by the Indian Government.

45. National Investigation Agency to host first counter-terrorism cooperation exercise for 'Quad' countries

- ✚ National Investigation Agency is hosting the first counter-terrorism exercise for the "Quad" countries -- India, the US, Japan and Australia -- at the NIA headquarters in Delhi on November 21 and 22.
- ✚ The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) is first such engagement among the Quad countries on regional and global issues of common interest and also in the domain of counter-terrorism and cooperation.
- ✚ The exercise is aimed to enable the participating countries to understand much better the response systems to terror incidents that exist in other member countries. This will help in recognition of the best practices prevalent in respective countries. The table-top exercise also aims to further improve the interagency cooperation between different CT and other agencies of Quad countries.

46. Infosys tops Rs 10,000-crore exports, becomes IT Ratna of Karnataka

- ✚ Software giant Infosys has been recognised as the IT Ratna of Karnataka at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019 for IT exports by the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- ✚ Featuring in the category of IT exports greater than or equal to Rs 10,000 crore, Infosys was awarded for fiscal 2018-19 in STPI's Karnataka chapter.
- ✚ As many as 15 global companies were recognised as IT Prides of Karnataka, for exports greater than or equal to Rs 2,000 crore and less than Rs 10,000 crore. IT Pride awardees included Oracle, Goldman Sachs, SAP Labs, and Intel, among others.

47. Aruna Bhoomi: First Hindi daily launched in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✚ Hindi language is the bond that unites the diverse ethnic tribes of the state who speak different dialects, the chief minister said at the launch programme of 'Aruna Bhoomi' the first Hindi daily in the north-eastern state.
- ✚ The publisher cum chief editor of the daily Takam Sonia informed that 'Aruna Bhoomi' would be flexible as far as grammar is concerned and patronise writings in Arunachalee Hindi.

48. Lok Sabha passes Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- ✚ A bill to raise the monetary limits for chit funds by three times and the commission for the person managing the fund to 7 per cent from the current 5 was approved by Lok Sabha.
- ✚ The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also introduces words such as "fraternity fund", "rotating savings" and "credit institution" to make chit funds more respectable.
- ✚ According to the bill, it is proposed to raise the maximum chit amount from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh for those managed by individuals or less than four partners, and from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh for firms with four or more partners.

49. Home Ministry cancels citizenship of Telangana MLA Ramesh Chennamaneni for concealing facts about his visits abroad.

- ✦ Telangana MLA Ramesh Chennamaneni is no longer an Indian citizen, the government declared, accusing him of misrepresenting and concealing facts and securing citizenship by fraud. It was "not conducive to the public good that Mr Chennamaneni continues to be a citizen of India," said the home ministry in a 13-page order.
- ✦ Mr Chennamaneni, a member of the state's ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), had concealed facts about his visits abroad during the one-year period preceding his application for Indian citizenship, the home ministry said in its order.
- ✦ The government said he had German citizenship and did not fulfil the criteria for seeking Indian citizenship in 2009.

50. PM Modi unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the CAG office premises in New Delhi

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) office premises on November 21. He also addressed the conclave of Accountants General in Delhi.
- ✦ The Prime Minister said, the government wants to move to evidence-backed policy-making by 2022 and the CAG can play a role by becoming a think tank and focusing on big data analysis.
- ✦ Mr. Modi also asked the CAG to play a role in making India a five trillion dollar economy.

51. Cabinet approves code to allow fixed-term employment

- ✦ The Union cabinet approved the Labour Code on Industrial Relations 2019, allowing companies to hire workers on fixed-term contract of any duration. The code has retained the threshold on the worker count at 100 for prior government approval before retrenchment, but it has a provision for changing 'such number of employees' through notification.
- ✦ Fixed-term employment means a worker can be hired for any duration, three months or six months or a year depending on season and orders.
- ✦ The bill is expected to be tabled in the ongoing winter session of the Parliament. "While this means workers can be hired seasonally for six months or a year it also means that all workers will be treated at par with regular workers for benefits," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

52. The National Investigation Agency will host the first "Counter Terrorism Exercise" for QUAD countries

- ✦ The National Investigation Agency will host the first "Counter Terrorism Exercise" between November 21, 2019 and November 22, 2019. The CT-TTX, Counter Terrorism Table Top Exercise will exercise the Quad countries namely India, Japan, US and Australia.
- ✦ The exercise will validate and assess the counter terrorism mechanisms and will provide opportunities to explore areas of enhanced cooperation and will also share their best practices against emerging terrorism threats. It will also enhance the cooperation between the countries in terms of counter terrorism.
- ✦ The dialogue between the four countries was initiated in 2007 by the Japanese President Shinzo Abe. The first ministerial level negotiations of the grouping were held in September 2019, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

53. Assam govt. to gift 10 grams of gold to every bride under its 'Arundhati Gold Scheme' from January 1, 2020

- ✦ The Assam government would give 'one tola' (10 gramme) of gold to every bride of the state from 2020 onward. BJP government in the state will roll out the 'Arundhati Gold Scheme' in the state from January 1, 2020.
- ✦ Assam Finance minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma said the move was aimed to strengthen women empowerment and reduce child marriage.
- ✦ "Assam government has decided in our budget that we will give one tola [10gm] of gold to the bride if a marriage is solemnised and registered. Because, if you register a marriage then there will be a minimum age which is notified as 18 years and 21 years for the bride and bridegroom.

54. J-K achieves highest road length in country under PMGSY, 11,400 km construction completed

- ✦ The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in this year. The region has witnessed construction of 11,400 kilometres covering 1,838 habitations so far.
- ✦ The PMGSY is an initiative launched by the central government to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages in the country.
- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh, came into existence as UTs on October 31 after the Centre revoked Article 370 and passed a bill bifurcating the erstwhile state into two separate UTs.

55. Assam government releases the new Land Policy 2019 after 30 years

- ✦ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal released the new Land Policy 2019 in Guwahati. The Land Policy was approved by Cabinet on 21st October and it has been prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department after 30 years. It was last prepared in 1989.
- ✦ Chief Minister said that the state government has given a lot of emphasis in preparing the Policy to safeguard the interest of the indigenous people.
- ✦ He said, the Policy would remove complications regarding land allotments and settlements.

56. Uttar Pradesh: Seven-year jail term for forced conversion in law panel draft

- ✦ Forced conversion in Uttar Pradesh may attract a jail term of up to seven years, while changing one's religion for the sake of marriage may be nullified if either party contests it as 'forced'.
- ✦ Reverting someone, as in 'Ghar Vapsi', may not be a crime at all. These recommendations are part of the state law commission's draft bill on religious conversion submitted to the government.
- ✦ Commission secretary Sapna Tripathi said in case of marriage where either party is forced to convert for the purpose, "both the conversion and marriage may be declared null and void".

57. IIM Indore inks MoU with Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy

- ✦ IIM Indore has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie. The MoU has been signed with a view to exchange faculty members for various training programmes.
- ✦ The MoU is in line with the vision to remain socially conscious and contribute to the society and nation. The two organisations have agreed for joint participation in research activities of common interest in the areas of public administration, management and public policy.
- ✦ The motive behind the training programme is to bring together representatives from these three fields, help them understand one another's problems and find solutions.

58. Literacy rate 73.5% in rural and 87.7% in urban areas as per National Sample Survey

- ✦ The literacy rate among those in the age group of seven years and above was recorded at 77.7 per cent during July 2017-June 2018 in the country, showed a National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.
- ✦ This rate was 73.5 per cent in rural and 87.7 per cent in urban areas, showed the NSO survey on Household Social Consumption: Education as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey (NSS).
- ✦ The study further showed that among persons in the age group of 15 years and above, 30.6 per cent had completed secondary or above level of education in villages, 57.5 per cent in urban areas.

59. Jal Shakti Minister releases short documentary film named 'SHIKHAR SE PUKAR'

- ✦ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released a short documentary film on Water Conservation named 'SHIKHAR SE PUKAR' in New Delhi.
- ✦ The film has been made to promote 'Jalshakti Abhiyan' and is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar, who climbed Everest this year to attract the attention of people from top of the Everest on the serious issue of Water Conservation and stopping Water Pollution.

- ✦ Film also gives a glimpse on the significance of Himalaya as the main source of water needs of India by means of the river. It also picturizes the difficulties and challenges in climbing the highest peak of the world.

60. PM Modi launches Fit India School grading system

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Fit India School grading system in schools across the country.
- ✦ The Fit India School rankings have been divided into three categories -- The Fit India Schools, which is the first level of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star). The level of ranking will depend on how much importance the school gives to inculcating fitness among its students and teachers, besides facilities available for fitness activities.
- ✦ Explaining the ranking system, the Prime Minister said, "Schools can declare themselves as fit by visiting the Fit India portal. Fit India three star and Fit India five star ratings will also be given.

61. NK Singh, 15th FC Chairman calls for further simplification of the GST structure

- ✦ The 15th Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh for significant changes in the GST structure, including reducing the complicated procedures with frequent rate changes, to improve collection. He pitched for rationalization of Centrally- sponsored schemes.
- ✦ The commission has visited nearly all the states in the run-up to the preparation of its report and that many of them have complained that GST has circumscribed the fiscal autonomy.
- ✦ A further simplification of the Goods and Services Tax structure could help increase revenue and foster better tax compliance, according to N K Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, who also called for a better co-ordination between the finance commission and GST Council to better monitor, scrutinise and optimise revenue.

62. Guru Ghasidas National Park to become Chhattisgarh's 4th 'tiger reserve'

- ✦ Chhattisgarh is set to have Guru Ghasidas National Park in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve', the state government announced.
- ✦ The decision was taken in the 11th meeting of Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence.
- ✦ Presently there are three tiger reserves in the state which are: Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve and Indravati Tiger Reserve. With this new announcement, four tiger reserves will get functional in the state.

Foot Notes:

About Chhattisgarh

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Capitals: Bilaspur

63. Sangai Festival 2019 begins in Manipur.

- ✦ Every year the State of Manipur celebrates the "Manipur Sangai Festival" from 21st to 30th November. The 'Festival' is named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.
- ✦ It started in the year 2010 and has grown over the years into a big platform for Manipur to showcase its rich tradition and culture to the world. The festival is organized by the State Tourism Department and biggest festival held annually to promote tourism.
- ✦ The formal inaugural function of the festival was held at Hapta Kangeibung at Imphal.
- ✦ During the festival, cultural programmes, traditional games, folk dance and classical music will be performed by different communities of the State as well as from other States.

Foot Notes:**About Manipur****Capital of Manipur:** Imphal.**Governor of Manipur:** Najma Heptulla.**Chief Minister of Manipur:** N. Biren Singh.**64. Amaravati included in India map as the capital of Andhra Pradesh**

- ✚ The Survey of India, India's central engineering agency in charge of mapping and surveying has released an updated map of India with Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ✚ Amaravati had been missing from the previous map released by the Centre On November 2, 2019, which showed Hyderabad as the common capital of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.
- ✚ The state of AP was bifurcated in the year 2014 and while it was initially decided that Hyderabad would serve as the common administrative capital for a period of 10 years.

Foot Notes:**About Andhra Pradesh****Governor of Andhra Pradesh:** Biswabhusan Harichandan.**Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy.**65. Maharashtra Governor Appoints BJP's Kolambkar As Assembly Pro-Tem Speaker**

- ✚ BJP's Kalidas Kolambkar has been sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker of Maharashtra assembly. The oath-taking ceremony was conducted at the Raj Bhawan in Mumbai on November 26, 2019.
- ✚ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath to Kalidas Kolambkar. Immediately after his oath-taking ceremony, Protem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar announced that the first session of the new Maharashtra assembly will begin on November 27, 2019.
- ✚ The pro-tem speaker will administer the oath to all the 288 MLAs of the state assembly from 8 am onwards on November 27.

Foot Notes:**About Maharashtra****Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari**Capital:** Mumbai**66. Chairman Lokpal, Shri Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose launches logo of Lokpal**

- ✚ Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal released its logo and motto. While the logo symbolises 'caretaker of people' and depicts its various essence figuratively in shapes — such as judges bench for ombudsman, three human figures for people, Ashok Chakra for vigilance, orange book for law and two tricolor hands forming a unique balance, the motto in Sanskrit "Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam", when translated into English, reads "Do not be greedy for anyone's wealth".
- ✚ The Lokpal logo, launched by its chairman Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose in the presence of other members of the watchdog, is tricolor, representing its national essence.
- ✚ After a three-stage selection process, the logo design of Prashant Mishra from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh was selected for adoption as logo of Lokpal.

67. RIL market cap hits 10 lakh crore, a first for an Indian company

- ✚ Reliance Industries Limited is the first Indian company to cross Rs.10 lakh in market capitalization. Recently Vodafone India and Bharti Airtel had announced their tariff hike which will be implemented from December 2019.
- ✚ Last week, the Mukesh Ambani-led oil-to-telecom-retail conglomerate became the first Indian firm to cross a market capitalisation of Rs 9.5 lakh crore.

Foot Notes:**About Reliance Industries Limited****Founded:** 8 May 1973.

Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
CEO: Mukesh Ambani
Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

68. UP's 1st vulture conservation center to be built in Maharajganj

- ✦ In a major step to conserve the endangered vulture population, the Uttar Pradesh government will set up the state's first vulture conservation and breeding centre in Pharenda area of Maharajganj district.
- ✦ According to Environment Minister, there has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country which has come down from 40 million to 19,000 in a span of over three decades.

Foot Notes:

Union Minister of Environment: Prakash Javadekar

About Uttar Pradesh

Capital: Lucknow

Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel



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69. Madhya Pradesh's Devi Ahilya University gets A-plus grade from NAAC

- ✦ The Indore-based Devi Ahilya University became Madhya Pradesh's first university to be accorded A-plus grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- ✦ The Centre of higher learning now became entitled to several other facilities.
- ✦ It may introduce courses recognised by the University Grants Commission without the latter's permission besides commencing open distance-learning courses.

Foot Notes:

About NAAC

Director of NAAC: S. C. Sharma.

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 1994.

70. AP CM Jagan Mohan launched anti-corruption helpline 14400

- ✦ Chief Minister (CM) of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Shri Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Citizens' help centre, to register complaints of bribery in government offices and make AP, a corruption free state. A toll free number 14400 to receive complaints related to corruption was launched by the CM. Investigation after registration of complaints will be completed within 15-30 days.
- ✦ Posters in Telugu and English were also released to bring awareness among the public on the helpline. "Let's join hands to eradicate corruption and the like" is the main slogan on the poster.
- ✦ Members present: Minister for municipal administration Botcha Satyanarayana and Director General of Police (DGP) Goutham Sawang were present during the event.

Foot Notes:**About Andhra Pradesh****Capital:** Amaravati.**Governor:** Biswabhusan Harichandan.**71. Indian Women's Association donates two electric vehicles in Nepal**

- ✦ Indian Women's Association (IWA) has donated two electric vehicles to Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT) in Nepal.
- ✦ President of IWA, Namrita Puri handed over vehicles to Dr Pradip Dhakal, Member-Secretary of PADT in Kathmandu. These eco-friendly vehicles will be very helpful for the pilgrims visiting holy Pashupati temple especially for elderly and differently-abled people, women and children.
- ✦ The vehicles will also create employment opportunity for women. Handing over of e-vehicles will be another milestone in strengthening age-old cultural and religious ties between India and Nepal and bringing people of the two countries closer.

Foot Notes:**About Nepal****Capital:** Kathmandu**Currency:** Nepalese rupee**Prime minister:** KP Sharma Oli**72. 47th All India Police Science Congress begins in Lucknow**

- ✦ The 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) begins in Lucknow. The event will be inaugurated by Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi.
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Police in association with the Home Ministry and the Bureau of Police Research and Development is organising the event at the police headquarters in Lucknow. The last time Lucknow was the host for AIPSC was in 1997.
- ✦ During 6 sessions of the event, police officers, academicians, researchers, judicial and scientific experts will present their papers.

Foot Notes:**About UP****Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath**Governor:** Anandiben Patel**Capital:** Lucknow**73. GDP growth slows down to 4.5% in Q2, hits more than 6-year low.**

- ✦ India's GDP growth rate slowed down to 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal, data by National Statistical Office. Despite all government efforts to arrest slowdown, this is the slowest growth rate Indian economy has registered in six and a half years.
- ✦ The decline in economic growth came on the back of dwindling consumer demand, slowing private investment and global slowdown. Matters have worsened since the June quarter when GDP growth slowed to 5 per cent, lowest in six years and a quarter.

74. The government to organize a two-day Conference on Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat from 30 November-1 December 2019

- ✦ The government is to organize a two-day Conference on Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat from 30 November- 1 December 2019 at Jammu.
- ✦ It will be inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Ministry of DONER, Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions; Atomic Energy & Space along with Shri G.C. Murmu, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri R.B. Udhayakumar, Minister for Revenue & Disaster Management, Government of Tamil Nadu and Shri R.K. Mathur Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

- ✦ The conference is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in collaboration with State government of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Foot Notes:**About Jammu****Governor:**G C Murmu**75. Govt extends deadline for FASTags to 15th December**

- ✦ The Transport Ministry has extended the 01st December deadline for 100% electronic toll collection across National Highways in the country by two weeks (15th December). This comes as the government wants to allow a 15 days' breather for vehicle owners to switch to FASTags.
- ✦ FASTag is a sticker that has to be put at the front windshield of your vehicle. This sticker becomes the radio frequency identity of your car which is automatically read by the sensors placed at the toll plazas.
- ✦ Nitin Jairam Gadkari is the current Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India. The total expenditure on the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for 2019-20 is estimated at Rs 83,016 crore.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. India, France explore 3rd country projects in Western Indian Ocean region

- ✦ India and France have taken concrete steps to firm up their strategic partnership in the western Indian Ocean, as part of their respective Indo-Pacific strategies, within two months of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Paris.
- ✦ Leaders of India, France and Vanilla Islands – consisting of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in the western Indian Ocean – are currently meeting for the first time in Reunion Islands (French territory) for exploring economic and development partnership.
- ✦ India is being represented by the minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan at the meet.

2. India and Ecuador ink Protocol to start trade negotiations

- ✦ India and South American nation Ecuador have inked the Protocol for Completion of the Joint Feasibility Study (JFS) between the two countries, in line with the government's efforts to expand its trade presence in the region.
- ✦ The Protocol was inked in New Delhi by Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Héctor Cueva, ambassador of Ecuador in India. This has now opened the doors for both the countries to initiate trade negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement (Preferential Trade Agreement).
- ✦ The two countries have great possibilities to contribute to the competitiveness of productive sectors in each Member country, and improving bilateral trade and enhancing the conditions for business cooperation.

3. 27 members of the European Union delegation arrived in India to visit Jammu and Kashmir

- ✦ A delegation of 27 EU MPs will assess the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after repealing the provisions of Article 370. These include people from political parties of countries like the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

4. PM Modi to attend Saudi's 'Davos in desert':

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the third edition of Saudi Arabia's high-profile annual financial conference on Tuesday.
- ✦ He will also hold bilateral talks with top leadership of the Gulf Kingdom. The Prime Minister is on a two-day visit to Saudi and arrived in Riyadh late on Monday night.
- ✦ He will deliver the keynote address under the title 'What's next for India?' at the Future Investment Initiative (FII), which is dubbed as 'Davos in the Desert'

5. Argentine diplomat Rafael Grossi appointed chief of UN nuclear watchdog

- ✦ Argentine diplomat Rafael Grossi was appointed to succeed late Yukiya Amano as the new director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a United Nations' nuclear watchdog.
- ✦ He will be appointed for a term of four years and assume office no later than January 1, 2020. The 58-year-old will be the sixth head of the IAEA since it was founded more than six decades ago.
- ✦ Grossi is a nuclear and diplomatic veteran from Buenos Aires in Argentina.

6. India, Saudi Arabia form highest-level strategic partnership council

- ✦ India and Saudi Arabia firmed their strategic partnership by signing an agreement to form a council headed by Prime Minister Modi and King Salman.
- ✦ This is a major development since Saudi Arabia is now only the fourth country with whom India has an inter-governmental mechanism headed by the prime minister. Germany, Russia and Japan are the other three.

7. Spain to host COP25 climate summit in December after Chile withdraws

- ✦ Spain has offered to host COP-25 UN Climate Change Summit as it was called off by Chile due to heaving anti-government protests.
- ✦ Spain is all set to hold general elections on November 10 and schedule dates of COP25 are December 2-13.
- ✦ Earlier, Sebastian Pinera, Chile's President, said that Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez had made a generous offer to host COP-25 summit in Madrid.

8. China rolls out 5G telecom services

- ✦ China's three major state-run telecom operators have unveiled their 5G network, as the country aims at becoming the global leader in next generation telecom technology surpassing the US and other western nations.
- ✦ The US, the UK and South Korea have already rolled out their 5G networks this year, according to a BBC report.
- ✦ 5G is the next generation cellular technology with download speeds stated to be 10 to 100 times faster than the current 4G LTE networks.

9. PM Modi attended the 16th India-ASEAN summit held at Bangkok

- ✦ PM Modi on the sidelines of 353th ASEAN summit and 14th East Asia Summit, met the President of Indonesia H.E. Joko Widodo and the Thailand PM Prayut Chan-o-Cha.
- ✦ The leaders discussed the threat to extremism and terrorism and agreed to work closely. The meeting on terrorism is important for India's interests in the Indo-Pacific region. Also, they discussed on trade, investment and connectivity and Indo-Pacific
- ✦ The meeting also gains its importance as India and Indonesia are celebrating their 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. The countries are close maritime neighbors having historical and cultural linkages. Also India's 'Act East Policy' is complimented by Indonesia's 'Look West' policy.

10. Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference begins in Colombo, Sri Lanka

- ✦ In Sri Lanka, the biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference began in Colombo under the theme Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law. Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad will be representing India at the conference.

- ✦ The four-day conference participated by Law Ministers and Attorney Generals from Commonwealth countries seeks to address challenges faced by millions of people seeking to resolve legal problems or disputes. Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland emphasized the event's significance in the current global context in which obstacles to justice are prevalent in many forms.

11. Bangladesh–US navy joint exercise carat-2019 inaugurated

- ✦ A joint exercise titled 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019' between Bangladesh Navy and the US Navy started at Bangladesh Navy's School of Maritime Warfare and Tactics.
- ✦ Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (operations) Bangladesh Navy Rear Admiral M Makbul Hossain was present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony while Rear Admiral Murray Tynch, commander logistic group, Western Pacific Command Task Force 73 (CTF-73) of the US Navy was present as special guest.
- ✦ Exercise CARAT is the biggest naval exercise between Bangladesh Navy and the US Navy. In addition to Bangladesh Navy, US Navy operates this bilateral exercise at various times along with other countries.

12. US, India, Australia, Japan 'Quad' Holds Senior Officials Meeting in Bangkok

- ✦ Consultations between the "quadrilateral" are picking up in 2019. For the first time since their ministerial-level meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, senior officials from the United States, India, Australia, and Japan met in Bangkok.
- ✦ According to the U.S. Department of State's readout on the meeting, the four met "for consultations on collective efforts to advance a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific." The meeting marked the continuation of the September 26 New York ministerial-level meeting's agenda.
- ✦ The U.S. statement noted that the Bangkok meeting focused on "advancing practical collaboration on counter-terrorism, cyber, development finance, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response."

13. India decides to opt out of RCEP, says key concerns not addressed

- ✦ India won't join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) because concerns about getting swamped by imports under the agreement — putting its domestic industry and agriculture at risk — haven't been assuaged.
- ✦ The RCEP, which includes China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), aims to cover about a third of the world economy and half its population.
- ✦ "The present form of the RCEP Agreement does not fully reflect the basic spirit and the agreed guiding principles of RCEP,"

14. US notifies UN of withdrawal from Paris climate accord

- ✦ The US has formally notified the UN of its withdrawal from the 2015 Paris climate accord, a landmark global agreement which brought together 188 nations, including India, to combat global warming.
- ✦ The Paris Agreement, in which Trump's predecessor Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi played instrumental roles, was adopted at the UN climate conference "COP 21" held in the French capital in 2015 with an aim to reduce the hazardous greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✦ Although Trump announced his decision to withdraw from the historic agreement on June 1, 2017, the process began with the formal notification and the US will be out of the pact on November 4, 2020.

15. The first-ever tri-services India-US amphibious exercise named Tiger TRIUMPH in Andhra Pradesh from November 13 to 21.

- ✦ The first-ever tri-services India-US amphibious exercise named Tiger TRIUMPH will be conducted from November 13 to 21 near Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ Tiger TRIUMPH will include events and field training that simulate moving a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief force from ship to shore, a press release from the US Consulate said.

- ✦ The exercise helps build the capacity of both the Indian and US participants, while improving their ability to operate together.

16. China Is World's Worst Abuser of Internet Freedom: Freedom House Report

- ✦ China was again ranked the worst among governments for increased exploitation of the internet for social control and political purposes, according to a report released by Freedom House .
- ✦ The report surveyed 65 countries and concluded that 33 of them had an overall decline in their internet freedom score compared to a year earlier. The score is assessed based on factors including obstacles to internet access in that country, limitations set on content, and user rights violations.
- ✦ The report also noted that at least 40 countries possessed advanced social media surveillance programs, including China.

17. India attends China's biggest import expo as 'Guest of Honour Country'

- ✦ Making a strong pitch for increasing its exports to China to reduce the trade deficit, India took part in China's 2nd International Import Expo (CIIE) where it has been accorded the status as the "Guest of Honour Country".
- ✦ An Indian delegation headed by Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan took part in the import expo which is aimed at enabling countries from the world over to showcase products to enhance their exports to China.
- ✦ In this year's expo inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, India is among the fifteen nations given the symbolic designation of "Guest Countries of Honour".

18. Nepal's President appoints new governors in all seven provinces

- ✦ Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari has appointed new governors in all seven provinces of the country. According to a press release issued by the Office of President, new governors have been appointed on the recommendation of cabinet.
- ✦ Somnath Adhikari 'Pyasi' will be the new governor of Province 1, Tilak Pariyar for Province 2, Bishnu Prasad Prasai for Province 3, Amik Sherchan for Gandaki Province, Dharmanath Yadav for Province 5, Govinda Kalauni for Karnali Province and Sharmila Kumari Panta for Sudur Paschim Province. They are likely to be administered oath of office and secrecy.
- ✦ Nepal adopted federalism after the promulgation of new constitution in September 2015. First time in the history of the country elections for seven provincial assemblies were held in two phases on 26 November and 7 December 2017. Left Alliance had registered landslide victory in the historic elections.

19. 19th IORA Council of Ministers Meeting on 7 November 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- ✦ The United Arab Emirates (UAE), as the incoming IORA Chair, will host the 19th IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting on 7 November 2019 in Abu Dhabi under the theme of "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean".
- ✦ At the COM, the UAE will assume the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period 2019-2021. The Chairship passes from the Republic of South Africa, which has been IORA Chair for the period 2017-2019.
- ✦ The People's Republic of Bangladesh will assume the position of Vice Chair of IORA (also for 2019-2021), and form part of the Troika along with the UAE (as incoming Chair) and South Africa (as past Chair).

20. India is the 3rd Biggest Startup Hub in the World – NASSCOM

- ✦ The NASSCOM report on Indian Tech Start-Up Ecosystem said that India continues to be the third largest start-up ecosystem after China and US. India has added more than 1300 tech start-ups in 2019 according to the report.
- ✦ Between January to September in 2019, there were 8900 to 9300 startups as compared to 7700-8200 a year ago.

- ✦ NASSCOM is National Association of Software and Services Companies. It is a non-profit trade association of Indian IT and BPO industries.

21. PM Modi To Visit Brazil On November 13, 14 For BRICS Summit

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Brazil from November 13-14 to attend the BRICS Summit where deliberations are expected to focus on key areas such as trade, investment and counter-terrorism. During the visit, PM Modi will also hold a bilateral meeting with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.
- ✦ The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- ✦ He will hold bilaterals through the day and then attend the closing ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum in the evening along with other BRICS leaders.

22. 2nd 'No money for terror conference 2019' held in Australia

- ✦ The 2nd 'No Money for Terror' 2019 conference going on in Melbourne, Australia. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G.Kishan Reddy is leading a five-member delegation to the 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference taking place in Melbourne, Australia.
- ✦ This conference is Organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of over 100 countries. This conference jointly called The Egmont Group, which was created to provide FIUs around the world a forum to exchange information confidentially to combat money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and other predicate offences.
- ✦ The first "No Money for Terror" conference was held in France in 2018. India would host the next 'No Money for Terror' Conference in 2020.

23. Iran has discovered an oil field with an estimated 53 billion barrels of crude

- ✦ Iran has claimed to have discovered a large oilfield. This oilfield, found in the southern province of Iran, is estimated to have about 53 billion barrels of crude oil.
- ✦ Iran's oil reserves will increase by one-third after this discovery. Employees of Iran's oil industry have discovered this large oilfield.
- ✦ According to the reports, this 80-meter deep oilfield is spread over 200 kilometres from Iran's Khuzestan border with Iraq to the city of Omidia.

24. Socialists win election but no majority in Spain, as far right doubles seats

- ✦ The Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) won the country's election with 120 seats, but fell short of securing a working majority, as the far-right Vox party shot to third place by more than doubling its seats in parliament.
- ✦ This second election in Spain in just over six months - and the fourth in as many years -- has failed to clear a political impasse in Europe's fifth-largest economy.

25. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates India Pavilion at ADIPEC in UAE

- ✦ Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the India Pavilion along with CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Sultan Al Jaber at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) here on Monday.
- ✦ The India Pavillion has been set up by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

26. Israel hit by rockets from Gaza after airstrike kills Islamic Jihad leader

- ✦ Nearly 200 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip into Israel on Tuesday hours after an Israeli airstrike targeted and killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza in the most serious escalation of violence in months.
- ✦ The Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza killed Bahaa Abu el-Atta and his wife, as Islamic Jihad vowed further revenge. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Tuesday that Abu el-Atta was the mastermind of many recent attacks against Israel and was a "ticking bomb."

27. Bolivia crisis: Evo Morales arrives in Mexico for political asylum

- ✦ Evo Morales has landed in Mexico where he has been offered asylum after resigning as president of Bolivia amid election fraud protests.
- ✦ In a tweet, he said it hurt to be leaving Bolivia but he would return with more "strength and energy".
- ✦ Meanwhile, Bolivia's military commander ordered troops to back up police who have clashed with Morales supporters.

28. Unilever appoints Nils Andersen as new Chairman

- ✦ British-Dutch consumer goods company Unilever named non-executive director Nils Andersen as its new chairman to utilise his deep experience across consumer goods and logistics industries.
- ✦ Andersen will replace Marijn Dekkers, who is standing down after more than three years as chairman, to focus on his responsibilities as founder and chairman of investment and advisory firm Novalis LifeSciences.

29. First ever international buyer-seller meet in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✦ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) held the first ever international buyer seller meet on agriculture and horticulture produce in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ "Ten International buyers from seven countries of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, UAE, Sultanate of Oman and Greece participated in the meet and interacted with exporters," commerce and industry ministry said.

30. Gotabaya Rajapaksa wins Sri Lanka presidential election

- ✦ Sri Lanka's former wartime defence chief Gotabaya Rajapaksa has won the Sri Lankan presidential elections with 52.25% votes.
- ✦ Rajapaksa, who oversaw the military defeat of Tamil separatists under his brother and then president Mahinda Rajapaksa 10 years ago, has promised strong leadership to secure the island of 22 million people, the majority of whom are Sinhalese Buddhists.
- ✦ With half the votes counted, Rajapaksa led with 50.7 percent, while his main rival Sajith Premadasa had 43.8 percent, the election commission said. Rajapaksa's party claimed victory.

31. India extends Visa-on-Arrival facility to UAE nationals

- ✦ The Centre has extended the Visa-on-Arrival facility to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) nationals travelling to India in a bid to strengthen people-to-people and trade links, as well as the strategic ties between the two countries, Indian embassy.
- ✦ "The government of India has decided to extend the Visa-on-Arrival facility to nationals of the United Arab Emirates. This facility is aimed at further strengthening people to people and trade links as well as strategic ties between the two countries," the embassy said in a statement.
- ✦ However, the visa will be available to only those nationals who have earlier obtained an e-visa or a normal paper Visa for India, irrespective of whether the person actually visited India or not.

32. India ranks 59 on IMD World Talent Ranking Report; Switzerland first

- ✦ India has slipped 6 places to 59 rank on a global annual list of 63 countries, due to low quality of life and expenditure on education, according to the latest edition of IMD World Talent Ranking, which was topped by Switzerland.
- ✦ The ranking, which is based on the performance in three main categories -- investment and development, appeal and readiness, noted that India is also lagging behind fellow BRICs countries - China ranked 42nd on the list, Russia (47th) and South Africa (50th).
- ✦ India also witnessed one of the sharpest declines among Asian economies owing to low quality of life, negative impact of brain drain, and the low priority of its economy on attracting and retaining talents.

33. Microsoft launches 'K-12 Education Transformation Framework' to facilitate digital transformation of schools in India

- ✦ Microsoft has launched its "K-12 Education Transformation Framework" to facilitate comprehensive digital transformation of schools in India, a model which has been adopted in over 50 countries so far, the company said on Thursday.
- ✦ According to officials at Microsoft's Education wing, the framework comprises four pillars -- leadership and policy, modern teaching and learning, intelligent environments and technology blueprint.
- ✦ To help school principals initiate their journey of digital transformation, the programme will offer a series of workshops based on each of these pillars. Education leaders in more than 50 countries have already adopted the framework to help plan their learning strategies, they said.

34. Four Indian-origin lawmakers inducted in Canadian PM Trudeau's new Cabinet

- ✦ Four Indian-origin MPs have been included in Canadian Cabinet as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's unveiled his "strong and skilled" team of 37 ministers. The four Indian-origin MPs are Navdeep Bains (42), Bardish Chagger (39), Harjit Sajjan (49) and Anita Anand, who is the first ever Hindu minister in the Cabinet. Anita Anand is a former law professor at the University of Toronto.
- ✦ In the Canadian general election held in October, the Liberal Party bagged 157 seats, the opposition Conservative 121, Bloc Quebecois 32, Indian-origin Canadian Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (NDP) 24, Green Party 3 and one Independent.
- ✦ To reach the majority of 170 in the 338-seat House of Commons, the Liberals are short of 13 members. This means that in order to pass votes and advance their agenda, the Liberals must gain the support of the opposition MPs, the CTV reported.

35. Oxford Dictionary names 'Climate Emergency' its 2019 Word of the Year

- ✦ Oxford Dictionaries has named "climate emergency" as its 2019 Word of the Year, choosing it from an all-environmental shortlist that also included "climate action," "climate denial," "eco-anxiety," "extinction" and "flight shame."
- ✦ The word is selected because it shows the increase in usage since 2018. Climate emergency defines as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and also to avoid the possible irreversible environmental loss resulting from it."

36. Chitharesh Natesan, Indian Monster crowned Mr Universe 2019 in South Korea.

- ✦ Chitharesh Natesan who is a 33yr old former hockey player turned bodybuilder. He is known as the 'Indian Monster' by bodybuilding circles. He became the first Indian to win Mr. Universe (Pro) 2019 in the 90kg category at the 11th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship(WBPF) in South Korea. India secured the second position in the team championship category at the same event.
- ✦ The title of IBFF Mr. World (Overall Champion category 2018) and a recipient of Professional Body Building Card by IBFF.
- ✦ He awarded Mr. Asia, 2017 (Overall Category) four times Mr. India Champion for the years 2015-2018. I also won the title of Mr. Delhi four times for the years 2015-2018.

37. China overtakes US in number of diplomatic missions

- ✦ For the first time, China has the largest diplomatic network in the world, even bigger than that of the US, according to a study which said Beijing achieved a significant milestone in establishing linkages globally in its quest for global influence.
- ✦ China has 169 embassies, 96 consulates, eight permanent missions and three other missions. For its part, the US has 168 embassies, 88 consulates, nine permanent and eight other missions.
- ✦ India is ranked 12 in the global ranking with 123 Embassies/High Commissions 54 consulates, five permanent missions and four other representations.

Foot Notes:

About China

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

38. Donald Trump signs Hong Kong pro-democracy bill

- ✦ US President Donald Trump signed a bill supporting protesters in Hong Kong on November 27, 2019. This bill has now become law after Trump's signature. This law highlights restrictions on the violation of human rights.
- ✦ According to the bill, the President of America will have to consider every year the preferred business status given to Hong Kong. Apart from this, the bill also says that if the freedom in Hong Kong is crushed, then the prestigious status from the US can also be withdrawn.
- ✦ Congress has also passed another bill which was also signed by Donald Trump. It bans the export of crowd control devices such as tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets and stone gun to Hong Kong Police. China had objected several times prior to Trump's signature on this bill.

Foot Notes:**About Hong Kong****Sovereign state:** China**Regional language:** Cantonese**Currency:** Hong Kong dollar**39. G K Reddy inaugurates 1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" in New Delhi**

- ✦ Minister of State for Home Affairs, inaugurated the 1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" in New Delhi.
- ✦ The Conference called for developing technology to anticipate disasters like landslides and develop infrastructure to quickly respond to minimize the damage.
- ✦ The landslides have attracted global attention as they may cause huge havoc on communities, livestock, environment leading to huge loss of lives. This conference will go a long way in finding long term solutions to natural disasters.

Foot Notes:**Minister of State for Home Affairs:** G Kishan Reddy

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Sophie Wilmes chosen as first woman prime minister of Belgium

- ✦ Belgium's first female prime minister in its 189-year history has taken office, after Sophie Wilmès was named as the head of the country's next caretaker government.
- ✦ Wilmès succeeds the liberal leader Charles Michel, who will become president of the European council on 1 December. Her role has been described as a poisoned chalice, as linguistically divided parties struggle to form a government.
- ✦ Belgium has had a caretaker government since December last year when Michel's four-party coalition collapsed as the Flemish nationalists quit in protest at a UN migration pact.

2. Best Performing CEOs in the World 2019: Satya Nadella, Shantanu Narayen, Ajay Banga are among Top 10.

- ✦ Adobe's Shantanu Narayen, Mastercard's Ajay Banga and Microsoft's Satya Nadella are among the top 10 best-performing chief executives in the world, according to a Harvard Business Review (HBR) list.
- ✦ NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang tops the 2019 edition of the list.
- ✦ The CEO's are now ranked not only on financial performance but also on environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings.

3. Devendra Fadnavis elected Maharashtra BJP legislature party leader

- ✦ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was re-elected leader of the state BJP legislature party.
- ✦ All the 105 newly-elected BJP MLAs were present at the meeting, where Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar and party vice president Avinash Rai Khanna were present as central observers.
- ✦ Fadnavis pointed out that since 1995, no party in the state had won more than 75 seats in polls to the 288-member Assembly, till the BJP bagged 122 seats in 2014. In the recently-concluded polls, the saffron party won 105 seats.

4. Mukesh Ambani's RIL surpasses BP Plc to become sixth largest global energy firm by market cap.

- ✦ Mukesh Ambani led-Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has become the world's sixth-largest energy entity with high market capitalization. RIL overtook British oil major BP Plc in terms of market capitalization to become the world's sixth-largest energy entity.
- ✦ RIL hit a market cap (m-cap) of \$130.76 billion on 30 October compared with BP Plc's \$128 billion. The shares of RIL traded at Rs.1,466 on the BSE. It has gained over 31% so far in 2019.
- ✦ Saudi Aramco, the world's largest energy entity, that pumps about 10% of the world's crude. It has emerged as the most profitable company in 2018.

5. Nirmal Purja shatters record for scaling world's highest peaks by completing feat in 189 days

- ✦ The mountaineer from Nepal, Nirmal Purja, created a new speed record by climbing the world's 14 highest peaks over 8,000 metres (26,250 feet) in just 189 days.
- ✦ The 14th peak which he climbed was Shishapangma, located at Nyalam County, China. The other 13 peaks are Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Kanchenjunga, Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II, K2, Broad Peak, Cho Oyu and Manaslu.

6. Alberto Fernandez won the Argentina's presidential elections

- ✦ Gurudas Dasgupta, veteran CPI leader passed away in Kolkata on October 31, 2019. He was 83. The parliamentarian was suffering from heart and kidney-related ailments.
- ✦ A powerful voice of the Left parties in the Parliament for nearly three decades since the mid-80s, the Communist leader was considered to be a spokesperson of the downtrodden and a champion of the working-class movement. He was also a fierce advocate of the public sector.

7. Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Datta Padsalgikar appointed as Deputy NSA

- ✦ Former Mumbai Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP Datta Padsalgikar has been appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA). The 1982-batch IPS officer had earlier served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for 26 years before he was picked as the Mumbai Police Commissioner in 2016.
- ✦ He retired as the Director General of Police (DGP) in 2018. Among other assignments, Padsalgikar had also served as DCP (Detection) in crime branch, and in EOW (Economic Offences Wing). His last posting was deputy Lokayukta for Maharashtra.
- ✦ He had worked with current National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval during his stint in the IB. Padsalgikar told the reporters that he would take the new charge soon. His colleagues in Maharashtra Police hail the role played by Padsalgikar in nailing Pakistan's involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

8. Sanjeev Nandan Sahai takes charge as Power Secretary

- ✦ Sanjeev Nandan Sahai has assumed charge as Secretary of the Power Ministry. "Sanjeev Nandan Sahai assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Power. Prior to this, he was serving as the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Power,".
- ✦ Sahai is a UT cadre IAS officer of 1986 batch. He has also served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power from May, 2018 to July, 2019 according to the statement.
- ✦ Sahai has succeeded Subhash Chandra Garg. Garg, who is a former Finance Secretary, had sought voluntary retirement, which was approved by the government. Garg was to retire on October 31, 2020.

9. Lt Gen Anup Banerji takes charge as DG AFMS

- ✦ Lt Gen Anup Banerji assumed office as Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DG AFMS) today. An alumnus of the prestigious Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, the General Officer is reputed to be an outstanding cardiologist and an exceptional administrator.
- ✦ He has held various important clinical and staff positions during his illustrious career in AFMS. These include Head of the Department of Medicine and Cardiology at MH CTC Pune and Army Hospital R&R, Consultant (Medicine and Cardiology) at CH (EC), MG (Med) MG & G Area, Comdt AMC Centre and College Lucknow and DGMS (Navy).
- ✦ Lt Gen Banerji was awarded the Sena Medal for his distinguished service in 1986. He was appointed President's Honorary Surgeon (PHS) on January 27, 2019. Lt Gen Anup Banerji served as the DGMS (Army) prior to the present appointment.

10. IPS officer Aditya Mishra appointed chairman of Land Ports Authority of India

- ✦ Senior IPS officer Aditya Mishra was appointed as the chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), according to an order issued by the personnel ministry. Mishra is a 1989 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- ✦ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mishra as the chairman of the LPAI on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection panel, the order said.
- ✦ Mishra has been appointed for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge, it said.

11. Pillai takes oath as new governor of Mizoram

- ✦ PS Sreedharan Pillai was sworn-in as the new governor of Mizoram at the Raj Bhavan. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of Guwahati high court Justice Ajai Lamba.
- ✦ Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthangam his cabinet colleagues, legislators, former chief minister Lal Thanhawla and senior officials attended the swearing-in ceremony.

12. Devendra Fadnavis Resigns as Maharashtra CM, Chances of President's Rule Likely

- ✦ After political drama that spanned 15 days, Bhartiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis finally resigned as the chief minister of Maharashtra. The resignation was first handed over to state governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and subsequently an announcement was made at a press conference in Mumbai.
- ✦ The two parties have been having a public war ever since the elections, with the Sena demanding an "equal share" in government and asking for the chief ministerial post for two-and-half years along with plum ministerial berths
- ✦ Of the 288 state assembly seats, BJP managed to snag 105, while the Sena picked up 56 seats. The Shiv Sena, ever since the results have been declared, has been asking for a lot more than the BJP has been willing to give. Fadnavis, in the media, said that the talks for equal share was never conducted in his presence.

13. Google India appoints former Star and Disney head Sanjay Gupta as new Country Manager

- ✦ Google India has appointed Sanjay Gupta, former Star and Disney head as its new country manager. Gupta will also serve as Vice President of Sales and Operations for India.
- ✦ Gupta will be taking over his role at Google early next year.
- ✦ Gupta will be replacing Rajan Anandan, the VP for Google South East Asia and India, who had resigned in April 2019. Anandan was replaced by Vikas Agnihotri, Google's director of sales, who took on the role of Google Interim MD.

14. Newly discovered spider species named after Sachin Tendulkar

- ✦ Dhruv Prajapati, a PhD research scholar in spider taxonomy with the Gujarat Ecological Education & Research (GEER) Foundation, recently discovered two new species of spiders. He named one after Sachin Tendulkar and the other after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who played an important role in creating awareness about education in Kerala.

- ✦ He named one spider Marengo sachintendulkar because Sachin happens to be his favourite cricketer and another name is inspired by Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara who was a crusader in creating awareness about education in Kerala.

15. Justice AP Sahi sworn-in as Chief Justice of Madras High Court

- ✦ Justice AP Sahi has recently sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to the Chief Justice.
- ✦ Justice AP Sahi practised in Allahabad High Court to gather expertise in constitutional and civil matters.
- ✦ In 2004, he was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Allahabad Court. He became permanent Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in 2005.

16. Piyush Goyal attends 9th BRICS trade ministers meet

- ✦ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the 9th BRICS trade ministers meet in Brasilia on Tuesday during which he deliberated on the global economic climate with his counterparts from other member nations.
- ✦ Taking to Twitter, Goyal said that he spoke about advancing Trade and Investment cooperation between BRICS nations, as well as on the growing trend of non-tariff barriers.

17. Prakash Javadekar gets charge of heavy industries ministry

- ✦ The President of India has assigned Union Minister Prakash Javadekar the heavy industries and public enterprises portfolio after Arvind Sawant, the minister in charge, resigned on Monday.
- ✦ Javadekar is already in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

18. Nita Ambani named to Board of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art

- ✦ Nita Ambani was recently named to the board of the New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art after years of supporting exhibitions at the biggest US art museum.
- ✦ Daniel Brodsky, president of the museum, said that her contribution to preserving and promoting the art and culture of India and "The Mate" is extraordinary.
- ✦ Nita Ambani, the wife of Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, is the Chairman of Reliance Foundation.

19. Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth takes oath after election win:

- ✦ Mauritius's incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth was sworn in for a five-year term on Tuesday after elections in which his coalition consolidated its grip on Parliament.
- ✦ Jugnauth, 57, took over from his father in 2017 without going through a vote, and the decisive victory of his centre-right Morisian Alliance in the November 7 elections has strengthened his legitimacy.

20. Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro to be the chief guest at Republic Day 2020

- ✦ Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020. Prime Minister Modi met Bolsonaro on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Summit, which is being held in Brasilia.
- ✦ Former French President François Hollande was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in 2016. In 2017, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of United Arab Emirates took part in the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.
- ✦ The year 2018 was historic as leaders of the 10 ASEAN nations attended the event as chief guests. In 2019, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was in attendance as the chief guest. He was the second South African president, after Nelson Mandela, to attend the grand event as its chief guest.

21. Prakash Javadekar takes charge as Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

- ✦ Prakash Javadekar took charge as the Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. This decision was taken after Shiv Sena leader Arvind Sawant resigned from the Union Cabinet.
- ✦ Javadekar also holds information & broadcasting, and environment, forest and climate change portfolios.

22. Nilam Sawhney becomes first woman chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh

- ✦ Senior IAS officer Nilam Sawhney has become the first woman chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh. An order was released by the General Administration Department appointing Sawhney, a 1984 batch IAS officer, to the post.
- ✦ She succeeds chief commissioner of Land Administration Neerabh Kumar Prasad, who has been holding the additional charge of the chief secretary since the state government sent out LV Subrahmanyam on November 4, 2019.

23. Justice Ravi Ranjan takes oath as new CJ for Jharkhand HC

- ✦ Justice Ravi Ranjan took oath as the new chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court. Governor Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Ranjan at the Raj Bhavan here.
- ✦ The post of the chief justice of Jharkhand High Court was lying vacant after the elevation of former chief justice Aniruddha Bose to the Supreme Court earlier this year.

24. Justice R Banumathi joins collegium as Gogoi demits office

- ✦ Justice R Banumathi, in the news recently for dealing with P Chidambaram's bail plea, will be the first woman judge in more than 13 years to be inducted into the Supreme Court collegium.
- ✦ She will replace outgoing chief justice Ranjan Gogoi. Ruma Pal was the last woman member of the collegium.
- ✦ SA Bobde will be sworn in as the chief justice of India succeeding Gogoi. Banumathi's induction will also take place. As part of the collegium, she will have a say in all appointments to the top court, which has only had eight woman judges since Independence.

25. Sarita Devi elected as member of AIBA athletes commission

- ✦ Laishram Sarita Devi (Manipur) is among the 6 boxers from 5 continents who were elected as members of AIBA Athletes Commission.
- ✦ She was inspired by Muhammad Ali's achievements and turned professional in boxing in the year 2000. She is DSP in Manipur Police.
- ✦ The election of the Athletes Commission members was organized during AIBA Men and Women World Boxing Championships 2019 in Russia. Boxers from all over the world voted for new members – one per continent, except Europe which has two representatives.

26. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella tops Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list

- ✦ Microsoft's India-born Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list, an annual compilation that also includes Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga and Arista head Jayshree Ullal.
- ✦ Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions". The list is topped by Nadella, who has been at the helm of the technology giant since 2014.
- ✦ Banga is ranked 8th, while Ullal comes in at the 18th spot in the list for which Fortune looked at 10 financial factors ranging from total return to shareholders to return on capital. Both Banga and Ullal are of Indian-origin.

27. Devendra Fadnavis takes oath as Maharashtra CM, Ajit Pawar as his deputy

- ✦ BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as Maharashtra chief minister and NCP's Ajit Pawar as his deputy in an early morning political strike that stunned the Shiv Sena and Congress.
- ✦ This came just hours after the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress went through the final motions of forming a new coalition government with NCP chief Sharad Pawar saying there was "unanimity" over Uddhav Thackeray as chief minister.

28. Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray to take oath as CM on November 28

- ✦ Shiv Sena President Uddhav B. Thackeray was unanimously elected as chief of the 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' on Tuesday evening, paving the way for his becoming the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ✦ Thackeray's name was proposed by Nationalist Congress Party state President Jayant Patil and Congress state President Balasaheb Thorat at a meeting of all the parties in the 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' here.
- ✦ Present on the occasion were NCP President Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party state President Abu Asim Azmi, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana President Raju Shetti, and other top leaders of the Sena, the NCP and the Congress.

Foot Notes:**About Maharashtra**

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Capital: Mumbai

29. Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan appointed as the MD and CEO of TATA Communications

- ✦ Board of Directors (BOD) from TATA Communication has appointed Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TATA Communications for five years term.
- ✦ He replaced Vinod Kumar who resigned from this post in July 2019. He was the former President and CEO of TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), Japan.
- ✦ He was also a former student of Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani and London Business School (LBS) and he has also worked in the US, Hong Kong, Australia, the UK, Japan and India.

Foot Notes:**About TATA Communications**

Founded: 1986

Founder: Government of India (GOI)

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

Tata Communications is formerly called as VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited).

30. 'Real time Billionaires list of Forbes' – Mukesh Ambani becomes the 9th richest person in the world

- ✦ Mukesh Ambani became the 9th richest person in the world according to the list released by Forbes. Ambani reached the 9th position after Reliance Industries Limited reached a Market Capital (m-cap) of Rs.10 lakh crore and net worth of 60.5 billion Dollars.
- ✦ Jeff Bezos owner of Amazon, Bernard Arnault and family, CEO (LVMH) and Bill Gates, co-founder and former head of Microsoft take the top three places with a net worth of 113, 107.9 and 107.4 billion Dollars respectively.
- ✦ Ambani is in advance to both the Google Founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Larry Page and Sergey Brin had a net worth of 59.6 and 57.5 billion Dollars and hold the 10th and 11th place of The World's Richest Person respectively.

Foot Notes:**About Forbes**

Country: United States

Language: English

First issue: September 15, 1917

31. Former RBI deputy governor H R Khan appointed as the first chairman of the panel on the CRL in micro-credit

- ✦ Former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), H R Khan has been appointed as the first chairman of the steering committee of the Code for Responsible Lending (CRL) in micro-credit.
- ✦ The CRL is a self-regulatory step for the micro-credit industry making diverse entities like banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFCs adhere to standards of customer protection, a statement by Micro-finance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.
- ✦ CRL was launched in September by MFIN and Sa-Dhan, an RBI-recognised association of MFIs, along with Finance Industry Development Council, an association of NBFCs.

Foot Notes:

About RBI

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

32. Soma Roy Burman takes charge as new Controller General of Accounts

- ✦ Smt. Soma Roy Burman, a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts. Smt. Burman is the 24th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and is the seventh woman to hold this coveted position.
- ✦ The Government of India appointed Smt. Burman, as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure with effect from December 1, 2019.
- ✦ During her 33-year long career, she has held cadre positions at different levels in Ministries such as Home Affairs, Information & Broadcasting, Industry, Finance, Human Resource Development and Shipping, Road Transport & Highways. She has headed the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) as the Chief Controller (Pension) and the Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF), New Delhi, as Director.

Banking

1. RBI issues new guidelines over private bank CEO remuneration

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India has told private banks to raise the variable portion of remuneration to at least half of the total for their chief executives and whole-time directors so that top management rewards reflect the 'pay for performance' principles.
- ✦ "In order for incentive-based remuneration to work, the variable part of remuneration should be truly and effectively variable, and can even be reduced to zero in line with the symmetry principle," the RBI said.
- ✦ The new rules are applicable to private sector banks, including local area banks, small finance banks and payments banks from April 1, 2020.

2. Forex reserves soar \$3.5 billion to new lifetime high of \$446.09 billion

- ✦ The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 3.515 billion to touch a fresh lifetime high of USD 446.098 billion in the week to November 1, helped by increase in foreign currency assets. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by USD 1.832 billion to USD 442.583 billion.
- ✦ The increase in reserves in the reporting week was mainly on account of a jump in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

- ✦ Expressed in US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and the yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. During the week, gold reserves increased by USD 301 million to USD 27.353 billion.

3. Moody's revises India's economic outlook to "negative" from "Stable"

- ✦ The American financial service company Moody's has downgraded India's economic outlook to "Negative" from "Stable". This downgrade was due to slow growth in the economy. It also predicted that slow growth would be prolonged and would also have debt rises.
- ✦ Moody's has also predicted a budget deficit of 3.7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the year through March 2020, which is a breach in the govt's target of 3.3%.
- ✦ This was due to corporate tax rate cuts, slow growth etc. The long term foreign currency bond and bank deposit ceilings were unchanged at Baa1 and Baa2(both being 2nd lowest investment-grade score), respectively.

4. Exim Bank grants \$30 million line of credit to Ghana

- ✦ The Export-Import (Exim) Bank has provided USD 30 million (about Rs 210 crore) line of credit to Ghana for a potable water project in the country.
- ✦ Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods, works and services from India would be allowed subject to their being eligible for export under the Foreign Trade Policy of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank.
- ✦ As per the agreement, the terminal utilisation time is 60 months period after the scheduled completion date of the project.

5. European Investment Bank to stop funding oil and coal projects at the end of 2021.

- ✦ The European Investment Bank is to stop funding oil and coal projects at the end of 2021. Since 2013, the European Union through the bank has funded 13.4 billion Euros for fossil fuel projects. In 2018, it was around 2 billion Euros. The Union has been reducing its funding to fossil fuel projects and is stopping by 2021.
- ✦ The EIB's new policy demands that the energy projects applying for funding must prove that they can produce 1 Kilo watt hour of energy emitting less than 250 grams of carbon dioxide.
- ✦ The exemptions are made on gas projects as they are common in the EU member states. For the next 5 years, EU has over 200 billion USD worth projects planned.

6. India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) of bluechip PSUs may be launched next month

- ✦ The government is expected to launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of about a dozen state-owned companies by mid-December 2019. The ETF is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore.
- ✦ Government sources said road shows are currently on for the Fund, which could be launched as early as December, and that there is significant interest in the market. The fund will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies.
- ✦ The debt ETF provides a new option to conservative investors to own securities of government-owned companies along with the facility of overnight liquidity as ETF units will be listed on exchanges.

7. IndiaFirst life insurance join hands with Spice Money for 'Insurance Khata' product.

- ✦ IndiaFirst Life Insurance, a leading life insurance company in India has partnered with Spice Money, a tech-led financial services provider, for distribution and marketing of 'insurance khata', a micro-insurance plan aims at the informal sector & agricultural labourers with seasonal incomes.
- ✦ Under this partnership, Spice Money will work for IndiaFirst Life & market of 'insurance khata' products to its customers base of over three lakh in semi-urban and rural India.
- ✦ The new insurance product will allow a customer to create and increase protection cover while also having certain amount of return of premium. It enables consumers to actually putting the money when they have it rather than committing to premium payments when they don't have committed flow of income

Foot Notes:**About IndiaFirst Life Insurance****Founded:** 2009**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra**MD & CEO:** Ms.R.M.Vishakha**About Spice Money****Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**Chairman:** Dilip Modi**8. SBI card ties-up with Vistara for co-branded credit card**

- ✚ State Bank of India card , a payment solutions provider in India has partnered with Vistara, an Indian full-service airline, to provide premium, co-branded credit card to its customers with the benefits like free cancellations, lounge access, and extra frequent flyer points.
- ✚ The co-branded credit card available in 2 variants- Club Vistara SBI Card PRIME and Club Vistara SBI Card.

Foot Notes:**About SBI card****Founded:** 1998**Headquarters:** Gurgaon, Haryana**CEO:** Hardayal Prasad**About Vistara****Founded:** 2013**Slogan:** Fly the new feeling**Headquarters:** Gurgaon , Haryana**CEO:** Leslie Thng**9. Union Cabinet approves one year extension to 15th Finance Commission**

- ✚ The Union Cabinet extended the term of 15th Finance Commission, which is to decide on division of tax and other resources between the centre and the states, by one-year to October 30, 2020.
- ✚ The cabinet approved the 15th Finance Commission to submit first report for the first fiscal year viz. 2020-21 and to extend the tenure of 15th Finance Commission to provide for the presentation of the final report covering FYs 2021-22 to 2025-26 by October 30, 2020.
- ✚ The term of the commission was originally set to end in October 2019, but was extended by one month to November 30.

10. Aditya Birla Finance is now 1st firm to list commercial papers on exchanges

- ✚ Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), the NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Capital, became the first company to list its commercial papers on the stock exchanges. The move comes after the exchanges -- the BSE and the NSE -- came out with a framework for listing of commercial papers (CPs), in a bid to broaden investors' participation in such securities.
- ✚ Listing of CPs is expected to lead to efficient transmission of information regarding corporate borrowings and liquidity positions to market participants, the NSE said in a statement.

- ✦ In separate statements, the exchanges said Aditya Birla Finance is the first company to list its commercial paper with value date of November 28 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.

11. Three UP regional rural banks amalgamated to form Baroda UP Bank: Finance Ministry

- ✦ According to a notification issued by the finance ministry, Government of India, 3 Uttar Pradesh (UP) regional rural banks (RRB) – Baroda Uttar Pradesh Grameen Bank, Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank and Purvanchal Bank will be amalgamated into a single regional rural bank on April 1, 2020 which will be called as “Baroda UP Bank”
- ✦ Bank of Baroda (BoB) will sponsor new Baroda UP Bank, which will have the headquarters Gorakhpur. Bank of Baroda is sponsor of Baroda Uttar Pradesh Grameen Bank, Union Bank of India is sponsor of Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank while State Bank of India is sponsor of Purvanchal Bank.
- ✦ The move comes after the government had consultations with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the sponsor banks of the concerned regional rural banks with the aim to increase the operational efficiency.

Foot Notes:

About UP

Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow

12. RBI imposes Rs 1.50 crore penalty on Corporation Bank

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.50 crore on Corporation Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI.
- ✦ The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Foot Notes:

About Corporation Bank.

Chief Executive Officer: PV Bharathi

Headquartered: Mangalore.

Science Tech & Defence

1. Shakti-2019: Indo-French counter terrorism exercise to begin from Oct 31

- ✦ Indo-French joint exercise ‘Shakti 2019’ is scheduled to begin on October 31, 2019 in Rajasthan. The bilateral exercise will be conducted between the armies of both countries.
- ✦ ‘Shakti-2019’ will be conducted at the Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The exercise will be conducted from October 31 to November 13, 2019.

2. Twitter to ban all political advertising

- ✦ Twitter has decided to ban all political advertising across the globe, saying that political message reach should be earned, not bought. The decision was announced by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey on October 30, 2019 through a series of tweets.
- ✦ In his tweets, Jack Dorsey highlighted that a political message earns reach when people decide to follow an account or retweet and paying for a reach removes that decision, forcing highly optimized and targeted political messages on people.
- ✦ Dorsey felt that this decision should not be compromised by money.

3. IIT Hyderabad researchers create first ever Indian Brain atlas

- ✦ Researchers including those from IIT Hyderabad developed the first Indian human brain atlas which revealed that India has some of the smallest brains in the world.
- ✦ The study found that there is a significant difference in the shape and size of the brain between Indians, Chinese, Koreans and Caucasians. In fact, the brain size of Indians is smaller in height, width, and volume in comparison with the western and other eastern populations.

4. IIT Delhi, ISRO jointly setting up space technology cell in campus

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with IIT Delhi going to set up a space technology cell in New Delhi.
- ✦ Earlier, Space Technology Cells (STCs) have been set up at IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore.
- ✦ It will also help the institution in various research areas like Artificial Intelligence, smart manufacturing, textile and nanotechnology.

5. 1st-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 begins

- ✦ The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 will begin at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent today. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Uzbekistan counterpart Major General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov presided over the Curtain Raiser of the military drill.
- ✦ The exercise, which will be focused on counter-terrorism, will continue till November 13. During the exercise, an Indian Army contingent will train along with Uzbekistan Army.
- ✦ The exercise will enable the sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and will lead to greater operational effectiveness.

6. DRDO Igniter Complex inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune

- ✦ A Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) Igniter Complex was inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune. The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.
- ✦ The new complex is equipped with sieve shaker, granulating machine, planetary mixer, pelleting machine, etc. A design, modelling, simulation laboratory are a part of the complex.
- ✦ The complex also has an assembly centre and a testing centre.

7. IIT-Madras launches country's first standing wheelchair 'Arise'

- ✦ IIT-Madras has launched the country's first indigenously designed standing wheelchair. The project, in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems, enables a differently-abled person requiring a wheelchair to shift from sitting to standing position, and vice versa, independently and in a controlled manner.
- ✦ The wheelchair 'Arise' was launched in the presence of Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot at the institute.
- ✦ Union Minister Gehlot lauded IIT-Madras for its initiative, and also recalled the Narendra Modi government's various welfare measures for the 'divyang', including setting up five national-level sophisticated sports centres for differently-abled sportspersons in different parts of the country.

8. China launches Sudan's first ever satellite "SRSS-1"

- ✦ Sudan's first-ever satellite for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by China. Sudan's remote-sensing satellite (SRSS-1), was developed by the Shenzhen Aerospace Oriental Red Sea Satellite Co.
- ✦ The satellite was launched aboard China's Long March-4B rocket along with other Chinese satellites including Gaofen 7, Xiaoxiang-1 08, Whampo 1 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern China.
- ✦ The Sudanese satellite has been mainly designed for civil and military remote sensing over Sudan.

9. Goa: Indian Coast Guard conducted ReSAREX-2019

- ✦ The Indian Coast Guard conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019) here to check the preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner.
- ✦ The ReSAREX - 19 tested the efficiency of operations of various SAR agencies in Goa. Five ICG Ships, Dornier aircraft, two Chetak helicopters besides resources from other resource agencies like Captain of port, State Marine Police, Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC) Bangalore, Goa state administration, Goa Medical College and Mormugao Port Trust participated in this workshop cum exercise.

10. IAF launches multiplayer version of mobile game "Indian Air Force - A Cut Above"

- ✦ The Indian Air Force launched the multiplayer version of its interactive mobile game which lets users experience the thrill of flying a combat aircraft.
- ✦ The multiplayer version of the game named "Indian Air Force - A Cut Above" was launched by Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora here.
- ✦ The then chief of air staff, B S Dhanoa, had launched the single-player version of the game on May 31.

11. Meet Maxwell X-57, Nasa's first electric plane powered by 14 motors

- ✦ NASA, most prominent for its many Florida-launched exploits into space, showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the X-57 Maxwell in the aeronautics lab in the California desert.
- ✦ Tecnam P2006T twin-engine propeller plane, the X-57 under development since 2015 and remains at least a year away from its first test flight in the skies over Edward Air Force Base.
- ✦ The two largest of 14 electric motors that will ultimately propel the plane - powered by specially designed lithium-ion batteries - NASA deemed the Maxwell ready for its first public preview. The newly built simulator that allows engineers, and pilots to get the maneuver the finished version of the X-57 in flight, even as the plane remains under development.

12. NASA renames solar system object previously known as 'ULTIMA THULE' to 'ARROKOTH' after NAZI controversy:

- ✦ NASA has recently renamed farthest cosmic body, Ultima Thule - Arrokoth or Sky. Earlier, NASA was criticized over the previous name's Nazi connotations.
- ✦ The new name reflects the wondering about the stars and looking at the sky. The name was given because of its natural position.
- ✦ Arrokoth also symbolizes 'icy-object' which was undisturbed since the solar system was formed about 4.5 billion years ago.

13. India-U.S. tri-services exercise Tiger Triumph begins in Visakhapatnam

- ✦ India-U.S. tri-services amphibious exercise Tiger Triumph got off to a gala. Tiger Triumph will continue for nine days off the Visakhapatnam and Kakinada coasts. The training events will enhance U.S.-India military-to-military relations and hone individual and small-unit skills in humanitarian assistance and disaster response.
- ✦ The exercise includes staff-planning events as well as field training that simulates moving a humanitarian assistance/disaster relief force from ship to shore.
- ✦ More than 500 U.S. Marines and sailors and about 1,200 Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen are participating in the exercise

14. Navy selects Karabi Gogoi as assistant naval attache in India's Moscow Embassy

- ✦ The Navy has selected Lt. Commander Karabi Gogoi as assistant naval attache at the Moscow Embassy, sources said, making her the second woman defence personnel to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment.

- ✦ Currently posted as a naval engineer at the Karwar base of the Navy, the officer is also learning Russian and is expected to take up her new assignment in Moscow next month.
- ✦ Wing Commander Anjali Singh became India's first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad. Singh, who is trained on MiG-29 fighter aircraft, is the Deputy Air Attache in the Indian mission in Moscow.

15. India conducts first night trial of Agni-II missile

- ✦ India successfully conducted the first night trial of nuclear-capable intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-II from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army test-fired the versatile surface-to-surface medium-range nuclear-capable missile from launching complex IV of the Integrated Test Range.
- ✦ Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile has already been inducted into the armed forces.
- ✦ Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the missile has already been inducted into the armed forces.

16. A three-day naval exercise, Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted between between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces.

- ✦ A three-day naval exercise, Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted between November 17 and November 21, 2019 between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces.
- ✦ The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces. The exercise is being held for the first time.
- ✦ The first diplomatic defense agreement between India and Qatar was signed in 2008. According to the agreement the countries permit annual defense training. However, an exercise between the countries is being conducted for the first time.

17. Pakistan successfully conducts test launch of surface-to-surface ballistic missile

- ✦ Pakistan conducted a successful test launch of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of delivering all types of warheads up to 650 km, the military announced.
- ✦ According to a press release issued by the media wing of Pakistani military, the launch of Shaheen-I missile was held as part of a training exercise "aimed at testing the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command".
- ✦ The Shaheen-1 missile is capable of delivering all types of warheads up to range of 650 KMs, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) ."The launch was aimed at testing operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) ensuring Pakistan's credible minimum deterrence,".

18. ISRO to launch Cartosat-3, 13 commercial nano satellites on November 25

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would launch its earth imaging and mapping satellite Cartosat-3 along with 13 commercial nano satellites from the US, on November 25, the space agency said.
- ✦ The satellites would be launched by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C47 into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launch is tentatively scheduled at 09:28 hrs IST on November 25, 2019 subject to weather conditions, ISRO said.
- ✦ The Cartosat-3 is a "third generation agile advanced satellite" having high resolution imaging capability, it said, adding that the satellite would be placed in an orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degree. ISRO has said, this would be the 74th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota.

19. Robot "CYBIRA" launched to aid cops in Visakhapatnam to take complaints

- ✦ In a bid to improve the efficiency to address the complaints, Visakhapatnam Police have launched first of its kind cybersecurity interactive robotic agent robot, CYBIRA stationed at Maharanipecta Police

Station, which can automatically take complaints in an effective manner. The new facility was launched by the Commissioner of Police (CP) R K Meena.

- ✦ A start-up company Robo Coupler Private Limited has designed a robot 'CYBIRA' (cybersecurity interactive robotic agent) for registering and disposing of complaints at the police station in an effective manner.
- ✦ The CP, Meena was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Zone I) S Ranga Reddy, CEO of the start-up company Praveen Malla, among others at the police station.

20. Defence Minister visits Kranji War Memorial in Singapore, pays tribute to World War martyrs

- ✦ Visiting the Kranji War Memorial in Singapore, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is on a two-day visit to the island city, paid tributes to those who sacrificed their lives during the World War-II.
- ✦ Comprising the Memorial Walls, the State Cemetery, the War Graves and the Military Graves, the memorial is dedicated to the men and women from countries, including, the UK, India, Malaya, the Netherlands, Canada, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, who laid down their lives defending Malaya and Singapore against the invasion of Japan forces during the second World War.

21. President's Colour awarded to Indian Naval Academy

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, awarded the President's Colour to Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala on 20 November 2019.
- ✦ The President's Colour - the highest honour that is bestowed upon a military unit - was received by Academy Cadet Captain Sushil Singh on behalf of the INA.
- ✦ A special postal cover was also released by the President to commemorate the occasion.

22. Nuclear-capable Prithvi-II Missile successfully testfired off Odisha coast.

- ✦ India successfully testfired night its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Indian Army from a test range off Odisha coast, an official of the ITR said.
- ✦ "Two Prithvi-2 missiles were test fired consecutively and both tests met all parameters," the official said from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- ✦ The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the ITR between 7 pm to 7.15 pm, he said.

23. Lieutenant Shivangi, the First Woman Pilot Of Indian Navy To Join Operations On 2 December

- ✦ First woman pilot of Indian Navy will join Naval operations in Kochi on December 2, two days ahead of Navy Day on December 4.
- ✦ "Shivangi will graduate to become the First female Pilot of Indian Navy. She hails from Muzzafarpur, Bihar and completed her schooling from DAV Public school, Muzzafarpur, .
- ✦ She was inducted into Indian Navy as SSC (Pilot) as part of 27 NOC course in Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and got formally commissioned by Vice Admiral AK Chawla, in June last year.

24. 2019 Global Terrorism Index: India 7th in the list of countries most affected by terrorism

- ✦ The 2019 Global Terrorism Index was released by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- ✦ The Index ranks 163 countries according to the impact of terrorism, based on factors such as the number of attacks, fatalities, injuries and the extent of property damage.
- ✦ The country most affected by terrorism in 2018 was Afghanistan (7,379 killed).

25. India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.

- ✚ India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020, a proposal it had mooted in the grouping's meeting on cooperation in the field of science and technology this week.
- ✚ The 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia.
- ✚ Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Director General Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Dr. Shekhar Mande led the Indian delegation.

26. India to host naval drill "Milan 2020" in March

- ✚ The Indian Navy will host military drill 'Milan 2020' in March which will witness the participation of several countries, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik.
- ✚ In a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Naik said 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
- ✚ Naik said the Army has 6,868 women officers and the Air Force and the Navy have 2,302 and 1,077 respectively.

Foot Notes:

About Indian Navy

Navy Day: 4 December

Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

27. NVIDIA announces world's largest GPU-accelerated cloud-based supercomputer

- ✚ NVIDIA has announced a new kind of GPU-accelerated supercomputer in the cloud on Microsoft Azure.
- ✚ NDv2 supercomputer is designed to handle demanding AI and high-performance computing applications, using up to 800 NVIDIA V100 Tensor Core GPUs interconnected on a single.
- ✚ Mellanox InfiniBand back end network, making it the world's largest GPU-accelerated cloud-based supercomputer.
- ✚ It enables customers to rent an AI supercomputer on-demand from their desk, and match the capabilities of large-scale on-premises supercomputers.

Foot Notes:

About NVIDIA

CEO NVIDIA: Jensen Huang.

Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States (US).

28. 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 exercise was previously held in December last year at Chengdu, China. Company size contingents of the Indian Army's 11 SIKHLI and a regiment from Tibetan Military District of the People's Liberation Army participated in the exercise.

Foot Notes:

About Indian Army

Chief of Indian Army: General Bipin Rawat

About China

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

29. ISRO launches CARTOSAT 3 including 13 US satellites into space

- ✚ India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C47 Launch Vehicle-XL (PSLV-XL) rocket carrying advanced earth observation satellite Cartosat-3 and 13 US nano satellites lifted off from the second launch pad of the rocket port from Sriharikota.
- ✚ At about 9.28 a.m. the 44.4 meters tall, weighing 320-ton rocket blasted off from the second launch pad at the country's rocket port. According to ISRO, the 1,625 kg Cartosat-3 is an advanced agile satellite to obtain panchromatic and multispectral imagery with an operational life of five years.
- ✚ PSLV-C47 is the 21st flight of PSLV in the 'XL' configuration. This will be the 74th launch vehicle mission from Sriharikota. Cartosat-3 satellite is a third-generation agile advanced satellite having high-resolution imaging capability. The satellite will be placed in an orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degrees.

Foot Notes:**About ISRO****Headquarters of ISRO:** Bengaluru.**Chairperson of ISRO:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan.**30. Joint military exercise 'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' between India and Nepal will be conducted at Salijhandi, Nepal**

- ✚ Joint military exercise 'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' between India and Nepal will be conducted at Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal from 03 to 16 December 2019.
- ✚ The exercise will comprise of 300 soldiers from both Indian and Nepal Army who would be sharing their experience in conduct of various counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations as also various humanitarian assistance missions by both the Armies.
- ✚ Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, exercise SURYA KIRAN with Nepal is an important exercise in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the realm of changing facets of global terrorism.

Foot Notes:**About Army****Chief of the Army:** General Bipin Rawat**About Nepal****Capital:** Kathmandu**Currency:** Nepalese rupee**Prime minister:** KP Sharma Oli**31. ISRO transfer space-grade Li-Ion cell technology to BHEL**

- ✚ ISRO has transferred its indigenous technology to produce space-grade Li-Ion cells to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). In March 2018, BHEL signed the Technology Transfer Agreement with ISRO for acquiring the Li-Ion Cell production technology.
- ✚ This production facility is primarily targeting to meet Li-Ion Cell requirements for ISRO and other strategic sectors. BHEL can also produce and sell Li-Ion cells for meeting other national/commercial applications by suitably modifying the space-grade cell which can lead to cost reduction.
- ✚ BHEL is in the process of establishing the Li-Ion production facility near Bangalore in Karnataka.

Foot Notes:**About BHEL****Chairman & MD of BHEL:** Nalin Shinghal.**Founded in:** 1964**Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.**32. The seventh Mitra Shakti, Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise was held on December 1, 2019 at Aundh military station.**

- ✚ The seventh Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise was held on December 1, 2019 at Aundh military station. The main objective of the exercise is to build and promote positive relations between the countries.

- ✦ The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Pune between December 1 and December 14, 2019.
- ✦ The Mitra Shakti exercise was started in 2013 and is conducted annually as a part of military diplomacy and interaction between the armies of India and Sri Lanka. It is important for India to maintain good relations with its neighbors in political, economic, social ways.

Important days

1. World Thrift Day celebrated every year 30 October

- ✦ World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on 30 October. The day aims to promote the savings and financial security of individuals and nations as a whole. The aim of the day is to change the behavior of people towards saving and constantly remind the importance of wealth.
- ✦ Saving wealth helps to start a business, get a good education, and avail good healthcare treatment. The saving habit in people will give independence to both people as well as the Country.
- ✦ In 1924, the first International Thrift Congress was held in Milan, Italy. The congress declared 31 October as the World Thrift day. The first World Thrift Day was celebrated in 1925.

2. National Unity Day to be celebrated on Oct 31

- ✦ National Unity Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In 2019, the 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is celebrated. He played an important role in uniting India. He is also famous as an Iron Man of India and one of the founding leaders of the Republic of India.
- ✦ In 2014, the Government of India introduced Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day with an aim to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. He is always remembered for his extraordinary works for the country and no doubt, he worked hard in keeping India united.
- ✦ Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, by paying tribute to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue and flagging of a program which was known as 'Run For Unity' in New Delhi. Run for unity was held to spread awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to Indian history.

3. UNESCO celebrates World Cities Day, 31 October

- ✦ The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st October as World Cities Day.
- ✦ The Day is expected to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
- ✦ This year, the United Nations has selected the theme "Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations" to discuss how urbanization can be used to achieve sustainable development.

4. World Vegan Day is celebrated on 1 November

- ✦ World Vegan Day is observed on 1 November. The Day provides an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general. On the Day, vegan groups and practitioners organize workshops to highlight the importance of animal rights.
- ✦ Donald Watson coined the term Vegan which was derived from the word Vegetarian in 1944. During that time, the differentiation was that Vegans did not consume dairy products. It then extended to eggs, and by 1951, veganism became a movement of people who did not partake in the exploitation of animals.
- ✦ The vegan food diet omits all animal products, including dairy, eggs, and meat. Vegan diet is accepted by more people for both ethical and environmental reasons, and also to improve health.

5. 1st Nov State Formation Day of Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh

- ✦ On November 1, several Indian states including Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka were formed. The day is thus recognised as Statehood Day of State Formation Day.
- ✦ While Karnataka and Kerala were formed in 1956, Haryana was formed in 1966. On Kannada Rajyotsava or Kannada Day, also known as Karnataka Formation Day, all the Kannada language-speaking regions of South India were merged to form the state of Karnataka.

6. World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November

- ✦ The World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on 5 November. The day is celebrated to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- ✦ In 2019, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes Target of the “Sendai Seven Campaign,” which focuses on reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
- ✦ World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

7. International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict Observed on Nov 6

- ✦ The International Day for preventing environmental exploitation during war and armed conflict was observed on November 6, 2019. The day aims to ensure that the environment is not destroyed during incidents of armed confrontations.
- ✦ The environment has often remained a silent victim of wars and armed conflicts, as war casualties are usually counted in terms of the dead or wounded or the destruction caused to livelihoods and cities.
- ✦ However, the most common target during the conflicts has been the environment, as forests have been cut down, water wells polluted, crops burned, soil poisoned and animals killed.

8. World Diabetes Day is celebrated on 14 November across the world every year.

- ✦ Theme for diabetes awareness month and World Diabetes Day 2019 is “Family and Diabetes”. World Diabetes Day (WDD) was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.
- ✦ World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006. It is marked every year on 14 November, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.

9. Godrej Locks to Commemorate 3rd Home Safety Day on 15th November

- ✦ Godrej Locks, a brand synonymous with trust, quality, and safety, will be commemorating 3rd Home Safety Day observed every year on 15 November.
- ✦ Home Safety Day aims to encourage people to be protected against threats like robberies, burglaries, and thefts. The company is all set to observe this day with newer initiatives to be announced.
- ✦ In 2018, on Home Safety Day, Godrej Locks unveiled #HarGharSurakshit, India's biggest public awareness campaign to make citizens home safety conscious.

10. Rajnath Singh to attend Maitree Diwas celebrations in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✦ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Arunachal Pradesh to attend the Maitree Diwas celebrations at Tawang.
- ✦ Maitree Diwas (Civil-Military Friendship) will be celebrated for two days at Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Stadium Tawang.

- ✦ This will be the 11th edition of Maitree Diwas which celebrates civil-military bonhomie in the area. Rajnath Singh will also inaugurate Sisseri River Bridge and National Highway-52 in East Siang District.

11. National Press Day celebrated on November 16; marks the foundation of Press Council of India in 1966

- ✦ National Press Day – The 16th of November – is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India. This was the day on which the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that not only did the press maintain the high standards expected from this powerful medium but also that it was not fettered by the influence or threats of any extraneous factors.
- ✦ Though there are several Press or Media Councils world over, the Press Council of India is a unique entity in as-much-as this is the only body to exercise an authority even over the instruments of the state in its duty to safeguard the independence of the press.
- ✦ Recommending the establishment of Press Council in 1956 the Last Press Commission had concluded that the best way of maintaining professional ethics in journalism would be to bring into existence a body with statutory authority, of people principally connected with industry whose duty it would be to arbitrate. To this end the Press Council of India was established and the body that was evolved since November 16, 1966 has not belied the objective.

12. World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed on November 17

- ✦ The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year – to remember the many millions killed and injured on the world's roads, together with their families, friends and many others who are also affected. It is also a Day on which we thank the emergency services and reflect on the tremendous burden and cost of this daily continuing disaster to families, communities and countries, and on ways to halt it.
- ✦ From 1995, road victim organisations under the umbrella of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) observed this Day together – first as European Day of Remembrance, but soon as World Day when NGOs from Africa, South America and Asia, who were associated members of FEVR, joined.
- ✦ Therefore FEVR is the creator and first owner of the World Day of Remembrance. Already from 2000, the Pope and other religious leaders remembered road victims worldwide on the 3rd Sunday of November, calling it 'World Day'.

13. International Day for Tolerance: 16 November

- ✦ The United Nations observes "International Day for Tolerance" on 16th November every year. The United Nations is committed to strengthening tolerance by fostering mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.
- ✦ In 1995, to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, UNESCO created a prize for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence.
- ✦ The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence rewards significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence. The prize is awarded every two years on the International Day for Tolerance, 16 November.

14. World Toilet Day observed on November 19, 2019 with its theme as 'Leaving No One Behind'

- ✦ World Toilet Day is celebrated on 19th November every year, is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030.
- ✦ Established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001, World Toilet Day was made an official UN day in 2013. UN-Water leads a taskforce of international agencies to campaign around a common theme.

15. World Children's Day observed on November 20

- ✦ World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- ✦ November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ✦ Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

16. Africa Industrialization Day: 20 November

- ✦ Africa Industrialization Day is celebrated on November 20 each year. It is a time when governments and other organizations in many African countries examine ways to stimulate Africa's industrialization process.
- ✦ It is also an occasion to draw worldwide media attention to the problems and challenges of industrialization in Africa.
- ✦ 2019 Theme: "Positioning African Industry to Supply the AfCFTA Market" will raise awareness in the international community on the challenges and opportunities for Africa's industrialization within the framework of the newly created African Continental Free Trade Area.

17. World Television Day celebrated on November 21

- ✦ Television is a mass medium that provides entertainment, education, news, politics, gossip, etc. It is a medium for transmitting moving images in two or three dimensions and sound. No doubt, it is a healthy source of education and entertainment both. It plays a crucial role in society by delivering information.
- ✦ On 21 November and 22 November, 1996, the U.N. held the first World Television Forum. It provides a platform and allow media to discuss the importance of TV in delivering information and also how it is participating in the changing world. It is the single largest source of video consumption.
- ✦ Therefore, UN General Assembly on 17 December 1996, through resolution 51/205 established 21 November as World Television Day to commemorate the date on which World Television Forum was held.

18. World Philosophy Day celebrated on November 21

- ✦ The World Philosophy Day is observed globally on the third Thursday of November every year.
- ✦ This year it was observed on 21st November. On this day, UNESCO highlighted the value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and individual.
- ✦ The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts.
- ✦ The goal is to obtain regional contributions to global debates on contemporary challenges that support social transformations. World Philosophy Day was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO

19. Lachit Divas celebrated in Assam on November 24 in memory General Lachit Borphukan

- ✦ On the occasion of Lachit Divas, celebrations took place in various parts of the state of Assam in the memory of the famed general Lachit Borphukan of Ahom kingdom in the seventeenth century. Various events and competitions were held in the memory of the legendary warrior in Assam.
- ✦ Lachit Borphukan is a cultural idol in the state of Assam after he defeated a large Mughal Army on the banks of Brahmaputra in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671 to defend Guwahati.
- ✦ BK Borah, Director of Cultural Affairs, said: "He was the commander of the western Assamese forces. Despite being severely ill, Borphukan managed to fight the naval battle and defeat the Mughal army and became a cultural hero for the citizens of Assam." (ANI)

20. NCC celebrates its 71st Raising Day

- ✦ The National Cadet Corps (NCC), the world's largest uniformed youth organization, is celebrating its 71st Raising Day on 24 November.

- ✦ The celebrations began, with Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and DG NCC Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra paying homage to the martyrs, who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation, at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. The NCC Raising Day was also celebrated all over the country with the cadets participating in marches, cultural activities and social development programs.
- ✦ NCC continues its relentless efforts towards moulding the youth into responsible citizens of the country.

Foot Notes:**About NCC****Director-General of NCC:** Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra.**Founder:** Government of the United Kingdom.**Founded:** 16 April 1948.**Headquarters location:** New Delhi.**21. 70th Constitution day celebrated on November 26, 2019.**

- ✦ Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas is celebrated on 26 November across the country to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949.
- ✦ It came into force on 26th January 1950, marking the beginning of a new era in the history of the Indian Republic. It is aimed at reiterating and reorienting the citizens towards the values and principles expressed in the Constitution and encouraging all Indians to play their rightful role in strengthening the Indian Democracy.
- ✦ It also aims to create awareness of Fundamental Duties as enshrined in the Constitution. India's constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It took around 2 years, 11 months and 17 days to complete the Constitution.

22. 26th November observed as National Milk Day 2019

- ✦ The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) and 22 state-level milk federations in 2014 together decided to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Verghese Kurien who was known as the father of India's White Revolution on 26 November. Therefore, the first National Milk Day was observed on 26 November, 2014.
- ✦ In 1970, India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) started a rural development programme known as Operation Flood. It is one of the largest programmes and its aim was to develop a nationwide milk grid.
- ✦ It helped in reducing the malpractices by milk traders and merchants and resulted in making India one of the largest producers of milk and milk products. Therefore, it is also known as the White Revolution.

Foot Notes:**World Milk Day:** 1 June**23. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: 29 November**

- ✦ In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- ✦ This date, which was chosen because of its meaning and significance to the Palestinian people, is based on the call by the United Nations General Assembly for an annual observance of the resolution on the partition of Palestine.
- ✦ The International Day of Solidarity traditionally provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property, from which they have been displaced.

Foot Notes:**About United Nations General Assembly****President:** Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

Headquarters: New York, United States
Founded: 1945

24. World AIDS Day observed on December 1 with its theme as 'Communities Make the Difference'

- ✦ World AIDS Day, held each year on December 1, is an opportunity to celebrate and support global efforts to prevent new HIV infections, increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and support those living with HIV.
- ✦ Since World AIDS Day was first observed more than 30 years ago, progress to prevent and treat HIV has been extraordinary.
- ✦ HIV medicines are available to help people with HIV live long, healthy lives and prevent HIV transmission. In addition, effective HIV prevention methods, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), are available.

Foot Notes:

About AIDS

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

25. Nagaland celebrates its 57th statehood day on December 1, 2019

- ✦ Nagaland is celebrating its 57th Statehood Day . It became the 16th State of the Union of India on 1st December 1963. The formal inauguration was done by the then President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.
- ✦ Celebrating the Day in Kohima, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio addressed the people and said the state has come a long way in the midst of all the turmoil. He remembered the founding fathers for their sacrifices and resoluteness that brought the state into a reality.
- ✦ The Chief Minister said the quest for a final solution to the Naga political issue continues till 1st December. He said negotiations between various Naga political groups and the Government of India have concluded and a solution could be very close.

Foot Notes:

About Nagaland

Capital: Kohima

Governor: RN Ravi

Chief minister: Neiphiu Rio



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Sports

1. Jasprit Bumrah, Smriti Mandhana win Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award

- ✦ Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and batswoman Smriti Mandhana won the Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award. They were the two winners from India among five who won the award.
- ✦ The other winners from Asia were Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne, and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.

- ✦ Mandhana became the third woman to win the award, after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma. Legends Gundappa Viswanath and Lala Amarnath were inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame.

2. Shakib Al Hasan suspended for two years by ICC for not reporting corrupt approach

- ✦ Bangladesh captain and star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was on Tuesday handed a two-year suspension by the ICC for failing to report three corrupt approaches, including one at the IPL, by a suspected Indian bookie, ousting him from the upcoming tour of India.
- ✦ Twelve months of that ban is a suspended sentence which will come into effect if Shakib fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body.

3. India to host 1st ever day-night Test in Kolkata after Bangladesh agree to BCCI proposal

- ✦ In a historic move, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) agreed to Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) proposal to host a day-night Test in the upcoming 2-Test series between the two teams. India will thus host their first ever pink-ball Test at Eden Gardens, Kolkata from November 22.
- ✦ Newly-appointed BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who has been an ardent supporter of day-night Tests, made his intentions clear when he said Virat Kohli was agreeable to India playing day-night Tests.

4. Shiva Thapa, Pooja Rani end India campaign on a high at Olympic Test event

- ✦ Indian boxer Shiva Thapa and Pooja Rani clinched gold medals in Olympic Test Event for Boxing in Tokyo, Japan. While Ashish settled for a silver, ending India's brilliant campaign at the Olympic Test Event.
- ✦ Four-time Asian medallist Thapa outpunched Kazakhstan's national champion and Asian bronze-winner Sanatali Toltayev 5-0 to claim the top honours in the 63-kilogram category. Former Asian Games bronze-medallist Pooja Rani edged past Australia's Caitlin Parker in 75-kilogram category to ensure that the Indian women's contingent also had gold in its kitty.
- ✦ In 69 kilogram category, Ashish, however, lost to Japan's Sewon Okazawa to sign off with a silver medal.

5. IOC names Mary Kom in boxing's athlete ambassadors group for 2020 Olympics

- ✦ The 6-time world champion Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom has been inducted into the 10-member sports ambassador group by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Boxing workforce to represent boxers ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
- ✦ Mary Kom will represent the Asian bloc in the group, which also comprises the likes of Ukrainian legend Vasyl Lamachenko (Europe), a two-time Olympic and world gold-medallist who now plies his trade in the professional circuit, and five-time world champion and 2016 Olympic gold-winner Julio Cesar La Cruz (Americas) among others.

6. Sensational Lakshya Sen claims SaarLorlux Open title

- ✦ India's Lakshya Sen has won the Saar LorLux Open badminton tournament at Saar brücken in Germany.
- ✦ He defeated Sen Weng Hong Yang of China. Lakshya, seeded eighth, needed 59 minutes to overcome Weng 17-21 21-18 21-16 in the summit clash for his third successive singles title of the season.

7. Shubman Gill creates history, breaks Virat Kohli's record in Deodhar Trophy final

- ✦ 20-year-old right-handed batsman Shubman Gill made his way into the record books when he walked out to lead India C in the 47th Deodhar Trophy final against India B on Monday at the JKCA International Complex in Ranchi.
- ✦ Shubman Gill became the youngest-known captain to lead a side in the Deodhar Trophy final. The Punjab right-hander broke India captain Virat Kohli's 10-year-old record. Kohli had led North Zone in the Deodhar Trophy final when he was 21 years and 124 days old in 2009-10. Gill is only 20 years and 57 days old.

- ✦ Gill, however, could not make the occasion more special by scoring a big one. He was dismissed for 1 by Mohammad Siraj when slapped it straight to cover. Batting first, India B notched up 283 for 7 riding on a fighting 86-run knock by Kedar Jadhav. For India C, Bengal pacer Ishan Porel picked up five wickets for 43 runs in his 10 overs.

8. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian cricketer to play 100 T20 International cricket matches.

- ✦ Rohit Sharma has achieved another feat during India vs Bangladesh 2nd T20I match. He gave an important victory gift in his 100th T20 International match at Saurashtra Cricket Stadium in Rajkot. India defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets thanks to Rohit's 85 runs.
- ✦ Rohit Sharma has also made many records during the match. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian cricketer to play 100 T20 International cricket matches. Rohit achieved this feat while leading the team during the second T20 International against Bangladesh at Rajkot.

9. India to host men's Hockey World Cup in 2023

- ✦ India will host the Men's Hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time after the country was picked to host the game's showpiece event in 2023 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in Lausanne.
- ✦ According to the FIH, the Men's Hockey World Cup will be held in India from January 13 to 29.
- ✦ In another decision made by the Executive Board during the FIH's last meeting of the year, Spain and the Netherlands were named as the co-hosts of the 2022 Women's World Cup scheduled to be held from July 1 to 22.

10. India to host Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023

- ✦ International Hockey Federation (FIH), in Lausanne, has recently selected India to host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup.
- ✦ According to the FIH, the Men's Hockey World Cup will be played in India from January 13 to 29. The format of the 2023 World Cup will be the same as in the previous tournament.
- ✦ India will thus become the first country to host the Men's Hockey World Cup four times. Earlier in India, this tournament has been organized in 1982, 2010 and 2018.

11. India wins T20 series against Bangladesh

- ✦ India defeated Bangladesh by 30 runs in the third and final T20 International match played at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur. India won the three-match T20 series by 2-1.
- ✦ Team India scored 174 runs in 20 overs and gave Bangladesh a target of 175 runs to win. In response, Bangladesh's team could only manage 144 runs for 10 wickets in 19.2 overs.
- ✦ Deepak Chahar made a unique record of taking six wickets for seven runs. He has become the best bowler in T20 Internationals.

12. Sri Lanka Becomes First South Asian Nation to Criminalise Match Fixing & Sports Betting

- ✦ The Sri Lankan parliament has passed a bill related to 'prevention of sports-related crimes'.
- ✦ Now, match-fixing in Sri Lanka will be considered as a criminal offence. This new law, related to match-fixing, will apply to every game.
- ✦ As per the bill, Sri Lankan cricketers now have to report corrupt approaches to the Sri Lankan Government.

13. Nicholas Pooran suspended for four matches for ball tampering

- ✦ ICC has banned West Indies cricketer Nicholas Pooran for four international matches. He had tampered the ball in the third ODI against Afghanistan.
- ✦ West Indies team player Nicholas Pooran has broken Level 3 of the ICC Code of Conduct.
- ✦ It was found in the video footage that Nicholas Pooran is scratching the ball by thumbnail. He will not be able to play the next three T20I and one test match.

14. FIFA ban three officials including former Peru Football Federation Manuel Burga for life over involvement in corruption

- ✦ FIFA banned three former top South American football officials for life in connection with a corruption scandal that has shaken world football since 2015.
- ✦ Former Peru Football Federation Manuel Burga and Argentinian officials Eduardo Deluca and Jose Luis Meiszner took secret payments while allocating marketing and media contracts for regional competitions.
- ✦ The bans are the latest sanctions linked to revelations in 2015 by US prosecutors of a web of corruption involving millions of dollars in bribes concerning marketing and TV rights for South American football tournaments

15. Indian sprinter Dutee Chand on TIME 100 Next list, says she is 'delighted'

- ✦ Indian athlete Dutee Chand has been included in the Time 100 Next list. This list has been launched under the expansion of the list of 100 most effective people in the world.
- ✦ It includes those who are ready to make future in business, recreation, sports, politics, health and science.
- ✦ Dutee has won two Silver medals in 100 meters and 200 meters events at the Jakarta Asian Games. She is the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in the 100 meters in the World University Games.

16. Punjab to host 2019 circle Kabaddi World Cup in December

- ✦ The 2019 World Kabaddi Cup will take place from December 1 to 9 and will be organised by the Punjab government in Punjab.
- ✦ This year's tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ✦ Nine teams: India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan and Canada are expected to take part in the tournament.

17. India's Harmeet Desai wins men's singles title at the ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open Table Tennis tournament

- ✦ Indian paddler Harmeet Desai staved off a strong challenge from compatriot Amalraj Anthony to win the ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open in Batam, Indonesia.
- ✦ In an all-Indian men's singles final, it was Harmeet who started on a positive note winning the opening game 11-9 but he lost the next game 9-11, allowing Amalraj to draw level.
- ✦ World no 104 Harmeet, however, took control of the proceedings and won the next two games by an identical margin of 11-9 to go 3-1 up in the match.

18. Virat Kohli named PETA India's 2019 Person of the Year

- ✦ India captain Virat Kohli was named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.
- ✦ A vegetarian, Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter on PETA India's behalf to officials calling for the release of Malti, an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort, who was reportedly violently beaten by eight men, a PETA India statement said.
- ✦ Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year award include Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, and actors Anushka Sharma, Hema Malini, R Madhavan, and Jacqueline Fernandez.

19. Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan, Divyansh Panwar clinch golds in historic day at ISSF World Cup Finals

- ✦ India's young shooters touched another sensational high with Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan and Divyansh Panwar clinching gold medals in their respective events to give the country its best ever single-day show in the ISSF World Cup Finals at Putian in China.

- ✦ The 17-year-old Bhaker fired her way to the gold with a junior world record in the women's 10m air pistol event, while the 20-year-old Elavenil claimed the top honours in the women's 10m air rifle competition.
- ✦ Later, another teen sensation Divyansh, who is all of 17, finished on top in the men's 10 air rifle competition with a final score of 250.1. India are currently top of the table with three gold medals, followed by China (two gold, one silver, one bronze).

20. Madhya Pradesh govt to give 5% reservation to sportspersons in Govt. jobs

- ✦ Sportspersons in Madhya Pradesh will now get a 5 per cent reservation in state government jobs. Madhya Pradesh Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Jitu Patwari announced while inaugurating the Regional Olympic Games in Gwalior.
- ✦ Jitu Patwari said that sportspersons who have won medals on national and international levels often remain without jobs and providing the 5 per cent reservation will benefit these players.
- ✦ The minister said public participation would be ensured in the expansion of sports facilities, adding that the Kamal Nath government was creating a better environment for the sports in the state.

21. Rafael Nadal wins Davis Cup title 2019

- ✦ Rafael Nadal has clinched 6th Davis Cup title for Spain after beating Denis Shapovalov of Canada in front of a jubilant home crowd in Madrid.
- ✦ Nadal defeated Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch Spain's 2-0 win against Canada.

22. Abhishek-Jyothi duo wins compound mixed pair gold at Asian Archery Championship.

- ✦ Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam claimed the gold in compound mixed pair event at the 21st Asian Archery Championships, which ended in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✦ The Indians defeated Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151 in the final clash.
- ✦ India picked up seven medals including one gold, two silver and four bronze medals in the event.

23. 13th South Asian Games begins in Kathmandu, Nepal

- ✦ On December 1, 2019, the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari opened the South Asian Games in Kathmandu. The event is scheduled to be conducted for 10 days. Around 487 athletes are participating from India.
- ✦ The South Asian Games is a biennial multi-sport event that is held among the South Asian countries. It is being conducted since 1983. Currently there are eight members in the event. It includes India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Maldives.
- ✦ The Council was formed in 1983 at Islamabad, Pakistan. The country hosting the South Asian games holds the president-ship of the council. The current President of the council is Nepal.

Foot Notes:

About Nepal

Capital: Kathmandu

Currency: Nepalese rupee

Prime minister: KP Sharma Oli

24. Australia's Steve Smith becomes fastest cricketer to reach 7,000 Test runs

- ✦ Steve Smith became the fastest cricketer to score 7,000 Test runs, shattering a record that had stood since 1946, while moving past Donald Bradman to become Australia's 11th highest scorer.
- ✦ The 30-year-old took a single off Muhammad Musa during the second Test against Pakistan in Adelaide to reach the milestone and take possession of a record held for 73 years by English great Wally Hammond.

- ✚ Hammond reached the mark in 131 innings, while Smith, who played his first Test nine years ago, made the grade in his 126th. India's Virender Sehwag is the third fastest in 134 innings.

Books and Authors

1. Union HRD Minister and Union Minister for Food Processing Industries launch three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji

- ✚ Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi today on the occasion of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ✚ The National Book Trust under Ministry of HRD has published three Punjabi titles – Guru Nanak Bani, Nanak Bani, and Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev. The title Guru Nanak Bani has also been published in Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati were also released on the occasion. The translation in Assamese, Bangla, Kannada, Sanskrit, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi and English has been taken up.
- ✚ The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, passed a Resolution in November 2018, to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the year 2019, throughout the country and across the globe, in a grand and befitting manner along with State Governments and the Indian Missions abroad.

2. 'Hemant Karkare: A Daughter's Memoir', book written by Jui Karkare , released.

- ✚ On November 25, Jui Karkare Navare, daughter of martyr Hemant Karkare, released her book named A Daughter's Memoir. "My father was an iconic hero, a braveheart and a daredevil," said Jui. She stated that it was her mother's dream.
- ✚ The book that was launched at Prerna Hall of Police Club, is published by Crossword. Remembering Karkare, his friend Gadgil said, "Hemant was one of a kind. He used to celebrate New Year's party on December 27 and 28. Actors, artists, writers used to come to that party. He used to trust people when they became friends with him."

Awards

1. Gandhi Mandela Award 2019, an initiative to commemorate All Time World Pioneers

- ✚ The Gandhi Mandela Foundation, a New Delhi based non-profit organization, under the aegis of Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (a govt of India recognized 80G, 12A complaint), committed to the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, has constituted India's first International Award, The Gandhi Mandela Award.
- ✚ Announcing the award on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Foundation said that the award honours exemplary work and achievements of the Heads of State and Government and other distinguished persons/organizations around the world.
- ✚ "Mahatma Gandhi was nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize but never given one so it will be a befitting tribute to him to set up a Global Award in his name debuting on his 150th birth anniversary and also in the name of Nelson Mandela, who embraced the ideals of non-violence, pluralism and forbearance.

2. President Kovind confers first National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the first National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA) on 29 October 2019. The award instituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The NCSRA aims to recognize the companies for their outstanding contribution in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ✦ They have focused on sustainable projects creating a long-term impact.

3. Rajinikanth to get 'Icon of Golden Jubilee' award at IFFI

- ✦ The 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will honour superstar Rajinikanth with a special 'Icon of Golden Jubilee' award, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar announced.
- ✦ The festival will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28 with close to 250 films from various countries being screened.
- ✦ "The festival's steering committee had recommended a special icon award which will be conferred on legendary actor Rajinikanth. This will be a great attraction during IFFI," the minister told reporters here.
- ✦ Rajinikanth, who is one of the biggest cinema icons of the country, thanked the government for conferring him with the honour.

4. Punjab Govt to institute Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Award

- ✦ Punjab State Cabinet passed a unanimous resolution to institute Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Award for Promotion of Peace and Interfaith Understanding, in commemoration of the 550th Prakash Purb of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The award would carry a citation and a cash prize of 11 lakh rupees.
- ✦ This coveted award would be given each year and would be adjudicated by a jury to be notified by the State Government.
- ✦ Cabinet also approved the modalities of the Special Session of the 15th Punjab Vidhan Sabha, to be presided over by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, on 6th of November to commemorate the 550th Prakash Purb celebrations of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

5. Novak Djokovic Beats Denis Shapovalov to Win Paris Masters 2019 titles

- ✦ Novak Djokovic won the Paris Masters 2019 title. He won the title for the fifth time. He sealed his 34th Master's title and fifth overall ATP victory of the year 2019. He defeated Canada's Denis Shapovalov.
- ✦ He secured 6-3 6-4 to win the title.

6. Four Guinness World Records slated during the 5th India International Science Festival

- ✦ Around four Guinness World Records is to be attempted during the course of the 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) that has been scheduled to begin in Kolkata on 5 November 2019.
- ✦ A small personal model of advanced spectroscope can be made by anyone using a box made of cardboard that has a very narrow window used to channel light into the spectroscope. A piece of a Compact Disc is used to split the light by a process called diffraction. This attempt is dedicated to renowned scientists Meghnad Saha and C. V. Raman.
- ✦ The largest electronics lesson and assembly of optical media communication units at a single location will be attempted with the participation of over 950 students on 6 November.
- ✦ The record attempt for most people assembling Radio kits simultaneously will be attempted on 7 November 2019 with the participation of over 400 students.
- ✦ The largest human image of a human chromosome will be attempted to be formed on 8 November 2019 with the participation of over 400 students.

7. Madhuri Vijay has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel 'The Far Field'.

- ✦ The 27-year-old, Madhuri Vijay has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel 'The Far Field'. She has been selected from a shortlist featuring novels from five accomplished writers. She is also a recipient of Henfield Prize and the Pushcart Prize.

- ✦ JCB is an annual Indian literary award founded in 2018. It is the richest literary honour in the country. It is awarded to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or to a translated fiction by an Indian writer.
- ✦ The award consists of cash prize of Rs.25 lakh (US\$38400). The award is funded by English construction manufacturing group JCB, which established the JCB Literature Foundation to maintain this award.

8. Ellen DeGeneres to Receive the 2020 Carol Burnett Award

- ✦ Comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres will be honored at the 77th Golden Globes ceremony with the Carol Burnett Award for outstanding contributions to television, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced.
- ✦ DeGeneres has scored three Golden Globe nominations in her career, all for her performance as quirky bookstore owner Ellen Morgan in ABC's "Ellen."
- ✦ The 90s sitcom broke ground when its titular character — along with DeGeneres — came out of the closet in 1997, making it one of the first major TV shows with an openly gay lead character.

9. Kolkata students create Guinness World Records with largest astrophysics assemble

- ✦ The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was created at the Science City Kolkata on the first day of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 with the participation of over 1,598 students.
- ✦ An official release said astronomers use spectroscopes to know details like temperature, the chemical composition of celestial objects hundreds or millions of light-years away from us.
- ✦ On the second day of IISF, the largest electronics lesson and assembly of optical media communication units at a single location will be attempted with the participation of over 1,000 students. (ANI)

10. Tata Literature Live! to honour Shanta Gokhale, K Satchidanandan with Lifetime Achievement award

- ✦ Writer Shanta Gokhale will be honoured with the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement award 2019, while poet K Satchidanandan will receive the Poet Laureate award for their work which has made a significant impact in the Indian literary field.
- ✦ Recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Gokhale is a multi-hyphenate personality. She recently published her memoirs, "One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body".
- ✦ Satchidanandan has represented the country at several literary meetings overseas and has headed several national literary institutions. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2012.

11. IIT-B's Sunita Sarawagi, G Mugesh of IISc-Bengaluru among Infosys prize winners

- ✦ The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the 11th edition of the Infosys Prize 2019 in six categories — Engineering and Computer Sciences, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences. The prize for each category comprises a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse of \$100,000 this year.
- ✦ In 2009, Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee won the Infosys Prize in its first year in 2009 for social sciences-economics for his contributions to the economic theory of development as well as his work in the empirical evaluation of public policy.
- ✦ This year, the prize received 196 nominations.

12. Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari to be awarded Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by PCI

- ✦ Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism, the council announced.
- ✦ The award will be presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day.

- ✦ In a statement, the Press Council of India (PCI) also announced other winners of the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019. Sanjay Saini, Correspondent, Dainik Bhaskar, Mandi, and Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director, India Today, have been jointly named as winners of the award in the category of 'Rural Journalism'.

13. West Bengal based writer Abhishek Sarkar wins award at Dhaka Lit-fest

- ✦ At the 9th edition of the Dhaka Literature festival, West Bengal-based writer Abhishek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award.
- ✦ Abhishek and Rofiquzzaman won the awards for their manuscripts, "Nishiddho" and "Dhoashar Tamate Rong," respectively.
- ✦ The special focus of this year's lit-fest is on Indigenous Languages as the UNESCO has marked 2019 as the year of Indigenous Language Protection.

14. Ullas Karanth, was awarded the George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science

- ✦ Wildlife biologist K. Ullas Karanth, Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru, was awarded the George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science for his contribution to the field of conservation.
- ✦ He is the first recipient of the award instituted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), New York, in honour of Dr. George Schaller, who is considered one of the greatest wildlife scientists and conservationists globally.
- ✦ A release said the WCS George Schaller Lifetime Award in wildlife conservation science has been created to honour WCS colleagues for outstanding contributions to saving wildlife and wild places.

15. Robert De Niro to be conferred with SAG Life Achievement award

- ✦ Hollywood veteran and double Oscar winner Robert De Niro will receive the SAG-AFTRA's highest tribute: the SAG Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment, at the 26th edition of the ceremony 2019.
- ✦ The SAG Life Achievement Award is given annually to an actor who fosters the "finest ideals of the acting profession".

16. Veteran actors Sridevi and Rekha were conferred with the ANR National Award for 2018 and 2019

- ✦ The veteran actors Sridevi and Rekha were conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- ✦ The award was presented by renowned Telugu actor Chiranjeevi.
- ✦ The award is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation and honours those who have made a lasting impact on Indian cinema.

17. British naturalist David Attenborough to get 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- ✦ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 will be conferred on renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.
- ✦ His name was selected for the prize by an international jury chaired by former president Pranab Mukherjee, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- ✦ The 2019 prize, it added, is awarded to Attenborough for a lifetime of doing more to reveal the wonders of the natural world to us than perhaps any other individual.

18. Tamil Nadu (State category) and Peddapalli (District category) topped in Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2019

- ✦ The Union Minister of the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers, conferred the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards to top-ranked states, union territories, and districts in the various categories on the occasion of World Toilet Day at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.

- ✦ The top-ranked state: Tamil Nadu, and the top-ranked district: Peddapalli (Telangana), along with the state with the maximum citizen participation: Uttar Pradesh.

19. I&B Minister inaugurates Film Bazaar on sidelines of IFFI 2019 in Goa

- ✦ The Film Bazaar, which is being organised by the National Film Development Corporation, was inaugurated by the Information and Broadcasting Minister on the sidelines of the golden jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India.
- ✦ The Film Bazaar encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities.
- ✦ Over the years, films such as Lunch Box, Margarita With A Straw, Chauthi Koot, Qissa, Miss Lovely, Dum Lagake Haisha and Thithi have been through one or more programmes of the Bazaar.

20. Sundram Fasteners Chairman Suresh Krishna gets 'Quality Ratna' award

- ✦ Chairman of Sundram Fasteners Ltd Suresh Krishna has been presented with the 'Quality Ratna' award by trade body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✦ CII Institute of Quality in its Citation, said, "Suresh Krishna has been a role model for the society in embracing the principles of Quality, in both personal and professional life. He pioneered the constitution of the TPM Club of India in collaboration with the Japan Institute of Plant Maintenance (JIPM) in 1998 and was its first Chairman.

21. Sangram Dahiya, Varsha Varman win double trap national titles.

- ✦ Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.
- ✦ In men's category, Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to leave behind former world champion Ankur Mittal, who managed 137 hits over the five rounds of 30 targets each to win a silver.
- ✦ Varsha, in the women's category of 120 targets each, had 97 to her name to clinch the gold ahead of state-mate Manisha Keer, who had 93 hits winning Silver.

22. Saurabh, Divyansh, Elavenil to get ISSF's Golden Target award

- ✦ Three Indians have finished as No.1 in the year-end World rankings and will receive the International Shooting Sports Federation's (ISSF) 'The Golden Target' award. From this year, ISSF has started the Golden Target award for the top ranked athletes. The awards will be given to top shooters from 12 categories on December 7 in Munich.
- ✦ Divyansh Singh Panwar and young Elavenil Valarivan have topped the men's and women's 10m air rifle categories respectively, while pistol ace Saurabh Chaudhary has ended the year as No. 1 in men's 10m air pistol event.
- ✦ Out of the 12 Olympic categories (individual), India has maximum No. 1s, followed by China and USA (2 each).

Foot Notes:

About International Shooting Sports Federation's

Headquarters: Munich, Germany

President: Vladimir Lisin

Founded: 1907

23. NDTV gets IPI award for excellence in journalism for 'Kathua case expose'

- ✦ The International Press Institute India award for excellence in journalism has been given to private news channel NDTV for its "expose of the conspiracy to scuttle" the Kathua rape and murder case probe.
- ✦ The expose of the hypocrisy across the political spectrum "represented excellence in journalism", anchored by senior journalist Nidhi Razdan, a statement issued by the India chapter of the Vienna-based International Press Institute.

- ✦ A jury of eminent editors headed by former Attorney General of India Soli Sorabjee considered the entries received and unanimously selected NDTV for the prestigious award.

24. Indian journalist Neha Dixit receives International Press Freedom Award

- ✦ This award is awarded by Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a non-profit organization whose aim is to enable journalists to work without the fear of reprisal.
- ✦ Dixit received the award for her reports on sex trafficking scandals in India by Investigative reporter in Miami Herald, Julie K .Brown.

Foot Notes:

About Committee to Protect Journalists

Founder: Michael Massing

Formation: 1981

Headquarters: New York, United States

25. Malayalam poet Akkitham Achutan wins 55th Jnanpith Award

- ✦ Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award, according to an announcement by the Jnanpith Selection Board. "The board has announced the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019 in a meeting. It went to Shri Akkitham, eminent Indian poet writing in Malayalam.
- ✦ Born in 1926, Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, popularly known as Akkitham is one of the most revered names in Malayalam poetry.
- ✦ Apart from poetry, his literary excellence has footprints in genre like drama, reminiscence, critical essays, children literature, short stories and translations.

Foot Notes:

About Jnanpith Award

The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature.

Established: 1961

First winner: G. Sankara Kurup

First awarded: 1965

Obituaries

1. Yoga grandma V Nanammal passes away at 99 in Coimbatore

- ✦ Inspirational yoga teacher V Nanammal passed away in Coimbatore. She was 99 years old. Known affectionately as "Yoga Grandma", Nanammal received the Padma Shri - one of India's highest civilian honours.
- ✦ Born into an agricultural family, she was taught yoga by her father. Her children said that Nanammal had predicted her death and had told her family members that she will die 48 days from the very conversation she had with them. However, her family said that she died exactly eight days before the date she had predicted.
- ✦ She became a popular figure on YouTube in her later years, still performing some of the most formidable yoga positions in her trademark pink sari.

2. Sadako Ogata: First female UN refugee chief dies at 92

- ✦ Japanese academic and diplomat Sadako Ogata died at the age of 92. She was the first female to be appointed UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

3. Justice N Venkatachala passed away

- ✦ Former judge of the Supreme Court (SC), Justice N Venkatachala, has passed away at the age of 89. Venkatachala was born in July 1930. Justice Nanje Gowda Venkatachala obtained his law degree from Mysore University. In November 1955, he enrolled as an advocate in the then High Court of Mysore (now Karnataka). He practiced civil, criminal and constitutional matters in Bangalore.
- ✦ From 1963 to 1973, he served as a Legal Adviser to the University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal, Bangalore. From 1968 to 1973, he worked as a Government Pleader. From 1973 to 1977, he served as a High Court Government Advocate.
- ✦ In November 1977, he was appointed an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court and as a Permanent Judge in September 1978.

4. Telugu actress Geetanjali Ramakrishna dies at 72 in Hyderabad

- ✦ Popular Telugu actress Geetanjali, who is remembered for her role as Goddess Sita in Sitarama Kalyanam, passed away.
- ✦ The actress starred in about 500 films and some of her other memorable films include Doctor Chakravarti, Letha Manasulu and Sambarala Rambabu.

5. Film producer Chompak Jain passed away

- ✦ Film producer Chompak Jain passed away. He was one of the owners of Venus Records and Tapes which produced hit films like the 1994 blockbuster Main Khiladi Tu Anari starring Saif Ali Khan and Akshay Kumar.

6. French Resistance member and concentration camp survivor Yvette Lundy dies at 103

- ✦ French Resistance legend & Nazi camps survivor Yvette Lundy who helped Jewish prisoners of war to escape prison during the Nazi occupation of France passed away at the age of 103.
- ✦ She was born on 22 April 1916 in France, Yvette was made Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, which is one of the highest decorations in France.

7. Sahitya Akademi awardee Nabaneeta Dev Sen passes away

- ✦ A poet, novelist and short-story writer, Dev Sen won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for her book 'Naba-Nita'. She was also the recipient of the Padma Shri in 2000.
- ✦ She is the founder and president of the West Bengal Women Writers' Association. Nabaneeta Dev Sen's 1978 book on 'Naxal movement in Bengal' was published in English.

8. T N Seshan, former chief election commissioner, passes away

- ✦ TN Seshan passed away on November 10, 2019. He was famous for strictly enforcing electoral rules in India when he was Chief Election Commissioner of the country. He was 86. Seshan had played an important role in electoral reforms in the country in the 1990s.
- ✦ TN Seshan's full name was Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan. He was 10th Chief Election Commissioner of India. He held this position from 12 December 1990 to 11 December 1996. He made many changes in the Indian election system. The voter ID card was also started in India by him.
- ✦ He also wrote the books 'The Degeneration of India' and 'A Heart Full of Burden'. TN Seshan was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1996.

9. World-famous mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh passes away in Patna

- ✦ World famous mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who came to be known as India's Einstein, passed away in Patna. Born in Bihar, he was suffering from a prolonged illness from the last 35 years.
- ✦ Vashishtha Narayan passed away at the age of 74 today at Patna Medical College and Hospital. He was suffering from mental disorder Schizophrenia since he was 40.

10. Veteran actor Shaukat Kaifi passes away at 93

- ✦ She is remembered for her roles in MS Sathya's Garm Hawa, Sagar Sathadi's Bazaar and Muzaffar Ali's Umrao Jaan.
- ✦ Her last film was the Vivek Oberoi-Rani Mukerji starrer Saathiya. Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi. Kaifi and Shaukat were leaders of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA).

11. MP's first non-Congress CM Kailash Chandra Joshi dies at 90

- ✦ Kailash Chandra Joshi, the first non-Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, died at a private hospital in Bhopal after prolonged illness. He was 90. The state government has announced a three-day state mourning.
- ✦ Joshi will be cremated at his native place in Hatpipliya in Dewas district. In the elections held immediately after the Emergency was lifted, the Janata Party defeated the Congress and Joshi became CM for less than seven months between June 1977 and January 1978 — he resigned on health grounds. Before being elected as the CM, he was the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly for five years.

12. Former WB minister Kshiti Goswami passes away

- ✦ The General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and former West Bengal Minister Kshiti Goswami passed away.
- ✦ Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State.

13. Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dhar dies at 87 following cardiac arrest.

- ✦ Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dhar, whose works graced several newspapers in a career spanning 58 years, died after suffering a cardiac arrest, his family said. Renowned cartoonist Sudhir Dhar, whose works graced several newspapers in a career spanning 58 years, died on Tuesday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest, his family said.
- ✦ His cartoons have also appeared in The Independent, The Pioneer, Delhi Times, New York Times, Washington Post and Saturday Review, among others. PTI

14. Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar passes away

- ✦ On November 27, 2019 Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar, who led the Indian navy during the Kargil War passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi.
- ✦ He served as Navy Chief between 1998 and 2001 and also oversaw Kargil conflict in 1999.
- ✦ He authored a book which portrays the decisions taken by late former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee titled "A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief".

Foot Notes:**About Indian Navy**

Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

15. Australian writer & broadcaster Clive James passes away

- ✦ He was born in 1939, he moved to England in 1961 and rose to prominence as a literary critic and TV columnist.
- ✦ He went on to deliver wry commentary on international programming in such shows as Clive James On Television.

16. Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Japanese PM and Reagan confidant, dies at 101

- ✦ Yasuhiro Nakasone, one of Japan's longest-reigning prime ministers and known for his friendship with Ronald Reagan, has died at the age of 101. Nakasone, prime minister from 1982 to 1987, shared the world stage with Reagan and Margaret Thatcher while battling with bureaucrats over domestic reforms.
- ✦ Known for his "Ron and Yasu" friendship with Reagan, Nakasone made headlines after taking office when he said that in event of a war, he would make Japan an unsinkable "aircraft carrier" for US forces and bottle up the Soviet navy.

Foot Notes:**About Japan****Prime minister:** Shinzō Abe**Capital:** Tokyo**Currency:** Japanese yen**17. World-renowned rock climber Brad Gobright passes away in Mexico fall**

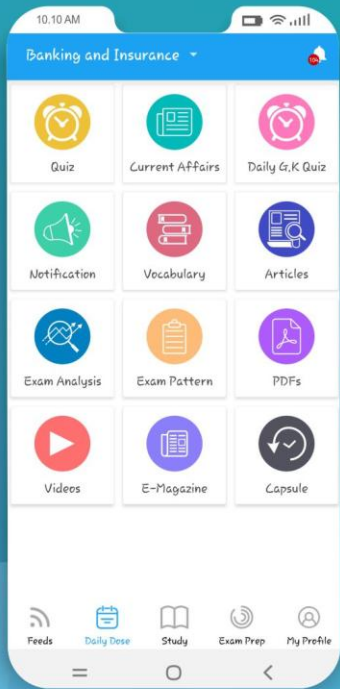
- ✦ A world-renowned rock climber, US national Brad Gobright, fell to his death while climbing a sheer rock face in northern Mexico.
- ✦ He was known for his gravity-defying solo ascents with no ropes.

18. Irving Burgie: Songwriter of calypso hit Day-O dies aged 95

- ✦ US composer Irving Burgie, who helped to popularise Caribbean music with hit songs like Day-O, has died aged 95. His death was confirmed by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, who called for a moment of silence for the man who wrote its national anthem.
- ✦ Mr Burgie is best known for helping singer Harry Belafonte bring calypso music to the mainstream. The 1950s song Day-O went on to be used in films, adverts and even as a wake-up call for astronauts in space.
- ✦ The calypso hit, also known as The Banana Boat Song, featured in the popular film Beetlejuice and has been sampled by rapper Lil Wayne and singer Jason Derulo.

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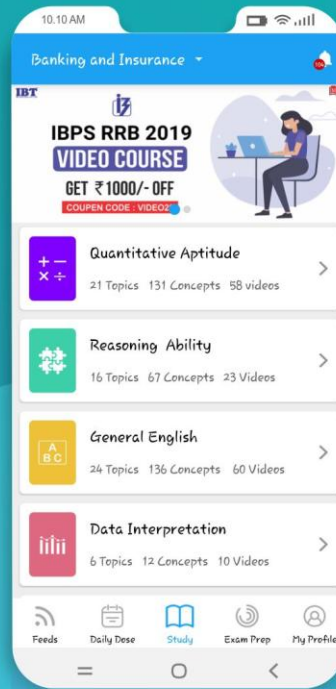
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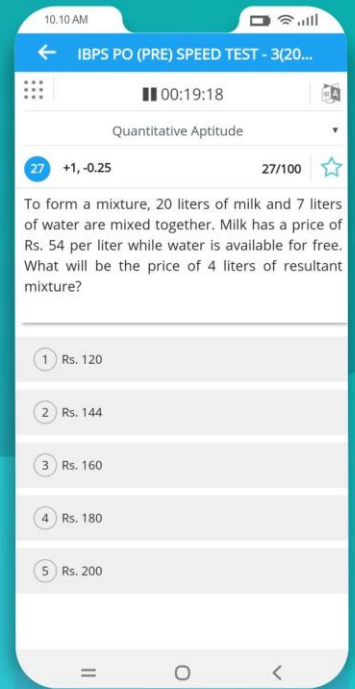
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