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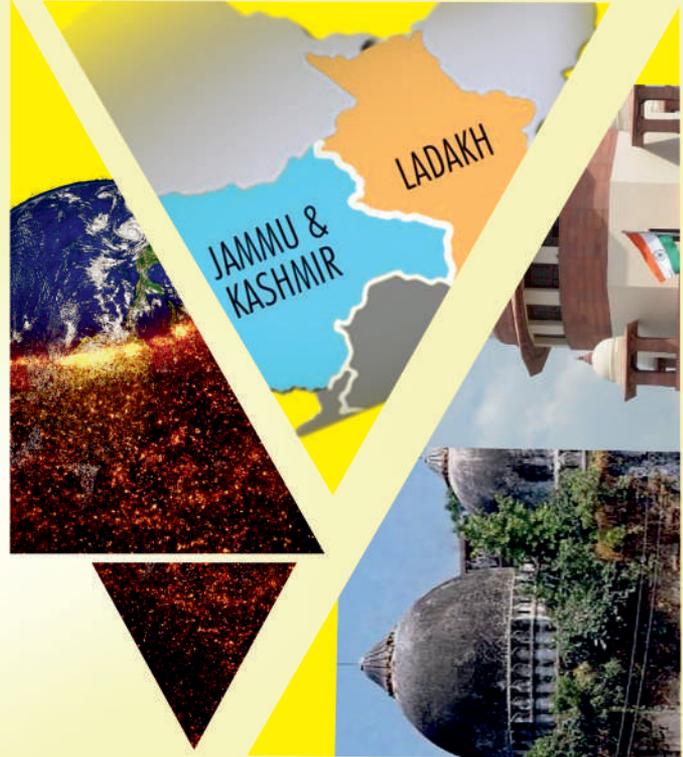
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MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TNPSC EXAMS

NOVEMBER - 2019



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- ◆ Separation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- ◆ Air Pollution : Oxygen bar
- ◆ AMMA Ambulance
- ◆ National Unity Award
- ◆ Climate Emergency
- ◆ Jal Jeevan Mission

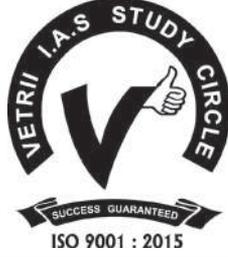


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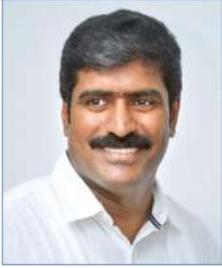
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F Block New No. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 1st Avenue main Road, Chinthamani, Anna Nagar (E), Chennai – 102.

Phone: 044 – 26265326 / 9600124042 / 9840097666

www.vetriias.com

E-Mail: [vetriias@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias@gmail.com) / [vetriias2011@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias2011@gmail.com) / [vetriias2018@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias2018@gmail.com)

Feedback: [vetriiasmaterials@gmail.com](mailto:vetriiasmaterials@gmail.com)

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# History



## 1.1 Important Days

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
	<b>Health Ministry to observe Vigilance Awareness Week</b>	"Integrity- a way of life"
<b>20-10-2019</b>	<b>International Chefs Day</b>	"How Healthy Food Works"
<b>29-10-2019</b>	<b>International Internet Day 2019</b>	The International Internet Day is observed annually on October 29 to commemorate the day in the history of telecommunication and technology celebrating the event of sending the first electronic message through the internet from one computer to another in 1969 in California, United States (US)
<b>29-10-2019</b>	<b>World Stroke Day</b>	The World Stroke Day is observed annually on October 29 to create awareness on prevention of the seriousness of strokes and to ensure better care and support for stroke survivors.
<b>29-10-2019</b>	<b>Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day</b>	'Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience'.
<b>30-10-2019</b>	<b>World Savings Day</b>	Theme- Savings give life a gift
<b>31-10-2019</b>	<b>National Unity Day</b>	It is observed on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel birthday.
<b>31-10-2019</b>	<b>World Cities Day</b>	General theme of WCD - Better City, Better Life Theme: changing the world: Innovations and better life for future generations
<b>01-11-2019</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Chhattisgarh Foundation Day</b>	
<b>01-11-2019</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu Day</b>	For the first time in six decades since the Linguistic Reorganization of States in 1956, Tamil Nadu state formation day will be celebrated on November 1.
<b>Week ( 24 to 31)</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> edition of Global Media and Information Literacy</b>	Theme for the year 2019 is "Media and Information Literate Citizens: Informed, Engaged, Empowered"

<b>01-11-2019</b>	<b>World Vegan Day</b>	Donald Watson coined the term Vegan
<b>02-11-2019</b>	<b>International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists</b>	
<b>05-11-2019</b>	<b>World Tsunami Awareness Day</b>	The day will promote Targets of the Sendai Seven Campaign that focuses in reducing disaster
<b>05-11-2019</b>	<b>Infant Protection Day National Cancer Awareness Day</b>	
<b>08-11-2019</b>	<b>International Day of Radiology (ISOE)</b>	Theme of 2019 is 'sports imaging'.
<b>09-11-2019</b>	<b>National Legal Service day</b>	
<b>10-11-2019</b>	<b>World Science Day for Peace and Development</b>	2019 Theme: 'Open science, leaving no one behind'.
<b>11-11-2019</b>	<b>National Education Day</b>	<p>The National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November on the birth anniversary of Independent India's first Education Minister, freedom fighter, scholar and eminent educationist Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) announced, "The Ministry has decided to commemorate the birthday of this great son of India by recalling his contribution to the cause of education in India."</p>
<b>12-11-2019</b>	<b>World Pneumonia Day</b>	Theme for 2019: "Healthy Lungs for all".
<b>12-11-2019</b>	<b>Public Service Broadcasting Day</b>	
<b>13-11-2019</b>	<b>World Kindness Day</b>	The Theme of 2019 is empathy, encouraging people across the globe to better understand "the pains of others" and touch their lives "positively".
<b>14-11-2019</b>	<b>World Diabetes Day</b>	Theme 2019- 'The Family and Diabetes'
<b>14-11-2019</b>	<b>Children's Day</b>	<p>To mark the birth anniversary of our first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.</p> <p>The children also loved and respected him and called him CHACHA NEHRU. Children's Day is celebrated across India to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children.</p>

<b>15-11-2019</b>	<b>National Press Day</b>	
<b>15-11-2019 to 21-11-2019</b>	<b>Newborn Care Week</b>	The health of a country is measured by the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of children under the age of one. 40% of babies die within a week and 60% of babies die within a month. The death rate of children under the age of one in India is 33 per thousand children.
<b>16-11-2019</b>	<b>International Day for Tolerance</b>	
<b>17-11-2019</b>	<b>World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims</b>	The theme (motto) of this year's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was "Life is not a car part".
<b>18-11-2019</b>	<b>Naturopathy day</b>	
<b>18-11-2019 to 24-11-2019</b>	<b>World Antibiotic Awareness Week</b>	
<b>19-11-2019</b>	<b>World Toilet Day</b>	Theme: Leaving No One Behind.
<b>19-11-2019</b>	<b>International Men's Day</b>	The 2019 theme of the day is "Making a Difference for Men and Boys."
<b>19-11-2019</b>	<b>Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED)</b>	
<b>20-11-2019</b>	<b>Transgender Day of Remembrance</b>	The Transgender Day of Remembrance, also known as the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, has been observed annually on November 20 as a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia.
<b>21-11-2019</b>	<b>World Television Day</b>	
<b>21-11-2019</b>	<b>World Philosophy Day</b>	By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.
<b>22-11-2019</b>	<b>71st Student Squadron Day</b>	

## 1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

### Indo-French Joint Exercise Shakti 2019

- The joint military exercise of India and French troops is to be held between **31st October 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**.
- It is a biennial exercise conducted alternately in India and France. The exercise is to be conducted at the **Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan**.

#### Highlights

- The exercise will focus on **Counter Terrorism operations** in a semi-desert terrain under **United Nations Mandate**

### India and Saudi Arabia to Hold First Joint Naval Drills

- **India and Saudi Arabia** will conduct their first-ever joint naval exercises in the first week of **March next year**, as the two sides agreed to enhance their cooperation in defence and security areas.
- The **Gulf Kingdom** wants to deepen its maritime cooperation with India in the western **Indian Ocean**, which constitutes busy and sensitive shipping routes such as the **Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, and the Persian Gulf**.

### First BIMSTEC Ports Conclave at Visakhapatnam

- The **Ministry of shipping** is hosting the first ever **BIMSTEC Ports' Conclave**.
- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for **Multispectral Technical and Economic Cooperation** is an international organization that involves South East Asian and South Asian countries.

### Rudrashila-The White-Water Rafting Expedition

- At the Jodhpur Military station, the white-water rafting expedition called the "Rudrashila" was flagged in by Lt General VS Sreenivas. It was undertaken by the Kalidhar Battalion.
- The team will also spread awareness on social issues of "Swachh Bharat" campaign and "Preservation of river ecosystem". The expedition will start from Rudraprayag and end in Rishikesh.
- It is considered to be the most difficult and dangerous rapids in the mighty Ganges river.

#### Rudrashila

- The name Rudrashila is framed from the Rudraprayag tributary of the Ganges river.
- It originates in the mountains of Uttarkhand.

### Operation 'Maa'

- It was a quiet humane operation of approaching "**Maa**" (**mother**) launched by **Kashmir-based XV Army Corps** that saw around **50 Kashmiri** youths return to normal life this year, after abandoning the terror groups they had joined.

## **GRSE delivers Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Annie Besant to Indian Coast Guard**

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) delivered Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Annie Besant to Indian Coast Guard (ICGS) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- This is second in the series of five such FPVs being built by GRSE for Indian Coast Guard and the 101st warship to be delivered by shipyard.

### **About ICGS Annie Besant**

- It is a medium-range vessel with 50 metres in length, 7.5 metres in width and displacement of nearly 308 tonnes.
- It is designed for a maximum speed of 34 knots with an endurance of over 1,500 nautical miles.

## **DRDO's Igniter Complex Inaugurated**

- 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.

### **HEMRL**

- HEMRL develops rocket, pyrotechnic devices, gun propellants, high-explosive systems. Ignition is the crucial phenomenon in all these systems.
- HEMRL had developed ignition system for Prithvi, Agni, Nag, Akash, Pinaka, etc. It has also transferred the technology to Ordnance factory, Pune.

## **India-Uzbekistan 1<sup>st</sup>-ever joint military exercise Dustlik-2019 begins**

- The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise Dustlik-2019 begin at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- The exercise, which will be focused on counter-terrorism.
- During the exercise, an Indian Army contingent will train along with Uzbekistan Army.

## **SCOJtEx-2019: Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue- 'SCOJtEx-2019' in New Delhi.
- The four day exercise will be held from 4-7 November 2019. The joint exercise is being hosted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- The SCOJtEx will be followed by a meeting between SCO experts and officials of ministries responsible for prevention as well as elimination of emergency situations.

## **Def Connect: Ministry of Defence showcases the innovations of iDEX initiative**

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) is organizing the "Def Connect" event on November 11, 2019.
- The main objective of the event is to showcase the accomplishments of iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence.

### **ReSAREX-2019: ICG conducts Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise-2019**

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 'Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019': ReSAREX-19 off Goa coast.
- The two-day event was organized by Coast Guard District Headquarters-11 (Goa) to test efficiency and preparedness of ICG.

#### **About ReSAREX- 19**

- The exercise comprised of a search and rescue workshop and table top exercise, followed by a search and rescue exercise at sea.

### **Tiger TRIUMP: First Tri-services amphibious exercise between India and US**

- India and US are to jointly conduct Tiger TRIUMP, the first ever tri-services amphibious exercise. It is to be conducted in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It includes field training and events that simulate humanitarian assistance in disaster times. The event will also hold simulations in moving disaster relief forces from ship to shore.

### **Roar of the sea: Naval Exercise between Qatar and India**

- 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.

### **Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy Bilateral Maritime Exercise Samudra Shakti Progresses in the Bay of Bengal**

- INS Kamorta, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, is 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 06 Nov to 07 Nov 19.

### **Rajnath Sigh to attend Maitree Diwas celebrations in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Defence minister Rajnath Singh will visit Arunachal Pradesh today 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 tomorrow.

### **Exercise Indra 2019 to be held in December**

- Exercise Indra 2019, a joint tri-service exercise between India and Russia, has been scheduled to be held in December 2019.
- In the exercise, the mechanized contingents, fighter and transport aircraft and ships of the armed forces of India and Russia will be participating.

## India completes Agni II test fire successfully

- India conducted its first night trial of **AGNI II** missile successfully.
- It is the first night trial being tested by the country. The nuclear capable missile was tested at the **Abdul Kalam Island of Odisha Coast**.

### Highlights

- The missile was developed by **DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization)**
- The surface-to-surface medium range nuclear capable missile was tested by the **Strategic Forces of the Indian Army**.
- The missile is capable of striking range of **2,000 km**.
- It can carry payload of **1,000 kg** and launch a weight of 17 tonnes. It is **20 meters** long and is a two-stage missile.
- It is an **IRBM (Integrated Range Ballistic Missile)** and has already been inducted into the armed forces

### AGNI Missile

- Agni II missile is a part of series of Agni missile with a range of 2,000 km. The range of Agni I is 700 km, Agni III is 3,000 km.
- The first test firing of Agni II missile was done in 1999. In 2010, the first test fire of nuclear capable Agni II ballistic missile was conducted successfully.

## 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 Global Terrorism index: India 7<sup>th</sup> – most affected by terror attacks, Afghan 1<sup>st</sup> Place

- The Sydney (Australia) based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) released the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of its annual report titled “**2019 Global Terrorism Index: Measuring the impact of terrorism**”. As per the Index India was ranked at the 7<sup>th</sup> place in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2018.
- The country which topped the list was **Afghanistan** with 7,379 killed due to terror attacks in 2018. Afghanistan’s Taliban terrorist group has been ranked first as the deadliest terror groups.
- The other countries in the list include Iraq (2<sup>nd</sup>), Nigeria (3<sup>rd</sup>), Syria (4<sup>th</sup>), Pakistan (5<sup>th</sup>) and Somalia (6<sup>th</sup>).

## DRDO to double ASTRA’s range

- The DRDO recently announced that DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) is to increase the range of **ASTRA air-to-air missiles**. India is one of the few countries to own a successful BMD-Ballistic Missile Defence programme.

### ASTRA

- Astra (Sanskrit word for weapon) is an all-weather air-to-air missile developed completely by DRDO. Currently, ASTRA is capable of engaging targets upto a distance of 110 km. The ASTRA missiles are integrated with Sukhoi Su-30 MKI aircrafts of India.

### Prithvi-2 missile successfully test fired

- India successfully test-fired two rounds of its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile at night as part of a user trial by **Indian Army**. These test were conducted from a mobile launcher from **Launch Complex-3 of Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in Balasore district of **Odisha**. These were second night trials of **Prithvi-II missile**.

#### About Prithvi-2 missile

- It is surface-to-surface tactical missile with a strike range of 350 km. It is India's first missile indigenously developed by DRDO under prestigious **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)**. It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear.

### Poonch Link up Day celebrated by Indian Army

- Indian Army on November 23, 2019 commemorated the Poonch Link-up Day.
- The event was organized to pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives defending Poonch during the conflict in 1948

#### Highlights

- The army laid its wreath at the War Memorial in the Poonch District. The event was conducted to mark Operation Easy that was aimed to defend the Poonch district from the invading Pakistan.

#### Poonch District

- The Poonch district is bounded by Line of Control on all three sides. In 1947-48 war, the district was divided between India and Pakistan. A part of the district went to Pakistan and the other part became a part of the then Indian state Jammu and Kashmir.

### By 2025, ₹ 35,000 crore Indian Army logistics target

- India has set a target of exporting 5 billion dollar (~ 35,000 crore) of military equipment by the year **2025**.
- Defense Minister Sanjay Rajnath Singh** announced that all countries can invest in India's defense sector.
- Rajnath Singh has traveled to Thailand to participate in the Security Forces Secretariat of eight countries, including the **Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and India, which is a member of its alliance. He announced in a seminar '**Rise of India**' in Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

### L&T Valves secures Green Channel Status

- L&T Valves has become the first private enterprise in India to secure the 'Green Channel Status' from the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- Additional Director General, Quality Assurance (Warship Projects) formally awarded the 'Green Channel Status' to L&T Valves during the **QA Industry Conclave (South Zone)** in Chennai.

### NIA hosts 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.

## 1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

### Basic ministerial meet on climate change

- The 29<sup>th</sup> ministerial meet of BASIC countries was held at Beijing between October 25-26, 2019.
- The BASIC countries include Brazil, South Africa, India and China.

### BASIC countries

- The BASIC countries are the block of Brazil, India, China and South Africa formed based on an agreement in 2009.
- They committed to act jointly at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. The countries announced plans and targets accordingly. The grouping also agreed to provide technical aid to G77 countries.

### UNESCO designates Mumbai and Hyderabad as member of UCCN

- UNESCO has designated Mumbai as a member of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the field of FILM and Hyderabad in the field of GASTRONOMY.
- The 7 categories for recognition under UCCN are Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Music, Media Arts and Literature.
- Previously, 3 Indian cities were recognized as members of UCCN, namely- Jaipur-Crafts and Folk Arts (2015), Varanasi-Creative city of Music (2015), Chennai-Creative city of Music (2017).

### Kerala Governor inaugurates Ayurveda summit

- Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Global Ayurveda Summit 2019.
- As many as 400 industry leaders and delegates from SAARC, GCC and African countries have gathered in Kochi for the Global Ayurveda Summit 2019.
- The two-day summit organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will deliberate on the theme “Mainstreaming Ayurveda through Startups, Innovation and Branding”.

### 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit begins in Bangkok



- The 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit began in Bangkok, Thailand from October 31 to 4 November.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a group of ten member countries that encourages political, economic and social co-operation in the region.
- The theme of the summit for this year is “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”.

### **COP25 cancelled**

- The **Chile Government** cancelled the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and the **COP25** conference due to the ongoing protests in the country.
- The country's president in a press meet said that the **ongoing violent protests** have plagued the country for weeks and it is currently not in a situation to hold international conferences.
- This is the second time a country is cancelling to host COP25. In November, 2018, **Brazil** withdrew from hosting the COP25 citing economic reasons

### **COP25**

- The Conference of Parties is the supreme body of the **UNFCCC-United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- The first COP was held in **Berlin, Germany** in 1995.

### **Kanpur is world's most polluted city: Guinness World Records 2020**

- The city of **Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh** held the title for the world's most polluted city in the latest edition of Guinness World Records.
- The book, '**Guinness World Records 2020**', lists thousands of new record titles and holders that will educate curious readers of all age groups.
- It is released annually by publisher **Penguin Random House**.

### **Kanpur: The Most Polluted City in the World**

- A report by **World Health Organization (WHO)** analyzed that the most polluted city in the world is Kanpur in northern India, with an average PM2.5 level of 173 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> for the year 2016.

### **WHO study on physical activity-India ranks 8<sup>th</sup>**

- The **World Health Organization** published its study about physical activity of adolescents aged between 11 and 17 years.
- The study was conducted across 146 countries with the help of data from 298 school-based surveys. The assessment included physical education, active play, recreation and sports, walking, planned exercises and cycling.

### **Highlights: India**

- India was ranked eighth reporting lowest level of physical activity. Though, India was one of the top performers around 74% of adolescents showed insufficient physical activity.
- In India the overall insufficient physical activity in 2001 was 76.6% and has now decreased to 73.9% in 2016.

### **50<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum to be held in Switzerland in January 2020**

- The 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** is to be held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, from **21-24 January 2020**.
- The theme of the forum is fixed as '**Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World**'.

## World Customs Organization recognised HS Code for India's Signature Fabrics-A Boost for Khadi Exports

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has allocated separate HS code for signature fabric of India. HS stands for **Harmonized System** and was developed by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**. The code is used by customs officers to clear commodities entering or crossing international border.

### HS Code

- It is a multipurpose International Nomenclature that describes type of goods being shipped. The code follows **Kyoto Convention of 1974**. It is being used by more than 200 countries.

## BRICS summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a two-day visit to Brazil from November 13 to attend the 11th BRICS summit, the **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- BRICS bring together five major world economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which comprise 42 per cent of the world population, contribute to 23 per cent of global Gross Domestic Product and around 17 per cent of the share in world trade.
- The theme of this year's summit is **economic growth for an innovative future**.



## Extra News

### Roar of the sea: Naval Exercise between Qatar and India

- 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.

### Indian Army conducts Sindhu Sudarshan exercise in Barmer, Rajasthan

- The **Strike Corps (also known as Sudarshan Chakra Corps)** of Indian Army is conducting the annually held exercise, dubbed **Sindhu Sudarshan-VII, in Barmer, Rajasthan**. The annual exercise will test the operational readiness and maneuver warfare capability of **Indian Army's 21 Corps**, one of the service's three so-called Strike Corps. The Corps currently consists of 2 infantry divisions, 1 armored division, and 3 support brigades.

## India ranks 59<sup>th</sup> in 2019 IMD World Talent Ranking

- India was ranked 59<sup>th</sup> among 63 countries in the **2019 IMD World Talent Ranking** released by International Institute for Management Development.
- This year, India slipped by 6 places as compared to 53<sup>rd</sup> rank in 2018 edition of this global annual list.
- India's poor performance was on account of low quality of life and expenditure on education.

## Led by India, South Asia moving towards becoming center of global growth: IMF

- Led by India, **South Asia** is moving towards becoming center of global growth and could contribute about one-third of the world's growth by 2040, according to a latest research by the **International Monetary Fund**.
- Under the IMF's geographical division of the world, South Asia does not include **Afghanistan and Pakistan**.
- For IMF, **South Asia includes India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives**.

## India ASEAN InnoTech Summit 2019

- India ASEAN InnoTech Summit 2019, a three-day **Technology & Innovation Summit**, exhibition, B2B and B2G meetings to be held on 20 - 22 November 2019, SMX Convention Center, Davao, Philippines.
- India ASEAN InnoTech Summit: **Accelerating towards innovative development**
- Participating ASEAN Member Countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
- Exhibition to showcase best **Indian Innovative Technologies**, with potential implementation in the ASEAN region.

## PM attends BRICS summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Brazil on November 13 and 14 to attend the **11<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit**, the theme of which is "**economic growth for an innovative future**".
- This will be the sixth time Modi will be participating in the BRICS summit, his first being at **Fortaleza, also in Brazil** in 2014.

## BRICS

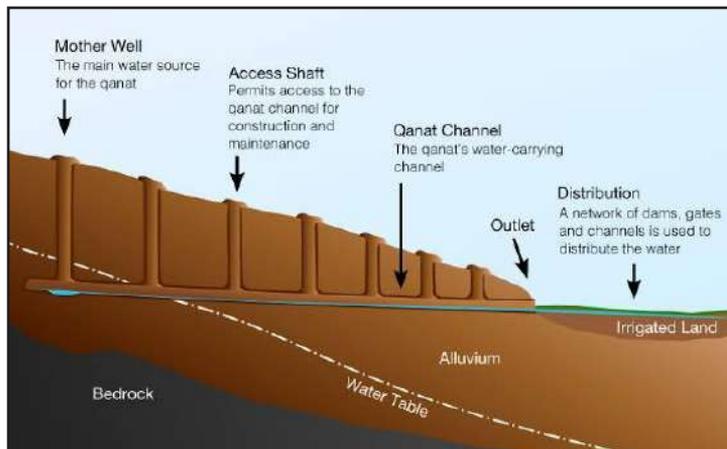
- BRIC is an acronym for the economic bloc of countries consisting of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
- In **2010, South Africa** joined the BRIC group.
- Economists believe these four nations will become dominant suppliers of manufactured goods, services, and raw material by **2050** due to low labor and production costs.



## 1.4 Places in News

### Suranga Bawadi enters World Monument Watch list

- Suranga Bawadi, an integral part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels built during Adil shan dynasty set to get funding for restoration. A New York-based non-governmental organisation has included it Shahi era in Vijayapura, is now in the World Monument Watch list for 2020 along with 24 other monuments from across the world. The monument has been selected under the 'Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau' by World Monuments Fund [the NGO], which monitors restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.



#### World Monument Fund:

- Founded in 1965, WMF is headquartered in New York. World Monuments Fund (WMF) is a **Private, International, non-profit organization** dedicated to the preservation of historic architecture and cultural heritage sites around the world through fieldwork, advocacy, grant making, education and training. World monument watch list: WMF publishes the World Monuments Watch list every two years.

### Govt plans to merge Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Union Territories

- Two Union Territories - Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli will be merged into one and a bill in this effect will be tabled in Parliament next week, Union Minister Arjun Meghwala announced in the Lok Sabha.
- The central government had announced the abrogation of the special status given to **Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370** and its bifurcation into two UTs.
- The country currently has nine UTs after the creation of the UTs of **Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh**. With the merger of **Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli**, the number of UTs will come down to eight.

### Amaravati finds a place in political map

- The Survey of India released a new political map of India with Amaravati as the capital of Andhra Pradesh, which became the residuary State after bifurcation of the combined Andhra Pradesh in 2014.
- Amaravati was missing from the map, released by the Survey of India on November 2.

## 1.5 Eminent Persons

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

- Indian Fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** and batswoman **Smriti Mandhana** won the Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award.
- The other 3 winners are Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.
- Smriti Mandhana became the third woman to win 'Cricketer of the Year', after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma. Former Indian cricketers **Gundappa Viswanath** and **Lala Amarnath** were inducted into the **Wisden India Hall of Fame**.
- The book titled "**Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team**" by Prashant Kidambi was adjudged the Wisden India Book of the Year 2019 (Published by Penguin India).



### Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates Guru Nanak Chair at University of Birmingham

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs has inaugurated a new **Guru Nanak Chair** by the support of Indian government, at the **University of Birmingham** to enable research around the teachings of the founder of the Sikh religion.
- He announced the new Chair to mark the 550<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak.

### Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja creates new speed record by climbing the world's 14 highest peaks in 7 months

- The mountaineer from Nepal, **Nirmal Purja**, aged 36, created a new speed record by climbing the world's **14** highest peaks over 8,000 metres (26,250 feet) in just 7 months. The 14th peak which he climbed was **Shishapangma**, located the Nyalam Country, Tibet Autonomous Region, China.

### Finance Minister releases Commemorative Coin on Paramahansa Yogananda



- The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has released a special **commemorative coin on Paramahansa Yogananda**. The coin has been released to mark Paramahansa Yogananda's **125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**.
- Paramahansa Yogananda is known as the **Father of Yoga** in the West. He was the founder of two organisations: Yogoda Satsanga Society of India and Self-Realisation Fellowship, belongs to the line of gurus whose message is universal transcending nations and religions.

## Padma Shri awardee & India's oldest Yoga teacher Nanammal passed away at 99

- On October 26, 2019 India's oldest yoga teacher **V.Nanammal** passed away at her residence near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu due to old age ailments at the age of 99. She had trained one million students over 45 years.



## KVS to celebrate 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Parv at India Gate

- Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is organizing 4-day '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Parv**', on the occasion of birth anniversary of freedom fighter Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It will start from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and aims to promote National Integration, appreciation for Indian Art & Culture and bringing out the talent of students and teachers.

## Brazilian Prez Bolsonaro to be chief guest at India's 2020 Republic Day

- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations next year. Prime Minister Modi invited **Bolsonaro** to the Republic Day, 2020. The Brazilian President has accepted the invitation.



## Three Indian-origin CEOs featured in HBR's top 10 best-performing CEOs



- The list is compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR) and features 100 CEOs.

### Key Highlights of List

- The list has been topped by American technology company **NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang**. Indian CEO's: Among the world's top 10 best-performing chief executives on list, three spots have been occupied by Indian-origin CEOs. The 6<sup>th</sup> spot is held by **Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen**, followed by **MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga**, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> and **Microsoft chief Satya Nadella** on 9<sup>th</sup> spot. The list also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank **Piyush Gupta** on 89<sup>th</sup> spot.

## 21-year-old from Jaipur set to become India's youngest judge

- Jaipur boy Mayank Pratap Singh**, has made history by cracking the **Rajasthan judicial services 2018** exam at just 21 years of age, which has set him on the path of becoming the youngest judge in the country.
- He took admission in 2014 in the five-year LLB course from the Rajasthan University



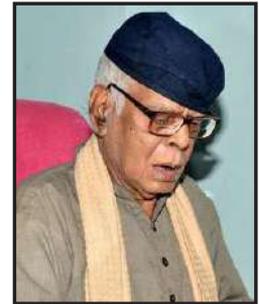
### Former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan passes away

- Former **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and former Cabinet secretary Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan, who ushered in reforms in the country's electoral process during his tenure as CEC in the 1990s, died of a cardiac arrest in Chennai. He was 86.
- In 1955, he topped the IAS entrance exam and began his long journey as a bureaucrat. T N Seshan was the 10<sup>th</sup> Chief Election Commissioner and had served from December 12, 1990, till December 11, 1996.



### Mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh

- Renowned mathematician Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who came to be known as **India's Einstein**, passed away in Patna.
- Born in **Bihar**, the 74 year old **Vashishtha** was suffering from a prolonged mental illness schizophrenia from the last 35 years. He earned worldwide recognition when he challenged **Einstein's theory**.



### Nita Ambani elected to the board of Metropolitan Museum of Art

- Educationist, Philanthropist and Business woman Nita Ambani has been named the **Honorary Trustee of New York City's the Metropolitan Museum of Art**, the largest U.S. art museum.
- In the museum's 150-year of history, she is the first Indian Trustee. Her election took place at the meeting of the Museum's board and the announcement in this regard was made by Daniel Brodsky, the Chairman of Museum.



### Jal Shakti Minister releases short documentary film on Water Conservation 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.

## 1.6 Sports and Games

### Overview of 7<sup>th</sup> CISM Military World Games for 2019

- The 7<sup>th</sup> CISM Military World Games for the year 2019 were held at **Wuhan Sports Center in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China** from October 18-27, 2019 under the motto **Military Glory, World Peace**.
- It was the first international military multi-sport event to be held in China. The event occurs once in 4 years.

### Mary Kom named in IOC's 2020 Olympics athlete ambassadors group

- 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.

### Emblem of FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2020

- The official emblem of **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2020** was unveiled in the presence of **Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju** and **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** president **Praful Patel** at the Gateway of India.



### India's ace sprinter Dutee Chand included in 'Time 100 Next' list

- **TIME**, an American weekly news magazine has named Indian professional sprinter **Dutee Chand (23)** to its first-ever **TIME 100 Next**, a new expansion of the TIME 100 list of the most influential people in the world.



### Ravinder settles for silver at U-23 World Wrestling Championship

- Indian grappler **Ravinder** settled for a silver medal after going down to **Kyrgyzstan's Ulukbek Zholdosbekov** in the 61kg final at the **Under-23 World Wrestling Championship** at **Budapest**. The 22-year-old Indian suffered a 3-5 loss to **Ulukbek**, the current **Asian U23 champion in 61kg**.
- This was India's first medal at the 2019 edition and overall fifth silver at the **Championships**. **Bajrang Punia (65kg)**, **Vinod Kumar (70kg)** and women wrestler **Ritu Phogat (48kg)** had won a silver each in the first edition in **Poland**.



### Pooja Gehlot wins silver at Under-23 World Wrestling Championship

- Wrestler **Pooja Gehlot (53kg)** claimed India's second silver medal after going down to **Japan's 2017 world champion Haruna Okuno** in the finals of the **UWW Under-23 World Championships**.
- Gehlot lost 0-2 to Okuno in the summit clash to emulate **Ravinder (61kg)**, who also won a silver.



## Deepak Kumar bags bronze medal at Asian Shooting Championships, secure Olympic quota

- Indian shooter **Deepak Kumar** booked his berth in the **Tokyo Olympics 2020** in men's 10m rifle after he bagged a bronze medal in the **Asian Shooting Championships**.



### Manu Bhaker

- Deepak Kumar secured India's 10<sup>th</sup> Olympic quota in shooting while Manu Bhaker claimed the women's 10m air pistol gold medal in the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Championship

## Karnataka wins Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20

- Karnataka has won the **2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy**. Karnataka defeated **Tamil Nadu** by 9 wickets in the finals of Vijay Hazare Trophy at Bengaluru.
- Karnataka won their **4<sup>th</sup> Vijay Hazare Trophy** title with a dominant display against Tamil Nadu. Abhimanyu Mithun took a hat-trick in the summit clash.

## Javelin thrower Sundar Singh wins gold in World Para Athletics Championships

- Javelin thrower **Sundar Singh Gurjar** has won India's second gold and defending his **World Para Athletics Championships** title in the **men's F46 javelin throw event in Dubai**. With this, India has secured three Tokyo Paralympic Games quota, along with the bronze winner Ajeet Singh and Rinku.

## Military World Games: Boxer Deepak wins silver

- Indian pugilist **Deepak** won a silver while tennis player **N. Sriram Balaji** claimed a bronze medal in their respective events at the ongoing **Seventh Military World Games**.
- Deepak had to settle for silver in the men's light flyweight (46-49kg) category after losing 0-5 to gold medallist **Zhussupov Temirtas** of **Kazakhstan** in the final.



## The 15-year-old Rohtak girl who beat Sachin Tendulkar

- Fifteen-year-old **Shafali Verma** became the youngest Indian cricketer to score a half-century in international cricket, her 49-ball 73 in the first **T20 International** against West Indies surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's 30-year-old record.
- Tendulkar** was 16 years and 214 days when he scored his maiden half century (59, vs Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1989). At 15 years and 267 days, UAE' **Kavisha Egodage** is the youngest woman to score an international 50, against Malaysia in Jan 2019).



## India to host 2023 FIH Men's World Cup, Spain, Netherlands to co-host 2022 Hockey Women's World Cup

- The Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation on Friday announced that India would be hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023. Spain and Netherlands have been confirmed as the co-hosts for the 2022 FIH Hockey Women's World Cup.
- The Men's Hockey World Cup would be played from January 13-29, 2023 while the Women's World Cup would be played from July 1-17, 2022. The venues for the tournaments will be announced by the host nations.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- India would be hosting the Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023
- Spain and Netherlands confirmed as co-hosts for the 2022 FIH Hockey Women's World Cup
- The Men's Hockey World Cup would be played from January 13-29, 2023

## Rohit Sharma becomes first Indian male cricketer to play 100 T20I

- Rohit Sharma became the first Indian man and second in world cricket to complete 100 T-20 Internationals. He reached the milestone when he led the team in the second match against Bangladesh at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.
- Shoaib Malik, with 111 games from Pakistan, is the only player to have played more than 100 T20 Internationals. Rohit is currently the top-scorer in this format, with 2452 runs with regular skipper Virat Kohli second in the list with an aggregate of 2450 series.
- Rohit scored the runs at a strike-rate of 136.67 with four hundred and 17 half-centuries.



## Saurabh Chaudhary wins silver medal in Men's 10m air pistol event at Asian Championship

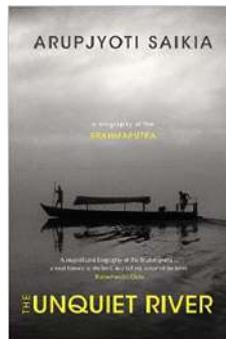
- Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the silver medal in men's 10m air pistol event to continue India's surge at the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Championship in Doha, Qatar.
- World Cup and Asian Games gold-medalist shot 244.5 to finish second on the podium behind North Korea's Kim Song Guk, who won the top prize with a world record 246.5. Iran's Foroughi Javed bagged the bronze.



## 1.7 Books & Authors

### New book titled "The Unquiet River: A biography of the Brahmaputra" by historian Arupjyoti Saikia to be released

- New book titled "The Unquiet River: A biography of the Brahmaputra" by historian Arupjyoti Saikia is to be released. The book which will be published by Oxford University Press (OUP), portrays the landscape of Assam valley and the livelihoods around, that shaped the river.



#### Key points :

- The book also focuses on Assam's history where Brahmaputra plays a vital part in the history of Assamese and their settlements. The book is expected to be released in November 2019.

### Sahitya Akademi publishes new anthology called Modern English Poetry to mark 200 years of Indian English poetry

- Sahitya Akademi, an organization dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India, has published a new anthology called 'Modern English Poetry' by Younger Indians, which documents the contemporary poetry scene in India and the broader Indian diasporas to mark the 200 years of Indian English poetry.

### Man Booker Prize shortlisted Sri Lankan author Romesh Gunasekera's new novel "Suncatcher" set to release

- Man Booker Prize shortlisted Sri Lankan author **R o m e s h G u n a s e k e r a**'s new novel "Suncatcher" is set to release in November 2019. It is published by **B l o o m s b u r y P u b l i s h e r s**. It is a coming-of-age story about difficult friendships and sudden awakenings.
- His previous book was "Noontide Toll" which described the key moments in post-war Sri Lanka.



### Post Colonial Assam (1947-2019)

- 'Post Colonial Assam (1947-2019)' book was launched in New Delhi and authored by veteran journalist Mrinal Talukdar.

### Monograph on Mridangam released

- Vice-President M.Venkaiiah Naidu released a monograph, 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam', a rare fusion of art and science of an ancient south Indian instrument on the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) campus in Chennai.
- The book, an outcome on search and development don standardization of fabrication and new innovations in design of the percussion instrument, was authored by mridangam maestro and Padma Vibhushan awardee Umayalpduram K.Sivaraman.

## Sikhism founder Gurud Nanak dev biography will be planned to release on his 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary

- Sikhism Founder Guru Nanak biography has been released on his 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. The book was written by the professor and author Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, the book titled **"The First Sikh: The Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak"** which describes about the majestic and magisterial portrait of the life and legacy of Guru Nanak. **Guru Nanak Dev** - Sikhism Founder Guru Nanak Dev, born on April 15, 1469 and his birthplace was Nanakana Sahib in Pakistan.

## Three books launched on Guru Nanak Dev

- The books were launched in the run-up to 550<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebration of Guru Nanak Dev. The National Book Trust has published these titles - 'Guru Nanak Bani', 'Nanak Bani', and 'Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev' to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev's writings among readers of Indian sub-continent.

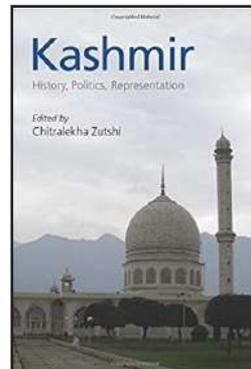
## A new novel called "Accidental Magic" penned by Keshava Guha released

- Author Keshava Guha's new novel entitled **"Accidental Magic"**, Published by **Harpercollins India**, was launched at the Bangalore Literature Festival in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



## Book titled "Kashmir" by Historian Chitralakha Zutshi released

- A new book by renowned historian **Chitralakha Zutshi** titled **"Kashmir"** was released. The book is part of Oxford India's short introduction series. The book portrays the history of the region that was made up of interconnected political and religious ideologies, literary traditions, and social classes etc.



## Chaturvedi Badrinath's book launched in city

- Chaturvedi Badrinath's **Dharma: Hinduism and Religions in India** is an important book where the author tries to get to the core idea of dharma, and is a relevant book with a density of ideas on the topic.

## CJI Ranjan Gogoi releases Assamese version of book 'Courts of India: Past to Present'

- Chief Justice of India Justice **Ranjan Gogoi** released the Assamese version of the book **'Courts of India: Past to Present'** in Guwahati, Assam. The book has been published by the Publication division. The various chapters of the book narrate the historical events of the court.



### **"From Shanties to School", a book penned by Manimala Roy was launched**

- Book by Educationist Manimala Roy, titled "From Shanties to School" which explores 1991 economic reforms on literacy especially among the migrant labourers of Delhi and their Children.

## **1.8 India and its Neighbours**

### **Bangladesh to hold world's second largest Muslim congregation 'Bishwa Ijtema'**

- Bangladesh will hold the first phase of **Bishwa Ijtema**, the second largest congregation of Muslim community after **Hajj**, from January 10 to 12 next year in **Dhaka**. The second phase of the **Ijtema** will be held from January 17 to 19.
- **Bishwa Ijtema** is an annual event which is held in a 160 acre field on the bank of the **Turag river at Tongi** on the outskirts of **Dhaka** since 1967.

### **Dhaka International Folk Festival inaugurated**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Dhaka International Folk Festival** was inaugurated by the Information Minister of Bangladesh Dr Hasan Mahmud at a grand ceremony at Bangladesh Army Stadium. More than 200 artistes from 6 countries are performing in the largest folk festival of Asia. During the three-day festival a large number of popular and renowned artistes from **Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Russia** and other countries will perform in **Dhaka**.

### **UNICEF has published a book on child-friendly foods**

- The United Nations states that the type of food suitable for the welfare of children. A book has been published on behalf of the Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The 28-page book contains food items, including potatoes, barotas, vegetable salt, sprouts, sapatti and javarisi cutlets.
- The method of preparing food and the nutrients in it are discussed in detail in this book. Moreover, the food items mentioned in this book will cost less than ₹20.

### **Pak releases coin to commemorate 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak**

- The government of Pakistan released a new coin to commemorate the **550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak**.
- The coin worth **Pakistan Rupees 50** will be available at the Kartarpur Sahib along with a **postal stamp worth Pakistan Rupees 8** to the travelling pilgrims.

### **India-Bangladesh first pink ball test at Eden Garden**

- The first-ever pink-ball Test match between **India and Bangladesh** begin at the **Eden Gardens in Kolkata**.
- The second test of the two-match series against Bangladesh will also be a historic Day-night Test.
- The play will begin at 1 PM.
- Pink balls will be used in place of red balls for better visibility under lights.

### **Kalapani Territorial Dispute: Nepal objects inclusion of unresolved territory as part on 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, as it considers the unresolved territory a part of the Darchula district in Nepal.
- While India said it had not made any changes to its border with Nepal in a newly-released map and that it depicts its sovereign territory accurately.
- Kalapani lies in Uttarkhand's Pithoragarh district.

### **Sri Lanka becomes first South Asian nation to criminalise match-fixing related offences**

- Sri Lanka has become first South Asian nation to criminalise several offences related to match-fixing.
- The move comes after Sri Lankan parliament passed of a bill related to it labelled as "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports".
- Sri Lanka's Sports Ministry worked closely with International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) during the process of drafting bill.

### **Sri Lanka hosts biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference**

- The **Biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference** is being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Theme for 2019 CLM Conference is- 'Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law'.

### **India attends IUCN's 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Conservation Forum held at Islamabad**

- International Union for Conservation of Nature organized the 7th **Regional Conservation Forum in Islamabad, Pakistan.**
- Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change represented India at the forum.
- More than 500 representatives from different countries, corporate sector and NGOs participated in the forum

#### **Significance**

- The Hindu Kush Himalayan region is the origin of 10 major river basins.
- IT provides livelihoods to over 240 million people directly and around 1.9 billion people indirectly.
- Around 3 billion people are dependent on the food produced in the basin.
- The **Himalayan Glaciers** are considered the third pole of the world mainly because of the sheer volume of the ice they hold.

### **Dhaka Global Dialogue held in Bangladesh**

- The first edition of **Dhaka Global Dialogue** was held on 2019 in Bangladesh.
- The three day long programme was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

#### **About Dhaka Global Dialogue**

- Organised by: The programme was jointly organised by New Delhi based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

## Experts discover 3000-year-old city in Pakistan

- The archaeological experts from Pakistan and Italy have discovered a **3000-year-old city**, believed to be the remains of Alexander the Great, in a joint excavation in northwest Pakistan.
- The discovery of the city named **Bazeera** was made in Barikot Tehsil of Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province famous for **5,000** years old civilisation and its artefacts.
- The experts believe that Alexander came to Swat along with his army in **326 BC** and defeated the opponents in a battle at **Odigram** area and constructed the walled city named Bazeera and a fort.

## New Infrastructure constructed at Nepali school with Indian Govt aid

- Indian Ambassador to Nepal **Manjeev Singh Puri** inaugurated newly constructed infrastructure at the Shree Mahendra Model Higher Secondary School in Khalanga town of the country's **Darchula District**.

## Pakistan successfully test fires Shaheen-1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile

- Pakistan conducted successful test launch of Shaheen-1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- The test was conducted part of a training exercise aimed at testing the operational readiness of **Army Strategic Forces Command** for ensuring Pakistan's credible minimum deterrence.
- The test come days after India conducted the first night trial of **Agni-II surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile** having strike range of 2,000 km.

## About Shaheen-1 missile

- It is a land based supersonic short-range ballistic missile (SRBM). It has been jointly designed and developed by joint venture of **Pakistan's National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM) and National Defence Complex (NDC)**.
- Its design is reportedly based on Chinese M-9 missile. It was first tested in **April 1999**.

## India, China finalise 70 activities to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic ties

- **India and China** will commemorate the **70th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year with 70 celebratory activities, including cultural, religious and trade promotion events besides military exchanges.
- The ancient trade links between Tamil Nadu and China's Fujian province, the two sides will engage in cooperative projects in studying ancient maritime links through establishment of sister-state relations between **Tamil Nadu and Fujian province**.

## 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue

- The **9<sup>th</sup>** edition of **Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue** will be held at Cox Bazar in **Bangladesh**
- The event will be organized jointly by the India Foundation and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies.

## 1.9 Awards & Honours

### BharatPe has won the DigiDhan Mission Fin-tech Award

- **BharatPe** has won the **DigiDhan Mission Fin-tech Award 2018-2019** for **«Innovation in Digital Payments through Emerging Technology»** at the **MeitY Start-up Summit 2019** held in Delhi. The award aims to promote digital payment in India.
- The award was presented by the Union Minister of Communication, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad.

#### **BharatPe:**

- BharatPe is the largest merchant fin-tech company across India. In its first year after launch, the company established a network of over 20 lakh merchants.
- It provided its support to the merchant community with free UPI payments through one QR code, lending, and deposits.

### Sakharov Prize

- An academic jailed for separatism in China has been awarded the **European Parliament's top human rights prize**.
- **Ilham Tohti**, who is from the Uighur minority, has been a fierce critic of China's treatment of the Uighur people. He was jailed for life in 2014.



- The **Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought**, commonly known as the **Sakharov Prize**, honours individuals and groups of people who have dedicated their lives to the defense of human rights and freedom of thought.

### President Pam Nath Kovind confers 1<sup>st</sup> National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards for 2019

- The President of India, **Mr Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the **1<sup>st</sup> Edition of National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA)** for 2019 in New Delhi.
- The jury recommended 19 winners and 19 honorable mentions across the 3 award categories, out of the 528 entries received for NCSRA.

#### **About the Award :**

- The NCSRA has been instituted by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** to recognize outstanding contribution in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to achieve inclusive growth and inclusive and sustainable development.

## India's First International award, the Gandhi Mandela Award 2019 constituted

- New Delhi based Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), the Gandhi Mandela Foundation has constituted the first ever **Gandhi Mandela Award** in 2019.
- It is India's first International award announced on 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2019 and will be organized in India in December 2019.



### Second Edition:

- The second edition of the award is planned to take place in London on October 2, 2020.
- These awards will be given to people with contributions in the fields of Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Environment, Education, Healthcare, Sports and Innovation.

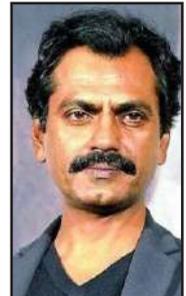
## 16<sup>th</sup> National Awards for Excellence in Cost Management



- Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd has been conferred first position in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Award for Excellence in Cost Management-2018, organised by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India under Category Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission. The award ceremony was held in New Delhi.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), a ship building PSU under the Ministry of Defence, has received the second positive award at 16<sup>th</sup> National Award for "Excellence in Cost Management." The award was given in the 'medium public sector manufacturing companies' category.

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui wins Golden Dragon Award at 2019 CIFF

- Indian actor **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has been awarded the prestigious **Golden Dragon Award** for his works in Hindi cinema at the Cardiff International Film Festival (CIFF) 2019 held in Wales, United Kingdom.



- Veteran Hollywood star-actress **Dame Judith Olivia Dench** was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the ceremony.

## Pepsico India wins US award for saving water

- US Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** presented the prestigious Award for Corporate Excellence to Pepsico India.

## Sardar Patel National Unity Award

- Centre government has instituted 'Sardar Patel National Unity Award', the highest civilian award in field of contribution to unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, most popularly known as Iron Man of India or the founding father of the Republic of India.
- It will be announced on occasion of **National Unity Day** on the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31 October.
- The institution of award was notified by Union Ministry of Home Affairs on 20 September 2019.



## Indira Gandhi award

- Chandi Prasad Bhatt**, noted environmentalist and social activist, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi award** for national integration for the years **2017 and 2018**. The award, instituted by the Congress in the memory of the former Prime Minister, was presented to Bhatt by Congress President Sonia Gandhi at a function at Jawahar Bhawan.

## Rajinikanth to be honoured special Icon award at IFFI

- The **50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will honour superstar **Rajinikanth** with a **special Icon of Golden Jubilee Award** and the **Life Time Achievement Award** for a Foreign Artiste will be conferred to French Actress **Isabelle Huppert**.
- The festival will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28. **Russia** will be the partner country at the festival this year.

## Vyas Samman 2018 conferred on Leeladhar Jagoori

- The 28<sup>th</sup> Vyas Samman for the year 2018 was conferred on noted Hindi poet and writer Leeladhar Jagoori for his poetry collection '**Jitne Log Utne Prem**', at a function held in New Delhi.
- The poetry collection '**Jitne Log Utne Prem**' is Jagoori's 12<sup>th</sup> anthology of poetry.

## About Vyas Samman

- The prestigious award was started in 1991 and is conferred especially for contributions to Hindi literature.
- It is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during last 10 years.
- It carries a prize money of Rs. 4 lakh along with a citation and plaque.

## Punjab Cabinet passes resolution 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 550<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Writer Anand bags Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- Eminent Writer Anand has been selected for the 27<sup>th</sup> **Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2019**, Minister of Culture A.K.Balan has announced this highest literary honour Award which is given by Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the Government of Kerala. Anand was chosen for his overall contributions to Malayalam language and Literature. His real name is P. Satchidanandan uses the pseudonym Anand.



## R.V.Ramani receives Bala Kailasam Memorial Award

- Documentary film-maker R.V.Ramani received the Bala Kailasam Memorial Award 2019 for his film Oh that's Bhanu, on 95-year-old dancer Bhanumathi Rao, at the Tagore Film Centre in Chennai.
- The film explores themes of memory and time via Bhanumathi, who is suffering from memory loss herself.

## Singer S.P.Balasubrahmanyam, Felicitated for Chetana Award 2019

- Legendary Singer **S . P . B a l a s u b r a h m a n y a m** from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for the **Chetana Silver Jubilee National Award**. Oscar winning sound engineer **Resul Pookutty** won the national audio excellence award.
- **Chetana Award** also honour **Seven Young Talents** in the Arts-Culture and Media Sectors with Yuva Chetana Awards.



### The lists of winners are:

- Sreejith Vellattanjur (ghatam), Ratmasree Aiyer (tabala), B.K.Shafeequddin (bharatanatyam), Robin Thomas (piano), Sarat Mohan (sound mixing), R.J.Neena (media) and Sebi Jose Challissery (Cinema).

## Neeraj sharma wins 'Early career researcher of the year 2019' award

- Indian-origin researcher **Neeraj Sharma** has been given the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year award' by the Australian government.
- This award is given for developing next-generation battery systems such as a sodium-ion battery that will leave a minimal environmental impact.



## Madhuri Vijay's debut novel 'The Far Field' wins 2019 JCB prize for Literature

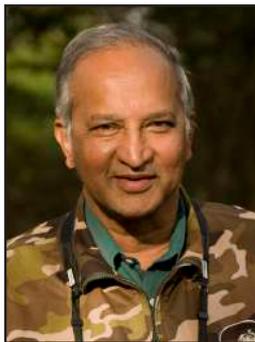
- U.S. based-Indian author **Madhuri Vijay's** debut novel, *The Far Field* bagged this year's **JCB prize for Literature**, the most expensive Indian award for writing.
- "*The Far Field* is an impressively ambitious novel of stunning emotional and psychological acuity. This deeply introspective story, located in troubled **Kashmir**, is also a panoramic exploration of our ideas and assumptions about nationhood.

## Serbia's Sara Dawnjanovic wins 'Miss Asia Global Title 2019' title held in Kochi

- The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of 'Miss Asia Global Title 2019' was organized at Gokulam Convention Centre in **Kochi, Kerala**. **Sara Damjanovic** from **Serbia** has been crowned 'Miss Asia Global 2019', felicitated by Assam Yessengeldiyeva, who won Miss Asia Global in 2018.

## Wildlife biologist K. UllasKaranth awarded George Schaller Lifetime Award

- Wildlife biologist **K. UllasKaranth** was awarded the **Wildlife Conservation Society's George Schaller Lifetime Award** in **Wildlife Conservation Science** for his contribution to the field of conservation. He is the first recipient of WCS's award.



## Sudarsan Pattnaik picked for Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019

- International acclaimed Sand Artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** who belongs to **Odisha** has been selected for the prestigious **Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019**. He will be felicitated during the **International Scorrana Sand Nativity festival** in Italy which is to be held from November 13 to 18, 2019.



## Tata Literature Live! to honour Shanta Gokhale with Lifetime Achievement award

- The **Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019** was conferred on writer, translator and film critic **Shanta Gokhale**.
- She, born in 1939 in the town of Dahanu in Maharashtra, recently published her memoir **One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body**.
- She received the **Sangeet Natak Academy Award** in 2015.
- **Poet K Satchidanandan** was named the **Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate for 2019**.



## TVS Motor Chairman Venu Srinivasan bags Deming award in Tokyo

- Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton, was conferred with the Deming 'Distinguished Service Award for Dissemination and Promotion Overseas', at a ceremony held in Tokyo.
- Srinivasan becomes the first Indian industrialist from India to be bestowed with this prestigious award for his contributions in the field of **Total Quality Management (TQM)**.



### Deming award

- The Deming Prize is the highest award for TQM in the world. Deming 'Distinguished Service Award for Dissemination and Promotion Overseas' is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the dissemination and promotion of **Total Quality Management (TQM)** and is sponsored by Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE).

## Tamil Nadu wins 'global agriculture award'

- Indian chamber of food and agriculture has conferred 'global agriculture award' on Tamil Nadu for its excellence in agriculture sector.
- Food grain production in the state surpassed 100 lakh metric tons sixth time in a row for the past eight years and the state bagged the Union government's Krishi Karman award five times for promoting crop specific technologies. Through collective farming scheme.
- 4,000 farmer producer groups have purchased 16,649 farm machineries with a corpus fund of Rs.200 crore.

## Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari wins Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award by PCI

- The Press Council of India (PCI) has awarded this year's **Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award for Excellence in Journalism** to Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari. The awards will be presented on the occasion of **National Press Day on 16 November 2019**.
- The selection of awardees was carried out by a jury comprising of eminent members of PCI like Jai Shankar Gupta, Balwinder Singh and Ashok Upadhyaya among others.

## New invention in the game of 'chess'

- In the game of chess, **two, six, 12 and 60** people playing simultaneously, the new talented boy who invented new boards, has been selected for the national award.
- **Hridayeshwar Singh Patti**, son of **Sarovar Singh of Jaipur** belongs to the first state capital of Rajasthan. For **HridhaYeshwara**, his legs suffered from muscle weakness at birth. The **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has selected **Mrithyeshwar** for the National Award for Achieving Transforming Children.

## Kumar Mangalam Birla conferred ABLF Global Asian award

- **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, chairman of the **Aditya Birla Group**, was conferred the **ABLF Global Asian Award**, for “powerful individual whose business footprint and commitment to excellence have engaged international interest and attention”.
- The Asia Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) is backed by the UAE government and currently runs in three forms- talks, awards, and publications.
- The previous awardees include Dhirubhai Ambani, Lakshmi Mittal, Mohamed Ali Alaber, chairman of Emaar group, and Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates.



## President's Colour awarded to Indian Naval Academy

- President Ram Nath Kovind and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, awarded **President's Colour to Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala at Kochi, Kerala**.
- The **President's Colour** is the highest honour bestowed upon a military unit.
- It was awarded to INA in recognition of the yeoman service rendered by the institution in training and shaping Indian Naval officers over the last 50 years at three different locations **Goa, Kochi and Ezhimala**.
- To commemorate this occasion, a special postal cover was also released by the President.

## Asia Society's Game Changer Award

- The **Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Order**, some of the Himalayas' most prominent human rights advocates, received **Asia Society's prestigious Game Changer Award in New York** for their path-breaking work to empower women and dismantle gender stereotypes in **Himalayas**.
- They received the award for their heroic activism and being a true symbol of women empowerment.

### About Asia Society Game Changer Awards

- The **Asia Society** founded in 1956 is a nonpartisan, non-profit educational institution.

## Greta Thunberg awarded international children's peace prize

- Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg was awarded an international children's peace prize, for her work in the struggle against climate change which has resonated with schoolchildren across the world.
- Cameroonian peace activist Divina Maloum, aged 15, also received the International Children's Peace Prize, for her fighting spirit and 'Peaceful struggle' against Boko Haram jihadist group.
- The prizes were distributed by Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian children's rights activist and 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- The award ceremony was organized by the Dutch Kids Right Organization.

### Three awards to Tamil Nadu government for best performance

- Three awards were given to the Government of Tamilnadu for the best practices in the Saab magazine.
- The 'Best of States' Awards 2019 ceremony was held in Delhi at the Magazine of 'India Today'
- Last year, the Tamil Nadu government received major awards, including the award for "Best State in All Sectors in the Big States," in an award presented by India Today.

### Bihar boy wins 'BRICS-Young Innovator Prize'

- Ravi Prakash, an Indian PhD scholar has won the USD 25,000 BRICS-Young Innovator Prize for discoting an affordable indigenous milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers.



- Prakash, PhD scholar of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI),Bangalore, was a part of 21-member delegation sent to Brazil by the Department of Science and Technology for the 4<sup>th</sup> BRICS-Young Scientist Forum (YSF), 2019.
- India won the first prize, carrying USD 25,000, in the forum, the Department of Science and Technology.

### Veteran actors Sridevi and Rekha conferred with ANR National Award

- 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.

### Movie "Bhonsle" Wins awards at Asian Film Festival Barcelona

- The Critically acclaimed movie "Bhonsle" has won prestigious awards at the Asian Film Festival Barcelona.
- The film has bagged two awards in the 'Best Screenplay' and 'Best Director' categories at the festival. The film is directed by Devashish Makhija.
- Bhonsle revolves around a police constable played by Manoj Bajpayee, who tries to help in the struggles of migrants and their battles with the local politicians.



### Business leadership award conferred on Azim Premji

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Madras Management Association (MMA) - Amalgamations Business Leadership Award was conferred on Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Limited. The Amalgamations Group, presented the award and the citation.

## Pakistan: First Country to introduce WHO approved Typhoid Vaccine

- Pakistan becomes the first country to introduce WHO approved typhoid vaccine.
- The Vaccine is to be used in southern Sindh province as more than 10,000 cases of Typhoid were documented since 2017.

### Highlights

- The **Gavi Vaccine Alliance** is backed by several global organization such as **World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to lower vaccine costs for poor countries.
- Pakistan is suffering from drug-resistant typhoid fever since November 2016. The **Salmonella Typhi bacteria** that causes Typhoid is called a super-bug in the country as it has developed resistance towards old drugs.

## Gotabaya wins in presidential poll

- Gotabaya Rajapaksa, opposition candidate in Sri Lanka's presidential contest, emerged winner securing 52.25 % of the mandate, and marking the return of the Rajapaksa family to power.
- Mr. Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's seventh executive president in the historic city of Anuradhapura.

## International Press Freedom Award

- Indian journalist **Neha Dixit** among recipients of International Press Freedom Award. He is an investigative journalist investigating crimes against human rights in India The award was provided to protect the journalists

## David Attenborough conferred with Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace

- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2019** has been awarded to renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough.



- **David Attenborough** has been honoured with the award for his tireless efforts to highlight the need to protect and preserve the nature.

## Arunachal bags green tourism award

- **Arunachal Pradesh** State tourism department awarded the 'Best Emerging Green Tourist Destination' of the country.
- The winner was decided through an online poll conducted by the **Travel & Leisure magazine**.
- Arunachal Pradesh is one of the last 'Truly Unexplored' destinations in the world which offers an awe-inspiring experience to the discerning tourist.

## Metro Rail Award

- **Chennai Metro** Rail has been awarded the Best Metropolitan Transport Award for facilitating better connectivity for passengers.
- The seminar was in Uttar Pradesh as a part of the Indian Urban Transport Development Initiative.
- The Chennai Metro Rail Project has been implemented to connect all major transport hubs in Chennai. Metro Rail provides a wide range of amenities, including transit, walkways and more.

## Bajrang Punia conferred the Indian Personality of the Year Award

- Indian wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has been conferred the **Indian Personality of the Year Award (Sports)** at the Indo-Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019 in Dubai. Also, World power lifting champion **Mahant Gaurav Sharma** was honoured with the Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award.



### Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019:

- Indo Arab Leaders Summit and Awards ceremony was held on 15<sup>th</sup> **November 2019** at **Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf, Dubai**. The award aims to provide recognition for companies and individuals implementing outstanding initiatives across Asia. The award recognizes the achievements made by selected high profile personalities and leaders. It honors their great contributions to the country's economic development.



## Extra News

### IAAF changes name to World Athletics

- The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** has changed its name and will now be officially known as **World Athletics**. Meanwhile, the apex athletics body promised to add more content to its website and to improve the organisation of the content. **International Association of Athletics Federations** was a changed name of **International Amateur Athletic Federation**, which was founded in **1912** as a world governing body for the sport of track and field athletics. The name was changed in **2001**.

### Indian boxer Sarita Devi elected to AIBA first Athletes Commission

- Veteran Indian boxer **L Sarita Devi** was elected unopposed to **International Boxing Association's (AIBA) first-ever Athletes Commission**. The election for members of this commission was conducted during **AIBA men's and women's Boxing Championships 2019** held in Russia. **Sarita Devi** was sole candidate contesting for this position from Asian region.



### India set to host World Kabaddi cup 2019 in Punjab

- 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.

## 1.10 Appointments - Who is who?

### Sanjay Gupta appoints country manager at Google India

- Google India has appointed **Sanjay Gupta** as its new country manager and vice-president of sales and operations for India. Gupta, the former Star and Disney India managing director, will contribute to Google's efforts to expand the internet ecosystem in the country.
- He will take on the role early next year, working closely with the teams based in Gurugram, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
- He replaces **Rajan Anandan**, who left Google to join Sequoia Capital India.



### Datta Padsalgikar appointed 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.



### Sharad Arvind Bobde Appointed Next Chief Justice of India (CJI from November 18, 2019)

- On October 29, 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the warrant appointing Justice **Sharad Arvind Bobde (63)** as the **47<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India (CJI)** & he will continue in this post for 17 months till 23 April 2021.
- The current Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi (46<sup>th</sup>) is retiring on November 17, 2019 & Bobde will take over as Chief Justice on 18 November, 2019.



#### Key points :

- As per convention, the outgoing CJI Ranjan has recommended the name of Bobde.

### Justice AP Sahi appointed as chief justice of Madras HC

- Justice **A P Sahi**, currently the **Chief Justice of Patna high court** is likely to be sworn in as the chief justice of Madras high court by the President's office has cleared his transfer recommended by the **Supreme Court collegium**.
- Justice Sahi's transfer and directed him to assume charge of chief justice of **Madras high court** on or before **November 13**.



## Aditya Mishra appointed chairman of Land Ports Authority of India

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Aditya Mishra** as the chairman of the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**. He was appointed on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection panel.



### About Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

- LPAI is a statutory body set up by **Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010** on 1 March 2012. It works under **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. It develops, sanitises, upgrades, maintains and manages facilities for cross-border movement of passengers as well as goods at designated points along India's international borders.

### Manmohan on House panel on Finance

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been nominated to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in place of his party colleague Digvijaya Singh, who resigned from the committee to make way for him.
- Mr. Digvijaya Singh has been nominated to the Standing Committee on Urban Development by the Chairman of the Upper House, according to a Rajya Sabha bulletin.

## Chennai City airport gets first woman firefighter

- Remya Sreekantan aged 28 will become the first female firefighter of **Airport Authority of India** from South India
- AAI had inducted the first woman fire fighter in its ranks in 2018, heralding a change. Taniya Sanyal from Kolkata was the first women firefighter to join AAI.



## Dr. Vinaya Shetty appointed as IODA's 1<sup>st</sup> Indian and Asian General Vice President

- **Dr. Vinaya Shetty** from Mumbai, Maharashtra was appointed as the **first Indian and Asian** to be elected as the General Vice President (GVP) of the International Organisation Development Association (**IODA**).



### Key Points:

- In 2016, Vinaya became the first Indian woman entrepreneur finalist for the prestigious Empretech Women in Business Award by United National Conference Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

## State chief information commissioner

- Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to R. Rajagopal. The IAS Officer takes over as the new State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC).
- He previously held the post of Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor.

## NGT Bench to function from December 2

- The Southern bench of the National Green Tribunal is all set to function from December 2, from Kalas Mahal here, nearly two years after the bench fell vacant with all judicial members and expert members retiring.
- The National Green Tribunal's Principal Bench issued a notification that "consequent upon the postings of justice K.Ramakrishnan, Judicial Member and Saibal Dasgupta, Expert Member, the Southern Zone Bench, Chennai will start functioning for regular sittings from December 2, 2019".
- The Southern Bench was moved to the heritage building Kalas Mahal which was spruced up at a cost ₹14.5 crore by the Public Works department.

## C.Maniwannan appointed as The President of Indian Agricultural Research Scientists Association

- **Dr. Mani Wannan** has been appointed as the **President of the Association of Agricultural Research Scientists of India level.**
- The launch of the Indian Agricultural Research Scientists' Association for the Year **2019-2022** was held last October.
- This is the first time a South Indian scientist has been identified as a leader in the 1980s that he is the Chief Scientist at the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Resources, located in Uganda.

## Lt Col Sharma appointed as Army's 1<sup>st</sup> female JAG officer deployed on foreign mission

- Lieutenant Colonel Jyoti Sharma has been appointed as Indian Army's first female Judge Advocate General officer to be deployed on a foreign mission. She will be appointed as the military legal expert with the Govt of Seychelles. Jyoti's main role would be to update the Govt of Seychelles officials on the defence and military act. The Army is also preparing to induct women in Military Police Corps.

## Lieutenant Shivangi: 1<sup>st</sup> woman pilot of Indian Navy to join Naval operations

- Lieutenant Shivangi become first woman pilot of Indian Navy will join Naval operations. She will join after naval operations on completion of operational training at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala on December 2, 2019 two days ahead of Navy Day (observed on December 4).

## Karabi gogoi becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> woman Navy officer designated as defence attache to Russia

- Lt - C o m m a n d e r (equivalent to an Army Major), **Karabi Gogoi** from Guwahati, Assam has become the first woman officer from the Navy to be posted as **Assistant Naval Attache** at the **Indian embassy in Moscow, Russia.**



## 1.11 Cultural Panorama

### Chhath festival began in Bihar

- The four days long **Chhath festival**, worship of the Sun God, began in **Bihar**.
- The festival is celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- **Nahay Khay** is celebrated on 31 October, **Kharna** is celebrated on 1 November, **Sandhya Arghya** is celebrated on 2 November and **Usha Arghya** is celebrated on 3 November.

### "Bali Yatra" festival begins in Cuttack, Odisha



- The festival '**Bali Yatra**' which is organised every year in memory of the rich maritime history of the state, was inaugurated in **Cuttack, Odisha**.
- The festival is organised at the bank of **Mahanadi River** every year to mark the day when ancient mariners from the state would set sail to the distant land of Bali, Sumatra, Java (Jawa) in Indonesia, Borneo and Sri Lanka, for the expansion of trade and Culture.

### 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Bal Sangam festival begins

- The Eleventh edition of Bal Sangam festival is being organised by National School of Drama (NSD) in its premises in New Delhi.
- The four-day festival will be held from 9 to 12 November 2019.

#### About Bal Sangam festival

- It is a confluence of folk and traditional art forms performed by children.
- It will showcase enthralling folk and traditional performing arts and folk theatre dedicated to children.

### Aadi Mahotsav 2019

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate the National Tribal Festival "**Aadi Mahotsav**" at DilliHaat.
- The theme of the 15 days' Mahotsav (16<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019) is: "**A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce**".
- The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through about 210 stalls. Over 1000 tribal artisans and artists from different States creating a Mini-India will participate in the festival.



## Destination North East Festival

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the '**Destination North East Festival** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019.
- Destination North East' to be held from November 23-26 at Varanasi. The festival is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India. The Secretary (DoNER) Dr Inderjit Singh and Secretary (NEC) Shri Ram Muivah will also attend the event.

## 1.12 Latest Terminology

### Oxford Dictionary's word of the year 2019 – "Climate emergency"

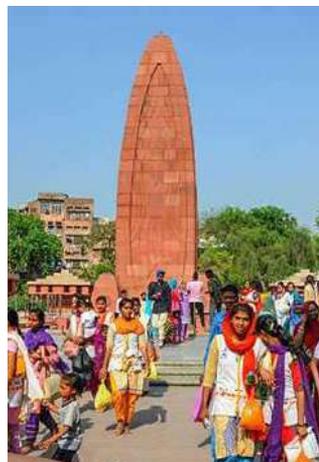
- Oxford Dictionaries has declared 'climate emergency' as the word of the year for 2019 because the word was widely used across the globe, it is chosen from all-environmental shortlist which also include "climate action," "climate denial," "eco-anxiety," "extinction" and "flight shame".
- The word is 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.



## 1.13 Latest Historical Events

### Revisiting Jallianwala Bagh through Victoria Memorial

- Victoria Memorial Hall, a symbol of the grandeur of the colonial era, will for the first time host an exhibition on what is considered the worst blot on the British Empire, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
- The installation exhibition titled, 'Ways of Remembering Jallianwala Bagh & Rabindranath Tagore's Response to the Massacre' is unique not only because it links Punjab and Bengal almost 100 years after the Killings but because of the venue hosting it.
- It was only a couple of years after the massacre that Victoria Memorial was opened to the public in 1921 and this is the first time that the hall is holding some event around the killings.





## 2.1 Latest Court Verdicts

### Ayodhya Verdict

#### The verdict:

- The Hindus would get the entire disputed 2.77 acres in Ayodhya where the demolished Babri Masjid once stood. Possession of disputed 2.77 acre land will remain with Central government receiver. The Muslims will get alternate five acres of land either in the surplus 67 acres acquired in and around the disputed structure by the central government or any other “prominent” place. A trust will be formed in 3 months to build a temple on the disputed land. The court held that the Nirmohi Akhara is not the shebait or devotee of the deity Ram Lalla but will get to be a member of the Trust.

#### Five Judge Constitution Bench

- The Supreme Court’s five-judge constitution bench includes:
  1. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi
  2. Justice SA Bobde
  3. Justice DY Chandrachud
  4. Justice Ashok Bhushan
  5. Justice S Abdul Nazeer
  6. The bench has reserved its judgement on October 16, 2019 after conducting a marathon hearing of **40 days**.
- **1885:** The Ayodhya land dispute dates back to 1885 when the first-ever suit was filed during the British Rule by MahanthRaghubar Das to construct a Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

#### Article 142, invoked by SC to give land for a mosque

- The Supreme Court, implicitly referring to the demolition of the Babri Masjid at the disputed site, said that it was invoking Article 142 “to ensure that a wrong committed must be remedied”.

#### Article 142(1) states that

- “The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe”.

#### 40-day hearing

- The hearing in the politically and religiously sensitive decades-old temple-mosque land dispute in Ayodhya was the second longest proceedings in the history of the Supreme Court which had lasted for 40 days.

#### Result on Saturday

- In a historic verdict, the Supreme Court on Saturday backed the construction of a Ram temple by a government trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya, and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town.

## 'Office of Chief Justice of India comes under RTI Act'

- The Office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is a 'public authority' under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act**, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi declared. The main judgment of the Constitution Bench authored by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said the Supreme Court is a 'public authority' and the office of the CJI is part and parcel of the institution. Hence, if the Supreme Court is a public authority, so is the office of the CJI.

### Background About RTI

- In 2010, the CIC (Central Information Commission) ordered the SC CPIOs (Central Public Information Officer) to provide information on personal assets possessed by the judges of SC. The order was challenged at the Delhi HC to which it ruled that SC and CJI have statutory duty to furnish information regarding administration and functioning of the SC.
- **Right to Information (RTI)** is act of the **Parliament of India** to provide for setting out the practical regime of the right to information for citizens and replaces the erstwhile **Freedom of information Act, 2002**. Under the provisions of the Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerise their records for wide dissemination and to proactively certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally. This law was passed by **Parliament on 15 June 2005** and came fully into force on **12 October 2005**.

### SC dismisses pleas to review Rafale ruling

- A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, dismissed petitions seeking a review of the December 14, 2018 judgment upholding the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft.
- The Supreme Court's judgment upholding the Rafale deal will not bar the CBI from acting on a corruption complaint in the defence purchase, provided the agency gets prior sanction from the competent authority to launch an investigation, Justice K.M. Joseph held in his separate opinion in the Rafale review case.
- The judgment sought to be reviewed would not stand in the way of the first respondent [CBI] from taking action on the complaint in accordance with the law and after obtaining previous approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act,".

#### Rafale deal controversy

- The **Rafale deal controversy** is a political controversy in India related to the purchase of **36 multirole fighter aircraft** for a price estimated at €7.8 billion by the Defence Ministry of India from France's Dassault Aviation. The origin of the deal lies in the Indian MRCA competition, a multi-billion dollar contract to supply 126 multi-role combat aircraft to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

## 2.2 Political parties and Political system in India

### Forests In Alagar Hills Does Not Belong To The Deity, Holds SC

- The Supreme Court, set aside the Madras High Court judgment which held that the entire forest area in Alagar Hills belongs to the deity of **Arulmigu Kallalagar Thirukoil Alagar Koil**.
- The bench comprising **Justice L. Nageswara Rao** and **Justice Hemant Gupta** held that the presumption of lost grant cannot be applied when there is no evidence of continuous possession under an assertion of title.
- **Sundara Ramanuja Periya Jeer Swamigal** of Periya Jeer Swamigal Mutt, Tirupati and others had filed a suit for a declaration that the entire forest area in Alagar Hills to **Sri Arulmighu Kallalagar** also called **Sri Sundarajasami** or **Sundara Bahu** or **Paramasamy**, the Presiding Deity of the temple.

### Maharashtra under President's rule for 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 59-year history

- Imposition of **President's rule in Maharashtra** is the first instance in the **59-year-old history** of the state when **Article 356** has been invoked due to inability of political parties to form a government.
- This is third time that Maharashtra has come under the central rule. The present-day Maharashtra came into existence on **May 1, 1960**.
- The first of it was in **February 1980** when the Indira Gandhi government dismissed the **Progressive Democratic Front (PDF)** government headed by **Sharad Pawar**.
- **Article 356** of the Constitution, under which President's rule is imposed in a state, deals with 'failure of constitutional machinery in the state'.

## 2.3 Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

### Govt announced Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh for better nutritional outcomes in New Delhi

- The union Minister of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) **Smt Smriti Zubin Irani** has announced the **Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK)**, a repository of a variety of crops across 128 agro-climatic zones for better nutritional outcomes in New Delhi, MoWCD has collaborated with **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** for this project.
- **Aim:** The aim of the kosh is to reduce malnutrition through multi-sectoral results-based framework, which includes agriculture, among women and children across the country. It also aims to promote healthy dietary practices.

## OCI can now apply for National Pension System

- The Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will now be eligible to apply for National Pension System (NPS) at par with Non Resident Indians (NRIs). The permission to permit OCI to enroll in NPS was given by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. The decision is one of the endeavours of PFRDA towards promoting and developing NPS and increasing pension coverage in country.

### Key Highlights

- 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**.

### About National Pension System (NPS)

- 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.

## Centre notifies RTI rules for CIC, ICs; tenure cut to 3 years

- The tenure of central and state information commissioners has now been reduced from five to three years.
- The notified rules are 'The Right to Information (Term of Office, Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission, State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners in the **State Information Commission) Rules, 2019**'.
- The tenure of chief and information commissioners in the Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Central Information Commissions (SCICs) have been reduced to **three years, instead of the five years**.
- The rules prescribe a fixed quantum of salary for commissioners- Chief of CIC at **₹2.50 lakh** per month, Chief of SICs and information commissioners of CIC and SICs at **₹2.25 lakh** per month.

## T.N. a major beneficiary of PM's crop insurance scheme

- Though Tamil Nadu was late in joining the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY- Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme), the State has emerged as one of the major beneficiaries of the programme, with its farmers having been sanctioned around `7,000 crore cumulatively in the last two-and-a-half years. The scheme was launched in early 2016. The insurance scheme came in handy for those farmers during the rabi season (or sambal). The payouts began in July 2017. Till now, nearly `3,500 crore has been credited to the farmers' bank accounts. Tamil Nadu came first in terms of compensation received for the season that year.

## Disabled People over 80 can vote through Postal Ballot

- The people over 80 years of age and Persons with Disability can now cast their votes through postal ballot.
- However, such voters will have both the choices available either voting through postal ballot by following due procedure or going to the polling station on polling day for voting.
- On the recommendations 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.
- The person will make an application in a new Form 12 D, which will reach the Returning Officer within 5 days following the date of notification of election.

## Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna Scheme: Haryana includes more crops

- The state government Haryana has decided to bring more crops under its 'Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY)' scheme. The decision was taken at a BBY's review meeting which was presided by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

### About Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY) scheme

- BBY is a scheme for vegetable growers. Under it farmers get compensated for selling their crop at a price lower than that fixed by government. The scheme launched in January 2018 then included potato, onion, tomato and cauliflower. It has been very successful in past two years it.

## Committee to draft new National Water Policy

- The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP). It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.
- The committee has 10 principal members, including Shashi Shekhar, a former secretary of Water Resources, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board. The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987.
- Among the major policy innovations in the 2012 policy was the concept of an Integrated Water Resources Management approach that took the "river basin/ sub-basin" as a unit for planning, development and management of water resources.

## India mulls 'One Nation, One Pay Day': Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar

- To safeguard the interest of workers in formal sector, particularly working class, the Centre is planning to introduce 'One Nation, One Pay Day' system, announced by the Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar.
- There should be a pan-India single wage day every month across various sectors to ensure that workers get timely payment of salaries.



## Health Ministry launches 'SAANS' campaign

- Union Ministry for Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched SAANS: 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully' campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia.
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the campaign while inaugurating the 6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations.

### About SAANS campaign

#### Objective:

- To reduce child mortality due to pneumonia. To mobilise people to protect children from pneumonia. To train health personnel and other stakeholders to provide prioritized treatment to control the disease.

## SARAS inaugurated at IITF 2019 in New Delhi

- Union Rural Development Ministry inaugurated the SARAS India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.
- SARAS Mela aims to bring the rural women SHG members formed under DAY-NRLM, in one platform to showcase their skills, sell and build linkages with potential market players.
- More than seven crore women have joined Self-Help Groups so far and the Ministry is making all efforts to take this number to 10 crore.

## 'Maternity scheme reaches only one-third of beneficiaries'

- A vital programme to support lactating mothers and pregnant women by compensating them for loss of wages during their pregnancy has been able to reach less than a third of the eligible beneficiaries, researchers who extrapolated from data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI).
- Almost 61% of beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) between April 2018 and July 2019 (38.3 lakh out of the total 62.8 lakh out of the total 62.8 lakh enrolled) received the full amount of ₹6,000 promised under the scheme, according to an RTI reply.
- The PMMVY is targeted only at women delivering their first child. A cash amount of ₹6,000 is transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary in three instalments upon meeting certain conditions including early registration of pregnancy, having at least one ante-natal check-up and registration of child birth.

## Niti Aayog's report to reveal India's health system

- Niti Aayog will soon come up with a report on health system for India, highlighting the challenges impacting the sector. The report titled New India: Building Blocks - Potential Pathways to Reforms is a synthesis of all the discussions and efforts initiated at the national-level workshop held last year. NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar will release the report in the presence of Bill Gates, co-chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and representatives from national and international academia.

# 3. GEOGRAPHY



## 3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

### CYCLONE MAHA

- Lakshadweep will receive extremely heavy rainfall. A warning has been sounded in Kerala too, which is expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall.
- A deep depression in the Arabian Sea intensified into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' called 'Maha'

### Swachh- Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is undertaking a mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches under the programme called 'Swachh-Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan', from 11 -17 November 2019.

### About Swachh- Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan

- **Objective:** To strive to make coastal areas across country clean, and to create awareness amongst citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems so as to save marine creatures from plastic waste, industrial effluents and other harmful substances.

### 11,000 scientists in 153 countries declare climate emergency

- In a paper published in the journal *BioScience*, 11,258 signatories (69 from India) declared Global Climate Emergency. They presented climate change trends and methods to mitigate the threat. The report was titled "World Scientists"
- It is based on the scientific analysis of more than 40 years of publicly available data.
- It illustrates several key climate change indicators since the scientists from 50 nations met at the First World Climate Conference in Geneva in 1979.

### Bengal's cities yield new species of tree frog

- It took six herpetologists working across States and countries to determine that a tree frog found commonly in urban habitats of West Bengal was a brand new species.
- The new species has been named Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog (*Polypedates bengalensis*).



## India's first elephant memorial in Mathura unveiled

- Wildlife SOS, India-based conservation charity, unveiled India's first elephant memorial in **Mathura, Uttar Pradesh**. The memorial is a unique way to honour elephants that lost their lives to illegal trafficking, abuse, and cruelty. The memorial will be a constant reminder that elephants belong in the wild, and they must be protected and conserved there. No wild animal deserves a life of brutality, such as that suffered by captive elephants in India.



### Wildlife SOS:

- Established in: 1995
- Founder: Kartick Satyanarayan and Geeta Seshamani The main objective of Wildlife SOS is to protect and preserve India's wildlife. The non-profit organization runs rehabilitation and rescue centres for wildlife, conserve habitats for the animals.

## Climate change is harming health of children, says Lancet report

- Climate change is already damaging the health of the world's children and is set to endanger the well-being of an entire generation, unless the world meets the target to limit warming to well below 2°C, according to a major new report published in *The Lancet*. The project is collaboration between 120 experts from 35 institutions, including the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, University College London, and the Tsinghua University in Beijing.

## India's first Signal Fish "Pteropsaron indicum" found in Kerala



- The new signal fish was found in Lakshadweep Sea off Kerala coast which is the home for unusual species like fish with a unique color. The name of the species is "**Pteropsaron indicum**", was collected by trawlers at a depth of 70 meters during a marine biodiversity survey. Scientists from the University of Kerala and the Ocean Science Foundation, United State of America (USA) have described the discovery of the new species of signal fish, was the first one of the genus recorded in Indian waters.

## West Bengal celebrates 'Rosogolla Dibas' to mark GI Tag granting

- West Bengal celebrated the 'Rosogolla Dibas' or Rasgulla Day on 14 November 2019 to mark the granting of Geographical Indication (GI) tag of '**BanglarRosogolla**' or Bengal's Rasgulla to the state on this day two years ago (14 November 2017).

### Rosogolla Dibas celebrations

- The statue of **Nobin Chandra Das**, inventor of the Bengal variant of the sweetmeat, was garlanded across the state.
- For the first time in the history of West Bengal's sweetmeat industry, almost all sweet shops in state are dedicated this day to Rosogolla.

## Dal Lake, J&K to be declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

- The Jammu and Kashmir Government will set up a 10-member committee that will declare Dal Lake, an Eco-sensitive Zone. The decision is being taken based on the study conducted by the DCI-Dredging Corporation of India. The capacity of the lake has shrunk to 40%

### Eco-Sensitive Zones

- The ESZs are called Ecologically Fragile Areas. A region or territory is notified as ESZ by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change. In General, the regions are around wild life sanctuaries, protected areas and National Parks.

## CSIR's-NGRI, Hyderabad releases 1<sup>st</sup> ever Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India'

- In a bid to understand and assess the environmental damage and held policy makers to devise a strategy, CSIR-NGRI (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Institute), based in Hyderabad, Telangana, has released the 1<sup>st</sup> ever, 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India'.

### Key Points:

- The Atlas, consists of 44 maps of metals, oxides, and elements present in top and bottom soils across India, will help to document the concentration and distribution of the chemical elements in the soils of India.

## Darjeeling Green Tea & White Tea receive GI Tag



- Two tea varieties of Darjeeling were registered under "Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999". It includes Green Tea and White Tea of Darjeeling.

### Darjeeling Tea

- Darjeeling produces 85 lakh kilograms of tea. Of this Green Tea constitutes 10 lakh kilo grams and White Tea constitutes 1 lakh kilo grams.

### GI Tag

- The Geographical Indication is used on products that correspond to a specific geographical location.

## The Sumatran rhino is now extinct in Malaysia

- The last known Sumatran rhinoceros in Malaysia died after a battle with cancer, leaving the species officially extinct in the country.
- There are now only an estimated 80 Sumatran rhinos left in the world, with the species labeled as "critically endangered," according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
- The rhino named Iman died of natural causes due to shock in her system, the Wildlife Department in eastern Sabah state on Borneo Island.

### Avian Botulism-Reason behind birds' death in Sambhar Lake

- The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) confirmed that a neuro muscular illness called Avian Botulism is the reason for mass mortality of migratory birds in Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.
- The doctors say that the birds were suffering from Avian Botulism that was caused due to a toxin produced by bacterial strain.
- Thousands of migratory birds died in Sambhar lake that sent shock waves throughout the country.

### Around 1000 migratory birds dead at Sambhar lake

- Thousands of migratory birds of about ten species were found dead around Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur, sending shock waves among locals and authorities.
- This is the second such incident in the state within a week. Recently, 37 demoiselle cranes were found dead in Jodhpur's Khinchan area.
- Decomposition of plants, algae, and animals creates anaerobic environments that facilitate growth of *C. botulinum*, which may then enter into food webs leading to intoxication of animals.

## 3.2 Natural Disasters - Safeguard Measures

### Mumbai, Kolkata may get flooded by 2050, says new research

- A new research done by a US-based agency claims that more than three and a half crore people in **India** as against the 50 lakh estimated earlier could actually be affected by annual coastal flooding by 2050 and that large parts of **Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Kolkata** could be inundated if global **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** are not cut drastically.
- According to the Climate Central study published in journal, Nature Communications, coastal flood risks assessments based on **NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)** have under-estimated the elevation risks.
- The new research method **CoastalDEM** reduced these errors by using artificial intelligence tools and came up with the new estimates.
- The study states that coastal flooding could impact 300 million people globally by **2050** and the high tide lines could permanently rise above land occupied by some **150 million people**, mostly in Asia.

### Cyclone Kyarr to become 1<sup>st</sup> Super Cyclone in Arabian Sea in 12 years

- Cyclone 'Kyarr' intensifies to become the first **Super Cyclonic** storm in **Arabian Sea** in last 12 years after **Cyclone Gonu** ravaged the Oman coast in 2007.
- According to the IMD forecast, **Cyclone Kyarr** is likely to continue its movement west-northwestwards towards Oman coast.
- Heavy Rainfall to very heavy rainfall very likely in **Kerala & Mahe**.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

### Power Ministry recommends Maharatna status to Power

- The power ministry has recommended 'maharatna' status for Power Grid Corp of India Ltd (PGCIL), the country's largest power transmission company.
- 'Maharatna' status allows state-run firms greater financial autonomy, they can decide on investments of up to 15% of their net worth in a project without government approval.
- PowerGrid is the **third largest Central Public Sector Enterprise** in India as well as one of the largest transmission company globally.
- It has been recognised as '**Fastest Growing Electric Utility** in Asia Pacific' successively for the last six years, since 2014

### What is 'Project Zero' introduced by Amazon in India?

- To block selling of counterfeit goods on its platform, e-commerce giant Amazon has introduced '**Project Zero**' in India, in a bid to ensure that customers receive authentic goods when shopping on Amazon.

### What is 'Project Zero'?

- It introduces additional proactive mechanisms and powerful tools to identify, block and remove counterfeits. More 7,000 brands have already enrolled in Project Zero across United States, Europe and Japan. A number of Indian brands participated in a pilot to help Amazon test the experience in India.

### India among top nations with most conducive environment for financial inclusion

- According to **The Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion** report, the overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with **India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico** having the most favorable conditions for inclusive finance.

### India to contribute \$13.5 mn for UN development activities for 2020

- India will contribute USD 13.5 million for various operational activities of development across the UN agencies for the year 2020. The contribution was announced at the UN General Assembly Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

## PM Modi to visit Saudi for Future Investment Initiative

- The Prime Minister Modi is to attend the third session of Future Investment Initiative Forum in Saudi Arabia. The PM will deliver a keynote address at the forum.
- He will also meet the Saudi king Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He will hold delegation level talks with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman

### Future Investment Initiative (FII)

- FII is an annual investment forum organized by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia.
- It was begun in 2017. The first event announced the launch of **NEOM**, a 500 billion USD economic zone in north west of Saudi Arabia.

## Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates 'mobile ATMs' in rural areas

- The Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) has launched 'mobile ATMs' in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka. The special vehicle includes an ATM and a screen to show videos of different banking schemes.
- The mobile ATMs will go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make them aware of the banking schemes and digital operating systems.
- A bank official would be present in the van, who will provide information regarding the digital operating systems and schemes.

## Arcelor Mittal's takeover of Essar cleared by SC

- The Supreme Court accepted Arcelor Mittal's offer to pay an aggregate ₹42,000 crore as an upfront amount to the secured financial creditors of bankrupt Essar Steel.
- This paves the way for Arcelor Mittal to take over Essar and enter the world's second biggest steel market.
- SC uses extraordinary powers under Article 142 to give Arcelor Mittal a chance to pay off the NPAs of corporate debtors as a pre-condition to buy Essar Steel.

### After 2 years' battle, Arcelor Mittal enters India

- Steel baron Lakshmi Niwas Mittal led Arcelor Mittal is set to enter India this month or early next month, after a prolonged legal tussle in various courts for over two years in the Essar Steel case under the IBC.
- Essar Steel will bring the largest recovery among the dozen firms, flagged by RBI for the resolution process, as banks will recover ₹42,000 crore against admitted debts of ₹49,473 crore - a recovery of about 85% compared to the average recovery of 53% in other resolution cases.



## Government to open up national procurement portal to private companies for bulk buying

- The government plans to open up the national online procurement portal **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** to government contractors and private entities but only for bulk buying.
- The National Public Procurement Portal is Section 8 Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, for providing procurement of goods & services required by Central & State Government organizations.

### GeM

- The commerce and industry ministry launched the **GeM on August 9, 2016** in place of Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D) with the objective of creating an open and transparent procurement platform of commonly used goods and services for all government departments, ministries and agencies.

## Gold is third-most popular investment

- "Gold is the third-most consistently bought investment – 46% of global retail investors have chosen gold products, behind savings accounts (78%) and life insurance (54%)," stated the Retail Gold Insights 2019 report by the World Gold Council.

### World Gold Council

- The **World Gold Council** is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.

## 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.

## World economy weakens next year due to trade war and political changes: Moody's Report

- The global economic situation is likely to weaken by 2020 as a result of international trade war and political changes, according to the economic research firm Moody's. The world economy suffered its worst crisis in 2008-2009. The current economic recession was predicted to lead to such a major crisis.
- In spite of the huge economic downturn in 2009, 2020 is unlikely to be the case. Moody's has announced the situation will continue next year.

## 4.2 Current Socio-Economic Problems

### WPI inflation eases to 0.16%

- Wholesale prices based inflation eased further to 0.16 per cent in October, as against 0.33 per cent in September due to subdued prices of non-food articles and fall in prices of manufactured items.
- The annual inflation, based on monthly wholesale price index (WPI), was at 5.54 per cent in October 2018.
- For manufactured products, the wholesale inflation was at (-)0.84 per cent in October 2019.
- However, the retail inflation for the month hit a 16-month high of 4.62 per cent due to soaring prices of food articles, including fruits and vegetables.

### Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.6 per cent for 2019

- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth forecast to 5.6 per cent for 2019, saying government measures do not address the widespread weakness in consumption demand.
- Moody's had slashed India's economic growth forecast for 2019-20 fiscal to 5.8 per cent from an earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent.

### \$5-trillion GDP needs 12.4% nominal growth a year, says NITI Aayog

- Gross domestic product (GDP) in India at current prices needs to grow by 12.4 per cent annually over the next five years for the country to be a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25, an internal assessment by the NITI Aayog has showed.
- This is 0.4 percentage points higher than what was estimated by the Economic Survey for 2018-19, owing to a slowing economy and an expected increase in the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar.

### State of the States 2019

- The **India Today Group** is back with its annual State of the States survey, which ranks the India's states on a range of parameters adjudicating for the '**best performing**' and '**most improved**' states across the country.
- **Gujarat** aced all states in the economy category while Punjab led in agriculture and infrastructure.
- **Himachal Pradesh** with the honours for education and healthcare, Rajasthan for governance, Andhra Pradesh for inclusive development, Haryana for entrepreneurship.



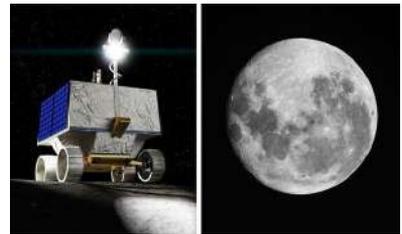
# 5. SCIENCE



## 5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

### NASA to Send VIPER Robot to Moon in Search of 'Hundreds of Millions of Tons of Water Ice'

- NASA will send a golf cart-sized robot to the moon in 2022 to search for deposits of water below the surface, an effort to evaluate the vital resource ahead of a planned human return to the moon in 2024 to possibly use it for astronauts to drink and to make rocket fuel.
- The VIPER robot will drive for miles (km) on the dusty lunar surface to get a closer look like underground pockets of "hundreds of millions of tons of water ice" that could help turn the moon into a jumping-off point to Mars.



### 'Indian brain is smaller': IIIT-Hyderabad researchers create Indian Brain Atlas

- The average Indian brain is smaller in height, width, and volume as compared to the western and eastern population like the Chinese and Korean according to the first-ever 'Indian Brain Atlas' created by researchers of the **International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIITH)**.
- These differences are found even at the structure level like the volume of hippocampus and so on. But overall, the 'IBA 100 is more' comparable to the **Chinese and Korean** atlases than the distant Caucasian one.

### NASA unveils its first electric plane

- The United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, named as **X-57 "Maxwell"** at its aeronautics lab in the California desert, US.

#### About X-57 "Maxwell"

- It was under development since 2015 and remains at least a year away from its first test flight in skies. NASA targets to fly this airplane in late **2020**.
- It will be the **NASA's first crewed X-plane** to be developed in two decades. It is adapted from Italian-made **Tecnam P2006T twin-engine propeller plane**.

## Anaemia among men in India: 23.2% of men has Anaemia

- A report titled 'Anaemia among men in India: A nationally representative cross sectional study' was published in the journal **Lancet Global Health**. The report was on anaemia in India men. The report mainly aimed to determining the prevalence of anaemia among men in India has found that 23.2 per cent of men had anaemia, ranging from mild to moderate to severe degrees.
- Anaemia prevalence: The State level prevalence of anaemia ranges from 9.2% (average of 7.7%-10.9%) in Manipur to 32.9% (average of 31%-34.7%) in Bihar.

## China Successfully Tests Mars Lander in Giant Drop Test

- China's Mars lander just successfully completed its first public test: a spectacular drop from 230 feet onto a mountainous landscape north of Beijing.
- NASA has been working hard on completing its **Mars 2020 rover**, which will hopefully collect rock samples and bring them back to Earth in **2021**.
- The test is yet another sign that China is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to space exploration.



## MIT researchers develop new technology to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from air



- Researchers from **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States (US)** have developed a new technology to capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from a stream of air, virtually at any concentration level.
- This is a new advance that may pave the way for new strategies to reduce atmospheric **greenhouse gas (GHG)** levels.
- The study by researchers was published in the journal *Energy and Environmental Science*.

### About the New Technology

- While in most of the prevalent methods, removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from a stream of gas required higher concentrations like those found in flue emissions from fossil fuel-based power plants, but the new method could take out gas even when it was present in very low concentrations.

### Chandrayaan-2 orbiter detects Argon-40 on lunar exosphere: ISRO

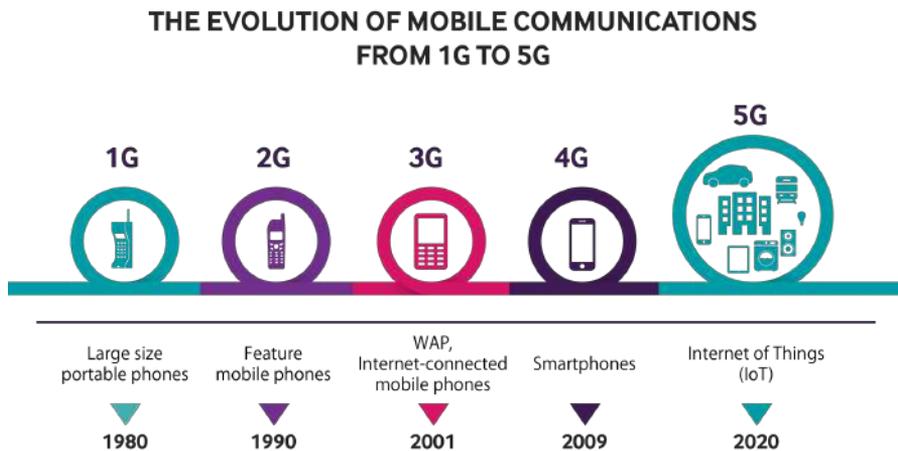
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced that a specialized payload aboard the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has detected **Argon-40** in the gaseous envelope around the Moon.
- The payload named **Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2)** has made the discovery from an altitude of around 100 km from the lunar surface.
- CHACE-2 is a spectrometer capable of scanning the thin gaseous envelope around the Moon called the lunar exosphere with a very high mass resolution.
- The primary objective of this instrument is to analyze the composition and distribution of Moon's exosphere.

#### Argon- 40

- Argon-40 is one of the forms of the noble gas Argon and is an important constituent of lunar exosphere.
- The presence of Argon is well established, and even the rock samples from **NASA's Apollo missions** also contained traces of Argon.
- The radioactive decay of rocks deep below the lunar surface release Argon-40 which escapes to the lunar exosphere through seepages and faults.

### 5G networks on introduced November 1

- Chinese carriers launched 5G services in the world's largest market on November 1, but the coverage remains limited only to major Chinese cities and key areas in lower-tier cities for the initial rollout.
- The launch of 5G by Chinese carriers is a step slow in comparison to local smartphone brands such as **Huawei and Xiaomi**, as they have already introduced several phone models over the past few months that can support 5G networks.



## First Government Hospital Robotic Surgery facility in Safdarjung Hospital

- The Robotic Surgery Facility was opened in the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
- It is one of the biggest tertiary care referral centre of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It caters to all poor patients of uro-oncological cancers like bladder cancer, kidney failure, kidney cancers from different parts of the country.
- With the new Robotic surgery facility, it becomes the first Government hospital in India to begin the minimally invasive surgery facility.



### Safdarjung Government Hospital

- The LIVE 3-D Laproscopic Surgeries Web cast that shows complex uro-oncology and reconstructive surgeries is first in its kind.

### Air India paints 'Ek Onkar' symbol on its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft's

- National Carrier Air India has painted 'Ek Onkar' symbol on its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft's tail to mark the 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- The aircraft will fly on October 31 from Amritsar to London. The international flight will facilitate Sikh pilgrims visiting Punjab on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

### IIT Delhi to set up space technology cell in collaboration with ISRO

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) will set up a space technology cell (STC) in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- This collaboration is to contribute to the space technology research areas such as AI (Artificial Intelligence), nanotechnology, functional textiles, smart manufacturing at its campus.
- It is also proposed that IIT, Delhi as an Institute becomes an academic partner of ISRO.

### IFFCO introduced India's 1<sup>st</sup> nanotechnology-based products for on-field trials in Gujarat

- The world's largest fertilizer cooperative-Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) introduced India's 1st nanotechnology-based environment-friendly plant nutrition products by introducing nano-nitrogen, nano-zinc and nano-Copper for on-field trials at an event at Gujarat's Kalol unit of IFFCO.

## 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.



## Cosmic Yeti

- Scientists have accidentally discovered 'the footprints a monstrous galaxy' being called as 'Cosmic Yeti' in early universe that has never been seen before.
- The discovery provides new insights into the first growing steps of some of biggest galaxies in universe.
- The astronomical findings were published in **Astrophysical Journal**.

## IIT Madras developed India's first indigenously made standing wheelchair

- Researchers from the Indian institute of Technology-Madras (IITM) has developed India's first indigenously developed standing wheelchair named "Arise".

### Key Points:

- **Cost and collaboration:** The wheelchair is priced at Rs.15,000 and was developed in collaboration with Phoneix Medical Systems, with the support of the UK-based Wellcome Trust.

## IIT Guwahati: Paper based sensors for faster assessment of milk freshness

- The IIT-G has developed paper-based sensor to make assessment of freshness of milk by simple and instantaneous method. The method can be used to check the quality of milk at the point of milk collection and also in home kitchens.

## China approves world's 1<sup>st</sup> carbohydrate - based drug GV-971 to cure Alzheimer's disease

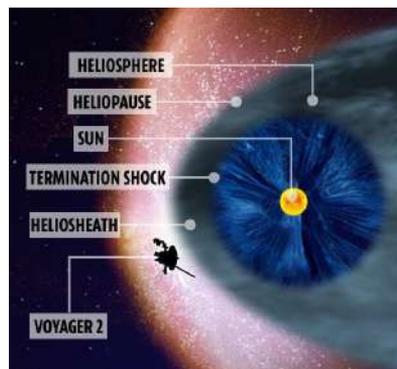
- China's National Medical Products Administration has officially approved an indigenously developed Alzheimer's drug called GV-971 (sodium oligomannurate). The Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences has developed the drug after 22 years of research jointly with Ocean University of China and Green Valley Pharmaceutical Co Ltd.

### Alzheimer's disease:

- It is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys, thinking ability, and the capability to carry out simple tasks.

## Voyager 2: NASA's Solar System Explorer reaches interstellar space

- NASA's Voyager 2 has exited heliosphere and has entered interstellar space.
- It is now at 11 billion miles from the earth. Information from the spacecraft takes 16.5 hours to reach earth at the speed of light. (Light from the sun takes 8 minutes to reach earth)
- The spacecraft joined its twin voyager 1 on December 10, 2018. The Voyagers were launched to study the outer solar system up close. Voyager 2 will target Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus.



### Voyager 2

- Voyager 2 is the first spacecraft to study all four planets together. It includes **Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn and Uranus**
- It is the first spacecraft that discovered 14th moon of Jupiter.
- It is the first human-made object to fly by Neptune
- Voyager 2 also discovered 5 moons of Neptune. It identified a “**Great Dark Spot**” at Neptune. Also the spacecraft discovered that there are four rings around Neptune.

### Marengo Sachintendulkar: Newly discovered spider species named after cricketer

- Dhruv Prajapati, a junior researcher pursuing a PhD in spider taxonomy with **Gujarat Ecological Education & Research (GEER) Foundation**, recently discovered two new species of spiders. He has named one of the species as **Marengo Sachin Tendulkar** after **Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar** and other as **Indomarengo Chavarapatera** which is inspired by Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara who was a campaigned towards creating awareness about education in Kerala.
- The findings of his study have been published in September issue of ‘**Arthropoda Selecta**’, a Russian journal. His discovery of two flat-bodied spiders has been included in World Spider Catalogue.



### NASA renames Ultima thule to Arrokoth after Nazi controversy

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has renamed a distant space rock **Ultima Thule**, to **Arrokoth**.
- It is the farthest cosmic body ever visited by a spacecraft, **Arrokoth** or “**sky**” is a name of the Native American Powhatan language following a significant backlash over the old name's Nazi connotations.
- The name portrait the co-operation with Powhatan Tribal elders.

## Japan's Hayabusa 2 is returning to Earth with asteroid samples

- Over the past year-and-a-half, JAXA's Hayabusa 2 spacecraft served as asteroid Ryugu's companion in the vast emptiness of space. It got close enough to fire bullets into its surface and even detonated bombs to disturb the ground and scoop up samples it can take back home. **Ryugu** is a **carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid**, and scientists are hoping that the samples it provided can give them more information on the origin and evolution of the inner planets.
- More importantly, they're hoping the samples can help shed light on the origin of water and organic compounds. When **Hayabusa 2** gets near enough our planet in **December 2020**, it will drop the samples in sealed containers. They're expected to re-enter the atmosphere and land in **Australia**, while the spacecraft heads to new asteroid targets.

### Hayabusa2

- **Hayabusa 2** is an asteroid sample-return mission operated by the Japanese space agency, **JAXA**. It follows on from the Hayabusa mission which returned asteroid samples in 2010. Hayabusa2 was launched on 3 December 2014 and rendezvoused with **near-Earth asteroid 162173 Ryugu** on 27 June 2018. **Hayabusa 2** carries multiple science payloads for remote sensing, sampling, and four small rovers that are investigating the asteroid surface to inform the environmental and geological context of the samples collected.

### An ambient air purifier for the outdoors

- Called the 'Cyclofine', it has been developed by IIT M's Department of Civil Engineering and EnviTran, a student start-up at the IIT-M Research Park, and removes 60% of PM10 (particulate matter).
- 'The machine sucks in ambient air at a rate of 750 cubic metre per hour, filters it and sends out cleaner air.'
- With additional filtration, it removes 80% of PM2.5 (particulate matter of 2.5 microns and less) and 100% of PM10 from the air we breathe.
- It has a four-stage filtering system and also has an air quality monitoring sensor, which provides real-time air quality index.

### The world's first all-electric racing aircraft

- An Airbus-backed air racing tournament unveiled an electric-powered sports aircraft, billed as the world's first, as the European plane maker seeks to boost its green aerospace technology. The aircraft will use an electric motor that will carry it at flight speeds of around 482 kilometers (300 miles) per hour on a tight 5 kilometer (about 3 miles) circuit, just 10 meters above the ground. Air Race Electric announced the aircraft, called White Lightning and unveiled at the Dubai Air Show will be manufactured by UK-based Condor Aviation.



## Chandrayaan 3: India's 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt to land on Moon by November 2020

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced their intention to send a second mission to soft-land on the Moon planned for November 2020 dubbed as **Chandrayaan 3 mission**.
- The **Indian Space Agency's** first and recent attempt went awry and resulted in a partial failure of Chandrayaan 2 mission after communication was lost with mission's lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan) which crash-landed on Moon while attempting a soft-landing.
- However, the **Chandrayaan 2** mission is still survived by the Orbiter which has captured highest resolution visuals ever taken of Moon by its **High-Resolution Camera (OHRC)** from an altitude of ~100 km.

### About Chandrayaan 3 Mission

- Chandrayaan 3 will not feature an orbiter of its own: For the new mission, engineers and scientists at Indian space agency will only design and build an entirely new lander and rover.
- Since Chandrayaan 2 mission already has a functional orbiter that is currently in orbit around **Moon**, **Chandrayaan 3** will not feature an orbiter of its own. However, no final decision has been taken by ISRO on the number of payloads on the lander.

### Additional 'Detachable Module':

- The lander and rover will be accompanied by an additional 'detachable module' that packs engine and fuel needed for journey and this module will tentatively be called 'Propulsion Module'.

## New diagnostic tool for detecting tuberculosis

- The **World Health Organisation** has aimed at eliminating TB by 2035, and the Indian government has vouched to do this by 2025.



### Battery-operated device

- Named **SeeTB**, the device is battery operated and allows quick identification of the bacteria. The team has also developed a clearing reagent called **CLR** which helps in thinning the collected sputum thus enhancing the bacteria detection.

### Sishu Suraksha APP

- The **Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** is going to launch a mobile app **Sishu Suraksha** on the occasion of Children's Day.
- The purpose of the app is to empower citizens to take moral responsibility for protecting future generations.
- The app can be used by anyone in the state to lodge a complaint which will be directly registered at Commission.



## ISRO to Launch 13 satellites and Cartosat-3

- The Indian Space Research Organization will launch 13 commercial nano satellites of the United States along with the imaging and mapping satellite **Cartosat-3**. The launch is scheduled on November 25, 2019.

### Highlights

- The satellites will be launched by PSLV-C47, a **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle into Sun Synchronous Orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota**.

### CartoSAT-3

- Cartosat-3 is the third generation Earth observation satellite built by ISRO. It is one of the most advanced imaging satellites built by the organization so far. It has the capability to produce high resolution aerial images in the world.

## Robot CYBIRA launched to aid cops in Visakhapatnam to take complaints

- Visakhapatnam Police have launched first of its kind cybersecurity interactive robotic agent robot, CYBIRA stationed at Maharanipeta Police Station, which can automatically take complaints in an effective manner. A start-up company Robo Coupler Private Limited has designed a robot 'CYBIRA' (cyber security interactive robotic agent) for registering and disposing of complaints at the police station in an effective manner.



## 5.2 Latest Discoveries in Health Science

### As Delhi pollution levels soar, customers throng an 'oxygen bar' for a breath of fresh air

- 26-year-old entrepreneur Aryavir Kumar launched a new venture in South Delhi's upscale Select City Walk mall in May. The way he saw it, his Oxy Pure "oxygen bar" would offer bursts of fragrant, purified oxygen to clients seeking relief from jet lag, sleep disorders, hangovers and even depression.

### Telangana gets its first 'child-friendly' police station at Hyderabad's Medipally

- Telangana's first 'child-friendly' police station was inaugurated at the Rachakonda Medipally station by D Ishan, a 7-year-old boy who had wished to become the Police Commissioner for a day. The initiative was conducted by Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), in collaboration with the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate with the aim to ensure a child-friendly environment where all children are freed from mistreatment, abuse and exploitation.

## 5.3 Mass Media & Communication **Health Minister launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 portal**

### 'Whistle Reporter' Mobile App for Deepwater Well Complaints

- The government has ordered the conversion of deep-water wells into rainwater harvesting facilities within 24 hours. Meanwhile, the A1 division has developed a processor called Whistle Reporter to detect such wells.
- The ruling party AIADMK has privately developed the Telephone **Whistle Reporter Exchange**, a privately owned company to find unsealed wells.
- We have to go near the deep wells that are not in use and press a button on this processor.
- At that time, information about the deep well would go directly to the technical side of the AIADMK.

■ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0 portal** in New Delhi.

- This portal start from December 2019-March 2020. The IMI2.0 is a rechristened version of mission Indhradanush **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** that aims to achieve 100% immunization.
- The portal was launched during the celebration of the silver jubilee of the Pulse Polio Programme.
- The health minister also launched Operational guidelines for '**Strengthening immunization systems to reach every child**' and '**Operational guidelines for Strengthening Td10 and Td16 vaccine implementation.**

### eNAM for farmers' benefit

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced states are being cajoled to reject the **Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs)** and adopt electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) so that farmers get better price for their produce.
- **e-NAM** is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- So far, 21 e-NAM mandis of eight states namely Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh had joined hands to start inter-state trade on e-NAM.
- Initially started with 25 commodities, e-trade facilities have been provided on 124 commodities with tradable parameters on e-NAM portal.
- The union finance minister also said that she had in the Budget announced formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) so that farmers have easy access to institutional finance.

## Govt unveils IT initiatives for faster customs clearance

- The government unveiled two new IT initiatives, **ICEDASH** and **ATITHI**, for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods.
- These initiatives will also facilitate arriving international passengers with e-filing of baggage and currency declarations.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lauded the measures taken by the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** to leverage technology for providing better taxpayer services

### ICEDASH

- It is an **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) monitoring dashboard** of the Indian Customs that will help public see the daily **customs clearance times of import cargo** at various ports and airports.
- It will help the businesses in comparing clearance times across ports and thus plan their logistics accordingly.
- It has been developed in collaboration with the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.

### SWAYAM 2.0

- Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will launch **SWAYAM 2.0, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds in New Delhi**.
- The **SWAYAM programme** is initiated by the government to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy - access, equity and quality.

## Govt. launches ATITHI app for improved customs clearance

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched '**ATITHI**' app, an IT initiative to facilitate electronic filing of customs baggage and currency declarations by arriving international passengers.

### About ATITHI app

- **ATITHI app** is an easy to use mobile application for international travelers to file Customs declaration in advance.
- Passengers can use this app to file declaration of dutiable items as well as currency with **Indian Customs** even before boarding the flight to India.
- The ATITHI app has been introduced by **CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs)**. It is available on both, iOS and Android.

## New facility for insect attack detection in plants by agro processor

- Edapadi Palanisamy has launched a new facility to detect insect attacks on plants by agro processor.
- Information technology projects developed by Tamil Nadu Electricity Agency have been launched.
- Accordingly, an e-attendance record has been created that will handle the arrival records in a simple manner, using facial recognition.
- The Tamil Nadu Electricity Agency has created a facility to analyze the photos uploaded by the tillage processor and identify the diseases and pests of crops.
- Farmers can get the fire by sending pictures to the tiller operator through a cell phone equipped with a camera.

## Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched e-Ganna app

- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a dedicated web portal and e-Ganna app for sugarcane farmers in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Through Online cane supply slip are obtained, and it will be issued by the sugar mills to the farmers.
- e-Ganna app provides the information regarding the cane survey, basic quota, bonding, cane calendaring, issuance of parchi is available in the single platform. The move is in line with Prime Minister Narendra modi's vision to double the farmers' income.
- **Aim** - The web portal and e-Ganna App help to eliminating cane mafia and middleman and also to strengthen the cane development societies.

## Tamil Nadu ministers launch app, portal to help farmers control pests

- The app and a portal providing geo-based agriculture information were launched by ministers of Tamil Nadu Thiru R B Udhayakumar, and Thiru R Doraikannu at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).
- The app called PANNAI, (Pest- disease advance Notification and Need-based agriculture information) has been developed by [MSSRF](#) with support of Oracle CSR and technical inputs from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU).
- It provides advance information on pest-diseases so farmers can protect their crops with Advisories, market information and farm-specific weather advisories are also available, something that is usually available only at district level.
- It also uses integrated information from the Uzhavan app of the Govt of Tamil Nadu.

## Shaala Darpan portal for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti launched

- The Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Sanjay Dhotre launched the **Shala Darpan** Portal for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).
- It is an end to end e-Governance school automation and management system for NVS.

### What is Shala Darpan portal?

- It provides an integrated platform to meet the educational and administrative needs of all stakeholders (students, parents and teachers) and is capable of sending and receiving effective dialogue between every stakeholder.
- It will integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas with a common standard which includes around 636 schools and 2.67 million students.

### What are Navodaya Vidyalayas?

- They are co-educational residential schools established by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti which is an autonomous organization under Union Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) to provide quality modern education.

## **CBI set up special unit to tackle Child Porn**

- **Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE)** Prevention and Investigation Unit started by **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** in New Delhi under the special crime zone to control the exploitation of child porn on Internet.

### **Key Points:**

- Aim - The aim of this “specialized unit” is to collect, collate and disseminate information regarding publication, transmission, creation, browsing, downloading, advertising, exchanging, distribution of information relating to online child sexual abuse and exploitation and investigation of such offences.



## **Indian scientists identify a protein that helps regulate blood sugar levels**

- Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad have demonstrated the role of a protein secretagogin (SCGN) in increasing insulin action in obesity-induced diabetes.
- ▶ SCGN works as a functional insulin-binding protein with therapeutic potential against diabetes. SCGN binds to insulin and protects it from various stresses, increases its stability and adds to its action. Diabetes and neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia and Alzheimer’s disease are often linked with each other. SCGN is found in lower quantities in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients.

## **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.

### **Swachh Survekshan Grameen**

- Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.

# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT



## Gandhinagar becomes Gujarat's first kerosene free district

- Union Minister Amit Shah allocated 1000 LPG connections to women in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.
- This makes Gandhinagar first district in Gujarat to become kerosene-free.

## Kerosene free states

- Chandigarh became the first city to become kerosene free.
- Government has been making plans since 2016 to reduce the usage of kerosene all over the country.
- The subsidies to kerosene will be completely removed by 2020.

## Chenani-Nashri Tunnel renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel

- J&K's Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, a 9 km-long tunnel that reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 31 km has been renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel.
- The 'Chenani-Nashri Highway Tunnel' is not only India's longest highway tunnel but also Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel.
- The renaming of the tunnel aims to preserve Mukherjee's heritage and memory as well as a tribute for his sacrifice for the nation.

## Odisha launches 'Odisha Mo Parivar' initiative

- Chief Minister of Odisha and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik launched a social service initiative of the party dubbed as 'Odisha-Mo Parivar' (Odisha, my family). The initiative is aimed at encouraging environment protection, blood donation and the welfare of Odias in distress.

## Odisha's Ganjam district schools to introduce 'water bells'

- Odisha will introduce 'water bells' in schools to ensure that children drink an adequate quantity of water.
- All the schools in Ganjam district have been instructed to ring three 'water bells' to remind children to drink water.
- The initiative aims at making drinking water a habit among children to ensure that they stay hydrated.
- The initiative was first started in Kerala and replicated in Karnataka and Telangana while Andhra Pradesh is mooting to implement it across the state.

## Gandhi Sankalp Yatra

- The Gandhi Sankalpa Yatra has been organized to promote peace, brotherhood and social harmony in the country.
- Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced "Tolerance is a part of the Indian genome and India is a global example of unity in diversity".

### **Kanya Sumangala Yojana**

- The Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched flagship scheme “**Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana**”.
- It was launched in Lucknow for the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.

#### **Key Features of the scheme**

- The scheme will provide Rs 15,000 to every family where a girl child is born. It will be released in a phased manner.
- The design of the scheme is in such a way that the parents will have to take care of the girl child with proper care with respect to her health and education in order to get the benefit

### **Odisha government signs LoU with UNICEF for 'drink from tap mission'**

- On October 25, 2019, A Letter of Understanding (LoU) was signed between **Odisha government** and the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** for “**drink from tap mission**”.
- The main objective of the mission is to provide piped quality drinking water supply to each household on a 24-hour basis.

### **Madhya Pradesh: Sportspersons will get 5% reservation in government jobs**

- The state government of Madhya Pradesh has announced 5% reservation to national and international medalists sportspersons in state government jobs.
- The announcement in this regard was made by Madhya Pradesh Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Jitu Patwari while inaugurating the Regional Olympic Games at Kampoo sports complex in Gwalior.
- Other Benefits to sportsperson: Every year, the Madhya Pradesh government provides government jobs to Vikram awardees. Vikram Award is the highest sports awards for players in state. Besides this national and international medallists have quota in state police department.

### **Indian Railway launches One Touch ATVM**

- **Indian Railways** has launched ‘**one touch ATVM**’ at 42 suburban stations of Central Railway over **Mumbai Suburban Network**. The machine has been launched to render fast ticketing to millions of commuters. This new machine will reduce the waiting time of the passengers and allow passenger to avoid standing in long queues.

### **Prime Minister Modi's particular Bharatiyar song**

- Prime Minister Modi addressed to Mann Ki Baat and mentioned the Bharathiar song. No rise is possible without the knowledge of the tongue. From today, start using your mother tongue or case language.
- “Thirty crore masked lives
- Moimbura united - This is her
- Eighteen-eighth man
- Unite”
- Bharat Mother has over 30 crore faces. But the body is the same. She has 18 languages.
- But he writes that the idea is the same.

## Andhra Pradesh becomes the first state to launch online platform SMARTPORT as part of the EDB Reforms

- **Andhra Pradesh** became the first state in India to launch an online platform **SMARTPORT** as part of implementing the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Reforms related to trade and export promotion in all ports in the state.

### Key points :

- The platform will be covered under the Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act and tracked through a single-desk portal.
- Andhra Pradesh is ranked number 1 in Ease of Doing Business in India.

## 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on RoadTech held in New Delhi

- The 5th International Conference on Road Tech (Sustainable Roads and Highways) was held in New Delhi. The Conference Agenda was- 'Smart Use of Available Resources for Green and Sustainable Roads'.

## Odisha govt signs MOU with nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee's organisation for anti-poverty programmes

- The MoU was signed by **Odisha Development Commissioner Suresh Mohapatra** and **J-PAL Executive Director Shobhini Mukerji**, in a ceremony officiated by **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik**.
- **J-PAL** will provide technical assistance for the scale-up of evidence-backed program to improve development outcomes across the state.
- Under the **5T initiative**, Odisha Govt to partner with **J-PAL**, co-founded by Nobel laureates **Abhijit Banerjee** and **Esther Duflo**.



## 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Tawang Festival 2019 commenced in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

- A 3-day 7<sup>th</sup> edition of **Tawang Festival 2019** has commenced in **Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**. Organized by Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Department, it is being held from 28 to 31, October 2019. US (United States) Ambassador to India, **Juster Kenneth** was inaugurated the festival in presence of Chief Minister **Pema Khandu**.



## J&K achieves highest road length under PMGSY in 2019

- **Jammu and Kashmir** have achieved the highest road length in the country under a Centre's rural roads' programme with the completion of around 11,400 kilometres covering 1,838 habitations.
- The work is being carried under the centrally-sponsored **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**, which is a mega flagship programme with the main objective of providing connectivity to rural areas.

## **IIMC ranked 17<sup>th</sup> & IIMA 21<sup>st</sup> Financial Times-Masters in Management Rankings 2019, University of St.Gallen tops the list**

- The Financial Times (FT), Masters in Management Rankings 2019 was released. Among the Indian B (business) schools, the Indian overall. Other Indian institutes in the top 50 rankings were IIM-Ahmedabad ranked at 21<sup>st</sup> place and IIM Bangalore at 44<sup>th</sup> rank.
- The list was topped by **University of St.Gallen** in Switzerland.

### **Key points :**

- **Indian institutes of top 100 rankings:** IIM-Udaipur at 76<sup>th</sup> rank and IIM-Indore at 81<sup>st</sup> rank.
- **University of St.Gallen** was followed by HEC (Hautes Etudes Commerciales) Paris, France and London Business School, United kingdom (UK) in the second and third place respectively.

## **Nagaland govt launches Ex-gratia Scheme for Students**

- The state government of Nagaland has launched an ex-gratia scheme for students studying outside Nagaland, called '**Nagaland Government Ex-gratia Scheme for Students Studying outside Nagaland**' (NGESSO). The scheme is the initiative of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

### **Key Features of NGESSO Scheme**

- It is a scheme initiated and sponsored by Government of Nagaland under which state government will provide a financial assistance of Rs.5 lakhs as one-time payment to parents/families of students in case of unfortunate death of any student while studying outside state.

## **Government forms a Committee of Secretaries headed by Rajiv Guaba to study telecom sector's financial stress**

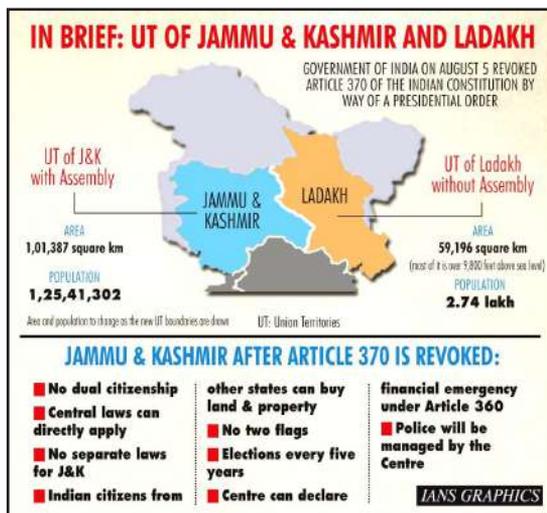
- Union government formed a **Committee of Secretaries (CoS)**, headed by Cabinet Secretary **Mr Rajiv Gauba** to examine the financial stress of the telecom sector faced by service providers such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea Ltd and suggest measures to overcome it. The panel includes the secretaries to the ministries of finance, law, and telecom.

## **Ban on Bodo insurgents extended for 5 years**

- The central government issued orders to extend the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodo land (NDFB) by another five years, citing that the terrorist outfit had continued to indulge in illegal and violent activities intended to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.
- NDFB has been engaging in unlawful and violent activities thereby undermining the authority of the Government of India and the Government of Assam and spreading terror and panic among the people, indulging in extortion of money from various sections of the society with a view to financing and executing its plans for the creation of a separate Bodo land and embarking on a systematic drive for recruitment of fresh cadres with a view to continuing its terrorist and insurgency activities.

## India gets two new Union Territories in J&K, Ladakh

- Jammu and Kashmir, which has been part of the Union of India since 1947, ceased to be a state and was officially bifurcated into Union Territories.
- **RK Mathur**, the new and first Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh was sworn in by chief justice of Jammu and Kashmir high court Geeta Mittal in a simple ceremony.
- IAS officer **Girish Chandra Murmu** will take over as L-G of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Jammu and Kashmir was served a jolt in the form of the abrogation of **Article 370**, the strife-torn state ceased to exist.
- India now has two new Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - while it has one less state.
- According to the **Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019**, the appointed day for the two UTs was on **October 31**



## Himachal Pradesh: 2,000 Panchayats under Natural Farming

- Around 2,209 panchayats were brought under natural farming under **Prakritik Kheti Khushshal Kissan Yojana**.
- The State is promoting **Organic and Zero Budget Natural Farming** under the scheme.

### Features

- Under the scheme, a target of **50,000 farmers** have been set for the year 2019.
- So far 20,579 farmers have been trained. Out of this, 15,391 are already practicing natural farming in their fields.
- The State Government plans to hold a minimum of 5 training sessions per month till March 2020.

### Prakritik Kheti Khushshal Kisan Scheme

- The scheme was launched by the Himachal Pradesh Government to promote natural farming and to increase farmer's income.
- The main objective of the scheme is to reduce costs required for farmers, increase farmers income and to reduce use of chemicals and fertilizers in the farm.

### India to host second assembly of International Solar Alliance

- The second assembly of **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is to be hosted by India.
- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** is hosting the event. It is held in **New Delhi** between October 30 and 31, 2019. The ISA brings together 81 nations. It offers concrete solutions to reduce the cost of solar installations in developing countries.

### Union Territory of Ladakh gets Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development

- **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar** approved the proposal of **New Regional Centre of the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development at Ladakh.**

#### Objectives

- To promote alternative and innovative livelihoods for climate change vulnerable cold-desert communities To strengthen and establish the solutions and approaches towards addressing water scarcity.

#### Bamboo Tech Parks

- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Council (NEC) will set up new Bamboo Technology parks in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories. The nodal agency CBTC (Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre) under the Ministry of NEC will implement the project.

### National Symposium on United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized National Symposium on the following Theme: **United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.**

#### Highlights

- The minister also signed the **“Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021”**

### Ekta Diwas: PM Modi inaugurated Technology Demonstration site

- PM Modi inaugurated the Technology Demonstration Site at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- The inauguration was a part of the National Unity Day celebrations that commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- The security personnel showcased different technologies being used by them in the event.

### IIT Delhi launches Global Alumni Endowment Fund

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has formally launched its **Global Alumni Endowment Fund** with an initial commitment of Rs 250.crore from nearly 20 corporate leaders and alumni of institution.
- The Endowment Fund was launched by **President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan** on 31 October 2019.

## Delhi's average AQI in October less than last year

- Delhi's air quality is back to square one - polluted. According to the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** bulletin released by the **Central Pollution Control Board**, Thursday was the most polluted day in October this year for **Delhi-NCR**. Delhi's air was less hazardous in October this year than it was last year. The average AQI for October 2018 was 285 which dipped to 239 this year. Though there is a drop of 46 points, however, the AQI still remains in the 201-300 zone -- maintaining its 'poor' status. An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe". Above 500 is "severe-plus emergency" category. A "severe plus emergency" AQI essentially means that even healthy people may suffer from respiratory illnesses on prolonged exposure. This air will seriously affect those with ailments, according to a SAFAR advisory.

## Tourism Ministry organising 8<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart 2019

- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of 'International Tourism Mart' is being organized at Imphal, the capital city of Manipur from 23 to 25 November 2019. This annual event is organised in North Eastern region by Union Ministry of Tourism in association with North Eastern States. The theme for 8th International Tourism Mart is: 'Sustainable Tourism an engine for Economic Growth and Employment'.
- Manipur is hosting this mart for the second time. Earlier editions of this mart were held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok, Agartala.

## President's rule revoked in Maharashtra

- The BJP-NCP government in Maharashtra took charge after the President's rule, imposed in the state a fortnight ago, was revoked.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution, I, Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, hereby revoke the proclamation issued by me under the said article on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019, in relation to the state of Maharashtra with effect from the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2019, the proclamation signed by Ram Nath Kovind.

## World's first CNG port terminal to be built in Gujarat

- Gujarat government has given its approval to a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal facility at **Bhavnagar port**. This would be the **world's first CNG port** terminal. The approval for this was given by Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board headed by **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani**.

### World's first CNG port terminal

- Background: The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK-based Foresight Group to set up this port terminal at Bhavnagar in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019. The existing port at Bhavnagar is administered by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).

## Telangana to rope in economist Abhijit Banerjee to improve school education

- The Telangana government is roping in Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) to formulate a strategy to improve the quality of school education in the state.
- According to sources in the state education department, **Randomised Control Trials (RCT)** technique, which helped Abhijit Banerjee and his two colleagues win the Nobel, is going to play a role in assessing the situation in Telangana schools too.
- The objective is to come up with a strategy to improve the learning skills in the government schools. The details of the project are still being worked out.

## Govt to set up anti-human trafficking units in all districts with 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**.

### About Nirbhaya Fund

- The fund was announced by the Centre in 2013 to support the initiatives of government and **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs)** working towards the safety of women.
- The fund is a corpus of Rs. 10 billion and is administered by **Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**.

## Compulsory retirement formula for teachers

- **Directorate of Education** sought report from Garhwal and Kumaon Division
- **Stirred in 65 thousand teachers and employees department**
- The Education Department, teachers who have given bad results and are on leave without information are going to be discharged. Compulsory retirement will be given to these teachers aged 50 years or more. There has been a stir in the department of 65 thousand teachers and employees by the Directorate of Education demanding a report of such teachers from every district.

## Kalaburagi Airport inaugurated UDAN RCS

- Kalaburagi Airport to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, inaugurated Kalaburagi airport by the Chief Minister of Karnataka. The airport built under the **UDAN-RCS Scheme** of Govt. of India. It spread across 742 acres and developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 176 crores.

## Water bodies in Karaikal

- Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi Karaikal district and inspected the water bodies in the enclave of the Union territory that were rejuvenated and desilted under the 'Nam Neer' (Our Water) project in the last three months. Of the total 300 water bodies, 178 have so far been revived with the participation of public, corporates and government servants. In addition to rejuvenating the ponds, about 800 km of canals in the district has been desilted

## Centre releases new political map after formation of J & K, Ladakh UT

- A day after the bifurcation of the State Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into two Union territories (UT) – Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh, **Union Home Ministry Amit Shah** has released a **new political map of India** & it also separately released a map showing the administrative boundaries of the Union territories of J&K and Ladakh.



## Vigyanika-International Science Literature Festival held at Kolkata

- Vigyanika is the International Science Literature Festival that is organised as a part of fifth India International Science Festival (IISF) at Kolkata.
- It also features a Science Book Fair where more than 30 publishers are to display their scientific publications

### Highlights of the event

- **Vigyanika** is an annual event organised by **Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences**
- It is coordinated by the **CSIR-NISCAIR(National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources), Vigyan Bharati and Vigyan Prasar.**

## National Research Institute of Unani Medicine inaugurated in Sikkim

- The Union Minister of State (independent charge) for AYUSH inaugurated the **National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders.**
- The institute was upgraded from **Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine.**

### Significance

- The concept of **AYUSH** was brought by the **National Rural Health Mission, 2005** to revitalize local health traditions.
- **AYUSH** includes 6 Indian systems of medicine that includes **Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.**

## India's first 4-level transit intersection to be constructed in Nagpur, Maharashtra

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, an autonomous agency of the Government of India (GoI) has approved the Rs.573-crore proposal to construct a flyover between the railway track and the Angpur metro. With this, the city **Nagpur** in Maharashtra is set to be the **1<sup>st</sup> in India** to get a **4-level transit intersection.**

### About Rising Himachal Global Investors' Meet 2019

- The proposal was given sometime back near a railway overbridge on Kamptee road along which Reach II of Nagpur Metro will run.

## **Punjab govt launches first of its kind 'job helpline' for unemployed youth**

- The Punjab Chief Minister (CM) **Amarinder Singh** has launched a first of its kind **job helpline number 76260-76260** for the unemployed youth of the state under 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar' programme.

### **Key Points:**

- It will provide large scale employment opportunities to lakhs of youth across the state every year.
- The objective of this helpline is to reach every house Punjab and it can be contacted on 75 thousand mobile numbers daily. In this process, a 110-seat call center of Punjab Job Helpline has also been created for the data to be prepared.

## **E-toilet for women at Rs 8 crore**

- Nirbhaya funded the project in 15 zones of the **Metropolitan Madras Corporation**.
- 150 crore size e-toilets are to be set up at a value of Rs 8 crore.
- e-toilets were set up in the city of Chennai in 2016 to improve water efficiency and health.
- **Nirbhaya Fund:** The Central Government's Nirbhaya Finance Scheme in the Madras Corporation has been allocated Rs. 425 crores worth of projects were approved by the **Government of Tamil Nadu in 2018**.
- Accordingly, 60 per cent of the fund will receive Rs. 255 crores is provided by the central government and 40% by the state government.

## **eCAPA 2019: First-ever Arts Exposition for talents with Intellectual Challenges**

- India's first-ever Arts Exposition for talents with intellectual challenges called '**eCAPA 2019 – Art from the Heart**' was inaugurated in **New Delhi**.
- This exposition will continue till 14 November 2019 at STIR Gallery, Chattarpur Farms.

### **About 'eCAPA 2019 – Art from the Heart'**

- It is a unique nationwide platform cum social venture for artists blessed with **Down Syndrome, Autism, Mental Retardation, Seizure Disorder and Dyslexia**. It will showcase their visual and performing arts.
- **Objective:** The exposition seeks to create an exclusive platform for showcasing the visual and performing art talents of young adults with intellectual challenges.

## **Kolkata International Film Festival to start on Nov 8**

- The **25<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** will start on November 8.
- **Germany** is the Focus Country of this year's festival. In all, 214 Feature Films and 152 Short and Documentary Films from 76 countries will be screened at 17 venues.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Governors Conference inaugurated in Rashtrapathi Bhavan**

- A two-day conference of governors is being held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. It was attended by President Ram Nath Kovind, PM Narendra Modi and other ministers.

## Harsh vardhan inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup>-ever global mega-science exhibition, 'Vigyan samagam 2019', in kolkata, West Bengal

- Dr.Harsh Vardhan, union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Science & Technology and minister of Earth Science has inaugurated the India's 1<sup>st</sup>-ever multi-venue Mega science exhibition, 'Vigyan Samagam 2019', at the iconic Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> two units of Vigyan Samagam was successfully held in Mumbai and Bengaluru & After Kolkata, it will commence its final leg in New Delhi from 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020-20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at the National Science Centre. Thereafter it will remain as a permanent exhibition at New Delhi and will be taken care-off by NCSM.

## Wastelands in India at around 17% in 2015-16: NRSC's 5<sup>th</sup> Wastelands atlas 2019

- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Panchayati Raj has released the 5<sup>th</sup> edition **Wastelands Atlas 2019**. As per the atlas, which presents the changes in wastelands between 2008-09 and 2015-16, **wastelands in India** has estimated to the tune of **55.76 million hectares (Mha) / 16.96%** of geographical area of the country i.e. 328.72 million hectares for the year **2015-16** as compared to 56.60 Mha (17.21%) in the year 2008.09.

### Key Points:

- The new wastelands mapping exercise has been carried out in district and state wise of wastelands area by **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** using the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data. The previous editions for 2000, 2005, 2010 & 2011 has published jointly by the Department of Land Resources, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) & Department of Space.

## Kolkata students create Guinness World Records for largest astrophysics assemble

- The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was successfully achieved by **Kolkata students at Science City, Kolkata**.
- The record was attempted on the first day of **5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019** in which over 1,598 students participated.
- The session was dedicated to **Meghnad Saha and Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman**.
- The session was organized by **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics**, who were conferred a memento at the end of the programme, on behalf of the Guinness Book of World Records.



## Rising Himachal Global Investors' Meet 2019

- The State Government of Himachal Pradesh is organizing Rising Himachal Global Investors' Meet 2019, a flagship business event, at Dharamshala.
- The event will be attended by diplomats, leaders from senior policy makers, corporate sector development agencies and investors from across the globe.
- The event will also be attended by Union Commerce and Industry and Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal, who will highlight about government investment and policies for promoting investment in Himachal Pradesh and hill states of India.



## India ranks 133 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> women, Peace and Security Index 2019: Norway tops the list

- The Georgetown institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), America in collaboration with The Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO), Norway, released its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the report titled **Women, Peace, and Security Index** for the year 2019. **India** was ranked **133<sup>rd</sup>** out of 167 countries. The list was topped by **Norway** which was followed by Switzerland and Finland in the second and third places respectively. In the assessment, it was reported that only Iceland performed well in all aspects. Yemen was ranked last at 167<sup>th</sup> place in the index

## Uttam rake: Indian Railways introduce first non-AC local train with CCTV cameras

- Indian Railway's Western Railway Zone has introduced state of the art 'Uttam Rake' for the local trains in Mumbai.
- Only two Uttam rakes have built at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, out of which the other has been given to South Central Railway.
- The Uttam rake is equipped with better seats, CCTV cameras, red emergency buttons, anti-dent partitions, modular luggage racks.
- Uttam rake will run on its normal services from 6 November 2019 with ten services a day.

## Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine

- 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) was inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi. The conference will be held from 7-10 November 2019. This is the first time that the biennial conference is being held in India..
- **Participants:** Over 2000 emergency medicine experts from over 32 distinct nations are participating in the conference.
- **Governments Effort:** The Government of India has made it mandatory for all medical college hospitals to have full-fledged Emergency Departments by 2022 with an aim to improve trauma care.

### Lucknow railway station gets 'Health ATM'

- The **Indian Railways** has installed two '**Health ATMs**' at the Charbagh railway station in **Lucknow**. The kiosks, promoted by **YOLO Health ATM**, provide 16 health check-ups for Rs 50-100. There are two types of check-ups a 9-minute one that costs Rs 100, and a 6-minute one that costs Rs 50. The report is delivered instantly to the email or smartphone of the user. The check-ups include body mass index, blood pressure, body fat, haemoglobin, metabolic age, muscle mass, weight, height, temperature, muscle mass, basal metabolic rating, visceral fat, oxygen saturation, pulse rate, blood glucose, and bone mass. Health ATMs can be defined as private, walk-in medical kiosks with integrated medical devices for basic vitals, cardiology, neurology, pulmonary testing, gynaecology, basic laboratory testing and emergency facilities and staffed by a medical attendant.

### NMCG organized 'Ganga Utsav' in New Delhi

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized the '**Ganga Utsav**' in **Major Dhyanchand** stadium in **New Delhi** to mark the 11th anniversary of Ganga being declared as national river. It was organized in coordination with Union Jal Shakti Ministry.

### National Mission for clean Ganga

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga** (NMCG) is the implementation wing of **National Ganga Council** which was set up in October 2016 under the **River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities order 2016**. The order dissolved National Ganga River Basin Authority. The aim is to clean the Ganges and its tributaries in a comprehensive manner. Nitin Gadkari is the present Minister for Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

### Haryana to create a new department of foreign cooperation

- The newly-formed Haryana govt has decided to create a new department namely Department of '**Foreign Cooperation**' in order to provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state govt for the promotion of investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians. The cabinet also decided to bring an amendment, allowing devolution of powers to the Gram Sabha to ban the sale of liquor within the local area.

### Maharashtra tops list in delivering justice to citizens

- Maharashtra is the State in delivering justice to its citizens, according to the India Justice Report by Tata Trusts. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana are some of the top states that fared well in delivering justice to its citizens. The India Justice Report is a quantitative analysis of the four pillars of justice 0-judiciary, Police, Prisons and legal aid. They are being quantitatively studied on the basis of budgetary allocation, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure and trends using only government data.

## NASSCOM Report: India-third largest startups hub in the world

- The Nasscom report on **Indian Tech Start-Up Ecosystem** said that India continues to 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.

	USA	China	India	U.K	Germany	Israel
Number of Unicorns	126	77	18	15	6	4
Unicorns in 2018	25	20	8	2	4	2
Avg. Time to Unicorn (Years)	6 - 8	4 - 6	5 - 7	7 - 9	6 - 8	5 - 7
Avg. valuation per Unicorn (\$ Bn)	~3.5	~3.8	~2.4	~2.3	~2.1	~1.2



- 8 Unicorns added in 2018, the most in a single calendar year
- India moved to 57<sup>th</sup> rank in Global Innovation Index, up from 60<sup>th</sup> in 2017<sup>1</sup>
- Bengaluru ranks among top 3 cities globally for launch of tech start-ups<sup>2</sup>

## CSIR's NEERI launches India's 1<sup>st</sup> air pollution web repository called "IndAIR"

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)'s **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)**, a research Institute created and funded by the Government of India (GoI), has launched India's 1st online repository called **IndAIR (Indian Air quality Studies Interactive Repository)**, Which documents air quality studies undertaken in the past 60 years.
- IndAIR will provide information about innovative research & analysis in the field of air pollution in India and its disadvantages and effect and with its help, researchers, media and academics can access studies being conducted on air pollution.
- The objective of the establishment of 'IndAIR' is to make the information of air quality research available to all.

## Sanskrit Bharati Vishwa Sammelan begins in New Delhi

- Thousands of Sanskrit lovers from 17 countries are attending Sanskrit Bharati Vishwa Sammelan, the three-day mega event beginning in New Delhi. Addressing the gathering, Minister of State for External Affairs V.Muraleedharan said Sanskrit continues to be prevalent in the society as it is used by the people across the country. The minister said, Sanskrit words are found in most of the Indian languages.

## International Conference on Yoga for Heart care to be organised at Karnataka

- Ministry of AYUSH is organizing the **International Conference on Yoga** on 15-16 November 2019 at **Mysuru, Karnataka**.
- The theme of the conference is '**Yoga for Heart Care**'. This conference is 5th in the series to commemorate the unanimous adoption of Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly during its 69<sup>th</sup> Session for observing 21st June as International Day of Yoga.

## Indian Oil to set up new 2G Ethanol Plant in Panipat

- The Indian Oil Corporation recently received environment clearance from Ministry of EFoCC (Environment, Forest and Climate Change), to set up a new 2G Ethanol plant at Panipat.
- Indian Oil will invest Rs 766 crore in setting up the plant.

## Ethanol as Fuel

- Ethanol is most often used as motor fuel. It is predominantly used as a biofuel additive for gasoline.
- **Brazil** was the first country to produce Ethanol run car (the first ethanol run vehicle in the world) in 1978.

## Four southern states to get medical device parks

- The government has given approval for setting up four medical device parks with a view to support Make in India initiative and provide world-class products at affordable price for treatment. The four parks will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, sources said, adding that Uttarakhand and Gujarat have also approached the Centre for a go-ahead for such parks.
- The project of **Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone** for creation of **Common Facility Centre (CFC)** for Superconducting Magnetic Coil Testing and Research was given in-principle approval recently. According to estimates, the medical devices retail market in the country is of around Rs 70,000 crore.

## Shilpotsav– 2019

- Shilpotsav- 2019 is being held from 1st - 15th November 2019 in New Delhi.
- It is the **annual fair of artisans** from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
- The artisans are assisted by the apex corporations of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- The range of products in this fair include - silk sarees, durries, readymade garments, terracotta products, jute products, marble artefacts and handloom etc.

## India-ASEAN Business Summit

- **Dr Jitendra Singh** addresses the inaugural session of **India-ASEAN Business Summit First Bamboo Industrial Park** is being set up in Dima Hasao district of **Assam**. The Minister added that similar parks can be set up in J&K. He announced a possibility of opening Apple food park, Strawberry food park can be explored. He added that first ever **citrus fruit park** has been developed in **Mizoram** with Israeli collaboration. We need to have a vision and futuristic approach, the Minister emphasized.

## Kerala on track to eliminate TB by 2025

- The sixth Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM 2019) of the Union government and the World Health Organization on the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has lauded Kerala for being right on track to achieve TB elimination by 2025.

## International Lavi fair being organised in Himachal Pradesh

- The four-day-long International Lavi fair is being organised in Rampur district of **Shimla, Himanchal Pradesh** from 11 to 14 November 2019.
- It was inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya. The governor also inaugurated 'Kinnauri market' and an exhibition organised by various government departments.

### About International Lavi fair

- **The Lavi Fair**, is almost 400 years old and dates back to time when **Raja Kehari Singh of Rampur Bushahr** state signed a treaty to promote trade with Tibet. For centuries this fair has remained an important trade fair between India and Tibet. It has been a unique example of glorious, social, cultural, economic history and legacy of Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh.

## 5<sup>th</sup> edition of GES 2019 to be held in Bengaluru

- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of **Global Exhibition on Services, GES 2019** is being held from November 26 to 28 at **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The Global Exhibition on Services is an annual event which aims to engage industry and governments across the world and to promote greater exchange of trade in services between India and the rest of the world.
- India is looking to attract investments and partnerships in strategic areas like aviation and space programme, infrastructure, and telecom projects.

## “National Capital Region -2041” conclave held in Delhi

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, chaired the inaugural conclave on “**National Capital Region -2041**” in Delhi.
- This conclave is organized by the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**.
- The theme of the conclave was “**Planning for Tomorrow’s Greatest Capital Region**”.
- The Regional Plan-2041 should be a citizen-centric plan, with liveability as the hallmark, to ensure ease of living.

## Air Chief to inaugurate ISAM Conference in Bengaluru

- **Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria** will inaugurate the 58<sup>th</sup> **Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) Annual Conference**.



- The aims of the conference to address **c o n t e m p o r a r y** issues and applications in the subject of aerospace medicine.
- The theme for this year’s conference is ‘**Changing Paradigms in Aerospace Healthcare**’.
- The event will take place at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Indian Air Force, Bengaluru from November 14-16.

## **27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) held in Kolkata, West Bengal**

- 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) was held in Kolkata, West Bengal. The theme of this conference was “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” which highlights the actions taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for a strong observing mechanism for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). COCSSO – This annual event was first organized in 1971 by MoSPI. COCSSO is a major national forum that produces coordination between the Central and State Statistical Agencies.

## **India International Cherry Blossom Festival celebrated in Shillong**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Cherry Blossom Festival, 2019 was celebrated in Shillong, Meghalaya from 13 to 16 November 2019. It was inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma. The festival is a great example of how natural resources and sustainable tourism can be utilized in an effective manner and create value of something which already exists.

## **About India International Cherry Blossom Festival, 2019**

- It was organized to celebrate the mass flowering of autumn Himalayan Cherry Blossoms with several cultural events in Shillong. This year the festival was held amid concern as blooming/flowering of Cherry Blossom trees has not been consistent due to climate change. In 2018 the trees bloomed by late October, but this year in November.
- Dinabandhu Sahoo, the brain behind Cherry Blossom Festival however highlighted that with every edition of the festival, the footfall of tourists visiting it has increased. This year the Republic of Korea was the partner country in the festival.

## **Naga peace process**

- The Naga peace process, which was started in 1997, turned 22 this year. It could happen only after a ceasefire agreement was signed between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India.

## **NCRB Report: Accidental and Suicidal Deaths in India – Farm suicides decline**

- The National Crime Records Bureau released the “Accidental and Suicidal Deaths in India report” on November 8, 2019.
- According to the report, the suicides in the cities were 10.6 in 2015 and it reduced to 10.3 in 2016. The data was released for 36 states and Union Territories and 53 metropolitan cities.

## **Highlights of the report: Farm Report**

- Number of farmers who committed suicide in the year 2015 were 8,007 and in 2016 the number came down to 6,270
- The suicides of farm workers increased from 4595 in 2015 to 5109 in 2016
- Maharashtra had the highest number of farmer suicide followed by Karnataka, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh.

## 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Rural and Agricultural finance

- The World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance (WCRAF) began in New Delhi.
- It aims at bringing together stakeholders of rural and agricultural finance all over the world. The Congress is an opportunity to strengthen business relations and to promote products and services.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The 6<sup>th</sup> WCRAF is being held in New Delhi. The Congress is co-hosted by NABARD-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Theme: “Rural and Agricultural Finance: Critical Input to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Development”

## CCI approves merger of the BNP Paribas (BNPP) and the Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the merger of the BNP Paribas (BNPP) Mutual Fund and the Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund, under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The Proposed Combination relates to the merger of the BNP Paribas Mutual Fund and the BOB Mutual Fund.
- The Parties propose to amalgamate (i) BOB Asset Management Company (AMC) into BNPP AMC; (ii) BNPP Trustee Company (TC) into BOB TC; (iii) After the merger, BNPP AMC and BOB TC will be the surviving entities.

## 39<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair 2019

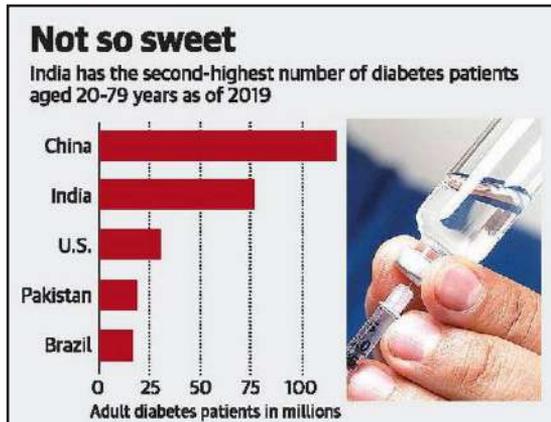
- 39<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair 2019 begins in New Delhi.
- The theme for the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the fair is ‘Ease of Doing Business’ inspired by India’s unique achievement of rising to 63<sup>rd</sup> rank on the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index from 142<sup>nd</sup> rank in the year 2014.
- This year the status of ‘Partner Country’ has been accorded to ‘The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan’ and ‘The Republic of Korea’ will be the ‘Focus Country’. Bihar and Jharkhand will be the focus states in this edition of the fair.

## Minority Affairs Ministry to establish ‘Hunar Hubs’ in every state: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

- The Minority Affairs Ministry is working on a war footing to establish ‘Hunar Hubs’ in every state in the next five years to train and encourage indigenous artisans and craftsmen announced by Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.
- The ministry has sanctioned 100 ‘Hunar Hubs’ or skill centres in different parts of the country in the first 100 days of the second Modi government, he proclaimed in New Delhi on the completion of ‘HunarHaat’ organised at North Central Zone Cultural Centre in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

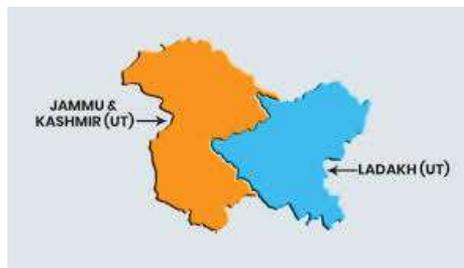
## India is home to 77 million diabetics

- One in six people with **diabetes** in the world is from India. The numbers place the country among the top 10 countries for people with diabetes, coming in at number two with an estimated 77 million diabetics.
- China leads the list with over 116 million diabetics.
- On International Diabetes Day, the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) Diabetes Atlas makes it clear India needs to pause and re-evaluate its strategy to combat diabetes.
- The ninth edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas offers projections that continue to put India at the second slot right up to 2045. The numbers are staggering just over 134 million Indians will be diabetics in the next 25 years.
- India is on the top of the table of a clutch of countries in from southeast Asia – Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Mauritius. Bangladesh, which is second on the list of top five countries with diabetes (20-79 years), however, has only 8.4 million diabetics.



## Govt sets up 3-member panel for division of assets, liabilities between J&K and Ladakh

- The Centre has constituted a three-member committee for division of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories, which came into existence on October 31.
- This was conveyed to members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs by senior officials led by **Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla**.
- An advisory committee has been constituted under **Section 84 of the J-K Reorganisation Act** for apportionments of assets, rights and liabilities between **UT of J-K and Ladakh**, **Bhalla** and his team of officers told the committee headed by Congress leader Anand Sharma.
- The **14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** award has been apportioned between the **UTs of J-K and Ladakh** in the ratio of 70 per cent and 30 per cent for the remaining five months of the 2019-20 fiscal.



### **Andhra Pradesh government launches 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme**

- Andhra Pradesh government has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme.
- The programme aims to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6 in state-run schools. The scheme will be implemented in 15,715 schools in the first phase. It will cover all schools in three years' time with a budget of ₹ 12,000 crores.

### **Property Owner - Tenant Agreement: Deadline extended by one year Emergency Act**

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued an Emergency Act, extending the deadline for contracting between property owner and tenants. The Emergency Act was passed on October 21, extending the contract deadline by a further 12 months. It has been announced that it will be approved at the next session of the legislative session.

### **IBM to launch a new weather forecasting system**

- IBM is to launch IBM GRAF, Global High-Resolution Atmospheric Forecasting System, which will be able to predict conditions up to **12 hours in advance**. Such kind of precise forecasting system has been available in the United States, Japan, and some west European countries.

### **J&K: Administration to launch second phase of 'Back to Village programme'**

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration is all set to launch the second phase of 'Back to Village programme' to upgrade government websites with latest information from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November. The flagship programme is aimed at empowerment and development of Panchayats. It ensures the functionality of Panchayats in terms of manpower, 100% coverage of beneficiary oriented schemes and doubling of income of rural people by giving the impetus to the rural economy.

### **India seeking Israel help for 'tap-water to every Indian by 2024'**

- India is seeking Israel's help to ensure functional tap-water to every Indian household by 2024 with a senior minister visiting the country next week to fulfill the government's mission. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that more than Rs 3.5 lakh crore will be spent in the coming years under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to bring piped water to households by 2024.
- The Jal Shakti minister will also be the keynote speaker for the prestigious biennial WATEC event. The Union Cabinet Minister is being accompanied by a large delegation from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Delhi.

### **50<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**

- The Information and Broadcasting ministry launched the official anthem and radio jingle for the golden jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to take place in Goa. Rajinikanth, legendary actor will be honoured with a special award, 'Icon of Golden Jubilee of IFFI' while French actress Isabelle Hupert will be conferred the lifetime achievement award.

## Delhi govt launched 'Mukhyamantri Septic Tank Safai Yojana' to eradicate manual scavenging

- The Chief Minister of Delhi Shri Arvind Kejriwal has launched 'Mukhyamantri Septic Tank Safai Yojana', a scheme focused to eradicate manual scavenging in the state. As per this scheme, citizens will be enabled to get their septic tanks cleaned for free using assistive technologies.

### Key Points:

- The service can be availed by the citizens using a helpline number provided.
- Scheme coverage: The scheme will cover septic tanks without sewer lines, mostly build in unauthorized colonies.
- The government will hire an agency to clean the tanks and a tender will be floated within a month.

## UNICEF Report: India Second largest in Pneumonia deaths

- United Nations' new report on Pneumonia stated that India has the second largest deaths of children under the age of five due to Pneumonia in 2018.
- Globally more than 800,000 children died due to Pneumonia under the age of 5.
- The report stated that though the disease is preventable through vaccines, more than 10 million die annually due to the disease

### Highlights

- The five countries that were responsible for more than half of child deaths due to Pneumonia were **Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia**
- Pneumonia is responsible for 15% of deaths in children under 5.
- The report named the disease as "**Forgotten Epidemic**"
- Around half of pneumonia deaths are associated with air pollution

## Special Winter Grade Fuel launched for Ladakh Region

- Indian Oil Corporation launched special winter grade diesel that will remain unfrozen even at **-33 degree Celsius**.
- This will help to provide continuous and year-round access to the snow-covered regions.

### Highlights

- The fuel meets BIS specification of BS-VI grade
- It was produced and certified at Panipat Refinery
- The winter grade diesel is to be supplied to the region from Jalandar in Punjab.

### About winter Grade Fuel

- Diesel Fuel is prone to waxing in cold weather. Below its Cloud Point, diesel begins to form wax particles.
- Cloud Point refers to the temperature below which the fuel particles begin to cloud together and form solidified waxes.

## Delhi is the world's worst polluted city

- Air pollution in Delhi has risen to its worst ever polluted city in the world
- Air pollution levels touched 527. It tops the list of the world's highest air pollutants. The list includes Hong Shu with 167 points, Vietnam's Hanoi with 182 points and Pakistan with Lahore at 193. But Delhi has 527 air pollution levels.
- According to **Skymet the overall Air Quality Index (AQI)** reading in Delhi this morning was 505 - down marginally from 527.
- An AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 moderate, 201-300 poor, 301-400 very poor and 401-500 is marked as severe/hazardous.

## Home Ministry, UN Women Launches Campaign to End Violence Against Women

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with UN Women launched an awareness campaign to end violence against women.
- As part of campaign a 'UNiTE to End Violence Against Women' Metro was flagged off at the Sultanpur Metro station in New Delhi.
- The flag-off took place as part of 16 Days of Activism 'Orange The World' global campaign, which is being observed ahead of 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women', marked annually on 25 November and will continue till International Day of Human Rights on December 10.

## National Mission 'NISHTHA' launched in J&K

- National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) has been launched in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- NISHTHA is aimed at improving learning outcomes at Elementary level through integrated Teacher Trainings.
- NISHTHA is a pioneer scheme being launched across the country, with a total of 86000 Elementary teachers of Government Schools being trained in J&K under the programme.

### About NISHTHA

- Objective: Mission aims to build capacities of 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at elementary level in all Government Schools across India as well as faculty members of State Institute of Education (SIE)/ State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) etc.



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### GoI conducts first ever National Agro Chemicals Congress in New Delhi

- The National Agro Chemical Congress was conducted for four days in New Delhi. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare hosted the event. It was the first of its kind. It is to be conducted once in three years. Theme: Country's Status on various fronts of Agro chemicals

#### Significance

- The aim of the congress is to highlight the role played by chemical pesticides in pest management. It emphasized on target specific and environment friendly products. The Congress also focused on new concepts in human health, nanotechnology, crops, resource management, smart formulations related sciences to help to boost agricultural productivity.

### India ASEAN InnoTech Summit 2019

- India ASEAN InnoTech Summit, 2019. A 3-day Technology & Innovation Summit, exhibition, B2B and B2G meetings is being held from 20-22 November in Davao, Philippines. It aims to capture global trends in technology management and strategy, connect local and global research & development community for collaborative engagement. ASEAN participating Member Countries are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Karnataka CM BS Yeddyurappa inaugurates Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019

- The three-day "Bengaluru Tech Summit" 2019' was inaugurated by Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa and Deputy Chief minister Dr CN Ashwathnarayan among other dignitaries in Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru. The theme of the 22nd edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit this year is 'innovation and Impact 2.0', with the main focus on innovation and entrepreneurship to become the driving forces of the development of the state in future.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2019 held in Lucknow

- The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of **Urban Mobility India Conference and Expo 2019** was held in Uttar Pradesh's capital city **Lucknow** from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- It was organised by Institute of Urban Transport (IUT), professional body under Union Ministry of Urban Development. The theme of this year's conference was "Accessible and liveable Cities".

#### About Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo

- It is an annual flagship event organised under the aegis of Union Ministry of Urban Development.
- Its genesis is from the **National Urban Transport Policy** of the Government of India, 2006 (NUTP).

## UP government to rename Agra to Agravan

- The Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh State government is planning to rename **Agra to Agravan**.
- The state government has asked the history department of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Agra to look for historical evidence if the city was known by any other name. The researchers have begun the research regarding the name change. Earlier, it has changed the names of **Allahabad to Prayagraj**, **Faizabad to Ayodhya**, and **Mughalsarai to DeenDayal Upadhyaya Nagar**.

## NuGen Mobility Summit 2019 to be held in Manesar, Haryana

- The three-day **NuGen Mobility Summit 2019** will be held in **Manesar, Haryana** from November 27 to 29, 2019.
- It will be organized by **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**, **Manesar** based on the theme "**Smart & Green Mobility**" to find alternative mobility solutions to problems like pollution emanating from vehicular emissions.
- It will be inaugurated by **Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari**.

## Haryana decides Panchayats can ban liquor in villages

- The Haryana government decided to empower village panchayats to ban sale of liquor within its jurisdiction. In this regard, an in-principle decision was taken to bring an amendment in Section 31 of the **Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994**, allowing devolution of powers to the gram sabha (a group of voters in the village) to ban liquor within the local area of a gram panchayat. The decision was taken at a meeting of the cabinet presided over by chief minister **Manohar Lal Khattar**.

## Cabinet approves establishment of National Institute of Sowa Rigpa at Leh

- The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of **National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh**.
- It will be an autonomous National Institute under Union Ministry of **AYUSH**.
- It is mandated to undertake interdisciplinary education and research programmes in Sowa-Rigpa system of traditional medicine in collaboration with premier national and international Institutes and facilitate integration of different systems of medicine.

### About National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR)

- It will be apex **Institute for Sowa-Rigpa** in the country. It is aimed at bringing a valid and useful synergy between traditional wisdom of **Sowa-Rigpa system** of medicine and modern science, tools and technology.

### About Sowa-Rigpa

- It commonly known as Tibetan system of medicine. It is also dubbed as Science of healing. It is one of the oldest, Living and well documented medical tradition of the world.

### **FASTag Mandatory From December 1**

- The **Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways** has made FASTag (electronic toll collection) mandatory for all vehicles from Dec 1, 2019.
- **Under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme**, toll payments will be only via FASTag.
- It works on the principle of Radio Frequency Identification.
- The programme's main objective is to ensure non-stop movement of vehicles at the toll plazas, cashless payment, and reduction of traffic congestion.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> edition of South Asia Safety Summit held in New Delhi**

- The South Asia Safety Summit is being organized to highlight the issue of safety while individuals and communities are connected on the digital platform
- The **Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** was addressing the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of South Asia Safety Summit in New Delhi
- **South Asia Safety Summit** organized by the Ministry of WCD and Facebook.
- During the Summit, Union Minister of WCD launched **"We Think Digital"** website. This website is an online education portal with interactive tutorials aimed at helping people think critically and share thoughtfully online.

### **Worlds first Muslim yoga camp is being held on Kotdwar**

- The world's first Muslim yoga camp began at **Kanva Ashram** in **Kotdwar** town of **Uttarakhand** on 20 November 2019.
- The camp will be held from 20-24 November 2019.

#### **Yoga Camp:**

- The yoga camp shows the health benefits associated with **practising Yoga**.
- Yoga elevates one's heart, mind, and thoughts to such a level that the individual begins to care for all. It leads people towards universal welfare.
- Yoga elevates the effect on the way one looks upon things.

#### **Participants:**

- Around 500 Muslim men and women from different countries participated in the event.

### **Arun Bhoomi: 1<sup>st</sup> Hindi daily launched in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched the state's first Hindi newspaper 'Arun Bhoomi', which will be published and edited by Takam Sonia.
- The CM hoped that the major population of the county, who speak and read Hindi, would get easy access to news, information and knowledge about the state.
- He called Hindi as the bond that unites the diverse ethnic tribes of the state who speak different dialects.

## Bangalore is India's top-ranked city in new global prosperity index

- Bangalore emerged as India's highest ranked city at No. 83 in a new index of the world's 113 cities in terms of economic and social inclusivity, topped by **Zurich in Switzerland**. Delhi at 101 and Mumbai at 107 are the other Indian cities to make at the index, with the top 20 awarded a PICS Seal as the world's highest-ranked cities building inclusive prosperity.
- Bilbao, the host city of the new index, is ranked at 20.

### Prosperity Index

- The Legatum Prosperity Index offers a unique insight into how prosperity is forming and changing across the world.
- The Index is an annual ranking of 149 countries that covers 96% of the world's population and 99% of global GDP.

## Three-day Global Buddhist Congregation to begin in Aurangabad

- In Maharashtra, a three-day Global Buddhist Congregation will begin at Nagsenvan in Aurangabad. The inaugural ceremony will take place in the presence of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama and Mahanayaka Thero from Sri Lanka. The chief organiser of the event and development commissioner of the state Industries Department, Dr Harshdeep Kamble, announced that, talks on relevance of Buddhism in the modern world, Buddhist culture and way of life, revival and strengthening of Buddhism, Buddhism for youth held during the congregation.

## New Delhi 9<sup>th</sup> fastest-growing prime residential market in the world

- **New Delhi** is now the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing prime residential market in the world with average luxury home prices in areas such as **Greater Kailash, Vasant Vihar, Anand Niketan, Defence Colony** and **Green Park** rising by 4.4 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2019, according to a new report by Knight Frank.

Rank	City	3-month % change	12-month % change
1	Moscow	1.3	11.1
2	Frankfurt	0.0	10.3
3	Taipei	1.4	8.9
4	Manila	3.0	7.4
5	Berlin	0.0	6.5
9	Delhi	0.0	4.4
20	Bengaluru	0.5	2.1
28	Mumbai	0.0	0.8

- While Delhi's ranking has moved up by one place to 9th spot, Mumbai is at 28th position, up two places from 30th rank. The country's financial capital clocked a 0.8 percent year-on-year rise in prices. However, Bengaluru has slipped five places to 20th spot, registering a 2.1 percent year-on-year rise in prices.
- Globally, Moscow leads the index this quarter with prime home prices rising by 11.1 percent over the 12 months to September 2019, followed by Frankfurt (10.3 percent) and Taipei (8.9 percent). Seoul was the weakest-performing global city in the year to September, with luxury home prices falling by 12.9 percent.

# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Sheikh Sultan inaugurates Sharjah International Book Fair 2019

- The 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 was inaugurated by Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, UAE.
- **The Republic of Mexico** has been declared as the Guest of Honour at the 38th edition of SIBF.
- The theme of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 is 'Open Books Open Minds', to promote books and reading across age groups and communities.

## 'Indonesia ministries ban pregnant, LGBT job seekers'

- Several Indonesian ministries are banning pregnant, disabled, or LGBT job hunters in favour of what one called "normal" applicants, the Ombudsman announced that slammed as "arbitrary and hateful restrictions" by a rights group. The world's biggest **Muslim majority** country takes applications from millions of candidates who are applying for some 200,000 civil-service jobs nationwide. Indonesia, a Southeast Asian archipelago of some **260 million**, has seen a jump in discrimination against gay and transgender people in recent years.

## World's first blockchain-based carbon trading exchange in Singapore

- Singapore-based **AirCarbon Pte** launched the worlds' first blockchain-based carbon trading exchange.
- This will allow airlines and other corporate buyers to buy as well sell tokens backed by carbon offset credits approved by the **International Civil Aviation Organisation**.
- The company is applying to the Monetary Authority of Singapore for a recognized market operator license and targets for the exchange to be fully operational in 2020.

## Kishan Reddy to attend "No Money for Terror" conference

- Union Minister G Kishan Reddy will be representing India in the forthcoming "No Money for terror" conference to be held in Australia next week.
- There will be discussions on measures to control terrorism.
- As many as 70 countries have agreed to participate in the conference so far.
- **Paris** hosted the conference in April last year, he said adding India was ready to host the event in 2020.

## Freedom on Net 2019 report-China the worst abuser of internet freedom

- The Freedom of Net report 2019 titled “**The Crisis of Social Media**” was released by the The Freedom House, an international watchdog. The report recorded an overall decline in global internet freedom status between July 2018 and May 2019. India obtained an overall score of 55 and was reported to be “**partly free**”.

### Highlights

- Pakistan, with a score of 26, for the ninth consecutive year was declared as “**not free**” in terms of freedom status China obtained a score of 10 and was adjudged “not free”. Ethiopia recorded the highest improvement in terms of internet freedom

## Fire destroys 500-year-old world heritage site in Japan

- A fire has destroyed all the main structures of Shuri Castle, a Unesco World Heritage site on Japan’s southern island of Okinawa.
- **Shuri Castle**, which was once the seat of the **Ryukyu dynasty**, sits on top of a hill overlooking the city of **Naha - Okinawa’s capital** - and is surrounded by curved stone walls.

## India To Host No Money For Terror Conference Next Year

- India will host the **No Money For Terror conference** to be held in 2020. The announcement made at the No Money For Terror conference in Melbourne, Australia.

### No Money for Terror

- The country decided to establish an informal network of FIUs for the stimulation of international cooperation. The countries which participated in the meeting should also effectively enforce the standards mandated by the Financial Action Terror Force (FATF) and UN listings. The members should initiate discussion on Countering Financing of Radicalisation (CFR), which would prevent radicalization - an essential prerequisite of terrorism.

## Spanish capital Madrid to host COP 25

- The Spanish capital city of Madrid will host the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25)** from 2 to 13 December.
- The decision was taken following Chile’s stepping down as host for the event due to the ongoing street protests in the South American country.
- The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) summit is a key event which allows representatives from around 200 nations to monitor and discuss the current situation of the world’s warming climate.

## Northeast India gateway to Southeast Asia under Act East Policy

- Northeast India is being developed as a gateway to Southeast Asia under Central government’s Act East Policy (AEP), and added that the plans are on cards to establish seamless connectivity between **Thailand, Myanmar and northeast India** in the years to come. This initiative will immensely strengthen India’s act east policy and **Thailand’s Act West Policy**. Integrated, strong and economically prospering ASEAN is in the interest of India,” he announced during his address at the **16<sup>th</sup> India-ASEAN summit**.



## IT firm restores govt. Schools in T.N

- Cognizant Outreach, an employee-led volunteering programme of the IT major, has successfully completed 'Project 100 Schools', a programme to rehabilitate government schools impacted by the 2015 floods in the Chennai, Kancheepuran and Tiruvallur districts.
- According to K.A.Sengottaiyan, Minister for School Education, inaugurated the refurbished infrastructure at panchayat union primary school and government high school in Mannivakkam.

## Drinking water from Marakkanam to Chennai



- A team of Tamil Nadu river water conservation officials examined the new project for the conversion of water into the **Kazhuveli lake** in Villupuram district and the drinking water of the people of Chennai.

## 19<sup>th</sup> IORA ministerial meet held at Abu Dhabi, UAE

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association COM (Council of Ministers) meeting was held in **Abu Dhabi, UAE** on November 7, 2019. Ministers from 22 countries attended the meeting.
- The meeting was chaired by UAE. The Chairmanship passes from Republic of South Africa that held the chair between the period 2017-19.
- For the period of 2019-2021, UAE will hold the chairmanship assisted by Bangladesh.

### Highlights

- The meeting was preceded by 21<sup>st</sup> **Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)**. The CSO is being held twice a year.
- Theme: **Promoting a shared destiny and path to prosperity in Indian ocean**

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of World Religious Leaders began in Baku

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of **World Religious Leaders** began in **Baku, Azerbaijan**. The summit will be held from 14-15 November 2019.

### Aim:

- The Summit aims to contribute to the development of inter-religious dialogue, promotion, and evolution of such human values as mutual understanding and human solidarity.

### Summit:

- The event includes discussions on topics as Azerbaijan's exemplary role to promote multiculturalism, tolerance and interreligious solidarity, SheikhuIslam Allahshukur Pashazade's contributions to the development of interfaith and inter-civilizational.

### **New Zealand: Allow for mercy killing**

- A bill authorizing the death of a merciless killer of Tirasa sufferers was passed in **New Zealand's parliament**.
- It is a world-wide affair that compassionately helps patients who are suffering from an incurable illness to take their lives.
- Opposition for mercy killing on religious grounds and for other reasons. However, the progressives claim that they will not allow them to die peacefully in advance, rather than die from pain and agony before they die.
- The bill was widely discussed throughout the country. So far, 39,000 people have registered their comments. Most of them commented on opposing mercy killing.
- In accordance with this bill, there are stipulations that the patient who is allowed to commit suicide with the help of a doctor or nurse must remain undiagnosed and die within six months.

### **India to host 19<sup>th</sup> Council of Heads of Governments of SCO in 2020**

- India will be hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Council of Heads of Government of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2020**. This was informed by SCO Secretary **General Vladimir Norov**.
- This will be for the first time that India will host the high level meeting of the China-led eight-member economic and security bloc.

#### **About SCO**

- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** aka Shanghai Pact was created in 2001 in Shanghai by China. Apart from China, its founding members were Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.

#### **SCO summits**

- SCO holds two types of summits every year viz. Summit of Heads of States and Summits Heads of Governments.
- These summits are organized in member states. The latest Summit of heads of government was held in **Tashkent** in November 2019.

### **India attends International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

- India attended the eighth session of the **International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)** at Rome, Italy.
- Agriculture Minister **Shri Narendra Tomar** attended the session representing India.
- The Treaty is in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The treaty was negotiated through **FAO**.

#### **About the Treaty**

- It is also known as the "**Seed Treaty**". It is an international agreement to ensure food security by exchange of world's plant genetic resources of food and agriculture. It also aims at conservation and sustainable use of seed varieties.

# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS



## TN became the first state to enact a law on contract farming

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and the first state to enact the law on contract farming.
- The Bill was adopted by the Tamil Nadu State government in February 2019. The Bill is first of-its-kind legislation that assures farm income.

### Contract farming:

- Besides poultry, there was contract farming of sugarcane and herbs. But, until now, there was no law to ensure the welfare of the farmers involved in it.
- To benefit the marginal farmers, the Tamil Nadu state government came up with such legislation.

## 1,000 Atal Tinkering Labs to be established in Tamil Nadu

- Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development K.A. Sengottaiyan has announced that 1,000 Atal Tinkering Laboratories will be established in the State to create an environment of scientific temperament among school students.

## Information & Communication Technology Conference in Chennai

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Tamil Nadu is organising the 18th Edition of **CONNECT 2019** on 7-8 November 2019 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.
- The idea behind this initiative is to make **Tamil Nadu State**, one of the potential States in India for investment in the ICT Sector, at that time, when India was emerging as a global hub for generating IT manpower to cater the requirement of various advanced countries in the world.

## Amma youth sports scheme to be launched in Tamil Nadu

- The State government has sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹76.24 crore for implementing Amma Youth Sports Scheme.
- The scheme will be implemented in a total of 12,524 village panchayats, 528 town panchayats to focus on kabaddi, volleyball and cricket, among other sports.

## Drug Production Park in Chennai

- The state-of-the-art pharmaceutical park will soon be set up in Chennai announced by the Tamilnadu Health Ministry.

## Keeladi: Unearthing the 'Vaigai Valley' Civilisation of Sangam era Tamil Nadu

- A state-of-the art world class museum to exhibit the hundreds of artifacts unearthed during excavations at **Keeladi** in **Sivagangai district**, where remnants of an ancient Tamil civilization along the **Vaigai river** bank have been found, will be established at a cost of Rs. 12.21 crore.
- '**Tamil Nadu Naal Vizha**' will be celebrated every year on November 1, it was to sensitize the younger generation to the historical circumstances, background and leaders involved in carving out the state of Tamil Nadu, in the wake of the reorganization of states in **1956** on linguistic basis.
- ₹12.21 crore world class museum for Keeladi artifacts: **Edappadi K Palaniswami**



### No minimum qualification needed to get driving licence

- The Government has scrapped the requirement of an educational qualification to get a driving licence.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** announced the move would benefit skilled people from economically underprivileged sections of the society.
- The Union government had amended the Central Motor Vehicle Act in 2007.
- According to Rule 8 of the Act, the minimum educational qualification to obtain a licence to drive a transport vehicle should be Class 8.
- According to the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, the driver must be able to read signs and perform logistical duty to report safety hazard.

### Set up digital platforms to boost crop yield

- The Agriculture Department which recently succeeded in unveiling the **Vivasaai App** and **e-thottam** online portal, where farmers can directly sell their produce, has now bagged the prestigious Schoch award for IT-enabled services.
- The Chennai city police had bagged the Schoch award for its third eye CCTV camera project and now the state departments are working on improving the digital interface.
- The recently launched **Uzhavan mobile App** helps the farmers know about the agro-climatic conditions, stock position of critical inputs such as seeds, fertilisers and crop maintenance.
- According to **State Planning Commission** sources with land use cell, the state is now profiling the agricultural data related to TN districts and then the micro-level data on-farm practices and output yield will soon be tabulated.

## 'Red Atlas Map' unveiled for flood mitigation in Chennai

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu unveiled the 'Red Atlas Action Plan Map,' a first of its kind ready reckoner, prepared by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to aid Tamil Nadu government in effective flood mitigation in Chennai which witnessed the worst deluge in 2015.
- The atlas, with probable scenarios for different rainfall periods, aims at flood mitigation, preparedness, operations and management aspects
- The atlas and the 'Coastal Flood Warning System App (CFLWS-Chennai)', which was launched by the Vice-President are intended as decision support systems covering aspects, including preparedness and prevention.

## Tamilnadu CM launches extended ambulance services for cattle

- Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched the extended **Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance (AMMA)** services at the Secretariat.
- The AMMA service was launched by former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in 2016.
- In 2016, **Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Kanchipuram, Namakkal and Madurai** districts were given two ambulances each.
- In a move to further extend these services, 22 new ambulances at a cost of Rs 2.40 crore were launched .
- The already existing toll free number 1962 can be contacted to avail the ambulance services.

## TN inks pact with German bank for 2,713 buses

- The Tamil Nadu government signed an agreement with KfW, German Development Bank, for purchasing 2,713 buses for State transport corporations. Under the project of "Climate friendly Modernization of Buses in Major Cities of Tamil Nadu" an agreement has been signed for 203 Million Euro (Approximately ` 1606.47 crore) between State transport department and KfW.
- As per the agreement 2,213 BS-VI buses and over 500 e-buses would be purchased, in order to upgrade and modernize all Tamil Nadu State Transport undertakings.

## CONNECT- 2019

- The 'Connect 2019' conference of the Indian Federation of Labor (CII) and Tamil Nadu Government started in Chennai. The two-day conference was inaugurated by K. Palanisamy.
- Tamilnadu is in the forefront of information technology. The various initiatives of the Tamil Nadu Government in every sector have been well received. According to a report released by Justice Aayok, Tamil Nadu is the second largest producer in India.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu is planning to implement 'BharatNet' project at Rs 1,815 crore to provide internet service to all villages.
- Thereby, 12 thousand 524 village panchayats in Tamil Nadu will be connected by glass fiber structure. This project will be implemented in the next one and a half years.

## **ADB to give \$451Mn for Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor power links**

- The Asian Development Bank will provide a \$451 million (appx. ₹3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- As per ADB, the Manila-headquartered multilateral agency the total cost of the project is \$653.5 million, of which the government will provide \$202.5 million.

### **About Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)**

- On January 2019 Tamil Nadu Government passed a bill to amend **Tamil Nadu Industrial Township Area Development Authority Act, 1997 (TNITADA)** to turn CKIC project worth Rs.64.48 billion into reality.
- The first phase of CKIC project will have **Madurai-Virudhnagar-Dindigul-Theni and Thoothukudi-Tirunelveli** nodes. The focus of CKIC will be on manufacturing.

## **Artificial coral reefs at a cost of Rs 18 crore in the district waters affected by the Gaza Storm**

- The Fisheries Department has decided to set up artificial coral reefs at a cost of ₹ 18 crore in the sea areas of the **Gaja Storm**.
- Artificial coral is a habitat and breeding ground for fish and other marine life.
- Therefore, artificial coral reefs are being set up in the seas around **Tamil Nadu** to feed the fisheries at sea.

## **Chief Minister lays foundation for international yoga centre at Chengalpattu Medical College**

- For the first time in India a state-of-art International Yoga and Naturopathy Medical Science Centre will be set up at 50 acres inside the campus of **Chengalpattu Government Medical College**.
- Similar new hospital buildings were also inaugurated at the government hospitals in **Karaikudi, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Tirunelveli, Theni and Villupuram**, involving a total capital outlay of Rs. 30.49 crore
- **Mr. Edappadi K Palaniswami** unveiled a plaque to lay the foundation stone for the proposed International centre at a function in the secretariat.
- The global centre is being built at a cost of ₹6.31 crore on a 50-acre land situated in the government medical college campus in Chenglepet, 60-km south of Chennai.

## **KONE inaugurates new Rs 450 crore manufacturing facility in TN**

- Elevator and escalator manufacturer KONE inaugurated its new manufacturing facility at Sriperumbudur.
- The facility built at an outlay of around ₹ 450 crore would employ 600 people and serve **Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka** besides domestic market.
- The elevator manufacturing unit at **Pillaippakkam, SIPCOT Industrial Park in Sriperumbudur** is spread across 50,000 square metres.
- The plant is the largest in **India, South and South East Asia**.

## Chennai police launch 'Thozhi' scheme

- The Chennai City police have launched a special wing called 'Thozhi' (friend) comprising women police personnel to support and provide counselling to victims and their parents in sexual assault cases (Pocso Act) and guide them through legal procedures.
- The City police commissioner A.K Viswanathan on Friday launched the scheme at the city police Commissioneratedisc and assigned 70 policewomen to work in the wing. They will be provided pink saris embedded with Nirbhaya logo as a mark of safety. Two policewomen will be assigned to each of the 35 all-women police stations in the city.

## National Children's Science Conference at Kamaraj University

- The 27<sup>th</sup> National Children's Science Conference, jointly organized by Madurai Kamaraj University and Tamil Nadu Science Movement, was held.
- National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) is a nationwide Science Communication programme started in the year 1993.

## Tenkasi is the 33<sup>rd</sup> district of Tamil Nadu

- Tamilnadu Chief Minister Palanisamy inaugurated the Tenkasi district as the 33<sup>rd</sup> district of Tamil Nadu.
- Chief Minister Palanisamy is inaugurating the new district of Tirunelveli.
- He is providing welfare assistance to 5 thousand people at a cost of Rs 89 crore.

## India's tallest Shivalingam unveiled at Thiruvananthapuram

- The 111 feet **Shivalingam** at the Maheswaram Sri Shiva Paravathi Temple at **Chenkal** in **Thiruvananthapuram** was opened for public .
- The dedication ceremony was held by **Matadhipathi (head), Maheswarananda Swamy** in which various Hindu nobles and great personalities participated in the function.
- It is India's tallest structure of such kind and has become the tallest Shiva lingam in the country, with recognition from the India Book of Records. Soil and water from the holy places of **Kashi, Badrinath, Gangotri, Gomukh, Gaimukh, Rameswaram, Dhanushkodi and Kailasam** was used for the construction of the idol.
- The Shiva lingam, which has a height equivalent to that of a 10-storey building, is constructed in such a way that pilgrims can reach a model '**Kailasam**' on the top of the structure.
- The first floor has 108 Shiva Lingams, where the pilgrims can offer '**abhishekham**'.
- There are eight floors inside the cylindrical structure, of which six represent six chakras or energy in the human body.



## ₹720 crore for Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund and the Residential Fund to attract ₹ 720 crore.
- With the help of the **Chicago Global Strategic Alliance**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund to attract ₹ 720 crore.
- The **Chicago Housing Authority** has been implementing a low-cost housing program for the urban poor for the past 80 years.

## Government to allocate space for Guru Nanak memorial

- The Tamil Nadu government will allocate space to construct a memorial for Guru Nanak at Rameswaram, said Chief Minister Edappadi K.Palaniswami.
- Mr. Palaniswami participated in the 550th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev at the Gurudwara Sahib in T. Nagar on Tuesday evening.

## Tamilnadu Day Celebrations at the International Trade Fair of Delhi

- India International Trade Fair 2019 is being a multi-item show has in plain view an extensive variety of items and administrations.
- IITF-India International Trade Fair will be held on 14 - 27 November 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.

## Tiruvallur, Tiruttani AND Uthukottai stations will get the facility in the first phase

- Three child-friendly all women police stations (AWPS) will be inaugurated in Tiruvallur district.
- There are five AWPS in the district and in the first phase three police stations Tiruvallur, Tiruttani and Uthukottai, will have child-friendly spaces. It is being done jointly by the district police and the international Justice Mission (IJM)
- 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, says that every child, including child offenders, must not only be given due protection and care but also be approached in a friendly manner.

## e-court launched at Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal in Chennai

- Justice P. P. Bhatt, President of the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) launched an e-court at the **Chennai** bench.
- ITAT is a quasi-judicial institution that was set up in January, 1941 and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.
- The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- A fully-equipped separate court room with seamless conferencing facilities has been set up at the Chennai bench of ITAT.
- Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur and Ahmedabad benches of ITAT already have the e-court facility.

# 10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. When is the Corruption Awareness Week observed?  
 (A) October 26 to November 1 (B) October 28 to November 2  
 (C) October 29 to November 5 (D) October 31 to November 7
2. When is International Austerity Day observed?  
 (A) October 25 (B) October 26 (C) October 28 (D) October 30
3. When is National Unity Day observed first time?  
 (A) 2012 (B) 2014 (C) 2016 (D) 2019
4. When is the World Stroke Day observed?  
 (A) October 28 (B) October 26 (C) October 27 (D) October 29
5. When is the World Cities Day observed?  
 (A) October 28 (B) October 29 (C) October 30 (D) October 31
6. When is World Internet Day observed?  
 (A) October 29 (B) October 26 (C) October 28 (D) October 27
7. When was Women's Entrepreneurship Day observed?  
 (A) November 29 (B) November 9 (C) November 21 (D) November 19
8. When is the International Day for Tolerance observed?  
 (A) November 15 (B) November 7 (C) November 16 (D) November 18
9. When was Shanghai CoOperation Organisation formed?  
 (A) 2002 (B) 2001 (C) 2006 (D) 2005
10. When was the Asia Society found?  
 (A) 1956 (B) 1950 (C) 1947 (D) 1962
11. When will be Women soldiers inducted into the Indian Army?  
 (A) 2019 (B) 2020 (C) 2021 (D) 2022
12. Joint Naval Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was held between India and which of the following country at Visakhapatnam?  
 (A) Myanmar (B) Maldives (C) Indonesia (D) Sri Lanka
13. Which of the following is the venue of the first ever BIMSTEC ports conclave??  
 (A) Ennore (B) Paradip (C) Chennai (D) Visakhapatnam
14. Where was the Mid planning conference for MILAN Exercise held?  
 (A) Cochin (B) Chennai (C) Kolkata (D) Visakhapatnam
15. What is the objective of Green Channel Policy associated with the Department of Defense?  
 (A) Weapon purchases (B) Domestic production  
 (C) Quality production certificate (D) Environment friendly weapon
16. Shaheen - 1 a nuclear capable missile test fired by which country?  
 (A) North Korea (B) Isreal (C) South Sudan (D) Pakistan
17. According to Guinness World Records 2020, which city is World's most polluted city?  
 (A) Raipur (B) Kanpur (C) Delhi (D) Ranchi
18. Who is the oldest yoga teacher in India recently passed away?  
 (A) Godawari Dutta (B) Thimmakka (C) Chinna Pillai (D) Gnanammal
19. Who holds the World's record for mounting World's tallest mountain peaks in seven months?  
 (A) Nirmal Purja (B) Mohan Singh Kohli  
 (C) Narendra Dhar Jeyal (D) Mandeep Singh Soyeen
20. V. Nanammal, recently passed away belongs to which of the following field?  
 (A) Teacher (B) Music (C) Yoga (D) Dance
21. Who won silver at the World Wrestling Championship 2019?  
 (A) Ravinder (B) Ravidassia (C) Gaurav Baliyan (D) Arsen

22. Which of the following team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20?  
 (A) Mumbai (B) Delhi (C) Karnataka (D) Tamil Nadu
23. Which country topped the World Athletics championships-2019?  
 (A) China (B) India (C) Russia (D) France
24. Who won India's first Gold at 2019 ISSF World Cup?  
 (A) Yashaswini Deswal (B) Manu Bhaker (C) Rahi Sarnobat (D) Heena Sidhu
25. Who is the Author of the Book "The Far Field"?  
 (A) Ashwin Sanghi (B) Madhuri Vijay (C) Preeti Shenoy (D) Anita Desai
26. Which book written by renowned Historian Chitralakha Zutshi?  
 (A) The Great Gatsby (B) Kashmir (C) Pride and Prejudice (D) Little Women
27. Who won Sakharov prize-2019?  
 (A) Ilham Tohti (B) Nitish Kumar (C) Vikram Sharma (D) Ramesh Kumar
28. When was the Corporate Social Responsibility scheme launched?  
 (A) 2000 (B) 2002 (C) 2004 (D) 2006
29. Which port was recently awarded National Award for Cost Management?  
 (A) Jawaharlal Nehru (B) Visakhapatnam (C) VOC (D) Chennai
30. Who was awarded Indira Gandhi Award 2019?  
 (A) Chandi Prasad (B) Manmohan Singh (C) Shaik Haseena (D) Angela Merkel
31. Who won the Raja Ram Mohan Roy award - 2019?  
 (A) Ghulab Kothari (B) Raj Chengappa (C) Sanjay Saini (D) Anu Abraham
32. Who was conferred the ABLF Global Asian Award recently?  
 (A) K.M. Birla (B) Ratan Tata (C) Mukesh Ambani (D) Indra Nooyi
33. Who received Bala Kailasam Memorial Award?  
 (A) R.V. Ramani (B) C.V. Krishna (C) Narasimmah (D) S.P. Balakrishna
34. Who won International Children's Peace Prize -2019?  
 (A) Greta Thunberg (B) Muhammed Al Jaun  
 (C) Heik Muhammad (D) Malala Yousafzai
35. Where was Shaala Darpan portal recently launched?  
 (A) New Delhi (B) Mumbai (C) Kolkata (D) Bangalore
36. Where was SWAYAM 2.0 portal launched?  
 (A) Punjab (B) Haryana (C) New Delhi (D) Bhuvaneswar
37. Which of the following state was introduced the Sisu Suraksha app to report child rights violation?  
 (A) Sikkim (B) Assam (C) Odisha (D) Tripura
38. Who was appointed as new Chairman of Staff Selection Commission?  
 (A) Braj Raj Sharma (B) Pankaj Kumar (C) Pooja Kadian (D) Sandhyarani Devi
39. Who was the first women fire fighter of South India?  
 (A) Karthiga (B) Abhinaya (C) Preeta (D) Ramya
40. Who is the first female officer to be posted in abroad as "Naval Attache' by Indian Navy?  
 (A) Karabi Gogoi (B) Lalita Mathur (C) Anjali Mohan (D) Nandhini Awasthi
41. Who was recently elected to the board of the Metropolitan Museum of Art?  
 (A) Roshni Nadas (B) Smita V.Krishna (C) Kiran Mazumdar (D) Nita Ambani
42. Recently Government of India launched Nirvik Scheme to promote which of the following?  
 (A) Education Sector Services (B) Health Sector Services  
 (C) Financial Services (D) Export Sector
43. What is the purpose of Gandhi Sankalp Yatra?  
 (A) Preventing Separatism (B) Uniting across the country  
 (C) Peace fraternity social harmony (D) Clean India
44. Which city's police was launched "Thozhi" scheme?  
 (A) Madurai (B) Trichy (C) Karur (D) Chennai

45. R.V.S. Raghavan Committee is related to  
 (A) Public Sector Under (B) Competition Act  
 (C) Public Distribution System (D) Disinvestment Policy
46. Which state was affected by cyclone Bulbul?  
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Odisha and West Bengal  
 (C) Kerala (D) Himachal Pradesh
47. Which state was celebrated "Rasogalla Diwas" to mark the obtaining of GI Tag?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Gujarat (C) Punjab (D) West Bengal
48. When was the Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS) founded?  
 (A) 1985 (B) 1989 (C) 1993 (D) 1997
49. When was the first sitting of Rajya Sabha held?  
 (A) 1949 (B) 1950 (C) 1951 (D) 1952
50. Where was the India International Cherry Blossom festival 2019 celebrated?  
 (A) Shillong (B) Itanagar (C) Dispur (D) Shimla
51. Which gas presence is detected by Chandrayaan-2 orbiter on lunar exosphere?  
 (A) Argon - 40 (B) Argon - 20 (C) Argon - 60 (D) Argon - 80
52. What is the deadline fixed by the World Countries to eradicate Tuberculosis?  
 (A) 2025 (B) 2027 (C) 2030 (D) 2032
53. Which of the following Railway station introduced recently Health ATM?  
 (A) Delhi (B) Mumbai (C) Lucknow (D) Jaipur
54. Which country created the smallest aircraft powered by Electricity?  
 (A) NASA-America (B) ISRO-India (C) JAXA-China (D) None of the above
55. Which country recently completed lander test for its first unmanned mars mission - 2020?  
 (A) China (B) India (C) Australia (D) Japan
56. What is the theme short film "SHIKHAR SE PUKAR"?  
 (A) Air pollution (B) Water Conservation  
 (C) The loot of sant (D) Minerals
57. Which space agency recently completed the first global geologic mapping of Saturn's moon?  
 (A) ISRO (B) NASA (C) JAXA (D) Roscosmos
58. Ayodhya located at which river bank?  
 (A) Sarayu (B) Yamuna (C) Ghagra (D) Ganga
59. Who was the Prime Minister of India when the Right to Information Act was passed?  
 (A) Manmohan Singh (B) Atal Bihari Vajpay  
 (C) Devagowda (D) Navasimha
60. When was DEFCON 2019?  
 (A) New Delhi (B) Chennai (C) Kolkata (D) Bangalore
61. Which Railway zone was launched application "Rail Dhandora"?  
 (A) Eastern Railway (B) Western Railway (C) Southern Railway (D) North Central
62. When was the International Solar Alliance launched?  
 (A) 2012 (B) 2013 (C) 2015 (D) 2016
63. When was the National Security Guard formed?  
 (A) 1978 (B) 1984 (C) 1992 (D) 1998
64. In which state the traditional emergency service number dial 100 is replaced by 112?  
 (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Assam (C) Telangana (D) Andhra Pradesh
65. Where is 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Road Tech held?  
 (A) Mumbai (B) Pune (C) New Delhi (D) Patna
66. Which IIT was launched Arasi - A standing Wheel chair' for disabled?  
 (A) IIT Madras (B) IIT Bombay (C) IIT Indore (D) IIT Kanpur

67. Where is Pasighat located?  
(A) Assam (B) Manipur (C) Mizoram (D) Arunachal Pradesh
68. In which district the Ponds dredged under Nam Neer project?  
(A) Karun (B) Karaikal (C) Chennai (D) Tuticorin
69. Where is National Tribal Festival-2019 will be organised?  
(A) Pune (B) Patna (C) New Delhi (D) Gangtok
70. Which state was recently announced a ban on government vehicles older than 15 years?  
(A) Jharkhand (B) Bihar (C) Assam (D) West Bengal
71. A three - storey museum with a live excavation site will be inaugurated at which place in India?  
(A) Chinthamani (B) Konthagai (C) Mangalam (D) Sedapatti
72. Where was the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance held?  
(A) Mumbai (B) Pune (C) New Delhi (D) Surat
73. Which country was recently legalised clemency killing?  
(A) Ethiopia (B) Iran (C) France (D) New Zealand
74. Which of the following State celebrates 'Bali Yatra' festival?  
(A) West Bengal (B) Odisha (C) Maharashtra (D) Chattisgarh
75. Where was the International Conference on Yoga-2019 held?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Mysore (C) Chennai (D) Leh
76. Where was the first ever National Agro Chemicals Congress conducted?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Chennai (C) Mysore (D) Leh
77. Which city of India was banned plastic and PET bottle since January 2020?  
(A) Jaipur (B) Mumbai (C) Goa (D) Lucknow
78. Which country will host the Global Bio-India Summit-2019?  
(A) China (B) Sweden (C) Australia (D) India
79. Which country planned to purchase BrahMos missile?  
(A) Taiwan (B) Malaysia (C) Philippines (D) Indonesia
80. Which country recently planned to host the COP 25 climate summit?  
(A) Spain (B) Chile (C) India (D) China
81. Where is the headquarters of the Federation of South Asian Nations located?  
(A) Delhi (B) Jakarta (C) Manila (D) Dhaka
82. Which city is hosting the UN climate change conference after chile withdraws?  
(A) New York, USA (B) Paris, France (C) Madrid, Spain (D) New Delhi, India
83. Which country will celebrate Victory Day-2020  
(A) India (B) Russia (C) Brazil (D) South Africa
84. Where was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of World Religions Leaders held?  
(A) Azerbaijan (B) India (C) Uzbekistan (D) UK
85. Where is Finland's company KONE inaugurated a manufacturing facility?  
(A) Chennai (B) Vellore (C) Vilupuram (D) Kancheepuram
86. When was the Veterinary Emergency Services program introduced?  
(A) 2012 (B) 2014 (C) 2016 (D) 2018
87. Where was the 27<sup>th</sup> National Children's Science Conference held?  
(A) Delhi (B) Bengalore (C) Chennai (D) Bhuvaneshwar
88. Where is National Initiative of NISHTHA launched recently?  
(A) Goa (B) Delhi (C) Jammu & Kashmir (D) Ladakh
89. Where is Gujarat planned to set up CNG Port terminal?  
(A) Porbandar (B) Bhavnagar (C) Madhav Nagar (D) Mudra
90. Which state moots a law to protect the journalists from harassment?  
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Telangana (C) Jharkhand (D) Chhattisgarh

91. Where is common wealth youth parliamentary event held?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Delhi  
 (C) AndhraPradesh (D) Jammu & Kashmir
92. Which country to host Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Forum Of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020?  
 (A) Tajikistan (B) India (C) Pakistan (D) Uzbekistan
93. Where is the Institute of Aerospace Medicine of Indian Air Force located?  
 (A) Hyderabad (B) Sullur (C) Bhubaneswar (D) Bengaluru
94. Where was the first Bamboo industrial park set up?  
 (A) Assam (B) Sikkim (C) Bihar (D) Himachal Pradesh
95. Where was "Ganga Utsav" - 2019 held?  
 (A) Mumbai (B) Pune (C) New Delhi (D) Bangalore
96. Where is the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory located?  
 (A) Hyderabad (B) Chennai (C) Bengaluru (D) Pune
97. Which country top in most conducive environment for financial inclusion?  
 (A) Colombia (B) Jamaica (C) Uruguay (D) India
98. Where is the Financial Prevention Conference held in 2020?  
 (A) Australia (B) France (C) India (D) Singapore
99. Which country was became the first south Asian Nation to criminalise match fixing related offences?  
 (A) China (B) Bangladesh (C) Bhutan (D) Srilanka
100. Which country was banned by Islamic group "Azhar"?  
 (A) Pakistan (B) Nepal (C) China (D) Bangladesh

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	D	B	D	D	A	D	C	B	A
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
C	C	D	D	A	D	B	D	A	C
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A	C	A	B	B	B	A	C	C	A
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
A	A	A	A	A	C	B	A	D	A
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
D	D	D	D	B	B	D	C	D	A
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
A	C	C	A	A	B	B	A	A	A
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
C	C	B	A	C	A	D	B	C	B
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
B	C	D	B	B	A	C	D	C	A
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
B	C	B	A	D	C	C	D	B	D
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
B	B	D	A	C	D	D	C	D	D

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