

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 2019

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TNPSC BITS	11
TAMIL NADU	25
No.3 in Gross Enrolment Ratio: TN	25
Madurai Student addresses UN Forum	25
SKOCH Awards – Chennai Police	26
Swach Bharath Award for Rural Sanitation – TN	26
Private Maintained e-buses	26
Seventh Economic Census in Tamilnadu	27
Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai’s 1956 Mamallapuram Visit	28
Dirtiest Railway Stations	28
10 Electoral Role Observers Appointed	29
Second Unofficial Summit Between Xi and Modi	29
Fourth Police Commission – M Sheela Priya	30
Chennai BCG Vaccine Centre Reopens	31
India’s First Intelligent Flood Warning System	32
Madras High Court Chief Justice AP Sahi	32
Tamilnadu Local body Elections	33
40 Cyber Police Stations and Cyber Labs	33
IT-enabled Police Governance	34
Keeladi 5th Phase Excavation	34
Law on Contract Farming – First State	35
Four New Electronic Clusters	36
NATIONAL	37
Industry 4.0	37
School Education Quality Index	37
Open Defecation Free India	38
Idol Immersion Banned in Ganga Basin States	39
Paryatan Parv 2019 – Tourism Initiative	39
Railway Stations’ Cleanliness Survey Report	40
SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	40
6th edition of MASCRAGE for 2019	41



Arogya Manthan workshop	41
International conference on drug situation	42
Consumer App	42
Hyderabad Nizam's Fund Case	43
Line of Credit to Pacific Islands.....	44
National Nutrition Survey	44
Interstate portability for ration card.....	45
7 New Chief Justices.....	45
Google Lists Public Toilets	45
First Private Train	46
Audio Odigos – Tourism App.....	46
Sarbat-Da-Bhala Express: 550th Gurupurab.....	46
New Delhi-Katra 'Vande Bharat' Express.....	47
Exercise Nomadic Elephant.....	47
MOSAiC Arctic Expedition.....	47
Ganga Amantran Abhiyan Initiative	48
Eco-friendly Crackers of CSIR	48
First Set of Documents from Swiss	49
Trans-Fat Free logo of FSAAI.....	49
Youth Co: Lab for youth entrepreneurship & innovation.....	50
SEI report of NITI Aayog	50
Rafale Deal	51
Upcoming Joint Military Exercise.....	52
Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund	52
WEF Global Competitive Index	52
GEMINI Mariner's Device.....	53
Southwest Monsoon Retreat.....	54
eDantseva – Oral Health Program.....	55
Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths	55
India specific Strategy of WHO	55
POSHAN Atlas.....	56
Government Railway Police Site and Mobile App	56
Falling Industrial Output.....	57



1st International Cooperative Fair @ New Delhi.....	57
SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2019	58
2nd India - Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol	58
India Sports Summit – Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity	59
Health System Strengthening Conditionality Report of States 2018 -19.....	59
13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.....	59
G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.....	60
1st Visually Challenged Woman IAS Officer	60
Law Secretary – AK Mendiratta.....	61
Air India – World’s First Use of Taxibots.....	61
Global Hunger Index – India Ranked 102.....	62
Project Beehive – Indian Army.....	63
First India Innovation Index.....	64
Shinyuu Maitri 2019: Indo-Japan Military Exercise	65
Global Surveillance Index - Data Privacy in India.....	65
Food Safety Mitra - FSSAI	66
Carcinogens in Milk	66
World Giving Index	67
‘Made in India’ Diagnostic Kits for Encephalitis, Bluetongue Virus	67
20th Livestock Census	67
Van Dhan Internship Programme of TRIFED	68
Asia’s oldest bamboo.....	69
Next CJI - Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde	69
Biodiesel by Zomato.....	69
Centenary Year of National Institute of Nutrition.....	70
Exercise Eastern Bridge V	71
QS Indian University Rankings	71
Make in India – 3 Defence Projects	72
Cultural Education through Technology.....	73
Liver Transplant Surgery.....	73
IMNEX-19	73
India's Highest Altitude All-weather Permanent Bridge	74
Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar	74



Skandagupta Vikramaditya.....	75
NCRB Report 2017 – Crime in India.....	75
Justice Rohini Commission for OBC	77
Railways and Amazon Tie up	77
Danx-19.....	78
Siachen open for tourists	78
Azad Hind Govt’s 76th Year.....	79
Bharat Ki Lakshmi initiative	79
Drone Innovators Network.....	80
17th Meeting of Maritime States Development Council	80
Skills Training Centres.....	80
National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-2019	81
National Coordination Centre (NCC).....	81
Committee of Administrators (CoA) comes to an End	82
Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav.....	82
Hunar haat – Employment to Craftsmen	82
Data on Police Organisation 2018.....	83
BSNL-MTNL Merger	83
VT-NMD (Narendra Modi Devendra) Aircraft.....	83
Vice President at NAM Summit.....	84
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel in J & K	85
Doing Business Report (DBR - 2020)	85
Prison Statistics Report 2017.....	86
RTI Amended Rules Notifiedv	86
Southernmost Air station – INS Baaz	87
Jiyo Parsi Scheme	87
Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0	88
European MEP Visits Kashmir	88
BRICS Cultural Ministers Meet	89
First “Aarambh” - Foundation Course for Civil Servants	89
Ek Onkar symbol on Air India Flight.....	90
Indo French Exercise Shakthi.....	90
First Indian Brain Atlas.....	90



Kashmir and Ladakh Lieutenant Governors – State Dissolved	91
13th World Aqua Congress @ New Delhi	92
First National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards.....	92
INTERNATIONAL.....	93
Increasing Terrorism in G5 Sahel Region	93
China’s Dongfeng 41 Missile – 15,000 Kms Range	93
Singapore-India Hackathon	94
Bolivian Lithium.....	95
Indian Origin Supreme Court Judge of Brunei	95
64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference	96
Bada Dashain festival - Nepal.....	96
World’s First Ban on Sugary Drinks Ad – Singapore	97
UNICEF Crypto Fund.....	97
Solar Wind Farms Across Border	97
Dharma Guardian 2019	97
Vajra Prahar 2019 – 10th Edition.....	98
7th edition of C40 World Mayors Summit 2019	98
First world report on vision.....	99
UNICEF Report on Child Nutrition	99
China’s Official Digital Currency	100
World Economic Outlook.....	100
Mahendraparvata – Hindu-Buddhist Empire @ Cambodia	101
World’s Oldest Pearl @ UAE	102
Operation Peace Spring.....	102
First All Women Spacewalk	104
Project Sunrise – Longest Nonstop Flight.....	104
Interpol General Assembly	105
Sri Lanka – Out of FATF	105
Rohingya refugees	105
Ancient Mummies.....	106
Wild Polio Virus 3 (WPV3) Eradicated.....	107
UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019	107
Global Wealth Report 2019.....	108



Pakistan Denies Air Space for PM	109
G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Conference	109
Colombo Declaration on Nitrogen Challenges	110
Modern Human Origin @ Botswana	110
ECONOMY	111
DIN Number - CBDT	111
Online filing system – ARTIS	111
Monetary Policy Committee Review.....	111
Green Channel Route	112
GOAL	112
South Asia Focus – World Bank Report.....	113
1 Billion UPI Transactions.....	113
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	114
Right to be Forgotten on Internet.....	114
5000th railway station with Wi-fi	114
Land attack version of BrahMos	114
Israeli MP-ATGM	115
Minuteman III - intercontinental ballistic missile.....	115
Interconnect Usage Charge.....	116
Gaganyaan Training @ Russia – Citizen Familiarisation @ VSSC.....	116
Plastic-eating bacteria.....	116
First Satellite Servicing Spacecraft.....	117
ICON space weather satellite	117
NASA Spacesuits for Women.....	117
Automated Real-Time Performance Smart-board	118
Leadership Expeditions	119
Van Allen Probes mission	119
Quantum Supremacy.....	119
ENVIRONMENT	121
Total Carbon on Earth.....	121
1,400 km Long Great ‘Green Wall’ of India	121
Climate Coordination with China, Pakistan.....	122
Asia Environmental Enforcement Award	123



Annual Ganges Dolphin Census.....	123
Mobile app & website for Environment Protection in Government Colonies.	124
Thylacines of Tasmania.....	124
World’s Loudest Bird – White Bellbird	125
Anthrax scare – Assam	126
Saharan Silver Ants	127
Snow- Leopard Survey.....	127
Global Mobility Report	128
STATES.....	128
ERSS-112 and PRAKHAR Crime Vans – Delhi	128
Fully electrified state in India	129
Ban on pan masala.....	129
Chhattisgarh Government’s New Schemes	129
National Law University Bill 2019.....	130
Village Secretariat – AP	130
Mo Sarkar – Odisha Government.....	131
Hyderi Manjil – Kolkatta	131
Ancient Buried River in UP.....	131
First e-waste clinic: Madhya Pradesh	132
Drone Delivery of Medicines – Telangana	133
YSR Vahana Mitra scheme.....	133
Policy on Pneumoconiosis.....	133
39th World Congress of Poets – Bhubaneshwar.....	134
Kerala Bank.....	135
Uttarakhand Mobile Chariots – Wildlife Week	135
Kanyashree University @ West Bengal.....	136
YSR Kanti Velugu Scheme 2019	136
Ban on Red Chillies against Elephants – Uttrakhand.....	136
Maternity Benefits in Private Sector - Kerala	137
APPSC – No Interview Stage in Recruitment.....	137
Highest Dry Districts – Haryana.....	137
Conflicts in Karnataka State Information Commission	138
Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR) ..	138



Rani Chenamma – Karnataka.....	139
Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project	139
Mukya Mantri Kanyah Vivah Yojana - Madhya Pradesh	139
Kanya Sumangala Yojana – Uttar Pradesh	139
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS	140
2018 Saraswathi Samman Awards.....	140
Pandit Jasraj	140
Surjit Bhalla – Exec Director @ IMF	141
Mysuru Dasara festival	141
Telangana Flower Festival - Bathukamma	142
MP Birla Award – Scientist Thanu Padmanabhan	142
Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019: Awards for Elderly	143
UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award	143
2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine	144
Physics Nobel Prize	145
American Historical Association – Ramachandra Guha	146
Nobel Prize in Chemistry	146
Nobel Prize Literature – 2019	147
Nobel Peace Prize 2019	148
Kadri Gopalnath passed away	149
Highest civilian award of Comoros to Vice President	149
13th Edition Of PII-ICRC Awards	150
First human to walk in space passes away	151
Health Council Award 2019	151
Economics Nobel	152
The Booker Prize for Fiction.....	153
UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.....	154
Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration – Chandi Prasad Bhatt.....	154
Kayakalp Awards 2018-19: AIIMS	155
Viswanathan Anand pens inspirational book	155
Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award	155
William Dalrymple’s Book.....	155
Kishore Kumar Samman Award: 2018-19	156



Project Possible: Nirmal Purja, the Nepali Climber	156
SPORTS	157
10th Asian Age Group Championships for 2019	157
Mary Kom – 8th Gold Medal	157
World Youth Chess Championship 2019	157
Praggnanandhaa R – Chess	158
Simone Biles – Gymnast	158
IAAF – Transgender Rule	159
Hundreds Cricket – New Cricket Format	159
Ronaldo Singh wins gold medal	159
Military Games	160
First Day/Night Test Cricket Match in India	160
IMPORTANT DAYS	161
The International Day of Older Persons – October 1	161
World Vegetarian Day – October 1	161
International Day of Non-Violence – October 2	161
World Animal Day – October 4	162
Wildlife Week India: October 2 – 8	162
1st World Cotton Day – October 7	163
World Space Week: October 04 – 10	164
World Teachers Day – October 05	165
World Habitat Day – October 07	166
IAF Day – October 08	166
World Post Day – October 09	167
World arthritis day - October 12	167
World Migratory Bird Day – October 12	168
International Day of Disaster Reduction – October 13	168
World Sight Day – October 10	169
World Mental Health Day – October 10	170
Abdul Kalam’s Birthday / World Student’s Day – October 15	170
International Day of Rural Women – October 15	171
Global Handwashing Day – October 15	172
World Food Day – October 16	172



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17	173
CPI 100th year - October 17	173
Palindrome Day – October 09	174
World Day Against the Death Penalty – October 10.....	174
National Post Day – October 10	174
World Egg Day – October 11	176
World Obesity Day – October 11.....	176
International Day of the Girl Child – October 11.....	176
World Standards Day – October 14.....	177
World Statistics Day – October 20.....	178
Sankaralinganar Day – October 13	178
Digital Society Day – October 17	178
Police Commemoration Day – October 21	179
UN Day – October 24	179
World Development Information Day – October 24	180
World Polio Day – October 24	180
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage Day – October 27	181
Vigilance Awareness Week – October 28 to 2nd November	181
World Thrift Day/World Savings Day – October 31.....	181
World Cities Day – October 31	182
National Unity Day – October 31.....	183
MISCELLANEOUS.....	184
Global Firepower Index-2019.....	184
1st citizen-centric IMD Smart City Index 2019	184
Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019.....	185
2019 Henley Passport Index rank	186



TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 62 new species and 77 new patch reef areas have been discovered recently during a study of biological resources in the Gulf of Mannar.
 - Total species discovered so far: 4,285
- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has compulsorily retired 15 more senior tax officers on corruption and other charges under Fundamental Rule 56(J) of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules.
- ❖ 23-year-old American, Christian Coleman won gold medal in the 100 metres at the World Championships in Doha.
- ❖ Indian fencer Bhavani Devi clinched the silver medal in the women's sabre individual category in the Tournoi satellite competition (World level) at Ghent, Belgium.
- ❖ Air Marshal S K Ghotia has taken over as the new Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command (SWAC) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - He replaced Air Marshal H S Arora, who moved to Air Headquarters as the Vice-Chief of Air Staff.
- ❖ Kavitha Gopal, who graduated with a B. Tech degree in Computer Science and Engineering with a CGPA of 9.95 created history by becoming the first girl student of the Indian Institute Technology-Madras to win the President of India Prize.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to commute the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana to life imprisonment. He was convicted for the assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.
 - Beant Singh who is credited for ending terrorism in Punjab was assassinated on August 31, 1995 in an explosion in Chandigarh.
- ❖ P K Gupta has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited till September 30, 2023.
 - He succeeds Shiv Das Meena.
- ❖ Students of Chandigarh University developed India's most secure and portable Operating System (OS) 'elementary puzzles' by working on the Kernel of the OS.
- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation received a certificate of appreciation from the State government for maintaining a Special park for disabled children called "Infinity Park" at Chennai.
 - The park was developed under the Smart Cities Project.



- ❖ Commemorating Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's 113th birth anniversary on October 2, political analyst Sandeep Shastri has written a book titled "Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond".
- ❖ For the first time, the passengers of India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express will be compensated in case of any delays.
 - They will be compensated with an amount of ₹100 if the delay is for over an hour. The amount will rise to ₹250 if in case the train is delayed by more than two hours.
- ❖ Industries units at Manali, Ennore and Minjur in Chennai city will soon get 50 million of litres per day (mld) of treated sewage water from the newly inaugurated Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plant in Kodungaiyur nearby Chennai.
 - The treated water will have a total dissolved solids (TDS) level of less than 70, while the TDS level in potable water ranges between 250 and 500.
- ❖ BSNL has recently launched the 4G Services in Madurai. Four cities in Tamilnadu have BSNL 4G coverage - Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchi and Madurai.
- ❖ On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Modi has written an article titled 'Why India & world need Gandhi'.
 - The article has been published in USA's prestigious newspaper New York Times 'Opinion' column.
- ❖ The Union Government has launched web portal called PRAKASH (Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony) to improve coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.
 - The portal was jointly launched by power minister RK Singh and coal minister Prahlad Joshi.
- ❖ Mahindra and Ford will form a joint venture, with Mahindra owning a 51% controlling stake and Ford owning a 49% stake.
 - The agreement creates a joint venture that will develop, market and distribute Ford brand vehicles in India, Ford brand and Mahindra brand vehicles in high-growth emerging markets around the world.
- ❖ To strengthen friendly ties between India and Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Department of Posts has recently released a stamp and first day cover to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ International Day of Coffee is celebrated every year on October 1.
 - International Coffee Organisation (ICO) organized and launched the first world coffee day in 2015 at Milan in Italy.



- ❖ The 94th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) was celebrated on October 1.
 - It is a part of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) of the Indian Army and is the only all women corps in the Armed Forces.
- ❖ The C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) presented the Annual Best Teacher Award 2019 to G. Thangaraj, a teacher at Chennai Corporation school.
 - He was awarded for creating awareness among children for over 2 decades.
- ❖ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed that from 2020, all 15 All India AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry, will admit students in MBBS/BDS courses through NEET-UG scores.
 - Since they are Institutes of National Importance they were earlier exempted from NEET and were eligible to conduct their own national-level entrance examination.
- ❖ Union Government plans to bring non-banking finance companies (NBFC) within the ambit of a modified version of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- ❖ In a move that will enable more borrowers to avail loans from microfinance institutions, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to raise the lending limit per borrower from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.25 lakh.
- ❖ India spinner Ravindra Jadeja picked up his 200th Test wicket and became the fastest left-arm bowler to reach the milestone. (44th Test Match)
- ❖ World Dyslexia awareness day is observed every year on October 4. Dyslexia is a learning disorder.
- ❖ Olympic Champion Dalilah Mohammed of USA broke her own record in the 400 metres hurdles event of the IAAF World Athletics Championships 2019 held at Khalifa Stadium, Qatar.
 - She won gold with a record time of 52.16 seconds.
- ❖ “Tamil Nadu’s Quest For Gold”, a book that provides a comprehensive look into the modern history of sports in Tamilnadu, written by the late historian and chronicler S.Mutiah has been launched.
- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC) in New Delhi. With this, the Income Tax Department is introducing faceless e-assessment to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the assessment process.
 - There would be no physical interface between taxpayers and tax officers.



- ❖ The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF terrorists in 1990, has been added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the Indian Air Force. Earlier it was accidentally left out.
 - Squadron Leader Khanna and three other IAF personnel were killed in January 1990 in Kashmir allegedly by JKLF founder Yasin Malik.
- ❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army's Crossed Swords Division organized a "Veer Kutumb Rally" at Tanda, Akhnoor with an aim to reach out to veterans, veer naris, widows and their families.
 - The Rally was organised by the Indian Army as part of its activities to observe 2019 as the 'Year of the Next of Kin'.
- ❖ The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has concluded that Pakistan has not taken sufficient measures to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1267 obligations against Hafiz Saeed and other terrorists associated with Lashkar-e-toiba, Jamat-ud-dawa and other terror groups.
- ❖ The National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) was redesignated as the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Priority Medical Devices and Health Technology Policy.
- ❖ The 10th Edition of India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019 was given to Shanti Raghavan & Dipesh Sutariya.
 - In 2010, the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation came together to promote social innovation in India through the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) India Award.
- ❖ For the first time, a floating basketball court was brought to India in the Arabian Sea, at Mumbai.
- ❖ Australian cricketer Alyssa Healy created a world record for the highest individual score in women's T20I (Twenty 20 International) by scoring 148 runs off 61 balls against Sri Lanka.
- ❖ On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the president of India presented 2019 Swachhta Ambassador award to former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.
- ❖ Uttarakhand government has launched a public awareness campaign called 'Urjagiri' to stop electricity theft and saving in Dehradun.
 - Uttarakhand is second only to Gujarat in preventing line loss and power theft.
- ❖ A team of scientists from Vermont University of the United States (US) has developed the strongest silver ever – 42% stronger than the previous world record.
- ❖ Typhoon Mitag lashed South Korea with heavy rain and strong winds on 03 October 2019.



- ❖ After transporting 437.25 million litres of water from Jolarpet, Vellore district to Chennai over three months the water train service has been suspended.
 - Water was sourced through Vellore combined water supply scheme (CWSS), that receives Cauvery water from Mettur dam.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that those violating traffic rules and causing accidents by rash and negligent driving could be tried and punished separately under the Indian Penal Code besides the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act.
 - The court also pointed out that there is “no provision” under the MV Act to deal separately with offences causing death or grievous hurt.
- ❖ For the first time, Durga idol immersions in Yamuna river was banned by Delhi government. Idol immersion pits were provided as an alternative.
- ❖ “Spirit of Kerala”, a short film that highlights the emotion, rhythm, culture and celebration around riverboat racing in Kerala has won the People’s Choice award at My Rode Reel 2019 competition.
 - This competition is dubbed as the world’s largest short film competition.
- ❖ Anupriya Madhumita Lakra who hails from Maoist-affected Malkangiri district of Odisha has become the first tribal woman from Odisha state to achieve the feat of becoming a commercial pilot for an airline.
- ❖ On directions of FIFA, The Islamic Republic of Iran has allowed female spectators to football stadium for the first time in 40 years.
 - The directive came after a fan dubbed 'Blue Girl' died after setting herself on fire in fear of being jailed for dressing up as a boy to attend a match.
- ❖ A MoU has been signed between India and Bangladesh, allowing the former to withdraw 1.82 cubic feet per second (cusec) of water from Feni River.
 - The purpose of this accord is to provide a supply of drinking water to the Sabroom Town of Tripura.
- ❖ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has announced a partnership with IIM- Bangalore to launch a new programme called 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF)'.
 - The program is aimed at skilling village youth.
- ❖ Simone Biles of USA has clinched a record-extending 15th World Gymnastics Championship title in Stuttgart, Germany. With the victory, she has become the event’s most decorated woman (21 medals in total).
- ❖ The 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. This will be the final Ministerial meeting before the 3rd Leaders’ Summit which will be held on November 4, 2019 in Bangkok.



- India will be represented by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme the Union Government has given approval for 6 new medical colleges with 150 seats each in Tamilnadu. The Union government will bear 60% of expenditures.
 - This would take the number of Government medical colleges in Tamilnadu to 30.
- ❖ The world's largest 3D printer has created the world's largest 3D-printed boat. University of Maine in USA created this 25-foot, 5,000-pound boat and its seaworthiness was proved.
- ❖ Breaking gender stereotypes and ensuring equality to the transgender community, the Kerala government has decided to bear the training costs of 20-year-old Adam Harry to help him become the country's first transgender airline pilot.
 - Adam already possess a Private Pilot license and was disowned by his family for being a transman.
- ❖ Santosh Londhe, (adopted name Sridevi) Mumbai University's first "recognised" transgender student has graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology.
 - The university had introduced a “third column for gender” four years ago and then Sridevi had registered.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's Solar X-ray Monitor (XSM) has detected detect a series of solar flares and thus demonstrated the craft's ability to ultimately test for the presence of minerals on the Moon.
- ❖ The Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Venu Rajamony, released his book titled “India and the Netherlands, Past, Present and Future” at Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.
 - The King of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, received the first copy in the presence of the Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. The Royal Couple is expected to visit India in October.
- ❖ The Pakistani-origin British finance minister Sajid Javid has instructed Royal Mint to issue a commemorative coin to mark the 150th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected the merger proposal between Lakshmi Vilas Bank and mortgage lender Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited.
- ❖ The Indian women's boxing contingent ended the World Boxing Championships campaign held at Russia with a record four medals including Manju Rani's silver medal in the 48 kg category.



- ❖ Kenya Eliud Kipchoge, became the first person to run a marathon in under 2 hours by finishing the INEOS 1:59 Challenge in 1 hour 59:40 minutes in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ Belarusian tennis player Aryna Sabalenka won women's singles title in the 6th edition of 2019 WTA Wuhan Open held at China.
 - By this win, Aryna became the first player to claim back-to-back titles in Wuhan.
- ❖ Forbes India Rich List 2019 was released by Forbes India in which Mukesh Ambani held the top spot for the 12th consecutive year.
- ❖ The founder of Microsoft Corporation Bill Gates' new book titled "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" will be released on June 2020.
- ❖ The Australian women's cricket team broke the record for most consecutive wins in One Day International (ODI) cricket with their 18th victory by defeating Sri Lanka.
 - They broke their own record of 17 consecutive wins achieved between 1997 and 1999.
- ❖ To promote Arunachal Pradesh as a destination of tourism and adventure sports, Chief Minister Pema Khandu made a bike trip for 122 kms from Yingkiong, the headquarters of Upper Siang district, to Pasighat, the headquarters of East Siang district.
 - The route offers best picturesque views of the Siang valley and villages of Adi tribes.
- ❖ Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that w.e.f December 1, toll plaza windows in all lanes of National Highways across the country will start accepting FASTag, the RFID (radio-frequency identification) chips on each vehicle.
 - Of the 527 toll plazas across National Highways, 380 got FASTag in all lanes.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that a High Court judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court is "not entitled" to the pensionary benefits which is available to a retired Chief Justice.
 - It further added that "Only for the limited purpose of salary, such an Acting Chief Justice is treated at par with the Chief Justice and not for any other purpose".
- ❖ Swedish Teen-climate change activist Greta Thunberg and Divina Maloum, a 14-year-old peace campaigner from Cameroon have been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize by a Dutch organisation.



- The prize will be awarded November 20 at a ceremony in The Hague.
- ❖ Typhoon Hagibis (whose name means "speed" in the Philippine language Tagalog) has become the worst typhoon that hit Japan in recent times and has brought a high death toll and has affected lakhs of people.
- ❖ Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to be named the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after he filed his nomination for the top job in Mumbai. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah is set to become the secretary.
 - Ganguly was the lone candidate applying for the job and is set to be elected unopposed as the President.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Assembly speaker P. Dhanabal participated and addressed the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held at Uganda.
- ❖ The 6th edition of Writers and Artists International Film Festival organised by Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association will be held at Thiruvannamalai.
- ❖ As part of National Postal Week celebrations, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal conferred Dak Sewa Awards – 2019 on eight employees of TN Postal Circle.
 - A booklet on the awards was also released by him to mark 50 years of World Post Day.
- ❖ The Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, Dr Sudha Seshayyan, has been nominated as the Member - Medical Advisory Council (MAC) under the National Medical Commission by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
 - Through MAC, states put forth their concerns related to the medical education and other issues before the Commission.
- ❖ The Rajasthan state government extended the unemployment allowance to transgenders who would now get Rs 3,500 per month as given to women under the scheme.
 - Transgenders, who are graduates, would be eligible for the benefit.
- ❖ For the first time, a new eel-loach species has been discovered in a subterranean environment in Kerala. It has been named Pangio Bhujia.
 - Eels are native of fast-flowing streams of south and south-east Asia, Indonesia and the North-Eastern parts of India
- ❖ Ecuador, one of the smallest members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has announced that it will leave the 14-nation bloc from January 1, 2020 due to fiscal problems.



- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed its economic growth forecast for India to 6.1% for the current fiscal from its July projection of 7%. It cited weaker than expected outlook for 'domestic demand'.
- ❖ The Information and Broadcasting ministry is likely to issue a "negative" list of don'ts for video streaming services like Netflix and Hotstar by the end of this year.
 - The ministry is also pushing them to come up with a self-regulatory body on the lines of New Broadcasting Services Authority.
- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan in its 'Grey List' till February 2020. It directed Islamabad to take extra measures for complete elimination of terror financing and money laundering.
- ❖ 62-year-old Jogati Manjamma has become the first transwoman to be appointed as the chairperson of the Karnataka Janapada Academy (KJA) by the state government.
 - KJA works for protection and conservation of Kannada folklore and the welfare of artistes.
- ❖ The railways has decided to allow trains to be booked for promotional activities under a new scheme called "Promotion on Wheels".
 - Special trains will be made available for promotion and Bollywood movie "Housefull 4" team became the first one to make use of this facility.
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India has solicited responses from public to declare the historical Buddhist monastery in Ladakh in Kargil district as a "protected monument".
- ❖ Under a secretive deal signed, a Beijing-based company with close ties to the Chinese Communist Party has leased Tulagi, a part of Solomon Islands for 75 years in the South Pacific region.
 - The strategically important Tulagi had already served as military headquarters of Britain and Japan.
- ❖ An Alliance Air flight from Chennai touched down at Jaffna (Yaazpaanam) International Airport, Sri Lanka. It marked the commencing of commercial operations at the airport after a gap of 40 years following the LTTE-led civil war in the island nation.
 - The airport has been partially funded by India.
- ❖ Blue Star, one of the largest manufacturers of room air conditioners in the country has announced Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli as its new brand ambassador. The tag line of the new ad campaign is 'Owned by Virat, Loved by Virat'.



- ❖ Ishrat Rasheed has become Kashmir's first female international specially-abled basketball player. Ishrat is all set to play in the International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament to be held next month in Thailand.
- ❖ World trauma day is observed every year on October 17. The day highlights the increasing rate of accidents and injuries causing death and disability across the world and the need to prevent them.
- ❖ Six new medical colleges will be formed in Tamilnadu at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Tirupur and Namakkal.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was conferred an honorary doctorate, "Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)," at the 28th convocation of Dr MGR Educational and Research Institute, Chennai.
 - This is the first honorary doctorate received by Palaniswami, who became Chief Minister in 2017.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, chancellor of the university, appointed professor P Kaliraj as the Bharathiar University's new vice chancellor.
- ❖ The National Highway starting from Kapurthala connecting Gobindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in the State of Punjab has been declared as new National Highway No. 703AA and named as "Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg.
- ❖ Born in India in 1936, Star music conductor Zubin Mehta took the stage in Tel Aviv for final performance as music director of the Israel Philharmonic.
 - He retires after 50 years with the orchestra. He has also conducted thousands of concerts in New York, Los Angeles.
- ❖ Recently, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangamma of Andhra Pradesh has become mother to twin girls. She now become the World's oldest woman to give birth to a child.
- ❖ The AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has partnered with UNICEF and conducted a capacity building workshop to raise awareness on pneumonia, diarrhoea, anaemia, breastfeeding and nutrition.
- ❖ Union Government plans to launch 'Vigyan Jyoti' programme to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education among girl students.
- ❖ 4500 students from Jammu and Kashmir have reported to the different colleges across the country for the undergraduate programmes under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS).
 - This is the highest number in last six years. The scheme was launched in 2011.



- ❖ Italy has approved a new tax on digital companies, including US tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Amazon, as part of its 2020 draft budget.
 - The levy, due to be introduced from next year, will oblige companies to pay a 3% levy on internet transactions.
- ❖ Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has recently launched a website on intellectual property rights (IPR) and a mobile application, called 'Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation'.
 - Both were developed by DPIIT's Cell for IPR Promotion and Management in collaboration with Qualcomm and National Law University, Delhi.
- ❖ Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as Nippon India Mutual Fund and it becomes the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company (AMC) in India.
- ❖ Thirteen-year-old Raunak Sadhwani from Nagpur is all set to become India's 65th Chess Grandmaster.
- ❖ Delhi Tourism in association with Government of Delhi, is organizing the second edition of 'Shahpur Jat Autumn Festival' which celebrating the city's hub of fashion and striking history.
 - Shahpur Jat is of the oldest villages of the city and is home to potters, painters, designers, workshops, boutiques, historical tombs, cafes and many more. It is near the ruins of Alauddin Khilji's medieval Siri Fort.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Anup Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Security Guard (NSG).
 - The NSG was raised as the federal contingency force to counter terrorists and hijack-like incidents in 1984. It's 35th raising day was celebrated recently on October 15th at Manesar, Haryana.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ordered the inter-cadre transfer of Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela IAS to Madhya Pradesh without specifying any reason.
 - For more on NRC please go here: <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/articles-detail/national-register-of-citizens-nrc>
- ❖ Two Latin American countries – Brazil and Venezuela have won a contested election for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council.
 - The 193-member UN General Assembly elected 14 members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for three-year terms starting January 1, 2020.
 - Under its rules, seats are allocated to regions (Asian, African, Latin American.) to ensure geographical representation.



- ❖ At 6%, China's GDP growth during July-September 2019 quarter has become the lowest-ever growth rate recorded in the last 30 years.
 - The U.S.-China trade war has worsened China's jobs and wage situation and corporations also refrained from making capital investment.
- ❖ The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Environment Ministry has clarified that the States 'need not' take the Centre's approval to define what constitutes unclassified land as forest.
- ❖ Facetagr, the face-recognition mobile application developed by Tamil Nadu cadre IPS officer P Aravindhana and his team to identify profiled criminals is gaining national recognition.
 - Based on a report submitted by the IPS officer to the National Police Academy (NPA) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BP&RD), a full-fledged 'national automated facial recognition' (AFR) system will soon be rolled out across India.
- ❖ Pankaj Kumar, the additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will be the new CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar.
- ❖ The Assam Cabinet headed by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has decided that no government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after January 1, 2021 as per the small family norm.
 - It also promised to give three bighas of agricultural land to landless indigenous people and half a bigha for constructing a house.
- ❖ Justin Trudeau has won a second term as Canada's Prime Minister after his Liberals Party had won 156 seats, 14 short of the 170 needed for a majority in the 338-seat House of Commons. Opposition party, The Conservatives won 121 seats in Parliament.
 - Indian Origin Sikh leader Jagmeet Singh of New Democratic Party (NDP) with 24 seats is expected to support Justin Trudeau to form the next government.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has granted the status of State fair to the Deepotsav Mela to be held in Ayodhya during Deepavali.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) World Food Program (WFP) has joined hands with Bollywood in India to create awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India.
 - It has launched the 'Feed Our Future' advertisement in collaboration with UFO Movies which is India's one of the largest in-cinema advertising platform.



- ❖ Incumbent President Evo Morales of MAS-IPSP party has won the elections in Bolivia fighting against Carlos Mesa of Civic Community party.
- ❖ Odisha Government is all set to partner Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), co-founded by Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, for targeted intervention in specific social sectors.
 - It is being done under Odisha Government's 5T Initiatives which look at transformative action.
- ❖ A group of Polish holidaymakers were one of the first non-religious foreign tourists who visited Saudi Arabia's Masmak Fort.
 - Developing tourism industry is one of the key pillars of Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 reform programme.
- ❖ The insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a top-level panel to re-look into the set of existing norms on Re-insurance, Investment, Foreign Re-insurance Branches (FRBs) and Llyods India.
 - The 9-member committee will be headed by Mrs TR Alamelu, member to review the regulations, circulars and guidelines issued earlier.
- ❖ Alberto Fernández of the Justicialist Party won the presidency of Argentina fighting against incumbent president Mauricio Macri of PRO Party.
 - Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, one of Argentina's most popular presidents during her two terms from 2007 to 2015, has been voted back into office as Vice-President.
- ❖ Salem G. Periyasamy, the bowler who has vision only in one eye and adjudged best bowler for his performance in TNPL, has been selected to play in Tamilnadu side in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament to be held at Trivandrum.
- ❖ "Magnificent Journey: Times and Tales of Democracy" shot between 2006 and 2016 across the length and breadth of north India is planned to be screened in film festivals, universities and in civil society forums in India and abroad.
 - It was shot by Economics Nobel Prize winner Abhijit Banerjee and Ranu Ghosh, a cinematographer.
- ❖ Union Minister of Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled a series of new initiatives by Ministry of Electronics & Information (MeitY) in the first MeitY Start-up Summit held at New Delhi.
- ❖ The first National Hindi Science writers conference was held at Lucknow by Uttar Pradesh government with an aim to promote use of Hindi and other Vernacular languages in science writing.



- ❖ The President of India addressed a gathering at 50th anniversary of 1969 built “Vishwa Shanti Stupa” (World Peace Pagoda) in Rajgir, Bihar and spread the message of peace and awareness about teachings of Lord Buddha.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Health Harsh Vardhan has released the “Guidelines for Evaluation of Nano pharmaceuticals in India”.
 - The Guidelines are developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Ministry of Health.
- ❖ Just days before the U.K. is formally due to leave the European Union (EU) on October 31, the EU has agreed that it will accept the U.K.’s request for a Brexit ‘flexextension’ (flexible extension) until 31 January 2020.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump has announced the death of Islamic State chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi during an overnight raid led by US military forces in Syria.
 - Baghdadi, who was believed to have been born in Iraq in 1971, proclaimed himself Caliph of the Islamic State in 2013.
- ❖ Caribbean cricket team Papua New Guinea defeated Kenya and secured their maiden qualification to 2020 T20 World Cup to be held in Australia.
- ❖ The USA House of Representatives has voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution, recognising the mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman Turks (modern day Turkey) during World War One as a “genocide”.
 - During 1915 to 1917, the systematic murder of more than 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were carried out by Turks.
- ❖ Apple has expanded its emoji offerings and included non-binary versions of nearly every human emoji. Android released it in May 2019.
- ❖ According to a survey released by US Census Bureau, Hindi is the most spoken widely spoken Indian language in the US with 8.74 lakh speakers as of July 1, 2018, followed by Gujarati (4.19 lakhs) and Telugu (4 lakhs).
 - Tamil speaking population stood at 3.08 lakhs.
- ❖ According to recent statistics from the Australian Department of Home Affairs, for the second consecutive year, Indians have been the largest group to obtain an Australian citizenship.
 - 28,740 out of a total of 1.27 lakh people who were conferred Australian Citizenship in 2019 were Indians.



TAMIL NADU

No.3 in Gross Enrolment Ratio: TN

- ❖ Tamil Nadu emerges as the top performer among the “big states” in the country, in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education.
- ❖ GER is calculated for age groups 18 – 23.
- ❖ According to the latest report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19, the GER ratio of Tamilnadu is at 49%
- ❖ Top performer amongst all categories: Sikkim (53.9%), Chandigarh (50.6%)

Unique Case of Tamilnadu

- ❖ The GER in Tamilnadu has increased almost by 8.6% rise in 6 years.
- ❖ The GER in higher education in Kerala is 37%, while it is 32.4% in Andhra Pradesh, 36.2% in Telangana and 28.8% in Karnataka.
- ❖ States like Maharashtra and Gujarat have recorded GER of 32% and 20.4%.
- ❖ The Union Government has set a target of achieving 50% GER in higher education by 2030.
- ❖ But Tamilnadu has already achieved it.
- ❖ The male GER ratio in Tamil Nadu is 49.8%, the female ratio is 48.3%.
- ❖ Similarly, in SC category, the GER in the State is 41.6% while in ST category, it is 37.8%.

Madurai Student addresses UN Forum

- ❖ Twenty-one-year-old Premalatha Tamilselvan, a law course aspirant from Madurai, has been invited to attend the Human Rights Council Social Forum to be held at Geneva from October 1.
- ❖ She will address the forum at the screening of ‘A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education’, a 2012 documentary in which she featured.
- ❖ She had spoken on issues relating to caste and gender disparity in documentary.
- ❖ It was produced by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



SKOCH Awards – Chennai Police

- ❖ The Greater Chennai Police has bagged two awards
 - For implementation of CCTV surveillance - ‘Third Eye’ project with public partnership.
 - For introducing digital technology for cashless payment of fine against traffic violations.
- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal gave away the SKOCH awards to Chennai Police.

About

- ❖ The SKOCH Governance Award instituted in 2003 is conferred by an independent organisation.
- ❖ It recognises projects and institutions which were making best efforts in the area of digital, financial and social inclusions for betterment of the nation.

Swach Bharath Award for Rural Sanitation – TN


- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been adjudged the best in rural sanitation after the Centre’s rural cleanliness survey.
- ❖ This is a significant jump from the 11th spot it held in 2018.
- ❖ Municipal Administration Minister SP Velumani received the award, on behalf of the State government, from Prime Minister Modi
- ❖ The Swachhta survey this year was conducted in 17,200 villages and 690 districts across the country.
- ❖ The ranks were allotted based on feedback from the people, observation results by independent assessors etc.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu also achieved the status of 100 Open Defecation Free (ODF) as per the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) website.
- ❖ As per the data in the website, over 53.46 lakh toilets have been built in the state after Prime Minister Modi announced Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014.

Private Maintained e-buses

- ❖ All 525 electric buses to be soon operated in Tamil Nadu will be owned and run by a private bidder.
- ❖ They will not be operated by State Transport Corporations (STC).
- ❖ There will be no outright bus purchase by the state government.

- ❖ Instead a gross cost contract (GCC) will be signed between STCs and the successful bidder.
- ❖ FAME-II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) mandates a GCC to be signed between the respective state transport corporation and the operator (successful bidder).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has eight STCs, including MTC, Chennai.
- ❖ The cost of maintenance for electric buses is much lower than diesel ones. Energy consumption cost is ₹25/km for diesel buses and ₹7/km for e-buses.

Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation	Number of buses	Assured kilometres	GOING GREEN: Interior of an electric bus that was flagged off by Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palanisamy in August this year
Villupuram	50	6 lakh	
Salem	50	7.2 lakh	
Coimbatore	200	7.84 lakh	
Kumbakonam	125	6.6 lakh – 7.2 lakh	
Madurai	100	7.2 lakh	

SPECIFICATIONS		
TWO MODELS 9-metre length > Seating capacity 32 > Standing capacity 20 12-metre length > Seating capacity 40 > Standing capacity 30	Successful bidder will supply one bus in each category for a one-week trial Cost ₹90 lakh - 1.7 crore Range 150-300 km for every charge	TIMELINE Sale of tender September 24 Pre-bid meeting October 10 Last date for submitting bids and opening date October 24
TN'S FIRST GROSS CROSS CONTRACT (GCC) > There will be no outright purchase > A Gross Cost Contract (GCC) will help govt understand technology better without risks	WHAT IS GCC? > Bus will be owned by the operator (successful bidder) and not state transport corporation > Bus will be operated by bidder's crew and not STC employees > Agreement will be signed on routes and fares > STC will collect ticket fares from passengers and pay the operator for every kilometre	
		
KEY CHALLENGES > Opposition from unions as reported in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana > Enforcing the contract; getting STCs on board		

Seventh Economic Census in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Governor Banwarilal Purohit has launched the 7th Economic Census in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Economic Census provides information on various operational and structural economic aspects of all establishments in the state.

- ❖ It also provides valuable insights into aspects like geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern and persons engaged.
- ❖ According to 2013 economic census, 50.29 lakh establishments were found to be operated in the state.
- ❖ Unlike 2013, this time the census enumerating will be done with an app.
- ❖ Kancheepuram is the biggest district in terms of having the maximum number of establishments.
- ❖ More than 32,000 enumerators will be involved in the process.

Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai's 1956 Mamallapuram Visit

- ❖ The first Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited Mamallapuram in December 1956.
- ❖ During his visit he also toured the famed Gemini Studio and the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai
- ❖ A flourishing port till about the end of 9th century, Mamallapuram was an integral part of the 'Silk Route' and 'Spices Route' of ancient China and India respectively.



Dirtiest Railway Stations

- ❖ According to a third-party audit and cleanliness ranking of major railway stations, Tamil Nadu has 6 out of 10 dirtiest stations in India.
- ❖ They are

Station	Rank
Perungalathur	1
Guindy	2
Velacheri	4
Guduvancheri	5
Singaperumalkoil	6
Pazhavanthangal	8

10 Electoral Role Observers Appointed

- ❖ The Election Commission has appointed 10 IAS officers as electoral roll observers in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Each observer will be in charge of some districts and will oversee the authentication process of the electoral roll there.
- ❖ “Out of the 5.99 crore voters in Tamil Nadu, only 1.64 crore voters have authenticated their details on the electoral roll.
- ❖ Voters can do the authentication online, on mobile app and at taluk offices, e-Seva centres and special camps.

Second Unofficial Summit Between Xi and Modi

- ❖ The second unofficial summit between Xi and Modi was held at Mamallapuram.





- ❖ According to Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale, India raised its concerns about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) during the summit.
- ❖ RCEP is a proposed free-trade agreement led by China.
- ❖ The huge trade deficit of \$53 billion between India and China was discussed.
- ❖ A mechanism to discuss the same was established between Chinese Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua and Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ Modi hailed the Chennai meeting as marking “a new era of cooperation” between the two countries.
- ❖ The first such informal meet between the two leaders was held at Wuhan, China in 2018.

At Nepal

- ❖ Following the Chennai meet, Xi Jinping also visited Nepal, the first by a Chinese president since 1996.
- ❖ A rail link between Lhasa, China and Kathmandu, Nepal was proposed.
- ❖ The Trans-Himalayan link would also connect with Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha.
- ❖ Nepal and China have jointly agreed to announce the re-measured height of Mount Everest.

Fourth Police Commission – M Sheela Priya

- ❖ Tamilnadu state government has announced the formation of Fourth Police Commission of the State.
- ❖ Retired bureaucrat M.Sheela Priya has been appointed its Chairwoman.

Members

- ❖ Vedesandur MLA V P B Paramasivam, Retires joint secretary to government M. Arachelvi as members.

Member Secretary

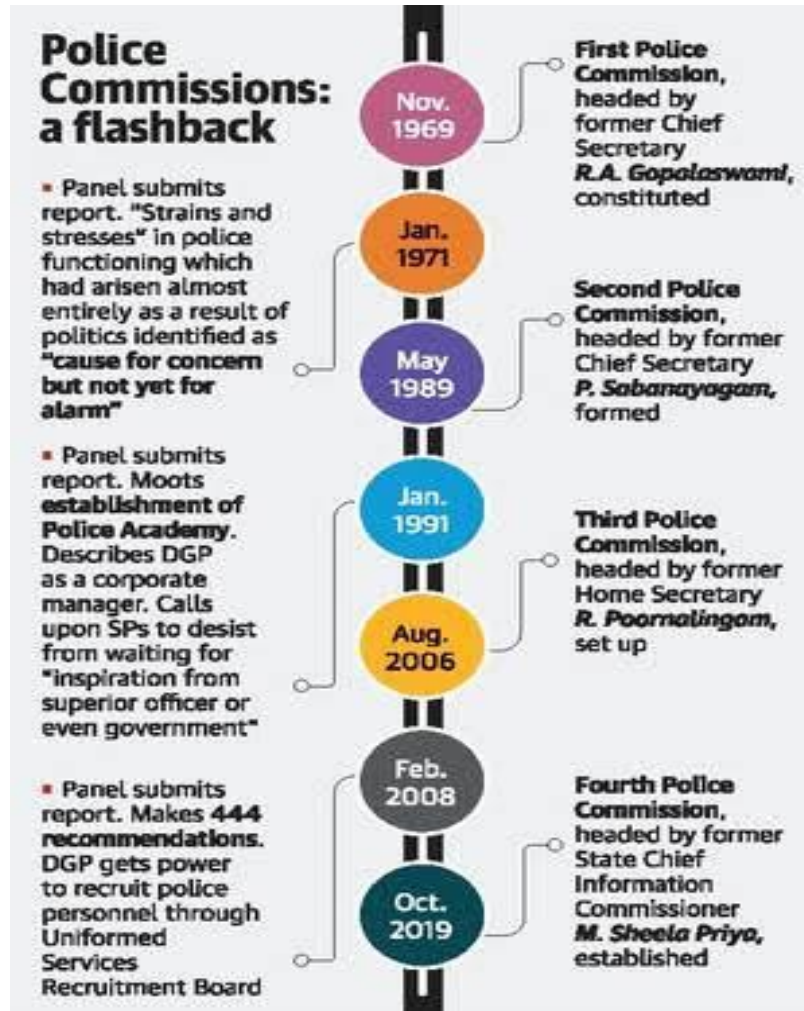
- ❖ Cyber Wing ADGP G. Venkatraman

Mandate

- ❖ The Sheela Priya commission will look into
 - Collection of intelligence
 - Crimes against women and children
 - Cybercrimes, transport and communication
 - Recommendations in addition to the mandate of the third commission

History of Police Commissions

- ❖ Three commissions were set up earlier in 1969, 1989 and 2006.
- ❖ They were headed by R.A. Gopalswami, P.Sabanayagam, R.Poornalingam respectively.



Chennai BCG Vaccine Centre Reopens

- ❖ After 11 years, Chennai-based BCG Vaccine Laboratory has got back Union government's permission to restart mass production of anti-tuberculosis vaccine for commercial use.
- ❖ It has reopened after adhering to the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Protocol.
- ❖ The lab plans to roll out least 300 lakh doses required for the universal immunization programme, by 2021.



- ❖ Scientists in the lab use a strain from Mycobacterium bovis BCG strain.
- ❖ It can supply TB Vaccines at much lower prices than private players.
- ❖ The laboratory was established in 1948 with the assistance of Statens Serum Institut (SSI) Copenhagen, Denmark and World Health Organization (WHO).

India's First Intelligent Flood Warning System

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is all set to deploy an 'intelligent flood warning system' in Chennai.
- ❖ It will enable officials to get area-wise inundation details during the monsoon.
- ❖ Chennai thus becomes first city in India to get an intelligent flood warning system

CFLOWS

- ❖ The technology, called CFLOWS, is India's first integrated coastal flood warning system.
- ❖ CFLOWS is a Web GIS-based decision support system
- ❖ It integrates data and outputs derived from weather forecast, hydrologic, hydraulic and hydrodynamic models.
- ❖ It has 6 modules, including 3D visuals of flooding in infrastructure, buildings, roads and ward boundaries.
- ❖ It can provide forecast on potential inundation 10 days in advance.

Agencies Involved

- ❖ Conceptualised by the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union Government, the Ministry of Earth Sciences and TN government have jointly developed it.
- ❖ The link to the fully-operational CFLOWS will be formally handed over to the State Disaster Management Cell by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR).

Madras High Court Chief Justice AP Sahi

- ❖ The Supreme Court collegium has recommended that Justice AP Sahi, the incumbent Chief Justice of the Patna High Court to be appointed as Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- ❖ He will replace Justice Vineet Kothari, who is the acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- ❖ Sanjay Karol, the present Chief Justice of Tripura High Court will replace Justice AP Sahi as the Chief Justice of Patna, as per the collegium's resolution.



Tamilnadu Local body Elections

- ❖ The State Election Commission of Tamilnadu notified that the elections for the following posts shall be held on party basis
 - Ward members of town panchayats,
 - Councillors of municipalities and corporations,
 - Chairmen of town panchayats and municipalities,
 - Mayors of corporations,
 - Ward members of panchayat unions
 - Ward members of district panchayats.
- ❖ Chennai and other municipal city corporations in the state of Tamil Nadu will be directly voting in their respective mayors.
- ❖ The state election commission has notified direct elections to the offices of mayors of municipal corporations.
- ❖ This means that elected councillors will no longer be voting to pick the mayor.
- ❖ The state election commission will use ballot papers for election of
 - member of village panchayat ward,
 - president of village panchayat,
 - member of panchayat union ward
 - member of district panchayat.
- ❖ The electronic voting machines will be used in urban local bodies and urban voters will elect
 - ward member of corporation
 - mayor of corporation,
 - chairman of town panchayat
 - chairman of municipality

40 Cyber Police Stations and Cyber Labs

- ❖ Tamilnadu will soon have 40 cybercrime police stations and six cyber labs to tackle the increasing number of crimes.
- ❖ Apart from handling cyber-crime cases, the new infrastructure will aid the police to collect digital evidence necessary to crack regular cases.
- ❖ The dedicated cyber stations and labs will be equipped with



- tools to retrieve data, including deleted ones, from mobile phones, SIM cards, laptops and hard disks,
- software for hacking and surveillance of computer systems.
- ❖ The government has sanctioned ₹28.97 crore for setting up the stations and labs.

IT-enabled Police Governance

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu police headquarters has become the first major organisation of the State government to go paperless.
- ❖ The entire administration in the office of the Director-General of Police, also known as the 'Chief Office', has been automated.
- ❖ Besides the DGP's office, three Commissionerates and 15 districts have been fully automated.

e-Office

- ❖ The police have deployed e-Office, a web application developed by the National Informatics Centre.
- ❖ e-Office is a secure network that not only facilitates speedy disposal of files but paves the way for
 - A more judicious utilisation of manpower, leading to better governance.
 - Transparency

Keeladi 5th Phase Excavation

- ❖ The recently concluded fifth phase of archaeological excavation at Keeladi has unearthed a new find of terracotta pipes.
- ❖ These pipes are 'unique' among all terracotta pipes found at other excavation sites in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ They were found horizontally decked one above the other and they might have been used for different purposes.
- ❖ A pipeline was formed by firmly fitting a series of 10 terracotta pipes.
- ❖ In one of the pipelines a lid was found which might have been used as a filtering device of water or some other liquid.
- ❖ The lid could have also been used to prevent the entry of reptiles.



Law on Contract Farming – First State

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become the first State in the country to enact a law on contract farming.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.
- ❖ The law would safeguard the interests of farmers during times of bumper crop or when market prices fluctuate.
- ❖ They would be paid a pre-determined price, which had been arrived at the time of signing agreements with buyers.

Implemented by

- ❖ A new six-member body, called the Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority.
- ❖ The Agreements would have to be registered with ‘designated officers’ from the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business.

Exception

- ❖ Any produce, banned by the Centre or State government or the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, would not be covered under contract farming.

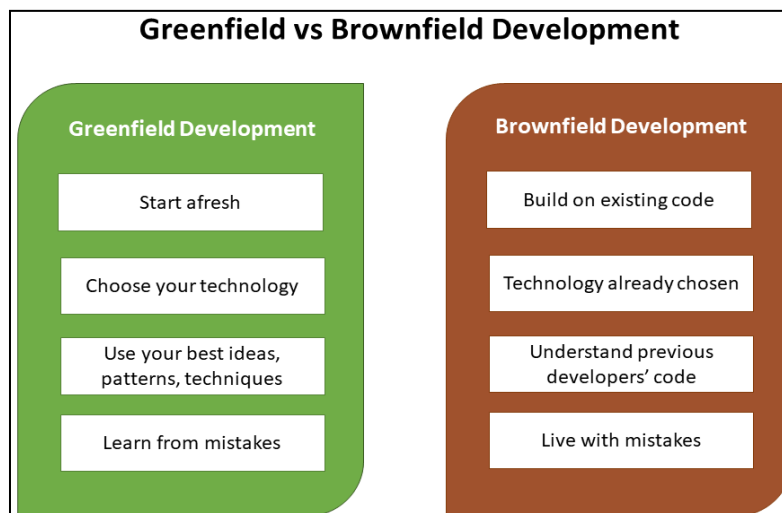
How it benefits farmers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It ensures buyers to get assured supply at predetermined price | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities such as supply of material inputs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All contracts will be registered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu State Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority will be set up to ensure proper implementation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature of ownership of farm lands will remain intact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispute Settlement Committees will be formed at the level of revenue sub-division. District Collectors and Authority will function as appellate and review authorities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts will cover only purchase of produce. It also allows inclusion of production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits have been brought under law's ambit |



Four New Electronic Clusters

- ❖ Tamilnadu has announced plans to develop greenfield electronics clusters across Chennai, Tiruvallur, Hosur, and Kancheepuram by 2023.
- ❖ It also plans to develop brownfield clusters in Sriperumbudur and Oragadam and an Electronics Industries Association of India's industrial park in the Coimbatore region.
- ❖ Union Government provides financial assistance for the projects under the National Policy on Electronics.



NATIONAL

Industry 4.0

- ❖ A pilot project to introduce Industry 4.0 in the country has been launched at the Modern Coach Factory in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Industry 4.0 is commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution.
- ❖ It is a name given to the current trend of automation, inter-connectivity and data exchange in manufacturing technologies to increase productivity.
- ❖ Industry 4.0 synergises “production” with Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Analytics, Machine Learning and Cloud Computing.



School Education Quality Index

- ❖ Kerala bagged the top spot on the School Education Quality Index (SEI) released by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ SEI has been developed by NITI Aayog through a collaborative process with
 - Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD)
 - World Bank
- ❖ The index aims to evaluate the performance of States and UTs in the school education sector.
- ❖ The data for the index was collected for three categories: large states, small states and Union Territories (UTs).

Large States

- ❖ Kerala bagged the top spot with 76.6 per cent and while Uttar Pradesh with 36.4 per cent scored the lowest for 2016-17.

Small States

- ❖ Manipur (68.8 per cent) emerged as the top performer while Arunachal Pradesh (24.6 per cent) came last in the category.

Among Union Territories

- ❖ Chandigarh (82.9 per cent) stood at the top position while Lakshadweep ranked lowest (31.9 per cent).

NITI AAYOG EDUCATION QUALITY INDEX

Categories	Top 3	Bottom 3
Large states	Kerala, TN and Haryana	Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand
Small states	Tripura, Goa, Manipur	Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh
Union Territories	Chandigarh, Delhi, Puducherry	Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Andaman Islands, Lakshwadeep

Open Defecation Free India

- ❖ On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, PM Narendra Modi announced that rural India and its villages have declared themselves open-defecation free.
- ❖ In 60 months, more than 60 crore people were provided with 11 crore toilets.
- ❖ Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin (SBM-G) was launched on October 2, 2014.





- ❖ It aimed to achieve universal sanitation coverage, improve cleanliness, and eliminate open defecation in the country by October 2, 2019.
- ❖ It had created opportunities of 75 lakh jobs out of which a majority have been availed by the rural population.

Idol Immersion Banned in Ganga Basin States

- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has banned idol immersion in Ganga or its tributaries during festivals, including Dussehra, Diwali and Saraswati Puja.
- ❖ The directive has been issued under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ Violators would have to deposit a fine of Rs.50,000 to State Pollution Board.
- ❖ The pollution control measure will be enforced in these 11 Ganga Basin states.

Uttar Pradesh	Uttarakhand
Himachal Pradesh	Haryana
Rajasthan	Delhi
Bihar	Jharkhand
Madhya Pradesh	Chhattisgarh
West Bengal	

Paryatan Parv 2019 – Tourism Initiative

- ❖ On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Union Ministry of Tourism launched a tourism initiative called 'Paryatan Parv 2019'.
- ❖ The objective of the initiative is to encourage inland tourism among Indians and spread the message "Tourism for All".
- ❖ Also, foreign tourist arrivals in the country have risen and 1.05 crore tourists are coming to India every year.
- ❖ The world tourism ranking of the country has jumped from 65 in 2013 to 34 in 2019.



Railway Stations' Cleanliness Survey Report

- ❖ Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal released the 'Stations' Cleanliness Survey Report' (Cleanliness assessment of Non-suburban and Suburban Stations 2019).
- ❖ On a score of 1000, Railways have conducted a third-party audit and cleanliness ranking was in 720 stations.
- ❖ Suburban stations were also included for the first time.
- ❖ The top three cleanest railways stations are Jaipur, Jodhpur and Durgapura. All 3 stations are from Rajasthan.
- ❖ Top three railway Zones: North Western Railway followed by South East Central Railway and East Central Railway.

SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- ❖ The Supreme Court "recalled" its directions in a "March 2018 verdict" regarding the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ This was following a plea by the Centre seeking a review of that judgment.
- ❖ In 2018 it had effectively diluted provisions of arrest under the Protection of Civil Rights Act.

2018 Judgement

- ❖ Supreme Court diluted the SC and ST Act and allowed "anticipatory bail" to accused persons.
- ❖ It had also directed that the police should conduct a preliminary enquiry into whether a complaint under the law is "frivolous or motivated" before registering a case.
- ❖ Both conditions were "not" part of the original legislation.

Modified 2019 Order

- ❖ The review petition filed by Union Government was heard by the same bench of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The bench recalled its earlier dilutions made in 2018.
- ❖ It agreed that Supreme Court can lay down guidelines "only" in cases of legislative gaps. Ex: Khap panchayath, lynching, etc.
- ❖ But when there is already a Parliamentary Legislation (like the SC & ST Act, 1989) the judiciary is bound by the text of law.

Name of the Case

- ❖ The judgements were delivered in "Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs State of Maharashtra".

6th edition of MASCRAGE for 2019

- ❖ The 6th edition of International Conference Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade (MASCRAGE) for 2019 was held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Theme of the event: “Containing Counterfeiting, Smuggling and Piracy: A Winning Strategy”.
- ❖ This annual event was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry’s (FICCI) Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy.



Arogya Manthan workshop

- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a 2-day national workshop ‘Arogya Manthan’ in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- ❖ It aims to mark the first anniversary of Ayushman Bharat (AB) - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which was launched on September 23, 2018.
- ❖ In this workshop, a new Ayushman Bharat programme mobile application named ‘Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana’ launched for the Ayushman Bharat.
- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat Start-Up Grand Challenge was launched in partnership with Start-up India.
- ❖ A commemorative stamp was also launched.



International conference on drug situation

- ❖ A 2- day “Regional Conference on Developing a Comprehensive Approach: Combating Illicit Trafficking of Afghan Opiates and Drug Situation in the Northeast (NE)” held in Imphal, Manipur.
- ❖ The conference has been organized by the Manipur state Government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office, South Asia (UNODC-ROSA).
- ❖ The conference also recommends strengthening the South Asia Regional Intelligence and Coordination Centre (SARICC) in addition to an integrated border management mechanism with support from member states to counter illicit trafficking.

Consumer App

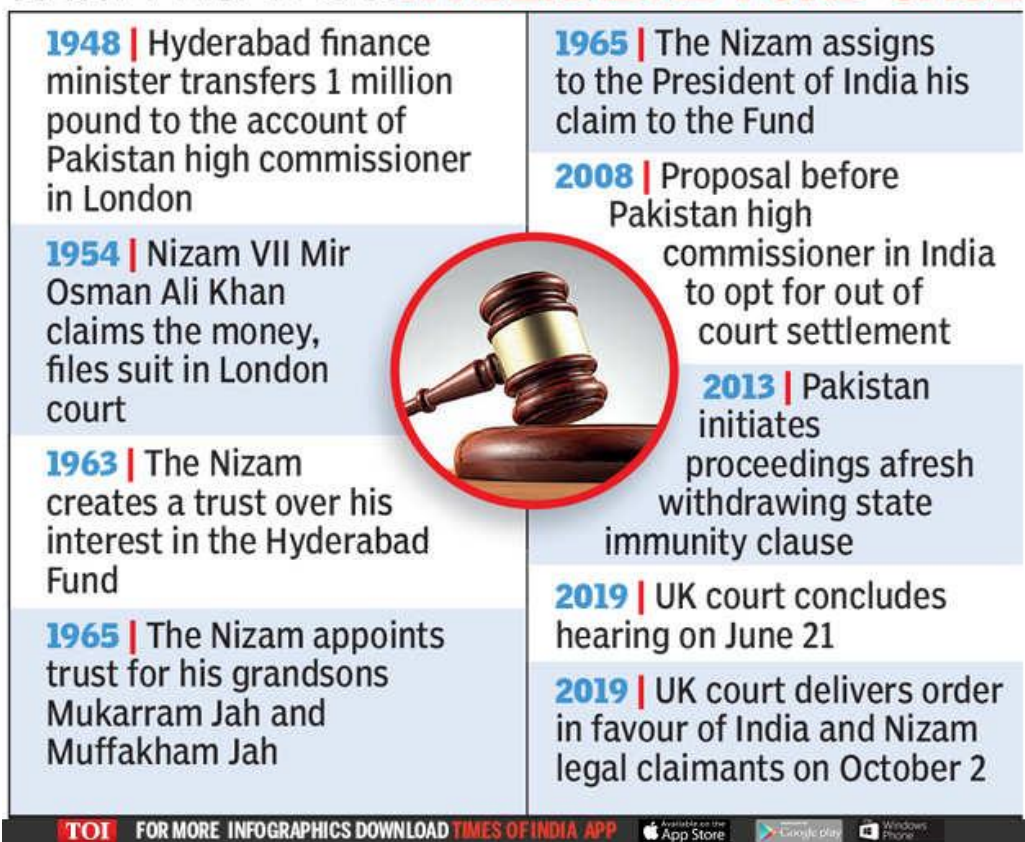
- ❖ The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan launched ‘Consumer App’ in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to redress public grievances and provide valuable solutions on consumer related issues.

- ❖ The grievances will be resolved in a time bound manner within 20 days.
- ❖ The app, which strengthens 'digital India' objectives, provides a one stop solution to the consumer grievances via mobile devices.

Hyderabad Nizam's Fund Case

- ❖ The UK High Court has ruled that funds transferred in 1948 by Hyderabad's VII Nizam Osman Ali Khan to the high commissioner of Pakistan in Britain belongs to India.
- ❖ The Nizam had transferred 1,007,940 pounds and nine shillings in 1948 to the Pakistan high commissioner on the assumption of the possibility of joining Pakistan.

TIMELINE FOR HYDERABAD FUND CASE



- ❖ After Indian annexation of princely state Hyderabad, ownership for the money was contested by both India and Pakistan for 70 years.
- ❖ The grandsons VII Nizam, Mukkaram Jah and Muffakham Jah also laid claim to the same fund.



- ❖ They say it had been gifted to them in a trust set up by their grandfather on April 24, 1963.
- ❖ The original amount has now grown into £35m (Rs 306 crore).
- ❖ UK's Justice Smith has ruled that the 7th Nizam was beneficially entitled to the £35m fund, as were the princes and India.
- ❖ The case came to be popularly known as "Hyderabad Fund Case".

Line of Credit to Pacific Islands

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a \$150 million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations.
- ❖ The money will be used for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on their requirement.
- ❖ It was announced at India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting, held on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The Pacific Island Countries involved are

Republic of Kiribati	Republic of Palau	Fiji
Republic of Marshall Islands	Republic of Vanuatu	Federated States of Micronesia
Republic of Nauru	Kingdom of Tonga	Tuvalu
Independent State of Papua New Guinea	The Independent State of Samoa	Solomon Islands

National Nutrition Survey

- ❖ The first ever Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by Ministry of Health and UNICEF between February 2016 and October 2018.
- ❖ It is the first study undertaken to measure malnutrition as well as details of non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents).
- ❖ Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic and 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure.



Interstate portability for ration card

- ❖ In a bid to implement 'One Nation, One Ration Card' across the country by June 1, 2020, the Union Government has started inter-state portability of ration cards between
 - Rajasthan-Haryana
 - Telangana-Andhra Pradesh
 - Maharashtra-Gujarat
- ❖ It implies beneficiaries living in Rajasthan/Haryana, Telangana/Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh/Gujarat can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS) in either of the state.
- ❖ The inter-state portability scheme was launched by Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

7 New Chief Justices

- ❖ Based on recommendations by Supreme Court collegium, 7 new Chief Justices have been appointed.

Chief Justice	Court
Justice Ajay Lamba	Guwahati High Court
Justice Inderjit Mahanti	Rajasthan High Court
Justice A Mani Kumar	Kerala High Court.
Justice Ravi Shanker Jha	Punjab and Haryana High Court
Justice AK Goswami	Sikkim High Court
Justice LN Swamy	Himachal Pradesh High Court
Justice JK Maheshwari	Andhra Pradesh High Court

Google Lists Public Toilets

- ❖ In a fillip to Swachh Bharat Mission, Google Maps now lists over 57,000 public toilets in over 2,300 cities across the country.
- ❖ The company announced this on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.



- ❖ Adding public toilets to Google Maps was initially launched as a pilot in New Delhi, Bhopal, and Indore in 2016.
- ❖ Google had collaborated with the Swachh Bharat Mission and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

First Private Train

- ❖ India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express started its commercial run on October 5.
- ❖ It becomes the first train in the country to be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation
- ❖ For the first time, IRCTC is also offering a free insurance of ₹25 lakh to the passengers travelling in the train.

Audio Odigos – Tourism App

- ❖ On the second day of nationwide tourism initiative "Paryatan Parv 2019", the Ministry of Tourism launched the Audio Guide facility called "Audio Odigos".
- ❖ The facility is available for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites).
- ❖ The Audio Odigos app contains an inbuilt map of the site for a smooth navigation during the tour.
- ❖ Listeners will be offered various versions of history like Synopsis, Detailed History and Podcasts.
- ❖ The audio can be chosen in their preferred language & version of the history.

Sarbat-Da-Bhala Express: 550th Gurupurab

- ❖ Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal flagged off the extension of New Delhi - Ludhiana Intercity Express upto Lohian Khas, Punjab.
- ❖ It has renamed the train as "Sarbat Da Bhala" Express.
- ❖ The new train will serve the Sikh pilgrims visiting Sultanpur Lodhi on 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak ji.
- ❖ After Nanakana Sahib (now in Pakistan), Sultanpur Lodhi is the most related place to life of the first Sikh Guru.
- ❖ The name of the train reflects the teaching of Guru Nanak ji which symbolises goodness of the humanity.



New Delhi-Katra 'Vande Bharat' Express

- ❖ Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah flagged off the New Delhi-Katra 'Vande Bharat' Express in New Delhi.
- ❖ Katra is a small town in Reasi district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is located 42 km from the city of Jammu and in the foothills of the Trikuta Mountains, where the holy shrine of Vaishno Devi is located.
- ❖ The Banganga River passes through the town.
- ❖ The train service is expected to give a boost to the “religious tourism” as many Hindu pilgrims are expected to visit Vaishno Devi Temple.

Exercise Nomadic Elephant

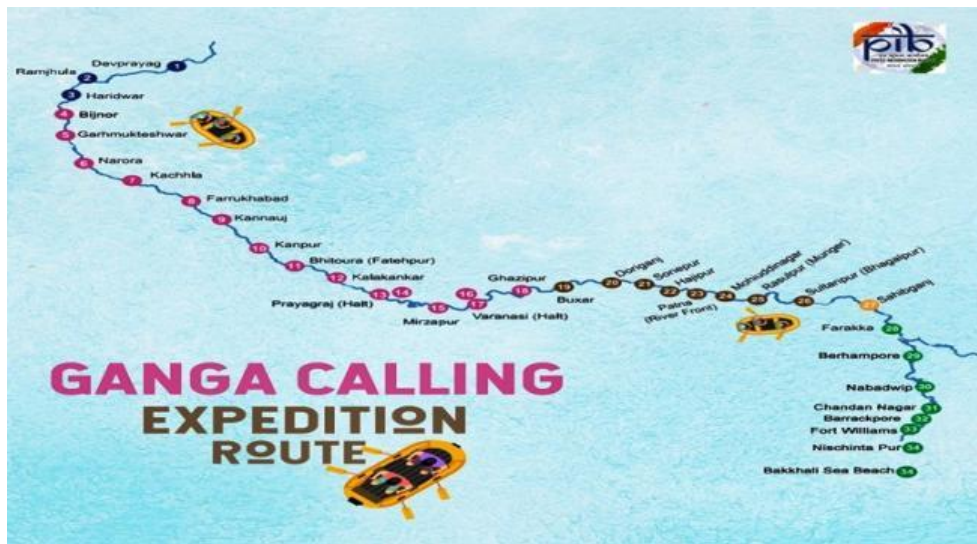
- ❖ 14th edition of Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV commenced from October 5th.
- ❖ The exercise will be conducted from 05th to 18th at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Indian Army is being represented by a contingent of a battalion of Rajaputana Rifles.
- ❖ Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.

MOSAiC Arctic Expedition

- ❖ 32-year-old polar researcher from Kerala Vishnu Nandan will be the only Indian among 300 scientists from across the world to participate in MOSAiC Arctic observatory.
- ❖ MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) is the largest ever Arctic expedition in history.
- ❖ It will be the first to conduct a large-scale study at the North Pole for an entire year.
- ❖ The main objective of MOSAiC is to study the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world.
- ❖ German Vessel “Polarstern” will participate in the exercise.

Ganga Amantran Abhiyan Initiative

- ❖ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched a unique initiative called 'Ganga Amantran' to connect with the stakeholders of the river.
- ❖ It is a pioneering exploratory open- water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga river.
- ❖ The expedition will start at Devaprayag and culminate at Ganga Sagar covering the entire stretch of over 25,000 kilometres of the River.
- ❖ This is the first ever effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga to raft across the entire stretch of the river.
- ❖ It is also the longest ever social campaign undertaken through an adventure sporting activity to spread the message of River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation on a massive scale.



Eco-friendly Crackers of CSIR

- ❖ On 6th October, 2019, Ministry of Science and Technology launched new set of crackers developed by CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) called Eco – friendly crackers.
- ❖ These crackers help to reduce particulate emissions by 30% by producing same level of light and sound.
- ❖ The regular crackers release Barium Nitrate the main pollutant.
- ❖ It is now replaced with Potassium Nitrate.
- ❖ Green crackers reduce the emissions of Nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide and reduces the overall harmful particulate emissions.

- ❖ A Raw Materials Compositional Analysis (RACE) facility has been launched in Sivakasi to facilitate manufacturers for testing their raw materials and chemicals.

First Set of Documents from Swiss

- ❖ India has received the first tranche of details about financial accounts of its residents in Swiss banks.
- ❖ They were procured under a new automatic exchange of information framework (AEOI) between the two countries.
- ❖ This is the first time that India has received details from Switzerland under AEOI framework.
- ❖ AEOI provides for exchange of information on financial accounts that are
 - Currently active
 - Accounts that were closed during 2018
- ❖ The next exchange would take place in September 2020.

Trans-Fat Free logo of FSSAI

- ❖ The Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan launched “Trans Fat Free” logo of Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ It was launched during the 8th International Chefs’ Conference of 2019 (ICC VIII) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The logo was launched to boost the ‘Eat Right Movement’ of FSSAI.
- ❖ He also released a slogan ‘Chefs 4 Trans Fat Free’ at the event.



Youth Co: Lab for youth entrepreneurship & innovation

- ❖ Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India of United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDP) launched a new youth lab programme.
- ❖ The program was named as Youth Co:Lab India.
- ❖ It aims to empower innovation and social entrepreneurship to the youths of India.
- ❖ Under this Social innovation challenges will be invited from people aged between 18-29 years at national and sub-national level and will also get a chance to pitch their ideas at UNDP's regional centre in 2020.



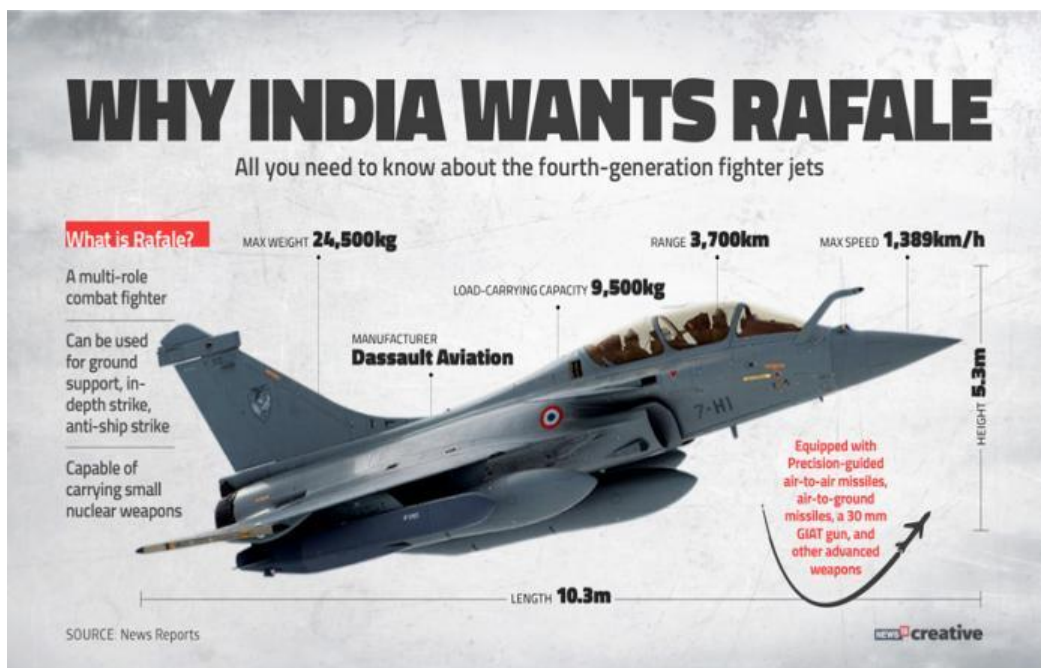
SEQI report of NITI Aayog

- ❖ Kerala and Tamil Nadu have retained their places as the best states in terms of quality of school education as per NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index (SEQI).
- ❖ While Kerala was given a total evaluation point of 82.2%, Tamil Nadu got 73.4%.
- ❖ SEQI report analysed the quality of education for 2016-2017 based on 30 indicators and under 2 categories
 - Category 1: Outcomes
 - Domain 1: Learning outcomes
 - Domain 2: Access outcomes
 - Domain 3: Infrastructure and facilities for outcomes
 - Domain 4: Equity outcomes
 - Category 2: Governance processes aiding outcomes.
- ❖ The overall performance has declined in Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

- ❖ All seven union territories have shown an improvement in their overall performance scores.
- ❖ The performance and ranks have decreased in Mizoram, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The most-populous Uttar Pradesh was ranked at the bottom position in overall performance.
- ❖ This is the first time that the government think tank has come up with a report on the educational progress.

Rafale Deal

- ❖ India received its first French-made Rafale fighter jet on 08.10.19.
- ❖ It is considered one of the biggest-ever boosts to India's deterrence capabilities vis-à-vis Pakistan and China.
- ❖ The aircraft (the first of 36 ordered by India) was received by defence minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ Also, the Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 87th founding day on this day.
- ❖ India is the fourth country after France, Egypt and Qatar, to fly the Rafale.
- ❖ The induction of the Rafale is critical for the IAF, which is set to decommission the MiG-21 Bison aircraft.
- ❖ The Producer of Rafale is the French Aircraft Company Dassault.





Upcoming Joint Military Exercise

- ❖ India conducts joint military exercises with the following countries

Kazind 2019

- ❖ Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2019 between India and Kazakhstan is conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 02 to 15 of October 2019.
- ❖ This is the fourth edition of an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India.

Ekuverin 2019

- ❖ Tenth edition of the Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force is organised from 07 to 20 of October 2019 at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Ekuverin means 'Friends' in the Dhivehi language of Maldives.
- ❖ The first such exercise began in 2009.

Maitree 2019

- ❖ India and Thailand organised the Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16-29 of September 2019.

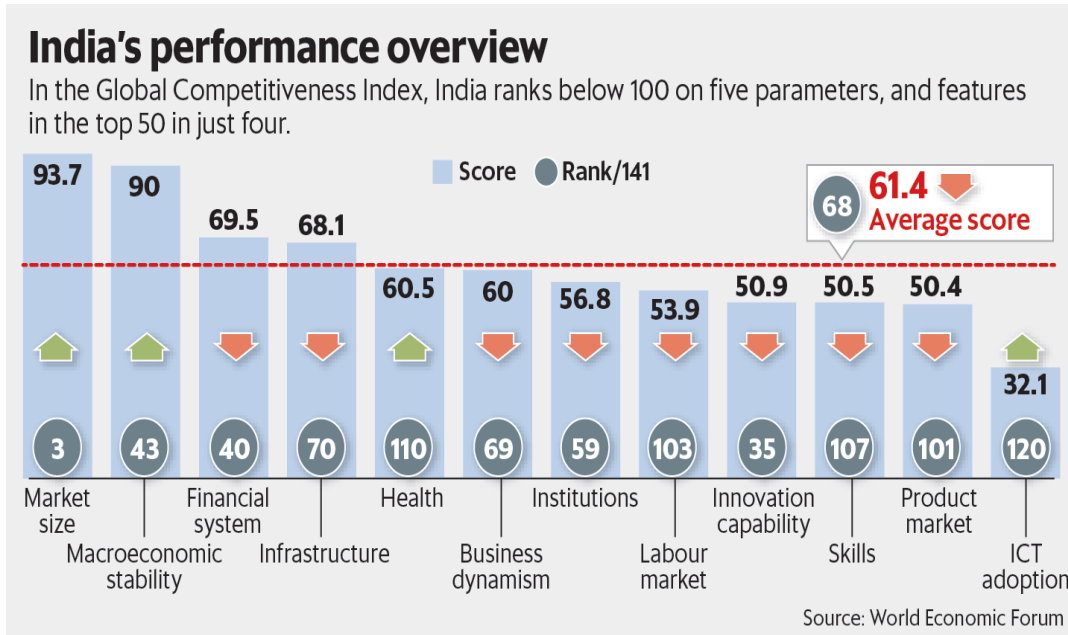
Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund

- ❖ Defence Ministry has enhanced monetary assistance to Next of Kin (NoK) of all categories of Battle Casualty from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 8 lakh.
- ❖ The amount will be granted under Army Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (ABCWF).
- ❖ The ABCWF has been set up in 2017 under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ This fund is in addition to the various existing schemes for the welfare of NoK and children of battle casualties.

WEF Global Competitive Index

- ❖ India slipped sharply by 10 notches to 68th position in the Global Competitiveness Index, 2019.
- ❖ The report has been released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ India's score fell in eight out of 12 parameters while other countries improved their domestic business environment faster than India.

- ❖ In the overall competitiveness ranking, Singapore replaced the US to take the first position.




GEMINI Mariner's Device

- ❖ Union Minister for Earth Sciences launched the Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device.
- ❖ GEMINI device will disseminate seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on
 - Disaster warnings
 - Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ)
 - Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen
- ❖ It will provide information related to disaster warnings when fishermen move away from the coast beyond 10 to 12 kilometres.

Satellite

- ❖ The GEMINI device receives and transfers the data received from GAGAN satellite/s to a mobile through Bluetooth communication.
 - Gagan (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system consists of three communication satellites- GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15.
- ❖ A mobile application developed by INCOIS decodes and displays the information in nine regional languages.

<h2>SAFE AT SEA</h2>	<p>Gagan is used by Airports Authority of India for aircraft landing and takeoff. INCOIS has tied up with AAI to use the technology for its Gemini device</p>	
<p>HOW IT WORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gemini, a soap-box size device fitted to fishing boats, will have a receiver ➤ Servers in INCOIS, Hyderabad, will receive data on various ocean parameters including sea surface temperature, currents and wind speed and direction ➤ A suite of numerical models is run to generate forecast on daily weather, disaster warning for cyclone and tsunami and potential fishing zones (PFZ) ➤ The forecast is transmitted to Gemini device receiver through Gagan (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite system, linked to GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gemini sends the information to a mobile application downloaded by fishermen through Bluetooth, in all regional languages ➤ PFZ forecast is sent three days in advance and alerts on weather systems are sent once every hour 	

Southwest Monsoon Retreat

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department has declared that Southwest monsoon had withdrawn from parts of Punjab, Haryana and north Rajasthan.
- ❖ It has withdrawn nearly 40 days later than the normal date (October 9).
- ❖ The most delayed monsoon withdrawal recorded before 2019 was in 1961, when the monsoon began its retreat on October 1.
- ❖ The withdrawal was announced after the two essential conditions for monsoon's retreat were observed by the IMD
 - Persistent anti-cyclonic circulation
 - Gradual reduction in moisture
- ❖ The reversal of wind direction is likely to reduce humidity and lead to a drop temperature in north India.



eDantseva – Oral Health Program

- ❖ Union Minister of Health, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the eDantseva website and mobile application.
- ❖ It is the first ever national digital platform on oral health information and knowledge dissemination.
- ❖ It contains information about the National Oral Health Program, detailed list of all the dental facility and colleges, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material.
- ❖ It also contains a unique feature called the ‘Symptom Checker’, which provides information on symptoms of dental/oral health problems, ways to prevent them.

About

- ❖ The National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) in its current form was introduced in 2014.
- ❖ AIIMS, New Delhi functions as the National Center of Excellence for Implementation of NOHP.

Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths

- ❖ Union Minister for Health Dr.Harshvardhan along with several State Health Ministers launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) initiative.
- ❖ SUMAN aims for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths.
- ❖ It tries to assure dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.
- ❖ The pregnant women will have a zero-expense delivery and C-section facility in case of complications at public health facilities.
- ❖ Also free healthcare benefits will be provided for pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery.
- ❖ Sick newborns will also be able to avail free healthcare benefits.

India specific Strategy of WHO

- ❖ Union health ministry has launched a strategic roadmap for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to work with the Indian government.
- ❖ It is termed as the WHO India 'Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2019–2023: A Time of Transition'



- ❖ CCS provides a strategic roadmap for WHO to work with the Government of India towards achieving its health sector goals.
- ❖ It outlines how WHO can support the Ministry of Health and other allied Ministries to drive impact at the country level.

POSHAN Atlas

- ❖ In a bid to tackle malnutrition, government is developing an Atlas to map the crops and food grains grown in different regions of the country.
- ❖ The atlas will be used to promote nutritious protein rich food in local areas.
- ❖ Union Government has launched a new initiative called “POSHAN Atlas” under the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme.
- ❖ It is launched as a collaborative effort of
 - Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)
 - Deendayal Research Institute
 - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- ❖ According to the World Bank Global Nutrition Report – 2018, malnutrition costs India at least \$10 billion annually in terms of lost productivity, illness and death.

Government Railway Police Site and Mobile App

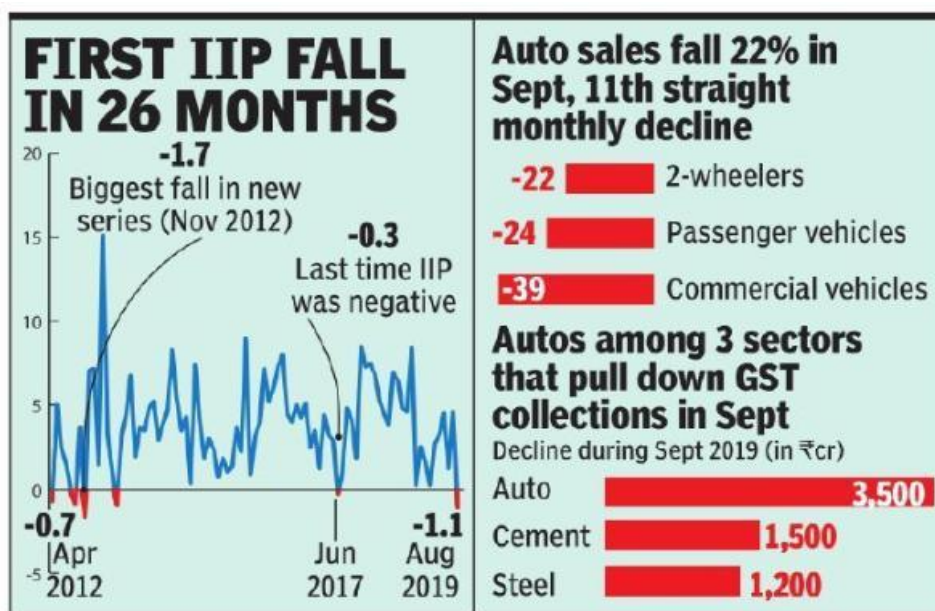
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai has launched the Government Railway Police’s website “railways.delhipolice.gov.in” and a mobile application “Sahyatri”.
- ❖ The database of criminals, including their photographs, active in railways’ jurisdiction all over India would be uploaded on the Railway police’s website.
- ❖ It will also have the facility to scan and read QR codes and make an emergency call.

Sahyatri

- ❖ The Sahyatri app will help railway passengers find out the jurisdiction of a police station and the details of GRP officials by geo-tagging with Google Maps.
- ❖ It will also help the railway police in addressing complaints of passengers from across India and crime detection by integrating the criminal database online.

Falling Industrial Output

- ❖ The country's industrial output slumped the most in nearly seven years and contracted for the first time in over two years.
- ❖ The slump was led by a sharp decline in the crucial manufacturing, capital goods and consumer durables sectors.
- ❖ India's industrial output contracted by 1.1 percent month-on-month (MoM) in August, according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the central statistical organisation (CSO) on October 11.
- ❖ Industrial output or factory output, is the closest approximation for measuring economic activity in the country's business landscape.
- ❖ The current base year for IIP is 2011-2012.



1st International Cooperative Fair @ New Delhi

- ❖ The 1st ever 'India International Cooperatives Trade Fair' has been inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 3-day Fair is a major platform to promote export of products of cooperatives which will lead to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.
- ❖ Organisations from 35 countries and more than 150 Indian cooperatives are participating in the Fair.
- ❖ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar also launched 'Yuva Sahakar', a Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme 2019.

SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2019



The poster for SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2019 features the Government of India emblem, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana logo, and the 75th anniversary logo. It lists major attractions such as handcrafted articles, jewelry, cultural programs, and regional cuisines. The event is held at Hall No. 7, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from February 26th to March 7th, 2019, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM. It is free entry and cordially invited, with a request to carry a valid photo-ID. The hashtag #SARASAJEEVIKA2019 is also displayed.

- ❖ The Sale of Articles of Rural Artisan Society (SARAS) Aajeevika Mela 2019 is underway at India Gate Lawns in New Delhi.
- ❖ The mela is an initiative by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ❖ It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups formed with the support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform which will help to show-case their skills, sell products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.

2nd India - Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol

- ❖ The 2nd edition of Indian Navy – Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) 2019 has been held in Northern Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ This 2-day CORPAT will be followed by the maiden edition of bilateral exercise between the navies at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The IN-BN CORPAT which commenced in 2018, is aimed toward upgrading to a bilateral train with the navies taking part in seamanship evolutions, flying workouts with integral helicopters and maritime patrol plane at sea.



India Sports Summit – Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity

- ❖ The 'India Sports Summit- Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Mr Kiren Rijiju in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- ❖ The first India Sports Summit 2019 was also inaugurated at this event.

Health System Strengthening Conditionality Report of States 2018 -19

- ❖ Health System Strengthening Conditionality Report of States 2018-19 was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
- ❖ 14 states and union territories (UTs) were penalised under the National Health Mission (NHM) for their worst performances on various health parameters in 2018-19.
- ❖ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Assam, Kerala and Punjab were the top five states/UTs which performed well.
- ❖ 14 states and UTs with Bihar, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram were the worst performing states.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu topped by 100% screening of 30 plus population followed by Goa (68%) and Daman and Diu (57%).

13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare

- ❖ Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHWF) for 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Objective: To build a consensus on National Health priorities.
- ❖ The conference was conducted on the 4 pillars of health care namely:
 - Universal Health Coverage (UHC),
 - Mission mode interventions,
 - Quality and accessible affordable healthcare services and
 - Adequate Infrastructure.
- ❖ A new initiative called 'Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)' for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths, its website and the grievance redressal portal were launched on the occasion.
- ❖ He also released the following reports in the conference:

- National Blindness and Visually Impaired Survey 2019 and
- First report on the National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey (2015-2019).



G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance

- ❖ India became a member of Group of 20 (G20) Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.
- ❖ It works towards advancing the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF), the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation serves as secretariat for the Alliance.

About G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance:

- ❖ It is a league of 16 (after India joined) of the world's leading city networks and technology governance organisations.
- ❖ It was established in June 2019, in conjunction with the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

1st Visually Challenged Woman IAS Officer

- ❖ India's first visually-impaired woman IAS officer Pranjali Patil has taken charge as Thiruvananthapuram sub-collector.
- ❖ This is her second assignment since her appointment into service in 2018.
- ❖ Krishna Gopal Tiwari, who joined IAS in 2008 in the Madhya Pradesh cadre, is the first visually-challenged IAS officer.

Law Secretary – AK Mendiratta

- ❖ In a first, a serving District and Sessions Judge has been appointed as the Union Law Secretary.
- ❖ Anoop Kumar Mendiratta is currently the District and Sessions Judge, North-East District, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi.
- ❖ Mendiratta has been appointed to the post on contractual basis till March 30, 2023.
- ❖ Normally, the posts of Secretary (Legal Affairs and Legislative Department) are held by Indian Legal Service Officers.

Air India – World’s First Use of Taxibots

- ❖ India’s national carrier Air India earned itself a place in history as it became the first airline in the world to use a Taxibot as an alternate taxiing equipment on an Airbus aircraft.
- ❖ The Taxibot is a pilot-controlled semi-robotic aircraft tractor that helps in the taxiing of an aircraft from the parking bay to the runway and vice versa.
- ❖ Taxibots are said to be of great help in reducing CO2 emissions and aviation fuel consumption.
- ❖ The towing machine will cut down around 800 Kg of the poisonous gas from the atmosphere for every 15 minutes of its usage.
- ❖ The robotic vehicle is developed by Israel Aerospace Industries along with French TLD Group.





Global Hunger Index – India Ranked 102

- ❖ India has slipped from 95th rank in 2010 to 102nd in 2019 on the Global Hunger Index (GHI).
- ❖ A total of 117 countries were ranked.
- ❖ 2018 onwards, the GHI is a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, along with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- ❖ It was the lowest-ranked among South Asian countries and way behind the other BRICS nations.
- ❖ Even Pakistan, which used to be the only country in South Asia to rank below India, pulled ahead in the 2019 ranking to 94th place.

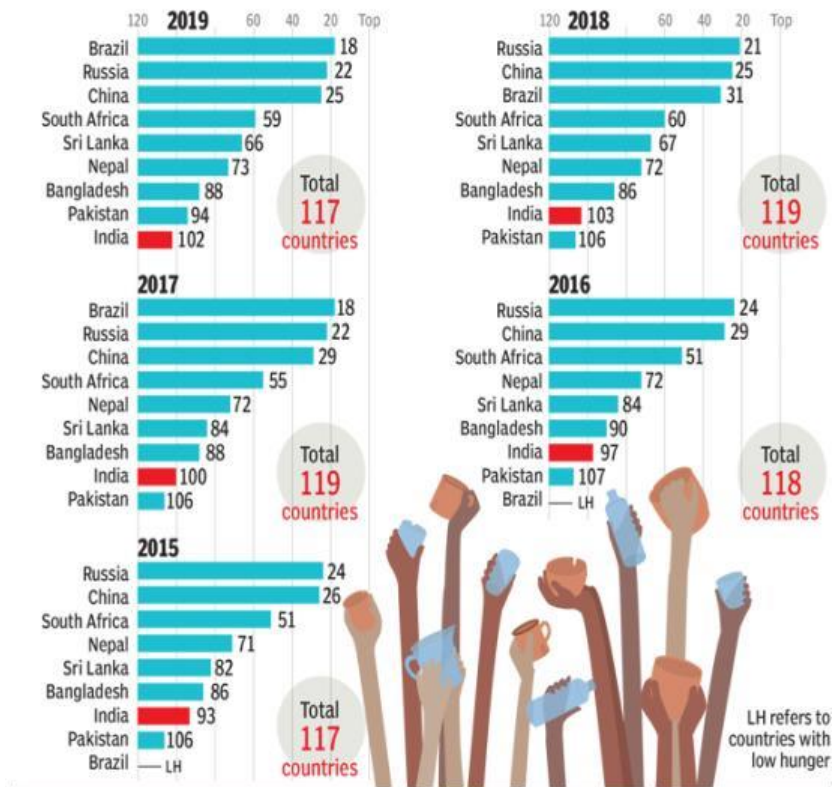
GHI Score

- ❖ The GHI score, which reflects data from 2014 to 2018, is based on
 - Proportion of a country's child population that is undernourished
 - share of children under five years of age who have insufficient weight for their height or whose height is not commensurate to their age
 - Mortality rate of under-5 children.
- ❖ India's child wasting rate is extremely high at 20.8% (the highest wasting rate of any country in this report).
 - Wasting Rate - Wasting or low weight for height, is a strong predictor of mortality among children under five.

Serious Hunger Category

- ❖ The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.
- ❖ India's score was 30.3, putting it in the serious hunger category.
- ❖ Climate change was found to be seriously affecting the quality and safety of food and worsening the nutritional value of cultivated food.

INDIA WAS AT 93 IN 2015



Project Beehive – Indian Army

- ❖ The Army's Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) has launched a new initiative called "Project Beehive".
- ❖ Objective: To achieve greater automation of the corps and connect all its workshops onto an integrated smart network endowed with real-time data analytics capabilities.
- ❖ Under WASP (Workshop Honeybees), army workshops have already been automated.
- ❖ As part of Project Beehive, these WASPs or workshops would then sit on a centralised 'beehive'.
- ❖ Real time data (repair, refurbishing and overhaul) of the army's equipment would be made available centrally.
- ❖ The Beehive was launched on September 1 and is expected to be completed by October 15, 2020.

About EME

- ❖ EME is an arms and service branch of the Indian Army.

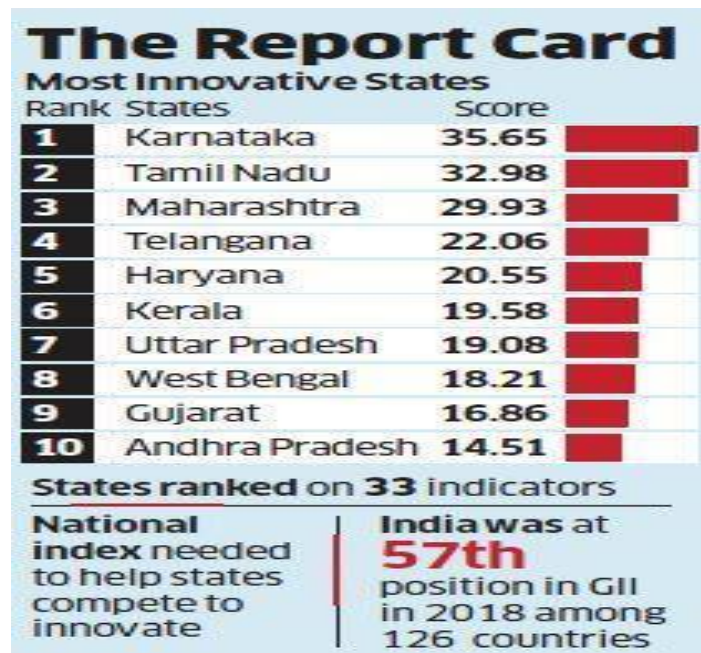
- ❖ It is responsible for design, development, trial, inspection and refit of weapon systems and equipment.
- ❖ It was formed in 1943 during British rule and rechristened to its present name in 2001.

First India Innovation Index

- ❖ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana have been ranked as top five states in innovation in NITI Aayog's first Innovation Index released recently.
- ❖ The index has been released by Aayog's vice chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant.
- ❖ It has been developed into the lines of Global Innovation Index (GII).
- ❖ The index ranks the states based on
 - their innovation capability
 - the challenges and opportunities that lie for states
 - actions needed by policy makers to foster innovation.

Performance of States

- ❖ Among north-eastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have topped the index.
- ❖ Delhi, Chandigarh and Goa have topped the list among union territories.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand are at the bottom of the index.



Shinyuu Maitri 2019: Indo-Japan Military Exercise

- ❖ The Indian Air Force will be carrying out a joint military exercise named 'Shinyuu Maitri' with Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) from 17 to 23 October 2019.
- ❖ The joint exercise will be held at Air Force Station Arjan Singh in Panagarh town, West Bengal.
- ❖ Another drill between 'armies' of same countries will also get underway in eastern theatre.
- ❖ IAF's C-130 J aircraft of Special Operations Squadron of and JASDF's C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron will participate in the exercise.
- ❖ The first such bilateral military exercise was held in 2018 at Air Force Station Agra.



Global Surveillance Index - Data Privacy in India

- ❖ UK-based Comparitech has assessed the privacy and state of surveillance in 47 countries and released the Global Surveillance Index.
- ❖ Countries are ranked based on
 - Constitutional protection
 - Privacy enforcement,
 - Biometrics
 - Data sharing etc.
- ❖ India is among the world's top three surveillance states, according to Compritech's global survey.



- ❖ It is next only to Russia and China when it comes to its surveillance framework and dubbed as a country with “systemic failure to maintain privacy safeguards”.
- ❖ Among European Union nations, Ireland, France, Portugal, and Denmark are among the top four with adequate safeguards.

Food Safety Mitra - FSSAI

- ❖ In a bid to improve the ease of doing business, apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a scheme called Food Safety Mitra (FSM).
- ❖ The scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses in compliance to the food safety laws.
- ❖ A Food Safety Mitra is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules and regulations.
- ❖ Depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities they can be - Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra or Hygiene Mitra.

Carcinogens in Milk

- ❖ Traces of Aflatoxin M1 (AFM1), a deadly carcinogen, were found in some of the milk samples tested as part of a national survey by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ The final results of the milk survey were released on October 18, 2019.
- ❖ Out of the 6,432 total milk samples that were tested, 368 (5.7 per cent) were found to have aflatoxins beyond permissible limits.
- ❖ The highest rates of aflatoxin contamination were found in
 - Tamil Nadu (88 out of 551 samples)
 - Delhi (38 out of 262 samples)
 - Kerala (37 out of 187 samples)
- ❖ The carcinogen was found to be more prevalent in ‘processed’ rather than raw milk.
- ❖ Consumption of food containing aflatoxin concentrations of one milligram/kilogram or higher has been suspected to cause aflatoxicosis.
- ❖ Aflatoxicosis acute liver failure, jaundice, lethargy and nausea, eventually leading to death, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) study in February 2018.

World Giving Index

- ❖ On the list of 'charitable nations', India ranks 82 among the 128 countries surveyed by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).
- ❖ CAF is an international organisation that promotes 'giving' to transform lives and communities across the World.
- ❖ CAF had surveyed 1.3 million people Worldwide over the past decade (2009 to 2018) and it is formulated as the World Giving Index (WGI).
- ❖ According to the WGI, USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.
- ❖ India falls below Sri Lanka (Nepal (53), Pakistan (69), Mexico (73) and Brazil (74).

'Made in India' Diagnostic Kits for Encephalitis, Bluetongue Virus

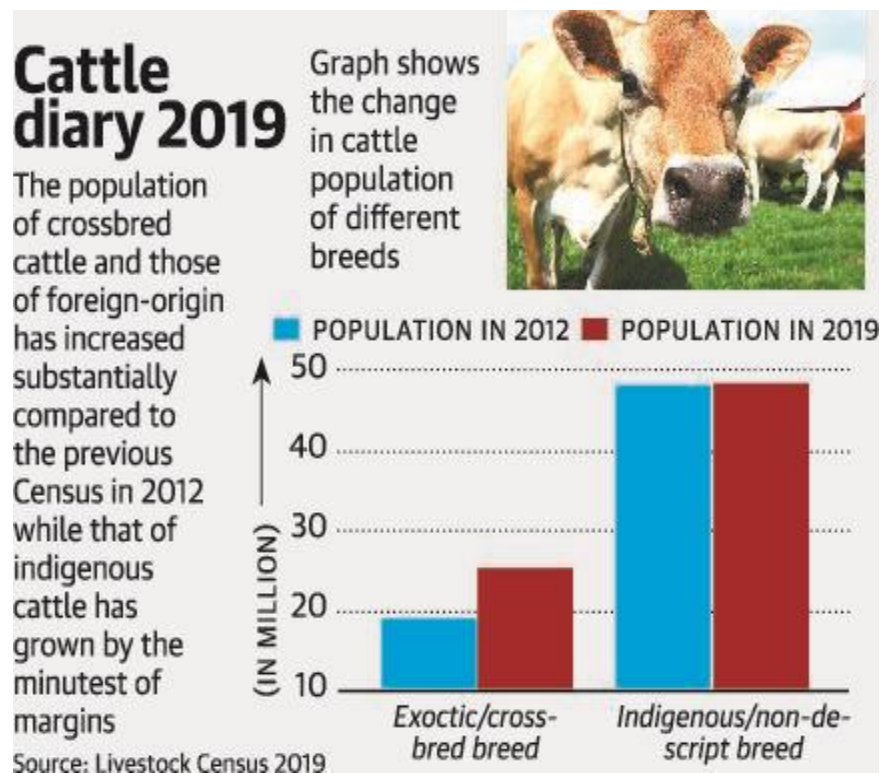
- ❖ The Union Government has launched the Bluetongue sandwich ELISA and the Japanese Encephalitis 1gm ELISA kits.
- ❖ It has been developed jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).
- ❖ The indigenously developed kits cost ten times lesser than the imported ones and have the potential to prevent the disease outbreak.
- ❖ Recently an outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) led to the death of more than 100 children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur.



20th Livestock Census

- ❖ According to data from the 20th Livestock Census released recently, there are 4.85 crore desi (native) milch cows in the country.
- ❖ It is less than 1% the 4.81 crore population in the last census in 2012.

- ❖ The milch population of exotic and crossbred cattle (Jerseys, Holsteins) saw a whopping growth of 32% over the last seven years from 1.9 crore to 2.5 crore animals.
- ❖ Milch cattle are cows kept for the purpose of milk production.
- ❖ The Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in 2014 to promote indigenous desi breeds.



Van Dhan Internship Programme of TRIFED

- ❖ Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the “Van Dhan Internship Programme” organised by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ 18 interns were selected from reputed Institutes of Rural Management/Management Institutions/Institutes of Social Work/Social Services of the country.
- ❖ They will support the TRIFED activities on livelihood promotion, value addition of NTFTs, marketing and credit linkages.
- ❖ They will develop tools and techniques on institutional development including mechanism for determination of a ‘just price’ or ‘producer price’ of Minor Forest Products.



Asia's oldest bamboo

- ❖ Two fossils dating back 25 million years were found in Makum coalfield in Assam.
- ❖ With over 49,000 plant species reported as of 2018, India holds about 11.5% of all flora in the world.
- ❖ Now, a new fossil record has shown that India is the birthplace of Asian bamboo, and they were formed about 25 million years ago in the north-eastern part of the country.
- ❖ These belonged to the late Oligocene period of about 25 million years ago.
- ❖ Yunnan Province in China now has the highest diversity of bamboo, but the oldest fossil in that region is less than 20 million years old.
- ❖ It is clearly indicating that Asian bamboo was born in India and then migrated there.
- ❖ This finding further strengthens the theory that bamboo came to Asia from India and not from Europe.
- ❖ The European bamboo fossil is about 50 million years old.
- ❖ Bamboo fossils are not very common in India as they are known only from the Siwalik sediments at Himalayas.

Next CJI - Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde

- ❖ Following the rule of seniority to appoint his successor, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi has recommended the name of Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde in a letter to the Union Government.
- ❖ Justice Bobde is the senior most judge in the Supreme Court after CJI Gogoi.
- ❖ Conventionally, the outgoing Chief Justice sends the recommendation for his successor 30 days before he is to demit office, initiating the process of appointing the next CJI.
- ❖ Justice Bobde will be the 47th Chief Justice of India and the second from Maharashtra's Nagpur region after former CJI Mohammad Hidayatullah.

Biodiesel by Zomato

- ❖ Restaurant aggregator and food delivery service Zomato and biodiesel manufacturer BioD Energy have inked a partnership to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil.



- ❖ Zomato will collect used cooking oil (UCO) from restaurants around the country to be processed into biodiesel.
- ❖ India is one of the largest consumers of vegetable oil.
- ❖ It has the potential to convert 220 Cr litre of UCO to produce biodiesel by the year 2022.
- ❖ Repeated use of UCO can cause diseases like hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer's and liver ailments, among others.

Centenary Year of National Institute of Nutrition

- ❖ A special commemorative postal stamp of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad was released by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan.
- ❖ The stamp has been brought out under the “Corporate My stamp” scheme of India Posts.
- ❖ NIN is the oldest Institute under the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
- ❖ The NIN centenary year theme was ‘Empowering the nation through nutrition’.

Father of Nutrition Science in India

- ❖ A one-time award instituted to commemorate NIN's Centenary called the “ICMR-NIN-Centenary Award” was conferred posthumously on Dr.C Gopalan.
- ❖ A native of Salem and an Alumnus of MMC, Chennai Dr. Gopalan is considered as Father of Nutrition Science in India.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2002.
- ❖ His research on the nutrition status of the Indian population laid the foundations for several national nutrition programmes, including those for
 - Anaemia control
 - Vitamin A supplementation
 - Integrated child development services (ICDS)
 - Goitre control through universal salt iodisation



Exercise Eastern Bridge V

- ❖ Indian Air Force is participating in a Bilateral Joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO), named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V, scheduled from 17-26 October 2019, at Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.
- ❖ The last exercise, EX EASTERN BRIDGE-IV was held in 2017 at Jamnagar.
- ❖ For the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft will be participating in an International Exercise outside India.
- ❖ IAF contingent comprises of MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft.
- ❖ MiG-29 will train along with Royal Air Force Oman's Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk.

QS Indian University Rankings

- ❖ The QS Indian University Rankings were released recently.
- ❖ This is the second edition of the standalone rankings for India's higher education institutions.
- ❖ The rankings include public, private, higher education or deemed universities.



QS INDIA RANKINGS: THE TOP 10

INSTITUTION NAME	2019	2020
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	1	1
Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore	2	2
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	4	3
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	3	4
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	5	5
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	6	6
University of Delhi	8	7
University of Hyderabad	7	8
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	9	9
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	10	10

Make in India – 3 Defence Projects

- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has accorded approval for three projects to be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by the Indian industry.
- ❖ DAC is chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ With this, for the first time the Ministry of Defence has offered complex Military equipment to be designed, developed and manufactured by the Indian private industry.
- ❖ The list of projects includes
 - Third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)
 - The Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) for the T-72 and T-90 Tanks
 - Discrete Electronic Warfare (EW) systems for the mountain and High-Altitude terrain
- ❖ ATGM would provide ‘Fire and Forget’ and “Top Attack” capabilities to the troops in an armoured battle.
- ❖ EW would be designed and developed by DRDO and manufactured by design cum production partner from the Indian industry.



Cultural Education through Technology

- ❖ Union Minister for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge) Prahalad Singh Patel launched the E-Portal of CCRT 'Digital Bharat Digital Sanskriti' and CCRT YouTube Channel in New Delhi.
- ❖ This will enable dissemination of cultural education through digital interactive medium into the classrooms all over the country.
- ❖ For this initiative, CCRT has tied up with Routes 2 Roots, an NGO, for connecting seamlessly all the CCRT Regional Centres i.e., Guwahati, Udaipur and Hyderabad.
- ❖ Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Culture of Government of India.
- ❖ It was established in 1979 to support cultural education.

Liver Transplant Surgery

- ❖ India's first voluntary liver transplant registry that started on August 15, 2019 has picked up pace.
- ❖ In a span of two months, it has received data of 74 transplants carried out by 11 hospitals across six States.
- ❖ The project was Initiated by the Liver Transplantation Society of India.
- ❖ The registry aims to collate national data of the procedures and their outcomes.
- ❖ Nearly 2,000 liver transplants are carried out in India annually, which is the highest in world.

IMNEX-19

- ❖ The opening ceremony of the second edition of 'India Myanmar Naval Exercise' (IMNEX-2019) was conducted onboard INS Ranvijay in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Myanmar Naval Ships UMS Sin Phyu Shin (F-14) and UMS Tabinshweti (773) arrived in the city.
- ❖ Indian Navy's INS Kuthar, a missile corvette and INS Ranvijay, a guided-missile destroyer will be part of the joint exercise.
- ❖ The exercise will be conducted in 2 phases: harbour phase and sea phase.

India's Highest Altitude All-weather Permanent Bridge

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's highest altitude all-weather permanent bridge called Colonel Chewang Rinchen Bridge.
- ❖ It is located in eastern Ladakh at nearly 45 km from the country's border with China.



- ❖ The 1400-ft -long bridge on Shyok River is situated in Sub-Sector North at 14,650 ft and christened after 'Lion of Ladakh' Colonel Chewang Rinchen.
- ❖ He is one of only six armed forces personnel to have been twice awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award in the country.
- ❖ He was known as the 'Lion of Ladakh' for his extraordinary acts of courage in defending Leh and Partapur sector.

Dilli Series Sea Power Seminar

- ❖ The sixth edition of the Dilli Series Seapower Seminar on “Role of Sea Power in Shaping of Nations” concluded at the Indian Naval Academy (INA) Ezhimala, Kerala.
- ❖ INA Ezhimala is the initial officer training establishment of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ Dilli Series Seminar is named after the Mount Dilli located within INA Ezhimala premises and is conducted at INA during Autumn Term every year.
- ❖ The seminar aims to expose young trainees to the vibrant maritime history and arouse in them a curiosity to explore further.
- ❖ The theme of the sixth edition of the seminar held at INA was ‘Role of Sea Power in Shaping Nations’.



Skandagupta Vikramaditya

- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day international seminar on the role of Gupta dynasty emperor Skandagupta at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi.
- ❖ Skandagupta was a son of the Gupta emperor Kumaragupta I.
- ❖ He ascended the throne in 455 AD and ruled till 467 AD.
- ❖ He defeated Pushyamitras and took upon himself the title of Vikramaditya.
- ❖ During the 12-year rule, he not only defended the great culture of India but also from external aggression and defeated the Huns, who had invaded India from the north west.
- ❖ He is generally considered the last of the great Gupta Emperors.

NCRB Report 2017 – Crime in India

- ❖ The 2017 Crime in India report has been released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ The total number of cases registered in 2017 stood at 9,013 compared to 6,986 cases registered in 2016.
- ❖ The maximum number of these cases were reported from
 - Haryana (2,576)
 - Uttar Pradesh (2,055)
 - Tamil Nadu (1,802)
- ❖ The report saw a 30% jump in cases recorded as “offences against the State.”
- ❖ It also shows number of communal riots in India had reduced from 869 in 2016 to 723 in 2017. But the total number of riot victims in India increased by 22 per cent.
- ❖ With 43% share in hate crimes, Uttar Pradesh is the most unsafe state for minorities, Dalits.
- ❖ West Bengal has the highest number of foreign prisoners with most of them being Bangladeshis.
- ❖ According to Home Ministry, crimes against journalist, whistle blowers, social workers were not included in the NCRB as they constitute vague/unreliable data.

New Category of Offences - Cybercrimes, Safety of Women

- ❖ The NCRB report published after a delay of two years, included 88 new categories of offences including sexual harassment of women at the workplace/public transport.



- ❖ A new category called “anti-national elements” has been added which includes details of “jihadi terrorists, Left Wing Extremism and North East insurgents.”
- ❖ For the first time, “cyber stalking and bullying of women” has been included in the report.
- ❖ A total of 542 cases were reported under this category, with the maximum incidents recorded in Maharashtra (301).
- ❖ 11,601 persons arrested for various cybercrimes and charge sheets was filed against 8,306 suspects.

Tamilnadu Specific Data

Riots

- ❖ Tamil Nadu had a 3.28 per cent share in total rioting cases in India in 2017, but accounted for 21 per cent of riot victims.
- ❖ Punjab was the most peaceful in terms of rioting as it registered just one case.

Road Accidents

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has reported the second highest number of deaths in road accidents in the country in 2017.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu currently uses the Road Accidents Data Management System (RADMS) that ensures every case is recorded immediately and uploaded on a network.

Sedition Cases

- ❖ Assam recorded the highest number of sedition cases followed by Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Prisoners

- ❖ Out of a total of 2,096 Indian prison inmates comprising 2,039 males and 57 females. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of detenus (810).

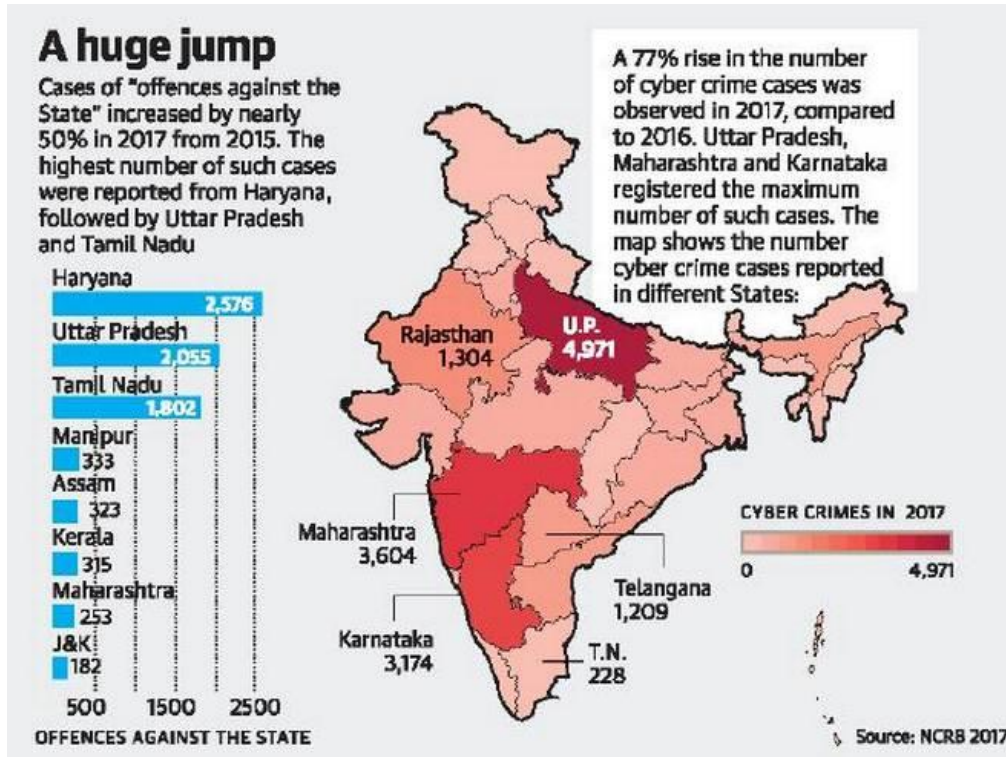
Crimes against Senior Citizens

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped the country in reporting grave crimes, particularly murder, against senior citizens.
- ❖ The State stood second after Maharashtra in reporting incidents of robbery and snatching targeting elders.

Environmental Offences

- ❖ The number of environmental offences committed in India increased from 4,732 in 2016 to 42,143 in 2017.
- ❖ Almost half of these offences (20, 914) amounting to 49.6 per cent of all the offences took place in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The hike in the number of offences has been due to the addition of the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, to the list of environment offences.



Justice Rohini Commission for OBC

- ❖ The Justice Rohini Commission panel has invited 'states' seeking their clarifications on the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ❖ The sub categorisation has resulted in ambiguities in the Central list.
- ❖ The panel was formed under former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court G Rohini on October 2, 2017.
- ❖ The commission was tasked to identify castes, communities, sub-castes, synonyms in the central list of OBCs and classifying them into sub-categories.

Railways and Amazon Tie up

- ❖ The Railways have decided to transport goods of e-commerce giant Amazon for three months on a pilot basis.
- ❖ The transport service began on the Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) local between Sealdah and Dankuni in the Eastern Railway zone.

- ❖ According to railway ministry officials, the consignments will be transported in non-peak hours.
- ❖ The move is a part of the railways' plans to generate and increase non-fare revenue and increase parcel business.

Danx-19

- ❖ Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19), a large-scale joint services exercise.
- ❖ The components of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres.
- ❖ Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), also participated in this edition.



About ANC

- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the first and only Tri-service theater command of the Indian Armed Forces, based at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Siachen open for tourists

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that the Siachen area is now open for tourists and tourism.
- ❖ He also inaugurated a strategically important bridge on the Shyok river in Eastern Ladakh.



- ❖ The 'Col Chewang Rinchen Setu' was constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at an altitude of 14650 feet in the forward area of Ladakh region.

About Siachen

- ❖ The Siachen Glacier is the world's highest battlefield.
- ❖ It is a glacier located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas
- ❖ Karakoram is sometimes called the "Third Pole".
- ❖ It is just northeast of the point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- ❖ In 2004, the then President of India Abdul Kalam became the first head of state to visit the area.
- ❖ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the area in 2005.
- ❖ After that present Prime Minister Narendra Modi also visited this place in 2014.
- ❖ The Indian Army had been allowing expeditions to Siachen in the late 1970s till they came to a total stop in 1984.
- ❖ In 1984, India launched Operation Meghdoot, a military operation that gave India control over all of the Siachen Glacier.

Azad Hind Govt's 76th Year

- ❖ The commemoration event of 76th anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government (Indian National Government - INA) held at Red Fort, Delhi.
- ❖ Netaji had formed the Azad Hind Government at Singapore on 21 October 1943.
- ❖ On August 14 of 1944, the Bahadur brigade of INA, led by Col Saukat Ali Malik, captured Moirang, a town in Manipur along the Indo-Myanmar border.

Bharat Ki Lakshmi initiative

- ❖ This Diwali, Deepika Padukone and sports star PV Sindhu carried the torch for PM Modi's 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' initiative.
- ❖ #BharatKiLaxmi was launched on social media by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 57th episode of 'Mann ki Baat' to honour women and empower them.
- ❖ The 'Bharat Ki Lakshmi' campaign is aimed at honouring daughters, who have made a mark with their achievements in various fields for public good.



Drone Innovators Network

- ❖ Drone Innovators Network Summit 2019 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by the World Economic Forum under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ India is one the few countries to come out with drone regulations.
- ❖ India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), effective 1 December, 2018 for drones.
- ❖ As per the regulations, manufacturers of drone are required to comply with the requirements of No Permission, No Take-off (NPNT) on the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS).
- ❖ These regulations (CAR Version 1.0) only permit operations of drones during daytime Visual Line of Sight.
- ❖ DigiSky is a portal for registration and flying of civil drones in India.

17th Meeting of Maritime States Development Council

- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping organized 17th Meeting of Maritime States Development Council at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping is working on a plan to develop a National Grid for Ports based on synergy between the Major and Minor ports in the country.
- ❖ It has been said that there are 204 Minor ports in the country, of which only 44 are currently functional.
- ❖ India has 12 major ports which are controlled by Ministry of Shipping.
- ❖ The 204 minor ports are controlled by the states.

Skills Training Centres

- ❖ Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey has said that 14 Authorized World Skills India Training Centres (AWSITC) will be set up across 9 cities for media and entertainment sector.
- ❖ These cities are Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Mumbai, Pune, Shillong and Trivandrum.
- ❖ This year was India's best ever performance in the biennial WorldSkills competition held at Kazan, Russia.
- ❖ The 48-member Indian team won one Gold, one Silver, two Bronze medals besides 15 Medallions of Excellence at the competition.



National Blindness & Visual Impairment Survey India 2015-2019

- ❖ The report looks at district-wise prevalence of blindness and visual impairment.
- ❖ The survey randomly identified 31 districts with a sample size of about 93,000, among whom 18,000 were less than 50 years of age.
- ❖ The report found that the prevalence of blindness is highest among those who are at least 80 years old (11.6%).
- ❖ Untreated Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in people above 50 years.

PREVALENCE OF BLINDNESS, AGE 50 OR MORE

LOWEST 5

Thrissur (Kerala)	1.08
North Goa	1.13
Khera (Punjab)	1.15
Virudhunagar (TN)	1.18
Thoubal (Manipur)	1.23

HIGHEST 5

Bijnor (UP)	3.67
Warangal (Telangana)	3.47
Nalbari (Assam)	3.03
Guna (MP)	2.98
Sikar (Rajasthan)	2.81

National Coordination Centre (NCC)

- ❖ The Central Government is planning to create a National Coordination Centre (NCC).
- ❖ It will function as a databank on Maoists' core strongholds and cadres, and as a synergy point for intelligence gathering and anti-Maoist operations.
- ❖ It will also utilise the experience and knowledge of retired police officers who have served in anti-Maoist operations in areas of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ According to the Government, the number of Maoist-affected police stations has significantly come down in comparison to the situation 10 years ago and the number of police stations affected with violence has also gone down from a peak of 465 police stations to 250.



Committee of Administrators (CoA) comes to an End

- ❖ The Supreme Court signalled the end of its monitoring of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ❖ The Committee of Administrators (CoA) was put in place by the Supreme Court in 2017 to run BCCI and implement reforms suggested by the Justice RM Lodha panel.
- ❖ The Committee of Administrators was headed by former CAG Vinod Rai.
- ❖ He is here to look after the administrative duties of the board until the fresh elections are called.
- ❖ It also includes Ramachandra Guha, Vikaram Limaye and Diana Edulji as its members.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

- ❖ The 10th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was recently organised by the Ministry of Culture in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It was conceived in 2015 to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country in varied dimensions in one place - Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary.
- ❖ It will cover a profusion of folk-artforms from 22 States.
- ❖ It was launched under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat initiative under Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- ❖ Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat was launched in 2016 to promote bonding amongst the people of different States/UTs and diverse cultures, thereby securing unity and integrity of India.
- ❖ Each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.

Hunar haat – Employment to Craftsmen

- ❖ Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has decided to organise about 100 'Hunar Haat' in the next five years across the country.
- ❖ The program aims to provide
 - a platform to master artisans and craftsmen to display as well sell their products.
 - employment to lakhs of craftsmen.



- ❖ The next Hunar Haat will be organised in Prayagraj from 1st to 10th of November 2019.
- ❖ The theme of all these events will be 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat'.

Data on Police Organisation 2018

- ❖ Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah released Bureau of Police Research and Development's (BPRD) flagship publication Data on Police Organizations (DoPO 2018).
- ❖ It is a compilation of information on police infrastructure, manpower and other resources from all States, UTs, CAPFs and CPOs.

Key Data

- ❖ 20.95% increase in the strength of Woman Police.
- ❖ Total percentage of women in the Indian Police has now become 8.73%.
- ❖ The overall Police Population Ratio (PPR) at the state level stood at 95 policemen per lakh population.
- ❖ Police Stations have increased from 15579 to 16422.
- ❖ This also includes Cyber Police Stations whose number has risen from 84 to 120.
- ❖ Electronic surveillance has improved – a total of 2,75,468 CCTV cameras have been installed.

BSNL-MTNL Merger

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the revival plan of BSNL and MTNL and the in-principle merger of the two.
- ❖ BSNL and MTNL will also raise long-term bonds of Rs 15,000 Cr.
- ❖ Sovereign guarantee for the bonds will be provided by the Government of India.

VT-NMD (Narendra Modi Devendra) Aircraft

- ❖ Test flights of VT-NMD (Narendra Modi Devendra) will finally be carried out in December 2019.
- ❖ It will be certified as airworthy after getting a go-ahead from the civil aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ❖ It is India's first experimental aircraft.
- ❖ The 6-seater aircraft was built by Amol Yadav, a former pilot.

- ❖ He first displayed the aircraft at the Make in India Show in 2016.



Vice President at NAM Summit

- ❖ Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu represented India at the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Baku, Azerbaijan on October 25 and 26.
- ❖ This marked the second time in a row that PM Modi missed the summit.
- ❖ He had earlier missed the 2016 meet held at Venezuela.
- ❖ Since 1961, the Indian Prime Minister has always attended the NAM summit.
- ❖ Exception: In 1979, when Chaudhury Charan Singh was the caretaker PM and hence missed it.
- ❖ Modi's absence indicates a decisive move away from past practice at the 60-year-old organisation.
- ❖ The theme for the XVIII NAM Summit is "Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world".

Bandung Principles

- ❖ The Ten Principles of Bandung was a political statement encapsulating the need to promote world peace and cooperation between countries.
- ❖ They were formulated at the Asian-African Conference in 1955.

About NAM

- ❖ India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- ❖ NAM was established in 1961 with 29 members.
- ❖ It has since grown to 120 members to become one of the largest groupings of nation-states.



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel in J & K

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Kadkari has announced renaming of Chenani Nashri Tunnel on NH 44 in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ It will be renamed as Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee (SPM) Tunnel.
- ❖ This 9 km tunnel is the longest such state of art tunnel in the country, connecting Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu.
- ❖ SPM (1901 – 1953) was an Indian politician who served as the Minister for Industry and Supply in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's first free Post independent cabinet.

Doing Business Report (DBR - 2020)

- ❖ “The World Bank” released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR - 2020).
- ❖ It measures regulations across 190 economies in 12 business regulatory areas to assess the business environment in each economy.
- ❖ The top 5 best places in the world to do business are
 - New Zealand (with a score of 86.8 out of 100),
 - Singapore (86.2)
 - Hong Kong SAR, China (85.3)
 - Denmark (85.3)
 - Republic of Korea (84)

India Specific Data

- ❖ India has been ranked 63rd out of 190 countries.
- ❖ It is a jump of 14 positions against its rank of 77 in 2018.
- ❖ India has improved its rank by 79 positions in last five years (2014-19).
- ❖ It continues to maintain its first position among South Asian countries.
- ❖ India saw the biggest jump in ranking in “Resolving Insolvency” category (52nd rank from 108th rank).

TABLE 0.2 The 10 economies improving the most across three or more areas measured by *Doing Business* in 2018–19

Economy	Ease of doing business rank	Change in ease of doing business score	Reforms making it easier to do business									
			Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Getting electricity	Registering property	Getting credit	Protecting minority investors	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Enforcing contracts	Resolving insolvency
Saudi Arabia	62	7.7	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Jordan	75	7.6					✓		✓			✓
Togo	97	7.0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bahrain	43	5.9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan	106	5.7	✓				✓			✓		
Pakistan	108	5.6	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Kuwait	83	4.7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
China	31	4.0	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
India	63	3.5	✓	✓						✓		✓
Nigeria	131	3.4	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Prison Statistics Report 2017

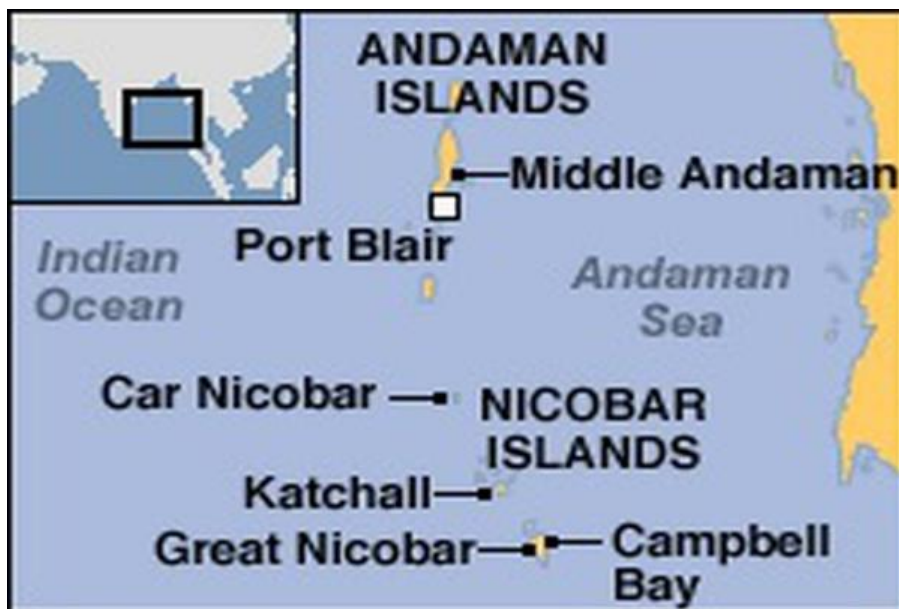
- ❖ The ‘Prison Statistics of India 2017’ report has been released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ It has included a new category for unnatural deaths of inmates called ‘negligence/excess by jail personnel’.
- ❖ The new category has only one entry across India, which is from Maharashtra.
- ❖ Recently, Justice Radhakrishnan Committee on Prison Reforms, released its report in 2018.

RTI Amended Rules Notified

- ❖ The Ministry of Personnel notified the Right to Information (Term of Office, Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners and State Information Commissioners) Rules, 2019.
- ❖ The new rules have reduced the tenure of Information Commissioners from five years to three.
- ❖ It gives the government the discretion to decide on “conditions of service” for which no express provisions are made in the rules.
- ❖ The Chief Information Commissioner’s salary has been fixed at ₹2.5 lakh and an Information Commissioner’s at ₹2.25 lakh.

Southernmost Air station – INS Baaz

- ❖ Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh visited INS Baaz, the southernmost air station of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Baaz' was commissioned in July 2012.
- ❖ It is a part of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-services formation of the Indian Armed Forces that was started in 2001.



Strategic Location

- ❖ It is located at Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island, the southernmost and largest island of the Nicobar Islands, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The location has been described as India's "window into East and Southeast Asia".
- ❖ It is in close vicinity of the Six Degree Channel, one of the Indian Ocean's busiest shipping lines, carrying strategic cargo to East Asian countries.
- ❖ It is also close to the Strait of Malacca.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- ❖ The Jiyo Parsi Scheme introduced by Union Government in 2013 has resulted in 214 births over the last five years through assisted reproductive techniques.
- ❖ The scheme aimed to check the declining Parsi population through cash incentivization.



- ❖ According to the Union minority affairs ministry, the Parsi population declined from about 114,000 in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011.
- ❖ Maharashtra has the highest Parsi population in the country, followed by Gujarat.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0

- ❖ Union health ministry will launch the second phase of nationwide immunisation drive, Indradhanush 2.0 in the second week of December.
- ❖ The program aims to vaccinate children in 271 districts with an immunisation coverage of less than 70%.
- ❖ Only 16 districts currently have routine immunisation coverage of 90% or more.
- ❖ It plans to achieve at least 90% pan-India immunisation coverage by 2022.
- ❖ In 2017, the government launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) to reach out to children who were not immunised at all or may have received partial immunisation.
- ❖ Within a year, around 5 million more children were immunised against 12 vaccine preventable diseases.
- ❖ This year (2019) India is commemorating 25 years of its successful Pulse Polio Programme.

European MEP Visits Kashmir

- ❖ As many as 23 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) arrived in Kashmir on a two-day visit.
- ❖ They plan to assess the ground situation after scrapping of J&K's special status and record the feedback from the Army, local officials and 15 other delegations.
- ❖ United Kingdom MEP Chris Davie's invitation was 'rescinded' after he made a request to meet people without any escort.
- ❖ The members also took boat rides on the Dal lake in the evening.



BRICS Cultural Ministers Meet

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel participated in BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil.
- ❖ India proposed to add 'literature' as another field of cooperation between BRICS nations.

Joint Exhibition @ India

- ❖ Under the auspices of BRICS Alliance of Museums and Art Galleries, the National Gallery of Modern Arts of India will conduct a joint exhibition.
- ❖ It is titled as 'Bonding Regions and Imagining Cultural Synergies' and will be hosted during November-December 2019 at Delhi.
- ❖ BRICS is an association of- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the five major emerging national economies.

First "Aarambh" - Foundation Course for Civil Servants

- ❖ The Government of India's first ever common foundation course, Aarambh (Beginning), for the 2019 batch probationer civil servants has begun at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia, in Gujarat.
- ❖ Around 500 newly recruited bureaucrats are undergoing a six-day training programme.
- ❖ World Bank President David Malpass addressed the probationers on the topic of Capacity building for civil servants.

Ek Onkar symbol on Air India Flight

- ❖ National Carrier Air India has painted 'Ek Onkar' symbol on its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft's tail to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- ❖ The aircraft will fly on October 31 from Amritsar to London.
- ❖ Ek Onkar' symbol is a central tenet of Sikh religious philosophy.
- ❖ It means "God is One".



Indo French Exercise Shakthi

- ❖ The bilateral 'Exercise SHAKTI' between the armies of India and France will be conducted from 31st October to 13th November of 2019.
- ❖ It will be held at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The joint exercise will focus on counter terrorism operations in the semi-desert terrain.


First Indian Brain Atlas

- ❖ Researchers at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) have created the first-ever Indian Brain Atlas (IBA).
- ❖ The study has revealed that the Indian brain, on an average, is smaller in height, width and volume when compared to Western and other eastern populations.
- ❖ The Atlas will help in early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other brain-related ailments.

- ❖ It will also help in better MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) analysis of Indians.
- ❖ Before IBA, Indian MRI images were compared with Caucasian or Chinese, Korean brain images.

TO HELP IN STUDYING DEMENTIA

COMPARISON OF BRAIN SIZE AND SHAPE OF INDIAN ATLASES AND OTHER ATLASES				
	Length	Width	Height	Volume
	(mm)			(dm ³)
IBA100	160	130	88	1.39
MNI305	181	142	111	2.39
Chinese	175	145	100	1.89
Korean	160	136	92	1.63



IBA100: Indian Brain Atlas; **MNI305:** Montreal Neurological Institute

Kashmir and Ladakh Lieutenant Governors – State Dissolved

- ❖ A 1985 batch IAS officer, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been named as the first Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Radha Krishna Mathur, a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of Tripura cadre has been appointed as the first Lieutenant Governor of the union territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ He had retired as the Chief Information Commissioner of India in November 2018.
- ❖ The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir high court Geeta Mittal.

State Dissolved

- ❖ From October 31, Jammu & Kashmir ceased to be a state of the Union.
- ❖ This is for the first time that a state is converted into two Union Territories.
- ❖ The UT of J&K will have a legislature, like Puducherry, while Ladakh will be a UT without legislature, like Chandigarh.
- ❖ But there are numerous examples of a UT becoming a full state or a state bifurcating into two states.
- ❖ The total number of states in the country will now be reduced to 28 while the number of UTs will go up to 9.



13th World Aqua Congress @ New Delhi

- ❖ The 13th world aqua congress is being conducted at New Delhi between October 30 – October 31.
- ❖ Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat remarked about the drastic fall in the per capita water availability of Indians.
- ❖ Water availability per capita: 5,000 cubic metres at the time of Independence to 1,540 cubic metres.

Cape Town Example

- ❖ He remarked that not only Chennai and Bengaluru, but entire country could become like Cape Town.
- ❖ Water crisis in Cape Town peaked during 2017-18 when the South African capital almost ran out of water.
- ❖ It introduced the idea of 'Day Zero', when most of the port city's taps would be turned off to focus everyone's attention on managing water consumption.

India vs Israel

- ❖ India gets 1,068 mm rain and 4,000 million cubic metres of water per year through precipitation and still it's a water-scarce country.
- ❖ Israel, which gets 100 mm rain per year, is water-abundant and exporting the resource.
- ❖ India is the most groundwater-dependent country in the World, but total water retention capacity is below 300 million cubic metres.

First National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the first National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards to the companies for their outstanding contribution in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate was commended for initiating National CSR Awards in the year of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary.
- ❖ The awards will be conferred every year on 2nd October.

CSR

- ❖ The CSR provisions under the Companies Act, 2013 came into force from April 1, 2014.
- ❖ Under the Companies Act, 2013, certain classes of profitable entities are required to spend at least two per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities in a financial year.

INTERNATIONAL

Increasing Terrorism in G5 Sahel Region

- ❖ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that al Qaeda and Islamic State have strengthened their foothold across the Sahel region this year.
- ❖ The following group of countries in African continent are called as Sahel Countries
 - Burkina Faso
 - Niger
 - Chad
 - Mali
 - Mauritania
- ❖ In 2017, backed by France, a G5 Sahel task force was constituted to combat the insurgents.



China's Dongfeng 41 Missile – 15,000 Kms Range

- ❖ China unveiled the Dongfeng 41 (DF-41) intercontinental-range ballistic missile.
- ❖ The missile was unveiled at China's National Day Parade (October 1, 2019), which is the 70th Anniversary of Communist rule.
- ❖ DF-41 is touted to be the most powerful missile on the planet.
- ❖ It has a range of up to 15,000 kilometres more than any missile on Earth.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying 10 independently targeted nuclear warheads and could theoretically hit the United States in 30 minutes.

- ❖ China has also displayed its underwater vehicles and new stealth DR-8 drones which can fly five times faster than the speed of sound.



Singapore-India Hackathon

- ❖ NTU Singapore, India's Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Innovation Cell, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have successfully organised the second edition of the Singapore-India Hackathon.
- ❖ It is a fast-paced 36-hour competition for students of both countries to collaborate on innovative solutions to real-life challenges in healthcare, education and clean energy.
- ❖ The top prize of S\$10,000 went to Team 10, comprising three students from India and three from Singapore.
- ❖ They were awarded for their innovative solution to monitor air impurities through an array of sensors installed in a potted plant.

- ❖ Upon detecting high levels of impurities, small fans will automatically switch on to circulate clean air from the base of the plant.
- ❖ Singapore's Minister for Education, Ong Ye Kung participated in the event.

Bolivian Lithium

- ❖ South American country Bolivia has the world's largest lithium reserves, beneath the vast Salar de Uyuni salt flat.
- ❖ Bolivia is estimated to hold over one fourth of the world's reserves for lithium.
- ❖ Lithium has become indispensable and used in lithium-ion batteries for portable electronics, and electric vehicles, etc.
- ❖ During April 2019 visit of the President Ram Nath Kovind, India has signed a MoU with Bolivia for development and industrial use of lithium.
- ❖ It is expected to aid in India's ambitious target of 30 per cent electric vehicles by 2030 and FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles) policy.



Indian Origin Supreme Court Judge of Brunei

- ❖ An Indian-origin Singaporean judge Kannan Ramesh has been sworn in by Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah as a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of the Brunei sultanate.
- ❖ Kannan Ramesh's appointment is for a two-year period.
- ❖ As a judicial commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei, he will spend a month each year and decide primarily on commercial cases and certain civil ones.

- ❖ The 54-year-old Justice will also continue to hold his position as a full-time judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore.
- ❖ In the Singapore Supreme Court, Justice Ramesh was appointed judicial commissioner in May 2015.

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

- ❖ The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) for 2019 was held in Kampala, Uganda.
- ❖ Theme of the conference: ‘Adaption, engagement, and evolution of parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth’.
- ❖ The following other conferences and meetings also held there:
 - 37th CPA Small Branches Conference;
 - 6th triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference;
 - 64th CPA General Assembly;
 - Meetings of the CPA Executive Committee; and
 - Society of Clerks at the Table (SOCATT) meetings.



Bada Dashain festival - Nepal

- ❖ The greatest and longest Hindu festival of Nepal, named as Bada Dashain, began at Nepal.
- ❖ The first day of this Dashain marks the beginning of Navaratri festival too.
- ❖ This festival is also simply called as Dashain.



World's First Ban on Sugary Drinks Ad – Singapore

- ❖ Singapore plans to implement a total ban on ads for packaged drinks with very high sugar content in an attempt to reduce illnesses in the rapidly-aging city state.
- ❖ The city state will be the first country in the world to implement a ban on ads for very high sugar drinks.
- ❖ Singapore has very high rates of diabetes.

UNICEF Crypto Fund

- ❖ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Children's agency of the United Nations has now become the first UN organization to hold and make transactions in cryptocurrency.
- ❖ UNICEF now joins a number of other aid agencies that accept donations in cryptocurrencies, such as American Red Cross.
- ❖ It has established UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund and accepts donations in the form of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin and ether.
- ❖ The Ethereum Foundation will be first one to be contributing to UNICEF through cryptocurrencies.

Solar Wind Farms Across Border

- ❖ India has a target of 175 GW of clean energy by 2022.
- ❖ In order to achieve the target, India plans to set up solar and wind projects on fallow lands along the international border with Pakistan.
- ❖ A 30 km by 20 km wide parcel of land is identified along the border in Kutch district of Gujarat to implement the project.
- ❖ The proposed energy power parks will generate 2,000 MW of energy each.
- ❖ The project is being constructed on deserted lands with no habitats.

Dharma Guardian 2019

- ❖ The 2nd joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian 2019' to promote military cooperation between India and Japan will be held in Mizoram.
- ❖ This joint military exercise will improve mutual relations between the two countries and will help in fighting against terrorism.

- ❖ Dharma Guardian exercise is an annual training event, which is being held in India since 2018.

Vajra Prahar 2019 – 10th Edition

- ❖ The joint military exercise ‘Vajra Prahar’ between India and the US begins at Washington.
- ❖ In 2018, the practice took place in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Earlier on September 2019, soldiers from both countries underwent joint military training exercise ‘Yudh Abhyas 2019’ at US.

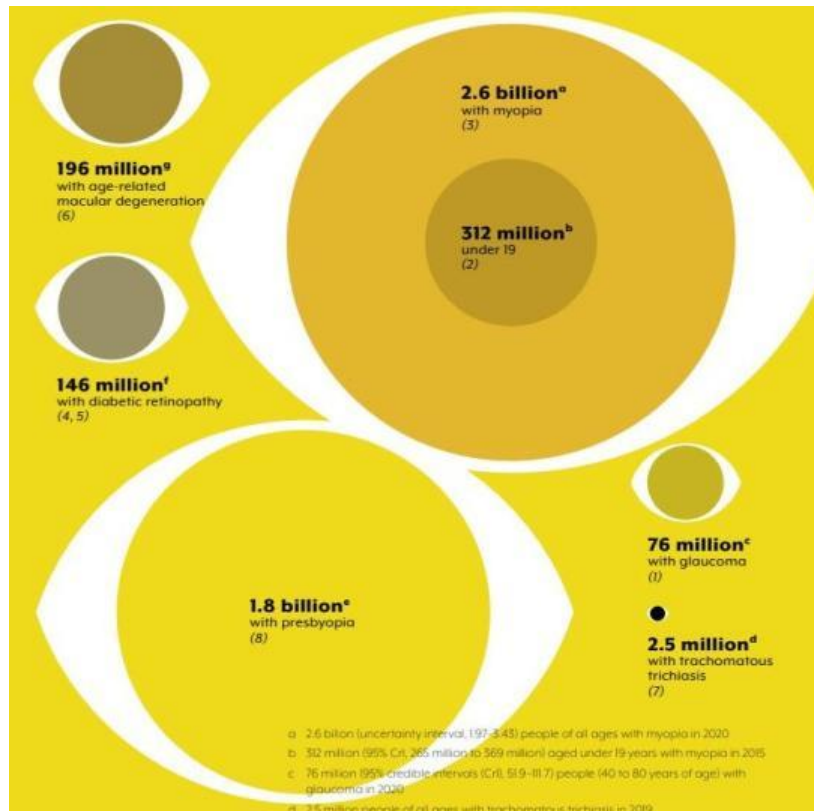
7th edition of C40 World Mayors Summit 2019

- ❖ 7th edition of C40 World Mayors Summit 2019 was held at Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ❖ It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience.
- ❖ C40- is the group of major international cities that have banded together around making sustainable changes in transportation, energy use, and consumption.
- ❖ Kolkata has received the prestigious “6th C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards 2019” for the city’s green mobility.



First world report on vision

- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first report on vision.
- ❖ According to the report, nearly 2.2 billion people live with vision impairment or blindness globally.
- ❖ In that over one billion cases could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed.
- ❖ It aims to address these challenges and galvanize action.



UNICEF Report on Child Nutrition

- ❖ UNICEF has warned that an alarmingly high number of children are suffering the consequences of poor diets and a food system that is failing them.
- ❖ It has released a report titled “The State of the World’s Children 2019: Children, food and nutrition”.
- ❖ The report finds that at least 1 in 3 children under five (or over 200 million) is either undernourished or overweight.
- ❖ Almost 2 in 3 children between six months and two years of age are not fed food that supports their rapidly growing bodies and brains.

- ❖ This puts them at risk of poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and, in many cases, death.
- ❖ The report provides the most comprehensive assessment yet of 21st century child malnutrition in all its forms.

China's Official Digital Currency

- ❖ China is set to introduce its own digital currency.
- ❖ The anonymity of digital currencies like cryptocurrencies allows users to buy and sell without leaving a digital trail.
- ❖ But China's e-cash system will be tightly regulated and run by the People's Bank of China, the central bank of China.

World Economic Outlook

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its biennial report, World Economic Outlook on October 15.
- ❖ The report indicates that over the past year, global growth has fallen sharply.

	2018	Projections	
		2019	2020
World Output	3.6	3.0	3.4
Advanced Economies	2.3	1.7	1.7
United States	2.9	2.4	2.1
Euro Area	1.9	1.2	1.4
Germany	1.5	0.5	1.2
France	1.7	1.2	1.3
Italy	0.9	0.0	0.5
Spain	2.6	2.2	1.8
Japan	0.8	0.9	0.5
United Kingdom	1.4	1.2	1.4
Canada	1.9	1.5	1.8
Other Advanced Economies	2.6	1.6	2.0
Emerging Market and Developing Economies	4.5	3.9	4.6
Emerging and Developing Asia	6.4	5.9	6.0
China	6.6	6.1	5.8
India	6.8	6.1	7.0
ASEAN-5	5.2	4.8	4.9
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.1	1.8	2.5
Russia	2.3	1.1	1.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.0	0.2	1.8
Brazil	1.1	0.9	2.0
Mexico	2.0	0.4	1.3
Middle East and Central Asia	1.9	0.9	2.9
Saudi Arabia	2.4	0.2	2.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.2	3.2	3.6
Nigeria	1.9	2.3	2.5
South Africa	0.8	0.7	1.1
Low-Income Developing Countries	5.0	5.0	5.1

- ❖ For advanced economies, growth is projected to soften to 1.7 percent in 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ India's GDP growth has been estimated at 6.1 percent.
- ❖ The report suggests that India's trade volume has reached its lowest level since 2012.
- ❖ It has been reduced by 1% since 2012.
- ❖ Reasons ascribed: corporate and environmental regulatory uncertainty, slowdown in demand, health of NBFCs

Mahendraparvata – Hindu-Buddhist Empire @ Cambodia

- ❖ Researchers have identified the elusive ancient "lost city" of Khmer Empire of Cambodia for the first time.
- ❖ Mahendraparvata, sometimes dubbed the 'lost city of Cambodia', was an early capital city of the Khmer Empire.
- ❖ Khmer Empire was a Hindu-Buddhist regime of Southeast Asia that lasted from the 9th to 15th centuries of the common era.
- ❖ The discovery was made possible by using airborne laser scanning (Lidar).
- ❖ Lidar has "unique ability to 'see through' vegetation and provide high-resolution models of the forest floor.



World's Oldest Pearl @ UAE

- ❖ An 8,000-year-old pearl that archaeologists say is the World's oldest will be displayed in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The natural pearl was found in the floor of a room discovered during excavations at Marawah Island, United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The excavation of the Marawah site, which has many collapsed Neolithic stone structures, has also yielded ceramics, beads made from shell and stone, etc.
- ❖ The "Abu Dhabi Pearl" will be displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the outpost of the famous Paris museum.

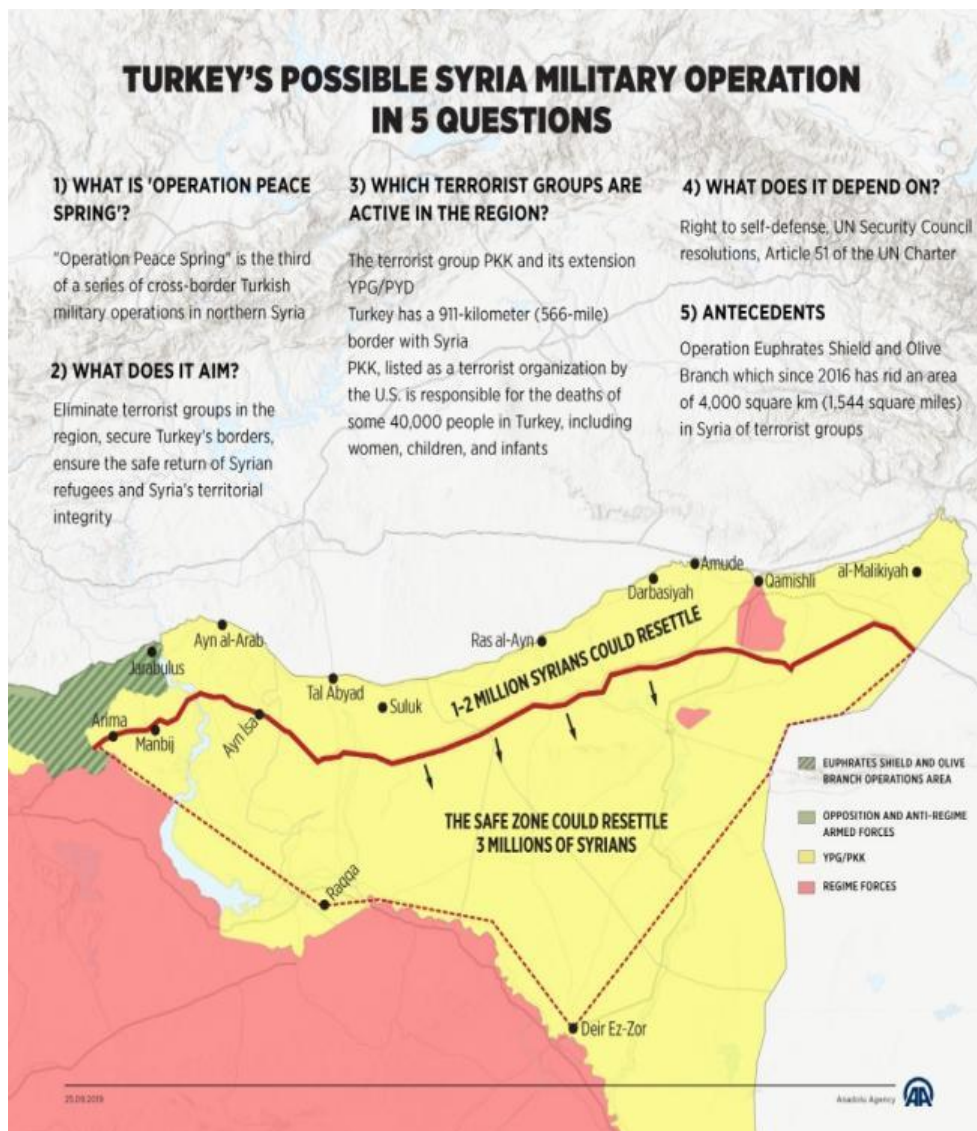


Operation Peace Spring

- ❖ It is an ongoing military operation conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces and the Syrian National Army against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Syrian Army in northeastern Syria.
- ❖ Recently the USA administration ordered American troops to withdraw from northeast Syria, where the United States had been supporting its Kurdish allies.
- ❖ According to Turkey, the operation is intended to expel the SDF from the border region as well as to create a 30 km-deep (20 mi) "safe zone" in Northern Syria where some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey would resettle.
- ❖ SDF is viewed as a terrorist organization by Turkey due to its ties with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) but SDF is considered an ally by the United States and its allies against ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

About Kurds

- ❖ Kurds are an Iranian ethnic group native to a mountainous region of Western Asia known as Kurdistan, which spans southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran, northern Iraq, and northern Syria.
- ❖ Kurds fighting in the Syrian Civil War were able to take control of large sections of northern Syria as government forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, withdrew to fight elsewhere.
- ❖ Having established their own government, they called for autonomy in a federal Syria.



First All Women Spacewalk

- ❖ The world's first all-female spacewalking team made history when they floated out of the International Space Station (ISS) to fix a broken part of the power network.
- ❖ Nasa astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir marked the first time in a half-century of spacewalking that a woman floated out “without a male” crewmate.
- ❖ America's first female spacewalker from 35 years ago, Kathy Sullivan greeted the team.
- ❖ Jessica Meir became the 228th person in the world to conduct a spacewalk and the 15th woman.
- ❖ It was the fourth spacewalk for Koch, who is seven months into an 11-month mission that will be the longest ever by a woman.

Project Sunrise – Longest Nonstop Flight

- ❖ Australia's flag carrier Qantas Airlines completed the world’s longest commercial airplane journey from New York to Sydney.
- ❖ Qantas researched how the world's longest potential commercial airplane journey of nearly 20 hours would impact pilots, crew and passengers.
- ❖ Qantas has announced three long-haul flights as part of its Project Sunrise.
- ❖ The project aims to run non-stop commercial flights on a regular basis from the east coast of Australia to London and New York.

Qantas plans direct flights connecting New York and London to Sydney





Interpol General Assembly

- ❖ India will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022.
- ❖ India's proposal received the support of member countries at this year's congregation at Santinago in Chile.
- ❖ The meet will be held as part of celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.
- ❖ Earlier, Interpol had hosted the general assembly in India in 1997.
- ❖ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) represents Interpol in India as the country's national central bureau.

Sri Lanka – Out of FATF

- ❖ The FATF (Financial Action Task Force) has removed Sri Lanka from its 'Grey List'.
- ❖ The FATF grouping monitors Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) procedures of member countries.
- ❖ The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7
- ❖ It aims to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- ❖ The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) headquarters in Paris.

Rohingya refugees

- ❖ Approximately 6,000-7,000 Rohingya refugees have agreed to be relocated to the newly built camp on the Bhashan Char Island.
- ❖ The Bhashan Char is an uninhabited island around 30 kilometre east of Hatiya island in the South East Bangladesh.
- ❖ Bhashan Char island was formed about two decades ago on the mouth of river Meghna.
- ❖ Rohingya people are a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnic group who reside in Rakhine State, Myanmar.
- ❖ The majority of it are Muslim while a minority are Hindu.

Ancient Mummies

- ❖ Egypt unveils its archeological discovery of 30 ancient coffins with mummies inside.
- ❖ These Mummies are dating back 3000 years ago.
- ❖ The coffins were for male and female priests and children and dated back to 10th century BC and the 22nd Pharaonic dynasty.
- ❖ The discovery was unveiled in front of Hatshepsut Temple at Valley of the Kings in Luxor city at Egypt.
- ❖ It is the first large human coffin cache ever discovered since the end of the 19th century.
- ❖ A mummy is the body of a person (or an animal) that has been preserved after death.





Wild Polio Virus 3 (WPV3) Eradicated

- ❖ In an announcement by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on World Polio Day (October 24), an independent commission of experts declared that wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) has been eradicated worldwide.
- ❖ This follows the eradication of smallpox and wild poliovirus type 2.
- ❖ With this, 2 out of 3 wild poliovirus strains have been eradicated.
- ❖ Efforts are being taken to eliminate the wild poliovirus type 1.
- ❖ This virus remains in circulation in just two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ There are three individual and immunologically distinct wild poliovirus strains
 - Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)
 - Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2)
 - Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3)

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019

- ❖ The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019 were announced recently.
- ❖ The award aims to motivate the protection of cultural heritage sites by any individual organization or by any private sector entity.
- ❖ They were established in 2000 and awarded in 4 different categories.
- ❖ India has won 4 awards in the following categories.

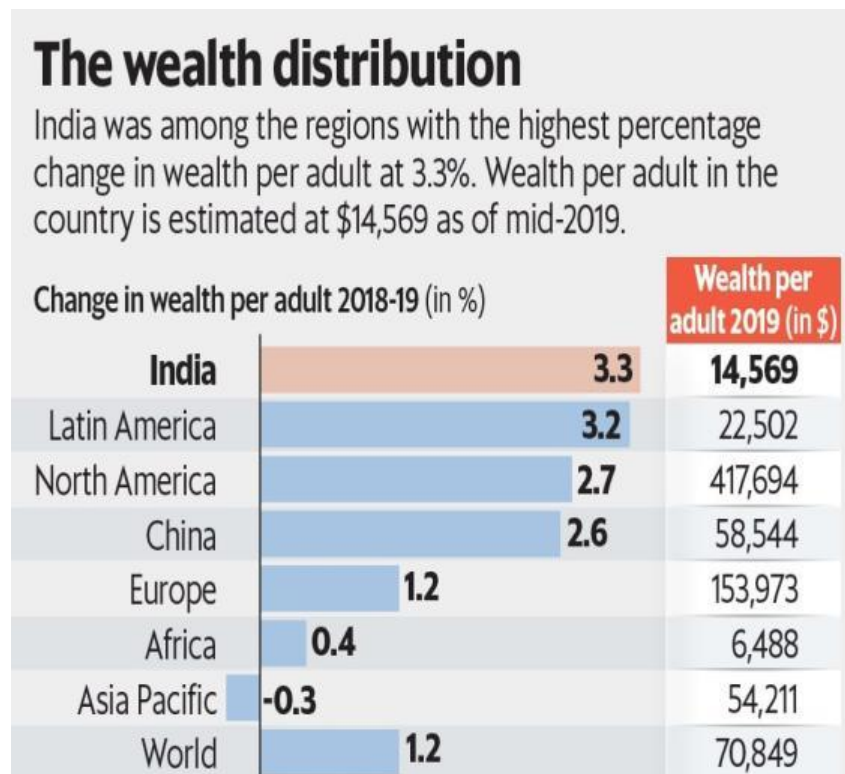
Category	Award
Award of Distinction	Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, (Ahmedabad) India
Award of Merit	Our Lady of Glory Church, Mumbai
	Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue, Mumbai
Honourable Mention	Flora Fountain, Mumbai
New Design in Heritage Contexts	None

Global Wealth Report 2019

- ❖ The Credit Suisse Group, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank, has released the 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report.
- ❖ Wealth is defined in terms of “net worth” of an individual.
- ❖ Net worth is derived by addition of the value of financial assets and real assets minus the debts held by an individual.

Key Stats

- ❖ China has overtaken the United States this year to become “the country with most people in the top 10% of global wealth distribution”.
- ❖ Just 47 million people owned half 44% of world’s wealth (\$158.3 trillion)
- ❖ In terms of percentage – 0.9% of people hold 44% of world’s wealth.
- ❖ The richest 10% own 82% of global wealth.
- ❖ The bottom half of wealth holders collectively accounted for less than 1% of total global wealth in mid-2019.



India specific Data

- ❖ India has fifth highest number of ultra-high net-worth individuals.



- ❖ Total wealth in India increased fourfold between 2000 and 2019, reaching \$12.6 trillion in 2019.
- ❖ India has 4,460 adults with wealth of over \$50 million and 1,790 that have more than \$100 million.
- ❖ India has 8.27 lakh adults in the top 1% of global wealth holders.
- ❖ India is expected to grow its wealth very rapidly and add \$4.4 trillion in the next five years.

Pakistan Denies Air Space for PM

- ❖ India had complaint with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) against Pakistan for its refusal to let the PM's plane go through its "airspace" to Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ ICAO has responded that flights carrying national leaders are considered as "state aircraft" and are not subject to its provisions.
- ❖ Governments cooperate in airspace under 'The Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)'.
- ❖ It also has added that, the convention only applies to the operations of civilian aircraft and not to any military aircraft.

G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Conference

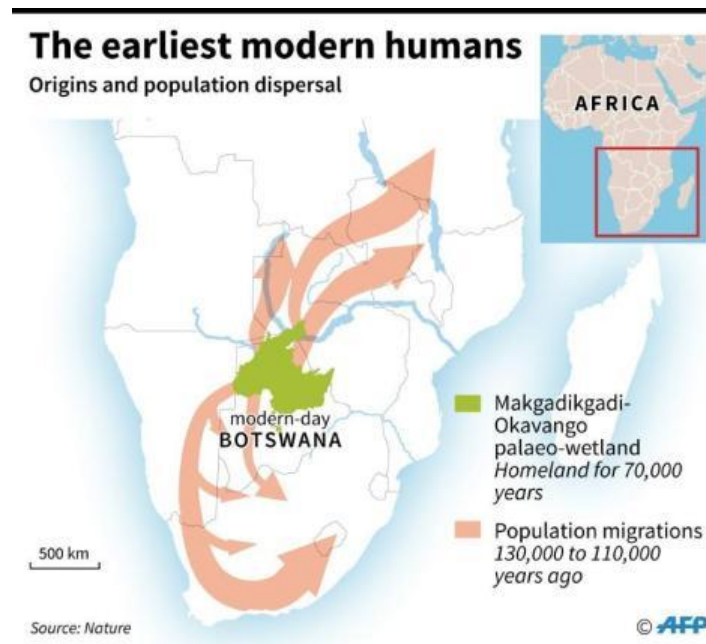
- ❖ Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan represented India at the two-day G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Conference in Japan.
- ❖ He highlighted FIT India Movement, Eat Right campaigns and achievements under Ayushman Bharath Scheme.
- ❖ Four major global health issues discussed at the meet were
 - Achievement of Universal Health Coverage
 - Response to population ageing
 - Management of health risks
 - Health security management including Anti-Microbial Resistance and its containment.

Colombo Declaration on Nitrogen Challenges

- ❖ Spearheaded by Sri Lanka, United Nations Environment Programme and UN member states have endorsed a proposed roadmap for action on “nitrogen challenges”.
- ❖ It is called the Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.
- ❖ A campaign on sustainable nitrogen management called “Nitrogen for Life” would be held in more than 30 countries.

Modern Human Origin @ Botswana

- ❖ Scientists have discovered that Modern humans emerged 2,00,000 years ago in a region of northern Botswana, Africa.
- ❖ While it has long been known that modern humans (Homo sapiens) originated in Africa, scientists have until now been unable to pinpoint the precise location of our species’ birthplace.
- ❖ A team analysed mitochondrial DNA samples from 1200 Khoesan people to arrive at the conclusion.
- ❖ Mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down exclusively from mother to child, was used to map out the oldest known maternal line of humans alive today.
- ❖ Researchers suggest that the swathe of land south of the Zambezi River became a thriving home to Homo sapiens 200,000 years ago.





ECONOMY

DIN Number - CBDT

- ❖ The Documentation Identification Number (DIN) system of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has been launched.
- ❖ From now onwards every communication with CBDT, be it a notice, letter, order and summon or any other correspondence, will have to have a DIN.
- ❖ Manual communications are allowed only under exceptional circumstances.
- ❖ DIN provides for a transparent and recorded communication between the income tax department and taxpayers.
- ❖ It is also expected to result in better services to taxpayers without any possible harassment.

Online filing system – ARTIS

- ❖ The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) launched an online system Applications for Remedies in Trade for Indian Industry and other Stakeholders (ARTIS).
- ❖ It will be used for filing anti-dumping applications by the domestic industry for speedy resolution of dumping issues.

DGTR

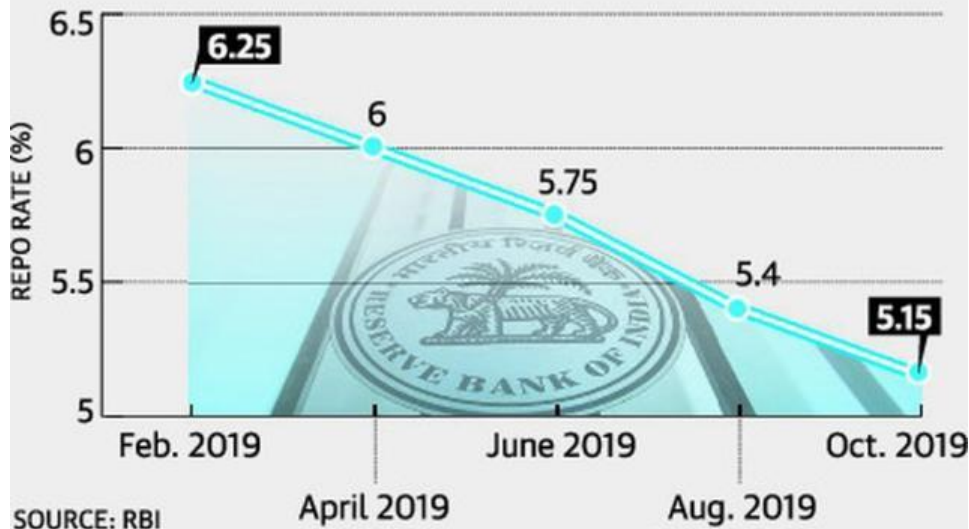
- ❖ DGTR is working under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ DGTR is an apex national authority for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.

Monetary Policy Committee Review

- ❖ The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI has announced cut in the key policy rates.
- ❖ For the fifth consecutive time this calendar year, the central bank cut the repo rate by 25 bps and the reverse repo by 25 bps (100 bps = 1 per cent).
- ❖ Now the repo rate stands at 5.15 per cent and reverse repo rate at 4.90 per cent.
- ❖ It also revised its growth forecast for the current financial from 6.9% to 6.1%.

Free fall

The RBI made another rate cut on Friday, the fifth in as many policy review meetings, to boost a slowing economy



Green Channel Route

- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval under the 'green channel' route to acquisition of Essel Mutual Fund by BAC Acquisitions.
- ❖ This is the first clearance under the 'green channel' route.
- ❖ Green Channel is a speedier approval mechanism put in place by the CCI.

GOAL

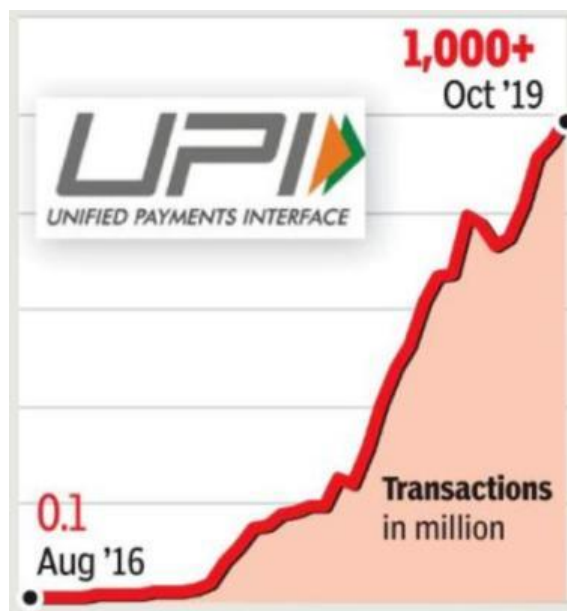
- ❖ Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) is a Facebook program launched for underprivileged young tribal women.
- ❖ It aimed at inspiring, guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities.
- ❖ Ministry of Tribal Affairs associated with Facebook have recently launched the 2nd phase of this program.

South Asia Focus – World Bank Report

- ❖ In its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, the World Bank has said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6 per cent this fiscal (2019-20).
- ❖ Domestic demand has slipped in India, with private consumption growing 3.1 per cent in the last quarter from 7.3 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ Manufacturing growth plummeted to below 1 per cent in the second quarter of 2019 compared to over 10 per cent a year ago.
- ❖ It added that Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019 and overall growth in South Asia is projected to slow down.

1 Billion UPI Transactions

- ❖ Transactions using India's own domestic payments platform, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) hit a landmark of one billion in October 2019.



- ❖ The UPI also recently crossed 100 million users, making it the fastest adoption of any payments system in the world.
- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the UPI platform, aims to take the network global by enabling acceptance of UPI in Singapore and the UAE.
- ❖ NPCI launched UPI in 2016 to promote digital payments.
- ❖ UPI enables users to send money from their account to any account without entering bank details by using an email-like handle or scanning a QR code.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Right to be Forgotten on Internet

- ❖ The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that an online privacy rule known as the 'right to be forgotten' under European law would not apply beyond the borders of EU member states.
- ❖ The 'right to be forgotten' on the Internet empowers "individuals" to ask organisations to delete their personal data.
- ❖ It is provided by the European Union's (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a law passed by the 28-member bloc in 2018.

How it works?

- ❖ A search engine company like Google gets requests under the privacy law to get information deleted.
- ❖ It first reviews and then removes links on country-specific sites within the European Union.

5000th railway station with Wi-fi

- ❖ The Midnapore railway station of West Bengal became the 5000th railway station to be enabled with Wi-fi.
- ❖ The project for providing Wi-fi was started by RailTel in 2016.
- ❖ Mumbai central railway station was the first for wi-fi implementation.
- ❖ RailTel is a Public Sector Unit (PSU) under the Ministry of Railways.

Land attack version of BrahMos

- ❖ The (DRDO), successfully test fired the land attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise from Chandipur coast in Odisha in its Balasore district.
- ❖ It has a strike range of 290 km.
- ❖ This missile can be fired from both land and sea-based platforms.



Israeli MP-ATGM

- ❖ Indian Army inducted a limited number of small Spike man portable anti-tank guided missiles (MP-ATGM) of Israel.
- ❖ This MP-ATGM is of third-generation category and will have features like a missile range of 250 kms.
- ❖ It also has advanced avionics and night vision capabilities.

Minuteman III - intercontinental ballistic missile

- ❖ The US Air Force has successfully tested an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- ❖ The nuclear-capable Minuteman III missile used in the test was equipped with a test re-entry vehicle.
- ❖ It travelled approximately 4,200 miles (6,750km).
- ❖ It was the first US missile fitted with Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs).
- ❖ This MIRVs enable it to carry up to three different warheads that can strike independent targets.



Interconnect Usage Charge

- ❖ Reliance Jio announced it would start charging customers Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC)
- ❖ It would be at the rate of 6 paise per minute.
- ❖ IUC refers to an arrangement under which telecom players connect their equipment, networks and services with other Telecom Services Providers.

IUC Charges

- ❖ Currently only calls made via wireless to wireless devices attract IUC in India.
- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has fixed the IUC rates at 6 paise per minute.
- ❖ TRAI wants to bring IUC to zero from January 1, 2020.
- ❖ TRAI is ending IUC because it was assumed all networks would move to VoLTE.
- ❖ Jio is entirely a VoLTE network, but Vodafone and Airtel continue to offer their legacy 2G and 3G networks as well.

Gaganyaan Training @ Russia – Citizen Familiarisation @ VSSC

- ❖ India's first 'Gaganyaan' human space flight mission is slated to take off in 2022.
- ❖ The Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S. Somnath has informed that the training for its crew, drawn from among experienced Indian Air Force pilots, has already commenced in Russia.
- ❖ The short duration Gaganyaan mission will be undertaken at the low earth orbit (LEO) within 300-400 km from Earth.
- ❖ VSSC also invited 400 senior citizens around India as part of the World Space Week -2019 and citizen familiarisation programme.

Plastic-eating bacteria

- ❖ A team of researchers at Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida, have discovered two 'plastic-eating' bacteria.
- ❖ These bacterial strains namely *Exiguobacterium sibiricum* strain DR11 and *Exiguobacterium undae* strain DR14.
- ❖ The strains have the great potential to decompose polystyrene, which is a key component in Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items such as disposable cups, cutlery, toys, packaging materials etc



First Satellite Servicing Spacecraft

- ❖ The first satellite-servicing spacecraft named “MEV-1” (Mission Extension Vehicle-1) was launched on the Russian Proton rocket that took off from Russia’s launching site for spacecraft in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It was developed by Northrop Grumman, US in partnership with NASA partnership called Collaborations for Commercial Space Capabilities.
- ❖ The MEV functions in tracking down and connecting to any satellite in space that’s running low on fuel and replenish its supply.
- ❖ So, it aims to extend the life of commercial satellites that are currently in a geostationary orbit around Earth.

ICON space weather satellite

- ❖ NASA successfully launched Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) space weather satellite from Florida, United States.
- ❖ Ionospheric is the layer of the earth’s atmosphere that contains a high concentration of ions and free electrons and is able to reflect radio waves.
- ❖ It will study the dynamic zone in an atmosphere where terrestrial weather from below meets space weather from above for 2 years.
- ❖ Previously in 2018, NASA had launched a satellite named Gold which is studying the upper atmosphere.

NASA Spacesuits for Women

- ❖ Nasa has unveiled two spacesuits designed to be worn by the first woman to walk on the moon.
- ❖ The next-generation suits were made for the Artemis programme.



Guardian graphic. Source: Nasa

- ❖ Artemis aims to land the first woman and next man on the moon by 2024.
- ❖ The garment, known as the exploration extravehicular mobility unit (xEMU), is designed for exploring the lunar surface, specifically the south pole.
- ❖ The suit is more flexible than previous generation suits and allows astronauts to actually walk on the moon.
- ❖ It is a one size fits all space suit.

Automated Real-Time Performance Smart-board

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) unveiled an Automated Real-Time Performance Smart-board for effective monitoring of the key programmes of the government including Digital India, Aadhaar, Digital Payments, etc.
- ❖ The performance of the Smart-board is aimed to be single window access for the Central govt., State govt. or District for specific projects implemented by MeitY.



- ❖ The smart-board is in line with PM's vision for a New Digital India.
- ❖ During an event to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also unveiled the 'Digital Charkha', an art installation at the IT Ministry.
- ❖ Digital Charkha is an amalgamation of the traditional design with a digital spin.

Leadership Expeditions

- ❖ It is a global initiative by the French's National Centre for Space Studies, that conducts leadership expeditions for women in science to Antarctica.
- ❖ In its 5th edition, Priyanka Das Rajkakati, a 27-year-old woman, originally from Assam, has been selected.
- ❖ It is a one-year long programme where women with STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) backgrounds will be trained.

Van Allen Probes mission

- ❖ NASA recently decommissioned its 7-year-old Van Allen Probes mission.
- ❖ It consists of 2 satellites in Van Allen belts to study space weather and the radiation belts around the Earth.
- ❖ Van Allen radiation belts are giant swaths of magnetically trapped, highly energetic charged particles that surround earth.
- ❖ The mission studied how these radiation rings acquire and lose electromagnetic particles.
- ❖ James Van Allen, a physicist at the University of Iowa, discovered these radiation belts in 1958.

Quantum Supremacy

- ❖ Using the company's state-of-the-art quantum computer called Sycamore, Google has claimed "quantum supremacy" over the most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- ❖ It claimed that Sycamore completed a complex computation in 200 seconds.
- ❖ The most powerful supercomputers existing today would approximately take 10,000 years to finish the same problem.

- ❖ Sycamore consists of microscopic circuits of superconducting metal that entangle 53 qubits in a complex superposition state.

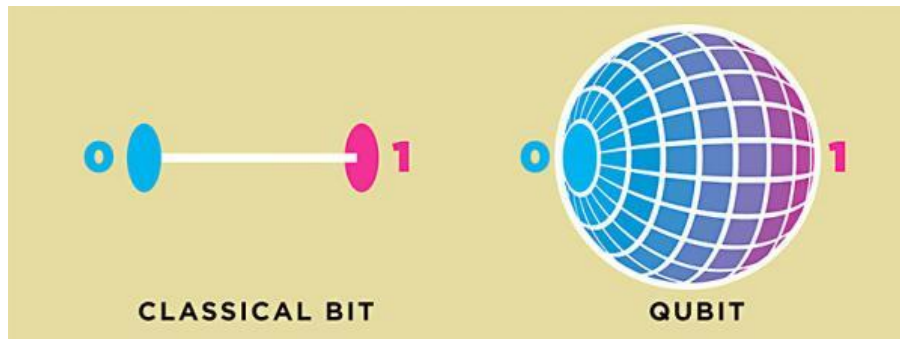


About

- ❖ Quantum supremacy (QS) is the point at which quantum computers can solve problems that are practically unsolvable for “classical” (non-quantum) computers to complete in any reasonable timeframe.
- ❖ The term QS was originally popularized by American theoretical physicist John Preskill.
- ❖ Yuri Manin (1980) and Richard Feynman (1981) had proposed quantum computing.
- ❖ Quantum Supremacy is also known as “quantum advantage”.
- ❖ It is generally believed that at least 49 qubits are required to cross the quantum supremacy line.

Qubits

- ❖ In computers, Bits represent either a “1” or a “0”.
- ❖ In contrast, qubits can represent a combination state made up of both “1” and “0”.



ENVIRONMENT

Total Carbon on Earth

- ❖ A 10-year programme at the US National Academy of Sciences called “Deep Carbon Observatory” has released the estimated total carbon on Earth.
- ❖ The program was started in 2009.
- ❖ It also includes an analysis of the total carbon dioxide released by volcanoes.
- ❖ Humanity’s annual carbon emissions are 40 to 100 times greater than all volcanic emissions.
- ❖ It estimates that total carbon on earth is around 1.85 billion giga tonnes.

1.85 BILLION GIGATONNES: TOTAL CARBON ON EARTH	
<p>BELOW THE SURFACE 1.845 BILLION Gigatonnes (Gt). This includes: 1.5 BILLION Gt in lower mantle. 315 MILLION Gt in continental and oceanic lithospheres 30 MILLION Gt carbon in the upper mantle</p>	<p>ABOVE THE SURFACE 43,500 Gt. This includes: 37,000 Gt in the deep ocean (85.1%) 3,000 Gt in marine sediments (6.9%) 2,000 Gt in terrestrial biosphere (4.6%) 900 GT in the surface ocean (2%) 590 Gt in the atmosphere (1.4%)</p>

1,400 km Long Great ‘Green Wall’ of India

- ❖ The Centre is mulling an ambitious plan to create a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt from Gujarat to the Delhi-Haryana border.
- ❖ It is a project to combat climate change and desertification.
- ❖ The green belt may not be contiguous, but would roughly cover the entire degraded Aravali range from Porbandar to Panipat.

- ❖ It will be modelled on the lines of the “Great Green Wall” running through the width of Africa, from Dakar (Senegal) to Djibouti.

SHIELD AGAINST DESERT



- Forest belt likely to run roughly from **Porbandar to Panipat**, covering entire Aravali range and beyond
- ‘Green wall’ will act as barrier for dust from west and check eastward march of Thar desert
- It will check desertification by **restoring degraded land through massive afforestation**
- Project yet to get formal nod, details to be worked out

Rough contours of proposed 1,400km ‘green wall’

Climate Coordination with China, Pakistan

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has decided to focus on better “data gathering” and provide climate forecast services to neighbouring countries including China and Pakistan.
- ❖ IMD aims to better gauge the impact of climate change on the Hindu Kush mountains, which includes the Himalayas.

Third Pole

- ❖ The Hindu-Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region is considered the third pole after the North and South Poles and it has significant implications for climate.
- ❖ The third pole, which contains vast cryospheric zones is also the world’s largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region and source of 10 major rivers.
- ❖ Therefore, it is extremely sensitive to climate change.
- ❖ HKH region spans across the following countries

Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	China
India	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Myanmar
Nepal	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan



Asia Environmental Enforcement Award

- ❖ Senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Ramesh Pandey has been selected for the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.
- ❖ He has been awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ The 1996-batch IFS officer, posted as Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow has been commended for
 - Investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers
 - Combating trans-boundary environmental crime
- ❖ The award aims to recognise outstanding achievements by public organisations and individuals in Asia to combat transboundary environmental crime.

Annual Ganges Dolphin Census

- ❖ WWF (India) and members of Uttar Pradesh forest department (UPFD) have launched the annual census of Gangetic Dolphin as part of the 'My Ganga, My Dolphin' campaign.
- ❖ Officials from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site within the upper Ganga stretch also joined the survey team.



- ❖ The census is part of an annual dolphin mapping exercise that first began in 2015.
- ❖ 33 dolphins were spotted in 2018, including three calves.
- ❖ The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal.
- ❖ It is also the official animal of the Guwahati city.

Regions covered

- ❖ Usually carried out along the Ganges from Bijnor barrage to Narora barrage, covering five districts inside Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

Additional regions covered in 2019

- ❖ Starts from Bijnor, Uttrakhand and covers a 255km-stretch till the Ramsar site at Narora barrage.

Technique

- ❖ The census will be done with the help of dolphin expert Gill Braulik, using tandem boat survey method.
- ❖ It comprises of two boats, each with some observers and one data recorder.

Mobile app & website for Environment Protection in Government Colonies

- ❖ Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched a new mobile app named “mHariyali” and website “Environment Protection in Government Colonies” in New Delhi.
- ❖ It encourages people to plant trees and for Green drives.
- ❖ It provides for automatic geotagging of plants, is user-friendly and works on any android mobile phone.
- ❖ Both app & website are developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)-Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- ❖ The public can upload any information related to their actions on environment protection which will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in.

Thylacines of Tasmania

- ❖ Tasmania has reported that Thylacines, which were believed to be extinct were spotted again recently.
- ❖ Thylacine, which is said to have gone extinct over 80 years ago, has been spotted across Tasmania 8 times during 2016 -2019.

- ❖ They are one of the largest known carnivorous marsupials, evolving about 4 million years ago.
- ❖ Thylacines are commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger because of its striped lower back.

thylacine, Tasmanian wolf, Tasmanian tiger
(*Thylacinus cynocephalus*)

30 cm 
12 inches 



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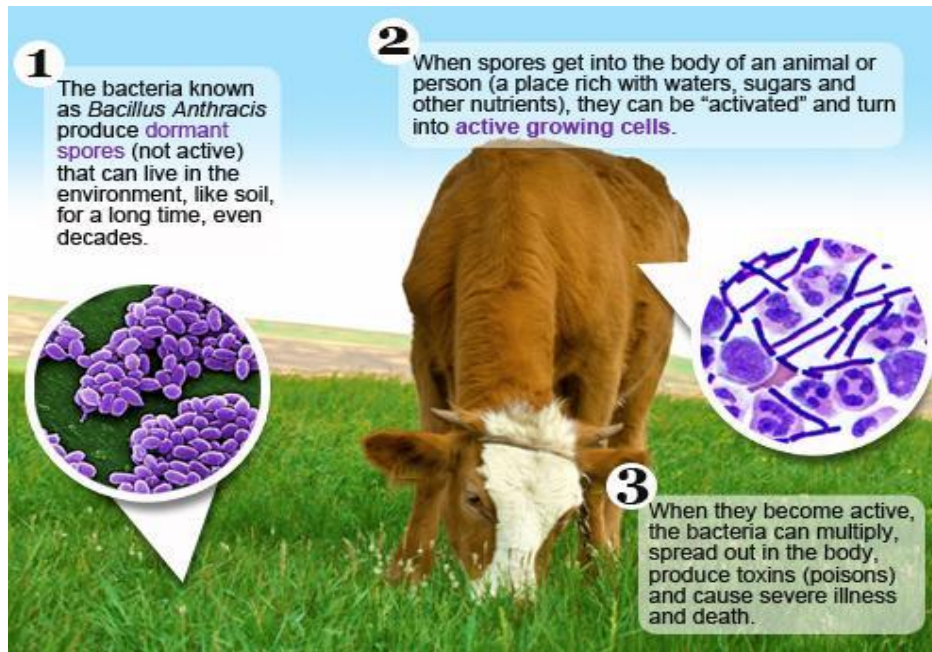
World's Loudest Bird – White Bellbird

- ❖ According to the study, published in the journal Current Biology, the male white bellbird is found to be the loudest ever recorded birds in the world.
- ❖ The male white bellbird's mating call is about three times louder than screaming phias (the previously loudest bird singer)
- ❖ The mating songs pack more decibels (upto 124.5 decibels) than the screams of howler monkeys and the bellows of bisons.



Anthrax scare – Assam

- ❖ A buffalo death due to Anthrax has been reported at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- ❖ Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest concentration of one-horned rhinos in the world and is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' due to similar landscape and vegetation.
- ❖ Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by bacteria known as *Bacillus anthracis*.
- ❖ Anthrax can be fatal for humans who come in contact with infected animals.
- ❖ It does not typically spread directly between people
- ❖ It can occur in four forms: skin, lungs, intestinal, and injection.
- ❖ It is characterised by blisters around swellings on the skin, chest pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and fever.



Saharan Silver Ants

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the world's fastest ant which runs at speeds equivalent of 360mph in humans.
- ❖ The [Saharan silver ant](#) — named after where it lives — can put in 50 [strides](#) a second, covering a distance of nearly a metre.
- ❖ These Ants are found at the deserts of Douz, Tunisia.

Snow- Leopard Survey

- ❖ India will commission its first-ever snow leopard survey to estimate the population and geographical range of the snow leopard.
- ❖ It is a member of the genus 'Panthera' to which tiger, leopard and lion also belong.
- ❖ Its Scientific name is "Panthera uncia".
- ❖ In 2017, status of Snow leopard in the Red List of the IUCN was changed from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable'.
- ❖ India is home to 10% of the global population of snow leopards.



Global Mobility Report

- ❖ According to a report by Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All), not a single country (developed or developing) is on track to achieve ‘sustainability’ in the transportation sector and attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandated by the United Nations.
- ❖ SuM4All is an umbrella organisation (public and private organisations) focused on implementing the SDGs and transforming the transport sector.
- ❖ It says that halving the pollution caused by the transport sector can help an additional 1.6 billion people to breathe cleaner air.
- ❖ The report has also released a Global Roadmap for Action (GRA).
- ❖ GRA is a catalogue of policy measures that have been used and tested around the world to achieve four policy goals.
 - Universal Access
 - Efficiency
 - Green Mobility
 - Safety

STATES

ERSS-112 and PRAKHAR Crime Vans – Delhi

- ❖ Union Ministry for Home Affairs launched the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) helpline number and PRAKHAR street crime patrol van in Delhi.
- ❖ ERSS-112 helpline system has been developed as a nationwide single emergency number for emergency services - police, fire, and ambulance.
- ❖ It will gradually phase out the other three emergency helpline numbers.
- ❖ This single number for emergency services is similar to “112” in the European Union and “911” in the United States of America.



- ❖ Delhi becomes the 19th state/UT to have adopted ERSS-112.
- ❖ PRAKHAR is a street crime patrol van, for patrolling at crime hot spot locations.
- ❖ Prakhar vans are different from regular patrol vans as these vans carry more firepower and are equipped with modern technology.

Fully electrified state in India

- ❖ Telangana has become one the fully electrified states in the country after providing electricity to over 5 lakh 15 thousand households under the Soubhagya Yojana.

Saubhagya Scheme

- ❖ The scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana is aims to provide electricity to all households.
- ❖ The project was announced in September 2017 by the central government.

Ban on pan masala

- ❖ Rajasthan became the third state in India to ban certain categories of pan masala containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, mineral oil and flavoured 'supari' under the Food Safety Act.
- ❖ Even the production, storage, distribution and sale of these products is banned.
- ❖ Earlier Maharashtra and Bihar banned the same.

Chhattisgarh Government's New Schemes

- ❖ Chhattisgarh government launched 5 new schemes.
- ❖ The details of the schemes as follows

i. Mukhyamantri Suposhan Abhiyaan

- ❖ Under this Chief Minister Nutrition Scheme, fresh and nutritious food is provided to malnourished children and anaemic women with the help of panchayats and self-help groups.

ii. Mukhyamantri Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana

- ❖ Under this Chief Minister Market Clinic Scheme, mobile teams of health department along with doctors and necessary equipment will visit local haat-bazaars to provide health facilities in remote tribal and forest areas of the state.

iii. Mukhyamantri Shahariya Slum Swasthya Yojana



- ❖ Under this Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, mobile medical team along with available health facilities will cater to health care needs of over 7 lakh 80 thousand people.
- ❖ Initially 3 mobile medical teams will be deployed in Raipur, 2 each in Bhilai and Korba and one each in other municipalities.

iv. The Universal PDS

- ❖ Under this Public Distribution System scheme, general category families (taxpayers and non-taxpayers) are eligible for food grains.
- ❖ Families with single member will be eligible for 10 kg of rice per month, a family of 2 members will get 20 kg of rice per month and family of 3 and more than 3 members will get 35 kg of rice per month at a cost of Rs 10 per kg.

v. Mukhyamantri Ward Karyalayas

- ❖ Under this Chief Minister Ward Offices scheme, city people will be provided immediate availability of citizen services and facilities according to their demands.

National Law University Bill 2019

- ❖ The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik has given assent to the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Bill 2019.
- ❖ It aims at establishing a National Law University in the state of J&K.
- ❖ It will help to disseminate knowledge about law and legal processes and promote legal awareness to achieve political, social and economic justice.

Village Secretariat – AP

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government have created new administrative organ termed as Village Secretariats.
- ❖ A little over 1.26 lakh people have been hired for village and ward secretariats.
- ❖ A total of 11,158 village secretariats and 3,786 ward secretariats are functioning from October 2, 2019.
- ❖ The government aims to decentralize administration for more accountability and transparency.
- ❖ The new employees of the state government will essentially ensure that government services work seamlessly, and will try to fix issues reported to them.

Mo Sarkar – Odisha Government

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched his government's new governance initiative 'Mo Sarkar' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- ❖ The objective of the 'Mo Sarkar' programme is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes.
- ❖ The phone numbers of people who are coming to government offices will be collected randomly.
- ❖ They will be called back to collect feedback on behaviour and professionalism of government officers.
- ❖ The employees will be ranked as good or bad on the basis of the feedback received.

Hyderi Manjil – Kolkatta

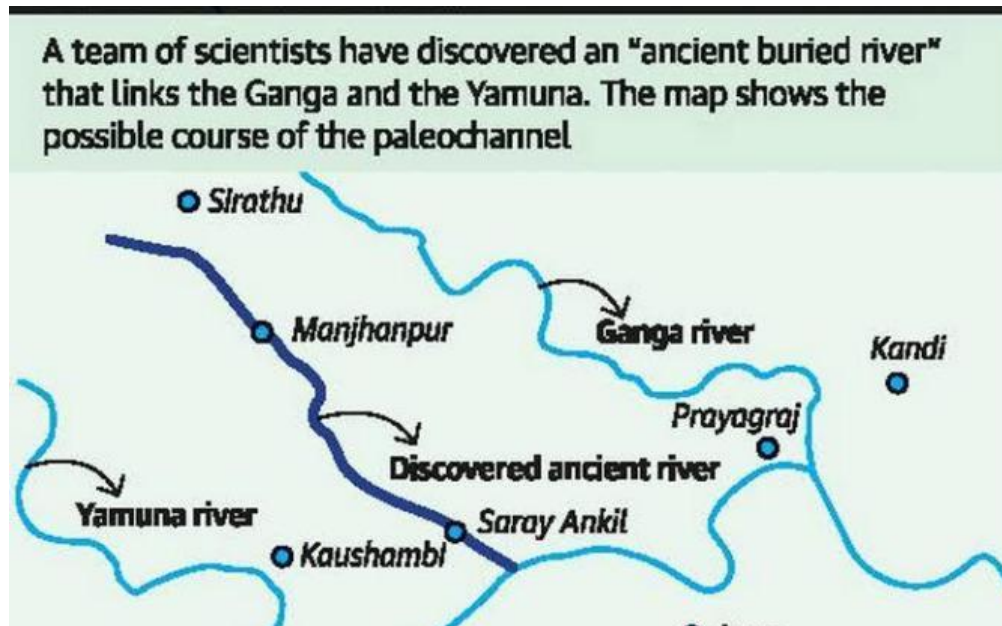
- ❖ The historical Hyderi Manjil house in Kolkatta has been turned into a full-fledged Museum.



- ❖ Gandhiji had stayed here in this house in August and September of 1947 and away from the celebration of Independence.
- ❖ He sat on an indefinite fast to end the communal violence in Kolkatta during that period.

Ancient Buried River in UP

- ❖ The Union Water Ministry has excavated an old, dried-up river in Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad) that linked the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.
- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) aims to develop it as a potential groundwater recharge source.



- ❖ This “ancient buried river” is around 4 km wide, 45 km long and consisted of a 15-metre-thick layer buried under soil.
- ❖ Evidence from palaeochannels suggest that the mythological Saraswati river might have existed.
- ❖ A palaeochannel is a remnant of an inactive river or stream channel that has been filled or buried by younger sediment.
- ❖ The discovery was made last December by a team of scientists from the CSIR-NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute) and the Central Groundwater Board.

First e-waste clinic: Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country’s first e-waste clinic in Bhopal.
- ❖ The clinic is being conceived in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- ❖ This would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
- ❖ Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.

Drone Delivery of Medicines – Telangana

- ❖ The Telangana government has adopted a framework to use drones for last-mile delivery of essential medical supplies.
- ❖ Supplies such as blood and medical samples will be delivered through drone.
- ❖ Objective: To increase the access to healthcare to communities across the state.
- ❖ The framework has been co-designed by
 - The World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - Apollo Hospitals Group
- ❖ It is a part of the WEF’s “Medicine from the Sky” initiative.
- ❖ Telangana government awaits approval for its drone policy from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).



YSR Vahana Mitra scheme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has launched ‘YSR Vahana Mitra scheme’.
- ❖ under this scheme the government will provide a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per annum to owner-driver of an auto-rickshaw, or taxicab.
- ❖ This assistance aims to meet their insurance premium, licence fee and other recurring expenses.

Policy on Pneumoconiosis

- ❖ Rajasthan government launched ‘Policy on Pneumoconiosis Detection, Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation’.

- ❖ With this, Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch such a policy.
- ❖ In January 2015, it had become the first Indian state to notify Pneumoconiosis as an epidemic.
- ❖ Pneumoconiosis is a disease of the lungs due to inhalation of dust, characterized by inflammation, coughing, and fibrosis.

Benefits to people suffering from pneumoconiosis and their families

Rehabilitation assistance

₹400,000 as one-time assistance to the affected person after certification by pneumoconiosis board

Assistance on death

₹100,000 to legal heir/ nominee when pneumoconiosis patient dies

Rehabilitation pension

₹4000 per month or 50% of the prescribed minimum wages of unskilled workers, whichever is higher during lifetime of worker

Family pension

Family pension of ₹3,500 per month to legal heir or dependent for a period of 5 years or till the child/ children become self-dependent, whichever is later, provided

Financial assistance for education

One-time education assistance of ₹25,000 for children limited to maximum of two

Funeral assistance

Funeral assistance of ₹10,000 to dependents for last rites of pneumoconiosis victim

39th World Congress of Poets – Bhubaneshwar

- ❖ The 39th World Congress of Poets (WCP) was inaugurated at a private institution in Bhubaneshwar.
- ❖ It was held in English, Spanish and Chinese.
- ❖ The theme of the event was Compassion through Poetry.
- ❖ It celebrates the power of poetry to create a more compassionate world.
- ❖ The WCP was founded in 1969 by Amado M. Yuzon, Krishna Srinivas, Lou Lutour and Tin-Wen Chung.
- ❖ The first event was held at Manila, Philippines.

Kerala Bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its final nod to Kerala Government for the formation of Kerala Bank.
- ❖ The Kerala Bank will be the largest banking network in the state.
- ❖ The district cooperative banks of all the 14 districts in the state (barring the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank) had approved the state government's amalgamation scheme.
- ❖ The new bank is expected to strengthen cooperative sector in Kerala.
- ❖ Pending court cases against the merger are expected to go in favour of state as RBI has given approval.

Uttarakhand Mobile Chariots – Wildlife Week

- ❖ The Uttarakhand forest department has launched mobile chariots to spread awareness on tackling human-animal conflict.
- ❖ The chariots were launched on October 1 and also in connection with Wildlife Awareness Week.
- ❖ They will travel across the state to sensitise people on the conflict and how to prevent loss of lives.
- ❖ Locals will be shown films and have sessions about wildlife to raise awareness.
- ❖ Leopard attacks are frequent in Pithorgarh, Champawat, Pauri and Almora districts of the state.





Kanyashree University @ West Bengal

- ❖ The West Bengal government has taken the initiative to set up a Kanyashree University and Kanyashree colleges across the state under Kanyashree Scheme.
- ❖ CM Mamata Banerjee had laid the foundation stone of the new university at Krishna nagar in Nadia district in January.
- ❖ Kanyashree university would be only for women.
- ❖ The main objective of the scheme is to ensure that girls study in schools and colleges and delay their marriages until the age of 18 years.

About

- ❖ West Bengal government had started the Kanyashree scheme in 2013.
- ❖ It had earlier won the UN award in 2017 for Public Service.

YSR Kanti Velugu Scheme 2019

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Government launched YSR Kanti Velugu Scheme 2019 at on the occasion of World Sight Day.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the natives of Andhra Pradesh can screen their eyes free of cost and spectacles will also be provided.
- ❖ It is a part of the Fit India Movement.
- ❖ A task force headed by the Collector would monitor the programme in each district.

Ban on Red Chillies against Elephants – Uttrakhand

- ❖ Acting on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Uttarakhand high court has directed the forest department to stop the use of chili powder and crackers to affect elephant movements.
- ❖ The pachyderms travel from Ramnagar to Corbett Tiger Reserve to river Kosi.
- ❖ To reach river Kosi, they cross a patch of the National Highway 121 along three elephant corridors
 - Kota elephant corridor
 - Chilkiya – Kota elephant corridor
 - South Patlidun – Chilkiya elephant corridor



Maternity Benefits in Private Sector - Kerala

- ❖ Kerala has become the first state to bring private schools and colleges under the ambit of the Maternity Benefit Act.
- ❖ The Union Government has recently given approval for the state cabinet decision to bring employees in the private educational sector including those working in the unaided sector, under the ambit of the act.

About the Act

- ❖ It provides protection to women during the time of maternity.
- ❖ It also gives women the cover of maternity benefit — to be absent from work without loss of pay while taking care of the child.
- ❖ The original Act of 1961 authorises women paid leave of 12 weeks.
- ❖ The amendment in 2017 extended it to 26 weeks.

APPSC – No Interview Stage in Recruitment

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to remove the “Interview Component” in the recruitment process of the APPSC (Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission).
- ❖ Government staff hired from January 2020 will not have to go through any interviews and will be hired solely based on their performance in the selection exams.
- ❖ The decision is hailed as a step towards ensuring transparency in hiring process.
- ❖ The state government had earlier declared that every January would be observed as the ‘month of recruitment’.
- ❖ Tests would be held throughout the month to fill up vacancies in government departments.

Highest Dry Districts – Haryana

- ❖ Haryana had the highest number of dry districts, 19 out of 21.
- ❖ The overall monsoon deficiency in Haryana was 42%, which made it the driest state in the country in the season after Manipur (-56%).
- ❖ India Meteorological Department (IMD) defines “deficient” rainfall in a district as rainfall that is 20% to 59% below normal.
- ❖ Deficiency of 60% or more falls in the “scanty” or “large deficient” category.



- ❖ India experienced its wettest monsoon in 25 years.
- ❖ However, 154 districts in the country — more than one in every five for which data is available — received deficient or scanty rainfall in the season.

Conflicts in Karnataka State Information Commission

- ❖ Nine serving state information commissioners of Karnataka have written a letter to the Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala against the State Chief Information Commissioner N C Srinivas.
- ❖ The letter flayed the commissioner for his reported misbehaviour and his incapacity as the chief information commissioner.
- ❖ Karnataka Information Commission is constituted by the State Government through a Gazette Notification.
- ❖ The Commission includes one State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and not more than 10 State Information Commissioners (SIC) who will be appointed by the Governor.
- ❖ The Right to Information Act, 2005 provides for the creation of State Information Commission at the State level.

Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR)

- ❖ The second phase of an Indo-Dutch project called Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse, was launched at in New Delhi by the Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan and the Dutch Royal couple, Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima.
- ❖ The Dutch Royal couple is on a five-day visit to India at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ This trip will be King Willem-Alexander's first state visit to India following his ascension to the throne in 2013.
- ❖ It is a water treatment laboratory that seeks to treat dirty water from Drain.
- ❖ Technology being used in LOTUS-HR is called wetland technique.
- ❖ It is jointly supported by Department of Biotechnology, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research.
- ❖ Moreover, IIT-Delhi and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) are partners in this project.



Rani Chenamma – Karnataka

- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa inaugurated Kittur Utsav in Kittur.
- ❖ The three-day festivities included sports, cultural programmes and lectures on the kingdom of Rani Channamma.
- ❖ She (1778 – 1829) was an Indian freedom fighter and Rani of the Kittur, a former princely state in Karnataka and one of the first female freedom fighters.
- ❖ She led an armed force against the British East India Company in 1824 in defiance of the doctrine of lapse.

Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project

- ❖ The Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank signed a US\$165 million loan agreement for the Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture.
- ❖ Loaned by: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- ❖ Project Under: National Action Plan on Climate Change of Government of India.
- ❖ It will benefit about 125,000 smallholder farmer households from 15 districts of Odisha.
- ❖ Since 2009, the frequency of droughts in Odisha has increased from 1 in 5 years to 1 in 2 years.

Mukhya Mantri Kanyah Vivah Yojana - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government has introduced the 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah/Nikah Yojna'.
- ❖ As per the government scheme, brides from economically backward sections of the state are eligible to receive Rs. 51,000 if they prove that the groom's house has a toilet before the wedding.
- ❖ For that, it has been made mandatory for the groom to click a selfie while standing in the toilet in his house.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at ensuring that toilets are constructed in every household in the state.

Kanya Sumangala Yojana – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government launched its flagship scheme 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana'.



- ❖ Kanya Sumangala yojana will provide a fund worth Rs 15000 to every family where a girl child is born.
- ❖ The amount will be released to the family in a phased manner - at the time of birth, vaccination, admission to Class 1, 5, 9 and graduation.
- ❖ The scheme has been designed in a way that the parents will have to take proper care of the girl child with respect to her health and education and other aspects, in order to get the benefit.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

2018 Saraswathi Samman Awards

- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presented the prestigious 28th Saraswati Samman award to Telugu poet K Siva Reddy.
- ❖ He was awarded for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
- ❖ The poem collection was published in 2016.

About the Award

- ❖ It is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation.
- ❖ It carries a cash prize of 15 lakhs.

Pandit Jasraj

- ❖ The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid, discovered in 2006, after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj.
- ❖ The asteroid, or the minor planet, is located between Mars and Jupiter.
- ❖ It was discovered by the Catalina Sky Survey, USA.
- ❖ The privilege of naming a planet is first given to discoverers, who have 10 years to propose a name.

About

- ❖ Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj (b. 1930) is an exponent of Indian classical vocal music.

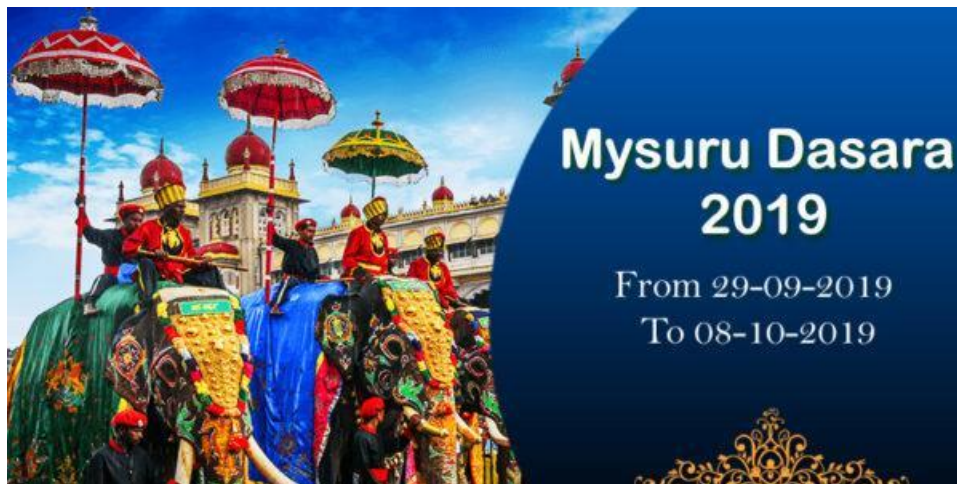
- ❖ He is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Surjit Bhalla – Exec Director @ IMF

- ❖ Government of India has appointed Economist Surjit S Bhalla as Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ❖ He was a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister approved the appointment of Bhalla.
- ❖ He will hold the post for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Bhalla will succeed former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who passed away after a brief illness.








Mysuru Dasara festival

- ❖ The ten-day Mysuru Dasara festival was inaugurated in Karnataka.
- ❖ The ceremonies and a major procession are traditionally presided by the king of Mysuru.
- ❖ This festival will comprise of various cultural programmes and sports events.
- ❖ This year, the birth centenary celebration of the erstwhile ruler of Mysore Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, is included in the Dasara festival.
- ❖ The Dasara festival in Mysuru completed 400th anniversary in year 2010.



Telangana Flower Festival - Bathukamma

- ❖ Bathukamma, the flower festival of Telangana, is being celebrated in state's Warangal district.
- ❖ The nine-day long festival of flowers will be celebrated from 29 September to 6 October 2019.
- ❖ Bathukamma marks the beginning of Sharath Routhu.
- ❖ The 'Bathukammas' are basically the cone shaped flower stack, at street corners and temples in the city.
- ❖ This festival represents the culture and identity of people of Telangana and involves the worship of Maha Gauri.

Flowers used in BATHUKAMMA	
<p>TANGEDU (SENNA/ CAS-SIA): Cassia species are well known for their laxative and purgative constituents.</p> 	<p>KATLA (IPOMOEAE): A valuable medicinal plant having anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory properties.</p> 
<p>GUNUGU (CELOSIA ARGENTIA): Leaves of celosia, bruised and applied as poultice, are used for treating of infected sores.</p> 	<p>GUMMADI (CUCURBITA): Used as an anti-diabetic, anti-tumour, anti-hypertensive, anti-inflammatory, and an anti-bacterial agent.</p> 
<p>BANTHI (TAGETES ERRECTA): Used for its nematocide, cosmetic medicinal properties. The flower oil contains antioxidants.</p> 	<p>BEERA (LUFFA): Roots is used for dropsy and as a laxative. The Leaves and are used to treat jaundice.</p> 
	<p>ASTER (CALENDULA): Used to prevent muscle spasms. The flowers are used for treating sore throat.</p> 

MP Birla Award – Scientist Thanu Padmanabhan

- ❖ Physicist and Cosmologist Thanu Padmanabhan was conferred the prestigious M P Birla Memorial Award 2019 for his contributions to the world of cosmology.
- ❖ He is a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee as well as a Padma Shri-recipient scientist (2007).
- ❖ He received the award at a programme held at M P Birla Planetarium in Kolkata.
- ❖ The planetarium is currently in its 54th year and had played a pioneering role by initiating an Astronomy Awareness Programme in 1965.

About

- ❖ The award was established in 1993.

- ❖ It recognises the excellence in research in space science, astrophysics, astronomy, and related areas.
- ❖ Noted Awardees: Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, Prof JV Narlikar.

Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019: Awards for Elderly

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Vayoshreshtha Samman 2019 on the eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons.
- ❖ Vayoshreshtha awards are instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE).
- ❖ They are presented as part of the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October.
- ❖ The awards are given in 13 categories and were started in 2005.
- ❖ They were elevated to the level of national awards in 2013.



UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- ❖ Human rights lawyer Azizbek Ashurov, who helped end statelessness in his home country of Kyrgystan, is this year's winner of the UNHCR prestigious Nansen Refugee Award.
- ❖ He and his organization, Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders, have helped more than 10,000 people gain Kyrgyz nationality.
- ❖ Kyrgystan is the first country in the world to eliminate statelessness.

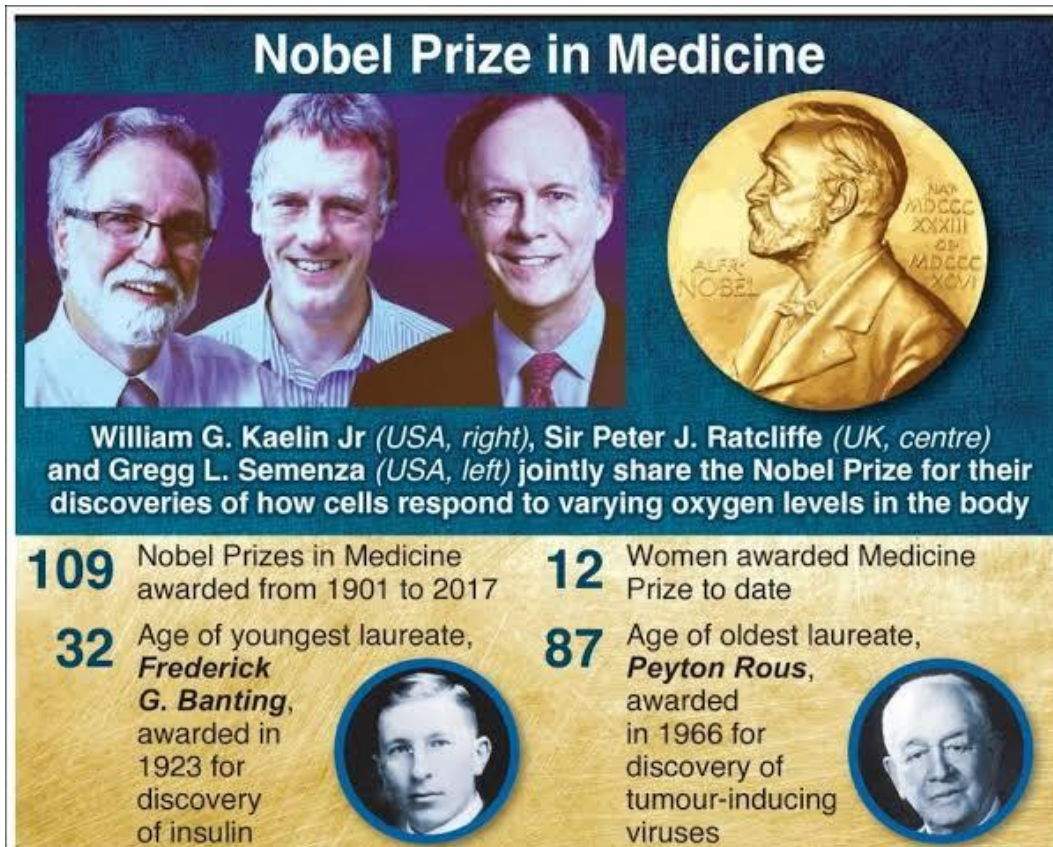
About the Award

- ❖ The award is named after Fridjof Nansen — scientist, polar explorer and the first High Commissioner for Refugees.

- ❖ It is given to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.
- ❖ It was established in 1954.

2019 Nobel Prize for Medicine

- ❖ Britain's Peter Ratcliffe and William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza of US shared the 2019 Nobel Medicine Prize for their work on how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.
- ❖ The team revealed the understanding of how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism.
- ❖ They identified the molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes to varying levels of oxygen.
- ❖ It has paved way to understand the strategies to fight cancer, anaemia and other diseases.
- ❖ Based on their findings pharma companies are now on the path of developing drugs that can interfere with "disease states" by activating or blocking the oxygen – level in the cells.




Nobel Prize in Medicine

William G. Kaelin Jr (USA, right), Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (UK, centre) and Gregg L. Semenza (USA, left) jointly share the Nobel Prize for their discoveries of how cells respond to varying oxygen levels in the body


109 Nobel Prizes in Medicine awarded from 1901 to 2017

32 Age of youngest laureate, **Frederick G. Banting**, awarded in 1923 for discovery of insulin



12 Women awarded Medicine Prize to date

87 Age of oldest laureate, **Peyton Rous**, awarded in 1966 for discovery of tumour-inducing viruses

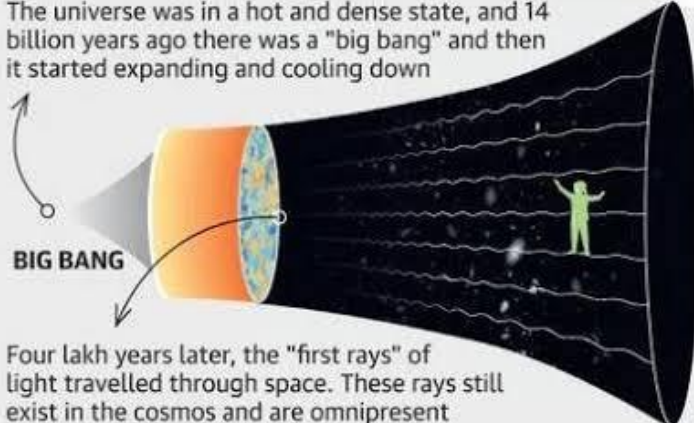


Physics Nobel Prize

- ❖ James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz have won the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics.
- ❖ They were awarded for their contribution to the understanding of the evolution of the universe and "Earth's place in the cosmos."
- ❖ One half of the award was given to James Peebles "for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology".
- ❖ The other half was awarded jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz "for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star."
- ❖ They will share a 9-million kronor (USD 918,000) cash award, a gold medal and a diploma.


The unknown & an exoplanet

Canadian-American cosmologist James Peebles and Swiss scientists Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Physics for revealing the wonder of the evolution of the universe and discovering exoplanets



The universe was in a hot and dense state, and 14 billion years ago there was a "big bang" and then it started expanding and cooling down

Four lakh years later, the "first rays" of light travelled through space. These rays still exist in the cosmos and are omnipresent



James Peebles **Michel Mayor** **Didier Queloz**

- **Peebles** interpreted the "first rays" and showed that in the universe just 5% is known matter. The rest is unknown dark matter & dark energy. His insights turned cosmology from speculation to science sparking further research
- The dark matter is the force which holds together galaxies which otherwise may get torn apart. The dark energy helps the universe's increasingly rapid and constant expansion. Thus, one pulls and the other pushes

- **Mayor and Queloz** discovered "51 Pegasi b" — first-ever find of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star
- Surprisingly, the planet was as big as Jupiter (1,300 times Earth's volume) but was very close to its star (takes just 4 days to orbit)
- Big planets were thought to be created far from their stars. How did "51 Pegasi b" get so close? This question led to theories that described how large gas balls formed at the edges of their solar systems, then spiralled inward

American Historical Association – Ramachandra Guha

- ❖ The American Historical Association has announced that historian Ramachandra Guha will receive the honorary foreign member prize this year.
- ❖ Guha is the third Indian historian after Jadunath Sarkar and Romila Thapar to be honoured with this award since 1886.
- ❖ The award recognises historians working outside the United States for their distinguished scholarship and assistance to American scholars in their country.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- ❖ The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to
 - John B Goodenough of the University of Texas
 - M Stanley Whittingham of the State University of New York at Binghamton
 - Akira Yoshino of Asahi Kasei Corporation and Meijo University in Japan
- ❖ They were awarded for the development of the lithium-ion battery, which "laid the foundation of a wireless, fossil fuel-free society."

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

John B. Goodenough (USA, left), M. Stanley Whittingham (UK, centre), and Akira Yoshino (JPN, right) share the Nobel Prize for the development of lithium-ion batteries

111 Nobel Prizes in Chemistry awarded from 1901 to 2019

5 Women awarded Chemistry Prize

1 double winner, **Frederick Sanger**, awarded prize in 1958 and 1980

35 Age of youngest laureate, **Frédéric Joliot**, awarded prize in 1935

97 Age of oldest laureate, **John B. Goodenough**, awarded in 2019

Source: Nobelprize.org



- ❖ The foundation of the lithium-ion battery was laid during the oil crisis of the 1970s.
- ❖ M Stanley Whittingham discovered an energy-rich material called titanium disulphide, which he used to make a cathode.
- ❖ It is the positive terminal in a lithium battery.
- ❖ Sony released the first commercial lithium-ion batteries in 1991, based on Yoshino's configuration.
- ❖ At the age of 97, Professor John B Goodenough is the oldest ever Nobel laureate.

Nobel Prize Literature – 2019

- ❖ Austria's Peter Handke won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ❖ He won the price for his influential work in exploring the specificity of human experience.
- ❖ Some of the famous works of Peter Handke include
 - Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter (1970; The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick)
 - Die linkshändige Frau (1976; The Left-Handed Woman)
 - Wunschloses Unglück (1972; "Wishless Un-luck"; Eng. trans. A Sorrow Beyond Dreams)

2018 Prize

- ❖ The postponed 2018 Nobel Prize for literature award went to Polish author Olga Tokarczuk.
- ❖ Olga Tokarczuk is the 15th woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize.
- ❖ She had also won the International Booker Prize in 2018 for her work "Flights".
- ❖ Some of her famous works include
 - Primeval and Other Times
 - Księgi Jakubowe (The Books of Jacob)

The Swedish Academy has announced two Nobel literature awards after a sexual assault scandal forced a postponement of the 2018 prize



2018 Prize: Polish writer *Olga Tokarczuk* "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life"

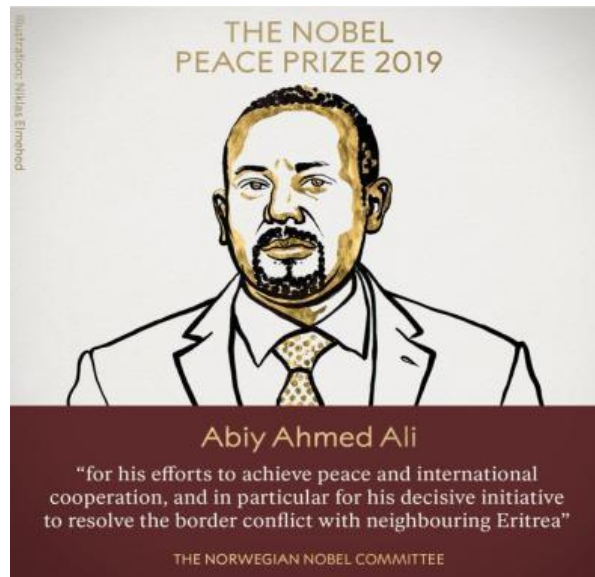
2019 Prize: Austrian author *Peter Handke* "for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience"

RECENT LAUREATES

● 2017: Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>UK</i>	● 2014: Patrick Modiano, <i>France</i>
● 2016: Bob Dylan, <i>U.S.</i>	● 2013: Alice Munro, <i>Canada</i>
● 2015: Svetlana Alexievich, <i>Belarus</i>	● 2012: Mo Yan, <i>China</i>

Nobel Peace Prize 2019

- ❖ Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has won the Nobel Peace Prize 2019.
- ❖ He was awarded for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation and resolving the long-running conflict with neighbouring country Eritrea.
- ❖ Ethiopia and Eritrea were long-time foes who fought a border war from 1998 to 2000. The hostility continued for years.
- ❖ On July 9, 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea's capital Asmara, Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended the 20-year-old conflict.



Kadri Gopalnath passed away

- ❖ Padma Shri awardee and noted saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath has passed away.
- ❖ Kadri Gopalnath is celebrated for popularising the saxophone, a jazz instrument, in Carnatic music.
- ❖ He is among the few Carnatic musicians to have performed at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London.

Highest civilian award of Comoros to Vice President

- ❖ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has received the Order of Green Crescent, the highest civilian award of Comoros, an African island nation.
- ❖ It was presented to him by Comoros President Azali Assamouni in Moroni.
- ❖ Moroni is the capital city of the Comoros archipelago off Africa's east coast.
- ❖ This is his second international honour since Naidu became Vice-President in 2017.
- ❖ In March this year, United Nations Peace University, Costa Rica, conferred an honorary doctorate on him for his contribution to sustainable development as minister of urban development and rule of law.
- ❖ The Vice President is on an official tour of the Sierra Leone and Comoros.



13th Edition Of PII-ICRC Awards

- ❖ The 13th edition of the Press Institute of India (PII) - International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) annual awards 2019 for best article and best photograph on a humanitarian subject were declared.
- ❖ The award ceremony was jointly organized by the PII and ICRC New Delhi Regional Delegation in New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards were given under the theme “Impact of Climate Change on Humanitarian Issues”.

Award	Name	Article/ Photo
Best Article	Urvashi Sarkar	‘Our houses are vanishing. Nobody cares’ Appeared on the PARI (People’s Archive of Rural India) website
Best Photograph	G. Sivaprasad (The Mathrubhumi) & Rijo Joseph (Malayala Manorama)	‘Close to the heart’ ‘Running for life’

First human to walk in space passes away



- ❖ Russian astronaut Alexei Leonov, who walked for the first time in 1965, died in Moscow, Russia.
- ❖ In March 1965, Leonov and his other partner Pavel Belyayev flew to space under the Voskhod 2 mission.
- ❖ During this mission, on 18 March 1965, Leonov exited the spacecraft and walked for 12 minutes and nine seconds.

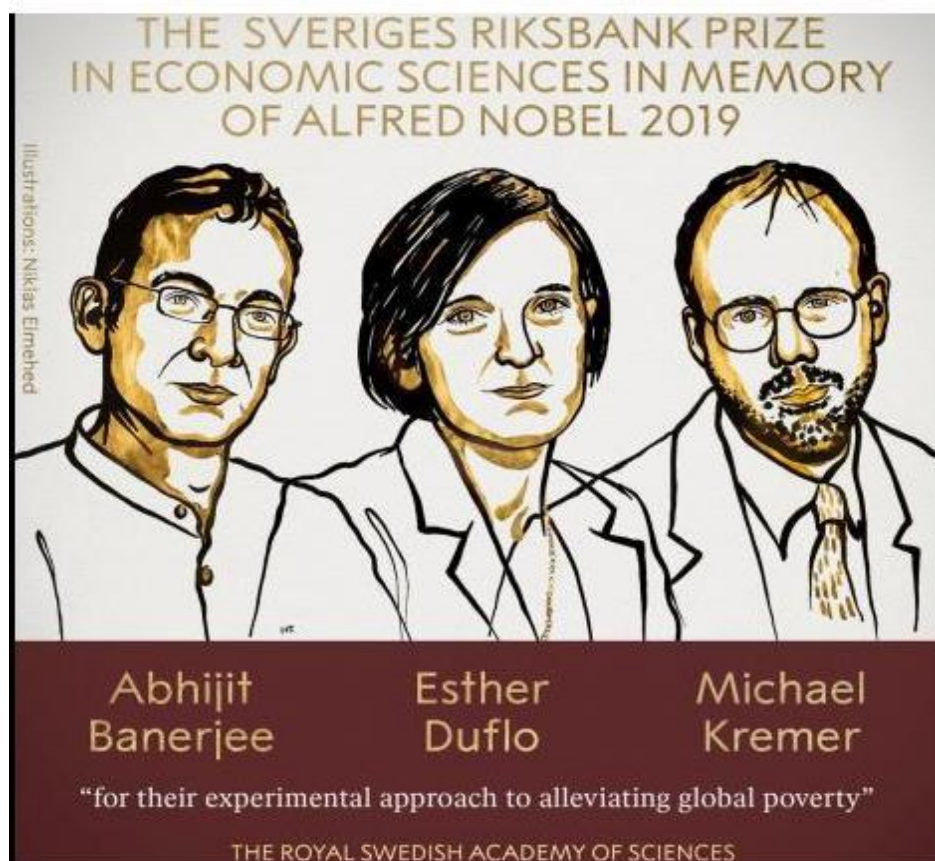
Health Council Award 2019

- ❖ Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), presented the Health Council Award 2019 to people who have contributed in the health sector.
- ❖ The summit aims at improving the health of Indian diaspora people across the world.
- ❖ Among other awardees, 3 Indian Americans were awarded the Health Council Award.

Name	Awarded category
Rahul Shukla	Manufacturing of the latest medical equipment.
Hitesh Bhatt	Healthcare technology category.
H R Shah	Promoting health awareness among the Indian diaspora.

Economics Nobel

- ❖ The 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer.
- ❖ The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences is officially known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize.
- ❖ They were awarded for their “experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”.
- ❖ Duflo is married to Banerjee and in 2011 wrote the immensely popular book “Poor Economics: Rethinking Poverty & The Ways to End it together”.
- ❖ The couple are at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michael Kremer is at Harvard University.
- ❖ Duflo is only the second woman, after Elinor Ostrom in 2009, to win the economics Nobel.
- ❖ The “new, powerful tool” employed by the Laureates is the use of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs).
- ❖ RCTs were largely used in medicine to test the effects of drugs.





Tamilnadu Connection – Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-Pal)

- ❖ Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Esther Duflo have been working with the Tamil Nadu government for the last five years on improving governance.
- ❖ The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-Pal) was founded by the couple in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ J-Pal assists the government in building internal capacity to evaluate and monitor ongoing or new schemes and to adopt a result/outcome-based approach.

About Abhijith Banerjee

- ❖ Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee (born 1961) is an Indian-born American economist.
- ❖ In 1981, he completed BSc in Economics at Presidency College, University of Calcutta and later M.A. in economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi in 1983.
- ❖ He earned a Ph. D in Economics at Harvard by doing a Doctoral thesis on "Essays in Information Economics."
- ❖ Together with Esther Duflo and Tamilnadu born American economist Sendhil Mullainadhan he founded the J-PAL in 2003.

The Booker Prize for Fiction

- ❖ Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo have been named the joint winners of the 2019 Booker Prize.
- ❖ The pair will split the literary award's £50,000 prize money equally.
- ❖ The Booker rules say the prize must not be divided, but the judges insisted they "couldn't separate" the two works.
- ❖ It is being awarded by the Man Group since 1969.

Bernardine Evaristo

- ❖ Book Name: "Girl, Woman, Other"
- ❖ At age 60 Evaristo becomes the only black woman to win a Booker.
- ❖ Her book explores the lives and struggles of different black women in the modern-day United Kingdom.

Margaret Atwood

- ❖ Book Name: "The Testament".
- ❖ 79-year-old Atwood won second Booker of her career.
- ❖ She was already awarded for her work 'The Handmaid's Tale' (1985).



UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ❖ In a major recognition to Mumbai's heritage conservation movement, three city landmarks have won this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ❖ They are Flora Fountain, Gloria Church at Byculla and Keneseth Eliyadoo Synagogue at Kala Godha.
- ❖ This award recognises the efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully restored and conserved heritage structures and buildings.
- ❖ The Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, received the "Award of Distinction" for its restoration architect Brinda Somaya.

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration – Chandi Prasad Bhatt

- ❖ Noted environmentalist and pioneer of the Chipko movement, Chandi Prasad Bhatt has been awarded the Indira Gandhi award for National Integration.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the Congress party in memory of the late prime minister.
- ❖ Bhatt has been awarded the award for the years 2017 and 2018 for his “services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country”.

About CP Bhatt

- ❖ He had founded the cooperative organisation Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh and led the first Chipko movement in Mandal, Uttarakhand in 1973.



- ❖ He is also a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1982 for community leadership, Padma Shri in 1986, Padma Bushan in 2005 and Gandhi peace Prize in 2013.

Kayakalp Awards 2018-19: AIIMS

- ❖ The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has bagged the first prize of ₹3 crore under the government's Kayakalp scheme for 2018-19 (Group A Category).
- ❖ The Kayakalp Award was instituted as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' on 15 May, 2015.
- ❖ It is a national initiative to recognize and felicitate public health facilities that demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control measure on promoting cleanliness in public spaces.
- ❖ JIPMER, Puducherry was judged as the runner-up with ₹1.5 crore prize money.

Viswanathan Anand pens inspirational book

- ❖ Chess legend Viswanathan Anand has authored an inspirational book.
- ❖ The Book is named as 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life'.

Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award

- ❖ The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu presented 'Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award' to legal luminary, scholar and former Attorney General of India, K. Parasaran at New Delhi.
- ❖ He was Advocate General of Tamil Nadu in 1976 and Attorney General of India under former PMs Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi.

William Dalrymple's Book

- ❖ The eminent historian William Dalrymple's new book 'The Anarchy' was recently released globally.
- ❖ 'The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire', as the title suggests, tells the fascinating story of the East India Company (EIC) and how it grew its profits by exploiting India's riches.

Kishore Kumar Samman Award: 2018-19

- ❖ Noted director and producer Priyadarshan, was conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19.
- ❖ Kishore Kumar Samman jury selected noted Hindi cinema actor Waheeda Rehman award for 2017-18.

About the Award

- ❖ The National Kishore Kumar Award has been instituted in memory of eminent playback singer and all-rounder, Kishore Kumar.
- ❖ The award was instituted by MP Department of Culture and is awarded for excellence in cinematic achievements.
- ❖ It carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh.
- ❖ The first recipient was Hrishikesh Mukherjee (1997–98).

Project Possible: Nirmal Purja, the Nepali Climber

- ❖ Ex-British Gurkha soldier and Nepali Climber Nirmal Purja has become the 'fastest person' to conquer every mountain on Earth over 8000 metres.
- ❖ The list includes mountains from Everest in the eastern Himalayas to K2 in Pakistan's Karakorum mountains.
- ❖ He achieved the feat in just six months and six days.
- ❖ Italian climber Reinhold Messner first completed the feat in 1986, taking 16 years to do so.
- ❖ Purja had also served in the elite Special forces of the British Gurkha Regiment as an extreme cold weather warfare specialist.





SPORTS

10th Asian Age Group Championships for 2019

- ❖ The 10th Asian Age Group Championships (AAGC) for 2019 was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ It was organised by the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) through the Asia Amateur Swimming Federation (AASF).
- ❖ It was the first time India hosted the international Championship in swimming, diving, water polo and in Artistic swimming events.
- ❖ India finished with a total medal tally of 64 medals (20 gold, 24 silver and 20 bronze).
- ❖ It stood at the 4th spot in the swimming event and second spot in the diving event.

Mary Kom – 8th Gold Medal

- ❖ Six-time champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) has surpassed herself as the most successful boxer in the Women's World Championship history.
- ❖ She has secured an unprecedented eighth medal.
- ❖ The third-seeded Mary Kom defeated Colombia's Valencia Victoria.
- ❖ Manju Rani (48kg) and Jamuna Boro (54kg) have also entered semi-finals.

World Youth Chess Championship 2019

- ❖ World Youth Chess Championship 2019 was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Championship was organized by the International Chess Federation.
- ❖ India bagged seven medals (highest medals than any other country) in the Championship.
- ❖ It includes 1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals.
- ❖ Russia won 5 medals in the Championship and followed by India.

Name	Event	Medal
Praggnanandhaa R	Open U18	Gold
Agrawal Vantika	Girls U18	Silver
Srihari L R	Open U14	Silver

Deshmukh Divya	Girls U14	Silver
Ghosh Aronyak	Open U16	Bronze
Sreeshwan Maralakshikari	Open U14	Bronze
Ravi Rakshitta	Girls U14	Bronze

Praggnanandhaa R – Chess

- ❖ Chennai R. Praggnanandhaa has won India’s only Gold (Under 18 category) in the recently concluded World Youth chess championship held at Mumbai.
- ❖ This is the third world title for Praggnanandhaa, who was the under-8 champion in 2013 and the under-10 winner in 2015.
- ❖ He was world’s youngest ever chess International Master in 2016.
- ❖ He is also the fourth-youngest person ever to achieve the title of Grandmaster (GM), behind Sergey Karjakin, Gukesh D and Javokhir Sindarov.

Simone Biles – Gymnast

- ❖ Simone Biles made history by winning her 25th world championship medal to become the “most decorated” gymnast, male or female, ever.
- ❖ Her flawless performance on the ‘balance beam’ earned her a stellar 15.066 points at the 2019 World Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.
- ❖ She broke the long-held record for 23 medals by male gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus.
- ❖ Simon Biles is the reigning Olympic Champion and five-time all-around world champion gymnast.





IAAF – Transgender Rule

- ❖ The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Council which met in Doha has framed new rules for Transgender Athletes competing in the female category.
- ❖ Female transgender athletes must lower their testosterone levels by half under the new regulations.
- ❖ Their concentration of testosterone should be less than five nanomoles per litre continuously for a period of at least 12 months prior to being declared eligible as “female athlete”.
- ❖ Also, a transgender athlete is no longer required to be recognised by law as a “female”.
- ❖ Just a signed declaration that her gender identity is female will be sufficient.
- ❖ Similar rules apply to athletes with differences of sexual development (DSD), or hyperandrogenism.

Hundreds Cricket – New Cricket Format

- ❖ The Hundred is the title of a professional 100-ball cricket tournament in England and Wales run by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) commencing in July 2020.
- ❖ This cricket will be played in a new format.
- ❖ 100-ball cricket is a form of limited overs cricket, played by two teams each playing a single innings made up of 100 balls.

The format of the game

- ❖ 100 balls per innings.
- ❖ A change of ends after 10 balls.
- ❖ Bowlers deliver either five or 10 consecutive balls.
- ❖ Each bowler can deliver a maximum of 20 balls per game.
- ❖ A 25-ball powerplay start for each team.
- ❖ Two fielders are allowed outside of the initial 30-yard circle during the powerplay.

Ronaldo Singh wins gold medal

- ❖ Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh bagged a gold medal in the men’s junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships being held at Incheon, South Korea.
- ❖ Apart from Ronaldo, James Singh clinched a bronze medal in the event.



- ❖ The men's and women's junior sprint team won two bronze medals.

Military Games

- ❖ Para-athlete Anandan Gunasekaran won two golds in the disabled men's 100m and 400m IT1 events at the 7th CISM World Military Games.
- ❖ Gunasekaran of Tamilnadu won the India's first gold medal in this game held at Wuhan, China.
- ❖ The seventh Military World Games is being held in China for the very first time and it is also the largest military sports event to be held in China.

First Day/Night Test Cricket Match in India

- ❖ India will stage its first ever day-night Test Match in Kolkata next month against Bangladesh.
- ❖ The second Test against Bangladesh starting on November 22 will be played under floodlights at Eden Gardens stadium.
- ❖ This will also be the first pink ball test match to be played in India.
- ❖ It is expected to be a major boost to the five-day game.
- ❖ There have been 11 day-night Tests since the first between Australia and New Zealand in 2015.

LANDMARK MATCHES AT EDEN

Nov. 8, 1987: First ICC World Cup final outside England (Australia bt England by 7 runs)

Nov. 10, 1991: SA's first match after readmission to international cricket (India won by 3 wkts)

Feb. 16-20, 1999: First-ever continental (Asian) Test championship match (Pak bt India by 46 runs)

June 18-21, 2016: First-ever 4-day D/N match with pink balls (Mohun Bagan bt Bhawanipore Club by 296 runs in CAB Super League final)

April 3, 2016: First-ever ICC WT20 final on Indian soil (WI won a 'double' as their men beat England by 4 wkts and women defeated Australia by 8 wkts)

IMPORTANT DAYS

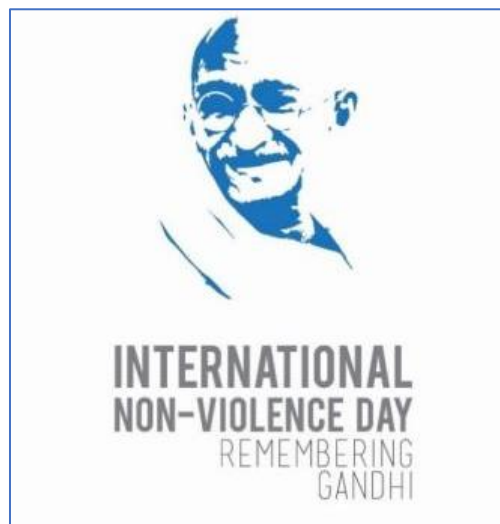
The International Day of Older Persons – October 1

- ❖ The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.
- ❖ United Nations General Assembly on December 14th 1990, declared October 1st to be the International Day of Older Persons.
- ❖ The holiday is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse.
- ❖ It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.
- ❖ The theme of the celebration in 2019 is “The Journey to Age Equality”

World Vegetarian Day – October 1

- ❖ World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.
- ❖ It is a day of celebration established by the North American Vegetarian Society in 1977 and endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978.
- ❖ The day brings awareness to the ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.
- ❖ It initiates the month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month, which ends with November 1 (World Vegan Day).

International Day of Non-Violence – October 2



- ❖ The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The idea for the day was proposed in 2004 by Iranian Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi.
- ❖ On 15 June 2007, the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to spread the ideals of nonviolence and peaceful coexistence.

World Animal Day – October 4

- ❖ World Animal Day is an international day of action for animal rights and welfare.
- ❖ It is celebrated annually on October 4.
- ❖ Cynologist Heinrich Zimmermann organized the first World Animal Day on 24 March 1925 at Berlin, Germany.
- ❖ Then it was moved to October 4th which is also the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.



Wildlife Week India: October 2 – 8

- ❖ Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 2 and 8.
- ❖ The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e. animal life.
- ❖ Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to safeguard the lives of wildlife through critical action.



1st World Cotton Day – October 7

- ❖ World Trade Organisation (WTO) hosted the first World Cotton Day (WCD) celebrations in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ This event stems from the request by the Cotton-4 countries to the UN General Assembly for official recognition of a World Cotton Day.
- ❖ Cotton-4 Countries are
 - Benin
 - Burkina Faso
 - Chad
 - Mali
- ❖ Such a day reflects the importance of cotton as a global commodity.

Objectives

- ❖ WCD celebrates the many advantages of cotton, from its qualities as a natural fibre, to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption.
- ❖ It sheds shed light on the challenges faced by cotton economies around the world.
- ❖ Cotton is important to least developed, developing and developed economies worldwide.

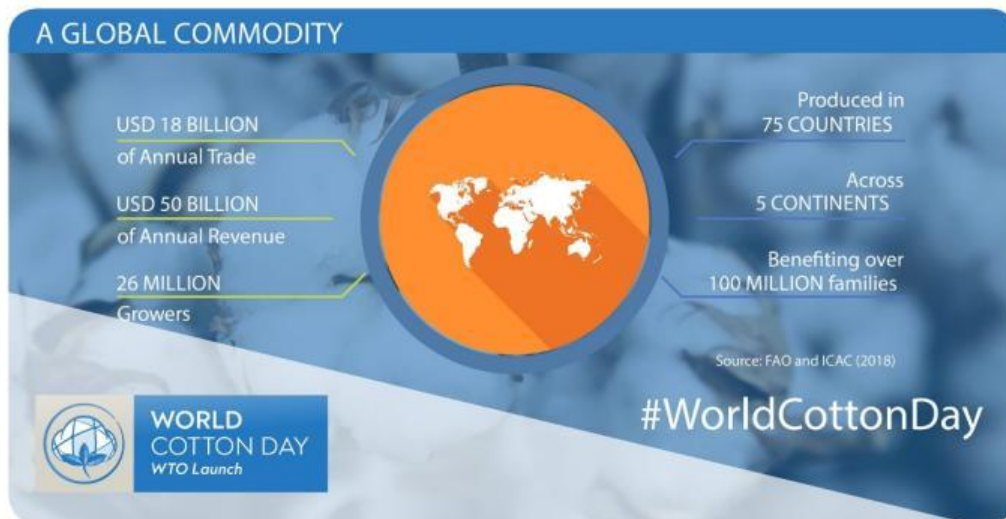
Importance

- ❖ A single tonne of cotton provides year-round employment for 5 people on average.
- ❖ It is a drought - resistant crop ideal for arid climates.

- ❖ It occupies just 2.1 per cent of the world's arable land, yet it meets 27 per cent of the world's textiles need.

India @ the Event

- ❖ Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani represented India in the five-day event.
- ❖ National Awardee weaver Pitta Ramulu provided a demonstration of weaving by charkha.
- ❖ Fabrics which have been given GI tag like Venkatagiri, Chanderi, Maheshwari and Ikkat sarees were displayed at the event along with organic cotton.
- ❖ Natural coloured cotton grown in Dharwad, Karnataka in different colours like dark brown, medium brown, green and cream colours will also be on display.



World Space Week: October 04 – 10

- ❖ World Space Week (WSW) is an annual holiday observed from 4 to 10 October in various parts of the world, including Europe and Asia.
- ❖ On December 6, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event celebration.
- ❖ The choice of dates was based on recognition of following two important dates in space history:
 - The launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957; and
 - The signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2019 is “The Moon: Gateway to the Stars”.

- ❖ It is celebrating the 50th anniversary of humankind's first step on the Moon on 20 July 1969.



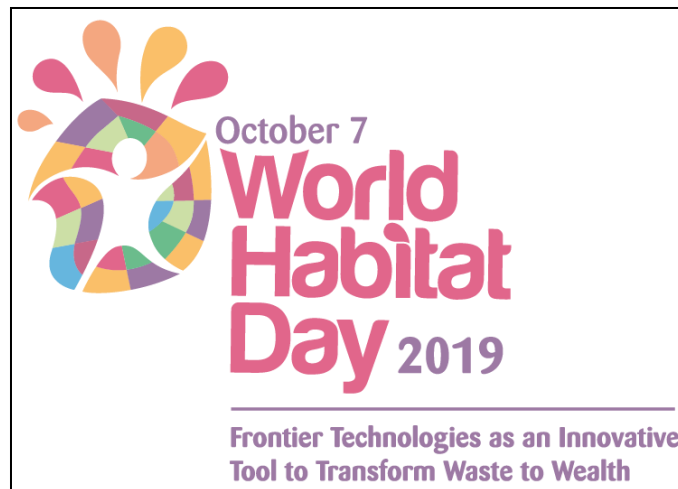
World Teachers Day – October 05

- ❖ The world teacher's day is held annually on 5 October since 1994.
- ❖ It is co-convened in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Education International.
- ❖ It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO resolution that set benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers.
- ❖ The 2019 theme of the day is "Young Teachers: The future of the Profession."



World Habitat Day – October 07

- ❖ The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day.
- ❖ The day is observed to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- ❖ It was in 1986 that the United Nations first celebrated World Habitat Day.
- ❖ The 2019 theme of observance of the day is “Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth”.



IAF Day – October 08

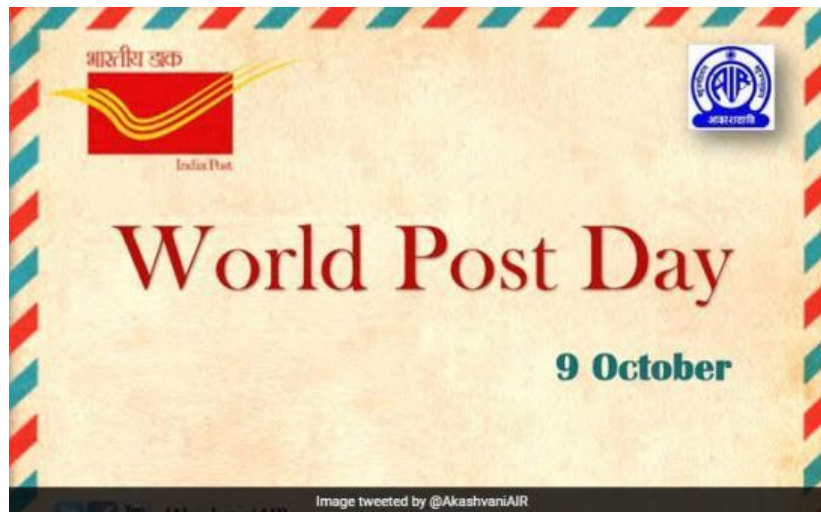
- ❖ The 87th Indian Air Force Day (IAF) Parade was held at the Hindon airbase, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on October 8, 2019.



- ❖ IAF officers who participated in the Balakot airstrike flew three Mirage 2000 aircraft and two Su-30 MKI fighter planes in 'Avenger formation'.
- ❖ The celebration of day seeks to increase the awareness about the importance of IAF as an important part of the national security.

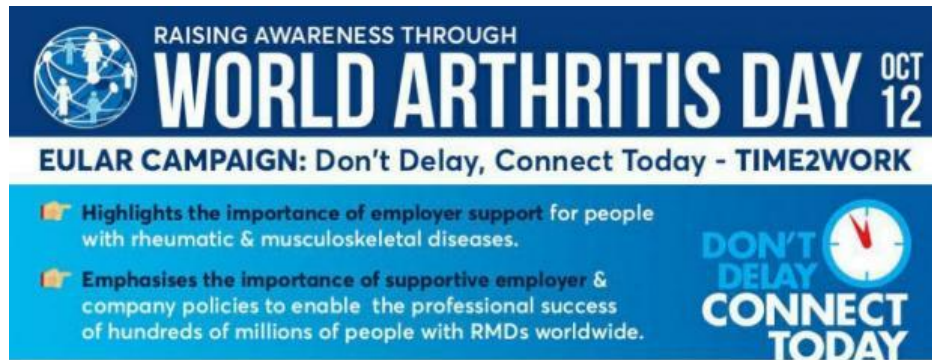
World Post Day – October 09

- ❖ World Post day is observed each year on October 9.
- ❖ It is the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which started in 1874 in Switzerland that revolutionised world communication.
- ❖ In 1948, the UPU become an agency of the United Nations.
- ❖ October 9th was first declared World Post Day at the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The proposal was submitted by Anand Mohan Narula, a member of the Indian delegation.



World arthritis day - October 12

- ❖ World Arthritis Day was observed all over the world on October 12th.
- ❖ It aims to create global awareness on issues affecting people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).
- ❖ The theme of this day for 2019 is "Time2Work".
- ❖ Arthritis is an inflammatory condition causing pain and stiffness in joints.
- ❖ The day is Observed since 1996, the day was started by the Arthritis and Rheumatism International.



World Migratory Bird Day – October 12

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was observed all over the world on October 12th.
- ❖ It aims to create awareness on the need for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ❖ The Theme for 2019 is “Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution”.



International Day of Disaster Reduction – October 13

- ❖ International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) has been observed on October 13.
- ❖ It aims to promote global culture towards risk awareness and disaster reduction.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2019: “Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services”.
- ❖ In 1989, the International Day for Disaster Reduction was started by the United Nations General Assembly.

- ❖ The 2019 edition continues as part of the “Sendai Seven” campaign, which was launched in 2016 by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction which is centered on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework (2015 – 2030).



World Sight Day – October 10

- ❖ The World Sight Day (WSD) is observed annually on every second Thursday of October.
- ❖ This year, the world sight day was observed on October 10, 2019.
- ❖ Originally initiated by the “SightFirstCampaign” of Lions Club International Foundation in the year 2000, this day aims to raise awareness on blindness and vision impairment.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2019 is “Vision First”.



World Mental Health Day – October 10

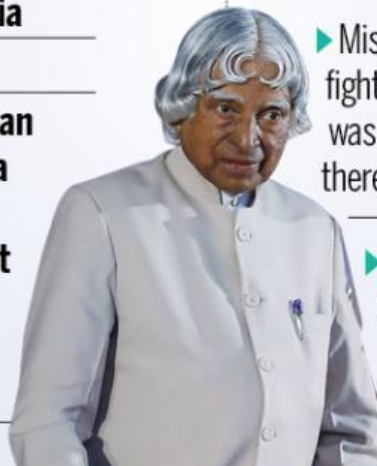
- ❖ The World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed annually on the 10th of October.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on mental health issues and the efforts needed to support mental health.
- ❖ It is organized by the World Federation for Mental Health with the World Health Organisation's support, the International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



Abdul Kalam's Birthday / World Student's Day – October 15

- ❖ World Students' Day is celebrated every year on October 15 on former president Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam's birthday.
- ❖ The day is commemorated on his birth anniversary because Dr Kalam was a dedicated teacher and identified himself foremost in that role before anything else.
- ❖ In 2010, the United Nations declared October 15 to be World Students' Day.
- ❖ He was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan in 1981 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 for his work with ISRO and DRDO by the Government of India.
- ❖ In 1997, he was also honoured with 'Bharat Ratna' for his contribution to the scientific research and modernisation of defence technology in India.

... A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM	
Born	1931
Full name	Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam
Birthplace	Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
11th President of India	
Occupation	Scientist
Notable Awards	Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990), Bharat Ratna (1997), Hoover Medal (2009)
Died	Jul. 27, 2015



- ▶ A student of physics and aerospace engineering, was known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his work on the development of ballistic missiles and launch vehicle technology.
- ▶ Also played a key role in the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests.
- ▶ Missed an opportunity to become a fighter pilot for the Indian Air force; was on the ninth spot on the list, and there were only eight openings.
- ▶ World Student Day is celebrated on October 15 every year across the world to commemorate his birthday anniversary.

International Day of Rural Women – October 15

- ❖ International Rural Women's Day is observed every year across the globe on 15 October.
- ❖ The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on Oct. 15, 2008.
- ❖ The day recognizes the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.
- ❖ The theme for this year's celebration is "Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resistance".
- ❖ It highlights the important role that rural women and girls play in building resilience to face the climate crisis.



Global Handwashing Day – October 15

- ❖ Global Handwashing day is observed on October 15th of every year.
- ❖ The day is s an international handwashing promotion campaign dedicated to raising awareness of handwashing with soap as a key factor in disease prevention.
- ❖ Handwashing reduces respiratory and intestinal diseases by 25-50%.
- ❖ UN general assembly approved first such day in 2008.

World Food Day – October 16

- ❖ World Food Day (WFD) is an international day celebrated every year around the world on 16 October.
- ❖ It is celebrated in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.
- ❖ WFD was established by FAO's Member Countries at the Organization's 20th General Conference in November 1979.
- ❖ This awareness day calls for action across sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets affordable and accessible to everyone.
- ❖ The theme of celebrations for 2019 is "Our Actions Are Our Future, Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World".



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17

- ❖ The International day for the eradication of poverty is observed every year on October 17.
- ❖ In 1992, the United Nations officially designated October 17 as poverty eradication day in memory of Father Joseph Wresinski.
- ❖ He had fought against poverty and social exclusion all through his life and launched the day originally in 1987.
- ❖ The global extreme poverty rates have dropped from 36 per cent in 1990 to 8.6 per cent in 2018.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 observance is “Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty”.

CPI 100th year - October 17

- ❖ October 17, 2019 marks an epoch-making moment in the history of the Communist movement in India.
- ❖ The Second World Congress of the Communist Third International set the ground for the formation of the Communist Party of India on October 17, 1920 at Tashkent with seven members - MN Roy, Evelyn Roy-Trent, Abani Mukherjee, Rosa Fitingov, Mohammad Ali, Mohamad Shafiq and Acharya.
- ❖ The CPI(M) kick-started its year-long celebration at the Netaji Indoor Stadium at Kolkatta.
- ❖ But the parent CPI asserts that the party was formed only in December 1925 at Kanpur.

Palindrome Day – October 09

- ❖ A Palindrome Day happens when the day's date can be read the same way backward and forward.
- ❖ The dates are similar to word palindromes in that they are symmetrical.
- ❖ Palindrome Date of 9-10-2019 is Rare.
- ❖ It is the same when you read backward and forward (9102019).
- ❖ But the date formats are not the same in all the countries.
- ❖ They are different from one country to another.



World Day Against the Death Penalty – October 10

- ❖ It is a day to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences.
- ❖ The day was first organized by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003.
- ❖ 142 countries -representing 74% of the UN member states- have already stopped using the capital punishment, by either removing it from their penal code or not carrying out executions for a long time.
- ❖ The Council of Europe has been a pioneer in the abolition process which has made Europe a de facto death-penalty-free zone since 1997.
- ❖ The day is a European contribution to the World Day against the Death Penalty, which is held annually on the same day.

National Post Day – October 10

- ❖ National Postal Day is celebrated in India on 10 October every year.
- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the role played by the Indian postal department for the past 150 years.

- ❖ Indian postal Day celebrated as an extension of World Post Day, which is celebrated on 9 October.



The poster for India Post National Postal Week 2019 features a central graphic of a globe with various scenes of postal services, including a post office counter, a postman, and a post office building. Below the globe is an illustration of an India Post airplane. The text on the poster reads: "India Post Celebrates NATIONAL POSTAL WEEK 9 - 15 October, 2019".

Date	Day	Description
9 th October, 2019	Wednesday	World Post Day
10 th October, 2019	Thursday	Banking Day
11 th October, 2019	Friday	PLI Day
12 th October, 2019	Saturday	Philately Day
14 th October, 2019	Monday	Business Development Day
15 th October, 2019	Tuesday	Mails Day

- ❖ The India post was founded in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie.
- ❖ It functions under the Ministry of Communications.
- ❖ Under the postal department, the 6-digit PIN system was introduced by the Union Ministry of Communications on 15 August 1972.
- ❖ The word PIN in pincode stands for Postal Index Number.
- ❖ The first digit of the PIN code marks the region.
- ❖ The second digit denotes the sub-region.
- ❖ The third digit marks the district.
- ❖ The last three digits show the post office under which a particular address fall.
- ❖ National Postal Week is also celebrated in October 9th to October 15th.

World Egg Day – October 11

- ❖ World Egg Day falls on the second Friday of October every year.
- ❖ This year it was celebrated on 11th October 2019.
- ❖ It was established at the International Egg Commission's (IEC) Vienna conference 1996.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh was planning to celebrate World Egg Day in Vijayawada.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 is "Eat Your Egg Today and Every Day".

World Obesity Day – October 11

- ❖ World Obesity Day is observed on October 11.
- ❖ This day is meant to raise awareness about causes and preventive tips for obesity.
- ❖ World Obesity Day was established in 2015 by World Obesity Federation.
- ❖ World Obesity Day 2019 will give way in 2020 to the launch of a new World Obesity Day on March 4th 2020 to respond to the need for a global and unified voice.



International Day of the Girl Child – October 11

- ❖ It is an international observance day declared by the United Nations.
- ❖ October 11, 2012 was the first International Day of the Girl Child.
- ❖ This year theme is "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable".
- ❖ In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was convened by the UN at Beijing, China.
- ❖ It determined to recognize the rights of women and girls as human rights.
- ❖ The conference saw the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: the most comprehensive policy agenda for the empowerment of women.



World Standards Day – October 14

- ❖ It is also known as International Standards Day.
- ❖ The aim of World Standards Day is to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.
- ❖ 14 October was specifically chosen to mark the date, in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries first gathered in London and decided to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization.
- ❖ While the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was formed one year later, the first World Standards Day was celebrated in 1970s.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Video Standards Create a Global Stage".





World Statistics Day – October 20

- ❖ It was an international day celebrated for the first time on 20 October 2010 worldwide.
- ❖ It is celebrated every five years.
- ❖ The United Nations Statistical Commission declared the day.
- ❖ The next World Statistics Day is to be celebrated on October 20, 2020.
- ❖ On October 20, 2015 the second World Statistics Day was celebrated under the Theme: Better Data, Better Lives.
- ❖ India celebrates Statistics Day on 29th June, on the birthday of the legend statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

Sankaralinganar Day – October 13

- ❖ In 1952, Potti Sreeramulu demanded a separate state for Telugu speaking people with Madras as its capital.
- ❖ He went on hunger strike with his demand, and later died during his fasts.
- ❖ The Government of India formed a separate state and reorganised states in 1956 based on linguistic lines.
- ❖ After reorganisation, Tamil speaking people became the majority in Madras State.
- ❖ Sankaralinganar started a hunger strike on 27 July 1956 in Virudhunagar, with twelve demands which included Madras State to be renamed Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ After 76 days of fasting, he died on 13 October 1956.
- ❖ The name officially changed to Tamil Nadu on 14 January 1969 by an amendment in the Parliament of India.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government built a memorial dedicated to Sanakralinganar in Virudhunagar in 2015.

Digital Society Day – October 17

- ❖ India celebrates October 17 as the Digital Society Day.
- ❖ October 17 is significant for the Digital Society in India since it was on October 17, 2000, that Information Technology Act 2000, the first law of the digital society in India was notified.
- ❖ This notification gave for the first time in the country, legal recognition for electronic documents.

- ❖ It also provided a legally recognized method of authentication of electronic documents by means of digital signatures.
- ❖ Additionally, Information Technology Act 2000 recognized Cyber Crimes and prescribed a fast track grievance redressal mechanism for Cyber Crimes.

Police Commemoration Day – October 21

- ❖ National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on October 21 to remember remembering the brave policemen who sacrificed their lives while discharging their duties.
- ❖ Last year, Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first national police museum in Delhi on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day 2018.

Police Commemoration Day history

- ❖ On October 21, 1959, twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by the Chinese troops in Ladakh.
- ❖ This altercation between the troops led to the death of ten policemen.
- ❖ Seven of the others, who were also imprisoned, managed to escape from the Chinese troops.
- ❖ On November 28, 1959, the Chinese troops handed over the dead bodies of the martyred policemen to India.
- ❖ Their cremation was held with full Police honours at the Hot springs in Ladakh.

UN Day – October 24

- ❖ UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- ❖ The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.
- ❖ 2019 is the 74th year of foundation.
- ❖ UN India commemorated the day by remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary with the theme "Gandhi and Sustainability".





World Development Information Day – October 24

- ❖ It is observed annually to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them.
- ❖ In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on October 24.
- ❖ It was first held on October 24, 1973.

World Polio Day – October 24

- ❖ World Polio Day is celebrated on 24 October annually to raise awareness about the polio disease and efforts for eradication.
- ❖ The theme for World Polio Day 2019 is “Stories of Progress: Past and Present for World Polio Day”.
- ❖ Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries in which polio is still prevalent.
- ❖ The last case of polio in India was in January 2011.
- ❖ The SEAR (South East Asia Region) countries were declared Polio-Free in 2014, three years after the last case of wild poliovirus infection, detected in the West Bengal of India.
- ❖ Nigeria was removed from the polio-endemic list in September 2015.
- ❖ The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is “a public-private partnership led by national governments with five partners – the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.”
- ❖ Polio is a highly infectious disease.
- ❖ It is a disease caused by the deadly ‘Poliovirus’ usually affecting children under 5 years of age.
- ❖ There are three strains of polio virus known as wild polio virus (WPV).
- ❖ The last case of wild poliovirus type 3 was seen in northern Nigeria in 2012.
- ❖ In 2015, type 2 wild poliovirus was declared as eliminated - this is the second wild poliovirus to be declared eliminated.
- ❖ With two of the three wild polioviruses eliminated, only type 1 wild poliovirus is still in circulation and is restricted to just two countries — Afghanistan and Pakistan.



World Day for Audiovisual Heritage Day – October 27

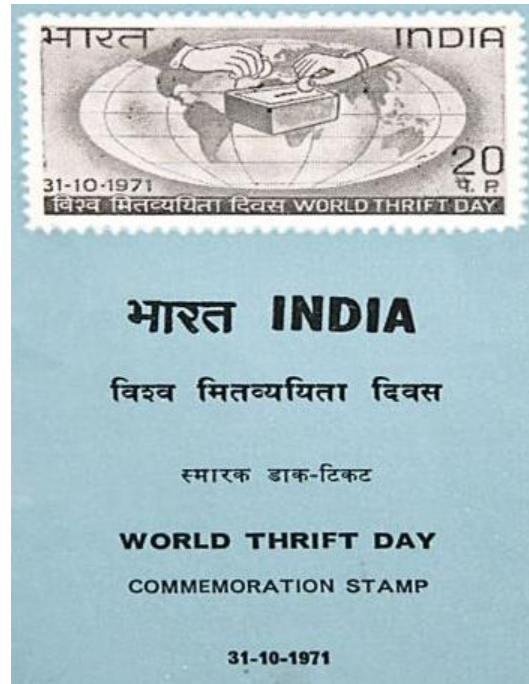
- ❖ The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audio-visual Heritage in 2005.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audio-visual documents (films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programmes)
- ❖ This year's the theme is "Engage the Past Through Sound and Images".

Vigilance Awareness Week – October 28 to 2nd November

- ❖ The last week of October is observed as Vigilance Awareness Week under the aegis of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ❖ This year, the week falls from 28th October to 2nd November.
- ❖ The observance creates increased awareness among the public and encourages the stakeholders to participate in the fight against corruption.
- ❖ The theme of observance is "Integrity-a way of life".
- ❖ CVC is currently headed by 1979 cadre IPS Officer Shard Kumar.

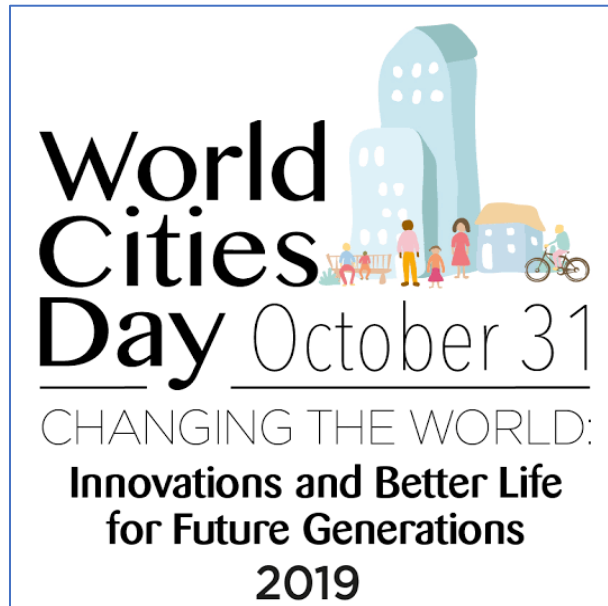
World Thrift Day/World Savings Day – October 31

- ❖ World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on 31 October.
- ❖ The day aims to promote the savings and financial security of individuals and nations as a whole.
- ❖ The saving habit in people will give independence to both people as well as the Country.
- ❖ In 1924, the first International Thrift Congress was held in Milan, Italy.
- ❖ The first World Thrift Day was celebrated in 1925.
- ❖ In India due to the death of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31,1984, this day is celebrated on 30th October.



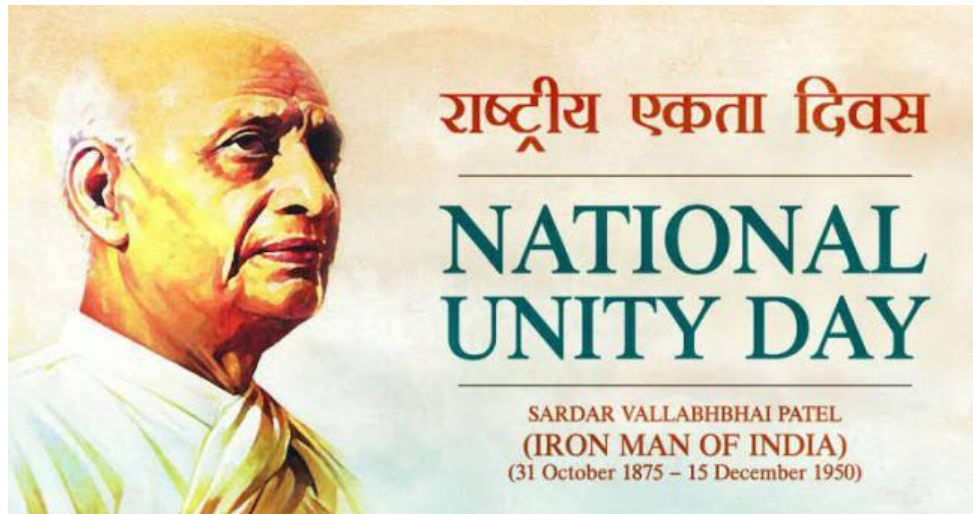
World Cities Day – October 31

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day
- ❖ 2019 Theme – Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations.



- ❖ The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life.
- ❖ Its aim is to create awareness of the role of urbanisation in global sustainable and social inclusion.


National Unity Day – October 31



- ❖ National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) was introduced by the Government of India in 2014.
- ❖ The Iron Man of India, also known as the Loh Purush, Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875.
- ❖ Sardar Patel is most popularly known as a founding father of the Republic of India.
- ❖ This is because he played a significant role in integrating the independent provinces into a unified India just after the partition.
- ❖ For his efforts towards a united India, Sardar Patel's birth anniversary is now celebrated as National Unity Day. This is also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- ❖ To celebrate the day, the 'Unifier of India' was honoured with the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue.
- ❖ Dedicated to Sardar Patel at Narmada District in Gujarat, the statue is approximately 182 metres (597 ft) in height.

MISCELLANEOUS

Global Firepower Index-2019

1	United States		PwrIndx: 0.0615
2	Russia		PwrIndx: 0.0639
3	China		PwrIndx: 0.0673
4	India		PwrIndx: 0.1065
5	France		PwrIndx: 0.1584

- ❖ Global Firepower published the Global Firepower Index (GFP) /Military Strength Ranking 2019.
- ❖ It ranks each nation's potential war-making capability across land, sea and air with conventional weapons.
- ❖ India was ranked 4th in the Power Index and it stood at the No 1 position in South Asia.
- ❖ Globally, the list was topped by the United States.
- ❖ Global Firepower has been providing an analytical display of data concerning 137 modern military powers since 2006.

1st citizen-centric IMD Smart City Index 2019

- ❖ In the first ever conducted International Institute for Management Development's (IMD's) Smart City Index 2019, Hyderabad topped among the Indian cities with the rank of 67.
- ❖ It was followed by New Delhi at rank 68. Mumbai and Bengaluru were ranked at the 78th and 79th positions respectively.
- ❖ The list was topped by Singapore.

- ❖ A total of 102 cities were estimated for the ranking.
- ❖ The report was presented by IMD World Competitiveness Centre’s Smart City Observatory in partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Rank	City name	Country
1	Singapore	Singapore
2	Zurich	Switzerland
3	Oslo	Norway
4	Geneva	Switzerland
5	Copenhagen	Denmark
67	Hyderabad	India
68	New Delhi	India
78	Mumbai	India
79	Bengaluru	India

Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019

- ❖ An annual report on the most valuable and strongest nation brands named Brand Finance Nation Brands 2019 was released by Brand Finance.
- ❖ India was ranked 7th from 9th rank of 2018 with 18.7% growth in brand value.
- ❖ The list was topped by the United States of America (USA) with 7.2% growth in brand value.
- ❖ Singapore emerged as the World’s strongest nation brand.





2019 Henley Passport Index rank

- ❖ The latest 2019 Henley Passport Index ranking was released.
- ❖ In the report, India is currently ranked at 86th place in 2019, which is five places down from its previous rank of 81 in 2018.
- ❖ Japan and Singapore both hold the most powerful passport by ranking 1st in the list.
- ❖ The study was conducted by Henley & Partners.

Rank	Country
1	Japan and Singapore
2	South Korea, Germany and Finland
3	Denmark, Italy and Luxembourg
4	France, Spain and Sweden
5	Austria, Netherlands and Portugal
86	India

