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Awards and Honours

Name	Award Name	Additional Information
Ruhan Rajput	'Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019'	A renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd
Bhasha Mukherjee	Miss England 2019	India-born doctor Bhasha Mukherjee was crowned Miss England 2019 at a ceremony in Newcastle.
Ravish Kumar	Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019	He has been given this prestigious award in recognition for harnessing journalism to give voice to voiceless.
Vinayak S Hiremath	'Pride of Nation Award'	Dr Vinayak S Hiremath, who is known for his exemplary work in the field of medicine and is the youngest doctor of Gulbarga.
Ram Nath Kovind	National order of Merit - highest award of Republic of Guinea	For his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea
Arun Lal	Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) - Lifetime Achievement Award	Former India cricketer and Bengal captain
Pranab Mukherjee	Bharat Ratna	Social activist Nanaji Deshmukh was honoured by Bharat Ratna posthumously
Shah Rukh Khan	Honorary Doctorate - Australia's La Trobe University	The honour, which was presented to 53-year-old actor, aims to recognise his efforts to support underprivileged children, his dedication to the fight for women empowerment through his MEER foundation
Steve Coogan	Charlie Chaplin Award	Actor Steve Coogan won with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honor during the 2019 Britannia Awards.'

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Priyam Chatterjee	"Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto" -	Priyam Chatterjee became the first Indian chef to be awarded the "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto" by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.
Abhinandan Varthaman	Vir Chakra	the country's third-highest gallantry award.
Merzban Patel	Dronacharya award (lifetime category)	The Dronacharya award (lifetime category) conferred on Merzban Patel by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sport, took Vile Parle-based Bawa, as he is popularly called in hockey circles.
Narendra Modi	UAE confers highest civilian award 'Order of Zayed	PM Modi interacted with the NRI business community in UAE at a Business Roundtable in Abu Dhabi and urged them to look at the business opportunities available in India.
PM Narendra Modi	'The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance'	By the King of Bahrain. "This is a recognition of India's strong friendship with Bahrain.
Prabhakar Singh	Eminent Engineer Award-2019	He is chosen for his distinguished and exemplary Service in field of Engineering and Technology.
Shashi Shanker	Distinguished Fellowship of IOD 2019	Shashi Shanker, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was honoured with Distinguished Fellowship of Institute of Directors (IOD).
Eric Cantona	UEFA President Award	Former Manchester United and France legend Eric Cantona to receive the UEFA President's Award at the Champions League draw in Monaco.

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Dr Anwesa Mahanta	Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman	Noted Sattriya danseuse and scholar Dr Anwesa Mahanta chosen for the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman for her contributions to the Sattriya tradition.
National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)	SKOCH Governance Gold Award	Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award
Phoebe Waller-Bridge	Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year	“Fleabag” and “Killing Eve” creator Phoebe Waller-Bridge is set to be felicitated by the British Academy’s Los Angeles branch. The British actor-writer will receive the Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year by BAFTA LA.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Additional Information
Hegde Kageri	speaker of Karnataka assembly	He was the only candidate to file his nomination papers for the post on 30 July.
SV Ranganath	CCD - interim chairman	Cafe Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd appointed SV Ranganath as interim chairman after the sudden death of its founder VG Siddhartha.
Mrutyunjay Mohapatra	Director General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD)	He was appointed as DG by the Ministry of Personnel on 4 June 2019.
Girraj Prasad Gupta	Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure	He is 1983-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer.
Siddhartha Mohanty	MD, CEO - LIC Housing Finance	Before joining LIC HFL, he was Executive Director – Legal with LIC of India.

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Kandikuppa Sreekant	chairman and managing director of Power Grid Corporation of India	He was serving as the Director of Finance of Power Grid. Sreekant is a B.Com (Hons.) graduate, CMA, and PGDBM (finance).
Ananth Narayanan	co-founder and CEO – Medlife	Over six months after his exit from Walmart-owned Myntra.
Sudha Rani Relangi	Director of Prosecution in CBI	The Central Government has appointed Sudha Rani Relangi as the Director of Prosecution in the Central Bureau of Investigation.
Sonia Gandhi	Interim Congress President	Sonia Gandhi was named as the Interim Congress President, after Rahul Gandhi refused to reconsider his decision to step down.
Anurag Adlakha	Yes Bank- CFO	Anurag Adlakha as Group Chief Financial Officer and Raj Ahuja as Group Chief Strategy Officer.
Chandrima Shaha	President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA)	Renowned biologist Chandrima Shaha became first woman to get elected as President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
Alejandro Giammattei	President of Guatemala	He won on his fourth try. He won 58.26% of the votes after 98% of voting centres had been counted. Former first lady Sandra Torres won 40% of votes.
Harshad Pandurang Thakur	Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare	Prior to this appointment, he was professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.
PT Usha	AAA Athletes Commission member	Usha will be one of the six members of the AAA Athletes Commission, which will be headed by 1992 Olympics gold medallist hammer thrower Andrey Abduvaliyev of Uzbekistan.
VG Somani	Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).	DCGI heads the Indian drug regulatory body the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

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D Muthukumaran	chief financial officer of ReNew Power	‘Muthu’ as he is popularly known in business circles had spent 17 years with Aditya Birla group.
Qamar Javed Bajwas	Pakistans Chief of Army Staff	Pakistan Prime Minister Office got a 3-year extension of General Qamar Javed Bajwa’s tenure as Chief of Army Staff.
Shavendra Silva	Commander of the Sri Lankan Army	Silva headed the Army’s 58th Division in the final battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.
Ravinder Takkar	CEO of Vodafone Idea	He is currently a board member of Vodafone Idea and Indus Towers.
Jaishankar R. Padmanabhan	NHB Executive Director	Jaishankar is currently Chief General Manager at India Infrastructure Finance Co Ltd (IIFCL), a state-owned infrastructure lender.
Madhur Deora	Paytm- president	Prior to joining Paytm in October 2016, Deora served as Managing Director in Citigroup’s investment banking business.
Srinivasan Vaidyanathan	Chief Financial Officer – HDFC bank	Vaidyanathan earlier held the position of Group Head (Finance) in the bank. He would replace Sashidhar Jagdishan.
Sandeep Sinha	TAFE as CEO	former Managing Director of Cummins India, as company’s Chief Executive Officer.
KK Mankeshwar	DHFL - new auditor	Significantly, the troubled NBFC said its other auditor – Mumbai-based Chaturvedi and Shah LLP – has also resigned.
PRAMOD AGRAWAL	Chairman Coal India	He will take over after the present chairman A K Jha retires in January 2020.
Pavan Kapoor	India’s Ambassador to UAE	Kapoor, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will replace Navdeep Suri.

Aditya Pande	IndiGo – CFO	Pande replaces Rohit Philip, who leaves the company on 16 September.
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Banking and Finance

RBI slaps ₹1.5-cr penalty on Bank of India

- Bank of India (BoI), said the Reserve Bank of India has asked it to pay a penalty of ₹1.5 crore on account of ‘non-compliance with RBI’s direction on frauds’ in Rotomac Group companies. In a stock exchange notice, BoI said the penalty is required to be paid within 14 days of receipt of RBI’s order, which was received via email dated August 1.

SBI, Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with China National Advance Payment System

- The State Bank of India’s (SBI) Shanghai branch is now connected to China’s National Advance Payment System (CNAPS), becoming the first Indian BankNSE -1.36 % to operationalise it, a senior bank official said.
- The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People’s Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in mainland China, as well as in all clearing banks in offshore yuan centers, such as Hong Kong.

Samsung India ties up with Mastercard, RBL Bank for mobile payments

- Mastercard, RBL Bank and Samsung India have announced the launch of Samsung Pay for RBL Bank’s credit card holders. The partnership will allow RBL Bank Mastercard credit card holders to make contactless mobile payments using their Samsung Pay-enabled phones.
- These payments can be made via any PoS (Point of Sale) machine where a card can be dipped, swiped or tapped, both in India and abroad. A physical card does not need to be present.

Government unveils mega bank mergers

- The government unveiled a mega plan to merge 10 public sector banks into four as part of plans to create fewer and stronger global-sized lenders as it looks to boost economic growth from a five-year low.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who had last week announced tax sops and measures for sectors such as auto, announced four new set of mergers — Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India will combine to form the nation’s second-largest lender; Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank will merge; Union Bank of India will amalgamate with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank; and Indian Bank will merge with Allahabad Bank.

RBI extends deadline for PPIs to become full KYC complaint

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the timeline for the conversion of minimum detail Prepaid Payment Instruments to KYC-compliant PPIs from 18 months to 24 months, a move welcomed players in the segment.
- The Payments Council of India (PCI) which represents the players in the payments and settlement systems has welcomed the move. The PPI industry processed more than 4 billion transactions in the year ending March 2019.

State Bank of India raises Rs 3104.80 cr thru allotment of AT1 bonds

- State Bank of India announced that the Committee of Directors for capital Raising at its meeting held today on 30 August 2019 has accorded approval to allot 31,048 Non-Convertible, Taxable, Perpetual, Subordinated, Unsecured Basel III compliant AT1 Bonds, for inclusion in AT1 Capital of the Bank, in the nature of debentures of face value of Rs. 10 lakh each, at par, bearing coupon of 8.75% p.a. payable annually with call option after 5 years or any anniversary date thereafter, aggregating to Rs. 3,104.80 crore to the Bond subscribers on 30 August 2019.

India's Fiscal Deficit In July At 77.8% Of 2019-20 Target

- India's fiscal deficit in July was at 77.8 percent of its 2019-20 target. The gap between the government's revenue and expenditure rose to Rs 5.47 lakh crore at the end of July, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts. That's 77.8 percent of the budget estimate of Rs 7.03 lakh crore for 2019-20.

SIDBI partners with Incuspaze for coworking space for MSMEs

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited (Incuspaze) to open a coworking space, designed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. This coworking space called @Workspaze is located in Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Moody's cuts India GDP growth forecast to 6.2% for 2019

- Moody's Investors Service on Friday pared down India's growth forecast for 2019 calendar year by 60 basis points to 6.2%, holding that moderation in business sentiment and slow flow of credit to companies have contributed to weaker investment in the country.

Canara Bank introduced OTP facility for ATM withdrawals

- Canara Bank has launched India's first one-time password (OTP) facility for ATM withdrawals. The OTP will be activated for cash withdrawals over Rs.10,000 per day at its ATMs to protect its cardholders from unauthorized withdrawal. Indian bank also taking this process as soon.

India's GDP to grow at 6% in April-June: FICCI survey

- India's economy will grow at a median rate of 6% during the first quarter of the current financial year ended 30 June, according to a Ficci report.
- The country's economy grew at 8.2% in April-June 2018-19. The growth numbers for the first quarter are expected to be released by the Central Statistics Office next week.

Indian Bank, Tata AIG General Insurance tie up

- Indian Bank has joined hands with Tata AIG General Insurance to offer the latter's diverse range of general insurance policies benefiting the bank's customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings. Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes.

DBS Bank to enter India's credit card market next year

- Southeast Asia's biggest bank DBS Group Holdings is preparing to enter the local credit card market in India in 2020, a senior company executive said. The Singapore-based lender's move highlights its efforts to tap growth outside its home market to offset weakness in the local economy.

Bandhan Bank launches co-branded credit card with Standard Chartered

- In a bid to offer a complete suite of services to its existing customers, Bandhan Bank, launched a co-branded credit card in association with Standard Chartered bank.
- The credit card would be offered to 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank.

Union Bank links home, auto loans to repo rates

- State-run Union Bank became the latest state-run bank to offer repo-linked home and auto loans. Already State Bank and seven other state-run banks have announced that their new loans and deposits will be priced to the repo-rate.
- With this, the city-based lender will price home loans above Rs 30 lakh and under Rs 75 lakh to the repo rate and will be priced at 8.25 percent for those borrowers with good credit score.

CVC sets up panel to examine bank fraud above Rs 50 crore

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.
- The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

RBI slaps penalties on nine banks over delay in reporting of frauds

- The Reserve Bank has slapped penalties on nine commercial banks, including State bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda, for a host of violations,

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including delay on the reporting of fraud in the account of Kingfisher Airlines in case of two lenders.

- United Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank said they have been fined 1 crore each by the RBI. State Bank of India (SBI) said the RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 50 lakh on it for non-compliance relating to reporting of frauds.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance and Axis Bank ink bancassurance pact

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance (ABHI), a stand-alone health insurer, has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Axis Bank, the country's third largest private sector bank.
- Through this partnership, ABHI will offer health insurance solutions to the Axis bank's customers across its 4,094 branches and digital channels.

RBI launches regulatory sandbox for Fintech companies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox (RS) for the startups, banks and financial institutions. The Fintech companies can now set up their own RS for live testing of innovative products in areas like retail payments, digital KYC and wealth management.

Govt removes debenture reserve requirement for housing finance cos, NBFCs

- The government has removed the redemption reserve requirement for issuance of debentures by non-banking financial companies, housing finance companies and listed firms, a move aimed at reducing cost for raising capital. Under the companies law, these entities raising money had to create Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) and that requirement has now been done away with.

SBI Life Insurance, Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact

- SBI Life Insurance and Chennai-headquartered Indian Bank have entered into a bancassurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter's customers. The partnership will see over 2,851 branches of Indian Bank spread across the country offer SBI Life's diverse range of individual and group insurance solutions.

Indian Bank signs agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance

- Public sector Indian Bank signed a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company for distribution of its insurance products to bank customers.
- According to the agreement, Cholamandalam MS, a Murugappa Group company, would sell its range of insurance policies to customers of Indian Bank.

RBL Bank launches India's first health-focused credit card

- Private sector RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo have partnered to launch an industry first co-branded health credit card. This credit card is powered by Mastercard and is available on both Practo and RBL mobile apps and websites.

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RBI cuts repo rate by 35 bps to 5.40%, maintains accommodative stance

- The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday cut repo rate by 35 basis points (bps) in its third bi-monthly policy review of the financial year. It was fourth rate cut by the central bank in a row. The short-term lending rate now stands at 5.40 per cent.
- The MPC felt standard 25 bps rate cut might have been and 50 bps rate cut a bit excessive, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das told reporters.

Mastercard launches identity check express to secure online transactions

- Mastercard announced the launch of Identity Check Express, a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution that aims to redefine the e-commerce journey for Indian consumers.
- The solution, will help eliminate unnecessary friction and enhance the security of online transactions. Identity Check Express was showcased at the Global Mastercard Cybersecurity Summit, held for the first time in India.

Repo rate could touch 5 pc level by March 2020: SBI report

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may cut repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) in its August 7 policy meet and further reduce it by 50 to 75 bps to achieve the level of less than or equal to 5 per cent by March 2020, according to State Bank of India's research report 'Ecowrap'.

IIFL Finance to raise up to crore through bonds

- IIFL Finance will raise up to ₹1,000 crore through a public issue of bonds. The main purpose of business growth and expansion. The bonds will offer yield of 10.5% per annum for tenor of 69 months and 10% for shorter tenor of 15 months for the secured category, the non-banking financial company (NBFC).
- The UK-based CDC Group-backed IIFL Finance will issue secured and unsecured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs) aggregating to ₹1,100 crore, with a green-shoe option to retain over-subscription up to ₹1,900 crore (aggregating to a total of ₹1,000 crore).

State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by years after a review of his performance

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director (MD) Dinesh Kumar Khara by another 2 years with effect from August 9, 2019.
- He is appointed Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years on August 10, 2016. He holds a Board level position in supervising the businesses of SBI's nonbanking subsidiaries.

Bajaj Hindusthan's independent director Madhav Laxman Apte resigns

- Leading sugar firm Bajaj Hindusthan on Friday said that its independent director Madhav Laxman Apte has resigned on health ground. In a filing to the BSE, the company said it has “received resignation letter from Madhav Laxman Apte from the post of independent director vide letter dated August 14, 2019.”

Bharti AXA Life ties up with Akshaya Patra to support mid-day meal programme

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, said that it has partnered with Akshaya Patra Foundation to support and contribute to the mid-day meal programme for government school children.
- The company joined hands with Akshaya Patra Foundation, the world's largest non-profit organisation running mid-day meal programme, to mark its 13th Foundation Day.

BHEL bags Rs 2,500 cr order from NTPC

- State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) said it has secured two orders worth Rs 2,500 crore from NTPC for setting up of emission control equipment at two of its thermal power plants.
- “Valued at around Rs 2,500 crore, the orders have been placed on BHEL by NTPC. The orders involve supply and installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems for 13 coal based units at 2,600 mega watt (MW) Korba STPS stage I, II and III in Chhattisgarh and 2,100 MW Ramagundam STPS stage I and II in Telangana,” BHEL said in a BSE filing.

NHB to provide Rs 20,000 crore additional liquidity support to housing finance companies

- In order to boost credit support for the purchase of houses, National Housing Bank (NHB) will offer additional liquidity support of Rs 20,000 crore to housing finance companies (HFCs). This will increase the total liquidity support to Rs 30,000 crore, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 23 while announcing a slew of measures to revive the economy.

Federal Bank launches instant demat account opening facility

- Federal Bank has launched a digital facility for instant online opening of demat accounts for its customers. Shyam Srinivasan, MD & CEO of Federal Bank, and G. V. Nageswara Rao, MD & CEO of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), jointly launched the new digital offering.

Indian Affairs

Cabinet approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit ITLU in Moscow

- The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in Moscow. The move comes as the India Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) cooperation with Russia on the Gaganyaan project, India's human space mission

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programme. The process has been planned to be completed within six months from the date of approval.

Motor Vehicles Bill gives govt power to regulate Uber, Ola

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019, cleared by the Rajya Sabha gives power to the Centre to regulate app-based taxi hailing services to make customer's cab ride experience smooth and hassle free.
- In a first, the government has recognized and defined aggregators as digital intermediaries or marketplaces which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation, under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, did not recognize cab aggregators as separate entity.

India Received Highest-Ever FDI Of Over \$64 Billion In 2018-19

- Riding on the foreign direct investment policy liberalisation and reforms in the last financial year, India received \$64.37 billion in investments in 2018-19. According to a report by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), it was up from \$60.97 billion received in the previous financial year.

India First Sky Cycling Park At a Height of 9000 Feet In Manali to Open Soon

- Cyclists are often spotted on roads and mountains enjoying the ride, while they pedal away to glory. They will be spotted cycling through the skies of Himachal Pradesh.
- The main aim is to boost tourism and give an all-new experience to visitors. Forest Department and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports joined hands and developed sky cycling park in Gulaba area near Manali.

Centre gives over Rs 47,000 cr to 27 states for green activities

- The environment ministry released over Rs 47,000 crores to 27 states for compensatory afforestation and other green activities, including prevention of forest fire, biodiversity management and soil conservation.
- Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh got the maximum share of the fund.

The twelfth India Security Summit was held in New Delhi

- The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi on 29 August. The theme of the summit is the **Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy**. The summit focused on several problems including the protection of important national infrastructure, rising cyber threats like incidents, challenges, and responsibilities.

India launches world's first facial biometric data-based ID for seafarers

- Union Ministry of Shipping has launched Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) to be issued for Indian seafarers. With this, India became world's first country to launch facial biometric data-based identity document (ID) for seafarers.

Cabinet approves Sugar export policy for evacuation of surplus stocks

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- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for sugar export policy for evacuation of surplus stocks during sugar season 2019-20. The policy provides lump sum export subsidy of Rs. 10,448 per Metric Tonne (MT) to sugar mills for season 2019-20.

Rajnath Singh inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh on 29 August. The Mela was organized by Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR).
- The Ministry of Defence has asked DIHAR to work on the challenges in High Altitude Region (HAR- failure) in the coming 3 years. It is expected that DIHAR should turn the failure into JEET (Victory).

PM Modi launches Fit India Movement

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nation-wide Fit India Movement from event held in Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi. It was launched on the occasion of National Sports Day (observed on 29 August) observed to commemorate birth anniversary of hockey doyen Major Dhyan Chand.
- **About Fit India Movement**
- It is aimed at encouraging people to give priority to sports and fitness in their day-to-day lives. It will inculcate physical activities/sports into the daily lives of citizens to improve their physical fitness and well-being.

Delhi Cabinet approves free rides for women in DTC from 29 October

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved free rides for women on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses as well as its cluster buses from October 29. The proposal was approved by the cabinet at the Delhi Secretariat.

Government Launches Vernacular Agro Advisory App Meghdoot For Farmers

- In a bid to further the Digital India initiative, and bring technology to farmers, the ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application — Meghdoot — that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.

Statue of Unity on TIME's greatest places in world list

- The 182-metre-tall Statue of Unity in Gujarat has been featured in Time magazine's 'World's Greatest Places 2019' list. The list comprises 100 "new and newly noteworthy destinations to experience right now". "Excellent news vis-à-vis the Statue of Unity," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, adding that a record 34,000 people visited the site in a single day a few days back.

IAF's Shalija Dhami becomes India's 1st female flight commander

- Indian Air Force's (IAF) Wing Commander Shalija Dhami scripted history by becoming country's 1st female officer to be appointed as flight commander of a flying unit. She took over as flight commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Maitri mobile app: to connect old-age homes and orphanages, win tech prize in US

- Five Girls from Amity International School in Noida, Uttar Pradesh developed a mobile application called 'Maitri' that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes. The innovation by this all-girls team called "Tech Witches" fetched them a bronze medal at global tech competition called 'Technovation Challenge' held in San Francisco, United States.

Indian documentary wins top award at We Care Film Festival

- Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja' on the top award in the 'Under 30 minute' category at the We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues. The film tells the story of specially-abled activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy. A total of 36 films were selected for the finals out of which 10 films were awarded in different categories.

IIP sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel

- The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) has set up a plant turn plastic waste into diesel. The plant was inaugurated by the Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan on 27 August.
- The plant setting up of the plant is a good move towards freeing the environment from plastic. It will also reduce the country's dependence on other countries for petroleum products. The plant will produce diesel out of plastic waste on a large scale.

Microsoft to train 5000 govt employees on AI cloud

- Microsoft India launched a scheme to provide 5000 government employees over the next year on AI (artificial intelligence) and cloud computing skills. The program, called 'Digital Governance Tech Tour', will comprise of physical and virtual workshops.

Feroz Shah Kotla to be renamed Arun Jaitley stadium

- The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) decided to rechristen Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium in the memory of its former president who passed away on august 24.

India creates history at World Skills event in Russia, bags 4 medals

- Indian contingent won four medals and 15 medallions of excellence at the just concluded World Skills Kazan 2019, taking India to the 13 the position out of 63 countries that participated in the international skilling event.

Govt Proposes New Guidelines For Safe Use of Nanotechnology in Agriculture

- Nanotechnology has been supporting the Indian agricultural market to develop products and processes with higher efficiency and lower costs. With the increasing scope to commercialise this technology, the government has now proposed a set of guidelines to regulate and maintain quality and safety of the products and processes.

Centre for avian ecotoxicology inaugurated in Coimbatore

- A National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology was inaugurated at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON).
- The centre, inaugurated by Union Environment and Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar, would explore the impact of chemical contaminants on individual species of birds and, where possible, link them to population and communities.

Ministry of Finance to conduct Indias first national Time Release Study for efficient trade flow

- The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance plans to conduct India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) between 1st and 7th August, 2019. The study is a part of the department's strategic commitment to improve the global trade.

IMMUVAC , VPM1002: India's 1st large-scale trial of two new TB vaccines launched

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002.
- These vaccines aim to prevent infection (pre-exposure) or prevent primary progression or reactivation of latent TB infection (post-exposure), all of which have critical role to play in India's big fight against TB. Both vaccines have been manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies.

Parliament passes Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- Parliament passed Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to provide stricter punishments for child sex abuse. It was first passed by Rajya Sabha on July 24, 2019 and then by Lok Sabha on August 1, 2019.
- The Bill amends Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012 which provides legal framework to protect children from offences such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.

Cabinet approves signing UN Convention on Mediation

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved signing of United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) resulting from mediation by India. It is scheduled to be signed in Singapore on 7th August, 2019 or at the United Nations.

7th Community Radio Sammelan held in New Delhi

- The 7th Community Radio Sammelan was held at Dr. BR Ambedkar Bhawan, New Delhi from 27th to 29th August, 2019. It was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The theme of this year's sammelan was 'Community Radio for SDGs'.

Government to prepare roadmap for distribution of fortified rice

- Union Government has decided to prepare detailed roadmap for nationwide distribution of fortified rice through ration shops. Instructions also have been given to Department of Food and Public Distribution to implement distribution fortified rice.
- Decision in this regard was taken in meeting between Union Food minister Ram Vilas Paswan reviewed and NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar for reviewing progress of rice distribution.

Health Ministry sign MoU with Ministry of Social Justice to enhance an outreach on HIV AIDS prevention

- Health Ministry has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to enhance an outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention. This MoU is the 18th such kind where MoU signed between Government departments/Ministries. It will promote the environment based on no stigma and discrimination.

Centre organized San Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August

- It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for Divyangjan accessible toilets.
- **Aim:**
- San-Sadhan Hackathon is an initiative that will make the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) (Divyangjan) easier by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme 2019 to be effective from 1 September

- The Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019 will be operationalized from 1st September 2019 to 31st December 2019. The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2019-20.
- It is expected that the Scheme will be availed by a large number of taxpayers to close their pending disputes that are related to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases. These taxes will now be included under GST.

Project SU.RE: Sustainable fashion project launched in Mumbai

- Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched Project SURE, a move towards sustainable fashion at Lakmé Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The project aims to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.

Renovated National Food Laboratory inaugurated at Ghaziabad

- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated regulator Food Safety and Standard Authority of India's (FSSAI) National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. It was inaugurated on the occasion of 13th anniversary of enactment of Food Safety and Standards Act, (FSSA) 2006.

24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council held in Panaji

- The 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council held was held in Panaji, capital of Goa. It was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Goa being host state, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was its vice-chairman. It was attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and representatives of Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Indian Climate Activist To Participate In First UN Youth Climate Summit

- Vishnu P R, from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is the CEO of "Change Can Change Climate Change (C5) Foundation", an organisation focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.
- A young climate activist from India is among 100 outstanding climate champions selected from around the world for a special "Green Ticket" that will help them travel to the UN headquarters next month to participate in the first-ever Youth Climate Summit.

Government to launch an e-commerce portal to help SMEs: Nitin Gadkari

- The government is planning to launch an e-commerce project called 'Bharatcraft' for micro small and medium enterprises (MSME), on the lines of global online shopping platform such as Alibaba, said union minister Nitin Gadkari. Gadkari said the proposed platform could generate a turnover of Rs 10 trillion over the next few years.

1st World Youth Conference on Kindness held in New Delhi

- The first World Youth Conference for Kindness was recently held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. It was organised by UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).
- It was held in commemoration of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. It was aimed at providing youth with creative, effective methods of engaging and realising UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

- Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named "Bharatcraft" for MSME's. The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like 'Alibaba' and 'Amazon'.
- The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector. The MSME Union Minister, the Bharat Craft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth ₹10 lakh crore in the next 2-3 years.

Government notifies Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019

- Union Finance Ministry has notified Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019, a dispute resolution and amnesty scheme to reduce legacy service tax and central excise cases.
- It will become operational from September 1, 2019 four months till December 31, 2019. It can be availed by taxpayers for closing their pending disputes relating to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases that are now subsumed under Goods and Services Tax (GST) so they can focus on GST.

The Diary of Manu Gandhi Book launched in New Delhi

- The book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44), edited and translated by Tridip Suhrud, was launched by Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi. The book has been brought out on occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by National Archives of India in collaboration with Oxford University Press.

HRD Ministry launches NISHTHA; to train over 42 lakh teachers

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA). This is aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers across the country.
- "Teacher training is our priority. In a bid to boost education and employment, we are focusing on reskilling the teaching workforce. NISHTHA is the world's biggest such project and will focus on training 42 lakh teachers from across the country," HRD School Education Secretary Rina Ray said at the launch event.

Ocean Energy Declared As Green Energy

- Accordingly, the Ministry of New and renewable energy has clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion etc. shall be considered as renewable energy and shall be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO), it said.
- India had in 2015 committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from the 2005 level. It had also announced plans to shift 40% of its installed power generation capacity to non-fossil-fuel-based energy resources.

India's junior women boxers win 4 gold

- India's junior women boxers completed their campaign with a rich haul of four gold, four silver and four bronze medals at the 3rd Nation's Cup in Vrbas, Serbia. While the contingent won the Runners-up trophy, India's 48kg gold medallist Tamanna, who blanked Russia's Alena Tremasova 5-0 in the final, picked up the coveted 'Best Foreign Boxer' award.

Mumbai to Host Prestigious World Youth Chess Championship in October

- India's latest chess sensation and the world's second youngest Grand Master Pragganandhaa R. will be the star attraction at the prestigious World Youth Chess Championship to be held in Mumbai in October.
- The 14-year-old king of the chequered board from Chennai will lead a star-studded field, including six world champions in various age-groups, in the mega tournament from October 1 to 13.

Indian para swimming team crosses Catalina Channel in USA

- Indian para swimming team comprising Gwalior's para swimmer Satendra Singh and two girls created history. Indian para swimming team has become the first from Asia who have crossed Catalina Channel in USA. Last year, Indian para team had crossed the English Channel.

IIT Delhi Startup's Multisensory Kit Wins National Disability Award

- Ms Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision, an IIT Delhi incubated startup working on the design and development of inclusive learning resources for visually impaired people has won the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019, which is given away every year to those who have been doing exemplary work towards the cause of accessibility and thus ensuring a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities.

India largest SO₂ emitter in world: Greenpeace

- India is the world's largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide, which is produced from coal burning, and greatly contributes to air pollution, a study claimed on August 19.
- According to an analysis of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace on August 19, India has more than 15% of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) hotspots in the world detected by the OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.
- **Did you Know?**
- The major SO₂ emission hotspots in India are Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra.

Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare at the inauguration of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital laid the foundation stone for the Super Speciality Block and new doctors' hostel at the Institute in presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (HFW), Shri Anil Bajjal, Lieutenant Governor, GNCT, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament, New Delhi and Shri Shiv Kumar ji, long-time associate and companion of Shri Atal ji.

17th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities in Nagpur on August 17-18

- A galaxy of dignitaries, including Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Supreme Court judge Sharad Bobde and Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad would be descending in the city to attend 17th all India meet of the state legal services authorities organized under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

India to host World Youth Chess Championship

- For the first time ever, India is to host the World Youth Chess Championship 2019. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) won the bid to conduct the World Youth and Junior Chess championships 2019 in the country. The championship will be held from 1 October to 13 October 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The championship aims to produce many young stars and aspire to take part in such world events.

1st Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology to be set up in Gujarat

- India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry. It was announced by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Chemical and Fertilizers. He also announced that Central Government is also planning to set up Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

International Conference on Teacher Education by NCTE held in New Delhi

- A two-day International Conference titled 'Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global' was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) in New Delhi. The two-day event is organized by National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee (25 years) celebration of its establishment in 1995.

Fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition Concludes at Jaisalmer Military Station with Indian Army Emerging as Champions

- Indian Army team comprehensively won the 5th Army International Scout Masters Competition. It is held at Jaisalmer Military Station from 06 to 14 August 2019 in a fiercely fought competition with teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The Indian Army team selected and trained under the aegis of Southern Command.

India suspends Thar Link Express to Pakistan

- Thar Link Express that connects Jodhpur in India to Karachi in Pakistan. The rail links between the two countries as the services of Samjhauta Express. The Thar Link Express undertake its journey scheduled for early Saturday (1 am) and the administration initiated the process of cancellation of all the 45 tickets which have been issued. The Thar Express has been suspended till further orders.

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- The directions were issued by the railway ministry to the North Western Railway. The weekly train departs from Jodhpur's Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station on Saturdays and reach Munabao, the last station on the Indian side of the border, early morning.

Lt Gen Puri became first serving Lt Gen to complete 1,200 km Paris Brest Paris circuit

- Lieutenant General Anil Puri completed France's oldest cycling event, 1,200km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit. He became the first serving Lieutenant General-rank officer of the Indian Army.
- Lt Gen Puri, the 56-year-old officer completed the event by cycling non-stop for 90 hours. 367 participants represented India. Around 80 successfully completed the trek. Six army personnel secured berths at the event for having completed at least one 1,000-km non-stop cycling event during their respective careers.

IIT Kharagpur researchers develop low-cost blood test device

- Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed a low-cost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using blood taken from a fingerprick.
- The device requires only a paper strip based kit integrated with a smartphone to enable analytics and readout functions and an LED light for imaging. While under laboratory conditions each test would cost Re 1 or even less, the cost is expected to marginally vary in case of commercialisation of the product, the statement said.

Centre plans to make India free of single use plastics

- The Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced a massive public campaign to make India free of single use plastics at the function ordered by the Indian Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- The Ministry conducted a series of meet with all the stakeholders including state governments gathering to eliminate the use of single-use plastic. It also suggested shopkeepers to provide eco-friendly bags to their customers.

GI Tag accorded to three new products

- Geographical Indications Registry under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Tirur betel leaf from Kerala, Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.
- GI product is recognised as originating from specific geographical origin possessing qualities or reputation related to its origin. This tag is exclusive and similar item originating from different location is not allowed to use it.

BCCI retains Ravi Shastri as team India's head coach till 2021

- Ravi Shastri has been re-appointed head coach of Indian men's cricket team till 2021 by Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC unanimously felt that incumbent's communication skills and understanding of team issues stood out. Ravi had the public backing of captain Virat Kohli even before the short-listing was initiated.

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National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' being organised at Leh-Ladakh

- In a bid to give a fillip to tribal economy in Ladakh, Aadi Mahotsav or National Tribal Festival will be organised at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh. It is a 9 day festival that will start from 17 August till 25 August 2019. The event will be inaugurated by Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik. Until 2018 Ladakh did not figure on list of places where Aadi Mahotsav is held every year.

Nomination – Khel Ratna for Deepa Malik and Bajrang Punia, Arjuna for Ravindra Jadeja

- Wrestler Bajrang Punia and Para-athlete Deepa Malik have been nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. Meanwhile India cricketer Ravindra Jadeja has been nominated for the Arjuna Award and he is one of the 19 sportspersons who have been nominated for this prestigious award.

ONGC investing Rs 83,000 cr in 25 projects; cumulative oil, gas gain over 180 MT

- Energy major Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is investing around Rs 83,000 crore in 25 major projects to boost oil and gas production, which has stagnated over last years, its chairman and managing director Shashi Shanker said.
- Addressing ONGCNSE 0.83 % employees on the 73rd Independence Day, he said: “15 of these projects currently under execution will directly contribute to oil and gas production.”

Naval Tata Hockey Academy inaugurated in Bhubaneswar

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), a high-performance centre for hockey at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha for grooming best hockey talent in State. Academy is named in honour of Naval H. Tata to commemorate his contribution to hockey in India as well as his achievements as a sports administrator.

India's first space museum inaugurated in Hyderabad

- With interest in space among public zooming up courtesy the successful flight of the Chandrayaan-2 mission to the moon, India's first Space Science Museum opened in Hyderabad.
- Located on the erstwhile Naubat Pahad in the centre of the city, it's a collaborative effort between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the B M Birla Science Centre.

Inter-State Council reconstituted with Prime Minister as chairman

- The Inter-State Council, which is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.
- According to a notification, the Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath

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Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development).

IIM Kozhikode to host Women Economic Forum for entrepreneurs on August 22-23

- The first Kerala edition of Women Economic Forum (WEF), a global platform for women leadership enhancement and networking, will be held at IIM Kozhikode on August 22 and 23.
- Organised by All Ladies League (ALL), a global movement committed to unleash the potential in one and all, the two-day event will bring together 400-plus women entrepreneurs, speakers and delegates from across the world. WEF will include sessions focusing on learning, networking and business development.

State of Art Gallery at National Crafts Museum inaugurated

- A Textiles Gallery at National Crafts Museum was inaugurated in New Delhi on 13 August by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani. The collection aims to help people explore, enjoy, and rediscover the world of Indian textiles through design and technology.

Delhi govt unveiled the Citywide WiFi project

- Delhi government has announced that 11,000 hotspots will be installed to provide Wi-Fi before the end of 2019. The announcement was made by CM Arvind Kejriwal. It also announced that 4,000 hotspots will be installed at bus stops. The State govt. has planned to install 1,40,000 more CCTVs in the State.

NITI Aayog launches 4th edition of Women Transforming India Awards

- NITI Aayog launched fourth edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. Nominations for the awards will be opened immediately after the launch. The theme for this year's award is '**Women and Entrepreneurship**', in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018.
- WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to US \$100,000 to award winners. Nominations for the awards will be opened immediately after the launch.

Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha drive launched to promote water conservation awareness among school students

- Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha drive was launched to promote water conservation activities among school students by Union ministers Ramesh Pokhriyal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Kendriya Vidyalaya Number 2 at Delhi Cantonment on August 9, 2019.
- Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha drive was initiated by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the HRD Ministry to promote awareness about water conservation activities among school students in the country so that they can become more committed, conscientious and competent citizens.

BCCI agrees to come under NADA, cricketers to undergo doping tests

- The BCCI after years of opposition has finally agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). The BCCI stated in writing that it would adhere to NADA's anti-doping policy.
- The information was shared by Sports Secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya on August 9 after his meeting with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri. Jhulaniya stated that from henceforth, all cricketers will be tested by NADA. Till now, the BCCI had opposed NADA's doping tests and the cricketers were kept out of it.

Rajnath Singh approves Child Care Leave for Male Service Personnel in Defence Force

- The decision is in sync with an order by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The minister gave his nod for giving certain relaxation in childcare leave (CCLNSE 1.31 %) provisions in case of women officers in defence forces. The CCL is granted only to women officers in defence forces.
- Recently, DoPT has made certain amendments to allow CCL to civilian employees whereby the CCL granted to woman employees till now has been extended to the single male government. The age limit of 22 years prescribed earlier in the case of a child with 40 per cent disability has been removed for the purpose of availing CCL.

Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly: Anupam Kher's Autobiography released

- Veteran actor Anupam Kher's autobiography titled "Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly" was launched at a special event at Consulate General of India in New York. It was unveiled by Rishi Kapoor, along with wife Neetu Kapoor and cast of NBC's show New Amsterdam.
- The autobiography of Padma Bhushan awardee gives a detailed account of his failures, rejections and lessons learnt in his life and in a career spanning 500 films.

Exhibition on 'DAE Technologies' held in New Delhi

- Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is organizing exhibition on 'DAE Technologies: Empowering India through Technology' at New Moti Bagh recreation club, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Shri Rakesh Gupta, Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The 2-day exhibition on DAE's spin-off technologies for Non-Power Applications (NPAs) is open to public for 11-12 August 2019.

"Human Chain" Unfurls 15-Km-Long Tricolour In Chattisgarh, Enters Record

- Thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a 15-km long national flag by forming a human chain in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur, ahead of Independence Day.
- The event, organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation, entered the Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour), a statement issued by government public relations department said.

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Shri Amit Shah launches 'Listening, Learning and Leading', the book based on Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years as Vice President of India

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched the book 'Listening, Learning and Leading' in Chennai. This book is based on Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office. The book captures glimpses of the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country during this period.

India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement

- The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed. Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- The Cripps Mission failed, and on 8 August 1942, Gandhiji gave the call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.

33% of India's skilled youth jobless: official survey

- An analysis of the unit-level data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 however suggests that the reality is far more grim. Only a small section of the youth reported receiving any vocational training, and a large share of them were either unemployed or out of the labour force, the data shows.

Amit Shah flags off first international meeting with Bangladesh

- In his first international outreach as India's Home Minister, Amit Shah, met Home Minister of Bangladesh Asaduzzaman Khan, a Union home ministry spokesperson said.
- The two sides have embarked on "high-level delegation talks", with matters of internal security on both ends dominating discussions.

Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day

- Lalit Kala Akademi celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on August 5th, 2019. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Culture & Tourism inaugurated the celebrations in New Delhi.
- It is also known as National Academy of Art. It is India's national academy of fine arts established by Central Government for promoting and propagating It is also known as National Academy of Art. It is India's national academy of fine arts established by Central Government for promoting and propagating understanding of Indian art, within and outside country.

Rajya Sabha approves resolution abrogating Article 370

- Rajya Sabha approved a resolution abrogating Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir and a bill to bifurcate the state into two Union Territories with Home Minister Amit Shah saying the controversial provisions were responsible for poverty and lack of development in the state.

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- Allaying opposition fears of all hell breaking loose after the move, Shah replying, “nothing will happen” and it won’t be allowed to turn into another battle torn Kosovo. “It was heaven on earth and will remain so,” he said replying to the debate on the resolution and the bill which were taken up together.

Bill to increase number of SC judges in Lok Sabha

- Against the backdrop of nearly 60,000 pending cases in the Supreme Court, a bill to increase the number of judges in the top court from 30 to 33 was introduced in Lok Sabha. As of now, the Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 30 judges, plus the chief justice of India — 31 judges.

India tops latest ICC Test rankings

- India topped the latest ICC Test team rankings while New Zealand is placed 2nd and South Africa is in 3rd position. India skipper Virat Kohli retains his number one position in the latest ICC Test batsmen’s rankings.
- Australian batsman Steve Smith overtook India’s Cheteshwar Pujara to grab the No.3 spot. His elevation in rankings came after consecutive hundreds in the opening Ashes Test in Edgbaston. Pujara is placed fourth in the fresh standings.

NCAER sees GDP growth at 6.2% on flat agriculture gross value added

- Economic think tank NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) expects the agriculture gross value added (GVA) to remain flat in 2019-20, pulling down the country’s economic growth rate to 6.2 per cent in FY20, from 6.8 per cent in FY19. The NCAER’s projection for the economic growth rate is the lowest among the various estimates that have come so far.

Centre moves J K Reorganisation Bill a resolution to revoke Article of Jammu and Kashmir

- The Government of India announced repealing Article 370 and introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha on 5 August. This will now repeal special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution was passed by Home Minister Amit Shah in the upper house. The abrogation of Article 370 will make J&K an integral part of India.
- The bill proposes Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory with a legislature, while Ladakh as a Union Territory without a legislature.
- **What is Article 370?**
- Article 370 was introduced in 1947 by **Sheikh Abdullah** the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir. Article 370 of the Indian constitution gives autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The article is drafted as Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions in Part XXI of the Constitution. The Indian Constitution still describes it as a temporary provision.

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Article 370 provided six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir:

- The State is allowed to have its own Constitution.
- The Central legislative powers over the State were limited to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications.
- Only with the concurrence of the State Government, other constitutional powers of Indian Government could be extended to the State.
- The concurrence was only provisional. The State's Constituent Assembly should ratify the provision.
- Until the State Constituent Assembly was formed, the State Government was given authority to give concurrence. Once the State Constituent Assembly finalised the scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible.
- Only if the State's Constituent Assembly approves the Article 370, it could be repealed or amended.

Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare an emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression.

Statue of Unity shortlisted for UK-based structural award

- The Statue of Unity, a memorial to Sardar Patel, in Gujarat's Kevadia town has been shortlisted for 'The Structural Awards 2019' of the UK-based Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE). The 182-m-tall statue was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31 last year.

Lok Sabha passes amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- Lok Sabha passed amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, with the government asserting that the spirit behind the law is not to allow companies to die.
- Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill and with its passage in the lower house, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is set to be amended. Responding to the debate on the bill, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the liquidation of a company is not the sole agenda of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Crisil cuts India's GDP growth to 6.9% from 7.1% for FY20

- Crisil cut the gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for India by 0.2 percentage points for FY20. The rating agency's cut to 6.9 percent from 7.1 percent comes amidst slowing global growth and weak monsoon recorded in the country in June. Sluggish data for the first quarter was another contributing factor.

India drops to 7th largest economy in 2018, UK and France overtake

- India's economy has been pushed to the seventh spot in GDP rankings in 2018 with the UK and France overtaking the country, the latest World Bank data showed. India's GDP was \$2.73 trillion while that of UK was \$2.83 trillion and France was \$2.77 trillion. India had surpassed France and then the UK in 2017 to become the fifth-largest economy.

Parliament passes Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019

- Parliament has passed Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to empower Central Government to designate an individual as a “terrorist”. It was first passed by Lok Sabha on 24 July 2019 and later by Rajya Sabha on 2 August 2019.

Parliament passes Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019

- Parliament has passed Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 that seeks to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments. The bill provides for repealing 58 old and obsolete laws which have no relevance at present and makes minor amendments to two other laws. It was introduced in Lok Sabha on 25 July 2019 by Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by Lok Sabha

- Lok Sabha passed Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 by a voice vote and amendments moved by members of opposition parties were also defeated. The bill ends automatic nomination of Congress President as trustee of Jallianwala Bagh Memorial trust. It was introduced in Lok Sabha by Prahla.

BIS to set up Pashmina Testing Centre in Leh

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has announced setting up Pashmina testing centre in Leh region of Jammu and Kashmir to check the quality of pashmina collected. It will be set up in partnership with lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh.
- The centre will have standards testing lab, machines and scientists to check the quality of pashmina collected. It also released BI Standards of Pashmina. BIS will also train the locals, with cooperation of LAHDC in marking of the standards to save the time and money.

LS passed the Dam Safety Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed the Dam Safety Bill, 2019. The Bill aims to provide an uniform safety procedures for the specified 5,600 dams in the country. It will also enhance the security of citizens.
- The introduction of the Bill will not take away the rights of the States. The Bill was introduced in 2010. It was opposed in various edition in the State and has never been successfully passed until now.

India Participates in 8th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting in Beijing

- The Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan led a delegation to the 8th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial meeting held in Beijing on 2-3 August 2019. During the meeting he highlighted India's contribution in shaping the RCEP negotiations till date.
- He advocated a spirit of understanding accommodation and flexibility towards reaching balanced outcome in the negotiations. India's concerns regarding market access and

other issues leading to imbalanced trade between some of the partner countries was specifically flagged during the meetings.

NITI Aayog approves JV to acquire minerals needed for Electric Vehicles

- NITI Aayog has approved the proposal for joint venture between National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and foreign companies.
- The plan is to acquire foreign reserves of strategic minerals like lithium and cobalt to power the country's electric vehicles has moved a step closer. Therefore, the three state-owned metal and mining companies are set to form a joint venture to buy on minerals.

Rajya Sabha passes Wage Code bill providing minimum wages for workers

- Moving ahead with labour reforms, the Rajya Sabha passed the Wage Code bill Friday to enforce minimum wage among both formal and informal sector workers and make provision for no gender discrimination in either recruitment or payment of wages. This comes following passage of the bill in the Lok Sabha and has the potential to improve women labour force participation rate in the country.

NFDC announces Second window of Funding for Film Production in various Indian languages

- National Film Development Corporation Limited – NFDC has announced that it will start accepting applications for funding of feature films under the Central Government scheme, 'Production of films in various Indian languages'. In a statement, NDFC has informed that interested applicants can apply by visiting official website

Arjun Ram Meghwal Addresses 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave

- The Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Arjun Ram Meghwal, inaugurated the 3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Gurugram. The Conclave was held to create a knowledge-sharing platform to ensure flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.

ScooNews Global Educators Fest 2019

- The 3rd edition of ScooNews Global Educators Fest will be held on Udaipur, the city of lakes, revolves around the theme of 'Education for Sustainability: Moving On from Conformity to Creativity'.

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve now worth ₹162 billion: report

- The annual economic flow benefits of the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) are worth a staggering ₹162.02 billion, says a report titled Economic Valuation of Tiger Reserves In India, brought out by the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NCTA).

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- The NSTR is one of the largest tiger reserves in the country and is spread over 3,800 sq.km. covering Guntur, Prakasam, and Kurnool districts in Andhra Pradesh and Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar in Telangana.

Google marks ISRO Founder's 100th birth anniversary with doodle

- Google celebrated the 100th birth anniversary of Vikram Sarabhai, who had set up India's first rocket-launching site near Thiruvananthapuram and founded ISRO in 1969, with a doodle. A mentor to late President APJ Abdul Kalam, Sarabhai completed his PhD from Cambridge University and also co-founded IIM Ahmedabad. The Padma Vibhushan-awardee passed away on December 30, 1971.

IIT Delhi Startup's Multisensory Kit Wins National Disability Award

- Ms Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision, an IIT Delhi incubated startup working on the design and development of inclusive learning resources for visually impaired people has won the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019, which is given away every year to those who have been doing exemplary work towards the cause of accessibility and thus ensuring a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities.

Discovery, WWF tie up to preserve Sundarbans

- To help save the world's only mangrove tiger habitat, Discovery India and WWF India have partnered with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans.

State Related Affairs

Kaleshwaram project secures Hyderabad's water supply for the future

- Hyderabad is facing any such issues in the foreseeable future even if there is low rainfall, all thanks to the Telangana government's massive ₹18,019 crore Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project launched in June.
- The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) supplies 462 million gallons per day (MGD) to the capital city from the Krishna (phase 1, 2 and 3) and Godavari (phase-1) projects, and the Osmansagar, and Himayat Sagar reservoirs.
- The two reservoirs put supply just 40 MGD of water. They were built close to a century ago to supply water to the city.

Gujarat CM launches 'Vhali Dikri Yojna'

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' from his home town Rajkot. The scheme for the welfare of girl child has been launched to mark the 63th birth day of Chief Minister.
- According to scheme, the State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 and another Rs. 1-lakh at the time of marriage.

West Bengal launches awareness campaign Save Green Stay Clean

- West Bengal government launched an awareness campaign named 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in the state. The campaign launched State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata.
- The campaign was launched on August 1, 2019. The state will also observe this day every year. It also plans to distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greener.

Maharashtra: 1st state to adopt digital fingerprint and iris scanning system

- Maharashtra became first state in the country to adopt an Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) i.e. digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to help police investigations. This system will soon be replicated by police forces of other states in the country.

Mamata scheme for PVTG women in Odisha extended for five years

- The Odisha government has extended benefits of the Direct Cash Benefit "Mamata" scheme to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in the state for another five years, an official said.
- While pregnant women of other communities can avail the conditional cash transfer maternity benefit scheme only up to two live births, PVTG women are barred from the limit.

Bhubaneswar gets provisional clearance for 2020 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

- Roma Khanna, the FIFA tournament director of the local organising committee confirmed here that the city had become the first venue to get a provisional clearance for the FIFA U-17 event, which will be the first FIFA competition for women in the country.

Dindigul lock, Kandangi saree get GI tag

- The products — the Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree — were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai .
- While the application for the lock was made by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, the Amarar Rajeev Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Production and Sales Society Limited filed the application for the Kandangi saree.

Uttarakhand to set up Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve

- Uttarakhand Government has decided to for Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR). This decision was taken by State Cabinet meeting. The force will have 85 posts and will help serve as the much needed second layer of protection for the big cat.

Tamil Nadu govt. launches 40 'Amma' Patrol Vehicles for security of women and children in public places

- In the first phase, the 'Amma Patrol' vehicles have been handed over to the 35 All Women Police Stations in Chennai. The patrol service will be in operation in places like school and colleges, shopping malls, railway stations, bus stops, places of worship, IT companies and beaches.

Karnataka CM Yediyurappa names 3 deputy CMs, allocates Cabinet portfolios

- Karnataka Chief Minister Yediyurappa appointed Govind Makthappa Karajol, Ashwath Narayan CN and Laxman Sangappa Savadi as the deputy chief ministers. Notably, Laxman Savadi is not an elected MLA or MLC but has been appointed as one of the deputy chief ministers. has got all the unallocated portfolios.

Tamil Nadu government launches education TV channel 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi'

- The Tamil Nadu government launched its exclusive education TV channel, aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII. An initiative of the School Education Department, 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi' (Education TV) was launched by Chief Minister K Palaniswami.
- The channel's content will include shows aimed at school children, besides those on jobs and related issues. "Students can now learn from home," School Education Minister KA Sengokottaiyan said at the launch event.

Gujarat tops in Composite Water Management Index 2019

- Gujarat topped in 2017-18 in the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) report released by NITI Aayog. CWMI 2.0 ranked 25 States and 2 UTs for the reference year 2017-18 as against base year 2016-17. On an average, 80% of states assessed on CWMI 2.0 over the last three years have improved their water management scores, with average improvement of +5.2 points.

Bihar schools have worst student-teacher ratio, followed by Delhi: Govt

- Schools in Bihar have the fewest teachers per student with a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 38, followed by Delhi at 35, according to HRD Ministry officials. According to The Right to Education Act, 2009, at primary level, the PTR norm is 30:1 and at the upper primary level it's 35:1. Sikkim has the best student-teacher ratio at four, officials added.

Punjab govt. launches 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' health insurance scheme

- State government of Punjab launched a mega health insurance scheme title 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' (MGSSBY) for poor by clubbing Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) plan with its own. The PMJAY was unveiled in September 2018 by the Centre and kept on hold so far by Punjab government.

Karnataka emerges as best state for roof top solar in India

- Karnataka has emerged as the best state for setting up a roof top solar project according to the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index–SARAL released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh come next in the rankings but all four have been graded A++.

Nagaland State Police Dept gets first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre

- Nagaland State Police Department got its first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre for Prevention of Cyber Crime against Women and Children.

Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme

- Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched “School Fagadaba” (Make education better) scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools. The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state. The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years.

Tamil Nadu becomes 5th State to Declare a State Butterfly

- Tamil Nadu has officially declared Tamil Yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) as the state butterfly to symbolise its rich natural and cultural heritage. This move aimed at boosting conservation efforts of attractive insects. It will also help channelising government funds towards a particular environmental cause.

Tamil Nadu CM announces 2 new districts, total reaches 37

- Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the creation of two new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to 37. During his address at the Independence Day function in Chennai, he said Vellore district will be trifurcated into Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet. Notably, the state government announced two new districts in July as well.

1 kg of an Assam tea variety auctioned for ₹75,000

- A kilogram of a variety of Assam tea, ‘Golden Butterfly’, was auctioned for ₹75,000 by the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC). The speciality tea is produced by Dikom Tea Estate and the bid was paid by Assam Tea Traders. In July, another variety of Assam tea was auctioned for ₹50,000 a kilo by GTAC.
- **Note :**
- While Assam tea made from tea leaves is known for its malty flavour, strong and bright colour, the Manohari Gold tea, true to its name gives a golden hue when brewed. This Assam tea variety was auctioned at Rs 50,000 per kg.

J-K to host 3-day global investors summit in Srinagar from October 12

- Seeking to attract businesses to Jammu and Kashmir, the state administration announced a three-day global investors summit to be held in Srinagar from October 12.
- The meet will provide J-K an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies and potential, the state's Principal Secretary (Industries), Naveen Choudhary, told reporters here

Tamil Nadu's Palani Panchamirtham prasadam given GI tag

- Prasadam from a popular temple in Tamil Nadu has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The renowned Palani panchamirtham which is served as the prasadam at Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani was bestowed with the tag recently.

UP extends bilateral cooperation MoU with Netherlands in several fields

- Uttar Pradesh government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.
- A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by officials in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Netherlands ambassador to India, Marten van den Berg extending the cooperation between two countries till 2024.

Delhi govt unveiled the Citywide WiFi project

- Delhi government has announced that 11,000 hotspots will be installed to provide Wi-Fi before the end of 2019. The announcement was made by CM Arvind Kejriwal. It also announced that 4,000 hotspots will be installed at bus stops. The State govt. has planned to install 1,40,000 more CCTVs in the State.

Haryana govt to roll out Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana from Aug 21

- Haryana Government announced the roll-out of 'Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna' which will provide social security to families. Under the scheme, Rs 6000 per year will be given to each eligible family.
- The scheme, which will be launched on August 21, will provide social security to people in the form of life insurance, accidental insurance and pensionary benefits.

Manipur tops in Breastfeeding, Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices

- Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding on 8th August in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.

Virasat e Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record

- Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is to find a place in the Asia Book of Records. It is the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.

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- The museum witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20. Virasat-e-Khalsa is a museum of Sikhism, located in the holy town, Anandpur Sahib Chandigarh.

Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal

- “Traditional methods of traffic police to control and regulate traffic are very much labour-intensive and two-dimensional. Employing the 3-D technique to make traffic signal fully actuated and on a real-time basis is first of its kind in the country. This will be a major leapfrog towards better and economical traffic management system,” said Dr Sharad Satya Chauhan, ADGP (Traffic), while addressing the media.

Maharashtra launches Mission Shakti sports initiative

- Film Actor Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti, a Maharashtra government’s initiative to train athletes from tribal areas for international sports events such as Olympics. It will help Maharashtra government to hunt for talented athletes in remote areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

International Affairs

10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial meeting held in Bangkok

- The 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. During this meeting, new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 was adopted.

Shaheen VIII: Pakistan-China aerial exercise held in China’s Hotan City

- Pakistan and China are conducting joint bilateral aerial exercise Shaheen VIII (Eagle VIII) in Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border near Ladakh. It was eight edition of this aerial exercise, which is conducted annually by India’s two neighbours since 2011.

US approves USD 3.3bn sale of anti-ballistic missiles to Japan

- Washington approved the USD 3.3 billion sale of anti-ballistic missiles to Japan, following close behind a series of new ballistic missile tests by North Korea that could threaten the US ally.
- Japan will buy up to 73 of the Raytheon-made SM-3 Block IIA missiles, which are designed to be fired by the ship-board Aegis system to intercept incoming ballistic missiles, the Pentagon said.

2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference to be held in Thailand

- The 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference will be held in Thailand’s capital city Bangkok. In this conference, India will be represented by Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

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- Theme for conference: “**Collaboration in a free and Open Indo – Pacific**”. It will see participation of Chiefs of Defence of more than 33 countries.

Akademik Lomonosov: Russia launches world’s first floating nuclear reactor

- Russia launched world’s first floating nuclear reactor called Akademik Lomonosov, sending it on epic journey across the Arctic. It was launched and loaded with nuclear fuel from Arctic port of Murmansk for its 5,000 kilometre voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia.
- On arriving in Pevek, it will replace local nuclear plant and closed coal plant. It will go in full operations by end 2019 and it will mainly serve region’s oil platforms in Arctic. One of its targets is also to power Chaun-Bilibin mining complex in Chukotka region, which also includes gold mine.

Pakistan test fired ballistic missile Ghaznavi

- Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range near Karachi located in Balochistan. The missile was built with a capability to deliver different types of warheads including nuclear and conventional up to a range of 290 km.
- It will be placed under the medium-range ballistic missiles. During the test, Ghaznavi was tracked by the National Development Complex (NDC) ground control station. It is located at a 220 km distance from the test range.

Nepal to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting

- Nepal plans to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in September 2019. The aim is to prove the country’s role in creating an environment for the commencement of the regional summit.

Russia sends its first humanoid robot Fedor into space

- Russia launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.
- Named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.

UAE will be first Middle East country to issue RuPay card

- The UAE will be the first country in the Middle East to witness the launch of the RuPay card, “an Indian indigenous equivalent of Mastercard or Visa”, during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi this weekend.

Parsi New Year and Navroz celebrated across the world

- The festival is celebrated by follows of Zoroastrianism in Middle-East, USA and South Asian countries such as India and Pakistan. The vibrant festival began 3,000 years back by the mighty emperor Jamshed, who introduced the new calendar in Persia.

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- The day is celebrated to gain health, wealth, prosperity, and productivity. Four 'Fs' – Fire, Fragrance, Food, and Friendship play an important role in the celebration.

28th BASIC Ministerial meeting on Climate Change held in Brazil

- BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was held in the run-up to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in December 2019. In this meeting, India was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.

IFC and MIGA To Support Landmark Wind Farm on Egypt

- IFC and MIGA, members of the World Bank Group, signed an agreement to support the development of a 252-megawatt wind farm by Lekela in Egypt's Red Sea governorate. IFC will provide \$84 million in financing while MIGA will offer \$122 million in financial guarantees, helping to bolster the production of clean energy, lower generation costs, and diversify the country's energy mix.

Kajin Sara lake has set a new record of being the worlds highest lake

- Mountaineers discovered the Kajin Sara lake in Manang district of Nepal few months ago. This lake in Nepal has set a new record of being the world's highest lake and replaced Tilicho Lake of Nepal.

Kajin Sara lake:

- Kajin Sara lake is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality. The measurement of the lake which is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, is estimated to be 1,500 metre (1.5 km) long and 600 metre wide. The water of the Kajin's lake is formed out mainly by melting waters from Himalaya.

Women's cricket to be part of Birmingham 2022 CWG, confirms CGF

- Cricket will come back to the Commonwealth Games roster for the first time since 1998 with the inclusion of women's T20 for the 2022 edition in Birmingham, the Commonwealth Games Federation and the ICC announced.
- Cricket has made just one appearance at the CWG previously, with men playing in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, where South Africa finished on top of the podium.

Pakistan blacklisted by Asia-Pacific Group of FATF

- The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has put Pakistan in Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its standards. Decision in this regard was taken at FATF APG plenary meeting held in Canberra, Australia.

About Asia Pacific Group (APG)

- It is Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional body for Asia-Pacific region to develop policies to combat money laundering and terror financing. It is inter-governmental organisation founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Serbia officially joins AIIB

- Serbia officially became a non-regional member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the country's ministry of finance confirmed in a press release.
 - The China-initiated multilateral financial institution began operation in January 2016 with 57 founding members, with an agenda focused on supporting sustainable development through infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond.
- Enditem

Indonesia to set up its new capital on Borneo island

- President Joko Widodo announced that the administrative functions of Jakarta would move to the area of East Kalimantan, reported Bloomberg.
- The new capital will be located between North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara on the Indonesian part of Borneo, 870 miles away from the current capital. The cost of building the new capital city is estimated to be 466 trillion rupiah (£26.6 billion) and construction will take 10 years.

Ajantha Mendis retires from all forms of cricket

- The right-arm, who made his debut in 2008, had a blistering start to his international career, befuddling batsmen with his disguised variations. He took 26 wickets in his maiden Test series, against India, a record for a three-match debut rubber, and remains the fastest bowler to 50 ODI wickets, taking just 19 games to reach the landmark.

Papua New Guinea has highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in world

- Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Country in Oceania has highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in world (840). Living languages in world (840). Living languages stands for languages that are still being used and spoken by people. India stands fourth in list with 453 languages.
- In 2016, United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) highlighted that 40% of estimated 6,700 languages spoken around world were in danger of disappearing.

Cancer researcher becomes first woman to win 4,000km cycling race

- A German cancer researcher has become the first woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races in her first ultra-distance event. Fiona Kolbinger, 24, from Dresden, said she was "so surprised to win" the Transcontinental, which traverses 2,485 miles (4,000km) from Burgas in Bulgaria to Brest in France.
- She took 10 days, two hours and 48 minutes to complete the challenge, which included about 40,000 metres (131,000ft) of climbing.

Foreign Relation

India, UK launch Innovating for Clean Air initiative in Bengaluru

- India and United Kingdom launched two-year joint initiative- Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka. It is aimed at providing unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India's transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).

India, US agree on collaboration in defence sector

- Indian and American officials on Friday agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to collaboration between the defence industry and start-ups in both countries.
- An understanding in this regard was reached during the 15th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington. The Indian side was led by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra. The US was led by the Undersecretary of Defence for Policy, John Rood

India-UK project to find affordable solutions to cancer

- In India, one million new cases of cancer are reported every year. Nearly 60 percent of the cases reach hospitals in late stages when survival is difficult. For many cancers, early detection can lead to better treatment and greater chances of survival. The situation could change if affordable screening tools, cheaper diagnostic tests and more effective treatment regime become available.

India, Australia & France to jointly create inclusive Indo-Pacific

- India, France and Australia, in a major strategic move, plans trilaterals that would help to rebalance China in the Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of growing Indo-French & Indo-Australia & Australia-France partnership across the vast region.
- The first meet of this initiative that would contribute to making the Indo-Pacific region inclusive is expected to be organised later this year in France, ET has learnt. Earlier, the three have held Track 1.5 dialogue to identify security challenges and sustainability issues in the Indo-Pacific region.

PM Modi launches \$4.2 million redevelopment project of temple in Bahrain

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched \$4.2 million redevelopment project of 200-year-old Shreenathji or Lord Sri Krishna temple in Manama, capital of Bahrain, during his two-day visit to Gulf nation. This is 1st ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Bahrain.

PM Modi inaugurates Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan

- The Rs 4,500-crore hydroelectric plant, touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project, is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. It was developed by the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA), which was jointly constituted by the Indian and the Bhutanese governments.

PM Modi reaches Bhutan, receives guard of honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday arrived in Bhutan for a two-day visit to the country. PM Modi was received by his Bhutanese counterpart Dr Lotay Tshering and others on his arrival at the Paro International Airport. A child presented a bouquet to the prime minister as he stepped off the plane in Paro- a valley town in Bhutan, west of the capital, Thimphu.

PM Modi To Embark On 3-Day Visit To UAE, Bahrain From August 23

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a three-day visit to United Arab Emirates and Bahrain beginning August 23 and hold extensive talks with top leaders of the two countries on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- The prime minister will first travel to United Arab Emirates where he would receive the "Order of Zayed", the highest civil decoration of the country, the External Affairs Ministry said.

PM Narendra Modi becomes 1st Indian Prime Minister to visit Bahrain

- PM Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Bahrain. "I realise that it took quite a long time for an Indian Prime Minister to visit Bahrain. However, I've been fortunate enough," PM Modi said while addressing the Indian diaspora in Bahrain. "This visit is historical and will improve ties between our nations," PM Modi had tweeted.

India and Bhutan resolve to expand bilateral cooperation

- During the visit, Prime Minister Modi and the Bhutanese leadership resolved to take the bilateral cooperation beyond hydroelectric power sector. The two countries signed various MoUs to diversify the friendship. The sectors include, space, education, science, technology and legal education.

PM Modi to attend G7 Summit in France

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address sessions on environment, climate, oceans and digital transformation at the G7 Summit in Biarritz, France.
- Although India is not a member of the G7 group, Prime Minister Modi will attend the G7 Summit as a special guest as he has been personally invited by French President Emmanuel Macron. External Affairs Ministry has said that the invitation is a reflection of the personal chemistry between the two leaders and also recognition of India as a major economic power.

High-Level Meeting held between Indian and Sri Lankan Coast Guards

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) held a High-Level Meeting (HLM) with Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi to discuss issues of mutual safety and security.
- The Indian side was led by K Natarajan, Director General, Coast Guard while Sri Lankan delegation was headed by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge. A four

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member delegation of Sri Lanka Coast Guard is on an official visit to India from 19–23 August 2019.

India, Zambia sign six MoUs to enhance cooperation in fields of geology, defence, arts and culture

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu held delegation-level talks and reviewed the bilateral relations between the two nations. In a joint press conference with Zambian President in New Delhi, PM Modi said that both the countries will increase their participation in the fields of tourism, health care, mining, agriculture and food processing.

Vice President embarks on 3-nation visit to Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia

- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has embarked on a 3-nation visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation. This visit will be Vice President's 1st ever high level visit (from India) to 3 Baltic countries.

India, France Sign Agreements On Maritime Awareness, Skill Development

- India and France signed an agreement on behalf of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Paris-based National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) for the establishment of a "joint maritime domain awareness mission" to detect and tackle threats emanating from the sea during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the European country.

India, Russia To Boost Ties To Achieve \$30 Billion In Bilateral Trade By 2025

- India and Russia have called for diversifying and deepening of economic ties in priority sectors to meet the bilateral trade target of \$30 billion by 2025, India's commerce ministry said. The expansion of India-Russia bilateral trade was the focus of a meeting between India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev between Aug. 11 and Aug. 13 in Vladivostok, Russia.

India, China agree to further strengthen people-to-people ties

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. They discussed the full gamut of issues relating to the international situation, regional aspects and the bilateral relations including the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India for the 2nd Informal Summit later this year.

India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.
- After the Secretary-level meeting in Dhaka, both the countries also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for eight rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta. Both the countries also discussed issues related to pollution of trans boundary rivers.

Bangladesh signed an agreement with Russia for uranium supply

- Bangladesh signed a nuclear fuel supply agreement with Russia for the uranium supply of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The deal was signed between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company TVEL in Dhaka.

India, Israel explore new areas of cooperation to boost financial ties

- Israel and India are exploring to open new vistas of partnership in the world of finance, including collaboration between market regulators and allowing Israeli investment in corporate bonds, taking advantage of a favourable climate in both countries.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and its Israeli counterpart are exploring partnerships and the two sides are also focusing on cyber security collaboration to safeguard their financial markets, Israel's ambassador to India next month.

Ranks

Bill Gates regains world's 2nd richest person spot with \$106 bn wealth

- Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates has regained the world's second-richest person spot with \$106 billion wealth, as per Bloomberg Billionaires Index. This comes days after French luxury goods tycoon Bernard Arnault's wealth surpassed Gates' wealth. Arnault, who derives most of his wealth from his holdings in Louis Vuitton owner LVMH, is now the world's third-richest person with \$97.8 billion wealth.

Scarlett Johansson highest-paid actress with ₹400cr earnings: Forbes

- Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson has been named the world's highest-paid actress with earnings of \$56 million (₹400 crore earnings) from June 1, 2018-June 1, 2019. Her earnings are majorly from Marvel films, including the upcoming film 'Black Widow' and payment of about \$35 million for 'Avengers: Endgame'. She is followed by Sofia Vergara, Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Aniston.

Mumbai ranked 45th, Delhi 52nd on world's safe cities list; Tokyo safest: Study

- Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI), while Delhi stood at the 52nd position, a report by Economist Intelligence Unit said on Thursday.
- Cities in the Asia-Pacific (Apac) region made up six of the top-10 safest cities with Tokyo taking the top spot.

Forbes ranks singer Taylor Swift as the highest paid woman in music for the year 2019

- Taylor Swift won Forbes magazine's highest-paid woman in the music category for the year 2019 with earnings of \$185 million (â,¹1,300 crore). Taylor is followed by pop singer Beyonce with earnings \$81 million (â,¹579 crore) and singer Rihanna with \$62 million at second and third place respectively.

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- The ranking is based on pre-tax income from June 2018 to June 2019. Taylor Swift ranked 1st in 2019's overall 'highest-paid celebrities list. It is released by the American magazine Forbes in July.

Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the 10th fastest growing market globally

- Prime Global Cities Index of London based consultancy Knight Frank ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin(Germany) whereas Istanbul(Turkey) and Vancouver(Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively. The Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) ranked 15th and 30th on the list respectively.

Business

Acquiring Flipkart made Walmart India's top retailer: Euromonitor

- A study by UK-based market research platform Euromonitor International has ranked Walmart as the top retailer in India in its Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019 list. It cited Walmart's acquisition of Flipkart as the major reason behind ranking Walmart at the top. Walmart is followed by its US rival Amazon, homegrown Future Group and Reliance Retail on the list.

Wipro expands its partnership with Google Cloud

- Wipro said it has expanded its strategic partnership with Google Cloud to accelerate cloud adoption and digital transformation for global enterprises.
- The Bengaluru-headquartered software services exporter said it has a dedicated practice focused on Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

Amazon launches military veterans employment programme in India

- Amazon India has announced the launch of a Military Veterans Employment programme that is expected to create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's Fulfilment Centres, Sort Centres, and Delivery Centres in India.

Microsoft to train 5000 govt employees on AI cloud

- Microsoft India launched a scheme to provide 5000 government employees over the next year on AI (artificial intelligence) and cloud computing skills. The program, called 'Digital Governance Tech Tour', will comprise of physical and virtual workshops.

Amazon inaugurates its worlds largest campus in Hyderabad

- E-commerce company Amazon inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in Hyderabad, Telangana. The campus was inaugurated by Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, the government of Telangana. This Hyderabad campus of Amazon is the only one, placed outside US(United States).

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- There are 62,000 employees in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than 15,000 employees. The other members are Amit Agarwal, SVP(Senior Vice President) and Country Head, Amazon India. John Schoettler, VP(Vice President), Global Real Estate and Facilities.

Wipro joins hand with IISc for research in emerging tech, 5G

- WiproNSE -0.36 % has partnered with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), to carry out advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and fifth generation (5G) telecom.
- The company said that the two organizations have jointly set up Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry academia collaboration unit, aimed at driving idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.

BCCI awards title sponsorship rights to Paytm for 5 more years

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has extended Paytm's association as title sponsor for Indian cricket team for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for 5 more years. Paytm bagged the title sponsorship rights by signing the deal for Rs.326.80 crores which it will pay to BCCI over a period ranging between 2019 and 2023, starting October 2019.

Retail inflation marginally dips to 3.15% in July

- Retail or consumer price index (CPI) inflation fell to 3.15 per cent in July from 3.18 per cent in June, data released by government showed. The number is well below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) target of 4 per cent.
- Inflation based consumer price index stood at 3.05 per cent in May 2019 and 4.17 per cent in July last year.

Saudi Aramco to acquire 20% stake in RIL's oil-to-chemical business

- Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani announced a deal with Saudi Aramco, terming it India's largest foreign direct investment till date. As part of the deal, Saudi Aramco will acquire a 20% stake in RIL's oil-to-chemicals (OTC) or refining and petrochemicals business at an enterprise value of \$75 billion.

Defence News

Electric Cars in India 2019: Indian army launches e-cars in Delhi to fight air pollution

- The Indian Army launched e-cars for use of its officials in New Delhi on August 1. The e-car initiative has been launched in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) in a joint venture of the Central PSU's under the Ministry of Power. The e-car launch is in line with government policies on environmental protection.

IMD hands over Kochi Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to Indian Navy

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) has handed over its Kochi Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building to Indian Navy. In this regard, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Navy (IN) and IMD. The MoU will enable Indian Navy to utilise CDR building within naval premises at Kochi for meteorological purposes.

Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL

- Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in a formal function held at CIAL. The agreement was signed by Captain Satish Kumar S, Officer-in-Charge, NAE and Shri ACK Nair, Airport Director CIAL.
- The MoU was aimed with the commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery. The MoU sets the standard operating procedures for CIAL and the Indian Navy. It also ensures safe, secure and uninterrupted military air operations.

DRDO transfers design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) transferred the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army. The designs were handed over by Chairman of DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Devraj Anbu at an event held at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi.

DRDO successfully test fired QRSAM Missile

- The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from a mobile truck-based launch unit from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha. It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile type. QRSAM missile has been developed for the Army. The entire mission was tracked by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.

Bavar-373: Iran's new home-grown air defence system unveiled

- Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defence system called Bavar-373 during a ceremony held on Iran's 'National Defence Industry Day'. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has ordered to add Bavar-373 to country's missile defence network.

MoU signed between Indian Army and Tata Realty

- In order to provide quality housing to army personnel, a historic milestone was reached with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Indian Army and Tata Realty & Housing.
- It enables Indian Army's personnel to immediately take over dwelling units in 13 'Ready to Move in' projects of Tata Realty pan India spread in more than 10 cities such

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as Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, Gurugram among others. These housing units are available at a discount ranging from 11% to 27%.

Boeing delivers 11th C-17 Globemaster to India

- American aerospace major Boeing delivered the 11th C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft to the Indian Air Force, boosting its strategic airlift capabilities.
- The C-17 Globemaster III is a premier transport aircraft. The massive, sturdy, long-haul aircraft can carry large combat equipment, troops and humanitarian aid across long distances in all weather conditions.

Army launches Mission Reach Out in Jammu

- The Army has launched 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.
- A high-level Mission Reach Out conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station on Saturday which was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, they said.

Science and Technology

PRETOMANID: US FDA approves new drug for drug-resistant TB

- United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved new drug-Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant strain of Tuberculosis (TB). Pretomanid is novel compound developed by New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance.
- It is used alongside two other antibiotics (bedaquiline and linezolid) to treat extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis. This three-drug regimen is collectively known as BPaL regimen and it can cure highly drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis by drastically shortening treatment period.

Two new species of Freshwater Fish found

- Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered 2 new species of freshwater fish from north-eastern and northern parts of country. Both fish are hill stream fauna, measures less than 7 centimetres (cm) and are equipped with special morphological features to suit rapid water flow.
- Both species of fish were discovered from remote areas of country. As Glyptothorax gopii was discovered from Mizoram's Champai district near India-Myanmar border and Garra simbalbaraensis has been found from Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district.

7 new species of water treaders belonging to genus Mesovelgia discovered

- Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered seven new species of water treaders belonging to genus Mesovelgia. Water treaders are semi-aquatic insects that can walk or run on surface of water.

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- These new discoveries include Mesovelgia andamana is from Andaman Islands, M. isiasi and M. bispinosa are from Meghalaya, M. tenuia and M. occulta from Tamil Nadu and M. dilatata and M. brevia live both in Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu.

Chandrayaan-2 inches closer to Moon, successfully enters Moon's orbit

- Chandrayaan-2 was successfully inserted into a Lunar orbit. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) made a successful maneuver of spacecraft into the lunar orbit.
- According to the ISRO, a series of orbit maneuvers will be performed on Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft to enable it to enter its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the Moon's surface.

ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) laid foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka to protect Indian satellites from space debris. It will facilitate intensified activities foreseen for Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM), in view of the increasing debris population and operational space assets.

Chandrayaan-2 enters Lunar Transfer Trajectory

- Chennai-India's spacecraft to the moon Chandrayaan-2 successfully entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory (LTT) after its orbit was raised further, said Indian space agency.
- According to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the final orbit raising manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-2 was successfully carried out at 2.21 a.m. by firing the spacecraft's motors for 1,203 seconds.

Sports

Name	Title Name	Additional Information
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Men's Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters competition	18-year-old Aishwary from Madhya Pradesh was back in his elements in the finals as he posted a comfortable victory with a score of 459.9
Adarsh Singh	Gold medals in shooting meet	The 17-year-old Adarsh shot 584 to top the qualification rounds, his score way above the second-ranked shooter in both the competitions.
Lovlina Borgohain and Neeraj	Gold at Umakhanov Memorial Boxing	Reigning Asian Championships gold medallist Pooja Rani won a bronze medal.
Navdeep Saini	Become the first Indian bowler to bowl the 20th over as a maiden in a T20I	Achieving the feat on his international debut against West Indies

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Steve Smith	Became the second-fastest batsman to smash 25 Test hundreds	Smith overtook Team India captain Virat Kohli, who had taken 127 innings to reach the landmark
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty	BWF Super-500 Tournament – Men doubles badminton	new chapter in the history of Indian badminton as they became the first men's doubles pair from the sub-continent to win the BWF Super-500 Tournament.
Vinesh Phogat	gold in 53kg in Poland Open	The 24-year-old prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition.
Lewis Hamilton	Hungary Open	Hamilton doing his bit by brilliantly hunting down the Red Bull driver to clinch a sensational victory.
Indian Cricket Team	India topped the latest ICC Test team rankings	New Zealand is placed 2nd and South Africa is in 3rd position.
Colin Ackermann	becomes the 1st player in the cricket history to claim a wicket	Colin Ackermann(28) plays for Leicestershire Foxes set the new T20(Twenty20) world record with seven wickets for just 18 runs (7-18) to victory by 55 runs against the Birmingham Bears.
Bajrang Punia	Gold in wrestling - Tbilisi Grand Prix	Bajrang, who had won a gold at the same event last year as well, prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65kg final of the men's freestyle competition in the capital city of Georgia.
Chris Gayle	becomes first West Indies cricketer to play 300 ODIs	The 39-year-old overtook ex-West Indies captain Brian Lara, who played 299 ODIs.
Sourabh Verma	BWF Hyderabad Open Badminton Tournament	Sourabh Verma stuttered in the second game before recovering to clinch the Hyderabad Open BWF Tour Super-100 Tournament
Samiya Imad Faruqui, Edvin Joy and Shruti Mishra, Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt	Gold Bulgarian Open Shuttle Tournament	Indian junior shuttlers won six medals at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships which

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		concluded in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria. The medals comprised of three gold, a silver and two bronze.
Rafael Nadal	fifth Rogers Cup title	World number two Rafael Nadal defeated Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 in one hour and 10 minutes in the final to win his fifth Rogers Cup title
Chennai Lions	Ultimate Table Tennis Title	Chennai Lions glided away to one-sided victory over Dabang Delhi in final to win Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) crown.
Novak Djokovic	top of ATP rankings	London, Aug 12 Novak Djokovic remains top at the latest Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings released.
Aishwarya Pissay	World Title in Motorsports	Aishwarya Pissay became first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports by winning FIM World Cup (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) in women's category after the final round of the championship at Varpalota in Hungary.
Bianca Andreescu	Rogers Cup tennis tournament	Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup in Toronto, Canada. She defeated Serena Williams.
Virat Kohli	Become the first batsman to score 20,000 runs in international cricket in a decade.	Kohli also equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record for most hundreds against one opposition in ODIs (nine).
Daniil Medvedev, Madison Keys	Cincinnati titles	Russia's Daniil Medvedev and American Madison Keys recorded straight-set victories to win the men's and women's Cincinnati Masters titles in Ohio.
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) team	Bangalore Cup Hockey	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) beat Army XI with 5-0 to win Dolo-650 Bangalore Cup All India Hockey Tournament 2019 held at the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Hockey

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		Arena, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Sai Praneeth	first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to secure a medal in the BWF World Championships.	Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a men's singles World Championships medal, a bronze, in the 1983 edition.
PV Sindhu	first ever Indian to reach three straight Badminton World Championships finals.	Sindhu had lost the finals in 2017 and 2018 to Nozomi Okuhara and Carolina Marin, respectively.
Komalika Bari	became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships	India also won a gold in the compound junior mixed pair event and a bronze in the compound junior men's team event.
Gokulam Kerala FC	2019 Durand Cup	Gokulam Kerala FC won Durand Cup 2019 football tournament by beating Mohun Bagan in final held at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
England	record their highest successful chase in Ashes history	England chased down the target of 359 with one wicket remaining against Australia in Leeds Test to register their highest successful chase in Ashes history
PV Sindhu	Became the first ever Indian badminton player to win gold medal at the BWF World Championships.	The 24-year-old defeated world number four Nozomi Okuhara of Japan with a scoreline of 21-7, 21-7. Sindhu had finished second in the previous two editions of the World Championships.
Alex Rins	British Grand Prix – MotoGP	Alex Rins snatched a dramatic victory on the line on his Suzuki to win the British Grand Prix ahead of MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez.
V K Vismaya	gold in women's 400 m at Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS)	Indian sprinter V K Vismaya produced a personal best timing of 52.12s to clinch the gold medal
Elavenil Valarivan	10m Air Rifle Gold at ISSF World Cup in Rio	The 20-year-old shot gold with 251.7 points, while Seonaid McIntosh from

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		Great Britain took the silver with 250.6 points.
Abhishek Verma	ISSF World Cup – Gold	Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary the bronze, in a dominant display by Indian shooters in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup.
Aswatha Narayana	World Skills competition	He won by beating 9 other competitors in the event.

Obituary

Name	Related Field
Malcolm Nash	Glamorgan bowler who entered cricket folklore
DA Pennebaker	film-maker
Kanti Bhatt	Veteran Gujarati journalist and columnist
Sushma Swaraj	Former Foreign Minister and BJP Stalwart
Toni Morrison	first African-American Nobel literary laureate
Dayanidhi Nayak	Quit India movement freedom fighter
Jose Luis	Argentina World Cup winner
Damodar Ganesh Bapat	Padma Shri awardee
Jagannath Mishra	Former Bihar Chief Minister
Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi	music composer
Babulal Gaur	Former Madhya Pradesh CM
David Koch	US billionaire industrialist
Arun Jaitley	Former Finance Minister and BJP Veteran

Important Days

Day	Date	Themes
World Breastfeeding Week	August 1 to August 7	Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding: Now and for the future!
BITSians' Day	August 2	
National Handloom Day	August 7	
World Biofuel Day	August 10	
World Elephant Day	August 12	
International Youth Day	August 12	Transforming education
International Lefthanders Day	August 13	
Organ Donation Day	August 13	
Independence Day	August 15	
World Humanitarian Day	August 19	
World Photography Day	August 19	
Sadbhavana Diwas	August 20	

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World Mosquito Day	August 20	
Telugu Language day	August 29	
National Sports Day	August 29	
International Day Against Nuclear Tests	August 29	
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	August 30	
Month of Nutrition	September Month	