FreshersLive Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (5th August'19 - 11th August'19)

India gets its first 3D Smart Traffic Signal

President approved AERA Amendment Bill

ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

2nd Week Current Affairs August 2019

President approved the NMC Bill
BANKING & FINANCE

State Bank of India and Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS

State Bank of India's Shanghai branch linked to China's National Advanced Payment System (CNAPS). It is the first Indian Bank to operationalize it. The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in China. The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Interbank Payment System) launched in 2015.

Main Aim: To boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan. The participants from multiple countries across the globe participated.

State Bank of India

SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency. The SBI obtained the PBOC approval in December 2016 for implementation of the CNAPS and after successful installation of various hardware and software, it eliminates the need for tie up and maintenance of accounts with multiple Banks for fund transfer. CNAPS will also be used for cross border RMB payments made through local correspondent banks.

SBI opportunity to do business of Bankers acceptance drafts (BAD) started its representative office in 1997 and began its commercial operation in 2006. It is only Indian bank with license to deal in RMB, the local currency, as well as foreign currency. The total customer credit of nearly $500 million and staff strength of 40 people that includes 32 Chinese nationals, the bank has always been at the forefront of facilitating India-China trade and investments apart from serving the Indians working in China in the field of IT and others. The bank extends bank guarantee facility to Chinese corporates undertaking various construction, tech, and investment projects. The bank extending term as well as working capital credit facilities to Indian corporates and companies promoted by Indians in China to facilitate Indian investment in China. The bank has also been an active participant in local syndication arranged by major foreign as well as Chinese banks. The bank has been facilitating Indians working in China in their remittance.

RBI cuts 35bps repo rate in August policy
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 35 basis points (bps) cut to the benchmark repo rate on 7th August. The announcement was made after the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-led third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for 2019-20. This reduction is the fourth in a row since Shaktikanta Das took over as the governor in December 2018. It is the lowest since April 2010.

The interest rate cut will address the growth concerns by boosting aggregate demand and target private investment as a priority.

MPC's decisions:
RBI has reduced its GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%.

The reverse repo rate under the Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was revised to 5.15% whereas the policy repo rate under LAF has been reduced by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75% to 5.40%. The Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate has been revised to 5.65%.

The RBI will set a Central Payment Fraud Registry to track frauds in the payment systems.
RBI plans to issue detailed guidelines on permitting banks to on-lend through NBFCs. The move aims to increase credit flow to certain priority sectors which contribute significantly to the economic growth in terms of exports and employment.

NEFT system will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

Reason for India's GDP growth reduction:
The reason for India's GDP reduction is a slowdown in consumption demand, government spending and the lack of quality jobs.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered Indias GDP growth rate for FY20 to 7% from 7.3% on 23 July. It cited reasons as poor demand conditions. GDP growth in the fourth quarter of FY19 slowed down to 5.8%, whereas it was 6.6% in the third quarter, which is the slowest quarterly GDP growth rate in five years.

Also the growth in the eighth infrastructure sectors was just 0.2% in June. It constitutes of 40.27% of the index of industrial production.

Policy Rates:
Policy Repo Rate: 5.40%
Reverse Repo Rate: 5.15%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 5.65%
Bank Rate: 6.00%

Reserve Ratios:
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4%
Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR): 18.75%

Reserve Bank of India Expands biller categories for Bharat Bill Payment System

The Reserve Bank of India allows all categories of billers to accept prepaid recharges under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). The BBPS currently covers billers in five segments, DTH, electricity, gas, telecom and water bills. The regulator is expected to issue detailed instructions in this regard by the end of September 2019. The advantages of the BBPS and harness its full potential decided to permit all categories of billers (except prepaid recharges) who provide for recurring bill payments to participate in BBPS on a voluntary basis. Apart from digitization of cash-based bill payments, it will enable standardized bill payment experience, centralized customer grievance redressal mechanism, and standardized customer convenience fee. The regulator allowed on-tap authorization of retail payment systems to companies looking to function as BBPOU, TReDS and white-label ATMs.

Reserve Bank of India
Governor: Shaktikanta Das
Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

SBI announced repo rate cut after RBI policy announcement

The State Bank of India (SBI), the country’s largest lender, have cut the home loan rates after RBI’s repo rate cut of 35 bps for the fourth time in a row. SBI announced its Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors. It will be effective from August 10, 2019. The move is to provide some respite to home loan borrower. After this move, the one-year MCLR is reduced to 8.25% per annum, from 8.40% annum. This is the fourth consecutive cut in MCLR in FY 2019-20 by SBI.

SBI's repo rate:
**Repo rate-linked Home loan product:**
The SBI has been a repo rate-linked home loan product from 1 July 2019. The interest rate on this particular product gets revised automatically whenever there is a change in repo rate.

**RLLR:**
The effective Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for cash credit/overdraft customers has been revised to 7.65%.

**FD:**
SBI has also revised fixed deposit rates and cut the interest rates on FDs by 20 to 75 bps on August 1, 2019.

**Large saving account deposits:**
SBI has linked interest rate on large saving account deposits, which is above 1 lakh, to repo rate on 1 May. After the cut, it now offers an interest rate 275 bps lower than RBI's repo rate.

**ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of $200 million to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of India's Maharashtra State to better connect rural areas with markets and services. The upgraded roads under the ADB project will boost links between local residents, productive agricultural land, and economic centers across the state. Improving farmers access to markets turn help boost agricultural productivity and incomes as well as promote investment in agribusiness and agriculture value chain infrastructure.

Maharashtra accounted for almost 15% of India's gross domestic product in fiscal year (FY) 2017, the biggest share among India's states. However, economic development is concentrated around the urban centers of Mumbai, Pune, and Thane. There are imbalances in human development across districts while income inequality is one of the highest among all states in India. About 20 million people, or 17% of the state's population, still live below the national poverty line.

**Agriculture Sector**
Agriculture accounts for about 47% of employment, engages as much as 79% of the rural labor force, and contributes 11% to the state gross domestic product.
However, this contribution is falling. Farmers face persistent crop losses due to the variable climate and limited access to processing and storage facilities, resulting in high levels of debts and even farmer suicides. Maharashtra has an extensive road network, with rural roads making up two thirds of the network. Rural roads are unsealed, making them unsuitable for motorized traffic and impassable during the rainy season. Road safety has been a growing concern, with the state accounting for more than 8% of all fatal road accidents in India. ADB previously supported rural road development in several South Asian countries. The project will build on their experience to upgrade 2,100 kilometers of rural roads to all-weather standards, including contractual maintenance for 5 years following construction. Road designs will incorporate climate resilient features such as improved drainage and higher surface elevations, and stronger embankments, and safety features such as signage, guard posts, and speed breakers.

The project will work with the rural infrastructure agency, the Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association (MRRDA). The main aim is to develop road safety, road asset management, contract management, and climate resilient design. The loan is a technical assistance grant of $1 million to support MRRDA to improve its management performance in these areas. The road users will be carried out in the state to build awareness of road safety, gender issues including human trafficking, and enhancing women's road construction and maintenance skills.

The total cost of the project is $296 million; government will provide $96 million. It is due for completion at the end of September 2024.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. They established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members 49 from the region.

**State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by 2 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.
He was engaged in diverse financial activities such as Asset Management, Life Insurance, General Insurance, Custodial Services, Primary Dealership, etc.

He joined SBI as Probationary Officer (PO) and has over 33 years of experience in all sides of Commercial banking such as Retail Credit, deposit mobilization, international banking operations, branch management.

Khara worked in SBIs Chicago office and was associated with the overseas acquisition of Indian Ocean International Bank Mauritius (now SBI Mauritius) during his stint in Overseas Expansion wing of International Banking Group. He also worked as the MD&CEO of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Limited (SBIMF).

**About SBI:**

**Headquarter:** Mumbai

**Chairman:** Shri Rajnish Kumar
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Global Big Data software market will reach $118.52 billion by 2022, Forbes report

Forbes reported that the global Big Data software market will have 14% of growth worth $31B in 2019. Earlier, the market was estimated at $23.56 billion in 2015 and is expected to reach $118.52 billion by 2022.

Big data:
Big data describes a huge volume of structured, semi-structured and unstructured data. It has the potential to be mined for information. It can be used in machine learning projects and other advanced analytics applications.

Big data software: It helps several companies servings of this data with millions of scraps at a time and turn them into actionable insights. Businesses and even government entities reshapes the practices around big data analytics software.

90% of the world's data was created between 2015 and 2016. The estimated worth of big data industry will be $77 billion by 2023.

Centre released e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection

The Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce titled 'e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019'.

Aim:
The draft aims to protect the interest of online shoppers. It provides measures to prevent fraud, unfair trade practices and protect the legitimate rights and interests of consumers. It will be applicable to business-to-consumer e-commerce, including goods and services.

Draft guidelines:
The guidelines state that an e-commerce entity cannot influence the price of the goods or services directly or indirectly. It also said that the e-commerce firms need to ensure the protection of the personally identifiable information of customers is open for stakeholder comments for 45 days or till September 16, 2019.

The guidelines also stated that every e-commerce entity must publish the name and contact details of the grievance officer on their website along with the mechanism by which users can lodge their complaints.
No e-commerce firm should **represent themselves as consumers** or post reviews about goods and services in their name.

The e-com firms should display terms of contract with the seller relating to **return, refund, exchange, warranty/guarantee, delivery/shipment, mode of payments and grievance redressal mechanism** to enable consumers to make informed decisions.

If an e-commerce firm knows about any **counterfeit product**, and if the seller is unable to provide any evidence that the product is genuine, the firm needs to remove the listing and notify the consumers of the same.

**Flipkart set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service**

Walmarts **Flipkart** unit to introduce a free video streaming service to draw new users from small towns and cities in India. Flipkart is the next 200 million consumers who are coming online. The company believes that most consumers are introduced to the internet through online videos. The video content offering is focused on three primary aspects: its free, curated and personalized. The content market is still evolving, considering the number of customers paying partly or fully for subscriptions to **Netflix, Amazon Prime** and **Hotstar**. The pricing is too high for a customer base that is accustomed to free or cheap content. Amazon India started its Prime video service in December 2016 since developed a strong fan base with hit shows such as Made in Heaven and Mirzapur. The main aim to ensure that the consumer is hooked to Flipkart. It may be less expensive or more profitable to service existing customers by expanding the share of wallet than to acquire new customers. Indias video streaming industry is set to grow at an annual average pace of 21.8% to reach 11,977 crore by 2023. The video-on-demand platforms are projected to grow at an average yearly rate of **23.3%** to reach 10,712 crore between 2018 and 2023. The **34** companies present in the cluttered market comprise US platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, as well as Indian services such as ZEE5, Voot, Eros Now and ALTBalaji.

**IIFL Finance to raise up to 1,000 crore through bonds**

**IIFL Finance** will raise up to 1,000 crore through a public issue of bonds. The main or the 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 100 crore, with a green-shoe option to retain over-subscription up to 900 crore (aggregating to a total of 1,000 crore)

The lead managers to the issue are Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, IIFL Securities Ltd, ICICI Securities, and Trust Investment Advisors Private Ltd.

About IIFL Finance

IIFL Holdings Limited d/b/a IIFL and India Infoline is an Indian diversified financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. The organization was founded by Nirmal Jain.

Headquarters: India
Founders: Nirmal Jain, Rajamani Venkataraman

NSE and Singapore Exchange gets approval for its GIFT city project

Centre approved the joint derivative project of Indias National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) for their international financial centre in GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The project was proposed by NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) and SGX Connect. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is an initiative led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Aim:
The project plans to bring together the trading of Nifty products and boost the activities of GIFT City. It also seeks to create a larger pool of liquidity. The project will be made operational before the end of 2020.

The Indian government has been trying to lure foreign investors to GIFT City. It offers close to zero tax, dollar contracts, and top-notch infrastructure.

India proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms

India is proposing a series of consumer safeguards that forbid e-commerce companies such as Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart Online
Services Pvt adopting unfair promotion methods or misrepresenting the quality of goods and services. E-commerce companies self-declare compliance and also provide a way for customers to contact them directly, said the proposed e-Commerce Guidelines for consumer protection 2019. The department invited parties to provide feedback by 16 September.

Among the key guidelines are those that require platforms like Amazon and Flipkart to declare all details about their sellers including address, website, and email address. The platforms are also required to display terms of the contract with the seller relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty, delivery and mode of payments. India tightened rules for e-commerce platforms after complaints from small shops and domestic sellers. Amazon and Flipkart now banned from striking exclusive arrangements with sellers, offering deep discounts or holding any business interest in online merchants on their websites.

The groups representing small traders have continued to allege that large platforms prioritize and sell products of a favored few vendors with whom they have commercial linkages.

**Life Insurance Corporation of India new term plan Jeevan Amar launched**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a cheaper term plan called 'Jeevan Amar' which will extend more benefits and flexibility to its policyholders. This new term plan is not a market-linked plan that will give two options for subscriptions- Level Sum Assured and Increasing Sum Assured. In non-market-linked plan, the policyholders can't claim the invested /insured amount on maturity. The nominee gets the death claim in case of the sudden death of an assured person during the policy term.

**Policy Details**

The Jeevan Amar policy option to select between two categories: Smoker and non-smoker.

LIC withdrew 'Amulya Jeevan' Term and many new features have been included in this new plan.

LIC is providing this plan for people above 18 years. It is claimed till the age of 65 years with the maximum age at maturity is 80 years.

**LIC Jeevan Amar Plan**

LIC Jeevan Amar Plan is a term plan without profit and non-linked plan. The
Plan is not market-linked and an insured person cant claim the amount on maturity. The amount can be claimed only by the nominee in case of the sudden demise of the policyholder during the term plan. Non-smokers and women have lower rates of the premium. Death benefits can be taken in installments also of **5 years, 10 years and 15 years**. Minimum Basic Sum Assured under the plan is Rs 25 lakh with no maximum limit. The **Policy Holders** nominee will receive the Sum assured which was opted while buying the policy. The sum assured will remain the same throughout the policy period.

The death benefits will be the same as the initial sum assured policyholder chosen for the first five years. It will increase at the rate of 10% per year from the 6th policy year to 10th year. The policy will complete its 16th year. It will remain the same throughout the remaining policy period.

**Max Life Insurance launches 'Speed Dial - your partner for life' initiative on fourth 'Protection Day'**

Max Life Insurance Co Ltd announced the launch of the one-of-its-kind initiative, 'Speed Dial Max Life Insurance - Your Partner for Life' further reinforcing its customer obsession.

Max Life Insurance Company will endeavour to assign every customer a dedicated relationship manager, known as the 'Partner for Life' for all their policy-related service needs. Through this unique initiative, the 'Partners for Life' will act as enablers to provide a one stop solution on call, shortening the average wait time a customer has to go through, to get their queries answered. They will also educate customers on the company's digital service solutions and new products offerings, if inquired.

This initiative will provide quick and easy resolution of policy servicing needs to customers by allocating a partner. Customers will be given direct contact details of their partners to enable prompt assistance in their policy journey. This will facilitate the customer to save time by directly contacting the partner without going through interactive voice responses which is generally time consuming. Having quicker access will also equip customers to engage frequently with their 'Partner for Life' on call, and be well versed with their insurance policies. The commitment is validated by paid ratio of 98.74 per cent (Bharose ka Number), the 'Speed Dial' initiative is introduced to further protect the promises we have made to our
customers through dedicated relationship managers on call.
INTERNATIONAL

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.

Signed by: BAEC Chairman Mahbubul Haque and the Russian firms commercial director and Fedor Sokolov signed the agreement in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman.

The project was approved by the Cabinet Division's Economic Affairs Committee. The agreement says that the TVEL Joint Stock Company will supply fuel for the entire lifetime of the 2,400 MW RNPP project.

About the Project:
The project duration of RNP will be believed to 50 years. The fuel will be supplied to the country’s maiden nuclear power plant at Rooppur under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna. The first unit of the RNPP is expected to come into operation by 2022 and the second unit will be established by 2024. The cost estimated by the Bangladesh government is $12.65 billion.

China condemns the rules unveiled by the U.S. that ban Huawei and other Chinese firms

China has condemned the rules unveiled by the U.S. that ban Huawei and other Chinese firms from government contracts. It also decried the U.S.’s abuse of state power in the latest move in the escalating China-U.S. trade war.

The interim rule which was passed recently by the US govt. This will stop all the US federal agency from purchasing telecom or technology equipment from the Chinese firms. The rule is a part of a sweeping effort by Washington to restrict Huawei.

The country also said that it is to support the relevant Chinese companies in taking up legal weapons to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests. The ban on Chinese tech firms comes after the dispute between the world's two great economic powers over international trade rules.
US approves 12 multi mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea

The US government has approved the sale of 12 multi-mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea worth $800 million. The announcement was made after the US President Donald Trump announced that South Korea had agreed to pay more for US military presence in their country.

The proposal will improve the Republic of Korea Navys capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions. The sale will assist the Republic of Korea in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

Seahawk Helicopters:
The helicopters are bolstered with an anti-surface and anti-submarine missions. This can handle the secondary missions like replenishment, search and rescue and communications relay.

Other sales:
Along with $800 million proposal sale of helicopters, the country have also proposed sale including 13 APS-153(V) multi-mode radars, 25 T-700-GE-401C engines, 4 M-240D crew-served guns, 4 GAU-21 crew-served guns, 12 Airborne Low Frequency Sonar systems, 24 embedded GPS and inertial navigation systems with selective availability/anti-spoofing modules, and 1,000 AN / SSQ-36 / 53 / 62 sonobuoys, among other equipment.

About US and South Korea:
South Korea is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia.

The alliance: Since the 1950-53 Korean war, the US and South Korea have been in a security alliance with more than 28,000 US troops stationed in the South to guard against threats from North Korea.

Iran unveiled three precision guided missiles

Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles with an aim to defend itself in the face of US. The missiles are new line-up of air-to-air missiles, dubbed the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of "Ghaem". The missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics and Iran Electronics Industries.

The launch of the missiles shows an another significant achievement of power and dignity for the Islamic Republic of Iran.
About Guided Missiles:

**Yasin** is a smart guided missile. It has been designed with folding wings. It can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.

**Balaban** missile was guided by GPS and sensors that equipped with folding wings. This particular missile could be mounted under aircraft.

**Ghaem** missile is used for precision strikes. It could hit within 50 centimeters of a target. Ghaem missile is equipped with different visible, thermal and cylindrical seekers. Also, the missile can be installed on various drone, helicopters and fighter jets to annihilate their targets. It was a heat-seeking missile.

**Tension between Iran and US:**

The tensions between the countries arose for the first time the US withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. The tensions unveiled between Iran and the US is Strait of Hormuz that linking oil producing countries in the Middle East to markets in Asia, Europe and North America. The US ships have been targeted and attacked, drones have been downed and oil tankers have been seized in the strategic waters since May 2019.
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INDIAN AFFAIRS

Centre is to prepare National Population Register by 2020 September

Centre has decided to prepare a National Population Register (NPR) by September 2020 across the country.

The collection of information of all citizens who are residing within the jurisdiction of local registrar, except Assam, will be undertaken between the 1st day of April, 2020 to 30th September, 2020. The notification regarding NPR was issued by Vivek Joshi, Registrar General of Citizen Registration and Census Commissioner.

Aim:
The move aims to lay the foundation for pan-India National Register Citizens (NRC). Registering in the NPR is mandatory for every usual resident of India.

NPR aims to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. All the demographic and biometric particulars will be contained in the database.

National Population Register (NPR):
NPR is generally a register of usual residents of the country. For the entry of NPR, a usual resident can be defined as a person who has resided or intent to live in a local area for past six months or more.

Under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the sub-rule(4) of rule 3 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, the NPR will be prepared at the village and the sub-town level, sub-district, district, state and national level. The Centre has made it compulsory that every usual resident of India must register in the NPR.

India's Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity 2019

Naaz Joshi made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity. She competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius.

She dressed up in blue lehenga and choli and portrayed herself as the powerful Indian Goddess, who stands for 'shakti' - the feminine source of power and women empowerment.
She is a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. She was sent to her relative's house in Mumbai.

**Rajasthan government launches new higher education model named RACE**

A new higher education model launched in Rajasthan for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalize the availability of resources. The model will create a pool for sharing of facilities will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure. Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati inaugurated the model, titled Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence in the presence of principals of colleges. All the colleges would get equal opportunities for imparting quality education with the adoption of the new model. The colleges will submit their requirements to the nodal college in the district will send the teachers on deputation. The model will help the colleges situated in small towns facing a shortage of faculties and infrastructure. The sanctioned posts of teachers in the government colleges are 6,500, the State at present falls short by about 2,000 teachers. The additional posts are created and new appointments made the RACE is expected to help channelise resources and ensure quality education. He is instrumental in conducting the first-of-its-kind examination without invigilators in all the 237 government colleges across the State to be an initiative rendering academic assistance to the students and make the institutions of higher learning accountable to the society.

**Rajasthan**
- **Chief minister:** Ashok Gehlot
- **Capital:** Jaipur

**Centre sets target to reduce HIV cases 20,000 per year**

The Union of Health Ministry has introduced its target to bring down incidence of HIV/AIDS by 20,000 per year for the next two years. The plan also includes reaching out to targeted areas like in prisons and women remand homes as cases in these places are much higher as compared to the general population.

**NACO's report:**
National Aids Control Organization (NACO) survey reported that there are about 2.1 million HIV infected patients in the country but only 1.3 million are
registered with **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres** and getting the treatment. The report also said that some people don't come out openly for the treatment.

**Modus Operandi of the Centre:**

NACO's report tells that during the 2016-17 period there were about **184,092 HIV positive general individuals.** By taking some special actions the number got reduced to around **80,955 in 2017-18 (till August 2017).**

By increasing the number of ART centres, the government will identify the patients and get them **adequate treatment** to further reduce the burden of the disease. So far, the Central government has **540 ART centres** across the nation.

The Ministry has directed special programs to all **private and government medical colleges** to operationalise on ART centres in their respective institutes for the treatment of HIV patients.

**Indias first underwater train project will soon be operational**

India's first underwater train project in Kolkata under the Hugli river is about to be completed. Union Railways Minister, **Piyush Goyal** announced that the metro will soon be operational. This train will be an example for the proof of the **progress made by Indian Railways.** This train aims to bring ease to the people of Kolkata and pride to the people of India.

**About the Project:**

The Kolkata Metro project is a **16-kilometre long** will connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan. The phase-one of the project connecting **Salt Lake Sector-5 to Salt Lake Stadium** will soon be ready for its operation. It has been provided with four-layers of protection to shield the tunnel from the water of Hubli river.

**Kerala signs MoU with ISRO VSSC to promote space technology in state**

The **Kerala government** and **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to give a push to the state's endeavour in space technology.

The agreement signed by State IT Secretary M Sivasankar and VSSC Director S Somanath. It was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan VSSC and the Kerala Government joining hands for the project, Kerala is set to make major strides in the space technology sector.
This partnership will create an ideal ambiance for advanced research and development in space technology. The agreement will help the VSSC support the states proposal to set up the countrys first Space Systems Park at Knowledge City in the state capital to attract global start-ups in the space sector and make it a major manufacturing hub for space-related technology, research, and development.

The agreement will facilitate VSSC to support the state's ambitious project to set up the country's first state-of-the-art Space Systems Park at Knowledge City in the state capital.

**Third International EV Conclave held in Manesar**

The third International Electric Vehicle Conclave was held at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana. The aim of the Conclave was to create a knowledge sharing platform in the automotive sector. It also ensured the flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.

**Organised by:**
The conclave was organized by ICAT in association with India Energy Storage Alliance. The conclave focused on new trends and challenges in the field of electric mobility.

**Participants:**
More than 200 delegates from more than 80 organizations participated in the conclave. The next Conclave is to be organized in July 2020.

**Manipur tops the Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country**

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 in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions of the report card. National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States. The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.
BPNI:  
The **Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)** seeks to enhance **nutrition, health and development of infants and young children** through programmes designed to increase national and state commitments, education of public and health care workers about breastfeeding. The **45% children died** due to undernutrition effects.  
The Breastfeeding Improves the child's IQ level. The benefit of Breastfeeding not only saves child but also saves the mother from breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

**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.  
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.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to get Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Sivan laid the foundation stone for the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru. The Centre aims to protect the high value space assets from space debris' close approach and collisions. It is an important milestone in the progress of ISRO.

Functions of the Centre:

The Space Situational Awareness Control Centre would hold various range of activities to protect Indian space assets from inactive satellites, parts and pieces of orbiting objects, asteroids near earth and adverse space weather conditions. The Centre will learn the tracking data of inactive satellites from indigenous observation facilities. It will also generate useful information from bare observations through analysis.

Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM):

Due to the increase in manmade space debris and the increased collision threat with operational spacecraft, the Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM) has become an internationally significant area.

Franky Zapata crosses Channel on hoverboard

Franky Zapata, the French inventor, successfully crossed the English Channel on a jet-powered hoverboard. He set off on his kerosene-fueled Flyboard from Sangatte in the Pas de Calais region on the northern coast of France for the 22-mile (36 km) journey to St. Margarets Bay. The hoverboard was powered by a backpack which contains enough paraffin to keep Zapata airborne for about 10 minutes. He had to stop to refuel halfway through the journey.

He set a record of a top speed of 202 Km per hour during the crossing. The success comes after the failure of his first bid on 25 July 2019. Earlier in December, the French military gave Zapatas company, Z-AIR, a 1.3m (1.19m) development grant.

Hover board:

Hover board is a mode of transport that is used for personal transportation. It
resembles a skateboard that travels above the surface of the ground, ridden in a standing position.

**Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles**

Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles with the defence minister to defend itself in the face of US "viciousness and conspiracies". The new line-up of air-to-air missiles dubbed the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries. Defence Minister Brigadier-General Amir Hatami belonged their launch as another significant achievement of power and dignity for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Great Satan America and its mercenaries defence ministry will not hesitate for a moment to defend the Islamic republic and to expand security. The Yasin was a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres (30 miles) of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft. The Balaban was guided by GPS and sensors equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft.

They have unveiled tensions between Iran and the US and its allies in the Strait of Hormuz linking oil-producing countries in the Middle East to markets in Asia, Europe and North America. The tensions arose after the US withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year and began stepping up a campaign of "maximum pressure" on the Islamic republic.

**India gets its first 3D Smart Traffic Signal**

Punjab's Mohali traffic police have launched 'Intelights'. The system was designed by the students of a Chandigarh university. It is Indias first 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised on the wireless system. It has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road. The 3-D Smart Traffic Signal will regulate the traffic signals with a smart bird's eye. The cost estimated varies from Rs.70 lakh to Rs.1 crore.

**About Intelights:**
The Intelligent Traffic Timer Control (Intelights) uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights according to the
traffic density at an intersection. Intelights uses existing CCTV cameras that automatically evaluates the traffic density using Artificial Intelligence (AI) which sets the signal timers accordingly. This process gets repeated for every cycle of traffic lights to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

**Why was it introduced?**

Intelights project proposes a 360-degree solution to curb the rising problem of traffic congestion. The major reason for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of traffic signal timers installed at intersections. The timers of traffic lights display a preset value which leads to waste of time. To tackle this issue the 3D traffic signals introduced the **Intelights.**

**SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israels Amos 17 telecommunications satellite**

The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called Amos-17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit.

The launch was a makeup launch for Spacecom when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded on the launch pad in 2016. Amos-17 has been designed to provide enhanced voice, video and data services to customers in Africa and parts of Europe, the Middle East, India and China.

**SpaceX's previous and recent launches:**

Before AMOS 17, Spacex launched the Europes Arianespace consortium with two satellites from its spaceport in the South American country of French Guiana using its heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket.

The second satellite called EDRS-C is part of an effort led by the European Space Agency and Airbus to facilitate high-speed laser communications between orbiting satellites and ground stations.

**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.

**Aim:**
The **Citywide Wi-Fi** project aims to help in **bridging the digital divide.** It will also provide motivation to **education, entrepreneurship, business, employment.** It will also tie in with **women's safety initiatives.**

**Project implementation:**
The **expenditure finance committee (EFC)** has approved the 'hotspot' model to provide free internet to Delhiites. The committee has also approved **Rs.99 crore** for the project.

In the first phase, up to **15 GB usage per mobile number** will be free of cost per month. The Wi-Fi signals will be available within a radius of about **50m** from where the router is installed. The project has been planned to be completed by **September 2020.**

**IIT Madras introduced a method to recycle urine**

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) introduced the **Project Water Chakra** to recycle urine. The project was done by an IIT-M student with 3 project staff.

The Project Water Chakra won the **Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0 award** in July 2019. The project has developed a prototype for the **Carbon Zero Challenge.**

**Process:**
Initially, they retrofitted urinals on the campus to collect urine. The concentrated urine was stored for **3 days** until the urea was **converted into ammonia.** The ammonia is segregated by a process called **Steam distillation.** This commercial grade liquid can be used to make **cleaning products,** such as detergents or in rubber manufacturing. Also, **90%** of the water can be recovered and it can be used for **gardening purposes and flushing.**

**Researchers introduce Selfie video to measure Blood Pressure**

Researchers in Canada and China developed a technology called **transdermal optical imaging (TOI).** The technology works by taking into account the fact the facial skin is translucent. The Optical sensors on smartphones that are used can capture red light reflected from hemoglobin under the skin. This allows TOI to visualize and **measure changes in blood flow.**
The technology gives **95% accuracy**. The technology needs extra research to make it more accurate. The technology will help people at risk of **hypertension- or hypotension-related issues** to track their blood pressure without the need for a dedicated device. It could also help people with limited healthcare access, such as people who live in remote areas.
MoEF unveiled a draft guidelines for CZM

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has unveiled a draft plan, *Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)*. The draft was prepared by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management, an affiliated body of the environment ministry, along with the support of World Bank. The draft is part of a World Bank-funded project. The document gives guidelines to regulate projects in all state coastal zones. It guides how the infrastructure projects situated along the coast should be assessed before clearance.

**Aim:**
The project aims to assist the government by **enhancing the efficiency of the coastal resource** by building collective capacity for adopting and implementing integrated coastal management approaches.
The three coastal States where the project are carried out are **Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal**.

**Key activities of the proposed project:**
The project consist of investments by States including mangrove afforestation/shelter beds, habitat conservation activities including restoration of sea-grass meadows, eco-restoration of sacred groves, development of hatcheries, rearing/rescue centres for turtles and other marine animals.

It also includes the demonstration of **climate resilient or salinity resistant agriculture**. The creation of infrastructure and facilities aim to support eco-tourism, community-based small-scale mariculture, seaweed cultivation, aquaponics, and value addition to other livelihood activities.
BILLS & ACTS

LS passed Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Amendment Bill

Lok Sabha, the lower house, cleared the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The amendment will remove the position of Congress president as a permanent member of a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial. The Bill was passed with 214 in favour and 30 against it. After the removal of the Congress chief as a member, the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha will be added as a member of the trust.

The amendment bill empowers the central government to terminate the term of a nominated trustee even before the expiry of the tenure without assigning any reason.

Jallianwala Bagh Memorial:
Jallianwala Bagh memorial was established in 1951. The memorial was established to mark the massacre of unarmed people on April 13, 1919 at the public garden in Amritsar. The massacre was ordered by the British Indian Army under the command of Col Reginald Dyer.

RS passed the Repealing and Amending Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019. The bill will repeal redundant and absolute laws. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 29 July.

Aim:
The Bill aims to ensure minimum legislation and maximum governance as it is a continuous process. It will repeal 58 old central laws that has been used to achieve maximum governance. A committee constituted by the government has identified 1824 old laws. Previously 1,428 old and archaic central Acts and about 75 laws have been repealed till date.

The Bill will make amendments to two Acts that are related to the substitution of certain words in the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.

Acts to be repealed:
The Bill will repeals various Acts, such as the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act,

Centre moves J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019, a resolution to revoke Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir


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.

What is Article 370?

Article 370 was introduced in 1947 by Sheikh Abdullah the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir


Article 370 provided six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir:
1) The State is allowed to have its own Constitution.
2) The Central legislative powers over the State were limited to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications.
3) Only with the concurrence of the State Government, other constitutional powers of Indian Government could be extended to the State.
4) The concurrence was only provisional. The State's Constituent Assembly should ratify the provision.
5) 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.
6) 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.

What’s next?
After the repealing of Article 370, the government should get back the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). It is now expected that the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan would return the land taken illegally from India.

Lok Sabha Passes bill to increase the number of SC judges

Lok Sabha passed a bill the main aim is to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present 30 to 33 with a view to reducing pendency of cases.
Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad used the opportunity to urge the judiciary against making "sweeping commentary".

About Bill
A bill to bar judges from making "sweeping remarks" against another constitutional authority was brought by the previous UPA government. The following the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. The members over differences the Supreme Court Judges. A Constitutional Amendment bill brought by the UPA government to increase the retirement age of High Court Judges from 62 to 65 lapsed and it never came up for discussion in the 15th Lok Sabha. The Supreme Court striking down the National Judicial Appointments law. The minister urged the judiciary to expedite the process of filling vacancies in the subordinate judiciary.
The Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 30 judges, plus the chief justice of India 31 judges. Once the bill gets parliamentary approval, its sanctioned strength will go up to 33 plus the CJI. Through the National Judicial Appointments Commission, the government sought to have a bigger say in the appointment of Supreme Court and High Court Judges.

Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy Regulation Bill

The Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 on 5 August 2019. The Bill aims to ban commercial surrogacy in the country. It was introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Provisions of the Bill:
The Bill regulates altruistic surrogacy and ends the exploitation of women who are lending their womb for surrogacy.
It provides provisions to protect the **rights of children** born through surrogacy. The Bill allows only altruistic surrogacy by **infertile Indian couples**, who are legally married for at least **5 years** and within the **age group of 23-50 and 26-55 years** for females and males, from a **close relative**. It prohibits **foreigners, Non-resident Indians (NRI) Person of Indian Origins (PIO)** from commissioning surrogacy.

**Note:** In Altruistic surrogacy the women **does not receive monetary compensation** except the medical expenses and insurance coverage for the surrogate mother.

This bill looks after the interests of the couple that opt for surrogacy and ensures that there are laws protecting them against exploitation by clinics that are carrying this out as a business.

Surrogacy can not be applicable to **singles, homosexuals and live-in couples**

The Bill will establish **National and State Surrogacy Boards**, the appointment of **appropriate authorities** for the regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy.

**Surrogacy:**

Surrogacy is a legal arrangement where a woman agrees to become pregnant, by artificial insemination, and **give birth to a child for another person(s)/infertile couple** who is or will become the parent(s) of the child.

**Commercial surrogacy** includes a **monetary benefit** or reward (in cash or kind) that exceeds basic medical expenses and insurance for the surrogate mother. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 bans this type of surrogacy.

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**Lok Sabha passed the 2019 Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill**

The **Lok Sabha** passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 on 5 August. The Bill aims to empower and **safeguard the rights of transgenders**.

**Provisions of the Bill:**

The Bill establishes a **national security authority** to safeguard the rights of the transgenders.

It will provide a mechanism for **social, economic and educational empowerment** of transgenders.

As per the Bill, irrespective of sex reassignment surgery and hormonal therapy, a person would have the right to choose to be identified as a man, woman or transgender.

The Bill requires a transgender person to go through a **district magistrate** and
district screening committee to get **certified as a transperson**

It **removes** the provision that **criminalised begging** by transgender people. This provision was part of the Bill when it was introduced

It will **benefit the transgender** people who are discriminated and abused against the marginalised section of the society

It **prohibits** discrimination against a transgender person in the field of **education, employment and healthcare**

**RS passed Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill**

The **Rajya Sabha** cleared the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019** on 6 August. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the Bill after abrogation of the special status granted to J&K. The upper house also adopted resolutions to repeal **Article 370** and **Article 35A in J&K**.

The Bill has been moved for **consideration and passage** in Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019. The lower house will also take up the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Bill 2019.

**Provisions of the Bill:**

The Bill proposed the **bifurcation** of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into **two Union Territories namely Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir**.

The bill has a provision of **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** among the general category (the upper caste).

**Rajasthan passed bill against anti lynching**

The **Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly** passed the **Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019**. The **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal** introduced the Bill in the State Assembly. The Bill aims to provide stricter punishment to curb such Lynching incidents.

**Rajasthan** is now the **second State** to have a dedicated law criminalising mob lynching as a special offence. The **first state** to have such law in addition to other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is **Manipur**.

**SC's recommendation:**

The Bill was introduced after the recommendation by the Supreme Court in authorising the setting up of special courts, **appointment of a dedicated nodal**
officer, and stipulating enhanced punishments.

The bill not only criminalises the acts of lynching but also provides legal aid, relief, compensation and rehabilitation.

**Definition of Lynching as per the Bill:**

Any act or series of acts of violence whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ethnicity falls under the category Lynching.

**Provisions of the Bill:**

- Bill makes the **Mob Lynching offence cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences.**
- It gives a punishment of life imprisonment and a penalty from **Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh** to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to victim's death.
- After 2014, **86%** of mob lynching cases that were reported in the country are from Rajasthan. The Bill was proposed after considering peace in the state.

**Lok Sabha gives nod to legislation that bans commercial surrogacy**

Lok Sabha passed the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019,** which seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and allows only close relatives of infertile couples to volunteer for ethical altruistic reasons.

The bill and it is unfortunate that the country had emerged as a hub of commercial surrogacy in recent years. During the discussion on the bill. There are 2,000-3000 surrogacy clinics running illegally in India and a few thousand foreign couples resort to surrogacy practice within India, and the whole issue is thoroughly unregulated.

The concerning unethical practices, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and exploitation of surrogate mothers. The minister cited the 228th report of the Law Commission recommended that the government enact a legislation to ensure that commercial surrogacy is banned in this country and there is only restrictive surrogacy.

**Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019,**

The bill also aims to constitute surrogacy boards at the national and state levels. The bill aims to allow ethical altruistic surrogacy for infertile Indian married couples, within the age group of 23-50 and 26-55 years for females and males,
respectively. The bill, which was passed by a voice vote, also prohibits the sale and purchase of human embryos and gametes. The government has claimed that it will also prevent exploitation of surrogate mothers and children born through surrogacy. India emerged as a commercial destination for foreigners seeking surrogate mothers. There have been reports on unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy, and rackets involving intermediaries importing human embryos and gametes. Women's rights activists have supported the passage of the bill.

Rajasthan passes bill against honour killing

Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 on 5th August. The Bill was introduced by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal. The Bill aims to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.

Provisions of the Bill:

- The Bill provides punishment of life imprisonment or death penalty for murdering couples in the name of family honour
- If the community or family cause death of a couple or either of them, on the grounds of dishonour or disrepute to the caste, community or family will be punished with death or life imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.5 Lakh
- If the couple is grievously hurt, the community or the family will be punished with 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for life with a penalty of maximum Rs.3 lakh
- Incase of simple injuries, the community or the family will be punished with 3-5 years of imprisonment with a penalty of maximum Rs.2 lakh
- The Bill also said that the District or Sub Divisional Magistrate shall receive information or request from any person who seeks protection from any unlawful assembly or person who objects lawful marriage
- The Bill also says that a group can not assemble with an intention to condemn any lawful marriage in the name of vindicating the honour of family, caste or community. Participating in such groups directly or indirectly will be punished with maximum 5 years of imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.1 lakh
President gives assent to the AERA Amendment Bill

President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 2nd August and by the Lok Sabha on 16th July 2019.

Aim:
The Bill sought to raise the threshold for major airport and in turn to reduce the tariff-fixing power of airport regulator to fewer airports.

Provisions of the Bill:
The Bill increased the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports to over 35 lakh.

As per the Bill, AERA can no more determine the tariff, tariff structures, or development fees, in certain cases where the tariff amounts were a part of the bid document on the basis of which the operations of the airport were awarded. AERA will consult with the concessioning authority of the Ministry of Civil Aviation before incorporating such tariffs in the bid document, and such tariffs must be notified.

Note: Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 defines Major Airport as an airport with annual passenger traffic above 15 lakh.

Cons of the Bill:
Bidding system and privatisation of the airports and would impact the growth rate of the sector, which is growing at around 10%. The Bill will make the air ticket costlier which in turn will affect the government's target to take the air travel to the common man.

History:
The AERA (Amendment) Bill was approved by the Cabinet in December 2017 but got lapsed as it could not be passed in last years Monsoon Session as the first tenure of Modi government ended. In the second term of the NDA government, the Cabinet approved the Bill on June 24.

President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to the abrogation of article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the abrogation of Article 370. It will now revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution to
revoke Article 370 was passed by Lok Sabha on 6 August. It was passed by Rajya Sabha on 5th August.

The notice issued by the President said that as from 6th August, 2019, all clauses mentioned in Article 370.

President's approval notification:
President approved the Bill in exercise of the power conferred by clause (3) of article 370 read with (1) of article 370 of the Constitution of India. The notification also said that all provisions of this Constitution, as amended from time to time, without any modifications or exceptions, shall apply to the State of J&K. It will not notwithstanding anything contrary contained in article 152 or article 308 or any other article of the Constitution or any other provision of the Constitution of J&K or any law, document, judgement, ordinance, order, by-law, rule, or agreement as envisaged under article 363 or otherwise.

RS passed the SC Number of Judges Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The move is to reduce the pendency of cases which touched 59,696.

The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 5th August. The SC (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill was introduced by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The total expenditure estimated to create additional three posts of Judges, including their staff, housing, water, electricity, medical and conveyance among others, in the Supreme Court will be of Rs.6.81 crore per annum.

Indian Constitution says the strength of the Supreme Court is fixed by the Parliament. The Strength of the SC judges can be increased by way of parliamentary legislation.

RS passed the National Institute of Design Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It was introduced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The Bill sought to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.

Provisions of the Bill:
The Bill declares four National Institutes of Design, from states namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana, as institutions of national importance.

These institutes were registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. These institutes do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. As the four institutes are now declared institutions of national importance, the institutes will be allowed to grant degrees and diplomas.

The institutes will become socially inclusive and address the needs of design in various sectors including agriculture, health care, and transportation.

**RS passed the Public Premises Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Amendment Bill**

Rajya Sabha passed the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 on 6 August. The Bill which amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 was introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri. He presented it in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019.

**Provisions of the Bill:**

**Residential accommodation:**

The Bill says that for residential accommodation the license must be given for a fixed tenure, or for the period the person holds office.

**Notice for eviction:**

It empowers the central, state or union territory government, or a statutory authority to make rules for the occupation.

It says the notice of eviction should be issued by an estate officer. The person (Unauthorised Occupant) will be given three working days to show cause of why an eviction order should not be made against him.

**Order of eviction:**

The order of eviction will be issued by the estate officer after considering the cause shown, and making any other inquiries. It the person opposes to comply with the order, the officer can use force to evict the person.

**Payment of damages:**

If the person in unauthorised occupation of the residential accommodation challenges the eviction order passed by the estate officer in court, he will be
required to pay damages for every month of such occupation.

**President approved the NMC Bill**

**President Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to the National Medical Commission Bill 2019. The Bill will replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), which was functional as per the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956.

**NMC Bill 2019:**

The National Medical Commission (NMC) will form the apex *regulatory body* for medical education in India. The commission will ensure the quality of the medical colleges and every institute will now be rated.

One of the *provisions of the bill* included the appointment of the *Board of Governors* to perform the functions.
DEFENCE

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.

QRSAM:
QRSAM is equipped with electronic counter measures against jamming by aircraft radars. The missile uses solid-fuel propellant. It has a range of 25-30 km. The test flights had successfully demonstrated various parameters like aerodynamics, propulsion, structural performance.

The missile was developed as part of Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, Prithvi missiles. QRSAM has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) incooperation with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited.

Previously, the first trial of QRSAM Missile was conducted on June 4, 2017. The second missile test was conducted in May 2019 in odisha coast.

DRDO:
DRDO was formed on 1958. It is headquarters at New Delhi, India. The Minister responsible is Rajnath Singh. The Chairman of DRDO is Dr G. Satheesh Reddy. It functions under the Ministry of Defence. DRDO is charged with the military’s research and development.

DAC approves the procurement of SDR and NGMMCB

The Ministry of Defence got its approval from Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Indian Navy.

The meeting was chaired by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. This is the first
meeting in the second term of the NDA government.

**Uses:**

**NGMMCB:** The NGMMCB battery will be fitted with the BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missiles.

**SDR:** The SDR will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability. Software Defined Radio was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Navys Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE).

BrahMos is a joint venture (JV) between the DRDO and the NPOM, a Russian military technology firm, of Russia. It can be launched from air, land and sub-sea against land and marine targets. It has been inducted into the Indian army and Navy.

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**Cochin Shipyard launched two ro-pax vessels for IWAI**

The **Cochin Shipyard** has launched two ro-pax (roll-on roll-off passenger) vessels on 8 August. The ro-pax was designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard for the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

**Ro-pax:**

The two ro-pax were the third and fourth in a series of 10 vessels ordered by the IWAI are built to IRS standards. Among the 10 vessels eight were ro-pax are to be operated in National Waterways 1 and 2. The vessel is equipped with all life-saving gear. The vessels will be able to accommodate 200 passengers each. The vessels will have eight crew members and can carry two trucks and four cars.

The Shipyards was building a technology demonstration vessel for the DRDO, two 1,200 pax and two 500 pax vessels for the Andaman and Nicobar administration besides the indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

It is currently building a total of 27 small vessels for clients like the IWAI, fisheries department of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Navy.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

President Ram Nath Kovind was awarded the National order of Merit

President Ram Nath Kovind was awarded the National order of Merit by the President of Guinea on 3rd August. This is the highest award Republic of Guinea by African government. He was honoured for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea. It also recognised his efforts for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.

President's Visit to Guinea:
During his visit to Guinea, President Ram Nath Kovind signed 3 MoUs between India and Africa. The agreements aimed cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e Vidhya bharati, e Aarogya Bharati Network Project and Renewal Energy.
Both countries also agreed on sign in the need for reform of the UN Security Council to make it reflective of contemporary realities. The leaders expressed their deep concern over the rise of extremism and terrorism around the world in the meeting. The President also announced a new Line of Credit of US$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city.

ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research as a reward and recognition to journalists.

Nominations:
All Indian journalists can be nominated and those articles that are published from the year 2019 till 2020 can be submitted. Candidates will be nominated and judged based on the standard criteria set by ISRO. The names of the selected will be declared on August 1, 2020.

Vikram Sarabhai Award:
Vikram Sarabhai is the father of Indian space program. He was an Indian Scientist. The centenary year celebrations of the father of Indian space
programme announced the award.

ISRO institutes two categories of awards instituted in the field of journalism:

1) An award that includes a cash price of Rs.5,00,000, a medal and citation to two journalists or freelancers of print media.
2) An award that includes 3 cash prizes such as Rs.3,00,000, Rs.2,00,000 and Rs.1,00,000 to the articles or the success stories that are published in Hindi, English, or Regional languages in popular Periodicals, Science magazines, or Journals in India from 2019 to 2020.

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee was awarded the Bharat Ratna

The Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, at Rashtrapati Bhawan. He was awarded by the President Ram Nath Kovind. The award recognizes his selfless service to the nation for decades. He is the fifth President to receive the award.

Pranab Mukherjee:
Pranab was born in a village in Birbhum district in West Bengal. He was fondly known as Pranab Da. He was the President of India between 2012 and 2017. Pranab has inspired the politicians with his knowledge, wisdom and experience.

Other Awardees:
Along with him the late Assamese singer-composer Bhupen Hazarika and the late social activist Nanaji Deshmukh were also honoured with the award.

Bharat Ratna:
Bharat Ratna is the highest award among republic of India and highest recognition in service and performance in the highest order without any distinction of sex, race, position. Bharat Ratna is being awarded after a gap of four years.

NITI Aayog to launch the 4th Edition of WTI Awards

NITI Aayog launched the 4th Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. The WTI Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India.

This years theme is Women and Entrepreneurship, in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018. WhatsApp collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019. The main aim is to provide support amounting to US$100,000 to the award
The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.

**NITI Aayog**

NITI Aayog is a policy of the Government of India. It is established with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

**Headquarters**: New Delhi
SPORTS

Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

Formula One Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix. He defeated Max Verstappen for a record-extending seventh time. He won 62 points clear in the championship.

Lewis Hamilton
He is a British racing driver who races in Formula One for Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport. He is one of the greatest drivers in the history of the sport.

Hungarian Grand Prix
It is a motor race held annually in Mogyord, Hungary.

Most win: United Kingdom Lewis Hamilton

Ravichandran Ashwin named as PCA Player of the Month

Ravichandran Ashwin named as Professional Cricketers Associations Player of the month of July 2019. The consistent performances in the county championships around 197 runs and picked up 23 wickets from 3 matches for Nottinghamshire. He is the fastest Indian bowler (also in some records the fastest in the world) to reach the 50-, 100-, 150-, 200-, 250- and 300-wicket mark in Test cricket. He became the third Indian to win the ICC Cricketer of the Year award.

Steve Smith becomes second-fastest to score 25 Test centuries

Steven Smith became the second-fastest batsman to register 25 centuries in the Test format. He achieved the feat during the second innings of the first Ashes Test match against England. He recorded his 25th century in 119th innings and went past Indian skipper Virat Kohli who had achieved the feat in 127 innings. Smith became the fifth Australian batsman to register centuries in both innings of Ashes Test. Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar achieved the milestone in his 130th Test innings. Don Bradman's record of 25 centuries in 68 innings remains unbeaten. Former England skipper Michael Vaughan lauded Smith the right-handed batsman as the best Test match. Australia managed to score 284 runs, owing to Smith's knock of 144 runs.
**Australia, England** scored 374 runs, gaining a lead of 90 runs. Smith became the second-fastest to register 24 centuries in the Test format. Smith recorded his 24th century in 118th innings. Virat Kohli achieved the feat in 123 innings. In the second innings, Australia lost their openers, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft early, but Smith helped Australia to see-off day three. Australia reached the score of 236/4 on day four. Aussies lead England by 146 runs.

**P.V. Sindhu among Forbes 2019 list of worlds highest-paid female athletes**

India's badminton star **P.V. Sindhu** is the only athlete from the country to be named among the worlds highest-paid female athletes by Forbes, a list topped by tennis great Serena Williams. Sindhu is tied for 13th place in The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 list released by Forbes. She secured total earnings of $5.5 million. She became the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour finals in 2018. The list of the worlds top 15 female athletes is topped by Williams. She earned total earnings of $29.2 million. She built a venture portfolio worth more than $10 million. The second spot is Naomi Osaka, who won the 2018 US Open. She defeated champ Williams at 23-time Grand Slam. She has total earnings of $24.3 million. There are 15 female athletes who made at least $5 million during that time period. The top 15 earned a cumulative $146 million, compared with $130 million. Williams and Osaka earned more than twice as much as the third-highest-paid female athlete in the world. Angelique Kerber, who pulled in $11.8 million from tennis.

**World Archery suspended Archery Association of India**

**World Archery (WA)** has suspended the **Archery Association of India (AAI)**. Earlier, the WA executive board had given a July 31 deadline to both AAI factions to resolve their disputes, including parallel elections. The decision by WA to suspend AAI is because the matter is now in court. The participation of Indian archers in international events under the National flag is jeopardised after AAI's suspension. After the suspension, the last event in which Indian athletes can participate is the world youth championships in Madrid from August 19 to 25, 2019. WA is yet to decide whether individual athletes can
participate in the **Indoor Archery World Series.**

**Transitory Committee:**
The Indian Government and the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** are planning to establish a transitory committee to handle urgent matters. The executive board will preserve the chances of Indian athletes participating in the **Asian championships and Asian para championships.**

**Cricket Australia unveils new transgender inclusive policy**

**Cricket Australia** announced a new transgender-inclusive policy. This policy will enable **transgender** players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels. The **decision** aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Councils (ICCs) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines. The policy sets out a limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national womens teams. Australian men's national cricket team represents Australia in international cricket. It is oldest teams in Test cricket history playing in the first-ever Test match in 1877.
OBITUARY

Gujarati journalist author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away

Gujarati journalist author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away in Mumbai on 5th August. He was 88 years old. He passed away after a prolonged illness.

Kanti Bhatt:
Kanti was born on 15th July, 1931 in the Bhavnagar district of Gujarat. He did his Bachelor of Commerce from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (Vadodara). Kanti Bhatt joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai.

Kanti was a good columnist, writer and journalist. His writings were informative that enriched the culture of Gujarati. He has written more than 45,000 articles.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67 years old, passed away on 6th August. She suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away at AIIMS. She underwent a kidney transplant in 2016.

Sushma Swaraj Career:
Sushma Swaraj was educated at Sanatan Dharma College in Ambala Cantonment. She earned a bachelor's degree with majors in Sanskrit and Political Science. She studied law at Punjab University, Chandigarh.

Political Career:
Swaraj's political career started at her age of 25 in 1977. She became the youngest cabinet minister in Haryana in 1977. She served as the 5th Chief Minister of Delhi from 13th October to 3rd December 1998. She was a seven-time Member of Parliament. She served as MLA for three terms.

Sushma Swaraj won from Vidisha constituency in Madhya Pradesh for a second term in 2014. Swaraj took charge as Foreign Minister on 26th May, 2014. After Indira Gandhi, she was the second woman to hold the External Affairs Ministry. She was popularly known as the Peoples Minister. She introduced a new sensitivity and sensibility in the functioning of the External Affairs Ministry.
Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers held at New Delhi

The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers was held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi on 5 August. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Ministry of I&B conducted a performance review of the Media units during the Conference.

**Aim:**
The conference aimed to attain greater integration of all Media Units in order to further amplify government communication. The conference highlighted the importance of feedback along with communicating the programmes and policies of government.

The sessions focused discussions on:
- Adoption of **Integrated and Theme Based Communication Approach**
- Expansion of Social Media regionally and use of **Integrated Dashboard**
- Adoption of Government Communication Impact Assessment Framework
- Roadmap for celebration of **550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak**
- **150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**
- **75 Years of India's Independence**
- International Film Festival of India's (IFFI) Golden Jubilee Edition

The discussion also included the importance to shift government communication from segregated Ministry-wise approach to a thematic and holistic approach.

**Participants:**
Delegates including Senior IIS Officers from all across the country, along with officials of the Ministry of I&B, Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Mass Communication participated in the Conference.

MSDE organized the fourth edition of NEA

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards at New Delhi, India. The Ministry has also instituted in a bid to recognize and encourage outstanding Indian Entrepreneurs and catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship for
nominations.

**Aim:**
The fourth National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) 2019 aims to honour outstanding young first generation entrepreneurs and ecosystem builders for their exceptional contribution in entrepreneurship development. The Government will also reward the most innovative, inspiring and accomplished micro entrepreneurs to scale up their business. The awards recognizes the businesses and businessmen to improve their marketability, and address discontinuity towards better business systems and enhanced products & services with the help of a prize money. The awards ceremony will be held in November 2019.
E-Rozgar Samachar launched to spread awareness about job opportunities

The e-version of Rozgar Samachar launched recently by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. The main aim is to make the aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises. They provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts. It is expected to meet the emerging challenge of young readers switching to electronic modes of communication.

The journal priced at 75% of the cost of its print version and is available for an annual subscription fee of Rs. 400. It can be accessed by visiting the website www.employmentnews.gov.in.

Rozgar Samachar

Rozgar Samachar is the hindi version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It was launched in 1976.

Aim: To provide information on employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed youth of the country. The journal is published in English (Employment News), Hindi (Rozgar Samachar) and Urdu (Rozgar Samachar) and have a circulation of over one lakh copies per week.

The job journal provides information related to job vacancies, job oriented training programs, admission notices related to job oriented exams and results of recruitment exams in respect of:

(a) Ministries/Departments/Offices/Organizations/Autonomous bodies/ Societies/ PSUs of the Central Government, State Government, and UT Administrations;
(b) Nationalised banks/ RRBs /UPSC/SSC/ Constitutional and Statutory bodies; and
(c) Central/State Governments Universities/ Colleges/Institutes recognised by the UGC/AICTE.

The employment news provides editorial content on socio-economic issues and career guidance that helps youth in broadening their horizons. The job journal serves as a guide to the youth; especially those in rural areas, by helping them gain an understanding of the job market and the plethora of employment opportunities that otherwise go unnoticed. The weekly educate the young people to make an
informed decision about their careers.
The journal is available throughout the length and breadth of the country.

**Odisha govt launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme**

The **Odisha government** launched **Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme**, a small savings scheme, for 2019.

**Aim:**
The objective of the scheme is to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions, in the greed of high returns.

**Provisions of the scheme:**
Under the Scheme, any eligible person who deposits a minimum amount of **Rs.2,000 in any small savings scheme** during 2019 in any post office or bank within the state, can obtain a free web based coupon from the office of the collectors, sub-collectors and BDOs.

A **state level lucky draw** of the scheme will be held on April 26, 2020, in which people can win cash award as an incentive for their habit of thrift.

Under the scheme, **2,428 number of prizes** are given under seven categories which amount to **Rs.74 lakh**, including the first prize **Rs.5 Lakh**.

**Andhra Pradesh govt will launch Navodayam scheme**

**Andhra Pradesh** government launched the **Navodayam scheme**. The scheme is for thousands of ailing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the state. Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for the one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020. About **86,000 MSMEs** in the state have been identified for restructuring under Navodayam with an outlay of Rs 3,900 crore.

The state cabinet approved the scheme at its recent meeting and the Department of Industries and Commerce subsequently worked out the modalities to make Navodayam operational.

The state government marked **Rs 50 crore** in the 2019-20 budget for rejuvenation of MSMEs Two sub-SLBC meetings have also been held with bankers in the state for getting the NPA accounts of MSMEs restructured so that the respective accounts are brought back to 'standard' level.
Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020. We are also creating a new ecosystem for rejuvenation and development of MSMEs in the state through a slew of initiatives. Through these measures, infrastructure worth over Rs 3,900 crore would not become non-performing assets (NPAs). Under Navodayam, a special cell is being created at each District Industries Centre is headed by the General Manager, to provide handholding support to all restructured MSMEs for six months to stabilise the accounts. The studies will be conducted in all districts on sector-specific enterprises to identify key issues that need to be addressed and make the MSME ecosystem more robust.

**Leather Mission launched on World Tribal Day by KVIC**

The Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) launched Leather Mission on World Tribal Day. The mission empowers the commission to give leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation. KVIC distributed 50 leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation. This will increase their incomes and inspire the traditional leather artisans who had migrated to other jobs from their traditional skill to adopt this vocation again.

KVIC also distributed 350 Bee-Boxes at the function in Sirohi district of Rajasthan. Honey Mission has changed the lives of tribals, farmers, SC/STs and unemployed youths. KVIC has distributed over 1.15 lakh Bee-Boxes across the nation. It has provided jobs to over 11,500 people. It has not only increased the income of the bee-keeping farmers, but has also increased the yield of the crops by up to 30% due to cross-pollination of the honey-bees.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week 2019

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from August 1 to 7

Theme: Empower Parents. Enable Breastfeeding

Mainaim: To encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies across the globe.

About 60% of the world's total infants are missing out of the recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding. Breastfeeding Week - Importance

The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that newborns have the right to good nutrition according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As per the data collected by the United Nations Globally in 2016 around 41 million children are obese in the world while 155 million children. Breastfeeding reduces the risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer around type 2 diabetes and heart diseases. It prevents infections like early-stage diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. Increased breastfeeding could avert 20,000 maternal deaths each year due to breast cancer.

Breastfeeding week - India

Food and Nutrition Board under the Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing a number of activities in the country. Quiz competition is conducted across 30 States and Union Territories. The various concerned departments are also organizing exhibitions on nutrition, displaying low-cost nutritious diets for infants and young children.

National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August

The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year. To mark the occasion, the nation holds a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The function will be presided by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani. The Day is observed at Weavers Service Centres in different States.

Odisha's rich tradition:
The main events are to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Bhubaneswar has been chosen for its rich tradition of Handlooms.
Aim:
The Day aims to honour the Indian handloom weavers and also highlight India's handloom industry. It also aims to empower women and girls as they are the majority total weavers population of India. The day focuses on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country. It seeks to increase the income of weavers.

Ministry of Textiles:
Headquarters: New Delhi
Minister responsible: Smriti Zubin Irani
The Ministry regulates and formulates all the policies and promotion of the textile industry in India.

International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples: 9 August

United Nations observes 9th August every year as International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups. This years observance is dedicated to Indigenous Peoples Languages in view of 2019 being marked as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

The 2019 Theme is Indigenous Languages. This years observance is dedicated to Indigenous Peoples Languages in view of 2019 being marked as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.
AGREEMENTS, MOU

UP extended the existing bilateral agreement with Netherlands

The Uttar Pradesh State government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.

MoU signed:
The MoU was signed in the presence of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Netherlands ambassador Marten van den Berg to India. The MoU extends the cooperation between the two countries till 2024.
The MoU was first signed by Samajwadi Party government and the Government of Netherland in July 2016. The earlier MoU expired on July 13 and it was extended to the next five years on 7th August.

Aim:
The MoU aims to strengthen the collaboration between the two parties on the basis of equivalence, mutual benefit and the practical needs of the parties.
The agreement aims to cooperate and exchange of knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management. The MoU is also related in the other various fields of transport management, energy efficiency, sewerage and effluent treatment, agriculture, dairy and horticulture, development of smart cities in UP.

India signed a UN Convention agreement in Singapore

India signed an agreement with the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) in Singapore. 46 UN members signed the UNISA agreement named Singapore Convention on Mediation. The experts even called for local laws to support the treaty's implementation in business contracts. Around 70 countries represented at the signing ceremony.
UNISA was signed by India's High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf who represented the Government of India.

Aim:
The treaty aims to have a global framework. It will provide great confidence to the businesses to settle international disputes through mediation rather than taking them to court. This can reduce time and expenses.
UNISA has set a standard to enforce and invoke settlement agreements, the requirements for reliance on settlement agreements and the grounds for refusing to grant relief.

**UNISA and India:**
Singing of the agreement is important for the growth of mediation in India. The agreement will enhance the ease of doing business in India. It will boost confidence of the foreign investors in the Indian market.
So far, India has been dealing with **80-100 matters** a day in the Delhi High Court. It is now expected that the mediator community to **grow exponentially in India.**
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**Papua New Guinea has highest number of living indigenous languages**

United Nations report said that the Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840. India stands fourth with 453.

**UN's concern:**

UN observes the year 2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages. UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that nearly 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing and endangered.

Totally 7,111 living languages worldwide has been listed so far. The most widely spoken languages worldwide are Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi and Arabic. These 5 languages covers around 40% of the total worldwide languages.

**Papua New Guinea:**

Monarch: Elizabeth II  
Governor-General: Bob Dadae  
Prime Minister: James Marape  
Capital: Port Moresby  
Currency: Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

Papua New Guinea is linguistically the world's most diverse country with more than 700 native tongues. Around 80% of the country's people are not exposed to modern life. The people live within a non-monetarised economy dependent on subsistence agriculture.
1) Who won Hungarian Grand Prix?

A. Carlo Abate  
B. Lewis Hamilton  
C. Kenny Acheson  
D. Walt Ader

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix.

2) Which bank with Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS

A. ICICI Bank  
B. State Bank of India  
C. RBL Bank  
D. Dena Bank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** State Bank of India State Bank of India's Shanghai branch linked to China's National Advanced Payment System (CNAPS).

3) Reserve Bank of India imposes _______ fine on seven PSBs for violating norms

A. 19 crores  
B. 11 crores  
C. 15 crores  
D. 16 crores

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of 11 crores on seven public sector banks for violating norms on current account opening. The banks which includes Allahabad Bank
and Bank of Maharashtra have been imposed a fine of 2 crore each.

4) Where is the headquarters of National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC)?

A. Thiruvandrum  
B. Chennai  
C. Mumbai  
D. Hyderabad

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The headquarters of National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC) is Mumbai.

5) Who won Gold In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament

A. Lovlina Borgohain  
B. Vijendar Singh  
C. Satish Kumar  
D. Hawa Singh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Lovlina Borgohain won Gold In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament.

6) ISRO is to the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in __________.

A. Sriharikota  
B. Hyderabad  
C. Mumbai  
D. Bengaluru

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Sivan laid the foundation stone for the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru. The Centre aims to protect the high value space assets from space debris' close approach and collisions. It is an important milestone in the progress of ISRO.
7) ________ is needed to protect Indian space assets from inactive satellites, parts and pieces of orbiting objects.

A. Space Situational Awareness Control Centre  
B. Space Station Saving Programme  
C. Space Situational Awareness Control Centre  
D. International Space Management Centre  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** International Space Protection and Management Centre

The Centre aims to protect the high value space assets from space debris' close approach and collisions. For this ISRO is to set up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre. It would hold various range of activities to protect Indian space assets from inactive satellites, parts and pieces of orbiting objects, asteroids near earth and adverse space weather conditions.

8) Who is the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?

A. Ajay Narayan  
B. K. Sivan  
C. Anoop Srivastava  
D. Vijay Keshav Gokhale

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Kailasavadivoo Sivan, an Indian space scientist, is the Chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organization. The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation is the highest-ranked official of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the space agency of the India.

9) Who restores India's water bodies in India?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Arun Krishnamurthy  
C. Dinesh Kumar  
D. Vivek Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Arun Krishnamurthy restores India's water bodies in India.
10) Who introduces distance-wise fare cap for flights leaving Srinagar till August

A. Air Asia  
B. IndiGo  
C. SpiceJet  
D. Vistara

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Low-cost carrier IndiGo implemented a distance-wise cap on the fares for flights coming out of Srinagar airport. Jammu and Kashmir administration Amarnath pilgrims and tourists to leave the Valley citing terror threats.

11) Under whose command did the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh take place?

A. Col Reginald Dyer  
B. Col Sanders  
C. Colonel Berkeley  
D. Colonel William

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Jallianwala Bagh memorial was established in 1951. The memorial was established to mark the massacre of unarmed people on April 13, 1919 at the public garden in Amritsar. The massacre was ordered by the British Indian Army under the command of Col Reginald Dyer.

12) When was the Jallianwala Bagh memorial established?

A. 1935  
B. 1949  
C. 1951  
D. 1967

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Jallianwala Bagh memorial was established in 1951. The memorial was established to mark the massacre of unarmed people on April 13, 1919 at the public garden in Amritsar.

13) Which Bill will remove the Congress president as a permanent member of
a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial?

A. Jallianwala Bagh Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018
B. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill, 2018
C. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill, 2019
D. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Lok Sabha, the lower house, cleared the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The amendment will remove the position of Congress president as a permanent member of a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial. The Bill was passed with 214 in favour and 30 against it.

14) Which of the following Bill/Acts will be repealed by the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019?

A. Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976
B. Tea (Amendment) Act, 1980 and Central Universities Act, 2009
C. Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Central Road Fund (Amendment) Act, 2007
D. All the above

**Answer D**


15) Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 seeks to repeal _______ old central laws.

A. 25
B. 58
C. 72
D. 134

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 aims to ensure minimum legislation and
maximum governance as it is a continuous process. It will repeal 58 old central laws that has been used to achieve maximum governance.

16) Which of the following Bill will empower centre to remove the redundant and absolute laws?

A. Rescinding (Amendment) Bill 2018  
B. Revocation (Amendment) Bill 2018  
C. Repealing and Nullification Bill 2019  
D. Repealing and Amending Bill 2019

Answer D

Explanation Rajya Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019. The bill will repeal redundant and absolute laws. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 29 July.

17) ___ seizes $240 million from Chinese state firm's bank account

A. Malaysia  
B. Indonesia  
C. Saudi Arabia  
D. Russia

Answer A

Explanation Malaysia seizes $240 million from Chinese state firm's bank account.

18) Malaysia seizes __________ from Chinese state firm's bank account

A. $260 millions  
B. $240 million  
C. $350 millions  
D. $450 millions

Answer B

Explanation Malaysia seized more than 1 billion ringgit ($243.25 million) from a bank account of state-owned China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Ltd (CPP). The seizure comes nearly a year after Malaysia suspended two pipeline projects, valued at $2.3 billion, on which CPP was the lead contractor.
19) Lovlina Borgohain Won _______ In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament

A. Silver  
B. Gold  
C. Bronze  
D. None of These

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Lovlina Borgohain won gold at the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament 2019

20) Lewis Hamilton won _______

A. Moroccan Grand Prix  
B. Hungarian Grand Prix  
C. Belgian Grand Prix  
D. Chinese Grand Prix

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

21) World Breastfeeding Week 2019 observed from _______

A. 1 - 7 June  
B. 1 - 7 August  
C. 1 - 7 July  
D. 1 - 7 March

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Breastfeeding Week 2019 observed from 1 - 7 August week

22) IndiGo introduces distance-wise fare cap for flights leaving Srinagar till _______

A. September
IndiGo introduces distance-wise fare cap for flights leaving Srinagar till August.

23) What is the theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2019?

A. Enable Feeding
B. Empower Parents. Enable Breastfeeding
C. Power to People
D. Parents are enable Breastfeeding

Answer B

Explanation World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from August 1 to 7. Theme: Empower Parents. Enable Breastfeeding

24) When was the first trial of QRSAM Missile was conducted?

A. June 4 2017
B. July 4 2019
C. June 4 2018
D. February 27 2019

Answer A

Explanation The first trial of QRSAM Missile was conducted on June 4, 2017.

25) At what range the QRSAM Missile?

A. 20-50 km
B. 25-30 km
C. 60-80 km
D. 100-200 km

Answer B
QRSAM missile uses solid-fuel propellant and it also has a range of 25-30 km. It was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, Prithvi missiles.

26) Centre has repealed __________ which will make J&K an integral part of India.

A. Article 130  
B. Article 370  
C. Article 260  
D. Article 189  

Answer B

27) Who introduced the Article 370 in 1947?

A. Mehr Chand Mahajan  
B. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad  
C. Ghulam Mohammed Sadiq  
D. Sheikh Abdullah  

Answer D

28) The Government of India has introduced the __________ after repealing Article 370.

A. Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019  
B. Jammu and Kashmir Reformation Bill, 2019  
C. Jammu and Kashmir ReUnion Bill, 2019  
D. Jammu and Kashmir Restructuring Bill, 2019
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.

29) AP Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle __________

A. Vikram Main Gauge  
B. Vajra  
C. Swaraj Mudra  
D. 1KVA Genset

Answer B

Explanation AP Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle Vajra

30) Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates _______ Foundation Day

A. 70th  
B. 65th  
C. 85th  
D. 95th

Answer B

Explanation Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day.

31) ___________ summons Indian High Commissioner over scrapping of Article 370

A. Australia  
B. Pakistan  
C. Saudi Arabia  
D. Indonesia

Answer B

Explanation Pakistan summons Indian High Commissioner over scrapping of Article 370
32) ____ issues red alert, security checking to take more time

A.Kolkata Metro  
B.Delhi Metro  
C.Chennai Metro  
D.Bangalore Metro

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Delhi Metro stations will be a little longer as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) issued a red alert after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced revoking of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. A red alert imposed on the entire DMRC network. The authorities have issued a fresh security advisory to ensure that no untoward incident takes place in the Metro train network that runs across Noida, Gurgaon, Delhi, Ghaziabad and Faridabad.

33) _______ briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir

A.Saudi Arabia  
B.India  
C.Pakistan  
D.Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

34) __________ set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service

A.Jabong  
B.Flipkart  
C.Myntra  
D.Reliance Industries

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Flipkart set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service.
35) _______ successfully crossed the English Channel (a 36 km journey) on a jet-powered hoverboard.
   A. Shane Chen  
   B. Franky Zapata  
   C. Elon Reeve Musk  
   D. Richard Branson

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Franky Zapata, the French inventor, successfully crossed the English Channel on a jet-powered hoverboard. He set off on his kerosene-fueled Flyboard from Sangatte in the Pas de Calais region on the northern coast of France for the 22-mile (36 km) journey to St. Margarets Bay.

36) Kanti Bhatt who passed away recently was a/an _________.
   A. politician  
   B. singer  
   C. actor  
   D. author

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Gujarati journalist author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away in Mumbai on 5th August. He was 88 years old. He passed away after a prolonged illness.

37) Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2019 ban _________ surrogacy.
   A. altruistic  
   B. commercial  
   C. traditional  
   D. gestational

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 on 5 August 2019. The Bill aims to ban commercial surrogacy in the country. It was introduced by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.
38) Which Bill aims to empower and safeguard the rights of transgenders?

A. Protection of Transgenders Bill 2019  
B. Safeguard (and Protection) of Transgender Bill 2019  
C. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019  
D. Protection of Transgender Rights Bill 2019

Answer C

Explanation: The Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 on 5 August. The Bill aims to empower and safeguard the rights of transgenders.

39) The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 will establish _______ to safeguard the rights of the transgenders.

A. National security authority  
B. National protection and security authority  
C. National transgender protection authority  
D. Indian transgender security authority

Answer A

Explanation: The Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 on 5 August. The Bill establishes a national security authority to safeguard the rights of transgenders.

40) Who Organised the Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers?

A. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
B. Ministry of Telecommunications  
C. Ministry of Communications and Information Technology  
D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer A

Explanation: The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers was held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi on 5 August. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Ministry of I&B conducted a performance review of the Media units during the Conference.
41) The Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers was recently held ________.

A. Mumbai  
B. Kolkata  
C. Hyderabad  
D. New Delhi

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers was held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi on 5 August.

42) Which edition of All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers was recently held?

A. fourth  
B. second  
C. third  
D. fifth

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers was held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi on 5 August.

43) Under which Ministry does the Department of Consumer Affairs function?

A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
B. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution  
C. Ministry of Home Affairs  
D. Ministry of Industrial policy and promotion

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Department of Consumer Affairs functions under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. It administers the policies for Consumer Cooperatives, price monitoring, essential commodity availability, consumer movement and control of statutory bodies such as the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Weights and Measures.
44) _______ released e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection.

A. Department of Statistics  
B. Department of Programme Implementation  
C. Department of Trade and Commerce  
D. Department of Consumer Affairs  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce titled 'e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019'.

45) Who is the Minister responsible of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution?

A. Sambit Patra  
B. Ram Vilas Paswan  
C. Ajit Doval  
D. Smriti Irani  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ram Vilas Paswan is an Indian politician from Bihar and the current Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

46) IIFL Finance to raise up to ___________ through bonds

A. 6,500  
B. 1,000  
C. 2,500  
D. 3,500  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** IIFL Finance to raise up to 1,000 through bonds.

47) Flipkart set to take on _____ with free video streaming service

A. Zee5  
B. Amazon
C. Netflix  
D. Hotstar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Flipkart set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service.


A. 10%  
B. 20%  
C. 33%  
D. 25%

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Rajya Sabha cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 on 6 August. The bill has a provision of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general category (the upper caste).

49) ________ briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir

A. Pakistan  
B. India  
C. Saudi Arabia  
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

50) Pakistan summons Indian High Commissioner over scrapping of ________

A. Article 280
B. Article 376
C. Article 370
D. Article 374

Answer C

Explanation Pakistan foreign secretary Sohail Mehmood in Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad Ajay Bisaria to lodge a strong protest at Indias move to revoke Article 370 of the constitution and declare Jammu and Kashmir a union territory.

51) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 proposed bifurcate the state of J&K into 2 UTs namely __________.
A. Leh and Ladakh  
B. Kashmir and Leh  
C. Jammu and Leh  
D. Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh

Answer D


52) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 has proposed to bifurcate the state of Jammu and Kashmir into ________.
A. 3 Union Territories  
B. 2 Union Territories  
C. A Union Territory  
D. It doesn't bifurcate J&K

Answer B


53) _____ celebrates 65th Foundation Day
A. Surendra Kumar  
B. Lalit Kala Akademi  
C. Vikram Sarabhai  
D. Nithya Menon  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day.

54) ________ Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle Vajra

A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Arunchal Pradesh  
D. Assam  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Andhra Pradesh Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle Vajra.

55) ________ to raise up to 1,000 crore through bonds

A. Bajaj Home Finance  
B. IIFL Finance  
C. Mamta Housing Finance Company  
D. Guru Raghavendra Finance Company  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** IIFL Finance to raise up to 1,000 crore through bonds.

56) Which is the first State to pass an anti-lynching Bill in the country?

A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Karnataka  
D. Manipur  

**Answer D**
Explanation The first State to have an anti-lynching law in addition to other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is Manipur.

57) Which State has passed an anti-lynching Bill?

A. Maharashtra  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Rajasthan  
D. Telangana

Answer C

Explanation The Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Bill in the State Assembly. The Bill aims to provide stricter punishment to curb such Lynching incidents.

58) Lok Sabha passed the __________

A. 2019 Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill  
B. Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019  
C. Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill  
D. Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019

Answer B

Explanation Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019.

59) Fiona Kolbinger first woman to win ________ cycling race

A. 2,800 km  
B. 4,000 km  
C. 5,200 km  
D. 6,500 km

Answer B

Explanation German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km (2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race from Burgas in Bulgaria. She becomes the first woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races.
60) ____________ named as PCA Player of the Month

A.K L Rahul  
B.Ravichandran Ashwin  
C.Suresh raina  
D.Jasprit Bumrah

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ravichandran Ashwin named as PCA Player of the Month.

61) ________launches identity check express to secure online transactions

A.Visa  
B.Mastercard  
C.Standard Chartered  
D.CitiBank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mastercard launches identity check express to secure online transactions.

62) ______ proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms

A.Pakistan  
B.India  
C.Saudi Arabia  
D.Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms.

63) As per the third bi-monthly policy review by MPC, which of the following will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019?

A.RTGS  
B.NEFT
C. IMPS
D. None of the above

**Answer B**

**Explanation** As per the third bi-monthly policy review by MPC, NEFT system will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

**64) Who led the third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 7th August?**

A. Prime Minister
B. Finance Minister
C. RBI Governor
D. RBI Deputy Governor

**Answer C**

**Explanation** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das led the third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for 2019-20.

**65) What is the current Policy Repo Rate of RBI under LAF?**

A. 5.75%
B. 5.65%
C. 5.40%
D. 5.30%

**Answer C**

**Explanation** In its third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the committee announced that the policy repo rate under LAF has been reduced by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75% to 5.40%.

**66) What is the Marginal Standing Facility Rate set by RBI in the third bi-monthly policy review by MPC?**

A. 5.40%
B. 5.65%
C. 5.15%
D.5.35%

Answer B

Explanation The Marginal Standing Facility Rate set by RBI in the third bi-monthly policy review by MPC is 5.65%.

67) How much did the RBI cut the interest repo rate in the third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

A.20 bps
B.25 bps
C.30 bps
D.35 bps

Answer D

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 35 basis points (bps) cut to the benchmark repo rate on 7th August. The announcement was made after the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-led third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for 2019-20. This reduction is the fourth in a row since Shaktikanta Das took over as the governor in December 2018. It is the lowest since April 2010.

68) Who was the first woman to hold the office of the Ministry of External Affairs?

A.Maneka Gandhi
B.Indira Gandhi
C.Sushma Swaraj
D.Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer B

Explanation Indira Gandhi is the first woman to hold the office of the Ministry of External Affairs. She held the office from 6 September 1967 to 13 February 1969.

69) Sushma Swaraj who passed away recently was the __________.

A.Former Finance Minister
B.Former Home Affairs Minister
C. Former Defence Minister
D. Former External Affairs Minister

Answer D

Explanation Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67 years old, passed away on 6th August. She suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away at AIIMS. She underwent a kidney transplant in 2016.

70) Where is the GIFT city located in India?

A. Bihar
B. Gujarat
C. Odisha
D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer B

Explanation Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is an initiative led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is located at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

71) National Stock Exchange (NSE) and ________ got approval for its project on GIFT City.

A. Singapore Exchange (SGX)
B. Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE)
C. Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE)
D. Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)

Answer A

Explanation Centre approved the joint derivative project of India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) for their international financial centre in GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The project was proposed by NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) and SGX Connect.

72) AERA (Amendment) Bill 2019 has made the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over ________.

A. 20 lakh
B. 25 lakh  
C. 30 lakh  
D. 35 lakh  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 defines Major Airport as an airport with annual passenger traffic above 15 lakh. But AERA (Amendment) Bill 2019 has made the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over 35 lakh.

73) Rajasthan passed __________ to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.

A. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing in Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
B. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
C. Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
D. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing lawful couples in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 on 5th August. The Bill was introduced by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal. The Bill aims to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.

74) Which State passed a bill against honour killing?

A. Rajasthan  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Assam  
D. Bihar  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 on 5th August. The Bill was introduced by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal. The Bill aims to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.
75) Who is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Textiles?

A. Smriti Zubin Irani  
B. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank  
C. D.V. Sadananda Gowda  
D. Nitin Jairam Gadkari

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Smriti Zubin Irani is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Textiles. The Ministry regulates and formulates all the policies and promotion of the textile industry in India.

76) When is the National Handloom Day is observed?

A. 1 August  
B. 15 July  
C. 7 August  
D. 13 September

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year. To mark the occasion, the nation holds a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The Day is observed at Weavers Service Centres in different States.

77) Who won Miss World Diversity 2019?

A. Vikram Sharma  
B. Naaz Joshi  
C. Sherin begum  
D. Nithya Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Naaz Joshi made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity. She competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius.

78) Who becomes Power Grid CMD?
A. Dilip Kumar  
B. Kandikuppa Sreekant  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Suresh Kumar  

**Answer B**

**Explanation**  
Kandikuppa Sreekant becomes Power Grid CMD. State-owned Power Grid Corporation Director (Finance) Kandikuppa Sreekant took charge as the company’s chairman and managing director. Kandikuppa Sreekant assumed the charge of the chairman and managing director of Power Grid Corporation of India.

**79) Iran unveils ______ new precision-guided missiles**

A. six  
B. three  
C. four  
D. five  

**Answer B**

**Explanation**  
Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles.

**80) ______ unveils three new precision-guided missiles**

A. Indonesia  
B. Pakistan  
C. Iran  
D. Saudi Arabia  

**Answer C**

**Explanation**  
Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles.

**81) Steve Smith becomes second-fastest to score ______ Test centuries**

A. 30  
B. 25  
C. 35
D.40

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Steven Smith became the second-fastest batsman to register 25 centuries in the Test format. He achieved the feat during the second innings of the first Ashes Test match against England.

**82) ______ becomes second-fastest to score 25 Test centuries**

A. Steve Smith  
B. David Warner  
C. Aaron Finch  
D. Matthew Wade

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Steve Smith becomes second-fastest to score 25 Test centuries.

**83) ______ gives assent to the abrogation of article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir**

A. President Ram Nath Kovind  
B. Shri Suresh Sharma  
C. Shri Arun Jaitley  
D. Shri Narendra Modi

**Answer A**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to the abrogation of article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir.

**84) ______ Expands biller categories for Bharat Bill Payment System**

A. Dena Bank  
B. Reserve Bank of India  
C. Canara Bank  
D. Asian Development Bank

**Answer B**
Explaination The Reserve Bank of India allows all categories of billers to accept prepaid recharges under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

85) Which state government launched new higher education model named RACE
A. Rajasthan
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Kerala
D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer A

Explanation Rajasthan state government launched new higher education model named RACE.

86) Which football player announced retirement from professional football?
A. Lionel Messi
B. Diego Forlan
C. Mohammed Sahab
D. Sadio Mane

Answer B

Explanation Diego Forlan football player announced retirement from professional football.

87) ______ downgrades diplomatic ties and suspends trade with India
A. Indonesia
B. Pakistan
C. Saudi Arabia
D. Iran

Answer B

Explanation Pakistan downgrades diplomatic ties and suspends trade with India.

88) _____ set to bring Tiffany stores to India
A.Ashok Leyland
B.Reliance Industries
C.Larsen and Tourbo
D.Tata Motors

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Reliance Industries set to bring Tiffany stores to India

89) _________ has longer staying power in the worsening US-China trade war

A.Pakistan
B.China
C.Indonesia
D.Saudi Arabia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** China has longer staying power in the worsening US-China trade war.

90) India observes ______anniversary of Quit India movement

A.76th
B.77th
C.85th
D.65th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** 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.

91) Reliance Industries set to bring Tiffany stores to ___________

A.Australia
B.USA
C.India
D.Iran

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Reliance Industries set to bring Tiffany stores to India.

92) **What is the name of the higher education model by Rajasthan government**

A. RACE  
B. VIDYA  
C. RATION  
D. VIKRAM  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A new higher education model launched in Rajasthan for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalize the availability of resources.

93) **What is the name of the program which is launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India**

A. Jeevan Amar  
B. Child Plan  
C. Alliaz Child Plan  
D. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Life Insurance Corporation of India new term plan Jeevan Amar launched

94) **Which state government unveiled 11,000 hotspots before the end of 2019**

A. Delhi  
B. TamilNadu  
C. Kerala  
D. Andhra Pradesh  

**Answer A**
**Explanation** 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.

95) Centre sets target to reduce HIV cases ____________ per year

A.25,000
B.20,000
C.18,000
D.19,000

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Centre sets target to reduce HIV cases 20,000 per year.

96) SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israels Amos _____ telecommunications satellite

A.12
B.17
C.16
D.14

**Answer B**

**Explanation** SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israels Amos 17 telecommunication satellite.

97) India observes 77th anniversary of ______

A.First World War
B.Quit India movement
C.Christmas Island Mutiny
D.Royal Indian Navy Revolt

**Answer B**

**Explanation** 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.
98) Which of the following is the 3D Smart Traffic Signal that has been launched in India for the first time?

A. MK131 Traffic Light  
B. Intelights  
C. Traffic Light Control System  
D. AI traffic lights

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Punjab's Mohali traffic police have launched 'Intelights'. The system was designed by the students of a Chandigarh university. It is India's first 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised on The wireless system.

99) In which State was the India's first 3D Smart Traffic Signal installed for the first time?

A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Telangana  
D. Punjab

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Punjab's Mohali traffic police have launched 'Intelights'. The system was designed by the students of a Chandigarh university. It is India's first 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised on The wireless system.

100) SBI has reduced the Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by ________.

A. 15 bps  
B. 25 bps  
C. 30 bps  
D. 35 bps

**Answer A**

**Explanation** SBI announced its Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors. It will be effective from August 10, 2019. The move is to provide
some respite to home loan borrower.

101) What is the revised Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for cash credit/overdraft customers?

A. 6.68%
B. 7%
C. 7.65%
D. 7.5%

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The effective Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for cash credit/overdraft customers has been revised by SBI to 7.65%.

102) What is the current Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSFR) of RBI?

A. 5.05%
B. 5.65%
C. 5.15%
D. 5.85%

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The current Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSFR) of RBI is 5.65%.

103) Which Bill was passed to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court?

A. Supreme Court Increase Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2018
B. Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2018
C. Supreme Court Increase Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2019
D. Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India. The move is to reduce the pendency of cases which touched 59,696.
104) The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 will the number of Supreme Court judges from 30 to _______, excluding the CJI.

A.32  
B.33  
C.34  
D.35  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

105) The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019 amends _________.

A.National Institute of Design Act, 1978  
B.National Institute of Design Act, 1986  
C.National Institute of Design Act, 2002  
D.National Institute of Design Act, 2014  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha passed the The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It was introduced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The Bill seeks to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.

106) Who is the Minister of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

A.Rajnath Singh  
B.Narendra Singh Tomar  
C.Piyush Goyal  
D.Ravi Shankar Prasad  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Piyush Ved Prakash Goyal is the current minister of Ministry of Railways and Commerce and Industry in the Government of India.
107) Who prepared the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) draft?

A. Institute of Socio-Integrated Coastal Management  
B. Society for Integrated Coastal Management  
C. Integrated Socio-Coastal Management  
D. Department of Integrated Coastal Management

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has unveiled a draft plan, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The draft was prepared by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management, an affiliated body of the environment ministry, along with the support of World Bank.

108) What are the coastal zone project States under the World Bank-funded project?

A. Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal  
B. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra  
C. Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu  
D. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Environment has unveiled a draft plan, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The project aims to assist the government to enhance the coastal resource efficiency by building collective capacity for adopting and implementing integrated coastal management approaches. The three coastal States where the project are carried out are Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal.

109) SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israel's ________ telecommunications satellite.

A. Amos-17  
B. EROS  
C. TecSAR  
D. Ofek-4

**Answer A**
Explanation The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called Amos-17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit.

110) NACO survey reported that there are about 2.1 million HIV infected patients in the country. What does NACO stand for?

A. National Aids Control Organization  
B. National Aids Conservation Organization  
C. National Anti-HIV Control Organization  
D. Neural Aids Conservative Organization

Answer A

Explanation National Aids Control Organization (NACO) survey reported that there are about 2.1 million HIV infected patients in the country but only 1.3 million are registered with Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres and getting the treatment.

111) How many Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres are there in India?

A. 345  
B. 400  
C. 450  
D. 540

Answer D

Explanation The Central government has 540 ART centres across the nation.

112) Centre has introduced its plan to reduce the HIV cases by ________.

A. 2020  
B. 2022  
C. 2024  
D. 2025

Answer C

Explanation The Union of Health Ministry has introduced its target to bring down incidence of HIV/AIDS by 20,000 per year for the next two years, 2020.
113) How much did the Delhi government approve for the Citywide Wi-Fi project?

A. Rs.75 crore  
B. Rs.99 crore  
C. Rs.108 crore  
D. Rs.114 crore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The expenditure finance committee (EFC) of Delhi State has approved the 'hotspot' model to provide free internet to Delhites. The committee has also approved Rs.99 crore for the project.

114) When is the Delhi government's Citywide Wi-Fi project planned to be established?

A. Jan 2020  
B. Apr 2020  
C. Jun 2020  
D. Sep 2020

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In the first phase of Delhi government's Citywide Wi-Fi project, up to 15 GB usage per mobile number will be free of cost per month. The Wi-Fi signals will be available within a radius of about 50m from where the router is installed. The project has been planned to be completed by September 2020.

115) Which scheme is launched to spread awareness about job opportunities in Hindi?

A. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)  
B. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan  
C. Jyoti Bima Yojana  
D. Rozgar Samachar

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The e-version of Rozgar Samachar launched recently by Union Minister of
Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. The main aim is to make the aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises

116) India-Bangladesh home minister-level talks held in ______

A. New Delhi  
B. Chennai  
C. Bangalore  
D. Hyderabad  

Answer A

Explanation India-Bangladesh home minister-level talks held in New Delhi

117) ____________ partners with NIOT for ocean wave electricity harnessing

A. IIT Roorkee  
B. IIT Madras  
C. IIT Bombay  
D. IIT Bangalore  

Answer B

Explanation The two central government institutes are developing better turbines to harness energy from waves along the country's 7,500-km-long coastline, estuaries and gulfs to generate electricity.

118) ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in ________ districts of Maharashtra

A. 28  
B. 34  
C. 28  
D. 25  

Answer B

Explanation Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of $200 million to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of India's Maharashtra State to better connect rural areas with markets and services.
119) Which bank joined with SBI Life Insurance and inked Bancassurance pact

A. IDBI Bank  
B. State Bank of India 
C. Dena Bank 
D. Canara Bank 

**Answer B**

**Explanation** State Bank of India joined with SBI Life Insurance and inked Bancassurance pact.

120) __________ launches 'Speed Dial - your partner for life' initiative on fourth 'Protection Day'

A. United India Insurance Company Limited 
B. Max Life Insurance 
C. PNB MetLife India Insurance  
D. HDFC Standard Life Insurance 

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Max Life Insurance launches 'Speed Dial - your partner for life' initiative on fourth 'Protection Day.'

121) ______ and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ink pact

A. State Bank of India 
B. Indian Bank 
C. Canara Bank 
D. RBL Bank 

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Public sector Indian Bank inked a pact with private sector insurer Aditya Birla Sun Life to offer life insurance products to the bank's customers.

122) ________ plans to utilize its share under Indus Waters Treaty

A. Indonesia
B. Pakistan
C. India
D. Saudi Arabia

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India plans to utilize its share under Indus Waters Treaty.

**123) Who tops Forbes List Of Highest-Paid Sports Women?**

A. Serena Williams
B. K L Rahul
C. Virat Kohli
D. Roger Federer

**Answer A**

**Explanation** US tennis superstar Serena Williams topped Forbes magazine's list of the highest-paid women in sports for the fourth straight year. The business publication calculated that the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion earned $29.2 million in the 12-month period.

**124) When International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples observed?**

A. August 9
B. September 16
C. October 15
D. November 16

**Answer A**

**Explanation** International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples observed on August 9.

**125) State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by __________ after a review of his performance**

A. 4 years
B. 2 years
C. 5 years
D. 6 years
State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by 2 years after a review of his performance.

126) Who became the 1st player in T20 cricket history to claim a 7-wicket

A. Pat Cummins  
B. Colin Ackermann  
C. Jason Holder  
D. Matt Henry  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Colin Ackermann became the 1st player in T20 cricket history to claim a 7-wicket.

127) Tamil Book Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi released by __________

A. Naresh Kumar  
B. K. Veeramani  
C. Rajesh Khanna  
D. Reshma Singh  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Tamil Book Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi released by K Veeramani.

128) NITI Aayog to launch the ______ of WTI Awards

A. 12th Edition  
B. 4th Edition  
C. 6th Edition  
D. 8th Edition  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog to launch the 4th Edition of WTI Awards.
129) _________ signs MoU with ISRO VSSC to promote space technology in state

A. Odisha  
B. Kerala  
C. West Bengal  
D. Andhra Pradesh  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Kerala signs MoU with ISRO VSSC to promote space technology in state.

130) _______ based startup Grexter Living acquires i2Stay

A. Odisha  
B. Bengaluru  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bengaluru based startup Grexter Living acquires i2Stay.

131) _______ retires from international cricket

A. Steve Smith  
B. Aiden Markram  
C. Hashim Amla  
D. Quinton de Kock  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Hashim Amla retires from international cricket.

132) _______ govt will launch Navodayam scheme

A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Andhra Pradesh  
C. Bihar
D. Kerala

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Andhra Pradesh govt will launch Navodayam scheme.

133) When did the US and South Korea aligned with the security alliance?

A. 1950-53  
B. 1940-45  
C. 1970-73  
D. 1964-67

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The two countries US and South Korea have their security alliance since the 1950-1953 Korean war with more than 28,000 US troops stationed in the South to guard against threats from North Korea.

134) The US government has approved the sale of 12 multi-mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea of worth ________.

A. $700 million  
B. $800 million  
C. $300 million  
D. $500 million

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The US government has approved the sale of 12 multi-mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea worth $800 million US dollar.

135) What is the highest award among Republic of India?

A. Bharat Ratna  
B. Padma Shri  
C. Padma Busan  
D. None of these

**Answer A**
Explanation Bharat Ratna is the highest award among republic of India and highest recognition in service and performance in highest order without any distinction of sex, race, position.

136) Who is the fifth president of India to receive Bharat Ratna?

A. Pranab Mukherjee  
B. Manmohan Singh  
C. Atal Vajbhai  
D. None of these  

Answer A

Explanation Pranab Mukherjee is the fifth president of India to receive Bharat Ratna. Mukherjee was the president of India between 2012 and 2017.

137) What is the range Yasin missile which is to be introduced by Iran?

A. 30km  
B. 40km  
C. 50km  
D. 60km  

Answer C

Explanation Yasin is a smart guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.

138) Who is the current Defence Minister of Iran?

A. Imran Khan  
B. Amir Hatami  
C. Alil Zaba  
D. Mohamad Faizal  

Answer B

Explanation The current Defence Minister of Iran is Brigadier-General Amir Hatami.

139) BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with ________
A. Taylor Swift  
B. Charlie Chaplin Award  
C. Brad Paisley  
D. Lady Antebellum  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award.

140) **When was the bilateral agreement of cooperation between Uttar Pradesh and Netherlands signed?**

A. July 2016  
B. July 2017  
C. July 2018  
D. August 2017  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The bilateral agreement of cooperation is first signed by Samajwadi Party government and the Government of Netherlands in July 2016.

141) **How many years extension of bilateral agreement of cooperation was signed between the UP and Netherlands in 2019?**

A. 3 years  
B. 5 years  
C. 2 years  
D. 7 years  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** On 7th August, the Uttar Pradesh government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.

142) **Which State signed an extension bilateral agreement of cooperation with Netherlands?**

A. Kerala
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. West Bengal
D. Telangana

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Uttar Pradesh State government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.

**143) When was the Samjhauta express first started?**

A. 1985
B. 1960
C. 1950
D. 1976

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The samjhauta train service was started on July 22 in 1976 under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations. The train runs on the Indian side from Delhi to Attari and from Lahore to Wagah on the Pakistan side.

**144) Imran Khan is the _______ Prime Minister of Pakistan.**

A. 20th
B. 24th
C. 22nd
D. 25th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Imran Khan is the 22nd and current Prime Minister of Pakistan.

**145) Who is the Father of Indian Space programme?**

A. G. Madhavan Nair
B. Vikram Sarabhai
C. S. K. Shivakumar
D. Abdul Kalam
146) Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award was announced by ISRO for the ________ year birth anniversary celebrations of Vikram sarabhai.

A.75th  
B.85th  
C.100th  
D.150th

147) Which of the following award is to be instituted by ISRO recognition to journalists?

A.APJ Kalam Journalism Award  
B.Yuvika Journalism Award  
C.Space Science Journalism Award  
D.Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

148) ________ electric buses sanctioned under FAME scheme

A.7200  
B.4568  
C.5595  
D.6300
Answer C

Explanation 5595 electric buses sanctioned under FAME scheme.

149) Where is India's first underwater train project to be implemented?
   A. Yamuna river
   B. Hugli river
   C. Kaveri river
   D. Ganges

Answer B

Explanation India’s first underwater train project in Kolkata under the Hugli river is about to be completed. Union Railways Minister, Piyush Goyal announced that the metro will soon be operational.

150) Indian Bank and ________ ink pact
   A. Life Insurance Corporation of India
   B. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
   C. Max Life Insurance
   D. HDFC Ergo Life Insurance

Answer B

Explanation Indian Bank and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ink pact.

151) Iran unveiled ________ precision guided missiles
   A. 6
   B. 3
   C. 5
   D. 4

Answer B

Explanation Iran unveiled 3 precision guided missiles.
152) What scheme did the Odisha government launch for small savings?

A. Odisha MSME Saving scheme  
B. Odisha NBFC small saving Scheme  
C. Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme  
D. None of these

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Odisha government launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme, a small savings scheme, for 2019. The objective of the scheme is to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions, in the greed of high returns.

153) Which State has launched a small savings scheme to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions?

A. West Bengal  
B. Odisha  
C. Bihar  
D. Telangana

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Odisha government launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme, a small savings scheme, for 2019. The objective of the scheme is to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions, in the greed of high returns.

154) ADB approved USD _________ to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra

A. 780 millions  
B. 650 millions  
C. 200 millions  
D. 500 millions

**Answer C**

**Explanation** ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra.
155) India signed a UN Convention agreement in _________

A. New Zealand  
B. Singapore  
C. Malaysia  
D. Russia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India signed a UN Convention agreement in Singapore.

156) What is the currency of Papua New Guinea?

A. Papua New Guinean dollar  
B. Papua New Guinean sterling  
C. Papua New Guinean kina  
D. Papua New Guinean rupee

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The currency of Papua New Guinea is Papua New Guinean kina.

157) Which of the following country is linguistically the world's most diverse country?

A. Spain  
B. Papua New Guinea  
C. UAE  
D. India

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Papua New Guinea is linguistically the world's most diverse country with more than 700 native tongues. Around 80% of the country's people are not exposed to modern life. The people live within a non-monetarised economy dependent on subsistence agriculture.

158) Who is the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea?

A. Bob Dadae  
B. Peter O'Neill
C. Mekere Morauta
D. James Marape

Answer D

Explanation James Marape is a Papua New Guinean politician and the eighth Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. He has been a member of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea since July 2007.

159) _________ has highest number of living indigenous languages.

A. Papua New Guinea
B. India
C. China
D. Australia

Answer A

Explanation United Nations report said that the Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840. India stands fourth with 453.

160) What is the Cash prize allotted under the Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme?

A. Rs. 50 lakh
B. Rs. 62 lakh
C. Rs. 68 lakh
D. Rs. 74 lakh

Answer D

Explanation The Odisha government launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme, a small savings scheme, for 2019. Under the scheme, 2,428 number of prizes are given under seven categories which amount to Rs. 74 lakh, including the first prize Rs. 5 Lakh.

161) _________ approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra

A. Central Bank
B. ADB
C. Bank of America  
D. HSBC Bank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra.

162) __________ launches onboard shopping

A. Indian Army  
B. Indian Railways  
C. Jet Airways  
D. Indian Navy

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways launches onboard shopping.

163) Project Water Chakra recycles ________.

A. plastic contaminated water  
B. chemical toxins  
C. urine  
D. polluted water

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) introduced the Project Water Chakra to recycle urine. The project was done by an IIT-M student with 3 project staff.

164) Software Defined Radio was developed by the _________.

A. DRDO  
B. BEL  
C. WESEE  
D. All the above

**Answer D**
**Explanation** The SDR will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability. Software Defined Radio was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Navy's Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE).

165) __________ approved the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Indian Navy.

A. Lok Sabha  
B. Finance Ministry  
C. Cabinet  
D. Defence Acquisition Council

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Defence got its approval from Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for the procurement of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB) for the Indian Navy.

166) Cochin Shipyard Limited has built 2 ro-pax vessels for ________.

A. Indian Navy  
B. Inland Waterways Authority of India  
C. Bhutan Navy  
D. Chinese Navy

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Cochin Shipyard has launched two ro-pax (roll-on roll-off passenger) vessels on 8 August. The ro-pax was designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard for the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

167) __________ has launched 2 ro-pax vessels.

A. Mazagon Dock Limited  
B. Hindustan Shipyard Limited  
C. Cochin Shipyard Limited  
D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
The Cochin Shipyard has launched two ro-pax (roll-on roll-off passenger) vessels on 8 August. The ro-pax was designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard for the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

168) ____________ unveils new transgender inclusive policy
A. Cricket Australia
B. Cricket New Zealand
C. Cricket South Africa
D. Cricket India

Answer A
Explanation Cricket Australia unveils new transgender inclusive policy.

169) Rohingya refugees get identity cards in _________________
A. Kerala
B. Bangladesh
C. Bihar
D. TamilNadu

Answer B
Explanation Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh.

170) ____________ govt will launch Navodayam scheme
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Bihar
C. Rajasthan
D. TamilNadu

Answer A
Explanation Andhra Pradesh govt will launch Navodayam scheme.
171) ______ unveiled three precision guided missiles
A. Saudi Arabia  
B. Iran  
C. Indonesia  
D. Iraq  

**Answer B**

Explanation: Iran unveiled three precision guided missiles.

172) US approves ______ Seahawk helicopters to South Korea
A. 15 multi session  
B. 12 multi mission  
C. 16 multi session  
D. 18 multi session  

**Answer B**

Explanation: US approves 12 multi mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea.

173) Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in ______ sets record
A. Punjab  
B. Andhra Pradesh  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala  

**Answer A**


174) Which State topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country?
A. Assam  
B. Tripura  
C. Manipur
D. Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.

**175) Which State is at the bottom rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country?**

A. Kerala  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Bihar  
D. Uttrakhand

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions of the report card.

**176) Centre sanctioned 5595 electric buses in 64 cities under the _______scheme.**

A. Phase 1-Fame  
B. Phase 2-Fame  
C. Phase 3-Fame  
D. Phase 4-Fame

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Heavy Industries and PISC has sanctioned 5595 electric buses in 64 cities for intracity and intercity operations under the second phase of FAME India scheme. The aim of this scheme is to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle.

**177) Which of the following scheme is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth?**

A. FAME  
B. RISE
C.NPRT
D.RUSA

**Answer A**

**Explanation** FAME of India is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth. Phase -I is the fast adoption and manufacturing of the electric and hybrid vehicle in India from 2015. Phase -II is to boost the electrical vehicle mobility and to increase it in commercial fleets from this 2019.

178) Which of the following scheme is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth?

A. FAME
B. RISE
C. NPRT
D. RUSA

**Answer A**

**Explanation** FAME of India is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth. Phase -I is the fast adoption and manufacturing of the electric and hybrid vehicle in India from 2015. Phase -II is to boost the electrical vehicle mobility and to increase it in commercial fleets from this 2019.

179) Which museum has entered the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in India?

A. Salar Jung Museum
B. Cowasji Jehangir Hall
C. Virasat-e-Khalsa museum
D. Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Punjabs Virasat-e-Khalsa museum has set a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in India. The museum, had a 20,569 visitors on a single day. It will feature in the next edition of the Asia Book of Records.

180) Virasat-e-Khalsa museum is located in ________.
A. Telangana  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. West Bengal  
D. Punjab  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** Virasat-e-Khalsa is a museum of Sikhism, located in the holy town, Anandpur Sahib, near Chandigarh, the capital of the state of Punjab, India.  

181) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the ______ edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards.  

A. 3rd  
B. 4th  
C. 5th  
D. 12th  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards at New Delhi, India. The Ministry has also instituted in a bid to recognize and encourage outstanding Indian Entrepreneurs and catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship for nominations.  

182) Where was the 4th edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards held?  

A. New Delhi  
B. Mumbai  
C. Kolkata  
D. Hyderabad  

**Answer A**  

**Explanation** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards at New Delhi, India.  

183) _______ has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI).
A. Board of Archery
B. World Archery
C. International Archery Association
D. AAI is not suspended

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Archery (WA) has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI). Earlier, the WA executive board had given a July 31 deadline to both AAI factions to resolve their disputes, including parallel elections. The decision by WA to suspend AAI is because the matter is now in court.
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