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BANKING & FINANCE

Income Tax Department to adopt 'taxpayer friendly' approach

The Income Tax (I-T) Department decided to adopt friendly approach in its dealings with the tax assessees following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's call for a mindset change among tax officials. The I-T Department to bridge the communication gap between tax officials and the assessees and sought a change in mindset amid allegations of "tax terrorism". The issues are concerned and solve issues by treating them respectfully.

The I-T department is set to change its approach and adopt friendly language but not at the cost of forgoing any lapses. The department will use friendly language in its communications with taxpayers rather than intimidating, according to a source, amid allegations of intrusive, threatening and arbitrary behaviour by the department.

The data mining and data analytics, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is now working on ways to ensure the department makes information such as large-cash deposits or high-value transactions" available to taxpayers well in time for filing of tax returns.

On the lines of reminders for filing returns, messages could be sent to indicate transactions while stating that they are ignored if already responded to or accounted. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduce a computer-generated Document Identification Number (DIN), which will be quoted in any notice issued by its officials.

State Bank of India aims to eliminate debit cards

State Bank of India bank debit cards from the banking system as the bank plans to promote more digital payment solutions and eliminate the plastic cards. The debit cards by customers of SBI which services a fifth of the population.

Around 90 crore debit cards in the country as against 3 crore credit cards, and pointed out to digital solutions like its own 'Yono' platform as the key for achieving a debit card-less country.

Kumar said through the Yono platform, one can withdraw cash at automated teller machines or pay for purchases at a merchant establishment without having a card at
The bank already set up 68,000 'Yono cashpoints' and is in the process of scaling it up massively to over 1 million in the next 18 months, which will make the necessity to have a card even less. The Yono platform can also give credit for buying certain merchandise, making the credit card in the pocket also as a stand-by. In the next five years, there will be a limited need to have any plastic cards in your pocket, Kumar said, pointing out that virtual coupons is the future. The QR code is also a very inexpensive way of ensuring payments.

**State Bank of India**
**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
**Founded:** 2 June 1806

### SEBI announces reward of Rs 1 crore to insider trading informants

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced a new mechanism to reward informants with up to Rs 1 crore cash through a specially created hotline. SEBI’s board approved a detailed set of rules for the new Informant Mechanism under its Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) Regulations. The benefits available to individuals and corporates, and professionals like auditors will not be able to use this route as they are duty-bound to report any wrongdoing.

**SEBI**

SEBI regulation to trade to protect the interest of investors at large and defines insider trading as trading of securities while in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information. SEBI to detect insider trading and initiate action at the earliest to instill confidence among investors and ensure the integrity of the market. SEBI faces several challenges in establishing links and procuring proof while probing insider trading cases, due to which investigation into such cases takes much longer time than in other cases of market manipulation.

**The new mechanism work**

The new mechanism prepared after taking into account the feedback. Under the proposed SEBI’s PIT Regulations, an informant need to submit a Voluntary Information Disclosure Form (VIDF). The source of information not be sourced from a person employed with SEBI. The informant would need to disclose his or her identity to OIL. The informant would
be given a reward if SEBI is able to disgorge at least Rs 1 crore. The reward would be 10 percent of the money collected, subject to a maximum amount of Rs 1 crore. SEBI will share the main points with different regulators and enforcement agencies in the Republic of India or abroad. The entity associated with the securities markets, including listed firms and intermediaries.

**RBI permits processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring merchant payments**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with a cap of 2,000. RBI receiving requests from industry stakeholders to allow this with an additional factor of authentication during e-mandate registration and the first transaction. The permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with AFA during e-mandate registration, modification and revocation, The central bank done keeping in view the changing payment needs and the requirement to balance the safety and security of card transactions with customer convenience. RBI added that no charges should be levied or recovered from the cardholder for availing the e-mandate facility on cards for recurring transactions. The direction is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards debit, credit and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), including wallets. The central bank brought forward by an hour when the real time gross settlement (RTGS) system will become available. The transfer of funds through the system will be available. RBI decided to allow round-the-clock fund transfers through NEFT from December.

**Reserve bank of India**
**Headquarters:** Mumbai
**Founder:** British Raj
**Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata
**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

**RBI allows recurring transactions up to 2,000 on cards from Sep 1**

The Reserve Bank of India allows customers to make recurring payments of less than Rs.2000 without the two-factor authentication process
The changing payment needs and the requirement to balance the safety and security of card transactions with customer convenience decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments).

The move has been made to make digital payments to merchant, typically at kirana and grocery stores where ticket sizes are small, more convenient.

The circular is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards debit, credit and Prepaid Card.

**Reserve Bank of India**
- **Headquarters**: Mumbai
- **Founder**: British Raj
- **Founded**: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- **Governor**: Shaktikanta Das

**BookMyForex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card**

*BookMyForex* partnered with *YES Bank* and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad. They can load up to 10 currencies on the card. The forex travel card will be available to Customers on the BookMyForex platform for free of cost across major cities in India.

The platform will offer **zero margin** or exact inter-bank rates 24*7 on purchases made through the forex travel card. BookMyForex will also offer modern contactless cards that allow a user to simply tap their card on a POS machine, a must-have feature in countries like **UK (United Kingdom)** where some merchants only allow contactless payments. Customers will be able to manage the travel cards through the mobile app by getting real-time notification alerts and view the **INR (Indian rupee)** equivalent of all amounts they spent.

They will also get value-added services like tracking currency-wise balances, locating surcharge-free **ATMs (Automated Teller Machine)** nearby and reload their travel cards while traveling abroad.

**BookMyForex**:
- **Founded**: 2011
- **Headquarters**: Gurgaon, Haryana
- **Founder and CEO**: Sudarshan Motwani

**YES Bank**:

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*BookMyForex* is a leading online foreign exchange and travel solutions provider in India, offering competitive exchange rates, zero margin, and 24/7 support. *YES Bank* is a full-service bank in India with a wide network of branches and ATMs across the country.
Formation: 2004
Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
CEO & MD: Ravneet Gill
India holds 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation. The delegation which is led by Peter Munya, Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of the Republic of Kenya.

**Bilateral trade:**
The bilateral trade since the last session of the India-Kenya JTC held in August 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Aim:** The main aim is to cooperate in the power sector, renewable energy, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation and agricultural research.
The top items imported to India: Inorganic chemicals, pulses, coffee, drug formulations, biology, copper and products made of copper, wood products, aluminium, products of aluminium, tea and finished leather. Both sides stressed the need to enhance trade relations and also to diversify the trade basket. The top items exported from India are Petroleum products, drug formulations, biological and industrial machinery for dairy, paper, paper board and products, plastic raw materials, two and three-wheelers, iron and steel, manmade yarn, fabrics made-ups, books, publications and printing, electric machinery.

**Future investment:**
The proposal on investment from Indian side welcomed by Kenya and are to explore the investment opportunities in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Trade in the field of housing. The 2nd meeting of India-Kenya Joint Technical Committee (JTC) on Housing, held in Nairobi on 30th May 2019 recalled.

A Conference on Housing in India and exploring partnership between Kenya Institute of Housing and Building Technology (KIHBT) and Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), India is to be held in the future.
The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Government of the Republic of Kenya on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management signed on 11th July 2016 was expanded.
The cooperation in the areas of sustainable urban development including smart cities, water and waste management and urban mobility.

Kenya requested for technical assistance to support the implementation of Kenyan
urban and affordable housing programmes.
Manufacturing, agriculture, agro-processing, floriculture, aquaculture, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and products such as base metals & articles thereof, textiles & textile articles, vegetables and horticultural products, plastics & rubber, chemical products and machinery & mechanical appliances.

Wipro partners with IISc on robotics and 5G

Wipro, a global information technology, consulting and business process service company, announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), India's premier public establishment for research and higher education in science and engineering, to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space. The two organizations have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry academia collaboration unit drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.

A group of senior professors and research staff from IISc and engineers, developers, architects and researchers from the autonomous systems, robotics and 5G domains at Wipro will constitute the team at WIRIN. They will focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Visual Computing, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X). The insights from the research will be leveraged by Wipro for its customers and the industry ecosystem.

The Institute will benefit from advancing its research goal and capacity building besides commercialization of research outcomes.

Abidali Z. Neemuchwala, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Wipro Limited. The one of the most prestigious research institutes in the world, to develop innovative solutions for autonomous systems, robotics and 5G. This is a significant step towards strengthening our position to be at the forefront of these transformative technologies.

The strong technology capabilities and capable talent from both organizations will come together to make notable strides in these domains. IISc Bangalore.
FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSME launched the new website of his Ministry. The new website has a dashboard that gives data about highways construction, land acquisition, FASTags. The state-wise, month-wise data on registration of vehicles in the country.

MoS, Road Transport & Highways, General (Retd) V K Singh, Secretary Shri Sanjeev Ranjan, NHAI Chairman Shri N.N. Sinha presented the occasion.

Shri Gadkari informed that his Ministry initiated steps to implement the Motor Vehicles Act 2019. It deals with penalties, licences, registration, National Transport Policy. The Minister that the Motor Vehicles Act 2019 become a reality will go a long way in giving the country a safe and corruption-free road transport system. Shri Gadkari that the MVA 2019 will help curb road accidents and bring down fatalities. The Ministry is spending Rs 12,000 crore towards rectification of 786 accident black spots identified by NHAI. The World Bank and ADB programme worth Rs 14000 crore for rectification of black spots on national, state, district highways.

The Minister announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December.

FASTags

FASTags issued by 22 certified banks through various channels such as Point-of-Sale at NH toll plazas, selected bank branches. These are also available on the e-commerce platform. It is a bank-neutral FASTag. No bank is pre-assigned to the FASTag at the time of purchase by a customer from a Point-of-Sale or Online and offers the flexibility to the customer to link the FASTag with their existing bank account by using My FASTag Mobile app, currently available on Google Play Store.

Acko announces partnership with fintech ZestMoney to offer credit insurance

Acko General Insurance partnered with ZestMoney to offer credit card insurance to its ZestMoney customers. Acko which offers personalized underwriting, micro insurance products, and automated micro claims process, will offer credit insurance. The Zest Money customers who are provided with instant financing and the option of paying through EMIs(Equated Monthly Installments) dont own a
credit card. These consumers will be covered by Acko during eventualities like hospitalization or critical illness when they are unable to pay their instalments. Claims can be created within 3 minutes and can be filed through the ZestMoney app.

Insurtech refers to the use of technology innovations designed to squeeze out savings and efficiency from the current insurance industry model. Insurtech is a combination of the words insurance and technology, inspired by the term fintech (financial technology)

**Acko General Insurance**
- **Founder:** Varun Dua
- **Founded:** November 2016
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

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**Amazon inaugurates its worlds largest campus in Hyderabad**

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

There are **62,000 employees** in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than **15,000 employees**.

The other members are Amit Agarwal, SVP (Senior Vice President) and Country Head, Amazon India.

John Schoettler, VP (Vice President), Global Real Estate and Facilities.
INTERNATIONAL

Qamar Javed Bajwas term extended as Pakistans Chief of Army Staff

Pakistan Prime Minister Office got a 3-year extension of General Qamar Javed Bajwas tenure as Chief of Army Staff. Bajwas original term to end in November 2019. He serves as Army chief for three years. He will remain as Army chief till November 2022.

Pakistan
Capital: Islamabad
Currency: Pakistani rupee
Prime minister: Imran Khan

US test fired a new ground based cruise missile

The United States tested a new ground-based cruise missile that is capable covering 500 kilometers in the range at San Nicolas Island, California, the US. This range of missiles was banned in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed between the US and Russia. This is the first missile test done by the US after withdrawing from the INF treaty.

Also, the US has said that the Country will fully pursue the development of ground-launched conventional missiles of such kind as a prudent response to Russias actions and as part of the joint forces broader portfolio of conventional strike options.

The United States exited the INF treaty on 2 August 2019. The country earlier announced its decision to withdraw from INF treaty in 2018 as it said that the treaty no longer benefited American interests.

Saudi Arabia allows women to travel abroad without permission from male guardian

Indian Coast Guard and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation. A four-member delegation of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard led by its DG Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge Director General (DG). Both sides
agreed to strengthen the cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual cooperation in the multilateral forums discussed and agreed by both sides.

**Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia began implementing a landmark reform allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male "guardian", authorities. The reform weakens the restrictive guardianship system that has long been a symbol of repression against women. The passport department started receiving applications for women aged 21 and above to issue or renew passports and to travel outside the kingdom without permission. The reform comes after high-profile attempts by women to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite a string of reforms by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The landmark last year that overturned the world's ban on women drivers. Saudi women granted the right to officially register childbirth, marriage or divorce and to be recognized as a guardian to children.

The reforms were widely celebrated in the kingdom drew backlash from arch-conservatives, many of whom shared old video sermons on social media by Saudi clerics advocating guardianship laws.

**Iceland commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change**

_Iceland_ marked its first-ever loss of a glacier to climate change. Iceland's Okjokull glacier. The people commemorated with a _plaque_ - An ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event.

The plaque ceremony attended by scientists and locals at the Okjokull glacier in west-central Iceland to fulfill the criteria to be classified as a glacier after melting throughout the 20th century.

The plaque bears the inscription _A letter to the future._

Glaciologists stripped Okjokull of its glacier status in 2014, a first for Iceland, as
the glacier ice covered that 16 square kilometres but by 2012, measured just 0.7 square kilometres in 2017.

**Iceland**
- **Capital**: Reykjavk.
- **Currency**: Icelandic krna.
- **President**: Guni Thorlacius Jhannesson.

**APG might blacklist Pakistan**

The Asia-Pacific Group (APG), might blacklist Pakistan in the meeting that is held in Canberra, Australia, on 25 August. Pakistan has already been greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its plenary session.

If APG blacklist Pakistan and place the country under 'Enhanced Expedited Follow Up' status, Pakistan's effort to release itself from FATF’s greylist will be at stake. FATF greylist deals with countering terror-financing and money-laundering.

The APG meeting began on **August 18, 2019**. The meeting reviewed Pakistan's behavior on building anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) safeguards in the past 5 years. It completed a third evaluation (MER) and the results were found wholly inadequate.

**Asia-Pacific Group (APG):**

APG was formed in **1997 in Bangkok, Thailand**. It aims to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. There is **41 member** jurisdiction under APG. The Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close and Mr. Abu Hena Mohd. Razee Hassan co-chair APG.

**US hold talks with Afghan**

The United States and the Taliban have resumed negotiations on **24th August to end America's longest war**. The U.S. troops have been in Afghanistan for almost **18 years**. The talks resumed in Qatar. They earlier announced that both the teams are close to signing a deal.

But it is feared that the Taliban fighters who reject a deal with the U.S. could migrate to other militant groups such as the brutal local affiliate of the **Islamic State group**.

**Previous talks:**
In the past years, the U.S. and the Taliban have held eight previous rounds of negotiations on various issues that include a U.S. troop withdrawal, a cease-fire, intra-Afghan negotiations to follow and Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan will not be a launchpad for global terror attacks.

**Iran unveiled Bavar 373 system**

Iran has unveiled the **Bavar-373 system**, a defence missile system, on 22 August. The missile was unveiled by **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani** on **Iran's National Defense Industry Day**. The country has developed a large domestic arms industry despite several international sanctions and barring it from importing many weapons.

**Bavar-373 system:**

- **Bavar-373** system is an indigenous long-range, surface-to-air missile air defense system. The missile is capable of targeting planes at more than 300 km, lock it at about 250 km and shooting down targets at a distance of **200 km**. This missile is a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system.

**Iran and the US:**

Iran has introduced the system amidst the rising tension between Iran and the United States. Earlier, in the month of June, Iran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone with a surface-to-air missile in the Gulf.
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Indian Affairs

Ladakh seeks tribal area status

Leaders of Ladakh have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a tribal-area status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The move comes as the people are concerned to protect their land, culture, and identity after the abrogation of article 370 and the announcement of Ladakh as a Union Territory.

Sixth Schedule:
The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four north-eastern states namely Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. The schedule includes Articles 244(2) and 275(1). It provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils. The states are provided with special provisions in terms of governance, powers of the president and the governor, type of local bodies, alternate judicial mechanisms, financial powers, etc.

Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as "Atal Chowk". It is named in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
The first death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Hazratganj Chowk renamed after him as "Atal Chowk" from August 16.
He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named Atal Smriti Upvan be built on his name.
The Mayor of the city prepared a draft for developing a memorial for Atal Smriti Upvan.
They planned to place statue along with his 51 poems, speeches and other memorabilia. Chhattisgarh government announced to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar.
Jharkhand government renamed several places and colleges after Vajpayee's name.

Indias participation at WorldSkills International Competition as big as the Olympics

The 48-member Indian Team representing the country at World Skills Kazan 2019
given a grand send-off at a ceremony in the capital. This is organized by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

**Aim:** To motivate the participants as they gear up to pit their skills against the best in the world. India is the sixth largest team that will take part in the competition. Nearly 1,500 competitors from 60 countries compete in 56 skill competitions at this mega event in Kazan, Russia on August 22-27. Forty-four experts and 14 interpreters are also accompanying the participants to Kazan.

Worlds biggest skill competition in Russia to compete in the true spirit of participation and make India proud on the global platform and at the same time learn from your international peers competing. The brand ambassadors of India will be the inspiration of every Indian youth who aspires to make it big in their life. The desire to excel in the trades of their choice played a crucial part in the candidates realising their dream of performing at a global stage.

About **75%** of the participants come from tier II and tier III cities, with 25% from rural areas. Most belong to humble backgrounds, parents work as farmers, coolie, daily wage laborers and security guards.

**Maharashtra** tops the chart with seven contestants participating in the competition, followed by five from Karnataka and four from Uttar Pradesh. Over 50,000 youth had registered for the India Skills Competitions that organized across several legs last year.

The 48 contestants shortlisted through a series of contests conducted at district, state, regional and national levels over the past year.

Candidates provided extensive training in skills ranging from Wall and Floor Tiling, Brick Laying, Cabinet Making, Car Painting, CNC Turning, Hair Dressing, Welding, Restaurant Service, Beauty Therapy, Auto-body Repair to Mobile Robotics, Mechatronics, Prototype Modelling, Visual Merchandising, etc, by leading corporate entities with NSDC acting as a facilitator.

Candidates exposed to international training with industry support from over 100 companies. There are 100 companies have Renowned experts such as Vinesh Johny - Chef/Trainer, winner of Forbes 30-under-30; Samantha Kochhar, a renowned beauty expert and director of Aroma Magic; JP Shroff, Chairman of Kushal Credai; Seema Jhaveri, Director of IFD and Vaishali Shah, Principal of LTA Beauty School came together to prepare the contestants for the mega-event. Leading organizations
such as Maruti, Mahindra, Toyota, Daikin, Saint Gobain aimed at promoting world-class standards in technical education and vocational training, NSDC, under the aegis for MSDE, is working to make skills aspirational and create a pathway for a career in vocational trades.

**Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme**

Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched *School Fagadaba (Make education better) scheme*. The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools. The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state. The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years. The 60 Assembly constituencies in the state selected under the 1st phase of the scheme. The state also set a target to increase enrollment of students from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session. The additional infrastructures like a modern school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities will be provided to these schools as per the *Right to Education (RTE)* norms.

**Centre to set up Indias first CICET**

The Centre is planning to set up *India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET)* in Gujarat. The aim is to boost the chemical industry in India.

**CIPET hostel inauguration:**
The Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Sh. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the other campus of the *Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET)* in Valsad, Gujarat. CIPET was built at the cost of *Rs.54 crore* for the benefit of tribal students and used for research in plastic engineering technology.

The Union minister also inaugurated the CIPET hostel built at a cost of *Rs.31 crore*. The hostel can accommodate 575 boys and 150 girls.

**Plastic Waste Management Centre:**
The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is also planning to set up a *Plastic
Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad. The centre will work to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

About CIPET:
CIPET - Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology
CIPET was established in 2017. It is located in Ranchi, Jharkhand. It functions under the Department of Chemicals and petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The Minister responsible is Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda and the Minister of State of Chemicals & Fertilizers is Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

Indian Railways planned for 3000th stations to get 1000 Wi-Fi Spots
The Indian railways enabled free Wi-Fi at its 3000th station. The facility went live at Rajasthan's Ellenabad on Monday, with 1,000 stations connected. Ellenabad railway station in Bikaner Division of North Western Railway situated north of the Ghaggar-Hakra river. It serves as a point of entry into the state of Haryana from Rajasthan.
Rajasthan's Rana Pratap Nagar in the North Western Railway became the 2000th station to have wi-fi facility.
The railways plans to provide free Wi-Fi facility at all its stations, around 6,000.
The railways' free Wi-Fi facility at stations began from Mumbai Central in January 2016 and within 16 months it was live at 1,600 stations across India. Railway's telecommunications arm RailTel began the process with a vision to turn stations into a platform for digital inclusion.
RailTel roped in Tata Trust for providing the facility at remaining stations in the country. A user has to switch on the Wi-Fi mode on the smartphone and select the RailWire Wi-Fi network. The RailWire homepage automatically appears on the smartphone. The user is then prompted to enter his or her mobile number on the homepage to get a one-time password (OTP). The OTP has to be entered in the homepage of RailWire. The OTP, the user can access high speed internet and can start browsing.

Indian Railways
Headquarters: New Delhi
Minister Responsible: Piyush Goyal
Amit Shah laid foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan

The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Assam and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong, at Dwarka, Gujarat. The Karbi Bhawan and Dimaa Bhawan will be constructed with a cost of Rs.130 crore. They will give an identity to their unique culture. It aims to take forward North East (NE) while preserving its rich cultural identity, along with its development. The Central government aims for the overall development, prosperity, and peace in the North East.

Center's measure for NE region:
The Centre has increased the funds allocated for North East to 258% between 13th and 14th Finance Commissions. The amount increased from Rs.87,000 crore to Rs.3,13,375 crore. Centre also has increased various schemes for Northeast such as Skill Development centre, setting up of Medical College and Law College, among others.

DoNER at doorsteps:
Centre has been not focusing to bring North East closer to rest of India, but to bring rest of India closer to North East. It has planned to set up a camp secretariat every month in North East. This initiative was named 'DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region, India) at doorsteps'. Centre also is working towards the North East road sector development scheme and train connectivity.

Centre released Rs.4432.10 crore to 3 states

Union Minister Shri Amit Shah-led high-Level Committee (HLC) approved Rs.4432.10 crore to three States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Of the fund released by the Centre, Rs.3338.22 crore will be given to Odisha for Cyclone Fani, Rs.1029.39 crore to Karnataka for drought and Rs.64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh. This assistance is apart from the funds released by the Centre to the states under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The Centre had released Rs.9,658 crore to all the states in 2018-19. So far in the current fiscal year, the Centre has released Rs.6,104 crore to 24 states from SDRF. The announcement comes after the review submitted by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). The HCL reviewed the Memorandum of the detailed
assessment of the damage and relief operations submitted by IMCT for the allocation of additional funds.

Odisha-Fani Cyclone:
On the view of Cyclone Fani, Centre has released Rs.340.87 crore in advance from SDRF. PM has announced to provide a sum of Rs.2 lakh to next of the kin of the deceased and Rs.50,000 to seriously injured in the Cyclone from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Centre has earlier released Rs.1,000 crore in advance from the PM Relief fund.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews functioning of IMAC, IFC-IOR

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located at Gurugram in Haryana.

The Defence Minister reviewed the functioning of IMAC and IFC-IOR.

Senior Navy officials, including the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, briefed him on further enhancing the capabilities of the two centres under the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project.

NMDA project launched in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)

The IMAC monitors movement of more than 120,000 ships a year passing through the Indian Ocean. The cargo carried by these ships account for 66 percent of world crude oil, 50 percent of container traffic and 33 percent of bulk cargo.

IMAC performs a very crucial role in collecting shipping information, analysing traffic patterns and sharing the inputs with the user agencies.

He briefed on the IFC-IOR, which is a collaborative initiative by the Indian Navy in coordination with partner nations and multinational maritime agencies to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and Maritime Security.

Karnataka Government categorised Nicotine as Class A poison

Government of Karnataka amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015. He notified Nicotine as Class A poison. The main aim is to strengthen the enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes. The new rules are called the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale)
Rules, 2019.
The ban imposed after the study conducted the **High Powered Committee on Tobacco Control** headed additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Vandita Sharma.
The Government ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion.

**Class A Poison**
Class A poison are **Highly toxic chemicals**, even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene).
Highly toxic chemicals in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide. A gazette notification published last month and the new rules are called the **Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2019**.
Electronic cigarettes are small battery-operated devices that evaporate liquid nicotine to provide the same experience as smoking tobacco.
The ban imposed after a study by the State Health Department. The two milligrams of nicotine is permitted only in chewable chocolates to help with de-addiction, e-cigarette manufacturers misuse this clause for their sale.

**High-level meeting held between Indian, Sri Lankan Coast Guards over security concerns**
A high-level meeting held between the Indian Coast Guard and **Sri Lanka Coast Guard** at the **Coast Guard Headquarters** in New Delhi.
The main aim is to discuss issues of mutual safety and security.
Indian Coast Guard and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation.
A four-member delegation of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard led by its DG Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge Director General (DG).
During the HLM, both sides agreed to strengthen the cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. The apprehension of two fishing boats by Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the
information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU was recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea.
Continued capacity building of Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual cooperation in the multilateral forums was discussed and agreed by both sides.

**Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by 2020**

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri planned to achieve its target of providing Housing for all under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The deadline for this in two years before the deadline by 2020. He made this announcement during the 15th National Real Estate Development Councils (NAREDCO) convention in New Delhi. A total of 48 lakh houses are currently constructed, Around 24 lakh houses have been sanctioned over to beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) till date & it will be increased to 50 lakh. The central government decided to build 1.12 crore houses by 2022.

Around 84 lakh houses have been sanctioned to date & the remaining will be sanctioned by the end of 2019.

As per the estimation, about 600 million people would be residing in cities by 2030, the year in which India is expected to meet the sustainable development goals set by the UN (United Nations).

Puri pointed out that the enactment of RERA(Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016) removed many abnormalities in the real estate sector successfully.

**About NAREDCO:**

Formation: 1998  
Headquarters: New Delhi  
Chairman: Rajeev Talwar  
President: Niranjan Hiranandani

**MHRD launched NISHTHA**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA). It aimed at
training **over 42 lakh teachers** to boost education and employment focusing on reskilling the teaching workforce.

HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched the **initiatives website, training modules, primer booklet and mobile app built for the purpose.**

The programme was launched in the presence of Smt Rina Ray, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy and other senior officers from MHRD, all States and UTs, Senior Policy Makers and Heads of Institutions.

**About NISHTHA:**

NISHTHA is the **worlds biggest project.** The objective of this massive training programme NISHTHA is to **motivate and equip teachers** to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. As the teachers are the powerhouse of the nation, the teachers deserve worldwide respect.

Under NISHTHA, the teachers will develop their skills on Artificial Intelligence, Health, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns in a joyful learning manner.

**About Training:**

National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) programme is a **100 days programme** of the Government. The training modules are developed at the national level for all States and UTs with their own material. The integrated programme will train all teachers as first-level counselors and responsive needs of the students in promoting joyful learning.

The training Modules for NISHTHA have suggestions from the States and UTs and CBSE, KVS, NVS, School Principals and Non-Governmental Organizations such as Kaivalya Foundation, Tata Trust, Azim Premji Foundation and Aurobindo Society.

**Power Minister Shri RK Singh approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy**

Union Minister of State for **Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, Shri RK Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.

Accordingly, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, etc. shall be considered as
Renewable Energy eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

1. **Ocean Energy**
   The oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient. A variety of different technologies are currently under development throughout the world. Deployment is currently limited has the potential to grow, economic growth, reduction of carbon footprint and creating jobs not only along the coasts but also inland along its supply chains.

   The Government of India's effort to reach the objectives to contemplate its Renewable Energy and climate change objectives post-2022 to explore all possible avenues to stimulate innovation, create economic growth and new jobs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint. India has a long coastline with the estuaries and gulfs. MNRE looks over the horizon at the development of new technology and considers the various options available to support its deployment. MNRE to support demonstration projects of proven technologies and as approved by an expert committee constituted by MNRE.

2. **Potential Energy**
   The Total identified potential of Tidal Energy is about 12455 MW. It has potential locations identified at Khambhat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used.

   The total theoretical potential of wave energy in India along the country's coast is estimated to be about 40,000 MW. This energy is however less intensive than what is available in more northern and southern latitudes.

   OTEC has a theoretical potential of 180,000 MW in India subject to suitable technological evolution.

3. **Tidal Energy**
   The tidal cycle occurs every 12 hours due to the gravitational force of the moon. The difference in water height from low tide and high tide is potential energy. The capital cost for tidal energy power plants is very high to civil construction and high power purchase tariff.

   The sufficient power from the tidal energy potential, the height of high tide must be at least five meters (16 feet) greater than low tide.

   The Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat on the west coast have the
locations in the country where the potential exists.

**b) Wave Energy**

Wave energy is generated by the movement of a device either floating on the surface of the ocean or moored to the ocean floor. Many different techniques for converting wave energy to electric power have been studied. Wave conversion devices that float on the surface have joints hinged together that bend with the waves. This kinetic energy pumps fluid through turbines and creates electricity. Stationary wave energy conversion devices use pressure fluctuations produced in long tubes from the waves swelling up and down. This water is allowed to runoff through narrow pipes that flow through a typical hydraulic turbine.

**c) Current Energy**

Marine current is ocean water moving in one direction. This ocean current is known as the Gulf Stream. The tidal currents with submerged turbines that are very similar in appearance to miniature wind turbines. The movement of the marine current moves the rotor blades to generate electric power.

**d) Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)**

Ocean thermal energy conversion uses ocean temperature differences from the surface to depths lower than 1,000 meters, to extract energy. The research focuses on two types of OTEC technologies to extract thermal energy and convert it to electric power: closed cycle and open cycle. The working fluid, such as ammonia, is pumped through a heat exchanger and vaporized. In the open cycle system, the warm surface water is pressurized in a vacuum chamber and converted to steam to run the turbine.

**4. Technology Objectives**

The objective of the technology program is to accelerate and enhance support for the resource assessment and deployment of ocean energy in the country and to harness it for power generation and to overcome the barriers. The technology program is open to public and private sectors to carry out projects in India. Industry lead R&D proposals are invited from stakeholders, for solving problems in Indian conditions. Basic R&D is being looked after by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (example: National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai).

The stakeholders desirous of utilizing Ocean Energy are invited by MNRE for demonstration projects of proven technologies under Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDD&D) program/policy of the Ministry.
Tourism ministry announces new 5 year visa and other e-visa relaxations in the works

The stakeholders desirous of utilizing Ocean Energy are invited by MNRE for demonstration projects of proven technologies under Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDD&D) programme/policy of the Ministry. A reduction in the e-visa(electronic visa) fee was proposed by the tourism ministry. The main aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country. The proposed plan, a new 5-year visa plan, the e-visa fee will be offered with the option of short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa plan.

The announcement made by Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel (Minister of State- independent charge), at the State Tourism Ministers conference held on August 20, 2019 in New Delhi. The relaxation in the visa fee plans got the assent from the Home Ministry. It is under consideration by the Ministry of External Affairs,

Short term e-visa for tourists with one month validity at a charge of $25 is to be made available only between tourism season of July and March.

The visa fee is proposed to be reduced to as low as $10 between April to June during the lean period(unseasonal tourism period).

For peak season 30-day visa, 1 year and 5-year visa, the proposed cost for Japan, Singapore and Sri Lanka is $25.

This regular e-visa costing $80, is to be increased to 5-years with multiple entries. But for a one-year visa, tourists may now have to shell out(pay) $40.

The government made plans to increase foreign tourist arrivals to 20 million by 2020.

Tourism ministry
Minister responsible: Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (Independent charge)
Headquarters: New Delhi

India opens 137 mountain peaks for tourism

The Indian Government has opened 137 mountain peaks for foreigners desirous of obtaining Mountaineering Visa for mountaineering and trekking. These peaks are located in the States of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim. The Ministry of State for Culture and Tourism also plans to open up more peaks to
foreigners in New Delhi.

The Ministry advised the States to exercise utmost caution while registering adventure tourism operators. The aim is to ensure that the adventure tourism guidelines are followed by the States. The Adventure Tourism Guidelines of India includes tourism events and sports including land with air and water-based activities such as mountaineering, trekking, bungee jumping, paragliding, kayaking, scuba diving, snorkeling, river rafting, and many other sports.

**ASI revealed the evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region**

Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) recent excavation at Maharashtra Phupgaon has revealed evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region. The excavation at the site was taken up between December 2018 and March 2019.

**ASI's excavation:**
The team of ASI took up an intensive survey in Chandur Bazar to Dariyapur of Purna basin at Phupgaon Amravati district of Maharashtra. During the course of excavation 4 complete circular structures were exposed. These structures were found to be enclosed with a circular ditch like feature and postholes. Inside of these structure floor activity, storage bin platforms and hearths were noticed. The bin platforms are circular and they were of different sizes. The sizes ranged from 90cm to 125cm in diameter.

**View of the excavated area:**
The excavation area exposed antiquities like beads of agate-carnelian, jasper, quartz and agate were collected in large quantity. Iron, Copper objects have also been collected from all the trenches. A large number of graffiti marks had been observed on the potsherds.

The finding from Phupgaon indicated other Iron Age settlements of Vidarbha like Naikund, Mahurjhari, Bhagimori, and Thakalkat. As per Chronological, the site could be placed between 7th C BCE and 4th C BCE.

**Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):**
ASI functions under the Ministry of culture. It is responsible for the preservation of cultural monuments in the country. The headquarters Archaeological Survey of India is New Delhi.
India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

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

Amazon
Founded: July 5, 1994
Founder: Jeff Bezos
Headquarters: Seattle, Washington and Arlington, Virginia, United States

Centre organized San Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August

Centre has organized San-Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August. It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for Divyangjan accessible toilets.

Aim:
San-Sadhan Hackathon is an initiative that will make the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) (Divyangjan) easier by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

Organized by:
The Hackathon is jointly organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment’s Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard.

Centre's call:
The government has called for applications for economical toilets for individual and community use in rural and urban contexts. The interested Technology enthusiasts can apply by or before August 28th, 2019 through the sansadhanhackathon.91springboard.com.

Participants: Researchers, students, innovators, start-ups, technology enthusiasts, and industry experts can participate in the hackathon.

2-day Hackathon:
Centre will shortlist the smart, scalable and innovative solutions given by the applicants. The Centre is to conduct a **two-day Hackathon** in September in New Delhi. The shortlisted candidates will work to develop their prototype during the hackathon. The winners will be rewarded at the end of the hackathon.

**NITI Aayog release CWMI 2.0 report**

NITI Aayog has released the **Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0)** in New Delhi. The report was launched by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti. NITI Aayog has prepared the report to supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry. The CWMI 2.0 ranks varied states for the reference year 2017-18 as against 2016-17.

Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 water-stressed blocks in 256 districts was launched by Jal Shakti Ministry on 1st July 2019. It also ensures the important water conservation interventions.

**About CWMI 2.0:**

NITI Aayog’s CWMI 2.0 will assess the economical management of water resources in all States/UTs. It is a way of cooperative and competitive ideology among the states.

It will supply data for the States with Central Ministries to formulate and implement the appropriate ways for higher management of water resources.

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

Prime Global Cities Index of London based consultancy Knight Frank ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally.

The index is topped by Berlin(Germany) whereas Istanbul(Turkey) and Vancouver(Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively.

The Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) ranked 15th and 30th on the list respectively.

Prime Global Index:

Around 46 cities movement globally were tracked based on its luxury residential prices but only 35 out of those 46 cities have projected price growth.
Berlin ranking first in the index, its annual growth rate has decreased from 14.1 per cent in March to 12.7% in June and Frankfurt its annual price growth increase from 9.6% to 12% over the same period.

As of June 2019, Luxury residential prices have overall registered an average increase of 1.4 per cent.

The index is expected to moderate further in the second half of 2019 before strengthening in 2020.

**About Delhi**

Chief minister - Arvind Kejriwal.
Deputy chief minister- Manish Sisodia.
Governor- Anil Baijal.
Commissioner of Police- AmulyaPatnaik,IPS(Indian Police Service).

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**MoEF is to relax lease rent for wind power projects**

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate** change has announced that it is to relax the mandatory charging of lease rent of Rs. 30,000/- per Mega Watt (MW) for **wind power projects**. The announcement was made by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar at a review held in New Delhi on 22 August.

**Aim:**

The step by the Ministry aims to **boost investment in wind power projects**. It will also help in providing wind power at a **cheaper rate**. The government aims to meet maximum energy requirement by tapping renewable energy resources. It also plans to achieve the target of clean energy in a time-bound manner, various policies and regulations are being constantly updated.

The Ministry is working towards the establishment of wind power project over **forest land**, the existing procedure requires payment of mandatory charges for compensatory afforestation and **Net Present Value (NPV)**. Additional cost for generation of clean energy through wind power will escalate the per-unit cost of power at the consumer level.

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**Op-Blue Freedom flagged off by KirenRijiju and Baichung Bhutia**

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs **Kiren Rijiju** and former Indian footballer
Bhaichung Bhutia made the flag-off dive for Delhi-NCT leg for the Op-Blue Freedom at SPM Swimming Pool Complex. 'Op-Blue Freedom' is a nation-wide Adaptive Scuba Diving Programme for people with disabilities and able-bodied alike. The parent project Special Forces Adventures. The real awareness about adventure sports amidst the abled and disabled souls of this nation. The activities certainly spike up human morale and self-esteem overall to make them feel self-sufficient.

The country imbibes the skill sets that are being imparted by the team for the community in the future to generate legit work opportunities for themselves. The dive sessions will be kept open from 22nd - 25th August. The successful leg of 'Op-Blue Freedom' in Chandigarh conducted in the last week of July.

The skill sets that are being imparted by the team hold immense significance for the youths.

The team can work to better lives by helping the government to preserve the inland water bodies and by imparting skill sets at their own level for the civil lives.

**NITI Aayog VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme**

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar today met Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi. He discussed the Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme.

The meeting it was decided that in order to ensure effective tackling the problem of Malnutrition. It is a road map will be charted out by the Department of Food and Public Distribution for taking the pilot scheme of Rice Fortification all over the country.

All-State Government departments and other stakeholders will be consulted to enhance cooperation by fostering the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy-making process. They deliberated in-depth on the various measures that can be taken to overcome these issues.

**NITI Aayog**

*Formed:* 1 January 2015

*Objectives:* Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India

*Headquarters:* New Delhi

*Chairperson:* Shri Narendra Modi
**Odisha announces Rs. 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City**

India is an enriching and continuous tradition of culture. Odisha is also a blessed land in terms of heritage, history, and culture. Odia culture has its own impression on the entire Indian culture. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special package of **Rs 500 crore** to develop Puri as a World Heritage City.

The considering the present security environment, it is highly essential to strengthen the security features of the Shree Jagannath Temple.

The projects that were given the green signal in the meeting are a new **1.5 km long link road** connected by a trumpet Bridge (Shree Setu Project), redevelopment of the Jagannath Ballav Matha as an attractive pilgrim centre with multi-level car parking, amenities, commercial and meditation space and multi-modal hub at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

It also includes a plan of rejuvenation of the Musa River and connecting it with the Mangala river at a cost of **Rs 85 crore**. The development of Atharnala as an iconic pedestrian heritage bridge with the support of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the development of a lake on 28 acres of land at a cost of Rs 35 crore.

This is not the first package announced for Puri as Patnaik had recently announced various projects for the region at a cost of Rs 265 crore under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme.

**Scheme Benefits**

The package announced by the Chief Minister focuses on a range of modernisation plans which include infrastructure development, multi-lane roads, bridges, multi-level parkings, amenities for pilgrims, revival of Musa river, rehabilitation of those evicted from the security zone and renovation of lakes. The Chief Minister had recently announced various projects worth Rs 265 crore for Puri under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme.
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Chandrayaan 2 entered Moons Orbit**

Indian's first-ever mission aimed for a soft landing on the Moon's south polar region, Chandrayaan-2, was inserted into Moon's orbit on 20 August. The entry was confirmed by the Indian Space Agency, ISRO. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22 and had left the Earth's orbit on August 14. Before reaching the final orbit, the spacecraft will now undergo four-orbit manoeuvres about 100 km from the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-2 was precisely inserted in the defined orbit. Following its entry in the lunar orbit, there will be four more orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the moon's surface.

**Constant monitor:**

Various research and monitoring centres such as The Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Byalalu has been continuously monitoring the health of the spacecraft.

**Aim:**

The mission will help scientists to gain a better understanding of the origin. The detailed topographical studies, comprehensive mineralogical analyses, and a host of other experiments on the lunar surface that will be conducted on the Moon will help mankind to understand the evolution of the Moon.

**IIT Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins made from composite banana fiber**

An IIT-Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins that are made from composite banana fiber. These napkins can last up to 2 years and can be reused around 120 times.

**Reusable sanitary napkins:**

The reusable pads are ultra-thin and are highly absorbent with Lock Technology that makes the pad leakproof and avoids creating any rashes. These pads can be washed in cold water with detergents after every use. The cost of reusable napkins
is Rs.199. The designed product will save up to 75% of the cost.

Aim:
The aim of the reusable sanitary pads is to address the disposable pad waste burdening the planet. The product is also concerned about women hygiene and to make their life simpler without any discomforts.

Need for reusable sanitary napkins:
Most of the sanitary napkins are made of synthetic materials and plastic. These plastics can take more than 50-60 years to decompose. This enormous amount of menstrual waste is usually dumped in landfills or thrown in open burnt etc is creating a hazard for the environment and air pollution hazard.

The Menstrual Hygiene Alliance of India (MHAI) reported that about 336 million menstruating women in India use disposable sanitary pads summing up to 121 million. India has around 12.3 billion disposable sanitary napkins every year with a majority of these are non-biodegradable.

NASA scientists fly over Greenland to track melting ice

NASA scientists are crossing Greenland on a mission to track melting ice. Greenland melting faster in the last decade and this summer it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.

Global warming is the chief culprit of the melting ice issue. Both warmer air and warmer water are eating away at Greenland it causes to lose billions of tons of ice daily in the summer. A team of scientists and engineers aboard a research plane are dropping probes into the ice to help figure out which is the bigger cause. If water is playing a bigger role than scientists had thought, that could mean seas will be rising faster than expected.

Russia sends humanoid robot to ISS

Russia has sent a humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS) on a 10-day mission. The aim is to support the astronauts on board. The name of the humanoid robot is Fedor. The Skybot F-850 became the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia after it was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 22 August. The spacecraft has been scheduled to stay until September 7, 2019.
The robot is travelling in an unmanned Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft. Fedor is expected to dock at the ISS on 23 August. The spacecraft holds more than 650kg of cargo, including medical supplies and food rations for the crew waiting at the station. It is also expected that Fedor will eventually carry out more dangerous tasks, like spacewalks.

Chandrayaan 2 sent the first image of Moon

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the first visuals of the moon captured by Chandrayaan-2 from a distance of 2,650 km from the lunar surface on 22 August. The photograph was taken on 21 August. In the image sent by Chandrayaan-2, ISRO has identified two landmarks on the moon, Mare Orientale basin, and Apollo crater. The first Moon image was captured at a height of about 2650km from the Lunar surface.

The Mare Orientale is shaped like a target ring bull's-eye. It is located on the Moon's extreme western edge which is difficult to see from an earthbound perspective. It is over 3 billion years old, about 950 km across and was formed by the impact of an asteroid sized object. Apollo is a 538km diameter double-ringed impact crater in the southern hemisphere of the far side of the Moon.

NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) space agency confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission. It is an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa with the target. It is conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.

The space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the development of the Europa Clipper mission in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory for the Science Mission Directorate. The mission is managed by the Planetary Missions Program Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Jupiter's Galilean moon Europa consists of a huge ocean of liquid water beneath its icy shell.
The water is in contact with the rocky core of the moon, which according to space scientists, make a range of interesting chemical reactions possible. The astrobiologists consider 1,940-miles-wide (3,120 kilometres) Europa moon to be one of the best bets to host alien life in the solar system.

**NASA**
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
- **Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower
- **Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States

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**Researchers have developed a lens that works like human eye**

Harvard researchers have developed metalens, an electronic flat lens that works like the human eye.

**About the Lens:**
The technology used in the new artificial eye will revolutionize the lenses used in cameras, VR/AR headsets and eyewear. The special features of the lens include simultaneous focus, control of aberrations caused by astigmatisms and image shifts. The Lens demonstrates the feasibility of embedded optical zoom and autofocus for a wide range of applications, including cell phone cameras. It uses tiny nanostructures to focus light and hence the entire visible light spectrum at a single point.

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**NASA found more than 40 pieces of debris created by Indias anti satellite test**

A survey by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Orbital Debris Program Office reported that more than 40 pieces of debris created by India's anti-satellite test. The debris created by the test conducted by ISRO on 27 March is still moving around in space even as the majority of the debris has disintegrated. The survey also said that 101 big pieces have been tracked and 49 continue to be in the orbit as of July 15.

**India's anti-satellite test:**
India had shot down the Microsat-R satellite on March 27, 2019. It intended to demonstrate that it can shoot down the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country. India is only the fourth country to have demonstrated this capability.
ENVIRONMENT

Scientists found two new fish species

The Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered two new species of freshwater fish in Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh. Both the fishes were less than seven centimetres.

**Glyptothorax gopii:**

*Glyptothorax gopii,* a new species of catfish was found in Mizorams Kaladan river. This species measured 63 mm standard length without caudal fin. It has an axe-shaped anterior nuchal plate which makes it distinct from other species of the genus Glyptothorax.

**Garra Simbalaranaensis:**

*Garra Simbalaranaensis* was found in Himachal Pradeshs Simbalbara river. Garra simbalaranaensis measured 69 mm standard length without caudal fin. It has a yellowish-grey colour fading ventrally. Garra simbalbara ensis has a prominent unilobed and rounded proboscis with tubercles that help the fish in manoeuvrability.

**Other discoveries:**


LS Secretariat has banned the use of non reusable plastic water bottles

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has banned the use of non-reusable plastic water bottles and other plastic items within the Parliament complex. All officers and staff of the Secretariat and other allied agencies working in the Parliament House Complex have been advised to use environment friendly biodegradable bags and other material.

The above initiative steps by the Lok Sabha Secretariat is a step towards the call by the Prime Minister to the nation to make the country free from plastics which was set to be achieved by October 2 as the country celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
About non-reusable plastic bottles:
As many plastics are safe to reuse but some contain components that may be harmful to humans and the environment that can’t be reused. Plastics made up of polyvinyl chlorides having many phthalates which is a group of chemicals exposure to phthalates allergy and respiratory problems. Most plastics used for food packaging and disposable food items such as plastic plates, bowls, etc will cause toxin damage, gastrointestinal, kidney and respiratory function. The World Health Organization's International Agency that did research on Cancer classified styrene in plastics also possible to cause carcinogenic cancer to humans.

WHO says Microplastics does not pose a threat
The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the number of Microplastics in drinking water does not pose a health risk at current levels. This is the WHO's first report into the consequences of microplastics on human health. WHO looked into the particular impact of Microplastics in faucet and drinking water. It conducted a lot of in-depth analysis into Microplastics and also the potential impact on human health. Microplastics are larger than 150 micrometers will not be absorbed by the organic structure of the human body. The uptake of smaller particles is limited. The drinkable studies have found Microplastics concentrations starting from 1 to 0.001 microparticles per litre with the balance of chemical, physical, and infection-related risks of drinking these particles.

Effects of Microplastics:
Microplastics contain chemicals that might probably hurt organs like flame retardants, or cause injuries many diseases. Even less is thought Nanoscale plastic particles can cause epithelial duct as just microscopic particles.

WWF and Discovery tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans
Discovery India and World Wide Fund (WWF) India have partnered with the Forest Directorate. The government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans. The mangrove forest, the habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human
conflict and also as part of a global movement Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers. WWF India and Discovery India are working with government agencies. Their main aim is to help the local communities and village panchayats and to focuses on farmland productivity through low-cost measures.

The Two Sundarbans Ecological Observatories will be set up each featuring data loggers, monitoring buoys and an onsite laboratory. This is to be done in partnership with West Bengal Forest Directorate and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata. Datasets will be built on impacts of climate change on estuarine ecosystem.

A detailed intervention is also being implemented at Manas Tiger Reserve.
DEFENCE

Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka agree to strengthen cooperation in addressing maritime issues

Indian Coast Guard held a High-Level Meeting (HLM) with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters. Indian side led by Director General, Coast Guard K Natarajan. Sri Lankan delegation headed by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge. The meeting took place under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation. Those sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security.

The apprehension of two fishing boats by Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU was recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea. Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual co-operation in multilateral forums was discussed and agreed by both sides. The four-member delegation of Sri Lanka Coast Guard is paying an official visit to India from August 19 to August 23, 2019.

DRDO delivered the new Mobile Metallic Ramp to Army

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) delivered the design of the newly innovated Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army at a ceremony held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. The design of MMR was handed over by Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), Lt Gen Devraj Anbu.

Aim:
The MMR will reduce the Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The requirement was projected by the Indian Army. The new MMR will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It will drastically reduce the time required for operational mobilization.

Design:
The MMR was designed and developed by DRDOs Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES). The MMR has a load-bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT). The newly designed MMR is easily portable, modular in design and can be easily assembled or disassembled.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB won JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019

K Thangaraj, chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, Telangana, won this years J C Bose Fellowship. The award is given for his outstanding contribution in the field of population and medical genomics on August 17, 2019. His research work includes the genetic basis of male infertility, cardiovascular disease, sex determination, mitochondrial disorders, ayur genomics and forensic genetics.

He established the association of mitochondrial DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) variations with several disorders which is the first in India.

JC Bose fellowship
It is awarded to active scientists and engineers in recognition of their outstanding performance and contributions by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

The award is named after Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose. He is the inventor of crescograph (a device used to measure growth of plants). He is also known as the father of Bengali science fiction. The duration of the fellowship is 5 years. Each fellowship receives Rs10 Lakh per annum for conferences and other expenses.

Prasar Bharati introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma

Indias largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bhartis Chairman A Suryaprakash. The agency introduces 2 awards namely Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award & Achyutananda Sahoo Award 
The award memory of Doordarshan (DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma. Sharma. She is a strong advocate for women empowerment. She started her career in Doordarshan in 1995. She associated with the channel for over 20 years. She was known for her programmes like Tejaswini (Through this show, she focused on women achievers of India) and Badi Charcha. She was awarded the 2018 Nari Shakti Puraskar (Highest civilian award for women in India) by the President of India Ram Nath Govind.

About Prasar Bharati:
Formation: 23 November 1997
National sports awards 2019 were announced

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has announced the awardees of the **National sports awards 2019**. The award recognizes the successive persons in the **field of games and sports**. The **President of India** will award the awardees at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The awards will be given on the birth anniversary of **hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand** which is celebrated as the **National Sports Day on August 29**.

**About the award:**
National Sports Awards are given for athletes and coaches every year. The award recognizes and **rewards excellence in sports**. It is given by the Ministry of youth affairs and sports to the successive persons in the field of games and sports.

**Award Committee:**
A 12 member National sports committee headed by the **former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma** has selected the awardees for 2019. The committee constitutes of members including the Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Jhulaniya, the Sports Authority of India Director Sandeep Pradhan, TOPS CEO Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan, Mary Kom, Bhatia, etc.

The committee has handpicked all the winners of **National Sports Awards under categories** of awards like:

- **The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** (most outstanding performance)
- **Arjuna Award** (outstanding performance)
- **Dronacharya Award** (for coaches)
- **Dhyan Chand Award** (lifetime achievement)
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award**

**Prize:** **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee** will receive a medal, a citation, and cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.

**Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand** Awards consist of statuettes, certificates and a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each.

**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** awardee will receive a trophy and citation.

The top-performing University in inter-university tournaments will be given **MAKA Trophy**, award money of Rs.10 lakh and certificate.
The **list of the Awardees** is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Bajrang Punia</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Deepa Malik</td>
<td>Para Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Regular Category)</td>
<td>Sh. Vimal Kumar</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Regular Category)</td>
<td>Sh. Sandeep Gupta</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Regular Category )</td>
<td>Sh. Mohinder Singh Dhillon</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Life-Time Category)</td>
<td>Sh. Merzban Patel</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Life-Time Category)</td>
<td>Sh. Rambir Singh Khokhar</td>
<td>Kabaddi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dronacharya Award (Life-Time Category)</td>
<td>Sh. Sanjay Bhardwaj</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Tajinderpal Singh Toor</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Mohammed Anas Yahiya</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. S. Bhaskaran</td>
<td>Bodybuilding</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Sonia Lather</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Ravindra Jadeja</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Chingiensana Singh Kangujam</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred the Pushkin Medal 2019

JNU Professor **Meeta Narain** conferred the **Pushkin Medal 2019**. It is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the **Russian government**.

Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature. It is given

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Ajay Thakur</td>
<td>Kabaddi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Gaurav Singh Gill</td>
<td>Motor Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Pramod Bhagat</td>
<td>Para Sports (Badminton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Anjum Moudgil</td>
<td>Shooting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Harmeet Rajul Desai</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Pooja Dhanda</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Fouaad Mirza</td>
<td>Equestrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sanchu</td>
<td>Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Poonam Yadav</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Ms. Swapna Barman</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Sundar Singh Gurjar</td>
<td>Para Sports (Athletics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Arjuna Award</td>
<td>Sh. Simran Singh Shergil</td>
<td>Polo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Dhyan Chand Award</td>
<td>Sh. Manuel Fredricks</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Dhyan Chand Award</td>
<td>Sh. Arup Basak</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Dhyan Chand Award</td>
<td>Sh. Manoj Kumar</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dhyan Chand Award</td>
<td>Sh. Nitten Kirttane</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Dhyan Chand Award</td>
<td>Sh. C. Lalremsanga</td>
<td>Archery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Rashtriya Khel Prottsahan Puruskar</td>
<td>(i) Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation</td>
<td>Identification And Nurturing Of Budding And Young Talent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Rashtriya Khel Prottsahan Puruskar</td>
<td>Rayalaseema Development Trust</td>
<td>Sports For Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
for outstanding contribution to Russian studies.

**Pushkin Medal 2019.**

Medal of Pushkin is a state decoration of the Russian Federation. It is awarded to its citizens for achievements in the arts and culture, education, humanities, and literature. It is named in honor of Russian author and poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin.

**Thirty five officers were awarded the Smart Policing Awards**

Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference which was held in New Delhi. 35 officers were awarded the Smart policing Awards. The award recognized their work in the various police initiatives including the areas of crime investigation & prosecution, anti-insurgency, child safety, community policing, cybercrime management, emergency response, human trafficking, road safety & traffic management, smart police station, surveillance & monitoring, training & capacity building, women safety. The Minister also released a collection on Best Practices in Policing.

**Smart Policing Awards:**

The award was instituted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The award has been instituted for best practices in Smart Policing in India.
India clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan

India won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship. The event held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the score 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title. The final was a tie of three matches. Indian Team won both the singles matches. The team comprised of Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin. Manas and Rethin won their singles matches.

Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by Kreishh Gurbaxani

Mumbai Kreishh Gurbaxani is currently at the no. 2 spots in the India junior snooker rankings. He won the 2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title. He defeated Odishas Asutosh Padhy for 5-4 in the 4-hour final contest. He was awarded the champions trophy and a cheque of Rs 30,000. The runner up trophy and a cheque of Rs 20,000 were given to Asutosh Padhy.

India to host World Youth Chess Championship

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

World Youth Chess Championship 2019:
The World Chess Federation (FIDE-Fdration Internationale des) conducts 15 World-Level Tournaments in a year.
The Youth Tournament will be held in three age categories in both the open and girls group.
The Tournament will be played in the:
U-14 age groups for Boys & Girls
U-16 age groups for Boys & Girls
U-18 age groups for Boys & Girls
The participants include around 700 young Chess masters from over 100 Chess playing countries. Six World Champions will be crowned at this Tournament.

Hima and Anas won gold in the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019
Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in the Czech Republic. They won gold in the women's and men's 300m category respectively. India's Nirmal Tom clinched bronze in men's 300m category.
Muhammed Anas clocked 32.41 seconds to claim gold in the event. India's Nirmal Tom clocked 33.03 seconds.

Hima Das:
This is her 6th gold medal this year 2019. On July 20 she clinched gold in her pet 400m event at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.

Czech Athletics:
Czech Athletics is an annual outdoor field competition. It is the National championship for sports in the Czech republic. It was organized by Czech athletic federation.

Indian team retain top-spot in ICC test rankings
ICC Indian skipper Virat Kohli retained the top spot in the Test batsmen's rankings. It is officially released by the International Cricket Council in Dubai. Australia's Steve Smith occurred the second position. Smith overtook New Zealand Captain Kane Williamson to reach the second spot. Smith is just nine points behind Kohli.
Kohli has 922 points. Smith has 913 points.
Australia's Pat Cummins retained the top spot.
India are on top of the team table with 113 points followed by New Zealand 111 points and South Africa 108 points.

International Cricket Council
Chairperson: Shashank Manohar
Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Former Australian bowler Mitchell Johnson becomes MCC Honorary Life member

Former Australian player Mitchell Johnson elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The club made the announcement, during the second Ashes Test between Australia and England which ended in a draw.

Johnson played 73 international Test matches for Australia claiming 313 wickets at an average of 28.40.
Johnson made his debut for Australia in 2005 and hung up his boots a decade later in 2015. He was a part of Australia's two successful World Cup triumphs in 2007 and 2015.

The speedster represented Australia in 153 One Day Internationals picking up 239 wickets and and 30 Twenty 20 Internationals claimed 38 scalps. The MCC took to Twitter to announce his membership.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)
Marylebone Cricket Club is a cricket club founded in 1787.
Founder: Thomas Lord
Founded: 1787
Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Vikram Rathour to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach

Former opener Vikram Rathour replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar retained as bowling and fielding coaches. The senior national selection committee headed by MSK Prasad. The commended three names each for all the support staff positions and the top names in each category appointed as a Conflict of Interest declaration.

The 50-year-old Rathour played six Tests and seven ODIsin 1996 without much success but was a domestic heavyweight for Punjab. He was a senior national selector under Sandeep Patil's chairmanship.

International Cricket Council
Chairperson: Shashank Manohar
Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
CEO: Manu Sawhney
Founded: 15 June 1909
Membership: 104 members

Indias Hockey team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

The Indian women hockey team won the Olympic Test event with Navjot Kaur and Lalremsiami leading the side to a 2-1 win over Japan in the final.

Navjot Kaur - 11th minute won the score to put India ahead but the lead was neutralized within a minute as Minami Shimizu (12’) scored for the hosts.

Japan
Capital: Tokyo
Prime Minister: Shinz Abe
ARTS & CULTURE

Akshay Kumar takes 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019


Here’s the list of the Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 listed by Forbes:
1. Dwayne Johnson ($89.4 million)
2. Chris Hemsworth ($76.4 million)
3. Robert Downey Jr. ($66 million)
4. Akshay Kumar ($65 million)
5. Jackie Chan ($58 million)
6. Bradley Cooper ($57 million)
7. Adam Sandler ($57 million)
8. Chris Evans ($43.5 million)
9. Paul Rudd ($41 million)
10. Will Smith ($35 million)
OBITUARY

Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passed away

The eminent composer Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passed away on 19 August. He was 92 years old. He died because of prolonged illnesses. He was famously known as Khayyam. He is best known for his music in classic films such as 'Kabhi Kabhie' and 'Umrao Jaan'.

His career:
Khayyam started his musical career at the age of 17. Hashmi's other notable works include films such as 'Trishul', 'Noorie' and 'Shola Aur Shabnam'. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi was also a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Padma Bhushan. He was also honored with the National Award and Filmfare Award. He had also composed music for actress Meena Kumari's album I Write, I Recite. His non-film songs include Paaon Padun Tore Shyam, Ghazab Kiya Tere Vaade Pe Aitbaar Kiya, and Brij Mein Laut Chalo.

Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passed away

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Babulal Gaur and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away on 21 August. He was 89 years old. He died due to various old-age ailments followed by cardiac arrest.

The veteran BJP leader served as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister from 2004-2005. He represented his traditional Govindpura Vidhan Sabha seat 10 times.

About Babulal:
Mr. Babulal Gaur was born on June 2 in 1930 at Naugeer village in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. He worked at the Bhopal Textiles Mill and led agitations for labour rights. His political career started in 1946 as he entered in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He was a founder-member of the Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh. He served as the secretary of the Jana Sangh in 1956. Babulal took part in several national-level movements such as the agitation against the Emergency and for Goa Independence. During the Emergency, he was detained for 19 months under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.
EAM to participate the fifth meeting of the Nepal India Joint Commission

The 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission is to take place from August 21 to 22, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S.Jaishankar is to participate in the meeting. He will co-chair the meeting along with his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

**Aim of the commission:**
The commission is aimed to review the overall state of bilateral relations between the countries. It will also discuss the various areas of cooperation such as connectivity and economic partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources sectors, culture, education and other matters of mutual interest.

**Nepal-India Joint Commission:**
The Nepal-India Joint Commission was established in June 1987. India-Nepal Joint Commission is a high-level bilateral mechanism to comprehensively review India-Nepal relations. The commission meetings are held alternately in India and Nepal.
The 4th meeting of the Commission was held on October 2016 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by the Honble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, from Nepali side and His Excellency Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, from the Indian side.

National Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in New Delhi

Union Ministry of Tourism organized a one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers in New Delhi. The meet was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

**Participants:** The conference was attended by State Tourism Ministers of 19 States.

**Aim:**
The meeting focused on various issues related to the development and promotion of Tourism in New Delhi. It suggested better coordination between the Centre and State to increase the number of tourists in India and work towards removing negative impressions. The Ministry aims to achieve the Prime Ministers target of doubling the tourists, both foreign and domestic over the next five years.
New incredible India:
The Tourism Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Hindi version of the New Incredible India portal at the conference. He announced that the Ministry is planning to launch the new Incredible India website in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish.

IITFC:
Mr. Patel also launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC). IITFC is a digital initiative online programme where one can learn about tourism at their own time, space, path, and pace.

Night tourism:
The Ministry has also decided to open 10 historical monuments till 9 PM for common visitors across the country. This move aims to promote night tourism across the country.

Shri Amit Shah chairs the 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji (Goa) The dignitaries attending the meeting includes Chief Minister Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani, CM Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, CM Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant and Administrator of the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Shri Praful Patel and senior officers from the Central and State Governments.

Members of the Council
The members of the Council to the 24th meeting the issues having Centre-State and inter-State ramifications will be resolved with consensus. Home Minister stated West Zone instrumental in giving impetus to the Indian economy as the States of the Zone are contributing around 24% to the GDP and 45% to the total exports of the country. The pending issues between the States and the Centre need to be resolved on priority through the medium of Western Zonal Council. The States in Zone have been a big exporter of sugar, cotton, groundnut and fish and contributing immensely to the economic development of the country.

The issues listed in the agenda add and discuss issues relating to law & order and administrative reforms to the development of the country.
He mentioned that the Government of India has taken an initiative to assess the damage on its own, for which Central teams have already been constituted to visit
the flood affected areas without waiting for the reports from the States. The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made at the last meeting.

**Council among others focused on the following issues:**

Action on the Master Plan submitted by Maharashtra Government for utilization of surplus Salt Pan Land for rehabilitation of slum dwellers was discussed at length. State Government will send a detailed proposal in two months suggesting broad contours of a transparent financial model for involvement of slum dwellers (and utilization of remaining land as per high FSI in keeping with provisions of a scheme to be formulated as per Slum Rehabilitation Act) on a competitive basis for rehabilitation of slum dwellers & transfer of land/monetization for Government of India.

**Direct Benefit Transfer**

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) done through IPPBs also everywhere covered by Core Banking Solution.

The enhancement of DBT Portal to include scheme/village-wise details by collecting real time information from respective portals of beneficiary-oriented schemes to give village level DBT fund transfer & benefits.

The detailed monitoring mechanism to ensure that investigation and trial of sexual offences/rape against girls below 12 years of age are completed within two months (POCSO Act and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018] each.Home Minister called upon the States to give their suggestions for improvements in Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

He urged the Chief Ministers to ensure regular monitoring at the Chief Secretarys level of investigation and prosecution of cases in the courts in case of heinous offences such as Narcotics, POCSO Act, murders.

The States should fill the post of Director Prosecution without any further delay. He stressed on the need for setting up Forensic Science Laboratories in the States. There should also be regular monitoring of all decisions in various areas narrated above through Video Conference by the Home Secretary and Special Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat.

**The 2 plus 2 intersessional between US and India is being held in California**

The 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue between India and
the U.S. officials are being held in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.

**Aim:**
The intersessional meeting aims to strengthen the strategic partnership. The meeting will discuss ways to advance the security priorities and the cooperation on critical diplomatic between the countries including the shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

**Participants:**
The U.S. delegations will be led by Alice Wells, the Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia and Randall Schriver, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs.

From Indian side Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary, Americas, and officials from the Indian Embassy in Washington and five officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Joint Secretary of International Cooperation and the Joint Secretary of Navy, the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (ACNS) Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence (FCI) and a one-star officer from Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) as well as the Director International Cooperation (IC) are participating in the Security dialogue.

**2+2 Dialogue:**
The first 2+2 Dialogue was held on September 2018. After the dialogue, India and the U.S. have had intense ties in the trade, strategic and defence aspects of the relationship.

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**First World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in New Delhi**

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness on 23 August in New Delhi.

**Aim:**
The conference aimed to impart critical competencies like empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry in global youth. It aimed to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

**Organized by:**
The conference was organized by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human
Resource Development.

**Participants:**
A number of youth leaders from around the world, representing over 27 countries, and young men and women participated in the first World Youth Conference on Kindness.
SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme launched

The NDA-led government in its second term is to launch **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme** on 19 August. The pension scheme for small traders functions under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**. The proposal for the scheme was approved by the cabinet on **May 31, 2019**. The scheme was notified by the Ministry on **July 22**.

**Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme:**
The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme aims to target **enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-2020** and **2 crore by 2023-2024**. The pension scheme was modelled for **unorganized sector workers**. In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Centre has reserved **Rs.750 crore for the scheme**.

**Eligibility:**
Under the scheme, traders aged between **18 and 40** who have an annual turnover of **less than Rs.1.5 crore** are eligible. The subscribers should contribute a monthly amount that will be matched by the government. The amount will vary depending on the age at which they enter the scheme. **Upon turning 60**, the subscribers will get **Rs.3,000** as monthly pension.

The provisions of the scheme are applicable to laghu vyaparis, who are self-employed and working as shop owners, oil mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estate, retail traders, rice mill owners, owners of small hotels, restaurants and other laghu vyaparis.

**LIC of India:**
Centre has established a **pension fund** for the implementation of the scheme. Centre has chosen the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India** as the pension fund manager. Hence, it will be responsible for managing the pension fund, central recordkeeping agency and responsible for pension payout.

Nepal to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting

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

**India and SAARC summit:**
The 18th SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2014. India is the largest member of SAARC forum. The 19th SAARC summit was supposed to held in 2016. But the summit was canceled after India boycotted the meeting. India protested after the terror attack at the military base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 2016. The attack killed 19 soldiers. After India boycotted the SAARC summit countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan walked out. India's decision is to set up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. India also declared that it will participate only if Pakistan took steps to tackle terrorism.

**About SAARC:**
SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
Member states: 8 members
Headquarters: Kathmandu
Official languages: English

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

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

**Components of the Scheme:**
Resolution and amnesty are the two main components of the Scheme are a dispute and amnesty component.

**Dispute resolution component:**
Under this component, the legacy cases of Central Excise and Service Tax will be liquidated. The cases that are under GST and are pending in litigation at various forums will be dissolved.

**Amnesty component:**
This component under the Scheme will allow the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax. They will be free of any other consequence under the law. It
provides substantial relief in the tax dues for all categories of cases as well as full waiver of interest, fine, penalty. It will also provide a complete pardon from prosecution.

**Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the Modernized AOPC**

The **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** inaugurated the **Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC)** and **Residential complex building of ALIMCO headquarters at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** on 22 August.

By this two of the Projects under the modernization plan of **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** has been completed. Modernization of ALIMCO will facilitate the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the region by providing modern rehabilitation facilities. The total Construction cost on renovation and extension is approximately **Rs.4.05 crores**. It is expected that the Modernized APOC will meet the requirements of the local and regional Divyangjans and shall be equipped better to serve them.

**Provisions if the Modernized APOC:**

The Modernized APOC will provide first-class **Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Audiology rehabilitation facility** under one roof.

It has:
- 2 separate Out Patient Department (OPD) rooms
- GAIT training unit for Male and Female Divyangjans
- Conference & training room

In future provisions like real-time GAIT analysis lab, Foot Care Unit, Silicone Cosmetic Restoration Lab, Myo Electric lab, Hand splinting & Spinal Orthotics Lab will be added.

**Rajasthan’s free medicine scheme secures top rank**

**Rajasthan’s free medicine scheme** secured the highest position with first ranking issued by the **National Health Mission (NHM)** among the sixteen states of the country. NHM free drug service was introduced by the **Ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) for all states/UTs.**

**Aim:**
It aimed to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities. The theme was launched on **October 2011**.

The Ministry has multiplied the number of free medicines from **608 to 712** and free tests from **70 to 90**. The NHM has initiated the rankings to encouraging and supporting states to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities.

**Rajasthans free medicine scheme:**

The main aim of Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) is to produce commonly used essential medicines freed from price to patients visiting government tending establishment in the year 2011-12. The scheme consists of 2 elements like free drugs and free tests.

The Free medicines theme was enforced on the Gregorian calendar of 2011 and the free check theme was introduced on **World Health Day in April of 2013**.

The primary part of the free check theme was enforced in hospitals connected with state medical schools likewise as district /sub-divisional and satellite hospitals.

**Benefits:**

Rajasthans population is **higher than 7 crores**. The number of beneficiaries at free tests is at **9.41 crore as of December 2017**. The patients of the border districts of the adjacent states can also get free medicines and avail free tests. The price of free drugs beneficiaries stood at **Rs.52.4 crore**.
**APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN**

**Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army**

Sri Lankan field commander appointed the new Army Commander, the President's office announced. Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, 55 take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service. President Maithripala Sirisena's office announced that Lt Gen Shavendra Silva named as the new army commander. Silva headed the Army's 58th Division in the final battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.

Silva's name was mentioned in the resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2013.

Critics say Silva's appointment as the Army chief may strain Sri Lanka's cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations and the defence cooperation between the US and Sri Lanka. After the brutal civil war ended, Silva served in New York as Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Mission.

According to a United Nations report, some 45,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the last months of the war alone. The United Nations and human rights groups have urged the Sri Lankan government to establish a war crimes tribunal to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity, both by the military and the Tamil militant groups. Sri Lankan governments have resisted attempts to establish an international probe, saying it is an internal issue of the island nation. The promotion of Lieutenant-General General Silva severely compromises Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability.

**UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** April 2006
- **Formation:** 15 March 2006

**Manmohan Singh elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan**

The Former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. He was declared elected unopposed as the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the by-poll ended on 19th August.
Manmohan Singh was nominated by the Congress while the BJP did not field any candidate for the by-poll and necessitated due to the death of Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini.

The election announcement was made by the Assembly Secretary Pramil Kumar Mathur. Singh filed the nomination papers on August 13. Mahesh Joshi, the government's chief whip, received the election certificate on behalf of Singh. The former PM was unanimously and unopposedly elected.

**Manmohan Singh:**

Manmohan Singh was born on 26 September 1932 in Gah, (now in) Punjab, Pakistan. In 1947, Singh's family migrated to India. He is an economist and did his doctorate in Oxford. In 1991, India faced a severe economic crisis. In 1991, he became the Finance Minister in P. V. Narasimha Rao led Government. Manmohan Singh was a Rajya Sabha member for five consecutive terms from 1991 to 2019. Singh was a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam for almost three decades. Manmohan Singh is the third Indian prime minister to complete two full terms as the PM. He was the country's Prime Minister for two consecutive terms between 2004 and 2014.

**Dr. Ajay Kumar is appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence**

Dr. Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Dr. Kumar will replace Shri Sanjay Mitra as his tenure ends on 23 August.

Mr. Mitra is a 1982-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre. He is currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Defence Production.

**Other appointments:**

The ACC has cleared the appointment of Shri Subhash Chandra as Secretary of Defence Production. He is currently the Special Secretary Defence. He will replace Dr. Kumar. Subhash Chandra is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre.

**Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary**

The Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary.
Secretary for a tenure of **two years**. His appointment as Cabinet secretary was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Gauba is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre. He initially joined as the Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat. He will now replace the incumbent **P K Sinha**, who is a 1977 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. Mr. Sinha is the 31st Cabinet Secretary of India.

**About Rajiv Gauba:**

Gauba was born in Punjab. He is a graduate in physics from Patna University. He had served in Jharkhand as the chief secretary before returning to serve in the central government in 2016.

Gauba took charge as the home secretary on August 31 in 2017. While serving as the Union home secretary, he has handled issues such as militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, internal security, and the Northeast Maoist problems in the central and east India besides other issues.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19

World Humanitarian Day (WHO) is observed every year on 19 August. The main aim is to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian crises around the world.

The theme of 2019 WHD campaign is #WomenHumanitarians On World

The contribution of thousands of women humanitarian aid workers who provide life-saving support to vulnerable people caught up in crises in some of the world's most dangerous places.

History of the Day

When the UN headquarters in Baghdad was targeted by a large terrorist truck bomb, killing 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN's top representative in Iraq.

The focus is to salute the efforts of women humanitarian workers across the world who rally to people in need and are often the first to respond and the last to leave.

Around 4,500 aid workers of all genders have been killed, injured, detained, assaulted or kidnapped while carrying out their work.

Save humanitarians

The UN emphasizes that under international law, all humanitarian workers must be safeguarded.

As part of this year's WHD commemorations, the UN and partners are launching the #WomenHumanitarians global campaign to pay special tribute to and raise support for the work women do to save lives and alleviate human suffering.

The dedication of these women to help the world's most vulnerable people is admirable, particularly those women who are often the first to respond in their communities when faced with a crisis.

World Photography Day observed on 19 August

World Photography Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science, and history of photography. World Photography Day signifies about the photography event in the world.

History
Early 19th century, photography has become an ever-increasing medium of personal expression and appreciation for countless people around the world. A photograph has the ability to capture a place; an experience; an idea; a moment in time. Photographs can convey a feeling faster than, and sometimes even more effectively than words can. A photograph can make the viewer see the world the way the photographer. Photographs even transcend the passing of time - a photo from a hundred years ago can still be as appreciated now as a photo can still be by others in a hundred years time.

World Photo Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1837. The Daguerreotype wasn’t the first permanent photographic image. In 1826, Niepce captured the earliest known permanent photograph known as View from the Window at Le Gras using a process called heliography.

The first durable color photograph was taken by Thomas Sutton in 1861. It was a set of three black-and-white photographs taken through red, green and blue filters. However, the photographic emulsions then in use were insensitive to the spectrum, so the result was very imperfect.

World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. There are 270 photographers shared their pictures and people from over 100 countries visited the website.

Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August

Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on 20 August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. Mr Rajiv Gandhi youngest Prime Minister of India.

Rajiv Gandhi

He was the youngest Prime Minister of the country. He became Prime Minister at the age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. He served from 1984-89. He contributed greatly to the development of the country. He announced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernise and expand higher education programs across India. He founded a central government based institution namely Jawahar
Navodaya Vidyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th till 12 class. Due to his efforts MTNL established in 1986 and also created public call offices (PCOs) for spreading telephones in rural areas.

World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August

World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August across the world. The day is observed every year. The day aims to increase awareness about the issues that affect older adults. It also provides an opportunity to appreciate the elders for their dedication, accomplishments, and the services they give throughout their lives. The day also reminds the governments of its commitment to work for the welfare of older persons. United Nations report says that by 2050, 2 billion people, over 20% of the world's population, will be 60 or older with Asia having the largest number of older persons.

History:

Former president of United States Ronald Reagan officially announced the day as the 'World Senior Citizens Day' after he had signed Proclamation on August 19, 1988. He declared August 21 as National Senior Citizens Day in US. The day aims to pay respect to the elderly community. On 14th of December 1990, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed to observe 21 August as World Senior Citizens Day.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief observed on 22 August

The world observed International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief for the first time. The main aim is to honor the victims and survivors of disgraceful acts who often remain forgotten. United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/73/296 & designated 22 August as International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. The recognising the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on
religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

The General Assembly recalled that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely.

The atrocities continue to be stemmed in the regions Myanmar occupied Kashmir, Syria, and Palestine among other parts of the world, as per the recent report.

This Day comes right after the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which was observed on 21 August 2019.

**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on August 23**

*Santo Domingo Haiti* and the *Dominican Republic* the beginning of the uprising play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

International Day for the **Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is observed on **23 August**.

This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The intercultural project "The Slave Route," should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes. The methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

Director-General of UNESCO invites the Ministers of Culture of all Member States to organize events every year on that date, involving the entire population of their country and in particular young people, educators, artists and intellectuals.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in *Haiti (23 August 1998)* and *Goree in Senegal (23 August 1999)*. The cultural events and debates were organized.

The year 2001 saw the participation of the Mulhouse Textile Museum in France in the form of a workshop for fabrics called "Indiennes de Traite" (a type of calico) It served as currency for the exchange of slaves in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The **UNESCO Executive Board** adopted Resolution 29 C/40 at its 29th session.
**BOOKS & AUTHORS**

**Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel will launch the book *Diary of Manu Gandhi* (1943-44) The function at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The book brought out by the National Archives of India on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press.

**Diary of Manu Gandhi - Book**

The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally in Gujarati edited and translated by Dr Tridip Suhrud, a well known scholar engaged in understanding the Gandhian Intellectual tradition.

The first volume covers the period 1943-1944. Manu Gandhi (Mridula) a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi, daughter of his Nephew Jaisukhlal Amritlal Gandhi, and stayed with Gandhiji. She was an aide to Kasturba Gandhi during her imprisonment in the Aga Khan Palace in 1943.

The first volume of the diary is a record of her life and times with Mahatma Gandhi between 1943-44. The entries in the Diary throws light on his life as a prisoner and his endeavour to establish the possibility of collective non-violence. She shares a moving portrait of Kasturba Gandhi’s illness and death. The author expresses the deep emotional bond she had developed with Gandhiji.

**National Archives of India**

The National Archives of India is an Attached Office under the Ministry of Culture. It was established on 11 March 1891 at Kolkata (Calcutta) as the Imperial Record Department. The transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911. The present building of the National Archives of India constructed in 1926 which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The transfer of all records from Calcutta to New Delhi completed in 1937.

This publication benefit the scholars interested in Gandhian studies. The book will be another milestone added to the publications that have been brought out by the National Archives of India from time to time.

The Department intends to bring out publications out of rich reservoir of both
public and private papers collection in order to continue this process.
**AGREEMENTS, MOU**

**India to train Maldivian civil services officers training**

The **India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil services officers training** has been made operationalized in the ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of **Maldives at Male**. The training will take place in three phases upon the agreement between the two countries. The first **3 training programs** will be held in September and November for 60 officers and in December for 30 officers of top management level.

**High-level discussion:**
The training program was operationalised after the discussions between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission. A high-level discussion was also held between An Indian delegation led by Shri V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and a Maldives delegation led by Dr. Aly Shameem, Chairman of the Civil Services Commission of Maldives. The subject matter of the training programs includes public administration, e-governance and service delivery, public policy and governance, information technology, urban development and planning, ethics in administration and challenges in the implementation of SDGs.

**MoU between India and Maldives:**
During the Prime Minister of India's visit to the Maldives in **June 2019**, India signed MoU to provide training and **Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil servants**. Maldives Civil Service Commission signed with India's **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The aim to emphasize India's Neighbourhood First policy.

India is now providing its full support to the Maldives in realizing its socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.

**Thaawarchand Gehlot met Australian delegation for the cooperation in the Disability Sector**
The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot met 5 member-Australian Delegation in New Delhi. The Australian Delegation was headed by Mr. Duncan Maskell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. The discussion included the issues relating to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries and for the cooperation in the Disability Sector. The discussions centered around designing of the Community Based Inclusive Development program, leadership training, and research in the disability sector.

Indian government expressed its desire and efforts to the Australian side for the empowerment of persons in the area of early intervention, community participation, etc. The Australian side appreciated the efforts of the Government of India in the disability sector. Melbourne University has been identified as an agency for undertaking certain specific activities under the ambit of the MoU.

**MoU signed:**

During the visit of the President of India to Australia on November 2018, the Government of India and the Government of Australia signed an MoU for Cooperation in Disability Sector.

A follow up for the implementation of the MoU was taken in 2019 February. As per the MoU, the Indian government took action for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which included enactment of the RPwD Act, 2016. The two countries agreed to work for the community sensitization, research in the disability sector with special focus on mental health rehabilitation and inclusive education.

**India signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors**

During his two-day visit to France, Prime Minister Modi and his France counterpart President Emmanuel Macron held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors on 22 August. They signed various MoUs in different sectors.

**MoUs:**

An administrative arrangement was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India and the Ministry of National Education and Youth of the French Republic. The MoU aimed for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training.

A memorandum of agreement was signed between National Institute of Solar

The cooperation agreement was signed between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and ATOS.

Implementing agreement was also signed between ISRO and CNES France for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness.
India is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO2) in the world: Greenpeace Report

India is the largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide in the world as per the data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace 2019. Anthropogenic sulphur dioxide chemical is produced from the burning of coal and it is known to largely contribute to air pollution. The analysis of NASA data released by Greenpeace shows India has over 15 per cent of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO2) hotspots in the world.

The SO2 hotspots were detected by OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.

**Impact of SO2 Emission**

The air gets polluted due to the SO2 emission and air pollution occurs. The largest source of SO2 in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels and other industrial facilities.

Air pollution became a huge public health concern. Around 91 percent of the world's population living in areas where air pollution exceeds the limit set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Around 4.2 million people are dying prematurely every year.

**Famous SO2 Spots in India**

The majority of the plants in India lack flue-gas desulfurization technology which leads to reduce air pollution.

The main SO2 hotspots in India includes Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Neyveli and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra.

**How to control the SO2 emission?**

India should against coal power plants and should not give them a free hand to continue polluting the atmosphere and cause a public health emergency.

Environment Ministry introduced SO2 emission limits for coal power plants in December 2015. They set the initial deadline to control SO2 emissions from power generation by December 2017.

The deadline later extended till December 2019. Ministry of Power and power plant operators in Delhi-NCR. The power plants across the country through a Supreme
Court order.

**Power Minister Shri RK Singh launches SARAL State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index**

Shri RK Singh, Union Minister of State for **Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC)** and **Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness IndexSARAL. The State of Karnataka placed at the first rank in the Index. The Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have got 2nd, 3rd, and 4th rank respectively.

Shri RK Singh would incentivise rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the States.

The states to channelize investments eventually help the sector grow.

The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 100 GW solar power is to be operational by March 2022. It has 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops. The **Indian Grid Connected Rooftop PV (GRPV)** segment is slowly gaining momentum with substantial interest from entrepreneurs, developers, financial institutions, development banks, end users and government entities.

The MNRE has developed the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness IndexSARAL that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

**SARAL**

SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.

Review, Planning & Monitoring Meeting held

Power Minister Shri RK Singh chaired the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities. The State emphasised the need to make Power Sector sustainable and viable so as to ensure 24/7 power supply to all consumers.

SARAL designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY). It is launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities.
SARAL currently captures five key aspects
robustness of policy framework
implementation environment
investment climate
consumer experience

The Meeting discussed various schemes and issues pertaining to the sector such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Distribution Scheme (IPDS), UDAY, 24/7 power supply.
PM signs 10 MoUs during his second visit to Bhutan

During his second visit to Bhutan PM Narendra Modi, he held talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.

**Highlights of the Visit:**

**MoUs signed:**
The leaders of the two countries signed 10 MoUs in fields like new energy, education, space research, aviation, IT, power and education. The talks also aimed to further improve economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

**Power plant inauguration:**
PM Modi also inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant which was built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. The cost of the 720MW plant was Rs.4,500 crore. The project represents the relationship between India and Bhutan.

PM Modi also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.

**RuPay Card launch:**
PM Modi launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism. He launched it by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong. It currently functions as a monastic and administrative centre, It was built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.

**Launch of e-plaque:**
The leaders unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutans Druk Research and Education Network. It marked India as the major partner in the development of Bhutan as India actively cooperates in Bhutans five-year plans.

**Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network launch:**
Mr.Modi and Lotay Tshering jointly inaugurated the SATCOM network and the Ground Earth Station. With this Bhutan can now utilize the South Asia Satellite. It was developed with ISRO's assistance as India has committed to facilitate Bhutans development through the use of space technology.
Both the countries are planning for the collaboration of Royal Bhutan University and IITs and other top educational institutions of India for education and technology.

PM Modi also announced that an additional $100 million will be available to Bhutan under the SAARC currency swap framework. This will meet the foreign exchange requirement of the country.

**PM to visit UAE and Bahrain**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is to pay a 3-day visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain. The visit aims to hold extensive talks with top leaders of the two countries on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

**UAE:**
The Ties between India and the UAE are growing lately as an annual bilateral trade of about $60 billion. The UAE is India's third-largest trade partner. It is also the fourth-largest exporter of crude oil to India. The UAE has a 3.3 million-strong Indian community. The UAE has announced the prestigious award to Modi for bilateral strategic ties. The award is in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who is the founding father of the UAE.

**Bahrain:**
Prime Minister Modi will hold a two-day visit in Bahrain. This visit of the PM will be the first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Bahrain. He is to visit Bahrain from 23-25 August.

During the visit, Mr. Modi is to hold talks with his counterpart Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa on the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, regional and international issues of mutual interest. He will also launch the renovation of Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) temple in Manama.

India-Bahrain bilateral trade has been on the rise of about $1.3 billion in 2018-19. About 3,50,000 Indian nationals form the largest expatriate community in Bahrain for contributing to the development of Bahrain.

**President of India launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind planted a sapling of Maulsari in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate. They launched a plantation drive as part of Van
**Mahotsav celebrations.** The President met students and urged them to encourage fellow citizens to plant more trees and reaffirm our commitment to a greener and sustainable planet.

As part of Van Mahotsav celebrations, the President's Secretariat, over the next few weeks, will be planting **3,252 trees** and **2,962 shrubs** in the President's Estate. They include ornamental and fruit trees like Peepal, Neem, Maulsari, Champa, Gul Mohur, Mango, Chiko, Anjir and Amrud.

Presidents Estate spread over **330 acres harbours** a rich biodiversity. Noted trees of the Estate include, Sita Ashok, Bistendu, Shisham, Gab, Gourd Trees, Wild Almond, Lemon-Scented Gum, Doon Siris.

**Van Mahotsav History**

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting movement in India. It began in the year 1950. The national importance that millions and millions of saplings are planted all across India in observation of the Van Mahotsav week. It is generally celebrated in the first week of July or from 1st of July till the 7th of July. 7th of July is the ending of the first week.

**PM Modi visits France**

**Prime Minister Modi** is paying a two-day state visit to **France** from **22 August** ahead **G-7 meeting.** Modi and his French counterpart **President Emmanuel Macron** held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors. They also discussed the governments move to suspend **Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir** and split the State into two Union Territories.

France confirmed that it will support any policy that would give the region stability. It also added that no one should provoke violence in the region. It said that the issues should be resolved between India and Pakistan and no other party should be involved.

**Modi invited for G-7 Summit:**

Prime Minister Modi has been invited for the G-7 summit that is to be held on **August 25.** The summit is to held in **Biarritz, France.** G-7 summit will include talks about the scrapping of Article 370.

The French invite to India is not the first time India will be at this G-7 global high table. Then prime minister Manmohan Singh had attended the G-8 +5 meet in Gleneagles in **Scotland in 2005** at the invitation of then British prime minister
Tony Blair.

**G-7 summit:**

The **Group of 7 (G-7) industrialized nations meet** is organized by France in Biarritz in August 2019. The invitation by France clearly reflects the strong strategic connect between **India and France**. The G-7 groups constitute of the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany.
QUIZ CORNER

1) Who inaugurated International Conference on Teacher Education?

A. Shri Dinesh Gupta  
B. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
D. Shri Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Answer D

Explanation Union Minister Shri Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated International Conference on Teacher Education.

2) What is the new name of Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha?

A. British Residency  
B. Atal Chowk  
C. Chota Imambara  
D. Dilkusha Kothi

Answer B

Explanation Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as

3) World Humanitarian Day is observed on ______.

A. November 16  
B. September 18  
C. August 19  
D. October 17

Answer C

Explanation World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19.

4) Which country participation at WorldSkills International Competition as big as the Olympics?
A. Indonesia
B. India
C. Pakistan
D. Saudi Arabia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India participation at WorldSkills International Competition as big as the Olympics.

5) When is World Photography Day observed?

A. 30th November
B. 19th August
C. 21st August
D. 22nd October

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Photography Day observed on 19th August.

6) Which country clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan.

7) Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by

A. Vikram Sharma
B. S Shrikrishna
C.Kreishh Gurbaxani
D.Dinesh Gupta

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by Kreishh Gurbaxani.

**8) Which state government launches School Fagadaba scheme**

A.Odisha
B.Manipur
C.Kerala
D.TamilNadu

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Manipur state government launches School Fagadaba scheme.

**9) Where the Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held?**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan

**19 August 2019 Current Affairs:**

**10) Among the given days, which day is observed on 19th August?**

A.World Humanitarian Day
B.World Organ day
C.World Heart Day
D.World HIV Day

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Humanitarian Day is observed on 19th August
11) Which city Hazratganj Chauraha is located?

A. Lucknow  
B. Bihar  
C. Jaipur  
D. Ranchi

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as

12) India clinched ______ at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India clinched Gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan.

13) Where is the headquarters of Income Tax department located?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of Income Tax department located in New Delhi.

14) At which category did India won gold at Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan
A. Under 16 category
B. Under 12 category
C. Under 18 category
D. Under 19 category

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship. The event held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the score 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title.

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15) Which scheme was launched by Manipur Govt?

A. Atal Pension Yojana
B. School Fagadaba scheme
C. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme
D. Gramin Bhandaran Yojana

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched School Fagadaba (Make education better) scheme. The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.

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16) Where was the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019 held?

A. Japan
B. Uzbekistan
C. Czech Republic
D. Spain

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019 held in the Czech Republic.

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17) Who won gold in the men’s 300m category at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019?

A. Suresh Sathya
B. Jata Shankar
C. Mohammad Anas
D. Anand Shetty

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian sprinter Mohammad Anas won gold at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in the Czech Republic. He won gold in the men's 300m category respectively. Muhammed Anas clocked 32.41 seconds to claim gold in the event.

18) Who won gold in the women's 300m category at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019?

A. Hima Das  
B. Neeraj Chopra  
C. Dutee Chand  
D. Tintu Lukka

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian sprinter Hima Das won gold at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in the Czech Republic. She won gold in the women's 300m category. This is her 6th gold medal this year 2019. On July 20, she clinched gold in her pet 400m event at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.

19) The World Youth Chess Championship 2019 is to be held in ________.

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

**Answer D**

**Explanation** For the first time ever, India is to host the World Youth Chess Championship 2019. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) won the bid to conduct the World Youth and Junior Chess championships 2019 in the country. The championship will be held from 1 October to 13 October 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

20) Which Country is to host World Youth Chess Championship 2019?
A. Japan  
B. India  
C. China  
D. Germany

**Answer B**

**Explanation** For the first time ever, India is to host the World Youth Chess Championship 2019. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) won the bid to conduct the World Youth and Junior Chess championships 2019 in the country.

21) What are the articles does the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution includes provisions for the administration of tribal areas?

A. Articles 222(2a) and 245(D)  
B. Articles 245(2) and 262(1a)  
C. Articles 244(2) and 275(1)  
D. Articles 216(2b) and 256

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution makes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The schedule includes Articles 244(2) and 275(1). It provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils.

22) _________ Schedule of the Indian Constitution makes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

A. 4th  
B. 5th  
C. 6th  
D. 8th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution makes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The schedule includes Articles 244(2) and 275(1). It provides for the administration of tribal areas in
the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils.

23) Ladakh seeks ________ status to protect their land, culture and identity.
A. tribal-area
B. restricted-area
C. government-concerned
D. it didn't seek any status

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Leaders of Ladakh have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a tribal-area status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The move comes as the people are concerned to protect their land, culture and identity after the abrogation of article 370 and the announcement of Ladakh as a Union Territory.

24) Centre has chosen __________ as the pension fund manager for the PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme.
A. SBI
B. ICICI
C. LIC
D. HDFC

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Centre has established a pension fund for the implementation of the PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme. Centre has chosen the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India as the pension fund manager. Hence, it will be responsible for managing the pension fund, central recordkeeping agency and responsible for pension payout.

25) Under Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme, traders above 60 age will get ________ as monthly pension.
A. Rs.2,000
B. Rs.3,000
C. Rs.4,000
D. Rs.6,000
Answer B

Explanation Under Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme, traders aged between 18 and 40 who have an annual turnover of less than Rs.1.5 crore are eligible. The subscribers should contribute a monthly amount that will be matched by the government. The amount will vary depending on the age at which they enter the scheme. Upon turning 60, the subscribers will get Rs.3,000 as monthly pension.

26) How much has the centre reserved for the PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme?

A. Rs.2500 crore
B. Rs.1250 crore
C. Rs.900 crore
D. Rs.750 crore

Answer D

Explanation The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme aims to target enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-2020 and 2 crore by 2023-2024. The pension scheme was modelled for unorganized sector workers. In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Centre has reserved Rs.750 crore for the scheme.

27) Which of the following is the pension scheme for small traders?

A. PM Vyapari Samaaj penshan scheme
B. PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme
C. PM Khula Vyapari penshan scheme
D. None of these

Answer B

Explanation The NDA-led government in its second term is to launch Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme on 19 August. The pension scheme for small traders functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The proposal for the scheme was approved by the cabinet on May 31, 2019. The scheme was notified by the Ministry on July 22.

28) PM Modi launched __________ in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments.
A. Paytm  
B. RuPay  
C. PhonePe  
D. None of these  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** PM Modi launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism. He launched it by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong. It currently functions as a monastic and administrative centre, It was built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.

29) _________ and IITs and other top educational institutions of India are to collaborate for education and technology.

A. Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan  
B. Royal Thimphu College  
C. Sherubtse College  
D. Royal Bhutan University

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Royal Bhutan University and IITs and other top educational institutions of India are to collaborate for education and technology.

30) Which of the following hydroelectric power plant did PM Modi inaugurate during his visit to Bhutan?

A. Basochhu hydropower Plant  
B. Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant  
C. Rangjung hydroelectric power plant  
D. Chenary hydroelectric power plant

**Answer B**

**Explanation** PM Modi also inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant which was built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. The cost of the 720MW plant was Rs.4,500 crore.

31) The recently found fish species Glyptothorax gopii is from __________.
A. Assam
B. Tripura
C. Arunachal Pradesh
D. Mizoram

Answer D

Explanation: Glyptothorax gopii, a new species of catfish was found in Mizorams Kaladan river. This species measured 63 mm standard length without caudal fin. It has an axe-shaped anterior nuchal plate which makes it distinct from other species of the genus Glyptothorax.

32) Garra Simbalaranaensis, the recently found new fish species is from ________.

A. Shimla
B. J&K
C. Himachal Pradesh
D. Assam

Answer C

Explanation: Garra Simbalaranaensis was found in Himachal Pradeshs Simbalbara river. Garra simbalaranaensis measured 69 mm standard length without caudal fin. It has a yellowish-grey colour fading ventrally.

33) Which team retain top-spot in ICC test rankings?

A. England
B. Australia
C. Pakistan
D. India

Answer D

Explanation: ICC Indian skipper Virat Kohli retained the top spot in the Test batsmen's rankings. It is officially released by the International Cricket Council in Dubai.

34) Who won JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019?
A. Suresh Sharma
B. Dinesh Karthick
C. Vikram Sharma
D. K Thangaraj

**Answer D**

**Explanation** K Thangaraj, chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, Telangana, won this year's J C Bose Fellowship.

35) **Which country is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO2) in the world?**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO2) in the world. Greenpeace Report

36) **Who became MCC Honorary Life member?**

A. David Warner
B. Mitchell Johnson
C. Aaron Finch
D. Adama Zampa

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Former Australian player Mitchell Johnson elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

37) **Indian Railways planned for _________ stations to get 1000 Wi-Fi Spots**

A. 3900
B. 3000
C. 2500
Indian Railways planned for 3000 stations to get 1000 Wi-Fi Spots.

38) ________ aims to eliminate debit cards
A. Canara Bank
B. State Bank of India
C. Dena Bank
D. Reserve Bank of India

Answer B
Explanation State Bank of India aims to eliminate debit cards

39) Sadbhavana Diwas observed on ________
A. 28 November
B. 20 August
C. 25 September
D. 26 October

Answer B
Explanation Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August. This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged.

40) Who is appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army?
A. Rajesh Sharma
B. Shavendra Silva
C. Vikram Sharma
D. Dinesh Kumar

Answer B
Explanation Shavendra Silva is appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
41) Centre is to set up Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) in ________.

A. Gujarat  
B. Assam  
C. Maharashtra  
D. Kerala

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Centre is planning to set up India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) in Gujarat. The aim is to boost the chemical industry in India.

42) When was the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) established?

A. 2015  
B. 2016  
C. 2017  
D. 2018

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) was established in 2017. It is located in Ranchi, Jharkhand. It functions under the Department of Chemicals and petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

43) Who is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers?

A. D.V. Sadananda Gowda  
B. Mahendra Nath Pandey  
C. Dharmendra Pradhan  
D. Giriraj Singh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Devaragunda Venkappa Sadananda Gowda is currently serving as the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers in the Government of India in the Second Modi Ministry representing
the Bangalore North constituency. He had also served as the 20th Chief Minister of Karnataka.

44) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is also planning to set up a Plastic Waste Management Centre in ____________.

A. Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
B. Panaji, Goa  
C. Mumbai, Maharashtra  
D. Jaipur, Rajasthan

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is also planning to set up a Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad. The centre will work to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

45) Where will the fifth meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission be held?

A. Kathmandu  
B. Pokhara  
C. New Delhi  
D. Kolkata

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission is to take place from August 21 to 22, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar is to participate in the meeting. He will co-chair the meeting along with his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

46) Who is to co-chair the 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission?

A. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi  
B. S. Jaishankar  
C. Arvind Ganpat Sawant  
D. Ramesh Pokhriyal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission is to take place from August
21 to 22, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S.Jaishankar is to participate in the meeting. He will co-chair the meeting along with his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

47) The 4th meeting of the Commission was held in October 2016 in __________.

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 4th meeting of the Commission was held in October 2016 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by the Honble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, from Nepali side and His Excellency Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, from Indian side.

48) Mohammed Zahur Hashmi who passed away recently is a veteran __________.

A. politician  
B. teacher  
C. musician  
D. wrestler

**Answer C**

**Explanation** An eminent composer Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passed away on 19 August. He was 92 years old. He died because of prolonged illnesses. He famously known as Khayyam. He is best known for his music in classic films such as 'Kabhi Kabhie' and 'Umrao Jaan'.

49) Which of the following musician, who recently passed away, was famously known as Khayyam?

A. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi  
B. Shivkumar Sharma  
C. Bhimsen Joshi  
D. Ali Akbar Khan
Answer A

Explanation An eminent composer Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passed away on 19 August. He was 92 years old. He died because of prolonged illnesses. He famously known as Khayyam. He is best known for his music in classic films such as 'Kabhi Kabhie' and 'Umrao Jaan'.

50) Where is the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council located?

A.Manipur  
B.Tripura  
C.Assam  
D.Meghalaya

Answer C

Explanation Karbi Anglong district is one of the 33 administrative districts of the state of Assam in India. The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Assam.

51) Who is the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

A.Imran Khan  
B.Mamnoon Hussain  
C.Farooq Leghari  
D.Muhammad Rafiq Tarar

Answer A

Explanation Imran Khan is the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

52) Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the ________

A.Iran Army  
B.Sri Lankan Army  
C.Indian Army  
D.South Africa Army

Answer B

Explanation Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army.
53) Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB won JC Bose Fellowship for the year __________
A. 2016  
B. 2018  
C. 2019  
D. 2017  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB won JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019.

54) Where is the Headquarters of State Bank of India?
A. New Delhi  
B. Mumbai  
C. Chennai  
D. Hyderabad  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of State Bank of India is Mumbai.

55) Where is the headquarters of Indian railways
A. Ranchi  
B. New Delhi  
C. Chennai  
D. Secunderabad  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of Indian railways is New Delhi.

56) Who is the present minister of Indian Railways?
A. Shri Piyush Goyal  
B. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar  


D. Shri Suresh Sharma

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Shri Piyush Goyal is the present minister of Indian Railways.

57) **India is to train the ________ civil services officers as per the agreement as per the MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme.**

A. Maldivian  
B. Sri Lankan  
C. Chinese  
D. Nepalese

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil services officers training has been made operationalized in the ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of Maldives at Male. The training will take place in three phases upon the agreement between the two countries. The first 3 training programs will be held in September and November for 60 officers and in December for 30 officers of top management level.

58) **When did India sign a MoU with Maldives for Training and Capacity Building Programme?**

A. January 2018  
B. May 2018  
C. December 2018  
D. June 2019

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Maldives on 8 June. PM’s visit to the Maldives reflects the importance India attaches to its Neighbourhood First policy. 6 MoUs were signed. As per the MoU, the India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil services officers training has been made operationalized in the ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of Maldives at Male.

59) **What is the Capital of Maldives?**
60) Where is the Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) located?

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

Answer B

Explanation The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has established a comprehensive global network of ground stations to provide Telemetry, Tracking and Command (TTC) support to satellite and launch vehicle missions. These facilities are grouped under ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) with its headquarters at Bangalore, India.

61) Where is the Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) located?

A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Karnataka  
D. Maharashtra

Answer C

Explanation Indian Deep Space Network is a network of large antennas and communication facilities operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation to support the interplanetary spacecraft missions of India. Its hub is located at Byalalu, a village about 25 kilometres from Bengaluru, India.
62) Who launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan?

A. Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
B. Shri Suresh Kumar  
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
D. Shri Nitin Gadkari

Answer A  

Explanation Shri Ram Nath Kovind launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

63) Which country agree to strengthen cooperation in addressing maritime issues along with Coast Guards of India

A. Sri Lanka  
B. South Africa  
C. Indonesia  
D. Saudi Arabia

Answer A  

Explanation Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka agree to strengthen cooperation in addressing maritime issues.

64) Who reviewed the functioning of IMAC, IFC-IOR?

A. Shri Rajesh Sharma  
B. Shri Rajnath Singh  
C. Shri Arun Jaitley  
D. Shri Dinesh Gupta

Answer B  

Explanation Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the functioning of IMAC, IFC-IOR.

65) Who signs MoU with NISE to achieve national solar mission

A. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU)  
B. Jawaharlal Nehru University
C. Jamia Millia Islamia  
D. Panjab University

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) signs MoU with NISE to achieve national solar mission.

66) **How many awards did Prasar Bharathi in honor of Neelum Sharma?**

A. 2  
B. 4  
C. 5  
D. 6

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Prasar Bharati introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma.

67) **Which state government categorised Nicotine as Class A poison?**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Karnataka Government categorised Nicotine as Class A poison.

68) **Which country allows women to travel abroad without permission from male guardian?**

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

**Answer B**
Saudia Arabia allows women to travel abroad without permission from male guardian.

69) Which channel introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma?

A. CNN - IBN  
B. Times Now  
C. Prasar Bharati  
D. NDTV

**Answer C**

Explanation Prasar Bharati channel introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma.

70) Who is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka?

A. Mangala Samaraweera  
B. Ranil Wickremesinghe  
C. Maithripala Sirisena  
D. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa

**Answer B**

Explanation Ranil Wickremesinghe is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

71) Who hands over design of Mobile Metallic Rampto Indian Army

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

**Answer B**

Explanation DRDO hands over design of Mobile Metallic Rampto Indian Army.

72) Who is the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia

A. Muqrin bin Abdulaziz
B. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
C. Mohammad bin Salman
D. Ibn Saud

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

73) **IIT-Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins made from composite _________**.

A. banana fiber  
B. apple fiber  
C. strawberries fiber  
D. orange fiber

**Answer A**

**Explanation** An IIT-Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins that is made from composite banana fiber. These napkins can last up to 2 years and can be reused around 120 times.

74) **Which Country boycotted the 19th SAARC summit which was supposed to be held in 2016?**

A. Pakistan  
B. India  
C. Sri Lanka  
D. Nepal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 19th SAARC summit was supposed to held in 2016. But the summit was canceled after India boycotted the meeting. India protested after the terror attack at the military base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 2016. The attack killed 19 soldiers. After India boycotted the SAARC summit countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan walked out. India's decision is to set up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. India also declared that it will participate only if Pakistan took steps to tackle terrorism.
75) When was the 18th SAARC summit held?
A.2012
B.2014
C.2016
D.2018

Answer B

Explanation The eighteenth summit of 'South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation' (SAARC) was held in Kathmandu, the capital of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal during 26-27 November 2014.

76) Where was the 18th SAARC summit held?
A. Nepal
B. Thailand
C. Bangladesh
D. Bhutan

Answer A

Explanation The eighteenth summit of 'South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation' (SAARC) was held in Kathmandu, the capital of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal during 26-27 November 2014.

77) Where is the headquarters of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) located?
A. Columbo
B. New Delhi
C. Bangkok
D. Kathmandu

Answer D

Explanation The SAARC headquarter is located in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. There are 8 member countries in SAARC.

78) When will the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session be held?
74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session has been planned to be held in the month of September 2019.

79) Which Country plans to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session?

A. India  
B. Sri Lanka  
C. Thailand  
D. Nepal

Answer D

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

80) Which Country recently test fired a 500 kilometers range ground-based cruise missile at San Nicolas Island?

A. US  
B. North Korea  
C. Russia  
D. Japan

Answer A

The United States tested a new ground-based cruise missile that is capable covering 500 kilometers in range at San Nicolas Island, California, the US. This range of missiles were banned in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty signed between the US and Russia. This is the first missile test done by the US after withdrawing from the INF treaty.
81) What is the load-bearing capacity of new Mobile Metallic Ramp which was given by DRDO to Army?

A. 200 metric ton  
B. 180 metric ton  
C. 110 metric ton  
D. 70 metric ton

Answer D

Explanation: The MMR was designed and developed by DRDOs Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES). The MMR has a load-bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT). The newly designed MMR is easily portable, modular in design and can be easily assembled or disassembled.

82) Who is the Secretary of Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO?

A. Dr Maitreyee Nanda  
B. Avinash Chander  
C. Dr. G Satheesh Reddy  
D. V. K. Saraswat

Answer C

Explanation: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy is an Indian Aerospace Scientist. He is the current Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, Government of India and Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency.

83) DRDO delivered the new Mobile Metallic Ramp to _________.

A. Indian Army  
B. Indian Air Force  
C. Central Reserve Police Force  
D. Border Security Force

Answer A

Explanation: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) delivered the design of the newly innovated Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army at a ceremony held at
DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. The design of MMR was handed over by Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), Lt Gen Devraj Anbu.

84) Who is the 3rd Indian PM to complete two full terms as the PM?

A. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
B. Former Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral  
C. Former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao  
D. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Answer D

Explanation Manmohan Singh is the third Indian prime minister to complete two full terms as the PM. He was the country's Prime Minister for two consecutive terms between 2004 and 2014. Manmohan Singh was a Rajya Sabha member for five consecutive terms from 1991 to 2019. Singh was a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam for almost three decades.

85) Who was elected as the member of Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan to fill the vacancy caused due to the death of Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini?

A. Former Education Minister M. M. Pallam Raju  
B. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh  
C. Former Home Affairs Minister Sushilkumar Shinde  
D. Former Home Affairs Minister P. Chidambaram

Answer B

Explanation The Former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. He was declared elected unopposed as the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the by-poll ended on 19th August.

86) When was the MoU for the cooperation in the Disability Sector between India and Australia signed?

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019
Answer C

Explanation During the visit of the President of India to Australia on November 2018, the Government of India and the Government of Australia signed an MoU for Cooperation in Disability Sector. A follow up for the implementation of the MoU was taken in 2019 February.

87) Where was the meeting between Indian and Australian delegations regarding the MoU signed for the cooperation in the Disability Sector held?

A.New Delhi  
B.Mumbai  
C.Melbourne  
D.Canberra

Answer A

Explanation The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot met 5 member-Australian Delegation in New Delhi. The Australian Delegation was headed by Mr.Duncan Maskell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. The discussion included the issues relating to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries and for the cooperation in the Disability Sector.

88) With which country did India sign a MoU for the cooperation in the Disability Sector?

A.China  
B.Russia  
C.North Korea  
D.Australia

Answer D

Explanation During the visit of the President of India to Australia on November 2018, the Government of India and the Government of Australia signed an MoU for Cooperation in Disability Sector. A follow up for the implementation of the MoU was taken in 2019 February. As per the MoU, the Indian government took action for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which included enactment of the RPwD Act, 2016.

89) Who is the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment?
A.Gajendra Singh Shekhawat  
B.Thaawarchand Gehlot  
C.Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi  
D.Dharmendra Pradhan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Dr. Thawar Chand Gehlot is the current Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment in the NDA Government. He is currently the leader of the upper house of Indian Parliament.

90) **Which of the following State was severely affected by the Cyclone Fani?**

A.Madhya Pradesh  
B.Odisha  
C.Tamil Nadu  
D.Karnataka

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani the strongest tropical cyclone to strike the Indian state of Odisha since Phailin in 2013. Fani originated from a tropical depression that formed west of Sumatra in the Indian Ocean on 26 April.

91) **How much did the Centre release for the Odisha, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh as relief fund?**

A.Rs.3,650 crore  
B.Rs.5125.35 crore  
C.Rs.4432.10 crore  
D.Rs.3,842.75 crore

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Union Minister Shri Amit Shah-led high-Level Committee (HLC) approved Rs.4432.10 crore to three States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Of the fund released by the Centre Rs.3338.22 crore will be given to Odisha for Cyclone Fani, Rs.1029.39 crore to Karnataka for drought and Rs.64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh.

92) **Babulal Gaur who passed away recently is a _____**
A. Singer
B. Economist
C. Entrepreneur
D. Politician

Answer D

Explanation On 21st August, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away at a private hospital due to cardiac arrest. He was suffering from various old-age ailments and hospitalised for quite some time.

93) Who to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi?

A. Shri Nitish Sharma
B. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
C. Shri Vikram Sharma
D. Shri Suresh Kumar

Answer B

Explanation Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi.

94) Who launches SARAL State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index?

A. Shri Suresh Sharma
B. Shri RK Singh
C. Shri Vikram Singh
D. Shri Dinesh Gupta

Answer B

Explanation Shri RK Singh launches SARAL State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index.

95) India holds _________ Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi

A. 16th
B. 12th
C. 9th
D. 11th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India holds 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi.

96) **Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by ____________**

A. 2030
B. 2020
C. 2022
D. 2025

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by 2020.

97) **Which company partners with IISc on robotics and 5G?**

A. Infosys
B. Wipro
C. Samsung
D. Nokia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Wipro company partners with IISc on robotics and 5G.

98) **SEBI announces reward of ____________ to insider trading informants**

A. 8 crores
B. 1 crore
C. 5 crore
D. 6 crores

**Answer B**

**Explanation** SEBI announces reward of Rs 1 crore to insider trading informants
99) ________ commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change

A. Iceland
B. Greece
C. Pakistan
D. Saudi Arabia

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Iceland commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change

100) Who was conferred with Pushkin Medal 2019?

A. Meeta Narain
B. Suresh Kumar
C. Vikram Sharma
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Meeta Narain conferred with Pushkin Medal 2019

101) National Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in _____

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** National Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in New Delhi.

102) Housing for All will be achieved ______ years in advance by 2020

A. 2
B. 5
C. 6
D. 8
Answer A

Explanation  Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by 2020.

103) Wipro partners with IISc on robotics and ___________

A. 3G  
B. 5G  
C. 4G  
D. 2G

Answer B

Explanation  Wipro partners with IISc on robotics and 5G.

104) India holds 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in ___________

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

Answer B

Explanation  India holds 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi.

105) What is the name of the book which is launched by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel?

A. The Diary of Manu Gandhi  
B. The God of Small Things  
C. Such a Long Journey  
D. Interpreter of Maladies

Answer A

Explanation  Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi.
106) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in _____
A. Hyderabad
B. Mumbai
C. New Delhi
D. Chennai

Answer C

Explanation Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi.

107) ____________ commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change
A. Australia
B. Iceland
C. Greenland
D. Switzerland

Answer B

Explanation Iceland commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change

108) Who is the Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture?
A. Prahlad Singh Patel
B. Nirmala seethraman
C. Arun kumar
D. Bipin Choudhary

Answer A

Explanation The one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers concluded successfully. This meet was Organized and inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

109) Which version of the new Incredible India portal was launched by the Tourism Minister one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers
concluded recently?

A. English
B. Hindi
C. Tamil
D. Japanese

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Tourism Minister launched the Hindi version of the new Incredible India portal at one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers concluded the conference.

110) Where was the one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers held?

A. Mumbai
B. Shimla
C. Itanagar
D. New Delhi

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Union Ministry of Tourism organized a one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers in New Delhi. The meet was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

111) The Ministry of Tourism & Culture is planning to launch the new Incredible India portal in _________ language/languages.

A. Arabic
B. Chinese
C. Spanish
D. All the above

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Tourism Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Hindi version of the New Incredible India portal at the conference. He announced that the Ministry is planning to launch the new Incredible India website in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish.

112) How many categories of award will be given under the National sports...
awards 2019?

A.3 
B.4 
C.5 
D.6 

**Answer C**

**Explanation** All the winners of National Sports Awards are awarded under 5 categories of awards like The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (most outstanding performance), Arjuna Award (outstanding performance), Dronacharya Award (for coaches), Dhyan Chand Award (lifetime achievement), Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award.

113) Who is the head of the National sports committee that judges the winners of the National sports awards 2019?

A. Former Supreme Court judge Mukundakam Sharma (Retd) 
B. Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir 
C. Former Chief Justice of India P. Sathasivam 
D. Former Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph 

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A 12 member National sports committee headed by the former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma has selected the awardees for 2019. The committee constitutes of members including the Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Jhulaniya, the Sports Authority of India Director Sandeep Pradhan, TOPS CEO Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan, Mary Kom, Bhutia etc.

114) The National sports awards 2019 will be given on the birth anniversary of__________.

A. Neville D'Souza 
B. Dhyan Chand 
C. Mohammed Salim 
D. Anil Kumar Prakas 

**Answer B**
**Explanation** The National sports awards 2019 will be given on the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand which is celebrated as the National Sports Day on August 29.

115) When is the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand celebrated?

A. August 16  
B. September 15  
C. August 29  
D. September 30

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has announced the awardees of the National sports awards 2019. The award recognizes the successive persons in the field of games and sports. The President of India will award the awardees at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The awards will be given on the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand which is celebrated as the National Sports Day on August 29.

116) Who is appointed as the Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence?

A. Dr. Ajay Kumar  
B. Shri Subhash Chandra  
C. Shri Sanjay Mitra  
D. Dr. Venu Gopal

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Dr. Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Dr Kumar will replace Shri Sanjay Mitra as his tenure ends on 23 August.

117) Dr. Ajay Kumar will replace _________ as the Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.

A. Bharathi Hollikeri  
B. Parikipandla Narahari  
C. Shri Sanjay Mitra  
D. PS Pradyumna
Answer C

Explanation Dr. Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Dr Kumar will replace Shri Sanjay Mitra as his tenure ends on 23 August.

118) Who is appointed as the Secretary of Defence Production by ACC?

A. Surendra Kumar Solanki  
B. Poma Tudu  
C. Mir Mohamed Ali  
D. Shri Subhash Chandra

Answer D

Explanation The ACC has cleared the appointment of Shri Subhash Chandra as Secretary of Defence Production. He is currently the Special Secretary Defence. He will replace Dr Kumar. Subhash Chandra is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre.

119) Who is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years?

A. Rajiv Gauba  
B. Ajay Kumar  
C. Subash Venkat  
D. DC Rajappa

Answer A

Explanation The Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years. Gauba is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre.

120) Who is the current and 31st Cabinet Secretary of India?

A. Subash Venkat  
B. Umesh Chand  
C. Dhayanand Kumar  
D. Pradeep Kumar Sinha

Answer D
Explanation Pradeep Kumar Sinha is a 1977 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, who is the 31st Cabinet Secretary of India. Prior to this appointment he served as the Power Secretary of India, and was the Shipping Secretary of India before that.

121) Ministry of Human Resource Development launched __________, which aims to train over 42 lakh teachers to boost education?

A.REIL  
B.NISHTHA  
C.TEACH-2019  
D.ITEC

Answer B  

Explanation The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA). It aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers to boost education and employment focusing on reskilling the teaching workforce.

122) National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) programme is a ________ days programme of the Government.

A.50  
B.75  
C.100  
D.150

Answer C  

Explanation National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) programme is a 100 days programme of the Government. The training modules are developed at the national level for all States and UTs with their own material. The integrated programme will train all teachers as first-level counselors and responsive needs of the students in promoting joyful learning.

123) When is the World Senior Citizens Day observed?

A.15 August  
B.13 August  
C.17 August
World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August across the world. The day is observed every year. The day aims to increase awareness about the issues that affect older adults. It also provides an opportunity to appreciate the elders for their dedication, accomplishments, and the services they give throughout their lives.

124) Who chairs the 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji?

A. Shri Vikram Sharma
B. Shri Amit Shah
C. Shri Dinesh Gupta
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Panaji (Goa).

125) Who approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy?

A. Shri RK Singh
B. Shri Suresh Kumar
C. Shri Vikram Singh
D. Shri Dinesh gupta

Answer A

Explanation Shri RK Singh approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.

126) Tourism ministry announces new _________ visa and other e-visa relaxations in the works

A. 4 year
B. 5 year
C. 3 year
D. 2 year
Tourism ministry announces new 5 year visa and other e-visa relaxations in the works.

127) FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles from ___________

A. September 2019  
B. December 2019  
C. November 2019  
D. October 2019

Answer B

Explanation FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019.

128) Which bank permits processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring merchant payments?

A. Reserve Bank of India  
B. State Bank of India  
C. HDFC Bank  
D. Canara Bank

Answer A

Explanation Reserve Bank of India bank permits processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring merchant payments.

129) Which company announces partnership with fintech ZestMoney to offer credit insurance?

A. Acko General Insurance  
B. Reliance General Insurance  
C. Oriental Insurance Company  
D. Tata AIG General Insurance

Answer A

Explanation Acko General Insurance company announces partnership with fintech ZestMoney to
offer credit insurance.

130) _______________ to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach

A. Syed Abid Ali  
B. Vikram Rathour  
C. Brijesh Patel  
D. Gopal Bose

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Vikram Rathour to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach.

131) Which bank joined with BookMyForex for foreign exchange travel card?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** BookMyForex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card

132) ____________ to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

133) Which company inaugurates its worlds largest campus in Hyderabad?

A. Myntra  
B. Amazon
Amazon company inaugurates its world's largest campus in Hyderabad

134) Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the _______ fastest growing market globally

A. 6th  
B. 10th  
C. 8th  
D. 9th

Answer B

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

135) _________ confirms Europa Clipper Mission

A. Indian Institute of Chemical Technology  
B. NASA  
C. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research  
D. Central Institute for Cotton Research institutions

Answer B

Explanation NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission.

136) WWF and _____________tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans

A. NDTV  
B. Discovery  
C. Times Now  
D. News Bharati

Answer B

Explanation WWF and Discovery tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans.
137) International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief observed on __________
A. July 15  
B. August 22  
C. September 25  
D. October 15

**Answer B**

**Explanation** International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief observed on August 22.

138) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on __________
A. November 16  
B. August 23  
C. September 25  
D. October 26

**Answer B**

**Explanation** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on August 23

139) RBI allows recurring transactions up to __________ on cards from Sep 1
A. 6800  
B. 2000  
C. 5600  
D. 8500

**Answer B**

**Explanation** RBI allows recurring transactions up to 2000 on cards from Sep 1

140) Who distributed the Poshan Abhiyan Awards for 2018-19?
A. Shri Prakash Javedakar
B.Smt Smriti Irani
C.Shri Suresh Kumar
D.Shri Nitish Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Smt Smriti Irani distributed the Poshan Abhiyan Awards for 2018-19

141) ________ team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan.

142) Which country would not accept interference or mediation in its internal affairs?

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India would not accept interference or mediation in its internal affairs

143) Who took 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019?

A.Bradley Cooper
B.Akshay Kumar
C.Adam Sandler
D.Will Smith

**Answer B**
Explanation Akshay Kumar took 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019.

144) Where will the G-7 Summit 2019 held?

A. Spain  
B. France  
C. Italy  
D. India  

Answer B

Explanation Prime Minister Modi has been invited for the G-7 summit that is to be held on August 25. The summit is to held in Biarritz, France. G-7 summit will include talks about the scrapping of Article 370.

145) What is the capital of France?

A. Rome  
B. Madrid  
C. Paris  
D. Amsterdam  

Answer C

Explanation Paris is the capital city of France, as well as the country's largest city. The city has an approximate area of 41 square miles with a population of 2,206,488 people as of 2018.

146) Who is the President of France?

A. Emmanuel Macron  
B. Nicolas Sarkozy  
C. Marine Le Pen  
D. Francois Fillon  

Answer A

Explanation Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frdric Macron is the President of France since May 2017. He was born in Amiens, Macron studied philosophy at Paris Nanterre University, later completing a Masters in Public Affairs at Sciences Po and graduating from the cole nationale d'administration in 2004.
147) Pakistan was _______ by Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

A. Black listed  
B. grey listed  
C. white listed  
D. red listed

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Pakistan has already been greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its plenary session.

148) Which country might be black-listed Asia-Pacific Group (APG)?

A. Afghanistan  
B. Iran  
C. Iraq  
D. Pakistan

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Asia-Pacific Group (APG), might blacklist Pakistan in the meeting that is held in Canberra, Australia, on 25 August. Pakistan has already been greylisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) at its plenary session.

149) Where was the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) 2019 meeting held?

A. US  
B. USA  
C. Australia  
D. Sweden

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Asia-Pacific Group (APG), might blacklist Pakistan in the meeting that is held in Canberra, Australia, on 25 August.

150) When was the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) formed?
A. 1991  
B. 1995  
C. 1997  
D. 1989  

**Answer C**  

**Explanation** APG was formed in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand. It aims to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. There is 41 member jurisdiction under APG. The Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close and Mr. Abu Hena Mohd. Razee Hassan co-chair APG.

**151) Where was the 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue between India and the U.S. officials held?**

A. California  
B. Chicago  
C. Seattle  
D. San Francisco  

**Answer A**  

**Explanation** The 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue between India and the U.S. officials is being held in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.

**152) When was the first 2+2 Dialogue was held?**

A. 2015  
B. 2018  
C. 2017  
D. 2016  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** The first 2+2 Dialogue was held in September 2018. After the dialogue India and the U.S. have had intense ties in the trade, strategic and defence aspects of relationship.

**153) Indian Government has opened ________ mountain peaks for mountaineering and trekking.**

A. 137
The Indian Government has opened 137 mountain peaks for foreigners desirous of obtaining Mountaineering Visa for mountaineering and trekking.

154) The 137 peaks that are opened for mountaineering and trekking are located in __________ states.
A. J&K, Himachal Pradesh
B. Uttarakhand, Sikkim
C. Assam, J&K
D. A and B

Answer D

Explanation The Indian Government has opened 137 mountain peaks for foreigners desirous of obtaining Mountaineering Visa for mountaineering and trekking. These peaks are located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

155) ASI has released an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region. Where is Vidarbha located?
A. Odisha
B. Bihar
C. Maharashtra
D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer C

Explanation Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) recent excavation at Maharashtra Phupgaon has revealed evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region. The excavation at the site was taken up between December 2018 and March 2019.

156) The excavations from Phupgaon, by ASI, dates back to ______.
A. 3rd C BCE and 2nd C BCE
B. 7th C BCE and 4th C BCE  
C. 6th C BCE and 3rd C BCE  
D. 9th C BCE and 5th C BCE

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The finding from Phupgaon by ASI indicated other Iron Age settlements of Vidarbha like Naikund, Mahurjhari, Bhagimori and Thakalkat. As per Chronological the site could be placed between 7th C BCE and 4th C BCE.

**157) Which Country has sent a humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS)?**

A. US  
B. China  
C. Russia  
D. Japan

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Russia has sent a humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS) on a 10-day mission to support the astronauts on board. The name of the humanoid robot is Fedor.

**158) What is the name of the humanoid robot that was sent to ISS by Russia?**

A. Travis  
B. Fedor  
C. Tracker  
D. Enchanteur

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Russia has sent a humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS) on a 10-day mission to support the astronauts on board. The name of the humanoid robot is Fedor. The Skybot F-850 became the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia after it was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 22 August.

**159) Which team VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme**

A. NITI Aayog
B. Income Tax Department  
C. SEBI  
D. Aadhaar  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme.

160) Which country to send humanoid robot to ISS  
A. South Africa  
B. Russia  
C. Scotland  
D. Indonesia  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Russia to send humanoid robot to ISS

161) India opens ________ mountain peaks for tourism  
A. 182  
B. 137  
C. 142  
D. 165  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** India opens 137 mountain peaks for tourism.

162) RBI allows recurring transactions up to ________ on cards from Sep 1  
A. 4600  
B. 2000  
C. 158  
D. 2500  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** RBI allows recurring transactions up to 2000 on cards from Sep 1
163) Which country to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India country to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs.

164) Shri Amit Shah chairs the _________ of Western Zonal Council at Panaji

A. 29th Meeting
B. 24th Meeting
C. 26th Meeting
D. 28th Meeting

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shri Amit Shah chairs the 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji.

165) Which state announces Rs. 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Odisha state announces Rs. 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City.

166) Odisha announces ____________ crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City

A. Rs 980
Odisha announces Rs 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City.

167) Centre Organised __________ for Divyangjan accessible toilets.

A.PwD Hackathon
B.Divyangjan Hackathon
C.San-Sadhan Hackathon
D.None of these

Answer C

Centre organised San-Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August. It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for Divyangjan accessible toilets.

168) First World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in _______________

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

Answer B

First World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in New Delhi

169) __________, a scheme by which a large number of taxpayers to close their pending disputes, will be operationalized from 1st September 2019 to 31st December 2019.

A.Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016
B.Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2017
C.Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2018
D.Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019
Answer D

Explanation The Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019 will be operationalized from 1st September 2019 to 31st December 2019. The scheme was announced by the Honble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2019-20.

170) Which country signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors

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

Answer A

Explanation India signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors

171) Where is the Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC) located?

A. Karnataka  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Odisha  
D. Telangana

Answer B

Explanation The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC) and Residential complex building of ALIMCO Headquarters at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 22 August.

172) Where is the headquarters of ALIMCO located?

A. Maharashtra  
B. Gujarat  
C. Punjab  
D. Uttar Pradesh
Answer D

Explanation ALIMCO is a Miniratna category - II CPSU under the ageis of DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India. ALIMCO is located at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

173) Which Country has unveiled an indigenous long-range, surface-to-air missile air defense system?

A. Iran  
B. Russia  
C. US  
D. Pakistan

Answer A

Explanation Iran has unveiled the Bavar-373 system, a defence missile system, on 22 August. The missile was unveiled by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Iran's National Defense Industry Day. Bavar-373 system is an indigenous long-range, surface-to-air missile air defense system. The missile is capable of targeting planes at more than 300 km, lock it at about 250 km and shooting down targets at a distance of 200 km. This missile is a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system.

174) Iran has unveiled the ________ system.

A. Bavar-373  
B. Bavar-432  
C. Iran-245  
D. Ranger-575

Answer A

Explanation Iran has unveiled the Bavar-373 system, a defence missile system, on 22 August. The missile was unveiled by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Iran's National Defense Industry Day.

175) Who is the President of Iran?

A. Ali Khamenei  
B. Mohammad Javad Zarif  
C. Hassan Rouhani
D. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Answer C

Explanation Hassan Rouhani is the current and seventh President of Iran since 3 August 2013. He was also a lawyer, academic, former diplomat and Islamic cleric.

176) Akshay Kumar takes ___________ spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019

A. 15th
B. 4th
C. 9th
D. 16th

Answer B

Explanation Akshay Kumar takes 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019.

177) When is the Iran's National Defense Industry Day observed?

A. 15 August
B. 22 August
C. 16 August
D. 20 August

Answer B

Explanation The Iran's National Defense Industry Day is observed on 22 August.

178) Which State topped the National Health Mission (NHM) ranking?

A. Karnataka
B. Bihar
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Rajasthan

Answer D

Explanation Rajasthan's free medicine scheme secured the highest position with first ranking
issued by the National Health Mission (NHM) among the sixteen states of the country. NHM free drug service was introduced by the Ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) for all states/UTs.

179) Who released the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) in New Delhi?

A. Ministry of Health and Human Welfare  
B. Ministry of Jal Shakti  
C. NITI Aayog  
D. Ministry of Finance

**Answer C**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog has released the Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) in New Delhi. The report was launched by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti. NITI Aayog has prepared the report to supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry. The CWMI 2.0 ranks varied states for the reference year 2017-18 as against 2016-17.

180) Which state allots free medicine scheme secures top rank

A. Rajasthan  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Kerala  
D. Bihar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Rajasthan state allots free medicine scheme secures top rank.

181) RBI allows recurring transactions up to ________ on cards from Sep 1

A. 4600  
B. 2000  
C. 2800  
D. 3400

**Answer B**
Explanation RBI allows recurring transactions up to 2000 on cards from Sep 1

182) Which country conducted anti-satellite test in March 2019?
   A. UAE
   B. Israel
   C. India
   D. China

   Answer C

Explanation India had shot down the Microsat-R satellite on March 27, 2019. It intended to demonstrate that it can shoot down the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country. India is only the fourth country to have demonstrated this capability.

183) India conducted anti-satellite test on ________ satellite in March 2019.
   A. GSAT-15
   B. Microsat-R
   C. CartoSat-2B
   D. GSAT-4

   Answer B

Explanation India had shot down the Microsat-R satellite on March 27, 2019. It intended to demonstrate that it can shoot down the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country. India is only the fourth country to have demonstrated this capability.

184) Indian Army signed MoU with ________ for the housing services of the Indian Army personnel.
   A. Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)
   B. Kolte Patil Developers
   C. Tata Realty & Housing
   D. Prestige Group

   Answer C

Explanation Indian Army signed a MoU with Tata Realty & Housing on 22 August 2019. It is a historic milestone achieved by the Indian Army.
185) MoEF has relaxed the mandatory charging of lease rent of ________ per MW for wind power projects.

A. Rs.80,000  
B. Rs.75,000  
C. Rs.48,000  
D. Rs.30,000  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change has announced that it is to relax the mandatory charging of lease rent of Rs. 30,000/- per MW for wind power projects. The announcement was made by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar at a review held in New Delhi on 22 August.

186) The first World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in ________.

A. India  
B. Afghanistan  
C. Thailand  
D. South Korea  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness on 23 August in New Delhi. The conference aimed to impart critical competencies like empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry in global youth. It aimed to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

187) Who organized the first World Youth Conference on Kindness?

A. UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development  
B. Ministry of Human Resource Development  
C. Ministry of Youth and Women Empowerment  
D. Only A and B  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The the first World Youth Conference was organised by the UNESCO Mahatma
188) How many officers were awarded the Smart Policing Awards 2019?

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

Answer C

Explanation
Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference which was held in New Delhi. 35 officers were awarded the Smart policing Awards.

189) Who instituted the Smart Policing Awards?

A. National Industrial Security Academy (NISA)
B. Common Integrated Police Application
C. Bharat Ke Veer
D. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

Answer D

Explanation
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) The award was instituted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The award has been instituted for best practices in Smart Policing in India.

190) Where was the Homeland Security 2019 conference held?

A. Mumbai
B. New Delhi
C. Bhubaneswar
D. Ahmedabad

Answer B

Explanation
Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019 conference which was held in New
Delhi. 35 officers were awarded the Smart policing Awards.

191) Who is the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions?

A. Prakash Javadekar  
B. Dr. Jitendra Singh  
C. Thawarchand Ghelot  
D. Piyush Goyal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Jitendra Singh is the Minister of State for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.
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