Russia to conduct 2019 Exercise TSENTR

PM Modi visited Russia

Vikram Lander lost its communication

1st Week Current Affairs September 2019

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BANKING & FINANCE

ICICI Bank installs Robotic-arm to count currency notes

India's ICICI Bank declared to be the first bank in the country to deploy industrial robotic arms to count currency notes. As per Bank's statement, it has deployed 14 machines in 12 cities to help sort more than six million notes on a typical day at its various currency chests.

The main aim is to bring in a frictionless and completely mechanized process of note-sorting, leading to higher accuracy and flexibility to handle large volumes continuously. It has enabled the bank personnel to focus on other value-added and supervisory functions.

The robotic arms are used to pick up processed cash from the bank's various branches and then sort them to be reset back to the branches. They use a combination of sensors to check more than 70 parameters per second, enabling them to operate for long periods without a break, said the bank.

It is the first in India and one of the few globally to have taken such steps. ICICI's robot deployment does, however, come four years after Japan's Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi announced plans to deploy mini humanoid robots in its branches.

ICICI Bank

Industry: Banking, Financial services
Founded: 5 January 1994
Key people: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

ESIC ties up with SBI for DBT facility

Employees State Insurance Corporation partnered with State Bank of India for direct transfer of benefits electronically into bank accounts of all stakeholders. The agreement signed between the two departments SBI Mill provide e-payment services directly to bank accounts of all ESIC beneficiaries and payees Without any manual intervention as an integrated and automated process. The bank would provide e-payment integration with the enterprise resource planning processes of ESIC through its cash management product e-payment technology platform. The e-payment integration would affect statutory benefit payments to ESIC beneficiaries. The new system will benefit all stakeholders of ESIC.
The Cabinet has approved a capital infusion plan worth **Rs.9,300 crore** for IDBI Bank. The bank will get the amount from its parent, Life Insurance Corp. of India. The aim of the move is to help narrow IDBI's losses and boost its lending capacity. The Cabinet cleared the IDBI Bank recapitalization plan with one-time infusion assets by the administration and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and shares of IDBI Bank jumped as much as 10.84% after the declaration.

**IDBI Bank and recapitalization plan:**
The fund infusion will empower IDBI Bank to come back to benefit and give the option of recovering its investment at an opportune time.
The government will provide a one-time recapitalization of **Rs.4,557 crore** to IDBI Bank and LIC will infuse **Rs.4,743 crore**. LIC has a **51%** share in IDBI Bank where 49% is with the government.
In August 2018, LIC bought a 51% stake in IDBI Bank from the government and infused 21,000 crore into it to revive the lender.

**CBDT enters into 26 APAs during the current Financial Year**
The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into **26 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)** in the first 5 months of the current financial year. The signing of these APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stand at 297 includes 32 **Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (BAPAs).**
1 is a BAPA entered into with the United Kingdom and the remaining 25 are Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs).
The BAPAs and UAPAs entered around various sectors and sub-sectors of the economy like Information Technology, Banking, Semiconductor, Power, Pharmaceutical, Hydrocarbon, Publishing, Automobile.
The international transactions covered in all these agreements, inter alia, include the following: -

- contract manufacturing
- provision of software development services
- back office engineering support service
- provision of back office (ITeS) support services
- provision of marketing support services
- payment of royalty for use of technology and brand
- trading and distribution
- payment of charter charges
- corporate guarantee
- intra-group services
- interest on financial instruments

The Indian APA program nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues.

**IDBI Bank to divest stake in insurance joint venture**

The Union cabinet approved infusing 9,300 crore into **IDBI Bank**, the lender announced plans to sell its stake in its insurance joint venture **IDBI Federal Life Insurance company**.

JP Morgan India Pvt. Ltd has been mandated for advising and managing a strategic review process for IDBI Federal Life Insurance Co. Ltd which may result in, inter alia, potential divestment of all or part of the stake held by IDBI Bank in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company. JP Morgan will invite expressions of interest by way of submission of comprehensive, non-binding proposal from potential investors for evaluating the potential transaction.

IDBI Bank owns 48% of the insurance company, Federal Bank and Ageas Insurance International NV own 26% each. **IDBI Banks exit from the insurance joint venture became necessary after state-owned Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) took a 51% stake in it in January and the bank started using its network to sell LIC products. Through the sale of a non-core asset, the LIC-controlled lender is trying to raise additional capital. IDBI Bank looking to sell its mutual fund business. The banks mutual fund business has assets under management of more than 9,000 crore. The final valuation of the business will depend primarily on the**
IDBI Bank looking for an investor in the insurance company. The three stakeholders looking to exit the business and initiated the process of hiring investment banks to manage the sale. The company valued upwards of 3,000 crores.

IDBI Bank's board approved a proposal to resume the process of selling its stake in the life insurance joint venture.

The directors of IDBI Bank at its meeting held on Monday, 21 January, 2019 approved in-principle the proposal to re-initiate divestment process of IDBI stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Co. Ltd subject to statutory/regulatory approvals.

IDBI Federal operates through a nationwide network of more than 3,100 branches of IDBI Bank and Federal Bank, besides distribution partners. They issued more than one million policies with a sum assured of over 87,700 crore.

**Standard Chartered Bank launches new DigiSmart credit card**

Standard Chartered Bank launched its DigiSmart credit card primarily focused on the ever-growing segment of millennials. The new credit card is available for a nominal monthly fee of only Rs 49. However, this fee will be waived off if the spends of the customer are Rs 5,000 or above in the previous month. The instant discounts and other benefits make this card special. Key e-commerce portals, travel, entertainment, fashion, grocery and food delivery can be discounted on various categories of products. Standard Chartered Bank partnered with several companies such as Myntra, Grofers, Yatra, Zomato, Ola and INOX in the initial phase to offer customers with discounts and other benefits.

**PNB approved its merger with OBC and United Bank of India**

Punjab National Bank's (PNB) board has decided to give its in-principle approval for the merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India. The move is a part of the announcement of a major bank merger by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The directors of the Bank approved to commence the amalgamation process. The board also approved a capital infusion of up to Rs.18,000 crore from the government for preferential allotment of equity shares of the bank at a price.
determined in terms of SEBI (ICDR) Regulations. After the merger, PNB will be the country's second-largest PSB with Rs.18 lakh crore business. It will also be the second-largest branch network in India.

Earlier, the government announced that the four major bank mergers. The merger of 10 public sector banks to be merged into four was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. After the merger, there will now be 12 public sector banks after the latest round of consolidation of PSU banks.
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Indian Oil to build 1GW electric vehicle battery plant

State-run oil refiner Indian Oil Corporation Ltd will set up a 1 Giga Watt (GW) plant to make batteries used for running electric vehicles (EVs) in partnership with an overseas start-up using a non-lithium ion raw material. The move fits well with the governments strategy to facilitate the adoption of EVs in the countrys energy basket, and cut the fuel import bill. It also supports a key element of the EVs industry batteries and their recharge. The more efficient, less complex, very advanced and more economical, if you are looking at the car alone.

India-centric solution. India tied-up with one company manufactured 100 per cent indigenously. The raw material is easily available in this country, whose recycling technology is extremely mature and whose recycling industry is well established in this country. The elements are known since ages, the natural resources of that particular element in this country is abundantly available, unlike in the case of lithium. For lithium, you have to depend on imports, and that too from China, because all lithium reserves today are under the possession of China. The battery plant will be set up through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed by IOC and the overseas entity. The location of the plant is yet to be decided. The 25 MW or 50 MW to pick up in the country for e-vehicles and e-mobility.

Indian Oil corporation

Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairperson: Sanjiv Singh

Wipro bags USD 300 million contracts from ICICI Bank

Wipro has won a 7-year contract worth $300 million from ICICI Bank. The project is to provide a range of services. The transactions are expected to end by September 30. For this project, Wipro is to hire 3,800 employees of Vara Infotech.

Vara Infotech and ICICI:
Vara Infotech is currently providing these services to ICICI. It provides facilities and assets for Rs.321 crore. In 2018-2019, Vara Infotech's revenue from these services stood at Rs.221.5 crore.
WIPROs money deficiency:
Banking is the biggest portfolio for Wipro and account records for around 31% of the total revenues. In the quarter end of June 30, 2019, the organization’s development faced a decline of 1.3% due to macro monetary difficulties looked by banking, financial service, and money related administrations and protection of the BFSI part. The $300 million project is a lift that Wipro needs to save the sector remains globally.
Apart from this, the merger of different banks which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will give raise to the digital transformation of IT majors in India. Global digital transformation in BFSI is set to reach $121 billion by 2025.

Govt launches updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for MSMEs
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an outlay of Rs 2,900 crore for the scheme. The upper limit on overall annual spending on the subsidy disbursal. There is an additional 10 percent subsidy for SC-ST entrepreneurs while special provisions have been made for 117 aspirational districts, hill states, and the northeastern region.
The committee is set up under the MSME secretary to look into the issue of delayed payments. The finance ministry estimates that public sector undertakings owe MSMEs above Rs 48,000 crore.
The government is brainstorming ways to improve the TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) platform and the online bill discounting platform which helps MSMEs raise funds by selling their trade receivables to corporates.

Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for MSMEs
While the government already notified that all companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013, with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore, along with the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), shall be required to get themselves on the platform, only 27 CPSEs and about 750 corporates have registered, according to the official data. The Centre announced a 30-day window for all pending goods and services tax (GST) dues owed to MSMEs to be cleared.
The next set of government reforms will come as part of the implementation of the U K Sinha committee report, said a senior MSME department official. The committee had suggested a Rs 5,000-crore stressed asset fund for domestic MSMEs
hurt by demonetisation the GST and an ongoing liquidity crunch. The committee pointed out such a fund could work in tandem with the RBI-mandated restructuring schemes or banks-led NPA revival solutions for MSMEs.

The finance and MSME secretaries would finalise the report on the recommendations within the next week. The government will seek to implement the recommendations within 15 days. The RBI committee had also flagged the current practice of MSMEs having to register multiple times with various entities such as the Udyog Aadhaar portal, the GSTN, and the NSIC. The PAN numbers be made a Unique Enterprise Identifiers for procurement, availing government-sponsored benefits, and other purposes.

**Coffee Day sells Global Village Tech Park for 2,800 cr to Blackstone**

**Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL)** closed the deal to sell the Global Village Technology Park in Bengaluru to New York-based private equity giant Blackstone Group Llp.

Two people familiar with the transaction confirmed the development. The sale of the 90-acre tech park was finalized at 2,800 crore, according to the first person. The money will be credited to CDEL within the next week. The 2000 crore from the proceeds of the deal will be used to repay debts of CDEL and 800 crore will go into the books of CDEL to meet its working capital requirements.

CDEL owns **Coffee Day Global Ltd (coffee business)**, Sical Logistics Ltd (integrated logistics), Tanglin Developments Ltd ,Way2Wealth (financial services), and Coffee Day Hotels and Resorts Ltd (hospitality)obligations of at least 7,653 crore.

The debt come down after Siddhartha and two CDEL subsidiaries sold their entire stake in Mindtree Ltd to Larsen and Toubro Ltd for 3,200 crore, and used a part of the money to repay debt. The March and June-end too helped CDEL reduce loan obligations at a consolidated level. The asset sale will help CDEL pare its debt obligations from 4,400 crore to 2,400 crore, which will be further lowered via the sale of some of CDELS other assets over the next two months,” said the first person.

The alleged suicide of Siddhartha, the CDEL board decided to sell the technology park, which is owned by Tanglin Developments.

The first reported that CDEL planning to selectively sell assets of the firm to pare
CDEL announced its decision to sell the tech park to Blackstone Group for 2,600-3,000 crore. CDEL gave in-principle approval for disinvestment in its subsidiary, AlphaGrep Securities Pvt. Ltd, in favor of Illuminati Software Pvt. Ltd for 28 crore.

HAL to receive 45,000 crore orders for 83 LCA fighters

The Indian Air Force (IAF) to place orders worth around 45,000 crore with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to acquire 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas fighters.

The IAF issued a tender for 83 LCAs about two years ago and the project was stuck over the pricing issue as the government and the Air Force felt that the price offered by the HAL was slightly higher. The Defence Ministry determined the cost of the 83 LCA Mark 1A aircraft around 45,000 crore and the Indian Air Force is now expected to place orders for these planes in the next few weeks.

The LCAs have been designed and developed completely by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy presented the Final Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate for the LCA to the IAF and the Defence Ministry at the Aero-India.

The first-of-its-kind order for any Indian firm and would give a major boost for the indigenous defence industry. The Acceptance of Necessity given by the Defence Ministry over two years ago was 50,000 crore but the price determined by the ministry's cost committee was reduced to around 45,000 crore. The first LCA Mark 1A aircraft is likely to be produced by 2023. The initial 40 planes in the Initial Operational Clearance and Final Operational Clearance standards which have already taken part and proven themselves in the IAF operational exercise.

LCA Mark 1A is the advanced version of Tejas aircraft. The requirements presented by the IAF, the first LCA Mark 1A plane would be supplied in 36 months from the signing of the contract. The new LCA Mark 1A plane will have advanced avionics and radars than the initial 40 LCAs being supplied to the Air Force. The HAL supplied 16 LCAs to the service which has based them at Sulur in Tamil Nadu under 45 Squadron.

Indian Air Force (IAF)
Founded: 8 October 1932
Headquarters: New Delhi
INTERNATIONAL

India and Russia target USD 30 billion in trade

India and Russia have decided to step up industrial collaboration and make new technologies and investment partnerships, particularly in high tech areas. The collaboration aims to expand bilateral trade to $30 billion by 2025. The decision was taken during the PM's 3-day visit to Russia.

Modi visits Russia:
Modi is visiting Russia on the invitation from President Putin. He attended the 20th India and Russia Annual Summit which was held in Vladivostok. Modi also participated in the 5th Eastern Economic Forum as the Chief Guest. The leaders communicated the satisfaction with the stable mutual growth of trade turnover.

India Russia talks and sign on bilateral:
India-Russia bilateral merchandise was about $8.2 billion during 2018-19. The two sides have agreed on the supply of coking coal from the Russian Far East to India. They also sign the Roadmap cooperation in Hydrocarbons for 2019-24. It is expected to touch height in the next five years. Other bilateral talks include the exchange of oil, gas, farming improvements, industrial projects, etc.

China adopts facial payments in cashless drive

China has introduced face recognition payments as the country embraces facial payment technology. In the facial payment technology money, cards, wallet or smartphones is needed.
Using the technology the customers can simply make a purchase by posing in front of point-of-sale (POS) machines equipped with cameras, after linking an image of their face to a digital payment system or bank account.

Facial payments:
China's mobile payment is one of the most advanced in the world. People essentially make their shopping by presenting before pointing on scale (POS) machines with cameras connecting to their face to a digital payment system or bank account.

Uses of Facial payment:
The use of facial monitoring for surveillance, monitoring, tracking, the following of
political dissenters, social and data control, ethnic profiling, as for the situation with Uighurs in Xinjiang, and even prescient policing.

**Other recent inventions:**
China recently launched a Smile-to-Pay system, using a machine roughly the size of an iPad.
China has also introduced Tencent. It is a WeChat app with 600 million users.

**Russia to conduct 2019 Exercise TSENTR**

**Exercise TSENTR 2019** is a component of the annual exercises part of the Russian Armed Forces like an annual coaching cycle. Exercise TSENTR 2019 is conducted by the Central military commission of Russia. This year the exercise is planned to be held between 9-23 September at Donguz coaching ranges in Russia.

**Aim:**
TSENTR 2019 aims to evolve drills and give practice to the participating armies in the fight against the scourge of international terrorism. It also aims to ensure military security in the strategic Central Asian region. The exercise will also focus on evaluating the preparedness of the level of the troop, the acquisition of the required skills and raising the level of interoperability and demonstrate the readiness of the participating armies.

**Participants:**
Apart from Belarus, China, Mongolia, Russia invited 9 other countries for the Exercise TSENTR 2019. In the annual military exercise, military contingents from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will be participating.

**Exercise TSENTR 2019:**
The exercise TSENTR 2019 comprises of 2 modules:

**First module:** It aims to embody counter-terror operations, repellant airstrikes, intelligence operation operations, and defensive measures.

**Second module:** It aims to specialize in offensive operations.

**Russian military exercise:**
Russia holds a significant military exercise once a year at one of its four military Commands namely Vostok (East), Zapad (West), TSENTR (Centre) and Kavkas (South). In 2017, Russia conducted ZAPAD-2017 and in 2018 it conducted VOSTOK-2018.
India to offer USD 1 billion for the development of Vladivostok

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a $1 billion line of credit for the development of Vladivostok, the resource-rich Far East region of Russia. He made the announcement at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok during his visit to Russia.

PM Modi unveiled the Act Far East policy in the presence of Russian President Putin at Vladivostok. The policy aims to boost Indias engagement with Russias Far East region. India has actively engaged East Asia as part of its Act East policy.

India and Russian oil fields:
To take a stake in Russian oil and gas fields, the Indian firms have invested over $7 billion so far. India ventured into Russia when its flagship overseas firm ONGC Videsh in 2001 acquired a 20% stake in Sakhalin-1 oil and gas field in Far East Russia.

In 2017, Rosneft, the Russian oil firm, bought Essar Oil, which operates in Vadinar oil refinery in Gujarat and some 5,500 petrol pumps, for USD 12.9 billion.

UNESCO ties up with Rajasthan to promote states intangible cultural heritage

UNESCO and the Rajasthan government joined to promote the state's intangible cultural heritage. Their main aim is to promote music, art and craft forms, and other intangible cultural heritage of the state to spur socio-economic growth of several artist communities.

The project which will run for around three-and-a-half years will be implemented in Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

India and the Rajasthan government's tourism department today signed a partnership agreement to promote community-based responsible tourism based on the rich intangible cultural heritage of the state.

UNESCO Project

The project will focus on cultural heritage and traditions, such as pottery, weaving and other crafts, as well as music traditions, in order to create community-led and community-benefiting tourism opportunities.

The project plans on developing 10 cultural hubs across the four districts, which will help promote diverse types of cultural heritage through hosting of events,
performances, and sale of handicrafts. It will also build capacities of local communities to manage and promote their intangible heritage.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between Eric Falt, Director, UNESCO Office in New Delhi and Rajasthan's Minister of Tourism Vishvendra Singh in Jaipur at an event held at Paryatan Bhawan.

This agreement represents a historic moment because it is the first time we are signing such a document with an international organization. Most importantly, it will revive traditional cultural heritage and improve livelihoods.

The Walled City of Jaipur was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. India is second to none when it comes to intangible cultural heritage and Rajasthan undoubtedly constitutes its number one asset. We are very pleased to sign this agreement which aims at promoting long-standing Rajasthani traditions and adding new cultural destinations for tourists to visit.

The project will be implemented by UNESCO with an NGO, Contact Base, and it aims to identify appropriate cultural heritage practices which are unique to the state. The numerous palaces, forts, and museums, an average tourist usually stays in the state only for one to two days.

The Rajasthan project is based on a model successfully developed by UNESCO and Contact Base over the last six years in West Bengal rejuvenated 22 different art forms, provided clear economic benefits to 15,000 artists and households and converted 18 marginalized villages into vibrant cultural destinations.
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**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**Odisha police set up special cell to probe crime against women**

The Odisha police started a separate cell to deal with all cases of crime against women including that of dowry death and non-dowry torture.

The Odisha’s director general of police (DGP) Bijoy Kumar Sharma has headed by an additional superintendent of police will monitor all red flag cases and ensure prompt investigation and finalization of rape cases within 60 days. A red flag case is defined as an incident of inhumane crime against a woman that are dealt with utmost priority by the police.

**Special Cell**

The special cell pursue expeditious prosecution of such cases by appointment of special prosecutor in deserving cases and promote and ensure use of latest technological tools like DNA evidence, cyber forensics and mobile forensics for cases of sexual assault. The cell will analyse judgments so that appeals can be made in befitting cases. In rape cases where the accused were acquitted, the cell would analyse judgments for recommending appropriate action against erring officers and prosecutors.

The cell would monitor investigation and prosecution. It would pursue investigation and prosecution of acid attack cases against women and coordinate with SPs for payment of compensation to victims under Victim Compensation Scheme 2017. The cell would review functioning of 29 investigation units of crime against women functioning in each police districts of the State and look after effective functioning of the Mahila Sishu desks in police stations across the State.

A white paper on the law and order situation in Odisha presented in the State assembly last month said rape cases increased by 13 per cent in 2018 compared to the previous year. The cell would be single-point authority regarding correspondence with MHA, BPRD, NCW, State Legal Service Authority and state home and women child development department over women-related legislations.

The constitution of the new cell came in the backdrop of rising crimes against women. The statistics show that as many as 17,528 cases of rape were reported in the state in the last 10 years. While this year alone 937 cases of sexual assault have been registered so far, the number of such cases in 2018 and 2017 was 2,502 and 2,221 respectively.
According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the conviction rate in Odisha stood at 10.4 percent in 2016, the second-lowest among all states. The conviction rate of crime against women was a measly 6.2 percent against a national average of 18.7 percent in 2016. Similarly, it was second-worst in the conviction of cases of crime against children with 9.2 percent rate against the national average of 30 percent.

India raises the issue of global oil price volatility with Russia

India raised the issue of global oil market price volatility with Russia that is hurting the interests of both consuming and producing nations. This was articulated by Indias oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a meeting with Russias energy minister Alexander Novak.

India urging its long-time ally Russia to take into account the interest of energy-consuming nations during its engagement with the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

They play an important role in balancing global oil market both in terms of ensuring adequate supply as well as in having a responsible and reasonable price.

Any production cut by Opec and its allies has a wide-ranging impact on energy markets, given that Opec accounts for around 40% of global production. It is expected to have a particular fallout on India due to Opec accounting for around 83% of the countrys total crude oil imports.

India - Business

India calling for a global consensus on responsible pricing with China and India moving ahead to set up a joint working group (JWG) on energy to form a buyers bloc to bargain collectively for oil supplies.

US President Donald Trump pulled his country out of a 2015 historic accord with energy-rich Iran that was linked to curb the Islamic Republics nuclear programme in return for ending sanctions. The falling production in Venezuela and geopolitical tensions have fuelled the uncertainty in international energy prices.

Prime Minister Narendra Modis impending visit to Vladivostok. The eastern economic forum as well as the annual bilateral summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. This is the 20th summit between the leaders of the two countries since the year 2000 when the mechanism was institutionalized. The two sides agreed to propose concrete recommendations including a roadmap and action plan.
for cooperation in oil & gas sector to the Eastern Economic Forum and 20th Annual Bilateral Summit between Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Putin.

This also comes against the backdrop of sanctions on Russia, where India owns stakes in significant hydrocarbon assets. Indian firms have invested $10 billion in acquiring stakes in hydrocarbon assets in Russia.

Modis visit has been preceded by the visits of Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar and commerce minister Piyush Goyal along with by the chief ministers of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, besides a 140-member strong Indian business delegation.

**CBDT constitutes five-member Startup Cell for startups**

The CBDT notified of a five-member special cell to address grievances of startups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues. The order issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) the startup cell will be headed by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board. The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of startup entities with respect to the administration of Income-tax Act, 1961. The startup entities can approach the cell for the speedy resolution of their grievances. This initiative is the latest amongst the recent initiatives taken by the CBDT to further ease the compliance issues pertaining to startups. The order also gave out an email id -- startupcell.cbdt@gov.in and the postal address of the cell. The main aim to get ranging from the member, joint secretary (tax policy and legislation-II), commissioner of I-T (ITA), director (ITA-I) and undersecretary (ITA-I). The cell in the CBDT declared exempting startups from the so-called angel tax. The genuine difficulties of startups and their investors, it has been decided that section 56(2)(viib) of the Income-Tax Act shall not be applicable to a startup registered with DPI.

**Texas gears up for the mega Howdy Modi event with 50,000 people**

Indias Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of the most adored Prime Minister internationally. Texas is all set to welcome PM Modi for the Howdy Modi event scheduled to take place on September 22 in Houston's NRG Stadium. Around
50,000 people will be attending the event and they celebrate their tremendous success and the deepening US-India economic and political ties. The Texas India Forum (TIF), a Houston-based non-profit body organised the event have put up a hoarding for welcoming PM Modi to the region. **Event - Howdy Modi** The event will take place in **September 22**. The main aim is to witness the most historic moment with **audience of over 50,000 people** have already registered for the event to be held at the sprawling NRG Stadium. It is the largest for any Indian Prime Minister and the largest for a democratically elected foreign leader in America. The event will showcase the strength and clout of the Indian-American community, dubbed by policymakers as the as model immigrants, highly educated and successful community in the US. The Howdy, Modi event has been broadly supported by organizations representing various communities in India as well as leading social service organizations, charities, university alumni groups, professional societies, and religious organizations. It is Modi’s third major address to the Indian-American community after he became the prime minister in 2014 and the first after his re-election in May 2019. The previous two were at the Madison Square Garden in New York in 2014 and the Silicon Valley in 2016. Both the events were attended by more than 20,000 people.

**Bihar State govt. bans Jeans, T shirts in its Secretariat**

On 30th August, the **Bihar government** has announced a **ban on wearing jeans and T-shirts within the state secretariat**. The officers and workers are asked to wear **simple, soft and light-colored apparel in the workplace**. The order was issued by the higher Secretary of the government, **Mahadev Prasad**.

**Tamilnadu:**
Apart from Bihar, Tamil Nadu state government already banned to wear jeans and T-shirts, all Tamil Nadu secretariat members should wear a dress on Tamil culture or any other traditional Indian dress from June 2019.

Saree/salwar kameez/churidar with dupatta for females staff and formal shirts with formal pants reflecting Tamil culture or any Indian traditional dress for male staff.

**Bihar:**
Bihar is an East India state in the border of Nepal.

**Governor:** Fagu Chauhan

**Chief minister:** Nitish Kumar
KVIC Launches Terracotta Grinder at Varanasi to Re-use wasted pottery

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched the first-ever Terracotta Grinder at Sewapuri in Varanasi. This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making. The wasted pottery items were ground in normal Khal-musal (mortar and pestle) and its fine powder was mixed with the normal clay. The normal clay makes the resulting pottery items stronger. This Terracotta grinder will make grinding of wasted pottery items faster than the traditional mortar and pestle. It will lessen the cost of production and will also help in solving the problem of shortage of clays. He said the cost of one tractor trolley of clay is Rs 2,600 in the Varanasi area. By mixing 20 percent of this wasted terracotta powder, the potter will make a saving of at least Rs 520. This will also create more job opportunities in the villages. The grinder was designed by KVIC Chairman, and fabricated by a Rajkot-based engineering unit.

They distributed 200 Electric Pottery Wheels and other pottery machines among the villagers. This will not only create 900 new jobs. The necessary action to ensure use of locally produced, environment friendly terracotta products like Kulhad, glasses and plates for serving passengers through all static catering units at Varanasi and Raebareli railway stations.

This machine will be a boon for potters. Union Minister of MSME Shri Nitin Gadkari proposed to introduce kulhads and other terracotta products at 400 prominent railway stations. The proposal is under active consideration of the Railways.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan started manufacturing of plastic-mixed handmade paper at Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), a KVIC unit in Jaipur under its project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic in Nature). The project waste plastic is collected, cleaned, chopped, beaten and treated for softness. After that, it is mixed with the paper raw material i.e. cotton rags pulp in a ratio of 80 % (pulp) and 20% (plastic waste). The institute sold over six lakh handmade plastic mixed carry bags since September 2018.
Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

Dr. Harsh Vardhan stated that the government is observing the entire month of September as Poshan Maah Nutrition Month to sensitize the public towards healthy eating, address the twin issues of malnutrition/undernutrition and the problem of obesity in some sections of the population, and intensifying the campaign towards a Malnutrition-Free India. The unsafe food and poor diet create a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, elderly and sick. India is passing through an epidemiological shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases, and the burden of diet-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity is rising rapidly. He further said that this approach judiciously combines the regulatory and capacity-building measures with consumer empowerment initiatives. Citizens are being sensitized through a peoples movement called Eat Right India. Its tagline, Sahi Bhojan. Behtar Jeevan Right diet leads to better quality life depicts Indias commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare as an important pillar of our health policy.

Honble Prime Minister launched the Fit India Movement coinciding with the National Sports Day celebrations. This campaign aims at encouraging people to include physical activity and sports as a routine in their everyday life. This, along with Eat Right India campaign, will help us to fight lifestyle diseases like hypertension, obesity, and diabetes. Union Health Minister Ayushman Bharat is India road to Universal Health Care.

The first component of this is establishing 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres by the year 2022, which shall provide an entire gamut of preventive healthcare. We have already operationalized more than 20,000 Health & Wellness Centres. The second component, Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, is aimed at providing health protection cover to over 100 million poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care including pre- and post-hospitalization expenses. Key features include health cover of up to Rs. Five hundred thousand per family. A total of 17,000 hospitals have been impaneled so far under this scheme. More than 4.1 million persons have become beneficiaries under this scheme and have thus saved a total of an approximate 120 billion Indian Rupees on health expenditure.

The Union Health Minister further said that We have charted out a plan to increase full immunization coverage to 90% people through intensification of campaigns
under Mission Indradhanush. The range of diseases covered under the Universal Immunization Program has also been increased with the inclusion of Rotavirus, Pneumococcal, and Measles-Rubella Vaccines. Dr. Harsh Vardhan further said that ending vaccine preventable diseases remains an important priority of the government.

Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region stated that as governors of health in this region, it also requires that we look beyond our day-to-day concerns and the immediate horizon. The flagship priorities have provided targeted focus and been responsible for a series of remarkable achievements maternal and child health, tackling measles and rubella, in the battle against NCDs, NTDs, TB, and AMR, the Region has performed with skill and determination. The Flagship Priorities, which we will do at this Regional Committee will help ensure continued progress.

**New Health Insurance Scheme AB-MGRSBY Launched In Rajasthan**

**Rajasthan** state government launched a new health insurance scheme called **Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY)** by integrating the **Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme (BSBY)** of the State Government and **Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna Scheme (AB-PMJAY)** of the Central Government.

**Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY) Scheme**

Around 1.1 crore families will be covered under this Health Scheme. The sum insured now is **Rs. 30000** for general diseases and Rs. 3 lakh per year for serious diseases. **AB-PMJAY**, which provides coverage of Rs5lakh per year. People will be able to avail the AB-MGRSBY Scheme benefits in all impaneled private and public hospitals and it has a cashless treatment facility. The natives of Rajasthan can take advantage of this scheme. The poor families covered in any of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** and **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011** are considered eligible for the scheme.

The eligible families should have Aadhaar card and ration card linked with Bhamashah card (Jan Adhaar card) for availing the benefits. If they do not have Bhamashah card, they can get it from e-Mitra, an ambitious e-Governance initiative of Government of Rajasthan. The scheme will be available until December 12,
2019.

**Election Commission of India launches Electors Verification Programme voter verification and authentication**

Election Commission launched the Electors Verification Programme (EVP) across the nation on September 1, 2019. The Electors Verification Programme is a one-stop solution to verify and authenticate voter details and ensure an error-free electoral roll.

The program was launched at all levels starting from the state/UT Headquarters by 32 CEOs, district level by about 700 DEOs and at around 1 million polling stations by BLOs/EROs and will continue from September 1, 2019 to October 15, 2019.

The main aim of the Electors Verification Programme is to improve the health of electoral rolls and provide better electoral services to the citizens. The programme also aims to increase the level of communication between the voters and the commission.

Under the EVP programme, voters can verify or authenticate their details by logging on to NVSP portal (nvsp.in) or Voter Helpline App or Common Service Centres or by visiting any nearby voter facilitation centre. The EVP programme can be availed both online and offline.

The entered details will be verified by block-level officers, by **36 CEOs** at the state headquarters level, by **740 district electoral officers** at the district level and by BLOs and electoral registration officers in around one million polling stations.

**Haryana govt declared waiver on interest and penalty on crop loans**

The Haryana government has declared an Rs.4,750 crore waiver on interest and penalty on crop loans taken by the farmers from cooperative banks, district central cooperative banks and Land Mortgage Bank. This one-time settlement scheme waiver is expected to benefit **10 lakh farmers**.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved a package of Rs.5,000 crore to the farmers.

**Farmer's Loan:**

Around **13 lakh farmers** have borrowed from Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCB), Land Mortgage
Bank (LMB) and Haryana Land Reforms and Development Bank. Nearly 8.25 lakh such accounts have been declared non-performing assets (NPAs). A penalty of 5% used to be imposed on the interest. This interest has now been waived completely. The farmers will have to pay only 50% of the simple interest, the rest 50% will be borne by the state government. This will give a benefit of Rs.450 crore to the farmers.

Govt to auto generate PAN for people filing ITR with Aadhaar

The Income Tax Department has announced that it is to provide automatic issue PAN to a taxpayer using Aaadhar number for filling in returns of new arrangements on linking two databases. As announced by the finance ministry earlier, the new guidelines became effective from September 1.

From now, the Income Tax Returns (ITR) filers will not be required to submit any documents and their demographic information will be obtained from the UIDAI for PAN.

PAN:
A PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric identifier, issued by the Income Tax Department. PAN Card is issued to companies, individuals, non-resident Indians (NRI) or anyone who pays taxes in India. More than 120 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued in the nation and around 41 crore PANs created.

About connecting pan-Aadhar:
The Income Tax Department has connected for the designation of PAN for the people who won't be required to apply for a PAN, this becomes effective from September 1 as per the CBDT. The Supreme Court legislature announced the due date for connecting PAN-Aadhaar will be accessible only till September 30.

Need for connecting PAN:
The PAN connecting is needed to record IT returns by basically citing their Aadhaar number. It will also be used for money exchanges or for buying the steady property of over Rs. 10 lakh.

Cultural event Namaste Pacific organised in New Delhi

High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji jointly organised a cultural event, Namaste Pacific. The main aim is to showcase in
India the culture of the Pacific countries.
Australian High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu highlighted the importance of people to people links between India and the countries in the Pacific region received a boost through an event like Namaste Pacific. 

India became important country in the Pacific region. India is highly respected among the pacific country, and so an event like this is highly appropriate. This is a natural gathering of countries that share a great deal together. This evening is one example of looking at the things that unite the countries of Indo-Pacific.

A curated menu including the national drink Kava from Fiji and dishes slow-cooked in an earth oven using heated rocks in a pit oven specially dug for the purpose at the New Zealand High Commission were among the cuisine showcased at the event.

Aaradhna, a multi-award-winning R & B and soul artist from New Zealand performed with her band. Aaradhna is part Indian and part Samoan and has to her credit four individual albums.

Traditional masks and artefacts from Papua New Guinea and Pacific Green furniture and other products from Fiji were also displayed. There was also a showcase of the International Solar Alliance and Pollinate Energy based in Australia, Nepal and India, and solar lanterns from Barefoot College in Rajasthan. The event saw the participation of members of the diplomatic community, government officials, business leaders, and cultural personalities.

Tinsukia Railway station become the 4000th station in the country to have free public WiFi

Tinsukia Railway station in the State of Assam has become the 4000th station in the country to have free public Wi-Fi. Under RailWire, free Wi-Fi is being provided to passengers. Railwire is a retail Broadband initiative of RailTel catering to Enterprises, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and homes. The Wi-Fi plan was rolled out in 1000 stations in a record time of 12 days by RailTel with an average of 83 stations per day.

RailTel is currently implementing two of the six Indian Railways projects that are part of the 100-day agenda of the Union government. This project began from Mumbai Central in January 2016. It is planning to implement fast and free Railwire Wi-Fi.
Aim:
The project aims to provide free access with high-speed Wi-Fi. It plans to bridge the digital divide between rural and urban India. The project has been designed to offer users the best internet experience. RailWire Wi-Fi will be available to any user who has a smartphone with a working mobile connection for KYC considerations.

RailTel:
RailTel Corporation, a Mini Ratna (Category-I), is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India. The PSU owns a Pan-India optic fiber network on exclusive right of way (ROW) along Railway track. RailTel provides nationwide Broadband Telecom & Multimedia Network connection in all parts of the country. This has been provided in addition to modernization of Train operations and administration network systems.

RailTel's new project: TailTech is now testing a new signalling technology. This new technology aims to improve safety and increase capacity by reducing the distance between two trains.

India announces contribution of 22 millions USD to GFTAM for 6th replenishment cycle

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi India announced a contribution of 22 million US Dollars to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) for the 6th replenishment cycle.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare stated that India stands firm to its long-standing partnership with the Global Fund and its commitment to eliminate AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Indias pledge for the Global Fund strongly demonstrates its strong political leadership to achieve the universal health for all and its equally strong commitment to work across borders to join hands in fighting the epidemics of these three diseases.

India is the first implementing country to host a replenishment milestone of the Global Fund become first among G20, BRICS and implementer countries to announce the pledge for the 6th Replenishment Conference, setting precedent for other donors to contribute India inched a step closer in this direction by stepping up the Global Fund efforts to strengthen health systems and save 16 million more lives across the globe.
India and Global Fund

India shared a sustained partnership with the Global Fund since 2002 both as a recipient and as a donor. Global Fund support with the investment of US $ 2.0 billion so far has made a significant contribution in attaining targets related to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria reduction and escalating our fight against these three diseases. In the current funding cycle (2018-21), the Global Fund allocated US$ 500 million to India. India contributed US$ 46.5 million so far till 2019 including US$ 20 million for the 5th Replenishment.

Union Cabinet approves Mechanism revision of ethanol price

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for the following, including fixing higher ethanol price derived from different raw materials under the EBP Programme. It is done for the forthcoming sugar season 2019-20 during ethanol supply year from 1st December 2019 to 30th November 2020:

- The price of ethanol from C heavy molasses route be increased from Rs.43.46 per litre to Rs.43.75 per litre.
- The price of ethanol from B heavy molasses route be increased from Rs.52.43 per litre to Rs.54.27 per litre.
- The price of ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar/sugar syrup route be fixed at Rs.59.48 per litre. Additionally, GST and transportation charge payable. OMCs have been advised to fix realistic transportation charges so that long-distance transportation of ethanol is no a disincentive. OMCs are advised to continue according to the priority of ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar/sugar syrup, B heavy molasses C heavy molasses and Damaged Food grains/other sources, in that order. The main aim of the scheme and a large number of them are expected to supply ethanol for the EBP programme. Their aim is to suppliers will help in the reduction of cane farmers arrears in the process contributing to minimizing the difficulty of sugarcane farmers.

Ethanol availability for EBP Programme is expected to increase significantly due to higher prices being offered for procurement of ethanol from all the sugarcane-based routes, subsuming partial sugarcane juice route and 100% sugarcane juice route under sugarcane juice route and for the first time allowing sugar and sugar syrup for ethanol production.

History

Government implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme wherein
OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. This programme extended to whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands with effect from 01st April 2019. The main aim is to promote the use of alternative and environmentally friendly fuels. This intervention also seeks to reduce import dependence for energy requirements and give a boost to the agriculture sector. These decisions have significantly improved the supply of ethanol thereby ethanol procurement by Public Sector OMCs increased from 38 crore litre in ethanol supply year 2013-14 to estimated over 200 crore litre in 2018-19.

The consistent surplus of sugar production is depressing sugar price. Consequently, sugarcane farmers dues have increased due to the lower capability of the sugar industry to pay the farmers. Government has taken many decisions for reduction of cane farmers dues.

The government has taken multiple steps including, allowing diversion of B heavy molasses and sugarcane juice for ethanol production. The ex-mill price of sugar and conversion cost have undergone changes, there is a need to revise the ex-mill price of ethanol derived from different sugarcane-based raw materials. There is also a demand from the industry to include sugar and sugar syrup for ethanol production to help in solving the problem of inventory and liquidity with the sugar mills.

**Asia VR based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre launched**

Asia's 5th Generation Virtual Reality based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre launched by Rtn G Chandramohan, Rotary Governor, Rotary International District 3232, at the Automobile Association of Southern India Centre (AASI) Chennai. AASI train 200 Ambulance drivers free of cost, under Safe Drivers Campaign

The patented simulator designed and developed by Chennai based Red Chariots Technologies Pvt Ltd. They develop the hardware and software, emulating the Indian driving standards and road conditions. Existing drivers make use of this simulator to learn the advanced techniques of driving and implement it in their day to day driving style.

The specialized training module drivers learn to anticipate adverse situations on the road and make safe decisions with minimum to no risk for self and general public on road. The training session is a combination of level-based practical learning
modules coupled with self-learning theory modules through an interactive e-learning quiz app built in-house. This level will give the trainee, the required time to get used to the driving simulator and the immersive environment of virtual reality. The duration of each module is for 3 minutes. The trainee is given a detailed performance analysis report that shows their areas of strength and scope for improvement based on how many rules they followed, how many road etiquettes they adhered to and their overall behaviour. The future aim is for all driving schools to train learners using this driving simulator.

The idea germinated and developed as a result of the daily mishaps on road due to lack of systematic training and the burning need to bridge the gap between knowing about road safety.

**Sitharaman led panel to study proposal to ban e cigarette sales in India**

*Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman*-led panel has been set up to study a Health Ministry proposal to ban e-cigarette sales in India through an ordinance. Health Ministry said that the chemicals that are used in e-cigarettes as solvents are hazardous and cause fatal effects. If the government announces an ordinance, it should be replaced with a bill in the next session of Parliament.

**Panel:**
The panel includes Ministers from ministries such as commerce, health, agriculture, chemicals and petrochemicals, and food processing departments.

**Ban on ads in 2018:**
In 2018, the Health Ministry has issued an advisory favouring a ban on sales and advertisements of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes. It also proposed a jail term of up to a year and Rs.1 lakh fine for first-time offenders.

**Report:**
A government data said that in India there are more than 460 e-cigarette brands with various configurations of nicotine delivery and in over 7,700 flavours. The e-cigarette devices will not burn tobacco leaves instead it uses a heating element to turn a liquid nicotine solution into vapours, which the user inhales. E-cigarettes are illegal and they are not licenced in India. E-cigarettes have also become a fashion statement among young tobacco users.
IGI gets Indias tallest ATC Tower

Union Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a **new air traffic control (ATC) tower** at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

**ATC tower:**

The cost of the ATC tower is **Rs.350 crore**. The tower consists of three buildings: the aerodrome control tower, area approach control services building, and the administrative block. The tower is facilitated with modern air navigation systems and advanced automation systems. This will enhance safety and the capacity of air traffic operations.

The height of the ATC tower is **101.9 metres**. The tower aims to reduce the pressure on controllers and provide relief to flyers from delays. The tower has over **45 workstations** with better operational area visibility. The tower has multilayered security.

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**Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged as Best Swachh Iconic Place in India**

**Vaishno Devi Shrine** in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir won the **Best Swachh Iconic Place** in the country.

President Ram Nath Kovind will confer the award during the Swachh Mahotsav to be organised by the ministry.

The union ministry of **Jal Shakti**, department of drinking water and sanitation, released its rankings of Swachh Iconic Places.

The Shrine which is visited by thousands of devotees been adjudged on the basis of the overall improvement in sanitation brought about by the board due to several initiatives taken in the last few years to ensure cleanliness.

The initiatives like installing water kiosks, equid dung management centre, kill waste machines, collection, transportation and disposal of waste along with regular mopping up of waste though a workforce of 1300 sanitation workers among others have enabled the shrine to achieve the top rank.

The shrine competed with a dozen other iconic places in the country including **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus** (Maharashtra), **Taj Mahal** (Uttar Pradesh), **Tirupati Temple** (Andhra Pradesh), **Golden Temple** (Punjab), Ajmer Sharif Dargah (Rajasthan), **Kamakhya Temple** (Assam), **Jagannath Puri** (Odisha),...
Church and Convent of St Francis of Assisi (Goa) among others. The shrine received a special award from the union ministry of drinking water and sanitation for bagging the second spot behind the Golden Temple.

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and PD Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announces blanket ban on single use plastic products

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announced a blanket ban on all types of single-use plastic products in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and all its PSUs including Food Corporation of India (FCI). The decision was taken in a high-level meeting with Secretaries of both the Departments Consumer Affairs and Food, CMD FCI, DG Bureau of India Standards, MD of CWC, Director Legal Metrology along with other senior officials. The single use plastic products completely banned in Ministry and its PSUs from 15th September. Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan the officials to make alternate arrangements to ensure that the ban is effective.

Food Corporation of India (FCI)

Headquarters: New Delhi
Founder: Government of India
Founded: 1965

AUS gets 1st DGCA certification under small category drone

The Bengalurus Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) is the first company to get the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under a small company drone category. Insight, AUS's flagship enterprise-grade multi-copter drone is to be certified for the No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) manufacturing compliance requirement. In the recent release the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) for drone operations in India, the DGCA has laid down its requirement.

Insight:
The Insight drone weighs between 2-25 kg. It falls under the small category. Whereas micro category drones weigh between 250 gms to 2 kg. The small category drones can stay longer and carry heavier, more advanced sensors and need to meet additional compliances as per the CAR.
So far, 3 Indian startups have obtained certification from DGCA under the micro category. AUS is the first company to get the certification under the small category. *Drones:* Drone is a *flying robot* which is remote-controlled. It is allowed to work in India by DGCA in October 2017.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate Garvi Gujarat Bhawan**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated *Garvi Gujarat.* It is the second state Bhawan of the Gujarat government in the national capital. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and former chief minister Anandiben Patel is currently Uttar Pradesh governor. It is built over more than 7,000 sq meters of the area at Akbar Road. It is the first eco-friendly state Bhawan in the national capital. It cost Rs 131 crore and was completed three months ahead of the deadline. The Bhavan Described as a mix of traditional and modern architecture with a rich reflection of the western state's culture.

**Ashok Leyland heavy duty trucks are the 1st to get BS VI certification**

*Ashok Leyland*, the commercial vehicle behemoth, announced that the company has upgraded the entire range of *heavy-duty trucks* as per the *BS-VI emission norms.* The norms will be effective from 1 April 2020. By this, the company has become the first to meet with the BS-VI emission standard. The heavy-duty trucks weigh around 16.2 tonne and above.

**Implementation:**

Ashok Leyland company has invested about *Rs.600-700 crore* over a period of 3 *years* for developing the BS-VI engine technology. Also, the company had tested 35 BS-VI emission compliant heavy-duty trucks on Indian roads for about two million kilometres. It also plans to conduct test rides for another 4-5 million kms.

**Why the move:**

The move comes after the Ashok Leyland company was directed by the *Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)* that the heavy-duty trucks should meet with the BS-VI standard. The Supreme Court has decided that *no BS-IV* vehicle will be sold the nation over with impact from April 1, 2020. The real difference between the current BS-IV and pending BS-VI standards is the *presence*
of sulphur in the fuel.

ARAI:
ARAI, an independent body, was established in 1966. It is affiliated to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. It is a prime Testing and Certification Agency notified by the government under Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.
ARAI has been recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO). ARAI plays a vital role to assure safe, less polluting, more efficient and reliable vehicles. It also offers certification and homologation service awards for heavy vehicles. The Director of ARAI is Mrs.Rashmi Urdhwareshe.

Ashok Leyland:
The Ashok Leyland is a lead organization of the Hinduja Group and it is India's second-biggest vehicle maker. The Ashok Leyland was the first Indian company to showcase a Euro-VI truck during the Auto Expo 2016 in New Delhi.

September is celebrated as Poshan Maah across India

The country celebrates September month as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah across the country under POSHAN Abhiyaan programme. It aims to address malnutritional challenges. Poshan Maah was launched in States like Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan on 4th September.

Aim:
Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated with the aim to create a Jan Andolan to imbibe behavioral changes into the daily lives of the masses, with the slogan Poshan Tyohar Se Vyavahar.

Focus:
Poshan Maah focuses on five critical components called Paanch Sutras. The components are:
First 1000 days of the Child
Anaemia
Diarrhoea
Hand Wash & Sanitation
Poshtik Aahar, a wholesome meal with diet diversity

Celebration:
The Ministry of Women and Child Development acts as the nodal Department for
Poshan Maah. The activities in the function focus on antenatal care, anaemia, growth monitoring, girls education, diet, right age of marriage, hygiene and sanitation, eat healthily. The themes are showcased in the form of food melas, recipe demonstration, radio & TV talk shows, rallies, school-level campaigns, anemia test camps, and seminars all across the country.

**Forty new Vande Bharat Express trains by 2022**

India will have 40 new Vande Bharata Express trains by 2022. Indian Railways finalized the timeline for manufacturing them again and started a tendering process for the purpose.

The production was stopped over allegations of favoritism and lack of transparency, earlier this year. The railway board has now started the tendering process for resuming manufacturing after railway minister Piyush Goyals intervention.

A tender will be out by October for the propulsion system of the trains.

Two rakes of Vande Bharat Express are currently available for operations and one of them runs between Delhi and Varanasi.

**New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharata Express**

The New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharata Express or Train 18, Indias first locally built semi high-speed train that can run up to a maximum speed of 160 km/hour. The delivery by mid-2022 and by the end of that year, 40 more Vande Bharat Express trains should be up and running. Chennais Integral Coach Factory which manufactured the first two rakes, scrapped all tenders in June for a third one amid the controversy.

Goyal met representatives of manufacturers on July 2 and promised a level playing field to all of them in a transparent manner.

The industrys feedback, the railways agreed to give reasonable time for submission of bids. The manufacturers have been told that Make in India policy has to be followed and some import could be permitted provided that the manufacturing units must be set up in India eventually. The new guidelines make it mandatory for the production units to follow the specifications of the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).

The tender will be floated on October 20 and by July 2021, the supply of rakes will begin.
A third railway official admitted that there was a problem with the first train. He added that the entire process will begin from scratch to overcome that. On the day of its launch in February, the train broke down upon its return from Varanasi because of stray cattle on the tracks. Indian Railways plans to introduce more Vande Bharat Express trains and has identified the Bangalore-Hyderabad, Mumbai-Ahmedabad, and Kolkata-Patna as possible routes.

Gujarat govt signs sister state MoU with American state Delaware

Gujarat Government and the Delaware State of America signed MoU in Gandhinagar when a delegation of Delaware State of America called on Gujarat Chief Minister Delawares Vijay Rupani. The MoU was signed by Gujarat Chief Minister and Delawares Secretary of state. This is the first sister-state MoU signed by Gujarat with any state of America. The cooperation in the field of services and investment opportunities in GIFT IFSC discussed during the meeting. The sectors like Biotechnology University, bio sciences, financial services, animal husbandry and dairy, port services are the fields related to which the cooperation. The American delegation invited Gujarat Chief Minister to visit Delaware State.

Five institutes are awarded IoE

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on the guidance of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and master board of trusty has awarded the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) title 5 institutes. The 5 institutes are IIT-Madras, Banaras Hindu University, IIT-Kharagpur, University of Delhi and the University of Hyderabad.

Aim:
The award aims to indicates the commitment of the institution towards Institutions of Eminence. The awarded Universities will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Human Resource Development as it had laid out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution. The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of Rs.1,000 crore.

Institutions of Eminence (IoE):
The Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was instituted in 2016. IoE enables higher education organizations and put them on the world education map. The UGC shortlists the organizations and sends it to the HRD ministry. Ten public and ten private institutions are picked each year as world-class educating and research institutions.

Ministry of MSME conducted a national workshop in New Delhi

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) conducted a national workshop in New Delhi. The event was chaired by Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shri Nitin Gadkari. The meeting included discussions on the issue of delayed payments to MSMEs and ways to deal with it.

Also, the Finance Ministry has announced that it has some initiatives to strengthen the MSME sector. The MSME Ministry has announced its plan to launch Bharat Craft, a marketing portal for the marketing of their products.

Aim:
The workshop is conducted for business people and different partners from the MSME area on how to tackle the delay payments on MSMEs.

U.K Sinha Committee:
During the meeting, the Ministry assured the implementation of the suggestions of the UK Sinha committee.

In June 2019, RBI appointed a committee to set up to study the problems faced by MSMEs under the leadership of U.K. Sinha. The committee has submitted its recommendations.

Participants:
Officials of the MSME Ministry, bankers, entrepreneurs and various stakeholders from the MSME sector participated in the Ministry.

Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS):
Gadkari re-Launched the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) scheme in the event. CLCS scheme provides 15% additional investment up to Rs.1 crore for technology up-gradation by MSMEs. In the relaunched plot there is an extra 10% sponsorship to SC-ST entrepreneurs.
First Mega Food Park was held in Telangana

The first Mega Food Park in Telangana was held at Lakkampally village in Nizamabad district. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The food park was promoted by Smart Agro Food Park. The Smart Agro Mega Food Park was set up in 78 acres of land at a cost of Rs.108.95 crore.

The facilities in the park include a 5,000-tonne warehouse each for raw materials, finished goods, and commodities, 500-tonne deep freeze, Turmeric-Curcumin, Oleoresin Extraction unit of 5 tonnes a day, quality control lab and other related food processing facilities.

**Aim:**
Mega Food parks aimed to facilitate the doubling of farmers income by 2022. The scheme functions along with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi which is a government initiative in which all small and marginal farmers will get up to Rs.6,000. Mega Food Parks will reduce post-harvest losses and hedge the farmers risk.

The Ministry aims to boost the food processing industry. If the agriculture sector grows exponentially, it will become a major contributor to double the farmers income and Make In India initiative of the government.

**Benefits:**
The Mega Food Park leveraged an additional investment of about Rs.250 crore in 22 food processing units. It generated a turnover of about Rs.14,000 crore. It is also expected that the Mega Food Parks will also provide 50,000 direct and indirect jobs and benefit about one lakh farmers.

**Financial assistance:**
The Mega Food Park Scheme is implemented to boost the food processing sector. The government provides financial assistance up to Rs.50 crore per Mega Food Park project.

K2K Glory Run was Flagged off

Kargil to Kohima, an Ultra-Marathon- Glory Run, was Flagged-off at Air Headquarters, New Delhi. The marathon was flagged off by Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.
Aim:
The aim of K2K is to promote awareness for Pedestrian Safety. It also promotes Fit India Movement which was recently launched by Honble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with paying tribute to brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice.

About K2K:
The K2K Glory Run will commence on 21 September 2019 and end on 6 November 2019. A team of 25 Air Warriors will cover the distance of more than 4500 km in 45 days by running an average of 100 Km per day. The marathon is to commemorate 20th year of Kargil victory. The Kargil to Kohima (K2K) expedition was undertaken by IAF from Kargil War Memorial, J&K to Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima, Nagaland.

Centre approves Rs 350crores for 9th phase of Bru repatriation

The Centre approved an amount of Rs 350 crore for the ninth phase of Bru repatriation from six relief camps of neighbouring Tripura. The approval during a Joint Monitoring Group meeting on Bru repatriation, chaired by Special Secretary (internal security), Ministry of Home Affairs, A P Maheswari, in Delhi. The state last month identified 4,447 Bru families for the exercise, scheduled to begin on October 1.

The approved amount of Rs 350 crore would cover transportation and rehabilitation package expenses, which includes Rs 5,000 per month for each resettled Bru family in Mizoram and free ration for two years.

The meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, representatives of home departments of Tripura and Mizoram and organisations representing Brus.

Bru Community

The Bru community called as Reangs is among the 21 scheduled tribes in the country.

There are thousands of Brus fled to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of a communal tension triggered by the killing of a forest guard by militants inside Dampa Tiger Reserve.

The Centre and the governments of Mizoram and Tripura have made multiple attempts since 2009 to repatriate the Brus to their home state, but many refused to return, citing inadequate rehabilitation package.
They assured a sum of Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance, free ration and Rs 5,000 for other expenses for two years. The first attempt to repatriate the Brus in November 2009 had fizzled out following the murder of a Mizo youth at Bungthuam village in Mamit district. The murder had also triggered a fresh wave of the exodus.

MHA conducts long cycle rally to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Ministry of Home Affairs conducts a 2000 kilometre long cycle expedition to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 7 September 2019. The rally was flagged off by Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy. The event will be a 26-day-long cycle expedition.

Aim:
The Ministry aims to spread the message of Gandhi regarding cleanliness and sanitation to the masses.

Route:
The bicycle rally begins from Porbandar. It passes through Rajkot, Morbi, Kutch, and Banaskantha districts. The rally will end at Mahatma Gandhi's final resting place Rajghat in Delhi on October 2.

Participants:
BSF Gujarat Frontier, scores of personnel from paramilitary forces and other government officials will be participating in the long cycle expedition. 100 cyclists from Border Security Force (BSF), 100 cyclists from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 65 cyclists each from Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Central Industrial Security Force, 50 cyclists from National Security Guard, 70 cyclists from Sahastra Seema Bal and 50 cyclists from Assam Rifles are participating in the event.

Centre to infuse 12,000 crore in state general insurance firms

The recapitalization of public sector banks (PSBs) public sector insurance companies namely National Insurance, Oriental Insurance, and United India Insurance are going to be infused with funds worth 12,000 crore to boost their capital base and meet regulatory norms.
The Budget provisioned **70,000 crore** for PSB recapitalization and last week a 55,250-crore infusion announced in several PSBs. The nodal **Department of Financial Services** approved the **12,000 crore** capital infusion plan in the three state-run general insurance companies. The plans to merge these three insurance companies, and thereafter list the combined entity.

The process of merger could not be completed due to various reasons. These two units are struggling to maintain their solvency ratio, which is a key financial metric used to measure a company's ability to meet its debt obligations.

**Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDA)**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDA) solvency ratio norm of 1.5, National Insurance has a solvency ratio of 1.5, while United India's level is comparatively lower at 1.21.

The consolidation in the public sector general insurance companies is part of the disinvestment strategy of the government. The Centre appointed EY as a consultant to see through the completion of the merger process.

The government would have to infuse 12,000-13,000 crore in these three companies to improve their solvency ratio and prepare them for the merger. The three insurance companies will be merged after the capital infusion, and post the merger, the entity will be the largest insurance company in the country. The New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India were listed on the bourses and the exchequer earned money from the stake sale. The government fixed a disinvestment target of 1.05 lakh crore for the current fiscal.

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**The grand Swachh Mahotsav event 2019 was held in New Delhi**

The **Swachh Mahotsav event 2019** was held in New Delhi. The historic event was organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. President Ramnath Kovind conferred the Swachh India awards to the outstanding performance in Swachh India Mission (SBM).

**Participants:**

There are More than 1300 swachhata champions include college youngsters, NCC cadets, volunteers from NSS and NYKS, swachagrahies, sarpanches, representatives from States and UTs central government ministries and media persons participated in the grand event.

**Swachh India Awards:**
Some of the important awards presented by the President are:

**Swatch ionic places Award**: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple

**Swachhata Pakhwada Award**: Department of Defense

**Swachhata Action plan**: Ministry of Railways

**Swachh Bharat Kosh**: power Grid cooperation

**Ganga Gram**: Village Baghori, Uttarkashi

**ODF and Behavior change**: Gujarat, Sikkim

**Swachh India Summer internship**: Ranjitha S for NCC, Nainital for NSS, and Anantapuramu for NYKS

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**Chhattisgarh govt to reduce land allotment rates in industrial areas by 30%**

The Chhattisgarh government announced that land allotment rates in industrial areas will be reduced by 30 percent in the next few months. The land would be provided at cheaper rates, capital, interest subsidy, tax rebates and several other benefits would be provided for the establishment of food processing, minor forest produce and herbal-based industries.

The event organised by Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in capital Raipur, said that a new policy in this regard will be formulated in the next two months.

The core sector industries, such as steel and cement, would be promoted in the state. Presently, these industries have been kept in the prohibited list, but soon they would be removed from it.

The land allotment rates in industrial areas would be reduced by 30% and lease rent rate would be reduced from 3% to 2%.

Presently, it is compulsory for small entrepreneurs to get their gumasta license issued even if they have one labourer employed under them, this limit for minimum number of labourers would be increased to ten.

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**President inaugurated the World first Youth Conference**

The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the World first Youth Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2019. It was organized by the Youth Awakening Mission, a youth wing of Paavan Chintan Dhara Charitable Trust, Ghaziabad. The summit aimed to work for the betterment and welfare of ourselves, society and
Youth in India:

The youth have immense talent and energy. This talent and energy need to be properly developed and utilized. 800 million Indian youth are with their creative power. They are capable to take India to new heights of progress and human civilization.

The role of education is the most important in awakening the right vision and prudence achieve this objective. He said that a self-reliant and nation-loving person can contribute to nation-building by working in any field of life.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan 2 finished its final lunar bound orbit manoeuvre

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully performed the fifth and the final lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on 1 September. The 5th lunar bound orbit manoeuvre was done using the onboard propulsion system. The orbit manoeuvre took approximately 52 seconds to complete. The orbit was achieved at 119 km x 127 km. ISRO reported that all spacecraft parameters are normal.

Vikram Lander:
After the final manoeuvre, the Vikram lander will be separated from the spacecraft's orbiter. Vikram lander is expected to perform two deorbit manoeuvre to prepare for its landing in the south polar region of the moon. The first deorbit manoeuvre is scheduled for 3 September and the orbit around the moon is set at 109 km x 120 km. The second deorbit manoeuvre is scheduled for September 4 and the orbit around the moon is expected to be achieved at 36 km x 110 km. If deorbit manoeuvre is successful then the Vikram lander would carry out a soft landing on the south pole of the moon on September 7.

Vikram lander detached successfully from its orbiter

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully separated lander Vikram separated from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. Now the Lander is ready for its soft landing on Moon on 7 September. The lander has been scheduled to touch the lunar surface in 5 days from the separation. ISRO has been monitoring the health of the Lander and Orbiter from the Mission Operations Complex at ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru along with Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at nearby Bylalu. It reported that the parameters of the Chandraayan-2's lander and orbiter are normal. The lander is expected to carry out two deorbit manoeuvres before it touches the south polar region of the moon. Rover Pragyaan, a six-wheeled robotic vehicle,
will roll out from the lander after the soft landing. It will carry out various tests on the lunar soil

**Japanese woman gets worlds 1st stem cell corneal transplant**

Japan woman becomes the first person in the world to receive a corneal transplant made from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS). The treatment was successfully carried out by a team of researchers led by ophthalmologist Kohji Nishida at Osaka University.

**iPS cells:**
Generally, the damaged or diseased corneas are treated using tissue from donors who have died. But in this case, the researchers created sheets of corneal cells from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. These IPS cells were made by reprogramming adult skin cells from a donor into an embryonic-like state from which they can transform into other cell types, such as corneal cells. After the transplant, the womans cornea remained clear and her vision had improved.

**Cornea:**
The cornea of the eye is the transparent or clear front part of the eye that covers the iris, pupil, and anterior chamber of the eye. The cornea contains stem cells which can repair damage and maintain vision. These damage in the stem cells that are caused due to disease or injury can lead to blindness. The damaged/diseased cornea can be replaced by donated corneal tissue.

**ESA and NASA partners for asteroid deflection**

The European space agency (ESA) has announced its plan to partner with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to stop asteroids hitting Earth. The teams from both the space agencies will meet in Rome in the month of September. The teams will discuss to deflect the potentially threatening asteroids away from colliding with the planet.

In the meet, Asteroid researchers and spacecraft engineers are to propose the Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA) which is a viable method of planetary defence. according to the ambitious technique, one spacecraft will be sent to hit an asteroid and another will be sent out to obverse and gather data from the crash site.
Collision Mission:
The asteroid researchers aim for the smaller body of the double Didymos asteroids between Earth and Mars.
For this purpose, NASA is building the Double Asteroid Impact Test, or Dart spacecraft, which has been scheduled to launch in 2021. DART will reach its target at 6.6 km/s in September 2022.
DART will be accompanied by an Italian-made miniature CubeSat called LICIACube. This will travel alongside to capture the moment of impact.
On the other hand, ESA's HERA will perform a detailed measurement of the asteroid's size and the crater shape. By this study, the researchers can figure out whether the technique can be used against a real threat. The mission has been planned to be launched in October 2024.

Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called Kian

Iranian Army unveiled a high-precision jet-propelled drone called Kian. The capacity of carrying long-time surveillance missions and attack the targets far from the country's borders.
The unmanned military drone developed in two models. It was developed by Iranian technicians of the Army
The tensions between Iran and the United States President Donald Trump in 2018 withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear deal -2015 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.
The new home-grown air defense system called Bavar-373. The US withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, an agreement on Iran's nuclear program reached in July 2015.
Iran, the P5+1 (the 5 Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council-China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States + Germany) and the European Union.

Yutu 2 found gel like substance in the far side of Moon

China's lunar rover Yutu-2 has found a strange gel-like substance during its exploration activities on the far side of the moon.

Gel-like substance:
The gel's shape and color are significantly different from the surrounding lunar soil.
The colour of the material has been described as unusual. The material is located on the inner edge of the impact crater. The substance was found during the 8th day of an exploration mission to a region covered in small impact craters.

**Chang-e-4 lander:**
The Chang-e-4 lander and Yutu-2 rover landed on the other side of the moon in January. It became the first spacecraft to reach the unexplored region of Earth's only satellite. Scientists believe that the far side of the moon has unique features never before explored on site.

Chang-e 4 is a robotic spacecraft mission. It is part of the second phase of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program.

**Chandrayaan 2 completed 2 successive deorbiting maneuvers for the Moon landing**

India's Chandrayaan-2 effectively finished two successive de-orbiting maneuvers. The second de-orbiting maneuver was successfully completed on 4 September. It is now all set to land on the moon anytime on September 7.

The next activity is the separation of the Vikram lander from the orbiter to setup lander arrival in the south polar area of the moon.

The Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) manoeuvre which was carried out now by ISRO is not new as Chandrayaan-1 mission has carried out the operation. But, the soft landing of Chandrayaan-2 will be a milestone for ISRO as it has never carried out the mission before.

Upon successful landing, the rover Pragyan will roll out from the lander on 7 September. It will carry out experiments on the lunar surface for 14 days.

**Reliance Jio launches wired broadband starting at 699**

Mukesh Ambani’s Jio announced the launch of its fiber-based broadband service, offering minimum internet speed of 100 Mbps for 699 a month, a rate 35-45 per second.

Jio Fiber will offer free voice calling anywhere in the country, unlimited data and video conferencing.

**Jio Fiber - Plans and Advantages**
The annual subscribers will get 4K set top box, for streaming TV channels, free
while a 4K television set would be complementary with plans with higher payouts such as 'Gold'.

The company announced complementary high definition set-top box and an advanced modem Jio Home Gateway, zero-latency gaming and device security of up to five devices in all the plans priced between 699 to 8,499 per month.

The Device Security, Home Networking, VR Experience, Video Content services, provided by RCITPL (a platform service company) and TV Video Calling & Conferencing, subscribers need to purchase compatible devices.

They offer complementary television sets to annual subscribers of broadband plans in the range of 2,499 to 8,499. The company is offering television set on two-year subscription of gold plan priced at 1,299 per month.

The launch of Jio Fiber, with its revolutionary services is just the beginning of a new and exciting journey. The company announced the launch of the service across 1,600 cities.

Reliance Jio, Mukesh Ambani's vehicle for re-entry into the telecom space, had three years back begun mobile services, offering free voice calling and data. That got millions hooked on to his network which started charging for internet data usages from April 1, 2017, while voice calls continue to remain free.

Jio's 3.5 lakh crore investment in 4G telecom services coupled with aggressive pricing had unleashed intense competition in the market that forced rivals to either fold up or merge to better compete with it.

Currently, the average fixed-line broadband speed in India is 25 Mbps. Even in America, which is the most developed economy, it is around 90 Mbps. Jio Fiber, India's first 100 per cent all-fiber broadband service, will start from 100 Mbps and go all the way up to 1 Gbps. This will propel India to top 5 broadband nations globally.

Jio Fiber customers subscribing to 699 plan will get three-month complimentary access Jio Cinema and Jio Saavn app and 849 plan subscriber will get three-month access to video entertainment apps. The customers opting for Jio Fiber will need to pay 1,000 installation charges and 1,500 refundable fee.

BSNL tops fixed line broadband service segment with 9.05 million customers. It is followed by Bharti Airtel with 2.4 million customers, Atria Convergence Technologies 1.45 million, Reliance Jio's subsidiary Hathway Cable & Datacom 0.84 million and MTNL 0.74 million.
**Jio Fibre Bronze plan:**
1) Jio Fibre 699 per month basic plan will offer a minimum speed of 100 megabit per second.
2) The plan offers a data cap of 100 GB plus 50 GB extra.
3) Jio Fiber customers subscribing to 699 plan will get three month complimentary access to Jio Cinema and Jio Saavn.
4) You will be required to make a one-time payment of 2,500 which comprises 1,500 security deposit and 1,000 non-refundable installation.
5) Reliance Jio will also provide high definition set-top box, router, free voice calling anywhere in India, television-based video calling and conferencing service, along with 699 Jio Fibre Bronze plan.
6) The company will also provide zero-latency gaming and device security of up to five devices in all the plans ranging between 699 and 8,499.

**Oscars of science awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team**

The Event Horizon Telescope Team consists of 347 scientists produced the world first image of a black hole. They were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. The prize is known as the Oscars of science with prize money $3 million. The team published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy. Directed by Shep Doelman at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, the team spent over a decade simulating an Earth-sized computational telescope that combined the signals received by eight radio telescopes working in pairs around the world with their sights trained on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy, 55 million light-years away.

Through this technique, they were able to achieve an unprecedented resolution and observe the black hole's silhouette for the first time in history, confirming theoretical predictions about these celestial objects.

The event horizon of a black hole is the point at which its gravitational effects are strong that light cannot escape its pull.

The Breakthrough Prize was launched by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs to recognize and reward the world's top scientists.

They will be recognized at a gala awards ceremony on November 3, at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California.
ENVIRONMENT

Uttarakhand to set up a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve

The Uttarakhand government has determined to set up a Special Tiger Force for Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve. It will function as an abundantly required second layer of protection with the big cat. The force can have 85 posts.

**Special tiger force:**
The STPF is effective in checking outlaw human intrusion into the reserve through villages situated on its fringes for 250 tigers at the reserve.
The need for such a force was being felt by life specialists and conservationists for an extended time with three-tier protection to tigers at reserves.

**About Three Tier protection:**
The First layer of protection is by beat level forest guards through regular patrols. The second layer of protection is by STPF. The third layer of protection comes from intelligence gathering mechanism within which forest, police and central intelligence agencies personnel work along to stop crimes like cooking of tigers.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting decides to discontinue single use plastic

The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has announced its plan to get rid of single-use plastic within the secretariat. The Ministry has encouraged the staffers to turn the recycled paper.

**Aim:**
The reason aims to implement the ban as it plans to have a clean and green environment with collective responsibility and endless methods toward achieving the goal of plastic-free surroundings. All the Ministry officials are requested to discontinue the single-use of plastic folders, plastic water bottles, and different such things forthwith and instead start/encourage the utilization of recycled paper.

**Background:**
On 4 July 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the people to avoid single-use plastic. Minister Prakash Javadekar advised that each one involved within secretariat and media units are ought to discontinue the utilization of single-
use plastics.
DEFENCE

Defence Ministry to conduct JNAQC in Visakhapatnam

Naval Quality Assurance Establishments is to host the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) in Visakhapatnam on 5 September. It will be hosted under the charge of Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence.

Theme:
The theme of the Conclave is Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges. The conclave will focus on Quality Challenges of Emerging Technologies which will provide insights on Management of Emerging Technologies in Indian Navy.

Aim:
The Conclave will focus on all aspects pertaining to the Transformation of Quality Assurance (QA) Paradigm. It will benefit all stakeholders by enabling the cross-fertilization of ideas and best practices from diverse fields.

Participants:
Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command will be the Chief Guest for the annual event. It is expected that a large number of senior officers from the Indian Navy, Indian Army, DRDO, Ministry of Defence including academia will be participating in the event.

The guest speakers include Assistant Chief of Materiel (Information Technology & Systems), Dr Tessy Thomas, DS & DG (Aero Systems), DRDO, Rear Admiral Kalidoss Srinivas, Project Director Ship Building Centre, Rear Admiral SK Nair, Rear Admiral S Chaubey (Retd), CMD ECIL, Rear Admiral Surendra Ahuja, (Retd), MD Boeing India, Rear Admiral Shekhar Mital, (Retd), MD & CEO CEMS India Ltd, Cmde Siddharth Mishra (Retd), CMD BDL and Shri R Muralidharan, Chief Technology Officer Tata Power SED.

Indian army to train women soldiers for military police

The Indian Army is all set to start coaching 100 women soldiers from December 2019. The aim is for the ultimate induction into the Corps of the military police. So far, the Indian military has 3.80% of its workforce as girls, the Air Force has
13.09% and the Navy has 6%.

Training:
The military plans to coach 100 soldiers every year for a cadre. The strength of every cadre is expected to be 1,700 until reviewed. The training time will be of 61 weeks which is the same as for male soldiers.

Role of military police:
Women will be inducted as Women military police to comprise 22% of the Corps of military police. Their role would vary from searching crime cases to helping the military-like medical, legal, academic, signals and engineering wings of the military.

It will also include:
- policing cantonments and armed forces institutions
- preventing the breach of rules and rules by soldiers
- maintaining the movement of soldiers
- to supply throughout peace and war
- handling prisoners of war
- increasing aid to civil police

Indian Army Team Summit MT Leo Pargyil

Indian Army successfully summited Mount Leo Pargyil (6773M). This summit took place on 20th August 2019 in harsh weather hoisting the National Flag atop Mt Leo Pargyil. The expedition flagged in by Lieutenant General PM Bali, AVSM, VSM, COS, Western Command on 31 Aug 2019 at Jhakri near Rampur Bushar.

Leo Pargyil
Mount Leo Pargyil is the third highest peak in Himachal Pradesh. It is considered as the most challenging and technically difficult peak. It lies in the Zanskar range in Kinnaur district. It lies in the Zanskar range.

The expedition flagged off on August 20 by the Commander Tri Peak Brigade from Pooh in Himachal and comprised entirely of the troops from 18th Battalion the Mahar Regiment of Tri Peak Brigade.

Indian Army
Founded: 1 April 1895
Headquarters: New Delhi
Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind
IAF inducted 8 US made Apache attack helicopters

The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the 8 US-made Apache AH-64E (I) helicopters. The helicopters were delivered at the Pathankot airbase, Punjab. The 8 Apache attack helicopters will give great support and take the Air Force's battle powers to the next level. India is the fourteenth country to work on the Apache assault helicopters.

**Agreement:**
Indian Air Force has signed a contract for 22 Apache helicopters from the U.S. government and Boeing in September 2015. The multi-billion-dollar contract said that the helicopters will be sent to IAF by 2020. The Defence Ministry approved to buy 6 Apache helicopters along with weapons systems from Boeing for the cost of Rs.4,168 crore in 2017.

US handed over the first batch of the AH-64E Apache helicopters of the 22 helicopters in the month of July.

**AH-64E Apache:**
The AH-64E Apache is one of the world's multi-job battle helicopters flown by the US Army. The helicopter is equipped for an assortment of weapons that incorporate air-to-ground Hellfire rockets in 70 mm Hydra rockets and aerial Stinger rockets. It has a spectrum of capabilities virtually for any mission requirement. The helicopters have greater thrust and lift, joint digital operability, improved survivability, and cognitive decision. It conveys shoot control radar which has a 360-degree inclusion and nose-mounted sensor suite for objective securing and night vision frameworks.

**About Indian Air Force:**
IAF was founded in October 1932. It is headquartered at New Delhi. The Commander-in-Chief of IAF is President Ram Nath Kovind. The Chief of Air Staff (CAS) is Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh and the Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS) is Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria. The Air Force is a part of the Indian Armed Forces. IAF is responsible to secure the Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict.

**Fifteenth Indo-US military training exercise Yudh Abhyas 2019**
The **15th edition** of the biggest joint military exercise **Yudh Abhyas 2019** took place between Indian and the United States(US) at Lewis McChord Joint Airforce Base,Washington(US) continue till 18th September. The main objective is to facilitate interoperability between two nations and train at Battalion level as well as brigade level.

The US side represented by a company of 5-20 Infantry Battalion of the US Army and the Indian side was represented by The Assam Regiment. The Indian army welcomed by Major General of US, Xavier Brunsen.

The two armies at the end of the exercise will undertake a joint exercise under a UN(United Nations) mandate where expert academic and military discussions.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

CCMB scientist Thangaraj bagged J C Bose Fellowship

K Thangaraj who is the Chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad has bagged the celebrated J C Satyendra N. Bose Fellowship Award. He was awarded for his outstanding scientific contributions within the field of population and medical genetics.

Dr. Thangaraj:

Dr. Thangaraj is a population life scientist searching for the origin of the Indian population however humans migrated from Africa throughout inhabited different components of India. The current focus of thangaraj is on building information of Indian population biological science.

Research Interests:
The major analysis interest of thangaraj includes
The origin of contemporary human;
The genetic basis of - male physiological state, upset, sex determination, mitochondrial disorders, ayur genomics
origin of contemporary humans

Award:
The J C Satyendra N. Bose fellowship is awarded to active scientists in recognition of their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering analysis Board, Department of Science &Technology.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to award PM Modi

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced the Global Goalkeeper Award 2019 for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The award recognizes his goal-oriented venture plan Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Along with PM Modi, 10 other individuals are to be awarded for their great work.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or the Clean India Mission was introduced as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 in 2014. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan meant to make India the Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019. It ensures to provide sanitation facilities to all. The campaign will be completed by 2 October 2019 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:
The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest private foundation in the world, is a private establishment founded in 2000. It is located in Seattle, Washington. The foundation is claimed by a very rich person donor Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his significant other Melinda Gates. 

Global Goalkeeper Award 2019 is a special award of the foundation. It celebrates a political leader who has demonstrated their commitment to the Global Goals through impactful work in their country or/and globally.

French footballer Eric Cantona felicitated with UEFA President Award 2019

Manchester United and France legend Eric Cantona honored with Union of European Football Association President Award 2019 at the Champions League draw in Monaco. He won around 5 English championships with Leeds and Manchester United in the 1990s. The previous recipients of the award include Johann Cruyff, Alfredo Di Stefano, and Eusebio. He became the third Manchester United player to receive the award after Bobby Charlton (2008) and David Beckham (2018). He was best known for his role in Ken Loach's quirky 2009 comedy drama Looking for Eric. He nominated for a Palme d'Or. He played 45 times for France between 1983 and 1998.

Union of European Football Association
President: Aleksander Ceferin
First vice-president: Karl-Erik Nilsson
Headquarters: Nyon, Switzerland
Founded: Basel, Switzerland

President Ram Nath Kovind to conferred National Award 2018 to teachers

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Teachers Awards 2018 on the event of Teachers Day 2019 in New Delhi. The award recognizes the unique and special contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country. It also honours those teachers who played a vital role in not only improving the quality of school education but also enriching the lives of their students. National Teachers Award 2018:
The year 2018 was the 61st year of the National Teachers Award. The awardees were selected by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). 46 teachers were chosen from across the country to be felicitated in the national capital as India geared to celebrate Teachers' Day. The National Teachers award carries a silver medal, certificate and cash prize of Rs.50,000.

**Vatican awards Yunus the Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis award**

**Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus** was awarded the Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis award by the Vatican. The award recognizes his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony. Papal Basilica of Assisi and Father Mauro Gambetti who is the master of the Holy Convent conferred the award to Yunus.

**Muhammad Yunus:**
Muhammad Yunus was born on 28 June 1940 in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He is a professor, banker, and economist. He is famous for his work in microcredit. The book Banker to the Poor was published by him.

In 2008 he was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for founding Grameen Bank.

**Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis award:**
The Lamp of Peace was first presented in the year 1981. The first awardee was Lech Walesa, a Polish trade union leader. The award recognizes the distinguished work by an individual for promoting peace and dialogue among people.

**Representation of the Lamp:** It represents the simplicity of the Franciscan message. The lamp that is made of glass represents the nature of the glass. It recalls purity.

**Representation of the Oil:** The oil that burns inside represents the desire of **rebirth and social commitment.**

The Lamp is a replica of a glass oil lamp which burns at the side of the grave of **Saint Francis of Assisi.** Saint Francis of Assisi is the founder of the Franciscan order behind the peace prize.

**Previous recipients of the award:**
Previous recipients of the award include Pope John Paul II, Dalai Lama, Angela Markel and King Abdullah II of Jordan.
SPORTS

Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup

Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup 2019 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She became the world champion in the women's 10m Air Pistol event. Yashaswini Singh Deswal defeated Olena Kostevyc, 2004 Athens Olympic champion, by finishing 1.9 points ahead of her. With this win, she has secured India's ninth Olympic quota in shooting.

Yashaswini Singh Deswal:
Yashaswini Singh Deswal is an Indian sport shooter. She is the daughter of SS Deswal who is an IPS officer. He is the deputy general of Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Her mother Saroj Deswal is the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Panchkula.

Jinson Johnson of Kerala breaks his own 1500m national record by winning silver medal in Berlin

Asian Games gold medallist Jinson Johnson won 1500m national record a silver in the ISTAF Berlin event. He clocked 3 minute 35.24 seconds to finish second behind Joshua Thompson of United States at the Olympic Stadium.

The earlier national record in the name of the 28-year-old Kerala runner was 3:37.62 had clocked at Nijmegen in the Netherlands in June. He also holds the 800m national record (1:45.65). With his own national record shattering effort, Jinson also qualified for the World Championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 6. The World Championships qualifying time is 3:36.00.

Jinson won the 2018 Asian Games gold in 1500m with a time of 3:44.72. ISTAF Berlin is a part of the IAAF World Challenge meetings, the second tier of global one day athletics events. It is the penultimate leg of the IAAF World Challenge meetings this year.

Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe

Qatar unveiled the logo for the 2022 World Cup. It will hosted by the Gulf emirate displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world.

The design is a stylised Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning. It
displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolising infinity while creating a heart shape above the words **FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**
The logo is very elegant and showing local culture with the burgundy colour of the Qatari flag, Algerian hospitality worker Mourad Bencheikh.

**Logo - Qatar**
The emblem was also displayed in **Madrid**, Buenos Aires and Beirut along with several other major cities. The Qatari organisers inspired by traditional woollen shawls worn during the winter months.

The 2022 event will be held in November and December to avoid the scorching Gulf summer. It is designed by late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid and located in a coastal town south of Doha is estimated to have cost around **$575 million**. Qatar is building or refurbishing for 2022, Khalifa International already open and will host this year's World Athletics Championships.

The Championships will be a major test of Qatar's readiness to host a global sporting event. Tens of thousands of spectators are expected to descend on the desert nation ahead of the tournament which begins on September 27.

A major road overhaul is also underway across Doha to expand capacity at key junctions and traffic hotspots. Parts of an ambitious metro rail project opened to the public in May. The rest of the three-line network expected to be launched in **2020** well ahead of the tournament. The network will connect nearly all of Qatar's stadiums, transport hubs and tourist attractions, when it is completed.

The negative headlines in recent months including a decision in May to shelve plans for 48 nations to participate in the 2022 contest. European football president Michel Platini questioned by French anti-corruption investigators for several hours in relation to the 2010 award of hosting rights to Qatar.

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**Anupama Swain won bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu Jitsu 2019**

**Anupama Swain** won a bronze medal in the recently concluded **World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu 2019**. The event was held in Chungju, South Korea. She qualified for 2022 Asian Games. She is the only Indian to participate in the championship.

**Jiu-Jitsu** is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.
Kochi to host 22nd India International Seafood Show after 12 years

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) joined with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) is organizing the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) . Their aim is to provide an ideal platform for an interaction between Indian Exporters and overseas importers of Indian marine products, an opportunity for display and sale for manufacturers and suppliers of processing machinery, packaging systems, processing ingredient dealers and cold chain systems and also an opening for service providers like the logistics and certifying/testing segments.

They will highlight the technological advances and sustainable practices followed in seafood processing sector in India. The 22nd edition will have technical sessions by national and international experts. IISS 2020 will have over 250 stalls spread over 7,000 square metres (sq m), showcasing a wide range of products based on automated and IT aided technology, and energy efficient systems for value addition. They planned to have buyer delegations from countries focused on mutual tie-ups in the area of seafood processing and value addition. The delegates would include seafood processors, buyers and stakeholders from other related sectors representing firms from India and abroad. It is also planned to have buyer delegations from countries focused on mutual tie-ups in the area of seafood processing and value addition.
OBITUARY

Zimbabwe former President Robert Mugabe passed away

Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe passed away in Singapore at the age of 95 on 6 September. Mugabe is a country's independence struggler. He was receiving treatment in a hospital in Singapore since April.

Robert Mugabe:
Mugabe was born on 21 February 1924, in the capital of Zimbabwe. Mugabe was educated by Jesuit priest and worked as a school teacher before attending to South Africa's University of Fort Hare. He was imprisoned, for more than a decade without trial, for criticizing the government of Rhodesia in 1964.
While he was still in prison he was chosen as president of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) in 1973. After the independence movement resulted in 1980, Mugabe was elected as the nation's 1st black prime minister until 1987. He was ousted in a military coup in 2017 after 37 years in power.
COP 14 is being held in India

The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) was inaugurated to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The 12-day event has been scheduled to be held from 2 September to 13 September.

Inaugurated by:
The conference was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 2 September.

Host:
India is hosting the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) 2019. It has taken over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years till 2021. Also, the Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar has been elected COP President for next two years.

As a host, India will highlight its skills in navigating the land management agenda at a global level. It will also provide a stage to mainstream sustainable land management in the country's national development policies.

Participants:
Delegates from 197 parties are participating in the conference. The participants include scientists and representatives of national and local governments, global business leaders, non-governmental organization (NGOs), gender-based organizations, youth groups, journalists, and faith and community groups. The delegates will discuss and share their expertise to achieve their goals at the Conference.

Focus:
The COP 14 will discuss the existing programmes in the field of agriculture, forestry, land, water management, and poverty alleviation. These areas will cater the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India's vision to double the Farmers Income by 2022.

Rajnath Singh co chaired the Japan India Defence Ministerial Meeting
The **JapanIndia Defence Ministerial Meeting** was held in **Tokyo on 2 September**. Indian Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** co-chaired the meeting along with the **Defence Minister of Japan Takeshi Iwaya**. The meeting was held during the two-day visit of Rajnath Singh to Japan. The talks were held to strengthen bilateral arrangements.

**Focus:**
The meeting focused on various issues of mutual concern to **strengthen the existing bilateral co-operative arrangements** and adopt new initiatives towards achieving peace and security in the region. The importance of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the countries in addressing regional peace, security and stability were also discussed.

It also discussed the preference of India for a rules-based order along with centrality of **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and inclusiveness and security for all. The Japanese companies were invited to participate in the biennial arms exhibition **Defence Expo 2020** which has been scheduled to be held in **Lucknow**.

### ECI hosts 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies

Election Commission of India (ECI) is hosting the **4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB)** for the term 2019-21 at **Bengaluru** on 3rd September 2019. On 4 September, an International Conference on **Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections** will also be held during the AWEB meeting.

**AWEB Centre:**
At this conference, India announced that it is to set up an AWEB Centre at the **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, New Delhi**. This centre will be used for documentation, research, and training. It will facilitate to share the best practices and capacity building among the members EMBs of the Association.

**Participants and appointments:**
Around 50 countries across the globe will be participating in the meeting at Bengaluru. The from **2nd to 4th September 2019**.

**Executive Board members:**
In the conference EMBs from Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican
Republic, Bosnia, and Herzegovina were added to the Executive Board.

**Oversight and Audit Committee:**
EMBs from Burkina Faso, Mauritius and Samoa have been admitted to the Oversight and Audit Committee.

**New members:**
EMBs from countries like Cambodia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Political Parties Registration Commission of Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Mauritius joined the A-WEB family as Members and the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) as an Associate Member.

**Shri Sunil Arora assumed as Chairman of AWEB:**
In this conference, Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Sunil Arora took over the Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for a tenure of 2 years from 2019 to 2021. He was nominated at the last General Assembly which was held at Bucharest in 2017.

**Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB):**
AWEB, the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide, was established on **14 October 2013**. The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located in Seoul.

It aims to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide. It aims to identify the latest trends, challenges, and developments in democratic electoral management and electoral processes. The main objective is to strengthen the electoral democracy worldwide which will facilitate the appropriate exchange of experience and expertise among members.

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**Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit organised in Maldives**

Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit on achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** held in Mal, the Maldives from September 1-2, jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Peoples Majlis (the single legislative body of the Maldives). The summit attended by Secretary-General of the IPU, Martin Chungong and senior lawmakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The Indian delegation was led by Om Birla, 17th Lok sabha speaker and the RajyaSabhas Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.
The Mal declaration rejects Pakistan’s Kashmir issue concerns: The Mal declaration ignored Pakistan delegate Qasim Suris concern on bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into Union Territories (UT), raised during the summit citing the reasons that the issue wasn’t part of the summits agenda.

The agenda for the summit was on equal pay, youth employment, nutrition, food security and delivering the Paris agreement on climate change. The summit hold discussions on the themes:

- Promoting equality at work including equal remuneration and creating jobs for young people
- Achieving SDGs 2 and 3 Nutrition and food security as drivers of maternal, child and adolescent health in the Asia-Pacific region
- Catalyzing the global agenda on climate change overcoming challenges and utilizing opportunities to strengthen the regional agenda for delivering on the Paris Agreement.

The previous/3rd summit was held by the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2018.

**India Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order was held in New Delhi**

The India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges National Conference was held in New Delhi. The conference was composed by research organizations, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). It was organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the conference.

India confirmed and renewed its goal to achieve $5 trillion economy by 2024-25 as outlined in the economic survey-2019. The discussion included India's cooperation with Africa in every aspect including Trade, security, capacity building, maritime cooperation, and food security.

**India and Africa relationship:**

India and Africa have a natural partnership for over several centuries. India is engaged with African nations at Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral levels. The bilateral trade between India and Africa is about $60 billion in 2017-2018.

India has hosted more than 36 leaders from Africa and 6 additional missions on the welfare of Africa. The official platform for the African-Indian relations is the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). The Forum Summit happens once every...
three years since 2008. There are about 40,000 Africans in India.

**Developmental challenge:**
India and Africa have a development challenge on agriculture, making digital Africa with the help of India. It also extends to other areas like education and health, public services, finance, etc. Indian investments plan to expand and diversify towards broad range in Africa. Currently, Indian investments are restricted to traditional sectors of investments.

The 1st Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics was held at New Delhi

The **first National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics** was held at CBI Headquarters in **New Delhi** on 4-5 September. The two-day conference was inaugurated by the **CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla.**

**Aim:**
The conference aimed at creating a **platform** where the investigators, forensic experts, academia and lawyers can discuss challenges related to cybercrime and ways to find solutions. It also aimed to create capacity building and to create a pool of competent investigators, digital forensic analysts, prosecutors and judicial officers who are digitally aware. The platform will also share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

**Highlights:**
The conference included lectures and presentations on various topics of law enforcement.

Discussion on **Cyber Forensics** included Social Media, Mobile/Digital Forensics, online harming including child sexual abuse, establishing standard formats for data exchange between service providers and LEAs and Intermediary liability.

The conference covered the CBI mandate which is to investigate crimes with inter-state and international ramifications.

He said that cybercrimes pose unique challenges to law enforcement officers and such crimes are complex and require certain skills and forensic skills for detection.

Several complex cases of cybercrimes that require specific skills and forensic skills for detection that poses challenges to law enforcement officers were also discussed.

**Participants:**
In the conference, around 50 officers including Director general of police (DGPs), Additional Director General of Police (ADGPs), and SPs dealing with cybercrime,
officials and academia participated.

**Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):**
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was formed in 1941. It is headquartered at New Delhi. CBI is the premier investigating agency of India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. CBI is headed by the Director-General Rishi Kumar Shukla.

**The 8th 2019 Seoul Defense Dialogue was held in Seoul**

The Seoul Defense Dialogue 2019, an annual international security forum, was held in Seoul. It was hosted by the Ministry of National Defense, Seoul. Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the dialogue during his 3-day visit to Republic of Korea (ROK). The dialogue had four plenary sessions.

**Theme:**
The dialogue aimed to discuss the international security issues such as the overall development of the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and improvement in Northeast Asia's security environment. The theme of Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019 is Building Peace Together: Challenges and Vision.

The themes of the four plenary sessions are:

- Peace Process on the Korean Peninsula and International Cooperation
- Peace in Northeast Asia: Challenges and Tasks
- International Peacekeeping Operations and Humanitarian Assistance
- National Strategy and Crisis Management in Cyberspace

**Highlights on Defense Dialogue 2019:**

**Defence Minister addressed:**
Defense Dialogue 2019 discussed the numerous security challenges to safe from terrorism.

The dialogue called for a collective international action to check perpetrators who promote terrorism. It also suggested strong measures against those who support and finance terrorism and provide sanctuary to terrorists.

**About Defense Dialogue 2019:**
The Seoul Defense Dialogue was launched in 2012. The dialogue aimed for talks on Asia-Pacific cooperation and peace on the peninsula. Defense officers and specialists from around fifty countries and five international organizations except the U.S. representative attended the Dialogue.
The 6th India China SED was held in New Delhi

The 6th round of India-China strategic economic dialogue is being held in New Delhi. The three day event will be held on 7-9 September 2019. The dialogue will discuss various issues, including infrastructure, energy and pharmaceuticals.

Event:
The dialogue includes events like round table meetings of joint working groups (JWG) on infrastructure, high-tech, energy, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination.

Participants:
In the dialogue, the Indian side will be led by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and the Chinese side by Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) He Lifeng. Senior representatives from industry, policymaking and academia from both countries are participating in the dialogue.

Previous SED Meetings:
At the second strategic economic dialogue (SED) meeting the countries decided to constitute 5 standing joint working groups for strengthening cooperation in these fields. The 2nd SED was held in November 2012 in New Delhi. The fifth SED was held in Beijing on 14 April 2018 before the informal Wuhan Summit between the leaders of both countries. The 6th joint working group on pharmaceuticals was constituted after the 5th SED.

IAF Commanders Conference was held in New Delhi

The Western Air Command, Commanders Conference was held in 5 and 6 September 2019 at New Delhi. The conference was chaired by Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa. The conference discussed the importance and pivotal role of this crucial Air Force unit in all future conflicts and aid to civil power.

Participants:
Air Officers Commanding Station Commanders of all Air Force Stations under Western Air Command participated in the conference.

Events:
The conference aims to keep the necessity for the development and maintenance of operational infrastructure and continuous orientation of human.
It revised the operational plans and various exercises and recent operations. It also aims to ensure the ground defence of the airbases in the existing security scenario. The conference also included reviews and discussion that were targeted on critical operational readiness and coaching to reinforce the high utility of combat assets.
SCHEMES

PM to launch a new initiative to control FMD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch a new initiative in the National disease management Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis. Under this scheme, the Centre will allocate Rs.13,500 crore central scheme to control livestock diseases.

Launch of the scheme:
The scheme will be launched on 11 September from Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh. On this day, PM also will launch the National AI Programme throughout the event on 11 September in Mathura.

Aim:
The aim of the Programme is to regulate Foot and Mouth sickness and Brucellosis by 2025 with vaccination and ultimate demolition of FMD by 2030.

National disease management Programme:
The National disease management Programme for Foot and Mouth sickness and Brucellosis could be a 100% centrally funded program with Rs 12,652 from 2019 to 2024. The programme envisages a hundred percent vaccination coverage of oxen, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and pigs at six months intervals.

Workshop:
There will be a countywide workshop at the same time at Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the 687 districts of the country on the subject of vaccination and disease management, Artificial insemination and productivity, etc.

First IoT in Mini Piped Water Scheme launched at Amingaon

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Assam and Piramal Water Pvt Ltd (Piramal Sarvajal), launched a project on the deployment of the first Internet of Things (IoT) solution in single village mini piped water supply scheme.

Internet of Things (IoT)
The Internet of Things is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers. The solution is a maiden pilot project not only in Assam but all over
India. The control unit converts signals from sensors to digital data and sends it to a centralized server. The scheme geo-locates with its functional status for monitoring various parameters graphically, such as the volume of water extracted from the ground, the volume of water distributed to the village, water quality and groundwater level. The integrated solution will help the PHED in taking necessary corrective or preventive action and thereby help in good governance.
Lt Gen Manoj Naravane took charge as VCAS

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge of Vice Chief of the Army Staff in New Delhi on 1 September. He replaces Lieutenant General Devraj Anbu superannuated on August 31.

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane:
Naravane was earlier heading the Eastern Command of the Indian Army. He was active in Counter Insurgency environments, both in the North East and in J&K. Naravane was a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka during Operation PAWAN.

Lieutenant General Manoj was awarded the Sena Medal-Distinguished for command of his Battalion in J&K, the Vishisht Seva Medal for his services as the Inspector General Assam Rifles-North in Nagaland.

President Ram Nath Kovind appoints 5 new Governors

President of India. Shri Ram Nath Kovind appointed 5 new governors namely Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Kalraj Mishra, Arif Mohammed Khan and Bandaru Dattatreya for Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh.

Tamilisai Soundararajan appointed the Governor of Telangana having a separate Governor is a first for the country's newest state. Bandaru Dattatreya put in charge of Himachal Pradesh. Former union minister Arif Mohammad Khan appointed the Governor of Kerala and Bhagat Singh Koshyari as the Governor of Maharashtra.

Tamilisai Soundararajan in charge of the BJP in a crucial southern state where it had practically zero presence, owing to the muscular Dravidian politics of the former Chief Ministers J Jayalalithaa and M Karunanidhi.

Maharashtra is the only one going for state elections later this year. Mr Koshyari replaces Vidya Sagar Rao, whose five-year term came to an end.

Veteran politician Arif Mohammad Khan started his political career with the Congress and had made the rounds of several political parties including Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party before joining the BJP. He is replacing P Sathasivam, the former chief justice of India whose five-year term.
Shri Jaideep Sarkar accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho

The Ministry of External Affairs appointed Shri Jaideep Sarkar as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho. He succeeds Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam. He is 1987 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer. He served as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of South Africa. He worked in Indian Missions in Tokyo, Seoul, and Bangladesh as well.

Indian Foreign Service (IFS)
Formed: October 9, 1946
Foreign Secretary: Vijay Keshav Gokhale, IFS
Cabinet Secretary: Rajiv Gauba, IAS
Headquarters: New Delhi

Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar is the next newly appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway

B Bala Bhaskar appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to Norway. The ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Bala Bhaskar (IFS: 1993) appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway. He will replace Krishan Kumar heading the Indian mission in Norway since July 2018. An IFS of 1993 batch will take up the assignment shortly. The Joint Secretary of the WANA division of the MEA that deals with all the matters relating to India’s trade with WANA region comprising 19 countries. These countries are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya and South Sudan.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Coconut Day observed on September 2nd

World Coconut Day observed on September 2. Coconut Development Board (CDB) distribute its National Awards in various categories on the season of World Coconut Day celebration at Bhubaneswar, India. Coconut, the tree of life Sustains family well being is a theme by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community for the World Coconut Day.

History of World Coconut Day
The Coconut Development Board celebrated the World Coconut Day at NEDFI Convention Centre, Guwahati, Assam. Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi awards 15 people have exceeded in coconut farming, industry, and other coconut related activities. Assam is the next major coconut producing state in India; the CDB decided to hold the national-level function on occasion there this year. About 33,493 hectares in all seven NE states are under coconut cultivation, Assam alone is cultivating 20,368 hectares. Coconuts are members of the drupe family, and it is a fleshy fruit that has been planting in tropical regions for millions of years. On this day, Entire globe celebrates one of natures healthiest foods.

Teachers Day is celebrated in India on 5 Sept

Teacher's Day is celebrated in India on 5 September each year. The Day commemorates the 131st birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The day is being observed since 1962. It was the year when he has assumed the post of the President of India.

Aim:
The Teachers' Day is celebrated to know the contribution of all the teachers for their hard work and endless contribution in shaping a students educational life. The day is dedicated to all the teachers, mentors and gurus who guide the students to become better human beings.

Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:
Dr. Radhakrishnan was born on 5 September 1888. He studied and worked as a professor in many education institutions, as he spent his life as an academic, including Calcutta University, Mysore University, Oxford University, University of
Chicago, and Madras Presidency College. He was one of the most eminent scholars of the 20th century. He wrote the famous book *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore*. The book attracted global attention to Indian philosophy and the Indian way of thinking.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the **first Vice President** and **second President** of India. He served as Vice President from **1952-1962** and from **1962-1967**, he served as the President of India.

**Awards:**

In **1954**, Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** award. He was nominated 27 times for Nobel Prize, 16 times for the Nobel prize in literature and 11 times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

International Day of Charity is observed on 5 September

The **International Day of Charity** is observed on **5 September** across the world. The day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa. The day aims to make people understand the importance of charity.

**History:**

The day was created by the Hungarian Civil society initiative in 2011. In **2012**, the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** officially declared 5 September as the International Day of Charity.

**Mother Teresa:**

Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa, was born on **26 August 1910** in Skopje, North Macedonia. In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity in India. It helps the poor on the streets of Kolkata. The foundation manages homes for people who are dying of leprosy, TB and HIV/AIDS. Through the charity, Mother Teresa spent around 45 years in serving the poor, sick, orphaned and dying on the streets of Kolkata. She died at the age of 87 in 1997 in Kolkata.

**Awards:** In 1962 she was awarded **Padma Shri and Ramon Magsaysay**. In 1979 she was awarded **Nobel Prize for Peace** and in 1980 she received **Bharat Ratna** award. In 2016 she was **canonized** by Pope Francis.
BOOKS & AUTHORS

A new book entitled First They Erased Our Name A Rohingya Speaks


The book explains about the Rohingya community through the eyes of a Rohingya, Habiburahman who was born and raised in a small village in western Burma in 1979 grew up stateless with his people when their own countrys military leader ordered that Rohingya were not one among the 135 recognized ethnic groups that formed the 8 national races.

Millions of Rohingya people left their homes since the year 1982.
The Myanmar government rapid the process of ethnic cleansing in 2016 & 2017 and about 600,000 Rohingya were forced to cross the border into Bangladesh.

Myanmar
Capital: Naypyitaw
Currency: Burmese kyat
President: Win Myint

Venkaiah Naidu released Glorious Diaspora Pride of India in New Delhi

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releasing the Coffee Table Book titled Glorious Diaspora-Pride of India in New Delhi. The book contains the brief profiles of the recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) from 2003 to 2019. The Coffee Table Book was brought out by the Indian Diaspora Club. The club was appreciated for the contributed for the welfare of the nation through their philanthropic and charitable work.

Aim:
Indian Diaspora aims to effectively counter false propaganda and negative narration about India, particularly in the wake of the recent reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir State. The book also includes an inspiring profile of Distinguished Overseas Indians who have made their indelible mark in various fields.

Indian Diaspora is described as ambassadors of Indias great culture, heritage and its intrinsic values of humanism, the Vice President lauded their contributions for the
welfare of the nation through their philanthropic and charitable work.
Summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries released

Ministry of Commerce & Industry released the summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries with the base 2011-12. Among the total Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the 8 core industries comprise of 40.27% of the weight of items. In June 2019, the combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 131.4. This amount is 0.2% higher than that of the index of June 2018. Its cumulative growth of the core industries was 3.5% during April to June 2019-20.

Core Industries:
The Eight Core Industries are crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas, electricity, steel, refinery products, and fertilizers. The Index of 8 Core Industries is a monthly production index. The monthly industrial performance is calculated by using these 8 core sectors as a lead indicator.

Index of 8 core industries:
- **Coal** - Coal production increased by 3.2% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 2.7% to the previous year.
- **Crude Oil** - Crude Oil production declined by 6.8% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 6.8% to the previous year.
- **Natural Gas** - Natural Gas production has reduced by 2.1% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 0.9% to the previous year.
- **Refinery Products** - Petroleum Refinery production declined by 9.3% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 2.4% to the previous year.
- **Fertilizers** - Fertilizers production increased by 1.5% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 1.1% to the previous year.
- **Steel** - Steel production increased by 6.9% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 13.7% to the previous year.
- **Cement** - Cement production declined by 1.5% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 1.2% to the previous year.
- **Electricity** - Electricity generation has increased by 7.3% in June 2019 over June 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 6.9% to the previous year.

India ranks 34th in 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index
According to the **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI)** for the year 2019 released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. India ranked at the 34th spot from 6 places from the 2017 report (40th rank). The index topped by Spain, It is followed by France and Germany in the second and third places. Around 140 countries were ranked based on four sub-indexes. They are ranked mainly on the basis of:

- Infrastructure
- Travel and Tourism policy enabling conditions
- Natural and cultural sources and
- Enabling environment.

India needs to improve in the enabling environment, tourist service infrastructure and environmental sustainability as it ranks 98th, 109th and 128th respectively.

**Rank Country**

1 - Spain  
2 - France  
3 - Germany  
4 - Japan  
5 - United States  
6 - United Kingdom  
7 - Australia  
8 - Italy  
9 - Canada  
10 - Switzerland  
34 - India

**India ranks 9th among the top 10 individual nations in gold reserves**

The **World Gold Council (WGC)** released the **2019 list of gold reserves**. The country who topped the list was the **United States (US)**. They have gold reserves of **8,133.5 tonnes**, followed by Germany (3,366.8 tonnes) at second place. **India** entered the **top 10 list** this year ranking at 10th spot surpassing the **Netherlands (612.5 tonnes)** it ranked 9th position in terms of individual countries with 618.2 tonnes, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranks third (2,451.8 tonnes) in the gold reserve list.

**Last Year India Report**
Indias gold reserve grown from 357.8 tonnes in the first quarter of 2000 to 618.2 tonnes at present. Indias neighbouring country Pakistan 45th position (64.6 tonnes) in 2019 list.

**Top 5 Rank Country**
1- United States
2- Germany
3- International Monetary Fund
4- Italy
5- France
PM has begun his 3 day visit to Russia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has begun his three-day trip to Russia on 3 September. PM Modi along with Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Russian Zvezda shipbuilding complex. He is the first Indian prime minister to visit the Russian Far East Region.

Importance of India-Russia visit:
The visit would give an incredible chance to find Russia's excellent abilities in the shipbuilding division just as investigate conceivable outcomes of collaboration. During his visit, the PM will hold India-Russia 20th Annual Summit talks with President Putin. Also, Mr.Modi has been invited to attend the Eastern Economic Forum. Also, Modi and Putin are expected to discuss a gamut of bilateral and regional issues.
The visit of Modi and Russian president will consent to arrangements sectors such as defense, trade, investments, industrial cooperation, energy and connectivity corridors at the summit.

Eastern Economic Forum:
Eastern Economic Forum is formed in 2015. It is headquartered at Vladivostok, Russia. It is responsible to encourage foreign investment in the Russian Far East. The forum aims to ensure the development of investment and business opportunities in the Russian Far East Region. It presents enormous potential for developing close and mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Russia in the region.

Vice President advises educational institutions to be partners in Fit India and Khelo India

Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu to partner in programs such as Fit India and Khelo India and encourage students to lead a physically active life. The youth are important as their intellectual and emotional development. It was particularly essential in the wake of the spurt in the non-communicable diseases in the country.
He stressed the need to provide a multidisciplinary and holistic education that includes co-curricular activities and community service.
The authorities to empower the youth by revamping the education system and reorient it to suit the present-day needs ending the digital divide, improving the quality of education and building adequate infrastructure for skill up-gradation of rural youth was essential to realizing Indias demographic dividend.

Indias long and illustrious history of holistic education and the guru Shishya Parampara, the Vice President asserted that the main aim of education not for employment alone, but to enhance knowledge and provide enlightenment and empowerment to individuals.

The focus on the holistic aspect of education and emphasizes that education throughout life was based on four pillars i) Learning to know - ii) Learning to do - iii) Learning to live together iv) Learning to be. The former Governor of Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh, Shri O.P. Kohli, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Prof. Yogesh Tyagi, the Chairman of the Governing Body of Maharaja Agrasen College, Prof. Sunil Sharma and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The college was renamed as Maharaja Agrasen College in 1995 in memory of the great philosopher and King, Maharaja Agrasen. The college continued flourishing and celebrating years of imparting holistic education in various creative ways, to reach its current stature.

The many awards and accolades won by the college for Good Practices are an eloquent testimony to the institutions strong commitment to excellence through inclusion.

**India**

India inc. is stronger than ever before due to visionary initiatives like make-in-India, start-up India and Digital India.

More than 21,000 start-ups have been recognized since the inception of Start-up India and more than 1,20,000 Gram Panchayats have been connected by optical fiber network. 413 Crore financial transactions have happened via the BHIM app since August 2016.

This emphasis on digital technology has effectively tackled corruption and unnecessary delays in processes, transforming our governance, making it much more transparent, participative and fast.

India is also conquering new horizons when it comes to technology. The recently launched Chandrayaan 2 mission has completed all its orbit manoeuvres around the Moon and is ready to land close to the lunar south pole and we are all set to launch
Indias first human space mission by 2022.
India rightly recognized that sustainability must form the cornerstone of every development plan. As a testament to the love and respect for nature that is at the core of Indias civilizational philosophy, we have doubled our efforts towards securing clean energy and ensuring a green future for posterity.

**India - Renewable Energy**
India has 78 GW installed renewable energy capacity and plays a leadership role in international partnerships like the Solar Alliance to strengthen initiatives to fight climate change and global warming.
The Government is also striving hard to take the benefits of this growth and macroeconomic stability to the bottom of the pyramid, to the last man in the queue, through a range of initiatives.
But the most incredible opportunity that is at our disposal today is our tremendous demographic dividend. We have a perfectly balanced population pyramid where 65 percent of our population is less than 35 years old.

Students must develop not only cognitive skills both foundational skills of literacy and numeracy and higher-order cognitive skills such as critical thinking and problem solving skills - but also social and emotional skills, also referred to as soft skills, including cultural awareness and empathy, perseverance and grit, teamwork and leadership, among others.
The developments that have taken place in the world of cognitive science, there is now a deep engagement with the idea that these social and emotional competencies must be acquired by all learners and that all learners should become more academically, socially and emotionally competent.

**Draft National Education Policy 2019**
The Draft National education Policy 2019 focuses on the holistic aspect of education. The Policy emphasizes that education throughout life is based on four pillars:
i) Learning to know - acquiring a body of knowledge and learning how to learn;
ii) Learning to do - acquiring not only an occupational skill but also the competence to deal with many situations and work in teams and deal with the various challenges of working life;
iii) Learning to live together developing an understanding of other people and an appreciation of interdependence in a spirit of respect for the values of pluralism,
mutual understanding and peace; and
iv) Learning to be - developing ones personality and being able to act with autonomy, judgement and personal responsibility.
QUIZ CORNER

1) CBDT constitutes ________member Startup Cell for startups

A.4  
B.5  
C.6  
D.7

Answer B

Explanation CBDT constitutes five-member Startup Cell for startups

2) Which country raises the issue of global oil price volatility with Russia?

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

Answer B

Explanation India raises the issue of global oil price volatility with Russia

3) India raises the issue of global oil price volatility with ____________?

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

Answer A

Explanation India raises the issue of global oil price volatility with Russia

4) Which state police set up special cell to probe crime against women

A. Tamil Nadu

Current Affairs - Weekly Edition PDF  
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B.Odisha
C.Kerala
D.West Bengal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Odisha police set up special cell to probe crime against women

5) ___________ to build 1GW electric vehicle battery plant

A.Mansfield Oil Gas
B.Indian Oil
C.Mekuba Petroleum India Pvt Ltd
D.Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Oil to build 1GW electric vehicle battery plant

6) Indian Oil to build ___________ electric vehicle battery plant

A.4GW
B.2GW
C.1GW
D.6GW

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian Oil to build 1GW electric vehicle battery plant.

7) Who is the Odisha chief minister?

A.Padmanabha Behera
B.Niranjan Pujari
C.Naveen Patnaik
D.Bikram Keshari Arukha

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Naveen Patnaik is the Odisha chief minister
8) Where is the headquarters of ICICI Bank?

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

**Answer B**  
**Explanation** The headquarters of ICICI Bank is Mumbai.

9) Who is the Chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad?

A. Mayilsamy Annadurai  
B. K Thangaraj  
C. George shan  
D. Rajiv Kumar  

**Answer B**  
**Explanation** K Thangaraj who is the Chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad.

10) Who bagged the J C Satyendra N. Bose Fellowship for his outstanding scientific contributions within the field of population and medical genetics in 2019?

A. Sathya Sivan  
B. Jagadesh Raj  
C. K Thangaraj  
D. Parmodh Singh  

**Answer C**  
**Explanation** K Thangaraj has bagged the celebrated J C Satyendra N. Bose Fellowship for his outstanding scientific contributions within the field of population and medical genetics.
11) Which government has determined to make a Special Tiger Force for Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve?
A. Uttarakhand  
B. Gujarat  
C. Bihar  
D. Uttar Pradesh  

Answer A

Explanation The Uttarakhand government has determined to make a Special Tiger Force for Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve is able to facilitate function the abundant required second layer of protection with the big cat.

12) What is the Capital of Bihar?
A. Patna  
B. Lucknow  
C. Kolkata  
D. Mumbai  

Answer A

Explanation Bihar is an East India state in the border of Nepal. The Capital of Bihar is Patna.

13) Which state government has placed a ban on wearing jeans and T-shirts within the state secretariat?
A. Maharashtra  
B. Delhi  
C. Gujarat  
D. Bihar  

Answer D

Explanation The Bihar government has placed a ban on wearing jeans and T-shirts within the state secretariat.

14) Who took Charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff?
A. Manoj Mukund Naravane  
B. Devraj Anbu  
C. Ranbir Singh  
D. Sandeep Singh  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge of Vice Chief of the Army Staff in New Delhi on 1 September. He replaces Lieutenant General Devraj Anbu superannuated on August 31.

15) **Where is Rio de Janeiro located?**

A. Spain  
B. Italy  
C. Argentina  
D. Brazil  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Rio de Janeiro is a huge seaside city in Brazil, famed for its Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, 38m Christ the Redeemer statue atop Mount Corcovado and for Sugarloaf Mountain, a granite peak with cable cars to its summit.

16) **Who won gold in the women's 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2019?**

A. Elavenil Valarivan  
B. Yashaswini Singh Deswal  
C. Manu Bhaker  
D. Gayathri Nithyanadam  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold at ISSF World Cup 2019 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She became the world champion in the women's 10m Air Pistol event. Yashaswini Singh Deswal defeated Olena Kostevyc, 2004 Athens Olympic champion, by finishing 1.9 points ahead of her. With this win, she has secured India's ninth Olympic quota in shooting.

17) **What is the name of the Lander of the Chandrayaan-2 mission?**
A. Vikranth
B. Pragyan
C. Vikram
D. Kranti

Answer C

Explanation The mission's lander is called Vikram named after Vikram Sarabhai, the founder of the Indian space programme. The Vikram lander will detach from the orbiter and descend to a low lunar orbit of 30 km 100 km (19 mi 62 mi) using its 800 N (180 lbf) liquid main engines. It will then perform a comprehensive check of all its on-board systems before attempting a soft landing, deploy the rover, and perform scientific activities for approximately 14 days. The approximate combined mass of the lander and rover is 1,471 kg (3,243 lb).

18) How many lunar bound orbit manoeuvre was carried out by Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on its way to Moon's south pole?

A. 4  
B. 5  
C. 6  
D. 7

Answer B

Explanation 5 lunar bound orbit manoeuvre was carried out by Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on its way to Moon's south pole. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully performed the fifth and the final lunar bound orbit manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft on 1 September. The 5th lunar bound orbit manoeuvre was done using the onboard propulsion system.

19) With which company did Ministry of IT partner for the Build for Digital India programme?

A. Infosys  
B. Microsoft  
C. Google  
D. TCS

Answer C
Explanation: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a statement of intent (SoI) with Google. The agreement aimed to implement Build for Digital India programme. The aim of the initiative is to motivate the college students across India to innovate and produce some good technology solutions for major social challenges of India.

20) KVIC Launches Terracotta Grinder at ___________ to Re-use wasted pottery
A. Chennai
B. Varanasi
C. Hyderabad
D. Mumbai

Answer B

Explanation: KVIC Launches Terracotta Grinder at Varanasi to Re-use wasted pottery

21) Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses __________ Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia
A. 65th
B. 72nd
C. 86th
D. 79th

Answer B

Explanation: Dr Harsh Vardhan addresses 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

22) New Health Insurance Scheme AB-MGRSBY Launched In __________
A. Tamil Nadu
B. Rajasthan
C. Kerala
D. West Bengal

Answer B

Explanation: New Health Insurance Scheme AB-MGRSBY Launched In Rajasthan.
23) President Ram Nath Kovind appoints ______new Governors

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

**Answer B**  
**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind appoints 5 new Governors

24) Who launches Electors Verification Programme voter verification and authentication?

A. Reserve Bank of India  
B. Election Commission of India  
C. National Informatics Centre  
D. Defence Research and Development Organisation  

**Answer B**  
**Explanation** Election Commission of India launches Electors Verification Programme voter verification and authentication.

25) Jinson Johnson of Kerala brokes his own _________ national record by winning silver medal in Berlin?

A. 3600 m  
B. 2500 m  
C. 1500 m  
D. 1900 m  

**Answer C**  
**Explanation** Jinson Johnson of Kerala breaks his own 1500m national record by winning silver medal in Berlin.

26) Jinson Johnson of Kerala breaks his own 1500m national record by
winning silver medal in ___________?
A. New York
B. Berlin
C. Indonesia
D. Pakistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Jinson Johnson of Kerala broke his own 1500m national record by winning silver medal in Berlin.

27) World Coconut Day observed on ____________?

A. March 16th
B. September 2nd
C. April 15th
D. October 10th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Coconut Day observed on September 2nd.

28) Where is the headquarters of WHO organisation?

A. Algiers, Algeria
B. Paris, France
C. New York, United States
D. Geneva, Switzerland

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Geneva, Switzerland is the headquarters of WHO organisation.

29) Summary of the Index of ________ Core Industries released

A. Seven
B. Eight
C. Six
D.Five

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries released.

**30) Which state does Jinson Johnson belongs to?**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Jinson Johnson of Kerala broke his own 1500m national record by winning silver medal in Berlin.

**31) What is the name of the cultural event organised in New Delhi?**

A. TechFest  
B. Rendezvous  
C. Namaste Pacific  
D. Barkha Ritu

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Cultural event Namaste Pacific organised in New Delhi.

**32) Who is to 100 women soldiers from December 2019 for their ultimate induction into the Corps of the military police?**

A. Indian army  
B. CRPF  
C. BSF  
D. Indo-Tibetan Border Police

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Indian Army will start coaching 100 women soldiers from December this year.
for their ultimate induction into the Corps of the military police.

33) How many percent of women does the Indian Air Force have?

A.13%
B.3%
C.20%
D.44%

Answer A

Explanation The Indian Army is all set to start coaching 100 women soldiers from December, 2019. The aim is for the ultimate induction into the Corps of the military police. So far, the Indian military has 3.80% of its workforce as girls, the Air Force has 13.09% and the Navy have 6%.

34) Income Tax Department is to automatically issue ______ to taxpayers using Aadhar number for filling in returns of new arrangements on linking two databases.

A.Bank account Number
B.PAN Number
C.ITR Number
D.None of these

Answer B

Explanation The Income Tax Department will automatically issue PAN to taxpayers using Aadhar number for filling in returns of new arrangements on linking two databases.

35) What is the due date given for connecting PAN-Aadhaar by the Supreme Court legislature?

A.October 2
B.September 1
C.October 21
D.September 30

Answer D
**Explanation** The supreme court legislature announced the due date for connecting PAN-Aadhaar was accessible till September 30.

36) Which government declared an Rs.4,750 crore waiver on interest and penalty on crop loans from cooperative banks having benefiting concerning to 10 lakh farmers?

A. Haryana  
B. Gujarat  
C. Telangana  
D. Maharashtra  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Haryana government declared an Rs 4,750-crore waiver on interest and penalty on crop loans from cooperative banks having benefiting concerning ten lakh farmers simply before the assembly elections within the state in October-November.

37) Who is the Chief Minister of Haryana?

A. Yeddyurappa  
B. Manohar Lal Khattar  
C. Yogi Aditya  
D. Vijay Rupani  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Manohar Lal Khattar is a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) politician, is the 10th Chief Minister of Haryana. He is a former RSS pracharak.

38) Which Country is hosting the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14)?

A. Russia  
B. China  
C. India  
D. Nepal  

**Answer C**

**Explanation**
The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) was inaugurated to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India. The 12 day event has been scheduled to be held from 2 September to 13 September.

39) India took over the COP Presidency from ________ for the next two years till 2021.

A. Switzerland  
B. Thailand  
C. Sri Lanka  
D. China  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India is hosting the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) 2019. It has taken over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years till 2021. Also, the Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar has been elected COP President for next two years.

40) Japan-India Defence Ministerial Meeting was held in __________.

A. New Delhi  
B. Tokyo  
C. Mumbai  
D. Osaka  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The JapanIndia Defence Ministerial Meeting was held in Tokyo on 2 September. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the meeting along with the Defence Minister of Japan Takeshi Iwaya. The meeting was held during the two-day visit of Rajnath Singh to Japan. The held talks to strengthen bilateral arrangements.

41) Who is the Defence Minister of Japan?

A. Takeshi Iwaya  
B. Seigo Kitamura  
C. Seishir Et  
D. Yoshiaki Harada
Takeshi Iwaya is a Japanese politician of the Liberal Democratic Party, a member of the House of Representatives in the Diet. He is also the Minister of Defense since 2 October 2018.

**42) Where will the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) be held?**

A. Mumbai  
B. Cochin  
C. Visakhapatnam  
D. Kolkata

**Answer C**

The Naval Quality Assurance Establishments is to host the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) in Visakhapatnam on 5 September. It will be hosted under the charge of Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence.

**43) What is the theme of the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC)?**

A. Quality Assurance- A new entity to new Challenges  
B. Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges  
C. Naval way of Transformation  
D. An innovation for the Sea and QA Paradigm

**Answer B**

The theme of the Joint Naval Annual Quality Conclave (JNAQC) is Transformation of QA Paradigm: Opportunities and Challenges. The conclave will focus on Quality Challenges of Emerging Technologies which will provide insights on Management of Emerging Technologies in Indian Navy.

**44) ________ is the 4000th station in the country to have free public WiFi.**

A. Barua Bamungaon Railway station  
B. Tinsukia Railway station  
C. Bhalukmara Railway station  
D. Hatikhali Railway station
Answer B

Explanation Tinsukia Railway station in the State of Assam has become the 4000th station in the country to have free public Wi-Fi. Under RailWire free Wi-Fi is being provided to passangers. Railwire is a retail Broadband initiative of RailTel catering to Enterprises Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and homes.

45) Who hosted the General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for the term 2019-21?

A. Ministry of Home Affairs  
B. Department of Law and Order  
C. Election Commission of India  
D. None of these

Answer C

Explanation Election Commission of India (ECI) is hosting the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for the term 2019-21 at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019. On 4 September, an International Conference on Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections will also be held during the AWEB meeting.

46) Who is appointed as the Chairman of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for a tenure of 2 years from 2019 to 2021?

A. Larry Thompson  
B. Ashok Lavasa  
C. Sushil Chandra  
D. Sunil Arora

Answer D

Explanation In the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) conference, Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Sunil Arora took over the Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) for a tenure of 2 years from 2019 to 2021. He was nominated at the last General Assembly which was held at Bucharest in 2017.

47) When was the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) established?
A. 2013  
B. 2000  
C. 2006  
D. 2010

**Answer A**

**Explanation** AWEB, the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide, was established on 14 October 2013. It aims to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide. It aims to identify the latest trends, challenges, and developments in democratic electoral management and electoral processes.

48) Where is the permanent secretariat of A-WEB located?

A. Pyongyang  
B. Seoul  
C. Rome  
D. Austria

**Answer B**

**Explanation** AWEB, the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide, was established on 14 October 2013. The permanent secretariat of A-WEB is located in Seoul.

49) India announces contribution of __________ USD to GFTAM for 6th replenishment cycle

A. 30 millions  
B. 22 millions  
C. 45 millions  
D. 68 millions

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India announces contribution of 22 millions USD to GFTAM for 6th replenishment cycle.

50) Where is the secretariat of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) located?
A. Rome, Italy
B. Geneva, Switzerland
C. Stockholm, Sweden
D. Vienna, Austria

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFTAM) was founded in 2002. The secretariat of GFTAM is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The Executive Director of GFTAM is Peter Sands.

51) Which is the third highest peak in Himachal Pradesh?

A. Indrasan Peak  
B. Kinnaur Kailash Peak  
C. Deo Tibba Peak  
D. Mount Leo Pargyil

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Mount Leo Pargyil is the third highest peak in Himachal Pradesh.

52) Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit organised in ________?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit organised in Maldives.

53) Asia VR based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre launched in __________?

A. Pune  
B. Chennai  
C. Hyderabad
Asia VR based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre launched in Chennai.

**54) Which army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called Kian**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called Kian

**55) IAF inducted ____ US made Apache attack helicopters**

A. 9  
B. 8  
C. 7  
D. 6

**Answer B**

**Explanation** IAF inducted 8 US made Apache attack helicopters.

**56) From which country did Indian Air Force induct 8 Apache helicopters?**

A. Russia  
B. USA  
C. China  
D. Japan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the 8 US-made Apache AH-64E (I) helicopters. The helicopters were delivered at the Pathankot airbase, Punjab. The 8 Apache attack helicopters will give great support and take the Air Force's battle powers to the next level.
57) India is the ______ country to work on the Apache assault helicopters.

A. 14th  
B. 9th  
C. 10th  
D. 3rd  

Answer A

Explanation India is the fourteenth country to work on the Apache assault helicopters. The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the 8 US-made Apache AH-64E (I) helicopters. The helicopters were delivered at the Pathankot airbase, Punjab. The 8 Apache attack helicopters will give great support and take the Air Force's battle powers to the next level.

58) When was the Indian Air Force (IAF) founded?

A. January 1919  
B. May 1948  
C. October 1932  
D. August 1963  

Answer C

Explanation IAF was founded in October 1932. It is headquartered at New Delhi. The Commander-in-Chief of IAF is President Ram Nath Kovind. The Chief of Air Staff (CAS) is Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh and the Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS) is Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

59) The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are to present the __________ to Indian Prime MInister.

A. Global Caretaker Award 2019  
B. Global Caretaker Award 2019  
C. Global Goalkeeper Award 2019  
D. Sustainable Developer Award 2019.  

Answer C

Explanation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced the Global Goalkeeper Award
2019 for Indian Prime Minister Modi. The award recognizes his goal-oriented venture plan Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Along with PM Modi, 10 other individuals are to be awarded for their great work.

60) PM Modi is to be awarded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his __________.

A. Digital India Initiative  
B. Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) National Initiative  
C. Jal Shakti Abhiyan  
D. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Answer C

Explanation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced the Global Goalkeeper Award 2019 for Indian Prime Minister Modi. The award recognizes his goal-oriented venture plan Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Along with PM Modi, 10 other individuals are to be awarded for their great work.

61) When was the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or the Clean India Mission is introduced?

A. Oct 2, 2014  
B. Oct 2, 2015  
C. Oct 2, 2017  
D. Oct 2, 2016

Answer A

Explanation Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or the Clean India Mission was introduced as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 in 2014. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan meant to make India the Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019. It ensures to provide sanitation facilities to all. The campaign will be completed by 2 October 2019 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

62) Who claimed the top spot in ICC Test Rankings?

A. MS Dhoni  
B. Steve Smith  
C. K L Rahul
D. Jonny Bairstow

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Steve Smith claimed the top spot in ICC Test Rankings.

63) ________South Asian Speakers Summit organised in Maldives?

A. Fourth  
B. Sixth  
C. Eighth  
D. Second  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Fourth South Asian Speakers Summit organised in Maldives

64) Who claimed the second spot in ICC Test Rankings  
A. Abu Jayed  
B. Jason Roy  
C. Virat Kohli  
D. Sheldon Cottrell

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Steve Smith claimed the top spot in ICC Test Rankings.

65) Mount Leo Pargyil is the third highest peak in ____________?

A. Arunachal Pradesh  
B. Himachal Pradesh  
C. Madhya Pradesh  
D. Jammu and Kashmir

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mount Leo Pargyil is the third highest peak in Himachal Pradesh.
66) Which Country successfully conducted the world's 1st stem cell corneal transplant?

A. US  
B. China  
C. UK  
D. Japan  

Answer D

Explanation: Japan woman becomes the first person in the world to receive a corneal transplant made from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS). The treatment was successfully carried out by a team of researchers led by ophthalmologist Kohji Nishida at Osaka University.

67) ______ is to partner with NASA for asteroid deflection.

A. Chinese Space Agency  
B. Russia Space Agency  
C. European Space Agency  
D. ISRO  

Answer C

Explanation: The European space agency (ESA) has announced its plan to partner with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to stop asteroids hitting Earth. The teams from both the space agencies will meet in Rome in the month of September. The teams will discuss to deflect the potentially threatening asteroids away from colliding with the planet.

68) Which of the following is NASA's spacecraft for the asteroid Collision Mission?

A. Dart spacecraft  
B. LICIACube  
C. HERA Spacecraft  
D. Voyager Spacecraft  

Answer A

Explanation: The asteroid researchers aim for the smaller body of the double Didymos asteroids between Earth and Mars. For this purpose, NASA is building the Double Asteroid Impact Test, or
Dart spacecraft. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defense purposes. It has been scheduled to launch in 2021. DART will reach its target at 6.6 km/s in September 2022.

69) Who is to lead the panel to study proposal to ban e-cigarette sales in India?

A. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan
B. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
C. Home Minister Rajnath Singh
D. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar

Answer B

Explanation Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman-led panel has been set up to study a Health Ministry proposal to ban e-cigarette sales in India through an ordinance. Health Ministry said that the chemicals that are used in e-cigarettes as solvents are hazardous and cause fatal effects. If the government announces an ordinance, it should be replaced with a bill in the next session of Parliament.

70) When did the Health Ministry announce a ban on an advisory favouring a ban on sales and advertisements of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes?

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

Answer D

Explanation In 2018, the Health Ministry has issued an advisory favouring a ban on sales and advertisements of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes. It also proposed a jail term of up to a year and Rs.1 lakh fine for first-time offenders.

71) _______ unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe

A. Pakistan
B. Qatar
C. Saudi Arabia
Answer B

Explanation Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe

72) Which airport got India's tallest new air traffic control (ATC) tower?

A. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport  
B. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport  
C. Indira Gandhi International Airport  
D. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport

Answer C

Explanation Union Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. It is India's tallest ATC Tower.

73) What was the total cost of India's tallest ATC tower at the Indira Gandhi International Airport?

A. Rs.250 crore  
B. Rs.350 crore  
C. Rs.100 crore  
D. Rs.550 crore

Answer B

Explanation Union Minister of state for civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The cost of the ATC tower is Rs.350 crore. The tower consists of three buildings: the aerodrome control tower, area approach control services building, and the administrative block. The tower is facilitated with modern air navigation systems and advanced automation systems. This will enhance safety and the capacity of air traffic operations.

74) Qatar unveils _______ FIFA World Cup logo round the globe

A. 2068  
B. 2022
C. 2025
D. 2034

Answer B

Explanation Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe

75) Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called _________

A. Airspeed Queen Wasp
B. Kian
C. Denel Dynamics Skua
D. DRDO Abhyas

Answer B

Explanation Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called Kian.

76) ESIC ties up with _________ for DBT facility

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

Answer B

Explanation ESIC ties up with SBI for DBT facility

77) Who ties up with SBI for DBT facility?

A. Securities and Exchange Board of India
B. Employees State Insurance
C. Small Industries Development Bank of India organisations
D. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority organisations

Answer B

Explanation ESIC ties up with SBI for DBT facility.
78) Who is the chairman of State Bank of India?

A. Nitish Kumar  
B. Rajnish Kumar  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Rajesh Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** ESIC ties up with SBI for DBT facility.

79) Cabinet approved ________ capital infusion for IDBI Bank.

A. Rs. 5000 crore  
B. Rs. 7200 crore  
C. Rs. 9300 crore  
D. Rs. 11500 crore

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Cabinet has approved a capital infusion plan worth Rs. 9,300 crore for IDBI Bank. The bank will get the amount from its parent, Life Insurance Corp. of India. The aim of the move is to help narrow IDBI's losses and boost its lending capacity.

80) ________ bought a 51% stake in IDBI Bank from the government.

A. RBI  
B. HDFC  
C. NIACL  
D. LIC

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In August 2018, LIC bought a 51% stake in IDBI Bank from the government and infused Rs. 21,000 crore into it to revive the lender.

81) Which place adjudged as Best Swachh Iconic Place 2019 in India?

A. Church of St. Francis of Assissi
B. Vaishno Devi Shrine
C. Meenakshi Temple
D. Gommateswara

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged as Best Swachh Iconic Place in India

82) Who is the present Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution?

A. Shri Piyush Goyal
B. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar
D. Shri Suresh Prabhu

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and PD Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announces blanket ban on single use plastic products.

83) CBDT enters into ______ APAs during the current Financial Year

A. 39
B. 26
C. 35
D. 34

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into 26 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) in the first 5 months of the current financial year. The signing of these APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stand at 297 includes 32 Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (BAPAs).

84) How many agreements got exchanged during the visit of Prime Minister to Vladivostok?

A. 16
B. 15
85) Who is the President of Russia?

A. Vladimir Putin
B. Joseph Stalin
C. Georgy Malenkov
D. Nikita Khrushchev

**Answer A**

**Explanation** President of Russia is Vladimir Putin.

86) Who to inaugurate Garvi Gujarat Bhawan?

A. Shri Piyush Goyal
B. Shri Narendra Modi
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate Garvi Gujarat Bhawan

87) Who felicitates P. V. Sindhu suggests voice to national missions?

A. Shri Prakash Javedakar
B. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu
D. Shri Vikram Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shri Dharmendra Pradhan felicitates P. V. Sindhu suggests voice to national
88) Which city ranked 118th in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Delhi ranked 118th in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019.

89) Who is accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho?

A. Shri Rajesh Sharma  
B. Shri Vikram Kumar  
C. Shri Jaideep Sarkar  
D. Shri Pradeep Sinha  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Shri Jaideep Sarkar accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

90) Who is felicitated with UEFA President Award 2019?

A. Frank Rijkaard  
B. Eric Cantona  
C. Ernie Walker  
D. Wilfried Straub  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** French footballer Eric Cantona felicitated with UEFA President Award 2019.

91) Which position did Mumbai obtain in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019?
A.125
B.119
C.126
D.135

Answer B

Explanation Delhi ranks 118th and Mumbai at 119th spot in EIUs Global Liveability Index 2019

92) Where is the headquarters of IDBI Bank?

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

Answer B

Explanation The headquarters of IDBI Bank is Mumbai.

93) India and Russia target USD _________ billion in trade?

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

Answer B

Explanation India and Russia target USD 30 billion in trade.

94) Which city topped the EIUs Global Liveability Index 2019?

A. Melbourne
B. Chennai
C. New York
D. Vienna

Answer D
Explaination Vienna city topped the EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019.

95) When is the Teacher's Day is celebrated each year?
A. September 5
B. September 14
C. November 14
D. October 2

Answer A

Explaination Teacher's Day is celebrated in India on 5 September each year. The Teachers' Day is celebrated to know the contribution of all the teachers for their hard work and endless contribution in shaping a student's educational life. The day is dedicated to all the teachers, mentors and gurus who guide the students to become better human beings.

96) Which month is celebrated as Poshan Maah across India?
A. June
B. July
C. September
D. October

Answer C

Explaination The country celebrates September month as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah across the country under POSHAN Abhiyaan programme. It aims to address the malnutritional challenges. Poshan Maah was launched in States like Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan on 4th September.

97) When did UNGA officially declare 5 September as the International Day of Charity?
A. 2001
B. 2008
C. 2011
D. 2012

Answer B
Explanation The International Day of Charity was created by the Hungarian Civil society initiative in 2011. In 2012, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 5 September as the International Day of Charity.

98) Which countries has decided to step up industrial collaboration and make new technologies with an aim to expand bilateral trade to $30 billion by 2025?

A. India-Korea
B. India-UAE
C. India-Russia
D. India-Afghanistan

Answer C

Explanation India and Russia decided to step up industrial collaboration and make new technologies and investment partnerships, particularly in high tech areas with an aim to expand bilateral trade to $30 billion by 2025.

99) What is the difference between BS-IV and BS-VI standards?

A. presence of sulphur in the fuel
B. presence of magnesium in the fuel
C. presence of carbon monoxide in the fuel
D. presence of carbon dioxide in the fuel

Answer A

Explanation The Supreme Court has decided that no BS-IV vehicle will be sold the nation over with impact from April 1, 2020. The real difference between the current BS-IV and pending BS-VI standards is the presence of sulphur in the fuel.

100) _________ drone of Aarav Unmanned Systems weighs between 2-25 kg got certification by DGCA.

A. Reaper
B. Insights
C. Grey Eagle
D. Pioneer
Answer B

Explanation The Bengaluru Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) is the first company to get the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under a small company drone category. Insight, AUS's flagship enterprise-grade multi-copter drone is to be certified for the No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) manufacturing compliance requirement.

101) The Teacher's Day commemorates the birth anniversary of ___________.

A. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
B. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
C. Dr. Ambedkar
D. Dr. Aurobindo Ghosh

Answer B

Explanation Teacher's Day is celebrated in India on 5 September each year. The Day commemorates the 131st birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The day is being observed since 1962. It was the year when he has assumed the post of the President of India.

102) The International Day of Charity is to commemorate the _________.

A. birth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln
B. death anniversary of JF Kennedy
C. birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela
D. death anniversary of Mother Teresa

Answer D

Explanation The International Day of Charity is observed on 5 September across the world. The day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa. The day aims to make people understand the importance of charity.

103) Which company has bagged a seven-year contract worth $300 million from ICICI Bank?

A. TCS
B. Infosys
C. WIPRO
D. Vara Infotech
**Answer D**

**Explanation** Wipro has won a 7-year contract worth $300 million from ICICI Bank. The project is to provide a range of services. The transactions are expected to end by September 30.

104) Which company emerged as the first to get approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under a small company drone category?

A. Aero 360  
B. Garuda Aerospace company  
C. Aarav Unmanned Systems  
D. Vimanam Drones

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Bengalurus Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) is the first company to get the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under a small company drone category. Insight, AUS's flagship enterprise-grade multi-copter drone is to be certified for the No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) manufacturing compliance requirement. In the recent release the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) for drone operations in India, the DGCA has laid down its requirement.

105) Which company announced that its heavy solid vehicle weight of 16.2 tons will be replaced by trucks that abides BS-VI emission norms?

A. Ashok Leyland  
B. Maruti  
C. Platina  
D. Mahindra

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Ashok Leyland Chief Technology Officer N Saravanan got a certificate from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) with BS-VI to trucks with a heavy solid vehicle weight of 16.2 tons.

106) When is the International Day of Charity observed?

A. 1 September  
B. 5 September
C.12 September
D.2 October

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The International Day of Charity is observed on 5 September across the world. The day is observed to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa. The day aims to make people understand the importance of charity.

**107) Who is the author of the famous book The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore?**

A. Rabindranath Tagore  
B. Mahatma Gandhi  
C. Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
D. Dr. Ambedkar

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Dr. Ambedkar was one of the most eminent scholars of the 20th century. He wrote the famous book The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore. The book attracted global attention to Indian philosophy and the Indian way of thinking.

**108) The Drones were allowed to work in India by DGCA in ________.**

A. October 2017  
B. October 2016  
C. October 2018  
D. October 2010

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Drone is a flying robot which is remote-controlled. It is allowed to work in India by DGCA in October 2017.

**109) Which is India's second-biggest vehicle maker?**

A. Mahindra  
B. Maruthi  
C. Hyundai
D. Ashok Leyland

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Ashok Leyland is a lead organization of the Hinduja Group and it is India's second-biggest vehicle maker.

110) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the ______ Vice President and ______ President of India.

A. second, third  
B. second, fourth  
C. first, second  
D. first, third

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the first Vice President and second President of India. He served as Vice President from 1952-1962 and from 1962-1967, he served as the President of India. Dr. Radhakrishnan was born on 5 September 1888.

111) Which Edition of National Teachers Awards 2018 was held in September 2019 in Delhi?

A. 40  
B. 33  
C. 70  
D. 61

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The year 2019 was the 61st year of the National Teachers Award. 46 teachers were chosen from across the country to be felicitated in the national capital as India geared to celebrate Teachers' Day. The National Teachers award carries a silver medal, certificate and cash prize of Rs.50,000.

112) When was Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) established?

A. 1985  
B. 1966
C.1978  
D.1991

**Answer B**

**Explanation** ARAI, an independent body, was established in 1966. It is affiliated to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. It is a prime Testing and Certification Agency notified by the government under Rule 126 of Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

113) **Which rank did India obtain in 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index?**

A.34th  
B.28th  
C.65th  
D.85th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India ranks 34th in 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index.

114) **RBI makes it Mandatory for Banks to Link Retail Loans with External Benchmarks from ______?**

A.December 16  
B.October 1  
C.November 15  
D.January 20

**Answer B**

**Explanation** RBI makes it Mandatory for Banks to Link Retail Loans with External Benchmarks from October 1.

115) **Who partners with SonyLIV to provide mobile inflight entertainment?**

A.Air India  
B.IndiGo  
C.Air Asia  
D.Kingfisher
Answer B

Explanation IndiGo partners with SonyLIV to provide mobile inflight entertainment

116) Which Bank launches new DigiSmart credit card

A. Yes Bank  
B. Standard Chartered Bank  
C. Dena Bank  
D. Corporation Bank

Answer B

Explanation Standard Chartered Bank launches new DigiSmart credit card.

117) Which rank did India obtain among the top 10 individual nations in gold reserves?

A. 5th  
B. 9th  
C. 7th  
D. 6th

Answer B

Explanation India ranks 9th among the top 10 individual nations in gold reserves

118) Reliance Jio launches wired broadband starting at __________?

A. 580  
B. 699  
C. 725  
D. 825

Answer B

Explanation Reliance Jio launches wired broadband starting at 699.
119) When was the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) formed?

A. 1935  
B. 1939  
C. 1941  
D. 1947  

Answer C

Explanation The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was formed in 1941. CBI is the premier investigating agency of India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

120) Which country has adopted to the face recognition payments recently?

A. India  
B. Indonesia  
C. China  
D. Thailand  

Answer C

Explanation China has introduced face recognition payments as the country embraces facial payment technology. In the facial payment technology money, cards, wallet or smartphones is needed. Using the technology the customers can simply make a purchase by posing in front of point-of-sale (POS) machines equipped with cameras, after linking an image of their face to a digital payment system or bank account.

121) Who organized the India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges in 2019?

A. Indian council of World Affairs  
B. Indian council of tourist  
C. Indian council of economy  
D. Indian Economic Forum  

Answer A

Explanation The India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges National Conference was held in New Delhi. The conference was composed by
research organizations, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). It was organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

122) Where was the 1st Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics conference held?

A. New Delhi
B. Chennai
C. Kolkata
D. Ahmedabad

Answer A

Explanation The first National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics was held at CBI Headquarters in New Delhi on 4-5 September. The two-day conference was inaugurated by the CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla.

123) Where was the India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges national conference held?

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

Answer D

Explanation The India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order on Priorities, Prospects and Challenges national Conference was held in New Delhi. The conference was composed by research organizations, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). It was organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the conference.

124) Where is the headquarters of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) located?

A. Pune
B. Mumbai
C. Kolkata
Answer D

Explanation The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was formed in 1941. It is headquartered at New Delhi. CBI is the premier investigating agency of India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. CBI is headed by the Director-General Rishi Kumar Shukla.

125) When was the first India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)?

A. 2002  
B. 2004  
C. 2008  
D. 2010

Answer C

Explanation The official platform for the African-Indian relations is India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). The Forum Summit happens once every three years since 2008. There are about 40,000 Africans in India.

126) Who is the Director-General of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

A. Alok Verma  
B. Rishi Kumar Shukla  
C. M. Nageshwar Rao  
D. Rajiv Jain

Answer B

Explanation Rishi Kumar Shukla is an IPS officer and the director of Central Bureau of Investigation. He assumed office on 2 February 2019 for a tenure of two years.

127) Anupama Swain won _______ in World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu Jitsu 2019

A. Gold  
B. Bronze  
C. Silver
D. Certificate

**Answer B**


128) _________ new Vande Bharat Express trains by 2022

A. Forty  
B. Sixty  
C. Seventy  
D. Ten

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Forty new Vande Bharat Express trains by 2022.

129) India Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order was held in ___________?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order was held in New Delhi.

130) Forty new Vande Bharat Express trains by ____________?

A. 2023  
B. 2022  
C. 2020  
D. 2021

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Forty new Vande Bharat Express trains by 2022.
131) Which state signs sister state MoU with American state Delaware?
A. TamilNadu  
B. Gujarat  
C. Kerala  
D. West Bengal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Gujarat govt signs sister state MoU with American state Delaware.

132) Which network launched wired broadband starting at 699?
A. Reliance Jio  
B. Airtel  
C. Aircel  
D. Tata Docomo

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Reliance Jio launches wired broadband starting at 699.

133) Where is the headquarters of Standard Chartered Bank?
A. Colombo, SriLanka  
B. London, United Kingdom  
C. Chennai, TamilNadu  
D. Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of Standard Chartered Bank is London, United Kingdom.

134) Which country topped the 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index?
A. Ireland  
B. India  
C. Pakistan
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India topped the 2019 world travel and tourism competitiveness index.

135) Who won bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu Jitsu 2019?

A. Shewta Shridhar  
B. Anupama Swain  
C. Vijay Kumar  
D. Nitish Sharma

**Answer B**


136) Kiran Nagarkar, who passed away recently, was a ________.

A. novelist  
B. actor  
C. politician  
D. socialist

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Novelist Kiran Nagarkar passed away in hospital at the age of 77. He suffered from a massive brain hemorrhage. He was one of Indias greatest writers. Nagarkar was distinguished with the HN Apte Award for the most effective first novel. He won Sahitya Akademi Award.

137) When was the military exercise ZAPAD held?

A. 2013  
B. 2017  
C. 2014  
D. 2016

**Answer B**
Explanation Zapad 2017 exercise was a joint strategic military exercise of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and Belarus that formally began on 14 September 2017 and ended on 20 September 2017, in Belarus.

138) How many institutes got the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) title by Human Resource Development Ministry (HRD) on the guidance of the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2019?

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

Answer C

Explanation The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on the guidance of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and master board of trusty has awarded the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) title 5 institutes. The 5 institutes are IIT-Madras, Banaras Hindu University, IIT-Kharagpur, University of Delhi and the University of Hyderabad.

139) When is the Exercise TSENTR 2019 to be conducted by the Central military commission of Russia?

A.Sept 3-12,2019  
B.Sept 9-23,2019  
C.Sept 12-23,2019  
D.Oct 2-15,2019  

Answer B

Explanation Exercise TSENTR 2019 is conducted by the Central military commission of Russia. This year the exercise is planned between 09 Sept to 23 Sept at Donguz coaching ranges in Russia.

140) Who is the author of the novel Cuckold?

A.Vikram Seth  
B.Anita Desai  
C.Salman Rushdie
D.Kiran Nagarkar

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Cuckold is a 1997 book by Indian author Kiran Nagarkar and his third novel. It is a historical novel set in the Rajput kingdom of Mewar, India during the 16th century that follows the life of Maharaj Kumar, a fictional character based upon the real life Prince Bhoj Raj.

**141) When was Russia's military exercise VOSTOK held?**

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** In 2018 Russia conducted VOSTOK-2018. It was a large-scale Russian military exercise, held from 11 to 17 September 2018, throughout Siberia and the country's Far East.

**142) When was the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was launched?**

A.2010  
B.2000  
C.2013  
D.2016  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Institutions of Eminence (IoE) scheme was instituted in 2016. IoE enables higher education organizations and put them on the world education map. The UGC shortlists the organizations and sends it to the HRD ministry. Ten public and ten private institutions are picked each year as world-class educating and research institutions.

**143) Which country hosts the Exercise TSENTR 2019?**

A.Tajikistan  
B.Pakistan  
C.Russia  
D.Uzbekistan
Exercise TSENTR 2019 is a component of the annual exercises part of the Russian Armed Forces like an annual coaching cycle. Exercise TSENTR 2019 is conducted by the Central military commission of Russia. This year the exercise is planned to be held between 9-23 September at Donguz coaching ranges in Russia.

144) Which state ties up with UNESCO to promote states intangible cultural heritage?
A. TamilNadu  
B. Rajasthan  
C. West Bengal  
D. Kerala  

Answer B

UNESCO ties up with Rajasthan to promote states intangible cultural heritage

145) Which of the following Zimbabwe's former president died recently in Singapore?
A. Robert Mugabe  
B. Kgalema Motlanthe  
C. Jacob Zuma  
D. Cyril Ramaphosa

Answer A

Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe passed away in Singapore at the age of 95 on 6 September. Mugabe is a country's independence struggler. He was receiving treatment in a hospital in Singapore since April.

146) Where was the First Mega Food Park was held?
A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Punjab  
D. Telangana
The first Mega Food Park in Telangana was held at Lakkampally village in Nizamabad district. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The food park was promoted by Smart Agro Food Park. The Smart Agro Mega Food Park was set up in 78 acres of land at a cost of Rs.108.95 crore.

**147) Where was the Defence Dialogue 2019 held?**

A. Japan  
B. China  
C. South Korea  
D. North Korea

**Answer C**

Defence Minister is on a 3-day visit to Seoul and delivered his address at Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019. The theme of Defence Dialogue 2019 is Building Peace Together: Challenges and Vision. It was held in Seoul the capital of South Korea.

**148) Who was awarded the Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis award by Vatican?**

A. Indian Prof Amartya Sen  
B. Bangladeshi Prof Muhammad Yunus  
C. Israeli Prof Norman Finkelstein  
D. Israeli Prof Dan Ariely

**Answer B**

Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis award by the Vatican. The award recognizes his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony. Papal Basilica of Assisi and Father Mauro Gambetti who is the master of the Holy Convent conferred the award to Yunus.

**149) When was the Seoul Defense Dialogue launched for the first time?**

A. 2012  
B. 2014  
C. 2015
The Seoul Defense Dialogue was first launched in 2012. The dialogue aimed for talks on Asia-Pacific cooperation and peace on the peninsula. Defense officers and specialists from around fifty countries and five international organizations except the U.S. representative attended the Dialogue.

150) Who conducted the first Mega Food Park in Telangana?
A. Srinidi Food Park
B. Raaga Mayuri Mega Food Park
C. Smart Agro Food Park
D. India Food Park

Answer C

The first Mega Food Park in Telangana was held at Lakkampally village in Nizamabad district. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The food park was promoted by Smart Agro Food Park. The Smart Agro Mega Food Park was set up in 78 acres of land at a cost of Rs.108.95 crore.

151) Which is the capital of South Korea?
A. Busan
B. Pyongyang
C. Seoul
D. Nampo

Answer C

Seoul is the capital of South Korea since the Division of Korea in 1945. It is a huge metropolis where modern skyscrapers, high-tech subways and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets.

152) Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) scheme gives ________ additional investment up to Rs.1 cr for technology up-gradation by MSEs?
A. 30%
B.15%
C.25%
D.32%

Answer B

Explanation Shri Nitin Gadkari re-Launched the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) on the event that gives 15% additional investment up to Rs.1 crore for technology up-gradation by MSEs.

153) Which book contains the brief profiles of the recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) from 2003 to 2019?

A. Mossad
B. 51 Indian Outstanding awardees
C. Ikigai
D. Glorious Diaspora

Answer D

Explanation The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releasing the Coffee Table Book titled Glorious Diaspora-Pride of India in New Delhi. The book contains the brief profiles of the recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) from 2003 to 2019. The Coffee Table Book was brought out by the Indian Diaspora Club.

154) How many percent sponsorships will be added extra to the SC-ST entrepreneurs to the relaunched Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS)?

A. 10%
B. 20%
C. 30%
D. 18%

Answer A

Explanation Shri Nitin Gadkari re-Launched the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) scheme in the event. CLCS scheme provides 15% additional investment up to Rs.1 crore for technology up-gradation by MSMEs. In the relaunched plot there is an extra 10% sponsorship to SC-ST entrepreneurs.
155) Who advises educational institutions to be partners in Fit India and Khelo India?

A. Lok Sabha Speaker of India  
B. Vice President of India  
C. President of India  
D. Prime Minister of India

Answer B

Explanation: Vice President advises educational institutions to be partners in Fit India and Khelo India.

156) __________ to host 22nd India International Seafood Show after 12 years?

A. West Bengal  
B. Kochi  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala

Answer B

Explanation: Kochi to host 22nd India International Seafood Show after 12 years.

157) __________ Indo-US military training exercise Yudh Abhyas 2019?

A. 35th  
B. 15th  
C. 19th  
D. 25th

Answer B


158) Who is the next newly appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway?

A. Suresh Kumar
B. Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar
C. Dinesh Kumar
D. Vikram Sharma

Answer B

Explanation Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar is the next newly appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway

159) Centre approves ________ crores for 9th phase of Bru repatriation

A. 16 crores
B. 35 crores
C. 20 crores
D. 45 crores

Answer B

Explanation Centre approves Rs 350 crores for 9th phase of Bru repatriation

160) Which small finance bank to decline the listing deadline for small finance bank?

A. Suryoday Small Finance Bank
B. Equitas small finance
C. Jana Small Finance Bank
D. Fiincare small finance bank

Answer B

Explanation RBI declines Equitas request to extend listing deadline for small finance bank.

161) First IoT in Mini Piped Water Scheme launched at ____________

A. Mexico
B. Amingaon
C. Australia
D. Norway
162) Kochi to host 22nd India International Seafood Show after ___________
A. 17 years
B. 12 years
C. 10 years
D. 15 years

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Kochi to host 22nd India International Seafood Show after 12 years

163) Venkaiah Naidu released Glorious Diaspora Pride of India in ___________
A. Hyderabad
B. Chennai
C. New Delhi
D. Secunderabad

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Venkaiah Naidu released Glorious Diaspora Pride of India in New Delhi.

164) The ____________ 2019 Seoul Defense Dialogue was held in Seoul
A. 4th
B. 8th
C. 5th
D. 6th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 8th 2019 Seoul Defense Dialogue was held in Seoul.

165) First Mega Food Park was held in ___________
A. Ranchi
B. Telangana
C. Bihar
D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer B

Explanation First Mega Food Park was held in Telangana.

166) Which company sells Global Village Tech Park for 2,800 cr to Blackstone?

A. Larsen and Tourbo
B. Coffee Day
C. Ashok Leyland
D. Reliance Industries

Answer B

Explanation Coffee Day sells Global Village Tech Park for 2,800 cr to Blackstone.

167) HAL to receive __________ crore orders for 83 LCA fighters

A. 28,000
B. 45,000
C. 65,000
D. 86,000

Answer B

Explanation HAL to receive 45,000 crore orders for 83 LCA fighters.

168) How much did the centre allocate for the National disease management Programme for Foot and Mouth sickness and Brucellosis?

A. Rs. 10,000 crore
B. Rs. 13,500 crore
C. Rs. 12,500 crore
D. Rs. 18,500 crore
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch a new initiative in the National disease management Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis. Under this scheme, the Centre will allocate Rs.13,500 crore central scheme to control livestock diseases.

169) Who is the Minister of Union Ministry of information and Broadcasting?

A. Prakash Javadekar
B. Nirmala Seetharam
C. Ramvilas pawsan
D. Ravi Shankar

Answer A

Explanation Prakash Keshav Javadekar is an Indian politician. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and currently serving as the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

170) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch National AI Programme on Sept 11, 2019 in ________.

A. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
B. Gandhinagar, Gujarat
C. Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
D. Patna, Bihar

Answer C

Explanation PM Narendra Modi will launch the National AI Programme throughout the event on 11 September in Mathura.

171) Which Ministry has determined to away with single-use plastic within the secretariat?

A. Ministry of Environment
B. Ministry of Health
C. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
D. Ministry of Home Affairs
The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has announced its plan to get rid of single-use plastic within the secretariat. The Ministry has encouraged the staffers to turn the recycled paper.

172) Centre to infuse __________ in state general insurance firms

A. 12,000 crores  
B. 21,000 crores  
C. 28,000 crores  
D. 29,000 cores

Answer A

Explanation Centre to infuse 12,000 crore in state general insurance firms.

173) Where was the Western Air Commanders Conference 2019 held?

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

Answer D

Explanation The Western Air Command, Commanders Conference was held in 5 and 6 September 2019 at New Delhi. The conference was chaired by Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa. The conference discussed the importance and pivotal role of this crucial Air Force unit in all future conflicts and aid to civil power.

174) Asian Development Bank to give __________ mn to upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra

A. $ 200 million  
B. $ 180 million  
C. $ 180 million  
D. $ 420 million
Asian Development Bank to give $200 mn to upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra.

175) Who gave Swachh India awards to the outstanding performance in Swachh Mahotsav event 2019?

A. President
B. Prime minister
C. Governor of J&K
D. Minister Prakash Javadekar

**Answer A**

Explaination President Ramnath Kovind gave Swachh India awards to the outstanding performance in Swachh Mahotsav event 2019.

176) Where was the Swachh Mahotsav event 2019 held?

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

**Answer B**

Explaination The Swachh Mahotsav event 2019 was held in Delhi. The event was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakthi.

177) Which day is celebrated as the International Literacy Day every year?

A. Nov 2nd
B. Sept 10th
C. Sept 20th
D. Sept 8th

**Answer D**

Explaination On 8th September every year, International Literacy Day is celebrated to make
people know the importance of Literacy for people, communities and societies.

178) What is the theme of International Literacy Day in 2019?

A. Literacy and achievement  
B. Goals and Multilingualism  
C. Literacy and Multilingualism  
D. None of these

Answer C

Explanation On 8th September every year, International Literacy Day is celebrated to make people know the importance of Literacy for people. The theme for 2019 is Literacy and Multilingualism.

179) Who launches Mumbai Metro coach under the Make in India initiative?

A. Shri Narendra Modi  
B. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
C. Shri Vikram Sharma  
D. Shri Ramesh Kumar

Answer A

Explanation PM Modi launches Mumbai Metro coach under the Make in India initiative.

180) Asian Development Bank to give $200 mn to upgrade rural roads in _______ districts of Maharashtra

A. 56  
B. 28  
C. 34  
D. 26

Answer C

Explanation Asian Development Bank to give $200 mn to upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra.
181) Which state govt to reduce land allotment rates in industrial areas by 30?
A. Tamil Nadu  
B. Chhattisgarh  
C. Kerala  
D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer B

Explanation: Chhattisgarh govt to reduce land allotment rates in industrial areas by 30.

182) Who organized the World first Youth Summit held?
A. UNESCO Youth Wing  
B. Mahatma Gandhi foundation  
C. Youth Awakening Mission  
D. None of these

Answer C

Explanation: The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the World first Youth Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2019. It was organised by the Youth Awakening Mission, a youth wing of Paavan Chintan Dhara Charitable Trust, Ghaziabad. The summit aimed to work for the betterment and welfare of ourselves, society and country.

183) Which bank to provide $200 mn to upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra?
A. Yes bank  
B. Asian Development Bank  
C. Dena Bank  
D. Canara Bank

Answer B

Explanation: Asian Development Bank to give $200 mn to upgrade rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra.

184) Chhattisgarh govt to reduce land allotment rates in industrial areas by
A.30
B.28
C.85
D.65

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Chhattisgarh govt to reduce land allotment rates in industrial areas by 30.
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