

Monthly Current Affairs PDF - August 2019

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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – AUGUST 2019

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BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bandhan Bank join hands with standard Chartered for co-branded credit cards

- Bandhan Bank launched a co-branded credit card in association with Standard Chartered bank.
- The credit card would be offered to 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank.
- As part of the tie-up, while Standard Chartered bank will take the credit risk, Bandhan Bank will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers.

Extra Shots:

Bandhan Bank: Bandhan Bank Ltd. is an Indian banking and financial services company.

- Headquarters: Kolkata
- CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Chairperson: Anup Kumar Sinha

Standard Chartered PLC is a British multinational banking and financial services company.

- Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom
- CEO: Bill Winters

RBI relaxes External Commercial Borrowing norms for corporates, non-banking lenders

- The Reserve Bank has liberalised the end-use stipulations for the External Commercial Borrowings both for corporates as well as liquidity starved non-banking lenders.
- Liberalisation will be applicable to ECBs taken for working capital, general corporate purpose loans or repayment of rupee loans.

Extra Shots:

RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, which controls the issuance and supply of the Indian rupee.

- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: B P Kanungo, M K Jain, N S Vishwanathan

RBI allows Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country.
- RBI included 'Jana Small Finance Bank Limited' in the Second Schedule.
- The name of 'The Royal Bank of Scotland plc' has been changed to 'NatWest Markets Plc' in the Second Schedule.
- 'National Australia Bank' has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act.

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Reserve Bank of India imposes 11 crore fine on seven PSBs for violating norms

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of ₹11 crores on seven public sector banks for violating norms on current account opening.
- The banks which includes Allahabad Bank and Bank of Maharashtra have been imposed a fine of Rs 2 crore each, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and United Bank of India have been slapped with fines of Rs 1.5 crore each, while Oriental Bank of Commerce has been imposed with a penalty of Rs 1 crore.

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

- State Bank of India's Shanghai branch linked to China's National Advanced Payment System (CNAPS).
- It is the first Indian Bank to operationalize it. The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in China.
- The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Interbank Payment System) launched in 2015
- **Aim:** To boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan. The participants from multiple countries across the globe participated.

Extra Shots:

SBI: The State Bank of India is an Indian multinational, public sector banking and financial services statutory body.

- Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai

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

- Walmart's Flipkart unit to introduce a free video streaming service to draw new users from small towns and cities in India.
- Flipkart is the next 200 million consumers who are coming online.

Extra shots:

Flipkart Internet Private Limited is an e-commerce company.

- Founded: October 2007
- Founders: Binny Bansal, Sachin Bansal
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

RBI cuts 35bps repo rate in August policy

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

Policy Rates:

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

Reserve Ratios:

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

Some Other Important Decisions:

- RBI has reduced its GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%.
- The RBI will set a Central Payment Fraud Registry to track frauds in the payment systems.
- RBI plans to issue detailed guidelines on permitting banks to on-lend through NBFCs. The move aims to increase credit flow to certain priority sectors which contribute significantly to the economic growth in terms of exports and employment.
- NEFT system will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

Extra Shots:

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Govt announces mega merger of public sector banks

- The government has announced the merger of ten public sector banks into four banks.
- It announced the merger of Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank with Punjab National Bank as well as the merger of Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank.
- The merger of Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank and the consolidation of Indian Bank with Allahabad Bank was also announced.
- After the merger of banks, the country will now have 12 public sector banks instead of 27.
- the government is trying to build next-generation banks and eight PSBs have launched repo-linked loans in last one week.
- Ms Sitharaman said, there will be no interference in the bank's commercial decisions. She said, loans above 250 crore rupees are being closely monitored.

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Canara Bank introduced OTP facility for ATM withdrawals

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

Extra Shots:

Canara Bank: Canara Bank is one of the largest public sector banks owned by the Government of India.

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai
- Chief: Sankara Narayanan
- Tagline: Together we can

RBI issues guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) issued guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)for Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to Fisheries and Animal Husbandry farmers during the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- RBI directed the Central Government to operate the interest subvention guidelines.

Extra Shots:

Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

- KCC is a credit scheme introduced in August 1998 by Indian banks.
- This model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Development (NABARD) on the recommendations of R.V. Gupta committee to provide term loans and meet agricultural needs.

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SIDBI partners with Incuspaze for coworking space for MSMEs

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

Extra Shots:

SIDBI: Small industrial Development Bank of India is a development financial institution in India.

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990
- CMD: Mohammad Mustafa

India and Nepal organize training programme on EXIM Bank's guidelines

- The Embassy of India in Nepal and National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) of Nepal organized a two-day training programme in Kathmandu on the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India's Line of Credit guidelines and procedures.

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- The EXIM Bank of India conducted the training programme attended by 27 officials from Government of Nepal.
- A total of 28 Indian contractors attended this training session.

Extra Shots:

EXIM Bank: Export–Import Bank of India is a finance institution in India, established in 1982 under Export-Import Bank of India Act 1981.

- Founded: 1 January 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- CEO: David Rasquinha

Nepal (Capital/Currency): Kathmandu/ Nepalese rupee

- Prime Minister: KP Sharma Oli
- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Banking license of Rupee Cooperative Bank extended by RBI till Nov 30, 2019

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the banking license of Rupee Cooperative Bank Ltd till November 30, 2019.
- The Bank paid Rs.338.20 crores to 85,462 needy depositors under the hardship scheme of RBI.
- It has deposits of Rs.1291.00 crores.
- The Rupee Co-op Bank & MSC (Maharashtra State Cooperative) Bank are going to submit joint proposal for merger to RBI.

Extra Shots:

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BookMyForex ties up with YES Bank, Visa to launch forex card

- BookMyForex.com, a marketplace for foreign exchange and remittances, has partnered with YES Bank to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card for Indian overseas travellers.
- In this Partnership, customers will now be able to buy forex travel cards at the click of a button on the BookMyForex platform and get free doorstep delivery across major cities in India.

Extra Shots:

Yes Bank

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2004
- CEO: Ravneet Gill

RBI announces NEFT facility will be available round-the-clock for customers

- The Reserve Bank of India today announced that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) facility will be available round-the-clock for the customers.
- The RBI will make available the NEFT system on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

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- Currently, NEFT payment system operated by the Reserve Bank as a retail payment system is available for customers from 8 AM to 7 PM on all working days of the week except 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

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SBI announced repo rate cut after RBI policy announcement

- The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, have cut the home loan rates after RBI's repo rate cut of 35 bps for the fourth time in a row.
- SBI announced its Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors.
- Repo rate-linked Home loan product:
- The SBI has been a repo rate-linked home loan product from 1 July 2019. The interest rate on this particular product gets revised automatically whenever there is a change in repo rate.

RLLR:

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

FD:

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

Extra Shots:

SBI: The State Bank of India is an Indian multinational, public sector banking and financial services statutory body. SBI is ranked as 216th in the Fortune Global 500 list of the world's biggest corporations of 2018.

The Government of India took control of the Imperial Bank of India in 1955, with Reserve Bank of India (India's central bank) taking a 60% stake, renaming it the State Bank of India.

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar

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

- The Reserve Bank of India allows all categories of billers to accept prepaid recharges under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- The BBPS currently covers billers in five segments, DTH, electricity, gas, telecom and water bills.
- The regulator is expected to issue detailed instructions in this regard by the end of September 2019.

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Jana Small Finance Bank receives Scheduled Bank status from RBI

- Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd announced that it has got the status of a Scheduled Bank from RBI.
- The bank's aim has always been to provide financial inclusion to the underserved sections of the society, including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries.
- The Bengaluru-headquartered bank, established as a financial services company in 2009.
- Presently operates 260 branches and 338 asset centres serving over 5.5 million customers in different states.

Extra Shots:

Jana Small Finance Bank: Jana Small Finance Bank, erstwhile Janalakshmi Financial Services (JFS), is headquartered in Bengaluru and has over a decade of existence.

Indian Bank and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ink pact

- Public sector Indian Bank inked a pact with private sector insurer Aditya Birla Sun Life to offer life insurance products to the bank's customers.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life insurance would work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes.
- The documents were exchanged between Indian Bank Managing Director and CEO, Padmaja Chunduru, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company, MD and CEO Ajay Srinivasan.

Extra Shots:

Indian Bank

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, India
- Managing Director and CEO: Ms. Padmaja Chunduru
- Tagline: Your Own Bank

SBI Life Insurance, Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact

- SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank entered into a bancassurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter's customers.
- SBI Life will work with Indian Bank to ensure sales training, product support and smooth operational processes in order to offer life insurance policies to its customers.
- The bancassurance agreement was signed in the presence of Padmaja Chunduru and Sanjeev Nautiyal.

Extra Shots:

Indian Bank

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SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India, the largest state-owned banking and financial services company in India.

- Headquarters: Mumbai

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- CEO: Sanjeev Nautiyal

State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by 2 years after a review of his performance

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director (MD) Dinesh Kumar Khara by another 2 years with effect from August 9, 2019.
- He is appointed Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years on August 10, 2016.
- He joined SBI as Probationary Officer (PO) and has over 33 years of experience in all sides of Commercial banking such as Retail Credit, deposit mobilization, international banking operations, and branch management.

Extra Shots:

State Bank of India: Founded on: As 2 June 1806 (Bank of Calcutta), 15 April 1840 (Bank of Bombay), 1 July 1843 (Bank of Madras), 27 January 1921 (Imperial Bank of India), 1 July 1955 (State Bank of India)

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Rajnish Kumar
- SBI is the largest commercial bank and the largest mortgage lender across the country.
- SBI has 22,010 branches and 58,000 ATM/CDM across India.

Indian Bank signs up Corporate Agency with Chola MS

- Indian Bank has entered into a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd (Chola MS) for distribution of the latter's insurance products to Indian Bank customers.
- Under the agreement, Cholamandalam MS insurance products ranging from motor, home, health PA, and travel insurance, and SME and commercial line of business.

Extra Shots:

Indian Bank

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- Tagline: Your Own Bank

DBS Bank India ties up with Social Alpha to incubate social entrepreneurs

- DBS Bank India has tied up with technology business incubator Social Alpha.
- **OBJECTIVE:** to mentor enterprises that focus on sectors such as inclusion, healthcare, and environment.
- DBS Bank will also give an annual programme grant of Rs 1 crore. DBS Bank will mentor and support three ventures over the next 18 months.

Extra Shots:

DBS: DBS Bank is a multinational banking and financial services corporation. The company was known as The Development Bank of Singapore Limited, before the present name was adopted in July 2003 to reflect its changing role as a regional bank.

- Headquarters: Singapore
- CEO: Piyush Gupta

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

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- Private sector RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo have partnered to launch an industry first co-branded health credit card.
- This credit card is powered by Mastercard and is available on both Practo and RBL mobile apps and websites.
- It offers benefits like unlimited and round-the-clock online consultations with experienced and qualified doctors, one free full body health check-up, while users can use the card to earn points.

Extra Shots:

RBL: RBL Bank is an Indian scheduled commercial bank.

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1943
- Tagline: Apnoka Bank
- CEO: Vishwavir Ahuja

RBI launches regulatory sandbox for Fintech companies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox (RS) for the startups, banks and financial institutions.
- The Fintech companies can now set up their own RS for live testing of innovative products in areas like retail payments, digital KYC and wealth management.
- The framework aims to enable innovations in the financial technology space.
- It will encourage innovations that are intended for use in the Indian market in areas where there is absence of governing regulations.
- Fintech companies including startups, banks, financial institutions and any other company partnering with or providing support to financial services businesses.
- A regulatory sandbox refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment. The regulators can permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

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State Bank of India and BoB to link home loan product to RBI's repo rate

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) planned to link its home loan product to RBI's (Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repo rate after State Bank of India (SBI).
- Home loans at BOB will be available at repo rate linked interest rate starting at 8.35%

Extra Shots:

Bank of Baroda: Bank of Baroda is an Indian multinational, public sector banking and financial services company. It is owned by Government of India. It is second largest public sector bank in India

Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara

CEO: P. S. Jayakumar

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Rajnish Kumar
- SBI is the largest commercial bank and the largest mortgage lender across the country.
- SBI has 22,010 branches and 58,000 ATM/CDM across India.

BookMyForex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card

- An online forex marketplace, BookMyForex has partnered with YES Bank and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad. They can load up to 10 currencies on the card.
- BookMyForex will also offer modern contactless cards that allow a user to simply tap their card on a POS machine.

Extra Shots:

YES Bank: Yes Bank. Yes Bank Limited is India's fourth largest private sector bank, founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004. It primarily operates as a corporate bank, with retail banking and also asset management as subsidiary functions

- CEO: Ravneet Gill (1 Mar 2019–)
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 2004
- Subsidiaries: Yes Bank, IFSC Banking Unit Branch, MORE
- Founders: Rana Kapoor, Ashok Kapur

Acko announces partnership with fintech ZestMoney to offer credit insurance

- Insurtech company Acko General Insurance, has partnered with ZestMoney to offer credit card insurance to its (ZestMoney) customers.
- Acko which offers personalized underwriting, micro insurance products, and automated micro claims process, will offer credit insurance to ZestMoney customers who are provided with instant financing and the option of paying through EMIs(Equated Monthly Installments) even if they don't own a credit card.

Extra Shots:

Acko General Insurance: Acko General Insurance is a private sector general insurance company in India

- Founder: Varun Dua
- Founded: November 2016
- Headquarters location: Mumbai

RBI Made some changes

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

Extra Shots:

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RBI Extends Timings of RTGS Transactions by an hour from 7 am instead of 8 am from August 26, 2019

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has extended the timings of Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions by an hour from 7 AM instead of 8 AM with effect from August 26, 2019, with the aim to increase the availability of the RTGS system.
- At present, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System is available for customer transactions from 8 AM to 6 PM and for inter- bank transactions from 8 AM to 7.45 PM.

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

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards along with Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), including wallets for recurring merchant payments with AFA (Additional Factor Authentication, a security measure put in place for card payments that requires OTP – one-time password verification) during registration and 1st transaction.
- It will come into effect from 1 September 2019.

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Bharti AXA Life partners with Akshaya Patra Foundation to support and contribute to the mid- day meal programme

- A renowned life Insurance company, Bharti AXA Life Insurance on its 13th Foundation Day, has partnered with a non-profit organization in India, Akshaya Patra Foundation to support and contribute to the mid-day meal drive for government-run school children across India.
- Bharti AXA Life has urged its over 5,500 employees to donate a day's salary to Akshaya Patra to counter classroom hunger.

Extra Shots:

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Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Ltd: Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Ltd. is a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA business Group that operates in India. Bharti Enterprises shares 51% stake in the venture while AXA Group shares 49% stake

- Industry General Insurance
- Founded 2008
- Headquarters Mumbai India

Digit Insurance signs Bancassurance agreement with Karur Vysya Bank

- Karur Vysya Bank(KVB), one of the oldest banks in India has signed a bancassurance agreement with General insurance company
- Digit Insurance to provide Digit Insurance's suite of products to its SMEs(Small and medium-sized enterprises) customers.

Extra Shots:

Karur Vysya Bank: Karur Vysya Bank is an Indian 100 years completed bank and is one of the leading banks in India, headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu.

- Headquarters: Karur
- CEO: P. R. Seshadri (31 Aug 2017–), K Venkataraman (6 Jun 2011–)
- Founders: M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar, Athi Krishna Chettiar

Insurance regulator IRDAI has set up a single point contact for RS

- An autonomous body tasked with regulating insurance and re-insurance industries, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has set up a single point contact for its regulatory sandbox (RS) initiative.
- The Fintech entities can seek permission to experiment with innovative products for the growth of the sector.

Extra Shots:

IRDAI: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India

- Location -Hyderabad, Telangana

Fintech startup based in Bangalore 'MoneyTap' provides lifetime credit of up to Rs.5 lakh Instantly

- MoneyTap, India's first company to provide an app-based personal credit line to customers has announced to provide its customers with a lifetime credit limit of up to Rs. 5 lakh instantly starting from Rs. 3,000.
- Unlike personal loans and credit cards, customers pay interest only on the amount borrowed and at lower rates.

RBI released the report on the Economic Capital Framework submitted by the panel headed by Bimal Jalan

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the report submitted by the panel headed by Bimal Jalan, former RBI governor, which was formed to review the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI.
- The committee recommended to maintain RBI's Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB), at a range of 5.5% to 6.5% of the RBI's balance sheet, which is above the available level of 2.4% of balance sheet as on June 30, 2018.

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Samsung India inks with Mastercard, RBL Bank for mobile payments through Samsung Pay

- American multinational financial services corporation, Mastercard, Indian private sector bank, RBL Bank and Samsung India have jointly launched the Samsung Pay for RBL Bank's Mastercard credit card customers.
- The tie-up will allow the customers of RBL bank to make contactless transactions with enhanced security on their Samsung Pay-compatible smartphones efficiently.

Extra Shots:

RBL: RBL Bank is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in the Mumbai and founded in 1943. It offers services in five sectors: corporate and institutional banking, commercial banking, retail banking, agricultural development banking and financial market access.

Banking license of Rupee Cooperative Bank extended by RBI till Nov 30, 2019

- Apex bank of the country, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the banking license of Rupee Cooperative Bank Ltd till November 30, 2019.
- The decision has been taken by RBI after exercising its power under sub-section (1) of Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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RBI releases its Annual Report for the year 2018-19

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has released its annual report for the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19.
- The report, which is released annually, analyses the working and operations of the RBI and suggests measures to improve the economic performance.

Extra Shots:

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- Deputy Governors: B P Kanungo, M K Jain, N S Vishwanathan

Centre released Rs.47,436.18 crore to 27 States for green activities

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar has handed over the Rs 47,436.18 crore to 27 States for compensatory afforestation and other green activities, including prevention of forest fire, biodiversity management and soil conservation.

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- The Fund will be used as per provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act and Rules (CAF Act 2016), under which the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) has been set up to collect funds from user agencies. The state of Odisha, the top recipient of funds, got 5933.98 crore.

NPCI has rationalises BHIM UPI charges for merchant transactions to promote digital payments

- In a bid to promote digital payments, an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments in India, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has rationalised merchant discount rates (MDR) for BHIM UPI (Unified Payment Interface) transactions.
- It has waived merchant fees for offline UPI transactions of up to Rs 100 made using QR (Quick Response) code scan-and-pay. For the large transactions, merchant fees have been capped at Rs 100.

Extra Shots:

NPCI: The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

- Founded 2008
- Headquarters Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

RBI extends time limit for PPIs to become full KYC compliant by 6 months

- The country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has again extended the deadline for prepaid instruments (PPIs), including digital wallets, to do full KYC (Know your customer) by six months (till February 28, 2020).
- The deadline was expiring on August 31, 2019.

Extra Shots:

RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, which controls the issuance and supply of the Indian rupee.

- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: B P Kanungo, M K Jain, N S Vishwanathan

NBFCs can use Aadhaar-based bank KYC to give loans: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman notified that the Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will be permitted to use the Aadhaar based bank mandated KYC (Know Your Customer) to avoid repeating the process for the customers.
- The move will simplify and quicken up the process of availing credit.

Balkan country Serbia becomes 73rd non-regional member of AIIB

- The Minister of Finance Sinisa Mali of Serbia, announced membership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- By this membership, Serbia officially becomes the 73rd non-regional member of the AIIB after completing all procedures and met all the conditions for membership after passing a bill on approval of the AIIB Articles of Agreement and depositing the Instrument of Accession and the first capital installment with the bank.

Extra Shots:

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AIIB: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

- Formation January 16, 2016
- Type Regional Investment Bank
- Headquarters Beijing, China

Bandhan Bank join hands with standard Chartered for co-branded credit cards

- Private sector lender Bandhan Bank has entered into the partnership with multinational banking and financial services company, Standard Chartered Bank to provide co-branded credit cards to its 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan.
- As part of this partnership, Standard Chartered Bank will take the risk of credit failure & Bandhan Bank will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers.

Extra Shots:

Bandhan Bank: Bandhan Bank Ltd. is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- Headquarters: Kolkata
- CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh (9 Jul 2015)
- Chairperson: Anup Kumar Sinh

CVC sets up 4-member panel to examine bank frauds above Rs 50 crore

- The Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) which is a 4 member board headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin (also former Indian Bank Chief Managing Director(MD)), is constituted by The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to look into bank fraud cases of over 50 crore rupees and above and to take necessary action

Canara Bank launches India's first OTP facility for ATM cash withdrawals above Rs.10,000

- Canara Bank, one of the largest public sector banks in India has launched India's first one-time password (OTP) facility for ATM withdrawals over Rs.10,000 in a day.
- This extra security armor will protect the card users from illegally withdrawing money from ATMs (Automated Teller Machine).

Extra Shots:

Canara Bank: Canara Bank is one of the largest public sector banks owned by the Government of India.

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai

An MoU signed between Indian Bank and Tata AIG General Insurance

- Indian Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata AIG General Insurance to offer Tata AIG General Insurance's diverse range of general insurance policies to the bank's customers.
- Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the Indian bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes.

Extra Shots:

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Indian Bank: Indian Bank is an Indian state-owned financial services company established in 1907 and headquartered in Chennai, India.

- Headquarters: Chennai
- CEO: Padmaja Chunduru (21 Sep 2018–)
- Subsidiaries: Indbank Merchant Banking Svc, Ind Bank Housing,

RBI Board Approves Surplus Transfer of Rs 1.76 Lakh Crore to Govt as it Accepts Bimal Jalan Panel Recommendation

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI)'s Governor Shaktikanta Das-led RBI central board in its 578th meeting (held in Mumbai, Maharashtra) has accepted the recommendation of high-level 6- member panel headed by its former Governor Bimal Jalan on transfer of Rs 1,76,051 crore to the government comprising of Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

Extra Shots:

RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, which controls the issuance and supply of the Indian rupee.

- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: B P Kanungo, M K Jain, N S Vishwanathan

RBI issues guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to Fisheries and Animal Husbandry farmers during 2018-19 and 2019-20

- The RBI directed the central Government to operate the interest subvention guidelines. Apart from existing KCC holders for crop loans, the farmers involved in activities related to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, through a separate Kisan Credit Card (KCC) will get at a concessional interest rate of 7% per annum during the years only 2018-19 and 2019-20 for the short loan up to Rs. 2 lakh.

Extra Shots:

RBI: The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, which controls the issuance and supply of the Indian rupee.

- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: B P Kanungo, M K Jain, N S Vishwanathan

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

Air India is the first Indian Airline to fly over Zero Degree North Pole

- Air India hoisted its Boeing 777 aircraft (Delhi-San Francisco flight AI-173) over the zero degrees the North Pole and became the first Indian airline to operate commercial flights overflying polar region.
- It usually overflies the Atlantic or the Pacific ocean. Flying over the North Pole saved fuel and time.

Extra Shots:

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Air India is the flag carrier airline of India, headquartered at New Delhi. It is owned by Air India Limited, a government-owned enterprise, and operates a fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft serving 94 domestic and international destinations.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Pradeep Singh Kharola

ANZ lowers India's GDP growth in FY20 to 6.2%

- According to a recent report of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth expected to grow by 6.2 % in 2019 (FY-Fiscal Year 2020)
- It revised downwards its outlook for FY20 from 6.5% due to sluggish domestic demand, and slowing down of Industry figures.

Extra Shots:

Anz: The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited, commonly called ANZ, is an Australian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Melbourne, Australia.

- Founded: 2 March 1835, London, United Kingdom
- Headquarters: Melbourne, Australia
- CEO: Shayne Elliott

Debenture Redemption Reserve requirement for Listed Companies, NBFCs and HFCs removed by the government

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the Companies (Share Capital & Debentures) Rules by removing Debenture Redemption Reserve(DRR) requirement for Listed Companies, NBFCs(Non Banking Financial Company) and HFCs (Housing Finance Companies).
- This is done with the aim of reducing the cost of capital for businesses in the country as part of its 100 Days Action Plan of "ease of doing business".

Mahindra Finance to acquire up to 58.2% stake in Sri Lanka's Ideal Finance for LKR 2 billion

- Rural NBFC (Non Banking Financial Company) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd has signed a joint venture (JV) with Ideal Finance Ltd (IFL), a subsidiary of the leading Sri Lankan conglomerate, Ideal Group, for the acquisition of up to 58.2 % stake in the Ideal Finance for LKR- (Sri Lankan Rupees) 2 billion (nearly Rs 80 crore).

Extra Shots:

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited: Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited is a Rural NBFC headquartered in Mumbai, India.

- Headquarters: Mumbai

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

- Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2019 of London based consultancy Knight Frank has ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally.
- The index is topped by Berlin(Germany) whereas Istanbul(Turkey) and Vancouver(Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively. Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) were ranked 15th and 30th on the list, respectively.

India's GDP growth set to slow further to 5.7% in April-June quarter: Nomura Report

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- According to the report by Nomura, a global financial services major, India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth is set to slow further in the April-June quarter of 2019 to 5.7% year on year (YoY) from 5.8%, before improving to 6.4% YoY in Q3 and 6.7% in Q4.
- The economy is expected to see some recovery in the July-September quarter.

Extra Shots:

Nomura: Nomura Holdings, Inc. is a Japanese financial holding company and a principal member of the Nomura Group

- CEO: Koji Nagai (1 Aug 2012)
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan

Amazon to acquire a 49% stake in Kishore Biyani-led Future Coupons Ltd

- Kishore Biyani-led Future Group announced that American e-commerce giant Amazon.com is acquiring a 49% stake in a group entity — Future Coupons Ltd.
- This will give Amazon around 3.58 per cent indirect stake in Future Retail

Extra Shots:

Amazon: Amazon.com, Inc., is an American multinational technology company based in Seattle, Washington that focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It is considered one of the Big Four technology companies along with Google, Apple, and Facebook.

- Founded: 5 July 1994
- Founder & CEO: Jeff Bezos

NITI Aayog VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme

- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar today met Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi and discussed the Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme.
- In order to ensure effective tackling the problem of Malnutrition, a road map will be charted out by the Department of Food and Public Distribution for taking the pilot scheme of Rice Fortification all over the country.

Extra Shots:

NITI Aayog: The NITI Aayog is a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Amitabh Kant
- Chairman: PM Narendra Modi
- Vice-Chairman: Rajiv Kumar

Air India to be privatized in shortest possible time: Hardeep Puri

- Civil Aviation Minister Mr Hardeep Singh Puri announced that government is determined for the privatization of Air India and people are interested in buying it.
- Total privatization will be done in the shortest possible time and with the best deal.
- Mr. Puri launched an aviation job portal. Aviationjobs is a unique web-based portal which brings together job seekers and prospective employers in the Indian civil aviation sector.

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- It is a common platform for enabling candidates to register their job interests across various sub-sectors.

Extra Shots:

Air India is the flag carrier airline of India, headquartered at New Delhi. It is owned by Air India Limited, a government-owned enterprise, and operates a fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft serving 94 domestic and international destinations.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Pradeep Singh Kharola

Air India bans single use plastic in flights from Oct 2

- Air India will completely ban use of plastic in Alliance Air and Air India Express from 2nd October.
- Plastic tea cups will be replaced with sturdy paper cups and plastic tumblers will be replaced with paper tumblers.

Extra Shots:

Air India is the flag carrier airline of India, headquartered at New Delhi. It is owned by Air India Limited, a government-owned enterprise, and operates a fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft serving 94 domestic and international destinations.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Pradeep Singh Kharola

CBDT constitutes special cell to address grievances of start-ups

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes -CBDT has constituted a five-member special cell to address grievances of start-ups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues.
- The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of start-up entities with respect to the administration of Income-tax Act,1961. Start-up entities can approach the cell for the speedy resolution of their grievances.

Extra Shots:

CBDT: The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes is the senior-most IRS civil servant in the Government of India. The Chairperson of CBDT is the ex officio Special Secretary to the Government of India and also cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service.

- Chairperson: Pramod Chandra Mody

Intel launched its first artificial intelligence chip Spring Hill

- Intel Corporation launched its latest processor, its first using artificial intelligence (AI), designed for large computing centers.
- The chip, developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel, is known as Nervana NNP-I or Springhill is based on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy.
- Facebook already started using the product.

Extra Shots:

Intel: Intel Corporation is an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California, in the Silicon Valley.

- CEO: Robert H. Swan

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- Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States
- Founders: Gordon Moore, Robert Noyce

Jio GigaFiber that offers 1000Mbps at Rs.700 per month to be unveiled on 5 September

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd Jio has announced that it is to GigaFiber.
- It is expected to offer high-quality services at lower-than-average industry prices.
- The rate will start from Rs.700 per month and offer minimum 100Mbps speeds as standard.
- It will be officially unveiled on 5 September 2019.
- The subscription will offer a lot of new-age smart services to its subscribers, including a TV service with a feature-rich Set Top Box and fixed-line landline connection.

Extra Shots:

Reliance Industries Limited: Reliance Industries Limited is an Indian multinational conglomerate company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Reliance owns businesses across India engaged in energy, petrochemicals, textiles, natural resources, retail, and telecommunications.

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani

Fintech startup based in Bangalore MoneyTap provides lifetime credit of up to Rs.5 lakh instantly

- MoneyTap, India's first company to provide an app-based personal credit line to customers has announced to provide its customers with a lifetime credit limit of up to Rs 5 lakh instantly starting from Rs 3,000.
- The personal loans and credit cards, customers pay interest only on the amount borrowed and at lower rates.

Angikaar campaign launched by HAL to bring PMAY(U) beneficiaries into Ujjawala Ayushman Bharat fold

- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the Angikaar campaign a move aimed at bringing beneficiaries of PMAY (urban) into the fold of other central schemes such as Ujjawala and Ayushman Bharat.

Extra Shots:

HAL: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company headquartered in Bangalore, India. It is governed under the management of the Indian Ministry of Defence.

- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Walchand Hirachand

Amazon inaugurates its world's largest campus in Hyderabad

- E-commerce company Amazon, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The campus was inaugurated by Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, government of Telangana. This Hyderabad campus of Amazon, is the only one, placed outside US (United States).

Extra Shots:

Amazon: Amazon.com, Inc., is an American multinational technology company based in Seattle, Washington that focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It is considered one of the Big Four technology companies along with Google, Apple, and Facebook.

- Founded: 5 July 1994
- Founder & CEO: Jeff Bezos

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

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- Moody's Investors Service reduced India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for 2019 calendar year to 6.2% from the previous estimation of 6.8% as the weaker global economy has stunted Asian exports and the uncertain operating environment has weighed on investment.

Extra Shots:

Amazon: Moody's Corporation, often referred to as Moody's, is an American business and financial services company. It is the holding company for Moody's Investors Service, an American credit rating agency, and Moody's Analytics, an American provider of financial analysis software and services.

- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- CEO: Raymond W. McDaniel

225th meeting of CBT held at Hyderabad, Telangana

- The 225th meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT) held at Hyderabad, Telangana. It was attended by the Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, who is also Chairman of CBT.

Extra Shots:

Telangana: Capital City(Hyderabad) CM(K.Chandrasekara Rao) Governor(Tamilisai Soundar rajan)

SEBI Eases Norms For FPIs

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) relaxed the compliance requirements for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI).
- It modified the norms to boost startups and decided on Rs 1 crore reward for informants in insider trading cases.

Extra Shots:

SEBI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulator for the securities market in India. It was established in 1988 and given statutory powers on 12 April 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Sector: Securities market
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi

Acko partners with ZestMoney to offer credit insurance

- Acko General Insurance, an insurtech company, has partnered with ZestMoney, a consumer lending fintech, to offer credit insurance.
- This insurance will help ZestMoney customers cover their monthly EMI payments during times of crisis.
- ZestMoney offers instant financing to consumers across 1000+ online portals and provides them with the option of paying through EMIs even if the consumers don't own a credit card.

Extra Shots:

- CEO of Acko General Insurance: Varun Dua.
- CEO of ZestMoney: Lizzie Chapman

KABIL set up to ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian domestic market

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- A joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India limited, KABIL has been set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises, CPSEs to ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian domestic market.
- These CPSEs are National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Mineral Exploration Company limited.

GST revenue collection stands at Rs 1,02,083 crore in July

- The total gross revenue collected under Goods and Services Tax, GST in the month of July, 2019 was 1,02,083 crore rupees.
- It consisted of Central GST component of 17,912 crore rupees and State GST 25,008 crore rupees along with the Integrated GST revenue which was 50,612 crore rupees and Cess collection was 8,551 crore rupees.
- CRISIL cuts India's GDP growth to 6.9% for FY20
- Credit rating agency CRISIL lowered Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for India by 20 basis points to 6.9 percent for FY20.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India's growth by 30 basis points for the calendar years 2019 and 2020 to 7 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively.

Extra Shots:

CRISIL: CRISIL is a global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services. CRISIL's majority shareholder is Standard & Poor's, a division of McGraw Hill Financial and provider of financial market intelligence

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Ashu Suyash

Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Mobikwik to offer miniature insurance

- Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance partnered with payments platform Mobikwik.
- Purpose: to sell 'miniature' insurance plans
- There will be life insurance covers of Rs 1 lakh, 3 lakh and 5 lakh with a premium of Rs 148, 443 and 738 per annum. This will be a group insurance solution in the term segment.

Extra Shots:

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited:

- CEO: Sumit Rai
- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters location: Mumbai
- Parent organization: Edelweiss Capital

Vistara to launch Mumbai-Dubai flight services from August 21

- Vistara announced expansion of its overseas services with a daily flight to Dubai from Mumbai, starting August 21.
- Vistara will commence its operations on the international routes from 6th-7th August with a flight services to Singapore from Delhi and Mumbai.
- Vistara has added Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the second international destination to its network.

Extra Shots:

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Tata SIA Airlines Limited, operating as Vistara, is an Indian domestic full-service airline, based in Gurgaon, with its hub at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

- Founded: 2013, New Delhi
- CEO: Leslie Thng
- Founders: Singapore Airlines, Tata Sons

Airtel to shut down 3G networks across India by March 2020

Bharti Airtel will shut down its entire 3G network across India's 22 telecom circles by March 2020.

Airtel is now focusing on providing focusing on providing 4G services to its subscribers.

Extra Shots:

Bharti Airtel Limited, also known as Airtel, is an Indian global telecommunications services company based in Delhi, India. It operates in 18 countries across South Asia and Africa, and also in the Channel Islands.

- CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Centre released e commerce guidelines for consumer protection

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce titled 'e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019'.
- AIM: to protect the interest of online shoppers. It provides measures to prevent fraud, unfair trade practices and protect the legitimate rights and interests of consumers. It will be applicable to business-to-consumer e-commerce, including goods and services.

Mastercard launches identity check express to secure online transactions

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

Extra Shots:

Mastercard Incorporated is an American multinational financial services corporation.

- Headquarters: Purchase, Harrison, New York, United States
- CEO: Ajaypal Singh Banga

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

- IIFL Finance will raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through a public issue of bonds
- The main or the purpose of business growth and expansion.
- The bonds will offer yield of 10.5% per annum for tenor of 69 months and 10% for shorter tenor of 15 months for the secured category, the non-banking financial company (NBFC).

Extra Shots:

IIFL Holdings Limited d/b/a IIFL and India Infoline, is an Indian diversified financial services company.

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founders: Nirmal Jain, Rajamani Venkataraman

NSE and Singapore Exchange gets approval for its GIFT city project

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- Centre approved the joint derivative project of India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) for their international financial centre in GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The project was proposed by NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) and SGX Connect. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is an initiative led by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The project plans to bring together the trading of Nifty products and boost the activities of GIFT City.

Extra Shots:

NSE: The National Stock Exchange of India Limited is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai.

- Founded: 1992
- Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Established: 1992
- Owner: National Stock Exchange of India Limited

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

- Max Life Insurance Co Ltd announced the launch of the one-of-its-kind initiative, 'Speed Dial Max Life Insurance - Your Partner for Life' further reinforcing its customer obsession.
- Max Life Insurance Company will endeavour to assign every customer a dedicated relationship manager, known as the 'Partner for Life' for all their policy-related service needs.
- **'Partners for Life'** will act as enablers to provide a one stop solution on call, shortening the average wait time a customer has to go through, to get their queries answered. They will also educate customers on the company's digital service solutions and new products offerings, if inquired.
- The **'Speed Dial'** initiative is introduced to further protect the promises we have made to our customers through dedicated relationship managers on call.

Extra Shots:

Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a leading life insurance company in India.

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi

India first corporate credit card for SMEs launched by B2B payments startup EnKash

- Country's first corporate credit card for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) launched by EnKash named 'Freedom Card'.
- Objective: to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.
- EnKash has come up with a corporate card to cater to the varied billing cycles as per the working capital cycles of different businesses.
- The card offers a credit limit for companies to fulfil all business payments including supplier payments, travel & entertainment expenses, utility payments, digital and cloud payments and other business expenses in short duration.

Reliance Jio and Microsoft partner to accelerate digital transformation in India

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio) and Microsoft Corporation companies have a unique relationship.
- Their main aim is at accelerating the digital transformation of the Indian economy and society.

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- Jio and Microsoft aim to enhance the adoption of leading technologies like data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things, and edge computing among small and medium enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow.

Extra Shots:

Reliance Industries Limited: Reliance Industries Limited is an Indian multinational conglomerate company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Reliance owns businesses across India engaged in energy, petrochemicals, textiles, natural resources, retail, and telecommunications.

- CEO: Mukesh Ambani

Google expands collaboration with Prasar Bharati for live and archival content digitization

- Google India announced a continued long-term collaboration with Prasar Bharati to bring all the live action on YouTube and Google Search for events of national importance such as the Independence Day and Republic Day telecast.
- As part of the collaboration, viewers from across the globe will be able to watch full parade and Prime Minister's speech live on Doordarshan's YouTube channel, as India celebrates its 73rd Independence Day on 15th August, 2019

Extra Shots:

Google: Google LLC is an American multinational technology company that specializes in Internet-related services and products, which include online advertising technologies, search engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware.

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States
- Parent organization: Alphabet Inc

Centre introduces scheme for NBFCs and HFCs

- Centre has announced a partial guarantee scheme in the budget for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).
- The scheme will allow the Public Sector Banks to purchase their assets.
- AIM: to provide liquidity support to the NBFCs and HFCs.
- For the implementation of the scheme, the government has planned a mechanism which will elicit information on a real-time basis.
- NBFCs that registered with RBI and HFCs registered with National Housing Bank can take benefit under the scheme.

WhatsApp finally brings fingerprint authentication to Android beta users

- WhatsApp's Messenger most awaited features, fingerprint authentication, is finally rolling out to Android users.
- The feature is currently available to those who have registered in WhatsApp's beta programme for Android.
- The Fingerprint authentication has been around on the platform since last year to iOS users.

Extra Shots:

Monthly Current Affairs PDF - August 2019

WhatsApp Messenger is a freeware, cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP service owned by Facebook. It allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations, and other media.

- Owner: Facebook

Air India New Delhi-San Francisco flight to fly over North Pole

- The Air India (AI) announced its inaugural passenger flight over the North Pole region from August 15 between New Delhi and San Francisco.
- The first commercial service will be operated by Captain Rajneesh Sharma and Captain Digvijay Singh It marked the "maturing of civil aviation in India as another frontier is crossed.

Extra Shots:

Air India is the flag carrier airline of India, headquartered at New Delhi. It is owned by Air India Limited, a government-owned enterprise, and operates a fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft serving 94 domestic and international destinations.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- CEO: Pradeep Singh Kharola

India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

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

PM Modi visits France

- Prime Minister Modi is paying a two-day state visit to France from 22 August ahead G-7 meeting. Modi and his French counterpart President Emmanuel Macron held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors.
- Prime Minister Modi has been invited for the G-7 summit that is to be held on August 25.
- The summit is to held in Biarritz, France. G-7 summit will include talks about the scrapping of Article 370.

Extra Shots:

France (Capital/Currency): Paris/Euro

- Prime Minister: Edouard Philippe
- President: Emmanuel Macron

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

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

India failed to comply with the multiple requirements prescribed in SDDS: IMF Report for 2018

- According to the report titled "Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2018" released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India failed to comply with the multiple requirements prescribed in Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) which are mandatory for all IMF members.

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- The report lists the compliances & deviations from the SDDS under each data category for a particular year. There are 20 data categories.

India's GDP growth estimated at 6.0% for Q1 of 2019-20: FICCI Survey

- As per the recently released FICCI's (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) 'Economic Outlook Survey 2019', India's GDP (Gross domestic product) growth estimated at 6.0% for Q1 (April 2019 to June 2019) of Fiscal year FY 2019-20.

Extra Shots:

FICCI: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an association of business organisations in India. Established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purushottam

- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters location: New Delhi

STPI sets up India's 1st FinTech centre of excellence-“Fin Blue” in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) in association with Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) has officially set up a 'Centre of Excellence in FinTech' with a cost of over ₹23 crore in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- It is first of its kind in India and is named 'FinBlue'.

Extra Shots:

STPI: Software Technology Parks of India is a society established in 1991 by the Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology with the objective of encouraging, promoting and boosting the export of software from India.

- Founded: 1991
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Dr. Omkar Rai

7 oil and natural gas blocks for bidding offered by the government under OALP-IV

- Government offered 7 oil and natural gas blocks for bidding under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)-IV.
- Five blocks offered are in little-explored Vindhyan sedimentary basin, 1 block is in Bengal Purnea basin and 1 block is the proven basin of Rajasthan.

SIDBI partners with Incuspaze for coworking space for MSMEs

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

Extra Shots:

SIDBI: Small industrial Development Bank of India is a development financial institution in India, headquartered at Lucknow and having its offices all over the country.

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990

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Microsoft launches "Digital Governance Tech Tour" programme to skill government IT officials in new-age technologies

- IT (Information Technology) company, Microsoft India has launched a program called 'Digital Governance Tech Tour' in line with the Digital initiative of the Indian government to train 5000 government employees over a period of 12 months on AI (artificial intelligence) and cloud computing skills.

Extra Shots:

Microsoft: Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington

- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen Trending
- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States

India Ratings downs GDP forecast to 6.7% for FY'20

- The rating agency India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) downgraded India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to a six year low of 6.7% for FY20 (Fiscal year 2020) compared to its previous estimate of 7.3%.
- This downgrade is due to weak consumption demand, monsoon and slowdown in manufacturing growth. Read full details here: [India Ratings Downs GDP Forecast To 6.7% For FY'20](#)

Mou signed between GeM and SIDBI to enable growth of MSMEs, Start-ups and Women Entrepreneurs

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Government e Marketplace (GeM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in New Delhi to benefit Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women Self Help Groups and various loan beneficiaries under Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) and Stand-up India scheme.

Extra Shots:

SIDBI: Small industrial Development Bank of India is a development financial institution in India, headquartered at Lucknow and having its offices all over the country.

- Headquarters location: Lucknow
- Founded: 2 April 1990

CBDT frames 5-member special cell to redress grievances of start-ups

- In a bid to redress the grievances of start-ups and reduce their tax-related issues, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has constituted a 5-member special cell led by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of CBDT, P.K. Dash (Addl. Charge), which will work towards the issues

Extra Shots:

CBDT: The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes is the senior-most IRS civil servant in the Government of India. The Chairperson of CBDT is the ex officio Special Secretary to the Government of India and also cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service.

- Chairperson: Pramod Chandra Mody

Small startups with turnover up to Rs 25 cr to get promised tax holiday

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified that small startups with a turnover of up to Rs 25 crore will continue to get the promised tax holiday as specified in the Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax (IT) Act, 1961.

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- It provides a deduction for 100% of the income of an eligible startup for 3 years out of 7 years from the year of its incorporation.

Bharatcraft portal will generate Rs 10 lakh crore revenues in 2-3 yrs: Nitin Gadkari

- The Union Minister of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari stated that the government's planned e-commerce portal Bharatcraft has the potential to achieve revenues of around Rs 10 lakh crore in 2-3 years.
- He stated at the 200th listing of an MSME company 'Wonder Fibromats' on NSE Emerge in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Government announces measures to boost Indian Economy

- A presentation was made by Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on measures to boost Indian Economy during a press conference including the review of sections under Companies Act 1956.
- Also, Corporate tax rate for companies with over Rs 400 crore turnover will be gradually cut to 25% and the government will support wealth creators. Read full details here: [Government announces measures to boost Indian Economy](#)

Tea grown in Arunachal Pradesh record height set by Assam tea

- A variety of tea grown in Arunachal Pradesh touched the record heights set by Assam tea where Dikom Tea Estate of Assam had sold its Golden Butterfly tea at Rs 75,000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC).
- 'Golden Needle' tea produced by Donyipolo Tea Estate in Arunachal Pradesh was sold by Contemporary Tea Brokers and was bought by city-based buyer Chattar Singh Narendra Kumar for online tea seller Absolute Tea.

Extra Shots:

Arunachal Pradesh: Capital City (Itanagar) CM (Pema Khandu) Governor (BD Mishra)

Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Tejas Express and the Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be run by IRCTC

- Indian Railways has decided that Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Tejas Express and the Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be run by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a subsidiary of the Indian Railways, for a period of 3 years as a pilot project.
- The proposal was mooted by the railways in its 100-day plan.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (Ch Vidyasagar Rao)

Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) signs MoU to set up AI Digital Lab

- IT (Information Technology) company, Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) to set up an AI Digital Lab powered by PlatiFi technologies (a Microsoft partner) at B School's campus Hyderabad, Telangana to study issues that are relevant for business and public policy.

Extra Shots:

Microsoft: Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington

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- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen Trending
- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States

Atos and C-DAC to work in the field of quantum computing, AI and exascale computing

- French information technology(IT) firm Atos and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC) which is a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)run research organization, have signed an agreement to work on the technical advancement in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), exascale computing (billions of billion calculations per second) and quantum computing (computer technology based on quantum theory).

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

India became fifth largest investor in Africa: President Kovind

- President Ramnath Kovind said that trade and investment ties between India and Africa are growing.
- India has become the fifth largest investor in Africa with cumulative investment at over 54 billion US dollars.
- After South Asia, the African Continent is the largest recipient of Indian overseas assistance.
- India is opening 18 new missions, of which seven will be in West Africa.

India needs exports of 1 trillion to become 5 trillion dollar economy: Piyush Goyal

- A/c to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, India's exports will have to contribute at least one trillion dollars to achieve the target of 5 trillion dollar economy.
- The Ministry is working on making India's export products competitive and simplifying rules and regulations for easy availability of export credit.
- The Minister urged the export and import community to flag issues regarding availability of land, labour and logistics support required in ports, airports and customs to the Ministry.

Kaleshwaram project secures Hyderabad's water supply for the future

- Telangana government's massive Rs 80,190-crore Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project was launched in June.
- Kaleshwaram project is expected to provide 56 TMC of drinking water and supply another 10 TMC for industrial purposes.
- Currently the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has supplies 462 million gallons per day (MGD) to the capital city from the Krishna (phase 1, 2 and 3) and Godavari (phase-1) projects, and the Osmansagar, and Himayathsagar reservoirs.

Extra Shots:

Telangana: Capital City(Hyderabad) CM(K Chandrashekar Rao) Governor(E. S. L. Narasimhan)

India to become Open Defecation Free, thanks to Swachh Bharat Mission

- Upon the successful implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), rural India is to become Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2 October, 2019.

Swachh Bharat Mission :

- The Swachh Bharat Mission is pan India campaign plan to clean India by streets, roads,cities,towns. The mission aimed to clean during a period of 2014-2019.
- Swachh Bharat mission is one of the largest cleanliness drives in the world.

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- It is an attempt introduced by the NDA-led government to initiate behavioural change.

Over 3.5 lakh water conservation measures taken up under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- JSA delivered over 3.5 lakh water conservation measures in 256 districts during the last month.
- **Objective:** to enhance water security, especially in water-stressed districts
- An estimated 2.64 crore people participated in the Abhiyan making it a peoples' movement. Around 4.25 crore saplings were also planted as a part of the efforts.
- JSA has led to an increase in groundwater level, surface water storage capacity, soil moisture in farm lands and increased plant cover.
- JSA is a collaborative effort of various Ministries of the Centre and State Governments and it is primarily a Jal Sanchay Campaign.

Extra Shots:

Jal Shakti Minister: Ganjendra Singh Shekhawat

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launches Mobile Library Buses procured by Delhi

- Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Mobile Library Buses procured under C.S.R assistance from Airports Authority of India.
- The Programme was organized by Delhi Public Library of Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.
- They launched the Mobile Library Buses under the “Ghar-GharDastakGharGharPustak” Scheme of the Delhi Public Library.
- **AIM:** to provide books to the citizens of Delhi, the residents of slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.
- Minister of Culture visited the library and interacted with young students/ readers and motivated them to develop reading habits.

Article 370 scrapped, Jammu & Kashmir to be carved into two Union Territories

- The Centre has decided to repeal Article 370 and Article 35-A of the Constitution that grants special status to the state.
- Home minister Amit Shah also decided to bifurcate the state into two Union territories – Jammu and Kashmir, which will have a legislature, and Ladakh, which will be without a legislature.
- The UT in Ladakh will have no legislature like Chandigarh while the other UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature like Delhi and Puducherry.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day

- Today on 5th August, National Academy of Art or Lalit Kala Akademi, celebrated its 65th Foundation Day in New Delhi.
- The event was inaugurated by Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Lalit Kala Akademi or National Academy of Art was established in New Delhi in 1954 by the government.
- **OBJECTIVE:** to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country.
- The Academy provides scholarships, fellowship programmes and organizes art-related exhibitions in India and overseas.
- The artwork and painting exhibitions will be open for public till 12th of this month.

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Aamir Khan launches Mission Shakti sports initiative

- Actor Aamir Khan attended the launch function of Mission Shakti, an initiative by Maharashtra minister Sudhir Mungantiwar to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai) CM(Devendra Fadnavis) Governor(Ch Vidyasagar Rao)

PM Modi announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition

- Emphasis on creating awareness to fight malnutrition among children, particularly the girl child.
- Gujarat Government launched a pilot project, Poshan Abhiyan which is a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children.
- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had also launched 'Purna' project to eliminate malnutrition among the girls in the age group of 14 to 18.
- State Government had allocated Rs. 270 crore for this pilot project.
- PURNA project is also known as Prevention of under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari allocates Rs.20 lakh for purchase of two mini-buses for differently able students studying in DU

- BJP leader and MP from North East Delhi, Manoj Tiwari has allocated nearly Rs.20 lakh for purchase of two mini-buses for differently able students studying in Delhi University.
- He has allocated Rs. 19.90 lakh for the purchase of the two mini-buses.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

- **Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated the National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences ((SACON) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The ministry funded an amount of Rs 4 crore to the centre for modernization and to handle the challenges posed by the continued entry of newer chemicals into the environment.

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi to inaugurate “Hunar Haat”

- Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot will inaugurate this “Hunar Haat” at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur.
- “Hunar Haat” has proved to be an effective programme to provide employment and employment opportunities to master artisans.
- More than 2 lakh 40 thousand master artisans, craftsmen and culinary experts have been provided employment and employment opportunities.

Extra Shots:

- Union Minority Affairs Minister: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
- Rajasthan: Capital City (Jaipur) CM (Ashok Ghelot) Governor (Kalyan Singh)

India to launch e-commerce portal “Bharatcraft” for MSME’s

- Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named “Bharatcraft” for MSME’s. The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like ‘Alibaba’ and ‘Amazon’.

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- The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector.
- As per the MSME Union Minister, the Bharatcraft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth Rs10 lakh crore in next 2-3 years.

Extra Shots:

- Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Nitin Gadkari

Shah Rukh Khan launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station

- Actor Shah Rukh Khan launched heritage postal stamp of Bandra station on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.
- Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra present at the Bandra station.
- Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra present at the Bandra station.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai) CM(Devendra Fadnavis) Governor(Ch Vidyasagar Rao)

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

- Forest Department and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports joined hands and developed sky cycling park in Gulaba area near Manali.
- The main aim is to boost tourism and give an all-new experience to visitors.
- The eco-friendly park, which is 350-meter long, is the first sky cycling park in the country.
- The sky cycling path is at a height of 9,000 feet above sea level, news agency ANI quoted Neeraj Chadha, Division Forest Officer, Kullu.

Extra Shots:

Himachal Pradesh: Capital City(Shimla) CM(Jairam Thakur) Governor(Bandaru Dattareya)

Home Minister Amit Shah flags off battery operated electric buses in Ahmedabad

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off the first fleet of eco-friendly electric buses in the city.
- These electric buses will be operated on major junctions on regular intervals from today onwards.
- The Home Minister also inaugurated the country's first automated battery charging and swapping station for e-buses.
- The Home Minister also attended an event organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation at the Science City to mark the culmination of the civic body's tree plantation drive.
- As many as 10 lakh trees were planted across Ahmedabad.
- Under the Faster Adaption and Manufacture of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, Gujarat will get 550 electric buses with Ahmedabad alone getting 300 buses.

Extra Shots:

Gujarat: Capital City (Gandhinagar) CM (Vijay Rupani) Governor (Acharya Dev Vrat)

Govt notifies 63 provisions of Motor Vehicles Act; implementation from Sep 1

- Government has notified 63 provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 including the ones dealing with enhanced penalties for various traffic offences.
- The new clauses will come into effect from 1st of next month.

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- The 63 clauses deal with penalties, licences, registration and National Transport Policy among others.

Govt to set up 75 new medical colleges in next three years

- The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of 75 new Medical Colleges by 2021-22.
- The move will add 15,700 more MBBS seats in the country.
- These medical colleges will be established in under-served areas having no such colleges with at least 200 bedded district hospitals.
- Preference will be given to Aspirational districts and district hospitals having 300 beds.

DoT allocates two additional frequencies for Community Radio

- The Department of Telecommunications has allocated two additional dedicated frequencies for running Community Radio - 89.6 and 90.0 MHz.
- Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Amit Khare said this while delivering the Valedictory Address of 7th National Community Radio Sammelan in New Delhi.

100 % FDI in coal mining will create a competitive coal market

- Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi has announced that the decision of 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route for coal mining activities is the biggest reform by Modi Government.
- This will help provide power to all 24x7.

ADB President meets PM Modi

- Asian Development Bank, ADB, President Takehiko Nakao met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and pledged to support the government's new flagship initiatives.
- Mr Nakao commended the government's vision to make India a five trillion dollar economy.
- The Prime Minister and ADB President discussed how to further enhance the partnership in areas such as the promotion of new technologies and innovation, renewable energy, solar-pump irrigation, electric vehicle and battery, sustainable tourism, and the recycling of plastic.
- ADB stands ready to commit more than 12 billion dollar lending in the next three years.
- ADB President said, India is one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia and the Pacific, maintaining a growth rate of about 7.5 per cent on average in the last 5 years.
- ADB expects the country's growth in 2019 at 7.0 per cent and in 2020 at 7.2 per cent, despite downside risks in the global economy.

Extra Shots:

ADB: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank aimed to promote social and economic development in Asia.

- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Takehiko Nakao

Total horticulture production estimated to be over 313 million tones

- The total horticulture production of the country is estimated to be over 313 million tonnes which is 0.69 per cent higher than the production in 2017-18.

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- Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare today released the Third Advanced Estimate (2018-19) of area and production of various Horticulture Crops.
- Onion Production is estimated to be around 23.48 Million Tonnes, which is 0.95 per cent higher than the production last year.
- Tomato production is estimated to be around 19.39 Million Tonnes, which is 1.8 per cent, lower than the production last year.

Unique tribal eco tourism programme to restart from Sep 2

- The unique tribal eco tourism programme, being conducted in various parts of the Western Ghats in Tamilnadu, will be restarted from 2nd September.
- The eco tourism programme is being conducted jointly by the tourism and SC/ST Welfare departments.

Extra Shots:

Tamilnadu: Capital City (Chennai) CM (Edappadi K.Palanisamy) Governor (Banwarilal Purohit)

BJP to soon touch seven crore members mark

- Bharatiya Janata Party will soon touch the seven crore members mark through the membership drive that began on 6th of July and concluded on 20th of this month.
- Over 5 crore 81 lakh people have taken up membership through on-line mode and counting for off-line and other modes is in process.
- Before the drive, membership was of 11 crore and this time membership through on-line mode is more than fifty percent of the previous members strength.

Extra Shots:

BJP: The Bharatiya Janata Party is one of the two major political parties in India, along with the Indian National Congress. As of 2018, it is the country's largest political party in terms of representation in the national parliament and state assemblies, and it is the world's largest party in terms of primary membership.

- Founded: 6 April 1980
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founders: Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat
- President: Amit Shah

Centre releases over Rs 47,000 cr to increase green cover in states

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has handed over forty seven thousand crore rupees from Compensatory Afforestation Fund to various states.
- The funds will be utilized as per the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act and rules.
- Monitoring of the implementation of the efforts pertaining to afforestation will be done with the help of the technology like geo- tagging and video shooting.

HRD directs UGC to set up panel to inquire into allegations of universities selling fake degrees

- Human Resource Development Ministry has directed the University Grants Commission to immediately constitute a high-level committee to inquire into allegations of sale of fake degrees by certain universities
- The committee will complete its enquiry within three weeks and identify institutions and individuals that have resorted to such illegal practices so that strict action can be taken.

Extra Shots:

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Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ministry: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

'Ek Bharat-Vijayee Bharat' from Sep 2 to commemorate 50th year of Vivekanand rock memorial

- Vivekanand rock memorial has been an iconic landmark at the Tri-junction of Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea in Kanyakumari.
- In order to commemorate 50th year of Vivekanand rock memorial, a major contact programme, "EK BHARAT-VIJAYEE BHARAT" has been planned from 2nd September across the country.
- This was announced at press conference by B. Bhanu Das from the Vivekanand Kendra Kanyakumari at a function in New Delhi.

Govt to set up 12,500 AYUSH centres across the country

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that government has set a target of setting up 12,500 AYUSH centres across India.
- Giving away Yoga Awards to the winners for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga in New Delhi.
- 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres are being opened across the country.
- The Prime Minister said AYUSH and Yoga are strong pillars of 'Fit India' movement.

Centre plans to provide WiFi to all villages

- Centre plans to provide Wi-Fi to all villages with connectivity between 10Mbps to 100 Mbps speed under the GramNet initiative.
- The announcement was made by Minister of State for Communications Shamrao Dhotre at the 36th Foundation Day celebrations of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Delhi on 26 August.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution (CGD) .
- They cover 50 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 124 districts.
- After the completion of the 10th round, over 70% of the country's population and 52.73% of the area will be covered under the CGD.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel: Dharmendra Pradhan

Mobile application Janaushadhi Sugam launched for locating outlets and searching Generic medicine

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched a mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam".
- Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin" available at only One Rupee per pad.
- Minister of State for Shipping (IC) and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya participated in the launch event.

MHRD launched National Digital Library of India

- National Digital Library integrated with Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) App.
- Users can register through www.ndl.gov.in or through the mobile app.

Extra Shots:

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Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ministry: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

India Launches Worlds First Ever Facial Biometric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document

- India became the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID).
- It can capture the facial biometric data of seafarers.
- Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers launched the project in New Delhi.

Maitri: A mobile app to connect kids at orphanages with old age homes

- Five Indian women have developed a mobile app named Maitri.
- The app connects kids at orphanages with old-age homes.
- The app was developed for the people affected by loneliness, depression.
- The app permits users to volunteer and present to old-age homes and orphanages.

Cabinet approved the launch of international CDRI

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister approved the international Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) together with its supporting Secretariat office in Delhi.
- The CDRI is expected to be launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, the USA on 23 September 2019.
- Cabinet has approved for the establishment of the International CDRI together with its supporting Secretariat workplace in New Delhi.
- Also, it also approved the establishment of the Secretariat of the CDRI as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Cabinet approved for the government of India's support of Rs.480 crore to CDRI to fund research projects.
- It approved the formation of a charter document. It will act as the founding document of the CDRI.

India proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms

- India is proposing a series of consumer safeguards that forbid e-commerce companies such as Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart Online Services Pvt..
- E-commerce companies self-declare compliance and also provide a way for customers to contact them directly, said the proposed e-Commerce Guidelines for consumer protection 2019
- Among the key guidelines are those that require platforms like Amazon and Flipkart to declare all details about their sellers including address, website, and email address

Central government approved the project to link Kosi and Mechi rivers

- Union Cabinet approved Rs. 4,900 crore for Kosi-Mechi interlinking project in Bihar.
- The second river interlinking project the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.
- The flood issue became a major reason for destruction and interlinking of Kosi and Mechi provide a little relief to the Seemanchal region of the state.
- **AIM:** To transfer surplus water of Ken River to the Betwa basin to irrigate India's worst drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Yesso Naik flags off Mountaineering Expedition team to climb Mt. Elbrus

- Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Yesso Naik flagged off an Expedition Team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (Hmi), Darjeeling to Mt. Elbrus, Russia.

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- The expedition team of eight professional mountaineers, led by HMI Principal, GpCapt Jaikishan, plans to summit Mt. Elbrus, the highest peak in European Continent on August 15, 2019 and hoist India's national flag atop the mountain to coincide with 73rd Independence Day.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of State of AYUSH: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik

India-Bangladesh home minister-level talks held in Delhi

- The Seventh meeting of the India-Bangladesh Home Minister Level Talks was held in New Delhi.
- Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated his Bangladesh counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan on the resumption of the office for a second term.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

India gets its first 3D Smart Traffic Signal

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

Extra Shots:

Punjab: Capital City(Chandigarh) CM(Amarinder Singh) Governor(V P Singh Badnore)

e-Rozgar Samachar launched to spread awareness about job opportunities

Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar launched The e-version of Rozgar Samachar.

Govt sanctions over 5,000 electric buses under second phase of FAME India scheme

- Government has sanctioned five thousand 595 electric buses in 64 cities for intracity and intercity operations under the second phase of FAME India scheme.
- OBJECTIVE: to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront incentives on purchase of electric vehicles.

Skill Development Ministry to give training to youths of J&K

- Skill Development Minister Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey informed that the ministry will do its best to give training to youths of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Skill Development ministry is working tirelessly to make the youth of country skilled.
- He launched nominations of National Entrepreneurship Awards for 2019. All entrepreneurs in different categories can apply in www.neas.gov.in.
- The award function will be held on 9th November, the foundation day of the Ministry.

India's first underwater train project will soon be operational

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

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

Extra Shots:

West Bengal: Capital City(Kolkata) CM(Mamta Banerjee) Governor(Jagdeep Dhankar)

Union HRD Minister to launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' Drive

- Union HRD Minister to launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' Drive to create awareness about water conservation among all school students in the country.
- This mega drive will be launched at Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Auditorium, Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 in Delhi Cantt.
- This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ministry: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

Centre aims to cover entire nation under 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme by 2020

- Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said that Centre aims to cover almost every part of the country under 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme by 1st June 2020.
- The scheme will be determined by the computerization of the Public Distribution System Ration card portability, the pilot project of 'One Nation, One Ration Card', has been formally launched by the Minister between Andhra Pradesh - Telangana and Gujarat - Maharashtra.

Bengaluru based startup Grexter Living acquires i2Stay

- Bengaluru based Housing startup "Grexter Living" is a co-living provider acquired i2Stay. Some built-to-suit projects which i2stay.
- Rajasekhar Gowreneni will join Grexter Living as the managing partner for South India.
- They took over some built-to-suit projects which i2stay for Grexter Living as the managing partner for South India.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka: Capital City(Bengaluru) CM(K.Chengalaraya Reddy) Governor(Vajubhai Vala)

Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated a scheme Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana.
- This scheme is for the farmers having farmlands of less than 1 acre to 5 acres will be provided by Rs5,000-25,000.
- The launching ceremony was held in 23 districts apart from Ranchi. The benefit of the scheme is about 3000 crores will be sent to the account of 35 lakh farmers.
- The government has promised the farmers to double their income by 2020.

Union Government to launch Uber for tractors app to aid farmers

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- India's agriculture ministry developed a farm equipment rental app for Indian farmers let with hire tractors, rotavator.
- This app will be similar to Uber and this corresponding mobile app is expected to be launched by the end of August.
- The aim of uber tractors project is for the farmers who is not in a position to buy a tractor.
- The Mahindra Group's start-up on launching Trringo service out of Karnataka where it will help farmers book tractors by the hour via a phone call for rental.

Indian Railways launches onboard shopping

- Indian Railways introduced onboard shopping in train for passengers traveling in the Ahmedabad-Mumbai Karnavati Express.
- The services will start from Thursday and passengers can enjoy it on both the directions of the train.
- This will give the opportunity to passengers to buy FMCG products of daily need while commuting.
- Apart from the cash payment mode, passengers traveling in the train and buying goods can make payment through credit cards, debit cards, Google Pay and Paytm.

Extra Shots:

Indian Railways: Indian Railways is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways.

- Customer service: 139
- Headquarters: New Delhi

CBSE hikes exam fees for SC/ST by 24 times, general to pay double

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increased the fees of Class 10 and 12 board examinations for SC and ST students from Rs 50 to Rs 1,200, while the amount has been doubled for those from the general category, who will now have to pay Rs 1,500.
- The students appearing for the Class 10 board exams are registered for it when in Class 9, and those appearing for Class 12 are registered when in Class 11.

Extra Shots:

CBSE: Central Board of Secondary Education

- Founded: 2011
- Chairperson: Anita Karwal, IAS
- Headquarters location: New Delhi

PM Modi to feature in Discovery channel's show 'Man Vs Wild'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will feature in a special episode of the iconic survival television series 'Man Vs Wild' on Discovery channel tonight.
- It will be broadcast at 9 PM.
- The show will be hosted by renowned adventurer Bear Grylls.
- Shot in a Jim Corbett National Park, the show will create awareness about environmental changes and wildlife conservation.
- The episode will be showcased in over 180 countries across the world on Discovery network of channels.

India cancels Samjhauta Express train after Pakistan suspends operations on its side

- Indian Railways has cancelled Samjhauta Express train after Pakistan suspended operations on its side.

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- According to Northern Railway, Pakistan has cancelled the Samjhauta Express running between Lahore and Attari.
- The railways run the train on Sundays from Delhi to Attari and back, while Pakistan used to run the train between Lahore and Attari.

Extra Shots:

The Samjhauta Express commonly called the Friendship Express, is a bi-weekly train—Thursday and Monday—that runs between Delhi and Attari in India and Lahore in Pakistan.

Doordarshan releases patriotic song Watan for Independence Day

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released a patriotic song Watan in New Delhi to mark the occasion of Independence Day.
- The special song has been produced by Doordarshan.
- The song pays tribute to the bravery and valour of the armed forces and the martyrs of the country.
- It highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of Chandrayaan 2.
- The song has been sung by famous Bollywood singer Javed Ali. It has been penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and music composed by Dushyant.
- The song is being broadcast by all the stations and kendras of Akashvani and Doordarshan.

National Health Authority plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under PM JAY Scheme

- The National Health Authority (NHA) plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) healthcare packages.
- The central government's health insurance scheme are cost-effective, proven and beneficial to the patients.
- The announcement aims to give medical cover to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families of approximately 50 crore beneficiaries.
- The scheme will now provide coverage of up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

RPF launched Operation Number Plate

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched Operation “Number Plate”, a Special Drive to curb unidentified vehicles.
- The operation was launched under the direction of DG/RPF, Sh.Arun Kumar.
- All Local Police and Commercial Department of Railways showed their active interest in the operation.
- The unidentified vehicles pose a serious threat to the security and safety of passengers and other stake holders of railway.

State of Art Gallery at National Crafts Museum inaugurated

- A Textiles Gallery at National Crafts Museum was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani.
- **AIM:** The collection aims to help people explore, enjoy, and rediscover the world of Indian textiles through design and technology.
- The Gallery consists of more than 230 different types of textiles collections more than 30
- Traditions

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BCI imposed 3 years ban on opening new law colleges

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) imposed a temporary ban of 3 years on opening new law colleges.
- BCI requested all the State governments and varsities to stop unfair means and ensure that vacancies of law teachers in all the colleges are filled within four months.
- BCI also said that it can open any model institution of Legal Education, like the National Law School of India University it opened in Bengaluru.

Extra Shots:

BCI: The Bar Council of India is a statutory body established under the section 4 of advocates Act 1961 that regulates the legal practice and legal education in India.

- Founded: 1961
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Central Government launches Swachh Nagar app

- The Central Government launched a mobile application named Swachh Nagar app.
- **OBJECTIVE:** people will be able to get their household waste picked up by urban municipal bodies.
- The people have to pay to civic bodies to avail the service through Swachh Nagar app. They can track the waste-collection vehicle on the app.
- The main aim is to ensure the accountability of municipal corporations.

Indian Railways to get CORAS

- Ministry of Railways and Commerce & Industry launched Commando for Railway Security (CORAS) of Indian Railways.
- It was launched by Shri Piyush Goyal.
- The induction of CORAS was planned in RPF. The Ministry also plans to install a new network of CCTV cameras at every station.

Extra Shots:

Indian Railways: Indian Railways is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways. It manages the fourth largest railway network in the world by size, with a route length of 67,368-kilometre and total track length of 121,407-kilometre as of March 2017.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Customer service: 139

Jal Jeevan Mission scheme to be launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government is to launch the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme.
- The scheme aims to bring piped water to households.
- The estimated cost of the project is more than Rs.3.5 lakh crore.
- The scheme functions under the Jal Shakti Ministry. It aims to work with state governments to ensure Har Ghar Jal to all rural households by 2024.

PM announced the creation of CDS post

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the creation of post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on 15 August.
- The rank of CDS will be a first among equals.

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- It will be a fourth four-star officer who will be senior to the three other service chiefs.
- It is the most significant reform in the defence.
- The creation of the post aims to make the Indian defence forces even more effective.
- It will also ensure the better coordination between the three defence services.

World's 1st museum dedicated to the life of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu opened in Kolkata

- West Bengal Chief Minister(CM), Mamata Banerjee has opened the World's 1st museum dedicated to the life of a 16th-century saint and social reformer, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, designed by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The budget of the museum is around Rs 12-14 crore. It is named as Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu museum.

The Indian Navy is to host naval exercise MILAN in March 2020 in Vizag

- The Indian Navy is to host the multilateral naval exercise named 'MILAN' at Visakhapatnam for the year 2020 in the month of March.
- The announcement for this exercise was made by Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) at the INS(Indian Navy Ship) Circars Parade Ground in the ENC on the occasion of 73rd Independence day.

Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

- Famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his first death anniversary, from August 16, 2019.
- He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built on his name.

Extra Shots:

Uttar Pradesh: Capital City(Lucknow) CM(Yogi Aadiyanath) Governor(Anandiben Patel)

MoCA forms committee to rationalise additional taxes on ATF

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) constituted a committee to rationalise additional taxes that airlines have to pay while uplifting Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) at airports across India.
- It is formed to develop a direct billing mechanism between airline companies and airport operators so that the multiple taxes can be removed.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri

Two-day International Conference on Teacher Education by NCTE held in New Delhi

- A 2 day International Conference titled "Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in New Delhi.
- It was organized by the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as a part of the silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995 (August 17).

Ceiling price of orthopaedic Knee implants not to increase beyond 10% a year

- Government assured that the ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants will not be increased beyond 10% in a given year and it will monitor the price increase as per Para 20 of Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) 2013.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission, DEPwD launches San-Sadhan Hackathon for Divyang accessible toilets

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- Under Swachh Bharat Mission, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched a nationwide Hackathon called “San-Sadhan” for Divyang/ physically challenged people accessible toilets, which will be held from September 14- 15,2019 in New Delhi.
- It aimed to enhance sensitivity and develop an ecosystem for creating a barrier-free environment.

Rajnath Singh approves a high-level Committee to review Defence Procurement Procedure to strengthen ‘Make in India’ initiative

- Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the formation of 12-member high- level committee, headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions), Apurva Chandra, to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

2nd meeting of High powered panel of CM’s headed by Devendra Fadnavis for the transformation of Indian agriculture held in Mumbai

- The 2nd meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed High Powered Committee (HPC) of chief ministers headed by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers’ income, under NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai) CM(Devendra Fadnavis) Governor(Ch Vidyasagar Rao)

2019 'Aadi Mahotsav' -national tribal festival begins at Leh-Ladakh

- The 9 day long National tribal festival named “Aadi Mahotsav” commenced at the Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.
- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of tribal affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The theme of this year’s festival is “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft,Culture and Commerce”.

Extra Shots:

Jammu and Kashmir: Governor(Satyapal Malik)

SC Clears Chardham Project, Which Will Connect 4 Holy Places In Uttarakhand

- The Supreme Court(SC) bench comprising of Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman and Surya Kant has cleared the Chardham highway project, which will connect 4 holy places of Uttarakhand (Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri)through 900 km all-weather roads by modifying an NGT(National Green Tribunal) order to form a committee to look into environmental concerns.

Extra Shots:

Uttarkhand: Capital City(Dehradun) CM(Trivendra Singh Rawat) Governor(Baby Rani Murya)

SERB’s new scheme called “Supra” will fund cutting-edge research

- In a bid to promote research in cutting edge areas of science, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) plans to launch a new scheme called “Supra” (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) to fund scientists.
- The scheme has designed as a part of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 100-day transformative ideas.

Gujarat to get country’s first Institute for chemical engineering and technology

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- As a boost to the chemical industry in the country, Gujarat is to get the country's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET).
- The CICET would be built either at Ahmedabad or Surat.

Extra Shots:

Gujarat: Capital City (Gandhinagar) CM (Vijay Rupani) Governor (Acharya Dev Vrat)

Panel to examine illegal sand mining in river Yamuna formed by NGT

- The National Green Tribunal(NGT) has formed a committee to look into the issues of illegal sand mining in the Yamuna river and sought a report within a month.
- The bench is headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and the panel consists of Delhi district magistrate, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and Central Pollution Control Board.

Extra Shots:

NGT: National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 is an Act of the Parliament of India which enables creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues

President Ram Nath Govind inaugurates Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Govind inaugurated the 15,000 square feet underground bunker museum at Raj Bhavan(Governor's government house) in Mumbai.
- It is a bunker of the British era in the 19th century and was discovered in 2016. It was used to fire cannons at enemy ships and the other section depicts the history of Raj Bhavan.

High-Level Meeting (HLM) between Indian and Srilankan coast guard held

- A High-Level Meeting (HLM) was held between India and Srilanka at the Indian Coast Guard(ICG) headquarters in Delhi.
- The Indian delegation was led by Director General, Indian Coast Guard K Natarajan, and the Srilankan delegation was held by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina & Tennis Legend Sania Mirza will co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit 2019 to be held in New Delhi

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize 2-day India Economic Summit 2019 scheduled to be held in New Delhi from October 3 - 4, 2019 with the aim of promoting strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations.
- The theme of the event will be 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and tennis star Sania Mirza will be among co-chairs for India Economic Summit.

Extra Shots:

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka / Bangladeshi taka

- President: Abdul Hamid

'Housing for All' will be achieved 2 years in advance by 2020: Hardeep Singh Puri

- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri stated that the central government is committed to achieving its target of providing 'Housing for all' under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in two years before the deadline by 2020.

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- He made this announcement during “Housing for all 2022: NAREDCO 15th National Convention: Real Estate Reflection Point: Ready for the future” convention in New Delhi.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri

Indian President launches plantation drive in New Delhi as part of Van Mahotsav celebrations

- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind planted Maulsari sapling in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate (New Delhi) and launched a plantation drive.
- It was done as part of the ‘Van Mahotsav’ celebrations.

National Conference of Tourism Ministers organised by the tourism ministry in New Delhi

- The one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge).
- Three new Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and five new Letters of Intent (LoIs) to the prospective ‘Monument Mitras’ were handed over.

India Holds 9th Session Of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee In New Delhi

- The two day 9th session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 19th – 20th August 2019 in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation, whereas the Kenyan delegation was led by Peter Munya, Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of the Republic of Kenya.

FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019: Nitin Gadkari

- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) stated that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019.
- It is an electronic toll connection device attached to the windscreen of the vehicle to enable drivers to pass through toll plazas without having to stop for a cash transaction.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH): Shri Nitin Gadkari

Karnataka tops in State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL) 2019

- RK Singh, the Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index 2019 (SARAL) at the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities in New Delhi.
- Karnataka got the top spot with SARAL score of 78.8 as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project followed by Telangana (72.2), Gujarat (67.9) and Andhra Pradesh (66.1).

Extra Shots:

Karnataka: Capital City (Bangalore) CM (BS Yeddayurappa) Governor (Vajubhai Vala)

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Approves Decisions Regarding Re-Organisation Of Army Headquarters

Union Minister for Defence Shri Rajnath Singh approved certain decisions regarding re-organisation of Army Headquarters, based on a detailed internal study conducted by the Army Headquarters (AHQ).

The decisions are:

- Separate Vigilance Cell under COAS

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- An umbrella organisation under VCOAS for enhanced focus on human rights issues
- Re-location of 206 Army Officers from AHQ to Formations/Units of the Field Army

Extra Shots:

Union Minister for Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

Tourism ministry announces new 5 year visa and other e-visa relaxations in the works

- A reduction in the e-visa (electronic visa) fee was proposed by the tourism ministry with the aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country. As of the proposed plan, a new 5-year visa plan was announced, and also the e-visa fee will be offered with the option of short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa plan.
- The announcement was made by Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel (Minister of State- independent charge), at the State Tourism Ministers' conference held in New Delhi

Union HRD Minister launches world's largest teachers' training programme NISHTHA

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- It is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world with an aim to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. Read full details here: Union HRD Minister Launches World's Largest Teachers' Training Programme NISHTHA

Extra Shots:

Union Minister of Human Resource and Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

CSC signs MoU with Panchayati raj ministry to digitalize all gram panchayats

- Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV), which provides government services to people in rural areas has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to turn all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats into 'digital panchayats'.

Indian Army and Tata Realty signs MoU for quality housing

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army's Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) and the Tata Realty housing to provide quality housing to army personnel.
- By this MoU, the Indian army can now take over dwelling units in 13 'Ready to Move in' projects of Tata Realty pan India.

Extra Shots:

Tata Realty : Tata Realty And Infrastructure Limited (TRIL) is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Sons, executing projects in Real Estate and Infrastructure across India

- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: TRIL IT4 Private Limited
- Parent organizations: Tata Sons, Standard Chartered Private Equity Limited

Two-day National Conference on Varmam Science inaugurated by Shripad Yesso Naik in Tamilnadu

- The two-day National Conference on Varmam Science which is a part of the Siddha system of medicine was inaugurated by Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Extra Shots:

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TamilNadu: Capital City (Chennai) CM (Edapadi palanisamy) Governor (Barnwarilal Purohit)

Indian Railways directs all units to ban single-use plastic from October 2, 2019

- In an eco-friendly initiative, the Ministry of Railways has directed all railway units to strictly enforce a ban on single-use plastic, with less than 50-micron thickness, from October 2, 2019, in its premises and trains with the aim to achieve "Plastic Free Railway".
- The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Development Corporation (IRCTC) will implement the return of plastic drinking water bottles and 1,853 plastic bottle crushing machines will be installed at 360 major railway stations in the 1st phase of this initiative.

Extra Shots:

Indian Railways: Indian Railways is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways.

- Customer service: 139
- Headquarters: New Delhi

First World Youth Conference on Kindness inaugurated by Indian President

- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on kindness at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The president addressed the event celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World'.

State Visit of Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia to India (August 20-22, 2019)

- Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia visited India on a State Visit at the invitation of Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind from 20-22 August 2019.
- It was the first visit at the level of Head of State from Africa after formation of the new Government and the first- ever visit of President Lungu to India. 6 MoUs were exchanged between India and Zambia during the visit.

Extra Shots:

Zambia: Capital:Lusaka

Currency:Kwacha

SMVDU signs MoU with NISE to achieve national solar mission

- An autonomous Institution of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) to work jointly to accelerate, expand and achieve the objective of National Solar Mission through training programmes.

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

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited and reviewed the functioning of Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurgaon, Haryana.
- These are under the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project which was launched in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Extra Shots:

Union Minister Defence: Rajnath Singh

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All CAPFs to adopt uniform retirement age of 60 years: Union Home Ministry

- According to the order of the Union Home Ministry, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years.
- The decision comes in the wake of a January 2019 order of the Delhi High Court where it had called the policy of different age of superannuation as discriminatory and unconstitutional, and said it created two classes in the uniformed forces.

Extra Shots:

Union Minister Home Affairs: Amit Shah

The second Uday Express between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to be launched

- In order to cater to the busy route in the East Coast Railway zone, The Indian Railways' second luxury double-decker Uday(Utkrisht Double-decker Air-conditioned Yatri) Express is to be run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
- Its departure number is 22701 (Visakhapatnam- Vijayawada) and on the return journey, its number will be 22702.

Extra Shots:

Andhra Pradesh: Capital City (Amaravati) CM (Jagan Mohan Reddy) Governor (Biswa Bhusan Harichandran)

MoU between India & Maldives on training and capacity building programme for Maldivian Civil Servants operationalised

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants was operationalised after the discussions held between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission in a ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of Maldives at Male, Maldives.

Committee headed by CBDT submits report on replacing I-T Act with DTC

- A group of experts panel headed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) legislative member Akhilesh Ranjan who was appointed as the convener of the task force in November 2018 by the finance ministry, submitted a report to Nirmala Sitharaman(Finance Minister), to replace the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code(DTC).

Extra Shots:

CBDT: The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes is the senior-most IRS civil servant in the Government of India. The Chairperson of CBDT is the ex officio Special Secretary to the Government of India and also cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service.

- Chairperson: Pramod Chandra Mody

Draft On National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019 Released

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released a draft on National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP) 2019. It aims to streamline the efficient use of the resources with minimum negative impact on environment.

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- NREP envisions a future with environmentally sustainable and equitable economic growth, resource security, healthy environment (air, water and land), and restored ecosystems with rich ecology and biodiversity.

Extra Shots:

CBDT: The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes is the senior-most IRS civil servant in the Government of India. The Chairperson of CBDT is the ex officio Special Secretary to the Government of India and also cadre controlling authority of the Indian Revenue Service.

- Chairperson: Pramod Chandra Mody

STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS

Tamil Nadu trifurcates Vellore district to form new districts

- After taking a consensus from the ministers, MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and the general public, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami made an announcement on trifurcation of Vellore district.
- Ranipet and Tirupattur are the new districts carved out of Vellore. After the trifurcation, Tamil Nadu now has 37 districts.

Extra Shots:

TamilNadu: Capital City (Chennai) CM (Edapadi palanisamy) Governor (Barnwarilal Purohit)

The Chhattisgarh state government increases reservation for sc and obc categories in state jobs and education

- The Chhattisgarh government announced an increase in reservation for Scheduled caste (SC) from 12% to 13% and for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 14% to 27%. This announcement was made by Chief Minister (CM) Shri Bhupesh Baghel on August 15, 2019 independence day celebration at the Police parade ground in Raipur, Chattisgarh.
- With the increase in quota, the state's reservation becomes a total of 72 percent, which is the highest in the country and far above the reservation limit of 50 percent mandated by the Supreme court.

Extra Shots:

Chattisgarh: Capital City (Raipur) CM (Bhupesh Baghel) Governor (Anusiya Uikey)

TamilNadu awards people on various categories on the 73rd Independence Day

- The chief minister of TamilNadu Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami conferred awards to people and organisations at Fort St. George among various categories on the 73rd Independence day celebration.
- The Best private employer award went to Everest Stabilizers private Ltd. while Best social worker award conferred upon Mrs. Chandra Prasad of Pathway, among others.

Extra Shots:

TamilNadu: Capital City (Chennai) CM (Edapadi palanisamy) Governor (Barnwarilal Purohit)

Online Revenue Payment System Launched By CM Of Odisha

- Chief minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik, launched online revenue payment system providing people, an easier way to make their land revenue payments-online, on 73rd Independence Day on August 15, 2019 at Bhubaneswar.
- This online payment system was developed at National Informatics Centre- Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This is the first of its kind initiative of State revenue department of Odisha under the "5-T mantra

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Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

'Village Volunteers System' launched by AP CM Jaganmohan Reddy on independence day

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) and YSR(Yuvajana Sramika Rythu) Congress party leader, Jaganmohan Reddy on his maiden Independence Day speech on August 15,2019 at IGMS (Indira Gandhi (municipal) Stadium) ground in Vijayawada, announced a new flagship programme 'Village Volunteer System' to provide doorstep governance to people involving 2.8Lakh volunteers.
- The scheme would be launched on the Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2.

Extra Shots:

Andhra Pradesh: Capital City(Amrawati) CM(Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy) Governor(Biswabhusan Harichandan)

Nagaland State police Department gets its first Laboratory-cum-Training centre at Dimapur

- The deputy chief minister of Nagaland Yanthungo Patton (Y. Patton), inaugurated the first Cyber Laboratory-cum-Training Centre of the Nagaland State Police Department at Chumukedima of Dimapur district.
- This training centre was inaugurated for the prevention of Cyber Crime against Women and Children.

Extra Shots:

Nagaland: Capital City(Aizawl) CM(Neiphiu Rio) Governor(R.N.Ravi)

Manipur Govt launches "School Fagadaba" scheme to improve infrastructure of government schools

- Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh has launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme with the aim to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.

Extra Shots:

Manipur: Capital City(Imphal) CM(N Biren Singh) Governor(Najma A. Heptulla)

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announces formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve

- The Chief Minister of Chattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel in his independence day speech in Raipur announced the formation of 'Lemru Elephant Reserve' (LER) in the state, over an area of 450 square kilometres.
- It will minimize human-elephant conflict and destruction of property, with the provision of a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.

Extra Shots:

Chattisgarh: Capital City (Raipur) CM (Bhupesh Baghel) Governor (Anusiya Uikey)

Delhi government to offer free ride for women on government buses from Oct 29, 2019

- Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal in his independence day speech at Chhatrasal Stadium, New Delhi, announced to offer free ride for women on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), cluster scheme buses and metro trains starting October 29, 2019.

Extra Shots:

Delhi: CM(Arvind Kejriwal) Lt. Governor(Anil Baijal)

Assam's first CNG fuel station inaugurated at Chowkidingee, Dibrugarh

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- The Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the state's first-ever Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel station at Chowkidingee, Dibrugarh, Assam. It was installed by Assam Gas Company Ltd (AGCL).
- It has the capacity to fuel 60 to 70 small passenger vehicles in an hour.

Extra Shots:

Assam: Capital City(Dispur) CM(Sarbananda Sonowal) Governor(Jagdish Mukhi)

Odisha CM to launch "Mo Sarkar" initiative for transparency in governance

- During the independence day celebration in the state, the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik announced the "Mo Sarkar" initiative.
- It is an initiative to ensure transparency in governance focusing fully on the common public and will be commenced from October 2, 2019, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

Noted Odisha tribal leader and Senior Congress candidate Sahura Mallick passed away

- Sahura Mallick, a noted Odisha tribal leader and former Baliguda MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) passed away following a brief illness in Kandhamal district of Odisha. He was 84.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

Punjab government brings around 4500 journalists into the ambit of its flagship scheme SSBY

- The Punjab State Government has announced to bring around 4500 journalists into the ambit of its recently launched flagship universal health insurance scheme "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" (SSBY).
- The state will bear the full premium under this scheme and around 400 private hospitals have been included in the list.

Extra Shots:

Punjab: Capital City(Chandigarh) CM(Amarinder Singh) Governor(V P Singh Badnore)

Himachal Pradesh breaks 70 years record of receiving highest ever rainfall in last 24 hours

- The local Indian Meteorological Department(IMD) announced that Himachal Pradesh recorded highest ever rainfall in last 24 hours by breaking the last 70 years' record. Extremely heavy rains were reported from Shimla, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur.

Extra Shots:

Himachal Pradesh: Capital City(Shimla) CM(Jai Ram Thakur) Governor(Bandaru Dattatreya)

Haryana CM increases family income limit for BPL beneficiary

- The Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, increased the family income limit of households from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 per month to qualify as Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiary.
- It was announced at a BPL ration card distribution function in Panchkula, Haryana.

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Extra Shots:

Haryana: Capital City(Chandigarh) CM(Manohar Lal Khattar) Governor(Satya Dev Narayana Arya)

Punjab govt. UNDP signs pact to implement SDGs

- The government of Punjab signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) for implementing Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) by setting up of a Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) in the planning department in Chandigarh (Punjab).
- It was signed by UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda and Principal Secretary of Planning Jaspal Singh.

Extra Shots:

Punjab: Capital City(Chandigarh) CM(Amarinder Singh) Governor(V P Singh Badnore)

Bihar govt takes several measures to ban single use of plastic

- Bihar government has taken several measures following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to ban single use of plastic.
- The government has banned use of single use of carry bags throughout the state.
- Licence of those factories has been cancelled who produces single-use of carry bag.
- Shopkeepers are now using paper and recycling carry bags.
- The state government has announced to ban single use of plastic in marriage party and other ceremonies.
- Besides cup, plates and glass of thermocol will also be banned.

Extra Shots:

Bihar: Capital City (Patna) CM (Nitish Kumar) Governor (Fagu Chauhan)

Bihar govt seeks Rs 2,000 cr from Centre for construction of roads damaged due to floods in state

- Bihar government has sought two thousand crores from the Centre for construction of roads damaged due to recent floods in the state.
- Over three thousand kilometres of rural roads were completely damaged in devastating floods. Most of roads were damaged in three districts- Darbhanga, Madhubani and East Champaran.

Extra Shots:

Bihar: Capital City (Patna) CM (Nitish Kumar) Governor (Fagu Chauhan)

BIS to set up Pashmina testing centre in Leh

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) would set up a Pashmina testing centre in Leh.
- It was announced by BIS Director General Ms. Surina Rajan.
- It will be opened in partnership with the lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC).
- 'Drive for Pashmina', a Motor bike expedition to create awareness and promote Pashmina is flagged by the Hill council CEC Gyal P Wangyal and BIS DG Surina Rajan.

Extra Shots:

BIS: The Bureau of Indian Standards is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.

- Founded: 23 December 1986
- Headquarters location: New Delhi

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Arvind Kejriwal says Delhiites to get free electricity up to 200 units

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today announced that Delhiites will get cheapest electricity in the country.
- Consumers consuming up to 200 units of electricity will not need to pay their power bills.
- Delhi government will continue to give 50 percent power subsidy to those consuming 201 to 401 units of electricity.
- For 250 units people in the Delhi used to pay 800 rupees but now they will pay 252 rupees.
- For 300 units, they used to pay 971 rupees but now it will be 526 rupees.
- For 400 units, it will be 1075 rupees instead of 1320 rupees.

Extra Shots:

Delhi: CM(Arvind Kejriwal) Lt. Governor(Anil Baijal)

J&K govt determined to boost Agriculture, Horticulture sectors

- Jammu and Kashmir Government is determined to give thrust to the Agriculture and Horticulture sectors to boost production and improve the socio-economic status of farmers of the state.
- This was announced by Farooq Khan, the Advisor to Governor Satya Pal Malik.
- He directed to organize mass awareness camps in far-flung areas of the State in collaboration with state Agriculture Universities and allied departments.
- Objective: to create awareness regarding various technological interventions and farmer welfare schemes to give results in the field through the increase of production and productivity of agricultural crops.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Odisha announces Rs. 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special package of Rs 500 crore to develop Puri as a World Heritage City.
- It also includes a plan of rejuvenation of the Musa River and connecting it with the Mangala river at a cost of Rs 85 crore.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

BMC to spend Rs 6 crore on setting up social media management teams

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will spend about Rs 6 crore on setting up social media management teams.

CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated new regional office Norka Roots

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the associate workplace of the Norka Roots at the underground station business building on the MG Road Metro Station, Kochi.

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- This project aims to implement a lot of welfare schemes for the non-resident Keralites (NRK). The Chief Minister also inaugurated the primary business venture being started by a non-resident Keralite at the Edapally underground station.

Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City (Thiruvananthapuram) CM (Pinarayi Vijayan) Governor (Arif Mohammed Khan)

West Bengal launches awareness campaign for preserving greenery and keeping environment clean

- The West Bengal Government has launched an awareness campaign for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.
- The State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the campaign named as 'Save Green, Stay Clean' in Kolkata.
- The State Government will distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

Extra Shots:

West Bengal: Capital City (Kolkata) CM (Mamata Banerjee) Governor (Jagdeep Dhankhar)

Odisha govt to launch 'Mo College' initiative

- The Odisha government will launch 'Mo College' initiative.
- Objective: to create a platform where alumni of institutes can connect and contribute for the development of their alma mater.
- It was announced by Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo in Odisha assembly.
- Mo College, which means my college, is a part of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 5T action plan.
- Note: The 5Ts aim at achieving progress through Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

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Extra Shots:

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Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City (Thiruvananthapuram) CM (Pinarayi Vijayan) Governor (Arif Mohammed Khan)

India and UK launch clean air initiative in Bengaluru

- India and UK jointly launched ‘The Innovation for Clean Air (IfCA)’ in Bengaluru.
- This two-year UK-India joint initiative provides Indian and UK stakeholders opportunities to test interventions related to air quality and EV integration.
- The initiative provides a unique measurement system for air quality by integrating satellite and sensor data and helping to support India's transition to electric vehicles.
- The programme is led by Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and is funded by the Newton Fund with matched resources from various partners in Karnataka and India.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka: Capital City(Bengaluru) CM(B S Yediyurappa) Governor(Vajubhai Vala)

“Aadi Perukku” festival being celebrated in Tamil Nadu

- In Tamil Nadu, the “Aadi Perukku” festival is being celebrated on 3rd August.
- People performed puja’s on the banks of larger water bodies including sea coasts, lakes and rivers.
- The festival is to show reverence by the public to rivers, as the traditional season of sowing of seeds for the next crops.

Extra Shots:

Tamil Nadu: Capital City(Chennai) CM(Edappadi K.Palanisamy) Governor(Banwarilal Purohit)

Gujarat CM launches ‘Vhali Dikri Yojna’

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the ‘Vhali Dikri Yojna’ from his home town Rajkot.
- The scheme for the welfare of girl child has been launched to mark the 63th birth day of Chief Minister.
- It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat, with a view to raising the female birthrate at par with male to achieve gender equality.

According to scheme, the State Government will pay

- Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th,
- Rs. 6,000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX,
- Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18
- Rs. 1-lakh at the time of marriage.
- Rs.133-crore has been allocated for this scheme.

Extra Shots:

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Gujarat: Capital City(Gandhinagar) CM(Vijay Rupani) Governor(Acharya Dev Vrat)

Maharashtra govt decides to waive off exam fees

- Maharashtra Government has decided to waive off the entire exam fees, including practical exam for class ten and twelve students hailing from drought-affected districts of the state.
- Maharashtra's education minister Mr. Ashish Shelar informed that the amount of the entire fee will be credited back into the bank accounts of students or their guardians.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai), CM(Devendra Fadnavis) Governor(C. Vidyasagar Rao)

Vice-President inaugurates centenary celebrations of Central library of Patna University

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on 4th August inaugurated centenary celebrations of Central library of Patna University.
- Release a special postage stamp cover to mark the completion of 100 eventful years in the life of the oldest academic library.
- Naidu also inaugurated Savera Cancer and a multispecialty hospital in Kankarbagh area.

Extra Shots:

Bihar: Capital City(Patna) CM(Nitish Kumar) Governor(Fagu Chauhan)

About 35 lakh people so far benefited from Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh is one of the best performing state under Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- About 35 lakh people have so far benefited from the scheme in the country of which five lakh are from Chhattisgarh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched country's first health and wellness centre under Ayushman Bharat Yojana on April 14 last year,at the remote Jangla village in Maoist affected Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.
- More than Five lakh people have so far been benefitted from the Ayusman Bharat scheme.
- State has utilized more than three hundred crore during the last eight months under this scheme. About one lakh persons in Chhattisgarh have availed treatment for cardiac ailments under this scheme.

Extra Shots:

Chhattisgarh: Capital City(Raipur) CM(Bhupesh Baghel) Governor(Anusuiya Uikey)

Delhi Metro issues red alert, security checking to take more time

- Delhi Metro stations will be a little longer as the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) issued a red alert after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced revoking of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is a rapid transit system serving Delhi and its satellite cities of Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Bahadurgarh and Ballabgarh in the National Capital Region of India.

Extra Shots:

Delhi: CM(Arvind Kejriwal) Lt. Governor(Anil Baijal)

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AP Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle Vajra

- Arunachal Pradesh State Home Minister Bamang Felix flagged off Five Anti-Riot police vehicle. It is known as 'Vajra', from Police Headquarter in Itanagar.
- This is the first set of anti-riot vehicles introduced in the state police department.

Extra Shots:

Arunachal Pradesh: Capital City (Itanagar) CM (Pema Khandu) Governor (BD Mishra)

Rajasthan government launches new higher education model named RACE

- A new higher education model launched in Rajasthan
- **Objective:** for the distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalize the availability of resources.
- The model will create a pool for sharing of facilities will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure.
- Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati inaugurated the model, titled Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence in the presence of principals of colleges.

Extra Shots:

Rajasthan: Capital City (Jaipur) CM (Ashok Ghelot) Governor (Kalyan Singh)

West Bengal observes death anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

- West Bengal is observing the death anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore today.
- A special prayer meeting was held at Viswa Bharati in Santiniketan.
- Viswa Bharati has organised a painting exhibition of Tagore to mark the day.
- West Bengal Government has organised a special musical programme, Barshamongol based on Tagore's songs and writings in Kolkata this evening to mark the day.

Extra Shots:

West Bengal: Capital City (Kolkata) CM (Mamata Banerjee) Governor (Jagdeep Dhankhar)

AP govt all set to launch Navodayam scheme for MSMEs

- The Andhra Pradesh government is all set to launch Navodayam, a complete outreach programme for thousands of ailing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state, with a one-time restructuring of loans that will provide the required 'lifeline' for small industrial units.
- Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020.

Extra Shots:

Andhra Pradesh: Capital City (Amrawati) CM (Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy) Governor (Biswabhusan Harichandan)

Odisha govt launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme

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

Extra Shots:

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Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab sets record

- The Virasat-e-Khalsa museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.
- The Asia Book of Records has confirmed the record of 'maximum footfall in a museum in a day' in the name of Virasat-e-Khalsa.
- The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.

Extra Shots:

Punjab: Capital City(Chandigarh) CM(Amarinder Singh) Governor(V P Singh Badnore)

In Jammu and Kashmir, the State unit of BJP will celebrate "Jashn-e-Azadi"

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the State unit of BJP will celebrate "Jashn-e-Azadi" on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15 at every panchayat across Jammu and Kashmir.
- This was stated by the state unit chief of the party, Ravinder Raina during an interaction with village heads in Jammu.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Assam govt to celebrate Independence Day in grand manner

- The Assam government will celebrate the Independence Day in a grand manner. Steps are being taken across the state to celebrate it with 3 days programmes.
- Various competitions, cultural events, felicitation programs, rallies, cleanliness drive will be held during the three day celebration.
- The Guwahati office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will hold a cultural program in the evening of the 14th August.
- Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal will host the tricolour in Guwahati on 15th of August while all other Ministers will unfurl the tricolour in various districts.

Extra Shot:

Assam: Capital City(Dispur) CM(Sarbananda Sonowal) Governor(Jagdish Mukhi)

Manipur tops in Breastfeeding, Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi.
- Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.
- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.
- National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States.

Extra Shots:

Manipur: Capital City(Imphal) CM(N Biren Singh) Governor(Najma A. Heptulla)

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Chhattisgarh: 15-km long national flag unfurled in Raipur

- In Chhattisgarh, thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a 15-km long national flag by forming a human chain in Raipur.
- The event, organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation, entered the Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour).

Extra Shots:

Chhattisgarh: Capital City(Atal Nagar) CM(Bhupesh Baghel) Governor(Anusuiya Uikey)

Jharkhand govt launches direct money transfer scheme for small farmers

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana'.
- Under this scheme, money will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers in the state and beneficiaries having farm land of less than one acre to five acres, will get 5,000 to 25,000 rupees in their bank accounts.
- Under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana, approximately 35 lakh farmers will benefit and by October 3,000 crore rupees will be sent in the accounts of the beneficiaries.
- The launching ceremony was also held in other 23 districts, apart from Ranchi.

Extra Shots:

Jharkhand: Capital City(Ranchi) CM(Raghuvar Das) Governor(Draupadi Murmu)

Khelo India to be held in Assam from 10th to 22nd January 2019

- The Khelo India will be held in Assam from 10th to 22nd of January 2019.
- 10 thousand youths will participate in the event.
- The Assam government will build 22 thousand play grounds at village level.

Extra Shots:

Assam: Capital City(Dispur) CM(Sarbananda Sonowal) Governor(Jagdish Mukhi)

Three day Independence Day celebration begins in Assam

- In Assam, the three day Independence Day celebration has begun across the state from today.
- On the first day today, cleanliness and plantation drive is being carried out by the district administrations.
- The main function will be held on 15th August at Khanapara in Guwahati.

Extra Shots:

Assam: Capital City(Dispur) CM(Sarbananda Sonowal) Governor(Jagdish Mukhi)

Maharashtra seeks Rs.3000 crore as monetary assistance from the Centre

- The Maharashtra government has sought Rs.3,000 crore package as assistance from the Centre
- Earlier, Karnataka State has sought Rs.3000 crore for interim flood relief.

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- In Maharashtra the crop destruction alone will be more than Rs.125 crore and around 27,468 hectare of agriculture land has been completely destroyed.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai) CM(C. Vidyasagar Rao) Governor(C. Vidyasagar Rao)

Two new UTs, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, will come into existence on Oct 31

- President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday gave assent to a legislation for bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, and two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh .
- It will come into existence on October 31.
- The President has given assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Rajasthan bagged the Best innovation and initiative leadership award

- Rajasthan bagged the Best innovation and initiative leadership award 2019 in the 14th WES World Education Summit (WES) held at New Delhi.
- The award was received by the Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati.
- The State was awarded for promoting higher education with the emphasis on inculcating ethical values among the students and developing their skills to face competitive exams.

Extra Shots:

Rajasthan: Capital City(Jaipur) CM(Ashok Gehlot) Governor(Kalyan Singh)

Karnataka government launches E-Step, a programme for student entrepreneurs

- The Department of IT, BT and S&T in Karnataka through Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) launched the E-step
- The main aim is to promote an initiative to empower student start-ups.
- The E-Step focuses on boot camps, mentoring and training programmes which cover various aspects of entrepreneurship. E-Step, an initiative from Start-up Cell, is specially crafted for students/start-ups/entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from experienced trainers.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka: Capital City(Bengaluru) CM(B S Yediyurappa) Governor(Vajubhai Vala)

Uttarakhand gets full member status in the BCCI by CoA

- Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) granted full membership in the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).
- This is done by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on August 13, 2019.
- It is the full member with amendments that are required to be communicated by CoA.

Extra Shots:

Uttarakhand: Capital City(Dehradun) CM(Trivendra Singh Rawat) Governor(Baby Rani Maurya)

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'Mission Reach Out': Indian Army distributed Portable Solar Lights to poor families in J&K

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army, as part of Mission Reach Out, distributed Portable Solar Lights to the poor families of village Lapri Top and adjoining villages of Reasi District of Jammu Division.
- The project of distribution of portable solar lights was undertaken and a total of 180 portable solar lights were distributed by the Army.
- The project is aimed at fulfilling basic needs of children and youth to study in the hours of darkness and facilitate women in doing their household chores.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

J&K Governor announces 50,000 govt jobs for youths

- Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik announced that in coming two to three months, about 50 thousand government jobs will be provided to the youths of the State.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be protected, secured and preserved in a befitting manner.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Smriti Irani lays foundation stone of Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex in Meghalaya

- In Meghalaya, the Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi district in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma.
- OBJECTIVE: to ensure that those who currently undertake crafts in wood, bamboo, stone carving, embroidering, pottery, dry flower and jewellery get benefitted and aided from the Government of India.
- The 'Samarth' scheme which erstwhile plans to skill 7,200 youth in apparel and garments, textiles and handloom sectors has now been extended.
- The 'Samarth' scheme which erstwhile plans to skill 7,200 youth in apparel and garments, textiles and handloom sectors has now been extended.

Extra shots:

Meghalaya: Capital City (Shillong) CM (Conrad Kongkal Sangma) Governor (Tathagata Roy)

A waste plastics to diesel plant inaugurated in Dehradun

- Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated a waste plastics to diesel plant in Dehradun.
- The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel. It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.

Extra Shots:

Uttarakhand : Capital City (Dehradun) CM (Trivendra Singh Rawat) Governor (Baby Rani Maurya)

Indore takes steps to become number one in Jal Shakti Abhiyan

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- In Madhya Pradesh, after holding the top position in Swachhata Abhiyan continuously since the last three years, the citizens of Indore have taken a rapid step to become number one in Jal Shakti Abhiyan too.
- A record has been set by installing one thousand five hundred water harvesting system in a day in Indore Municipal Corporation area.
- On August 25, a record has been created by installing 1500 water harvesting systems in a day.
- An App has also been launched by the Municipal Corporation.
- The water harvesting system capsules are being given free of cost under CSR on first come first serve basis.

Extra Shots:

Madhya Pradesh: Capital City (Bhopal) CM (Kamal Nath) Governor (Lalji Tandon)

Gujarat retains first position in Composite Water Management Index

- Gujarat has retained its first position in the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) 2.0 announced by the NITI Aayog.
- This is the 3rd consecutive year that the state has retained its position in water management sector.
- The report was released by Union Jal Shakti Minister Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog had also initiated the Composite Water Management Index for the states and union territories on the basis of study of their water management, water security and various usages and experiments of water cycles.

Extra Shots:

Gujarat: Capital City (Gandhinagar) CM (Vijay Rupani) Governor (Acharya Dev Vrat)

Sachin Kumar Vaishya launches Rotavirus vaccine in Leh district

- Leh District Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, launched Rotavirus vaccine in the district.
- Rotavirus is the one of the cause of Diarrhoea in infants.

Amit Shah to attend concluding rally of Maharashtra CM's 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' on Sep 1

- Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah will attend the concluding rally of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' in Solapur on September 1st.
- Shah will attend the rally and also hold a meeting with the state BJP leaders.
- Mr Fadnavis started his mass contact programme from Amravati district in Vidarbha region on the 1st of this month.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

Bollywood film 'Mission Mangal' gets GST exemption in Maharashtra

- Maharashtra government has decided to grant exemption from the state Goods and Services Tax to Bollywood film Mission Mangal, which is about the ISRO's successful Mangalyaan mission.
- The film conveys a positive message about science and to take the message further to common people.

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Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

India's first garbage cafe to be opened in Ambikapur

- In a unique initiative, the Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh, will open a first-of-its-kind 'Garbage Cafe' within a few days.
- This initiative is a step towards making the city plastic-free.
- In this unique Cafe' poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe.
- The collected garbage will be sold at Solid Liquid Resources Management Centre.
- Ambikapur is Chhattisgarh's first dustbin-free city.
- The city has an efficient solid waste management system.
- The self help groups of women are involved in door to door collection of waste.
- The city has been hailed as the second cleanest city in the country in Swachhata rankings.
- The opening of this garbage cafe is another step towards the city's aim to become free from plastic waste.

Extra Shots:

Chhattisgarh: Capital City (Atal Nagar) CM (Bhupesh Baghel) Governor (Anusuiya Uikey)

Banjari village of Katni district in MP to become an integral part of the digital map of the country

- Prime Minister's initiative among the of Digital India is the Banjari village of Katni district becomes the 1st village in Madhya Pradesh(MP) to become an integral part of the digital map of the country.
- The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTY) won the Digital Village Project.
- It has planned to build 1000 digital villages across India in this phase starting from Banjari Gram Panchayat of MP.
- The MEiTY planned to create one lakh digital villages of this kind in the next 5 years.

Extra Shots:

Madhya Pradesh: Capital City (Bhopal) CM (Kamal Nath) Governor (Lalji Tandon)

MP celebrates Major Dhyanchand's birthday as Sports Day

- In Madhya Pradesh, all-time greatest player of Hockey 'The Wizard' Major Dhyanchand's birthday was celebrated in the whole state as Sports Day.
- On this occasion, various sports activities were organized at the district and development block levels.
- The winners and runner-ups were awarded after the events.
- The birthday of the legend was celebrated joyfully at the TT Nagar Stadium Complex at capital city Bhopal.
- To mark this day, a friendly match was played between SAI Bhopal and Hockey Academy teams this morning, in which SAI Bhopal won with the final score of 5-3.

Extra Shots:

Madhya Pradesh: Capital City (Bhopal) CM (Kamal Nath) Governor (Lalji Tandon)

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'Fit India Campaign': Meghalaya CM launches 'walk to work' campaign in state

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma today took the lead to launch the campaign of Fit India Movement which has been launched in the country by the Prime Minister.
- The Chief Minister took a two-kilometer walk from his residential quarters to his office chamber at Main Secretariat, Shillong launching the #WalktoWorkMeghalaya which is a part of the 'Fit India Campaign'.
- The campaign 'walk to work' is a part of the Fit India Movement of the Prime Minister.
- The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO2 emission; reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness.

Extra shots:

Meghalaya: Capital City (Shillong) CM (Conrad Kongkal Sangma) Governor (Tathagata Roy)

Maharashtra: Lifeline Express inaugurated at CSMT, Mumbai

- The Lifeline Express, also known as "Hospital on Wheels" inaugurated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus by the Central Railway (CR) for its latest project, which involves providing medical treatment to poor patients.
- The train will now move to Sahibganj in Jharkhand from Mumbai for its next project.
- The Indian Railways, in partnership with Impact India Foundation, had launched the Lifeline Express - the worlds first hospital on wheels - on July 16, 1991 from CSMT to provide free of cost medical care to the poor living in remote corners of the country.
- The seven coaches of the Lifeline Express have advanced operation theatres, a pathology lab, a mammography unit, a gynaecology examination room, a dental unit, a pharmacy, consultation cubicles and X-Ray unit, among others.
- Till now, The Lifeline Express has travelled across 19 states, covering 201 rural locations in 138 districts.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

Fit India' Movement: Several functions organized across J&K's Jammu division

- As part of nation-wide 'Fit India' Movement several functions were organized across the Jammu division of Jammu and Kashmir.
- People of the Jammu region expressed their readiness to go with the call of Prime Minister for fit and healthy nation and New India.

Extra Shots:

J&K: Capital City(Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)) CM(Vacant) Governor(Satya Pal Malik)

Ban on polythene bags comes into force in UP from Sept 1

- A complete ban on the use of polythene bags will come into force in Uttar Pradesh from Sept 1st.
- Local police station and its in-charge will be held responsible for non-compliance of the government order in this regard.
- Allahabad High Court had also banned the use of polythene in the state.

Extra Shots:

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Uttar Pradesh: Capital City (Lucknow) CM (Yogi Adityanath) Governor (Anandiben Patel)

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

- Health Ministry has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to enhance an outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- This MoU is the 18th such kind where MoU signed between Government departments/Ministries.
- The MoU was signed by Special Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP) Shri Sanjeeva Kumar and Additional Secretary of DoSJE Smt. Upma Srivastava.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched Janaushadhi Sugam was launched

- The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched a mobile application Janaushadhi Sugam.
- It was launched by the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda.
- The Ministry has also announced that Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin will now be available at only One Rupee per pad.
- The Ministry has also announced that Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin will now be available at only One Rupee per pad.

Extra Shots:

Karnataka: Capital City(Bengaluru) CM(B S Yediyurappa) Governor(Vajubhai Vala)

Tamil Nadu 150-year-old Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees secure GI tag

- The Geographical Indication Registry of India finally gave Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the state of Tamil Nadu for Dindigul lock and Karaikudi Kandangi sarees.
- The handmade Dindigul locks are known for their traditional design, superior quality.
- They are manufactured in more than 3,125 units in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu.

Extra Shots:

Tamilnadu: Capital City (Chennai) CM (Edappadi K.Palanisamy) Governor (Banwarilal Purohit)

Gorewada International Zoo to be set up at Nagpur

- The Government planned to establish an International Standard Zoo and Biopark on the forest land at Gorewada, Nagpur.
- The main aim is to protect forests.
- The Zoo will have attractions like Bio Park, Indian Safari, African Safari, Night Safari, Research, Education and Training, facilities for tourists.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

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

- The Delhi Cabinet has approved free rides for women on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses as well as its cluster buses from October 29.

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- The proposal was approved by the cabinet at the Delhi Secretariat.
- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia presented a sum of Rs.290 crore in the Legislative Assembly for the free ride scheme for women in metro and DTC buses.

Extra Shots:

Delhi: CM(Arvind Kejriwal) Lt. Governor(Anil Bajjal)

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nigeria becomes fourth African nation to join global coalition to protect pollinators

- Nigeria became the fourth African country to join the Global Coalition of the willing on Pollinators on July 25, 2019
- Morocco became a member of this group. Ethiopia is the first African nation to be part of this global coalition in 2017. Burundi is the second African country to join this global group.
- Other non-African nations such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Ireland and Mexico had joined the global group last year.
- The coalition now has 28 signatories including 17 European countries, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and four from Africa.

Extra Shots:

Nigeria (Capital/Currency): Abuja, Nigerian naira ,President: Muhammadu Buhari

Indian tourists exempted from visa fees by Sri Lankan govt

- India is among 48 countries whose citizens have been exempted from visa fees for tourism purposes by Sri Lankan government.
- Sri Lankan tourism minister John Amaratunga said visa fees, which ranged from 20 to 40 US dollars, will not be charged for grant of one month visa for tourism.
- The tourists can apply for electronic travel authorisations online or apply for visa on arrival.
- Indian tourist constitutes the maximum number with around one fourth of total tourist arrivals. Tourism is Sri Lanka's third largest and fastest growing source of foreign currency last year, accounting for almost 5 percent of gross domestic product in 2018.

Extra Shots:

Sri Lanka (Capital/Currency): Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte/Sri Lankan rupee

- President: Maithripala Sirisena

Nepal: Yogesh Bhattarai becomes Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation

- Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has inducted Yogesh Kumar Bhattarai as a new Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

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- President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to newly appointed minister in Kathmandu.
- Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and other dignitaries were also present at the swearing-in ceremony.
- After the death of previous Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister, Rabindra Adhikari the post was vacant.

Extra Shots:

Nepal (Capital/Currency): Kathmandu/ Nepalese rupee

- Prime Minister: KP Sharma Oli

US officially withdraws from INF treaty

- The US has officially withdrawn from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) treaty with Russia.
- The withdrawal has ended a Cold war-era missile treaty with Russia.
- Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF):
- INF treaty is a Nuclear disarmament type of agreement. It was signed on December 1987 in Washington D.C.
- The agreement was signed by the U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet General Secretary with an Unlimited duration.

Extra Shots:

USA (Capital/Currency): Washington, D.C./ United States Dollar

- President: Donald Trump

Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia

- Bangladesh today signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).
- The deal was signed today in Dhaka between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).
- Under the deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Ruble

- Prime Minister: Dmitry Medvedev

Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka/Taka

- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

India contributes USD 5 million to UN Palestine refugee agency

- India contributed USD 5 million to the UN Palestine refugee agency and called for ensuring sustained fiscal support for the organisation's work.
- The cheque for the amount was handed over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees by Representative of India (ROI) in Palestine, Sunil Kumar, at the Agency's headquarters in Jerusalem.

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Extra Shots:

Palestine (Capital/Currency): Ramallah, East Jerusalem/Israeli new shekel, Jordanian dinar

President: Mahmoud Abbas

Pakistan downgrades diplomatic ties and suspends trade with India

- Pakistan has diplomatic ties with India.
- They decided to suspend bilateral trade with India to withdraw its envoy to Pakistan in retaliation against the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir and revocation of its special status.

Extra Shots:

Pakistan (Capital/Currency): Islamabad/ Pakistani rupee

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

Papua New Guinea has highest number of living indigenous languages

- United Nations report said that the Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840.
- India stands fourth with 453.
- UN observes the year 2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages.
- UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that nearly 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing and endangered.

Extra Shots:

Papua New Guinea (Capital/Currency): Port Moresby/Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

- Monarch: Elizabeth II
- Governor-General: Bob Dadae
- Prime Minister: James Marape

Rohingya refugees receive identity documents, most for the first time

- More than 500,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar have been registered in a joint registration exercise by the Bangladesh authorities and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.
- For many of these refugees, it is the first time they have an identity card. The biometric, fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and UNHCR to all verified refugees over the age of 12.
- These cards will help in establishing and safeguarding the right of Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar.

Extra Shots:

UNHRC: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nations programme with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

- Founded: 14 December 1950
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

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- Founder: United Nations
- High commissioner: Filippo Grandi

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

- China has condemned the rules unveiled by the U.S. that ban Huawei and other Chinese firms from government contracts.
- It also decried the U.S.'s abuse of state power in the latest move in the escalating China-U.S. trade war.
- The interim rule which was passed recently by the US govt.
- This will stop all the US federal agency from purchasing telecom or technology equipment from the chinese firms.

Extra Shots:

USA (Capital/Currency): Washington, D.C./ United States Dollar

- Prime Minister: Donald Trump

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/ Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

US approves 12 multi mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea

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

Seahawk Helicopters:

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

Extra Shots:

USA (Capital/Currency): Washington, D.C./ United States Dollar

- Prime Minister: Donald Trump

South Korea (Capital/Currency): Seoul/Won

- 41st Prime Minister: Lee Nak-yeon

EAM S Jaishankar arrives in Beijing on 3-day visit to China

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Beijing today on a key three-day visit to hold talks with the Chinese leadership.
- A host of issues is sought to be discussed, including finalisation of arrangements for President Xi Jinping's visit to India later this year for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/ Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

China to soon launch its own cryptocurrency

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- People's Bank of China (PBoC) is issuing its own cryptocurrency.
- The bank's researchers have been working last year to develop systems, and the cryptocurrency is "close to being out,"
- The event is held by China Finance 40 Forum over the weekend in Yichun, Heilongjiang.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/ Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

Russia launches floating nuclear reactor in Arctic

- Russia launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor.
- The vessel weighs 21,000 tons and has two reactors with a capacity of 35 megawatts each.
- This reactor loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov left the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometres (3,000-mile) voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia.

Extra shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Ruble

- President: Vladimir Putin
- PM : Dmitry Medvedev

FATF Asia-Pacific Group blacklists Pakistan

- Pakistan has been placed on the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force's Asia Pacific Group.
- Pakistan has been blacklisted for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.

Extra Shots:

Pakistan (Capital/Currency): Islamabad/ Pakisatani Rupees

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

Iran unveils new missile defence system "Bavar-373"

- Iran has unveiled new missile defence system "Bavar-373".
- This is also Iran's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system which has been inducted into the country's missile defence network.
- The system was unveiled at an occasion of Iran's National Defense Industry Day.

Extra Shots:

Iran (Capital/Currency): Tehran/Rial

- President: Hassan Rouhani

5th Meeting of BRICS Minister of Environment held in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- 5th BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which was preceded by the 2-day meeting of BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

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- The participated BRICS Ministers praised the Indian Presidency of the 14th session of the CoP of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Extra Shots:

Brazil (Capital/Currency): Brasilia/Brazilian real

- President: Jair Bolsonaro

28th BASIC Ministerial Meeting 2019 on Climate Change held in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- The 28th session of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) Ministerial meeting 2019 on Climate Change was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 14 – 16 August 2019. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India for this meeting.
- This comes ahead of United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 2 – 13 December 2019.

Extra Shots:

Brazil (Capital/Currency): Brasilia/Brazilian real

- President: Jair Bolsonaro

INS Tarkash participates in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain

- The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Tarkash, participated in the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK).

Russia launches rocket carrying life-sized robot to International Space Station

- Russia launched a rocket carrying life-sized robot to the International Space Station (ISS) from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- It is set to arrive at the station on Saturday.
- The robot, named Fedor is the first ever sent into space by Russia

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Ruble

- President: Vladimir Putin

Dubai Airports celebrated arrival of inaugural flight of full service Indian carrier Vistara

- Dubai Airports celebrated the arrival of the inaugural flight of full service Indian carrier Vistara from Mumbai at a ceremony at Dubai International airport.
- Vistara's daily non-stop service between Mumbai and Dubai will offer an additional choice to the tens of thousands of passengers who travel between the two cities daily.

Extra Shots:

UAE (Capital/Currency): Dubai/Dirham

- President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

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

- The 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue between India and the U.S. officials are being held in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.
- The intersessional meeting aims to strengthen the strategic partnership.

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

Extra Shots:

California (Capital/Currency): Sacramento/US Dollar

Overview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Bhutan

- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi made a State Visit to Bhutan on August 17-18, 2019, at the invitation of Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering.
- He inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW (Megawatt) hydropower by 2020 with the Indian government's support.

Extra Shots:

Bhutan (Capital/Currency): Thimphu / Ngultrum

- Prime Minister: Lotay Tshering

Defence talks between India and China held in Beijing

- In order to improve military to military cooperation, India and China reviewed the situation on the border and agreed on more port calls by each side's Navies at a meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Defence Ministries in Beijing, China.
- The meeting was a preliminary one attended by Joint Secretary from the Defence Ministry of India along with one-star officer each from the 3 Services.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/ Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

Iceland commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change

- Iceland has marked its first-ever loss of a glacier to climate change. The glacier lost was, Iceland's Okjokull glacier. People commemorated this loss with a plaque (An ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event).
- The plaque bears the inscription "A letter to the future".

SAARC Foreign Ministers' informal meeting to be hosted by Nepal

- Nepal's foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali announced for the SAARC(South Asian Association for Regional Corporation) foreign ministers informal meeting which is to be held in Nepal in September 2019.
- This meet is based on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Extra Shots:

Nepal (Capital/Currency): Kathmandu / Nepalese rupee

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Overview of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visit to Bangladesh

- External Affairs Minister(EAM) of India Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has made a two-day visit to Bangladesh (August 19-20, 2019) to review bilateral relations. This was Jaishankar's first visit to Bangladesh since he assumed office in June 2019.
- The purpose of this visit is to affirm the strong relationship between the two countries and also to prepare for the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Hasina to India in October 2019.

Extra Shots:

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Bangladesh (Capital/Currency): Dhaka / Bangladeshi taka

- President: Abdul Hamid

Overview of Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu's three nation tour to Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia

- Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu went on a visit to 3 Baltic nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia from August 17-21, 2019 to enhance India's bilateral ties with each of the three countries and help in promoting people-to-people contacts and business opportunities.
- He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Minister of State for Human Resource Development (HRD), Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Smt. Ranee Narah, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and senior officers of the Government of India.

Extra Shots:

Lithuania (Capital/Currency): Vilnius/ Lithuanian litas

Latvia (Capital/Currency): Riga/ Euro

Estonia (Capital/Currency): Tallinn/ Euro

Saudi Arabia permits women to travel abroad without male guardian's permission

- Government of Saudi Arabia made a reform for allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male 'guardian'.
- The law to get permission from male guardian was removed as many women made high-profile attempts to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite various reforms made by crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

Extra Shots:

Saudi Arabia (Capital/Currency): Riyadh/ Saudi riyal

- Prime Minister: Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Dharmendra Pradhan embarks on 2-day visit to Russia

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan embarked on a two-day visit to Moscow seeking stake in more oil and fields in Russia and inviting Russian investment in refining and petrochemical business.
- Mr Pradhan met Russian oil firm Rosneft officials to discuss collaboration between the two countries.
- Mr Pradhan deliberated on further strengthening our relations in this sector in areas of coking coal sourcing, technology transfer and skill development.
- He also held discussions with Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Envoy to Far Eastern Federal Districts of Russia, Yury P Trutnev.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Ruble

- Prime Minister: Dmitry Medvedev
- President: Vladimir Putin

China and Pakistan began joint exercise Shaheen-VIII near Ladakh

- China and Pakistan began joint exercise Labelled 'Shaheen-VIII' in the Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border of around 300 km north of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
- This is the 8th such exercise undertaken by two countries with the participation of Chinese J10 & J-11 and Pakistani JF-17s.

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- In 2018, 'Shaheen-VII' was held in Pakistan.

Extra Shots:

China (Capital/Currency): Beijing/Renminbi

- President: Xi Jinping

Pakistan test fired ballistic missile Ghaznavi

- Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range near Karachi located in Balochistan.
- Its range is 290 km.
- During the test, Ghaznavi was tracked by the National Development Complex (NDC) ground control station.
- It is located at a 220 km distance from the test range.

Extra Shots:

Pakistan (Capital/Currency): Islamabad/Pakistani Rupees

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

India and the United States held a bilateral 2+2 Intersessional meeting in Monterey, California

- India and the United States (US) held a round of bilateral 2+2 Intersessional meeting in Monterey, California, US. The Indian delegation was led jointly by Shri Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Shri V. Anandarajan, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.

Extra Shots:

California (Capital/Currency): Sacramento/US Dollar

FATF blacklisted Pakistan against terror financing and money laundering

- The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force(FATF) has blacklisted Pakistan for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.
- The action was taken in the FATF APG meeting held in Canberra, Australia. Previously Pakistan was greylisted by FATF for failing to curb anti-terror financing.

Extra Shots:

Pakistan (Capital/Currency): Islamabad/Pakistani Rupees

- Prime Minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

Overview of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visit to Nepal

- External Affairs Minister(EAM) of India Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has made a two-day visit to Nepal(August 21-22, 2019) for participating 5th Joint Commission Meeting 2019 between two countries.
- This is Jaishankar's first visit to Nepal since he assumed office on June 2019. The 5th India- Nepal Joint Commission meeting 2019 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries.

Extra Shots:

Nepal (Capital/Currency): Kathmandu / Nepalese rupee

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

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SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE	PLACE
Northeast Regional Conference on Transformation of Indian Agriculture	Guwahati
TechEx – a technology exhibition	IIT Delhi
The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers	Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi.
India's largest education Brainstorm	Udaipur
National Conference on E-Governance	Meghalaya
G7 Summit	France
International dialogue on South-South and Triangular Cooperation	New Delhi.
6th Convocation Ceremony of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan	New Delhi
First World Youth Conference	Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi.
Seventh Community Radio Sammelan	New Delhi
Fourth edition of Internet of Things India Congress	Bengaluru
RDSO organizes Mega trafficker Meet	Lucknow
Integrated Online junction for School Education Shagun	New Delhi
The twelfth India Security Summit	New Delhi
26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela	Leh
3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave	Manesar, Haryana.
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards	New Delhi
Two Day exhibition on DAE Technologies	New Delhi
24th meeting of Western Zonal Council	Panaji in Goa.

RANKS AND INDICES

London named world's best student city in new rankings

- London named the world's best city for students.
- According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bangalore at 81st.
- It is followed by Mumbai (85th) and Delhi at 113 and Chennai at 115.
- There are a total of 120 cities in the list.
- This report is released for the second consecutive year.
- London beat Tokyo and Melbourne and came second and third respectively on new worldwide rankings.
- The QS Best Student Cities ranking was done by global education consultancy QSQuacquarelli Symonds.

Extra Shots:

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Englnd (Capital/Currency): London/Dollar

Delhi, Kerala top in court infrastructure facilities: Think Tank Report

- The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy conducted across 665 district courts across 29 states and nine Union Territories a survey on the physical and digital aspects of court infrastructure.
- Based on the data collected, nine parameters were formulated to understand the state of infrastructure of every district court complex surveyed.
- These parameters were identified as: Getting There, Navigation, Waiting Areas, Hygiene, Barrier-Free Access, Case Display, Security, Amenities and Website.
- Delhi and Kerala are among the top-performing states.
- Bihar and Manipur are the states having the poorest infrastructure in the lower judiciary.
- After Bihar and Manipur, other states ranking lower in infrastructure are Nagaland, West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- Among the high ranking states after Delhi and Kerala are Meghalaya, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City(Thiruvananthapuram) CM(Pinarai Vijayan) Governor(Arif Mohammed Khan)

Delhi: CM (Arvind Kejriwal) Governor (Anil Baijal)

MacKenzie Bezos now the world's third richest woman

- Bloomberg report said that MacKenzie Bezos is now the world's third-richest woman who is now the ex-wife of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.
- Forbes billionaire list said that after the divorce, she has become the second-largest individual shareholder of Amazon and the third wealthiest woman in the world.
- Jeff Bezos transferred around 19.7 million Amazon shares to MacKenzie Bezos during the divorce.
- This has brought Jeff Bezos' ownership stake in the company from 16% down to 12%.
- Jeff Bezos still remains the richest person on the planet.
- According to Forbes Real-Time Rankings, Jeff Bezos is worth \$117.8 billion.
- Bill Gates, Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, found wealthier than the second-richest person.

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

- Forbes reported that the global Big Data software market will have 14% of growth worth \$31B in 2019.
- Earlier, the market was estimated at \$23.56 billion in 2015 and is expected to reach \$118.52 billion by 2022.
- 90% of the world's data was created between 2015 and 2016.
- The estimated worth of big data industry will be \$77 billion by 2023.

Odisha police station in top 10 in country

- The Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in the country in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
- The Subarnapur district Superintendent of Police was also present on the occasion.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneswar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

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

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- Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar made it to the 4th position on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list.
- Akshay ranked in \$65 million.
- Hollywood star Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.
- Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 listed by Forbes:

1. Dwayne Johnson (\$89.4 million)
2. Chris Hemsworth (\$76.4 million)
3. Robert Downey Jr. (\$66 million)
4. Akshay Kumar (\$65 million)
5. Jackie Chan (\$58 million)
6. Bradley Cooper (\$57 million)
7. Adam Sandler (\$57 million)
8. Chris Evans (\$43.5 million)
9. Paul Rudd (\$41 million)
10. Will Smith (\$35 million)

Henley Passport Index India slips 5 spots

- Henley Passport Index for the year 2019 released.
- The report ranks India at 86th position of 189 countries in 2019.
- It secured a score of 58.
- The report stated that Japan and Singapore as the "world's most powerful passport" in 2019.
- Japan topped the list for the second consecutive time in a row 189 countries.

Extra Shots:

Japan (Capital/Currency): Tokyo/Yen

Rajsthans free medicine scheme secures top rank

- Rajasthan's free medicine scheme secured the highest position with first ranking issued by the National Health Mission (NHM) among the sixteen states of the country.
- NHM free drug service was introduced by the Ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) for all states/UTs.
- The main aim of Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) is to produce commonly used essential medicines freed from price to patients visiting government tending establishment in the year 2011-12.
- The scheme consists of 2 elements like free drugs and free tests.

Extra Shots:

Rajasthan: Capital City (Jaipur) CM (Ashok Ghelot) Governor (Kalyan Singh)

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

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

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

Extra Shots:

Delhi: CM (Arvind Kejriwal) Governor (Anil Bajjal)

‘Statue of Unity’, Mumbai’s Soho House among Time’s 100 greatest places in the world

- The 597-ft tall ‘Statue of Unity’ in Gujarat and Mumbai’s Soho House have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World’s greatest places, in a compilation of 100 new and newly “noteworthy destinations.
- The ‘Statue of Unity’, the world’s tallest statue, is a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India’s first home minister as well as deputy prime minister.
- Soho House Mumbai is Asia’s first Soho House that puts a local spin on the “formula that has allowed Nick Jones’ members--only clubs to blossom across the US and Europe”.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

World Vision India and IFMR LEAD released India child well being index

- World Vision India and IFMR LEAD released a report on the India child well-being index 2019 on 27 August.
- In the Index states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry topped the charts.
- States like Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh ranked bottom in the index.
- The centre is fully committed to secure the rights and well-being of children.

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

- Taylor Swift won Forbes magazine’s highest-paid woman in the music category for the year 2019 with earnings of \$185 million (Rs 1,300 crore).
- Taylor is followed by pop singer Beyonce with earnings \$81 million (Rs 579 crore) and singer Rihanna with \$62 million at second and third place respectively.
- The ranking is based on pre-tax income from June 2018 to June 2019.

Mumbai ranks 45th and Delhi 52nd in 2019 Worlds Safe Cities Index

- Mumbai ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI).
- Delhi got at the 52nd position.
- The report was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit
- Tokyo topped the list.
- Singapore and Osaka got second and third while Sydney and Melbourne made it to the top-10 cities list.

Extra Shots:

Maharashtra : Capital City (Mumbai) CM (Devendra Fadnavis) Governor (C. Vidyasagar Rao)

AGREEMENTS AND MOU SIGNED

India signed an MoU with Gambia

- India and Gambia signed an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

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- India has also offered a grant of 5 lakh dollar to the Gambia for skill development and cottage industry project.
- The decision was taken during the delegation-level talks between President Ram Nath Kovind and his Gambian counterpart Mr Adama Barrow in the Gambia's capital, Banjul.

Extra Shots:

Gambia (Capital/Currency): Banjul/ Gambian dalasi

- President: Adama Barrow

India signs deal to acquire R-27 Missiles from Russia

- India signed a deal worth Rs 1500 crore to buy R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia.
- The main objective of this deal is to boost the capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) R-27 air-to-air missiles will be equipped on the Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- R-27 Missile is a medium-range air-to-air missile. It is initially developed for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets.

Extra Shots:

Russia (Capital/Currency): Moscow/Ruble

- Prime Minister: Dmitry Medvedev
- President: Vladimir Putin

India, Guinea sign three MoUs on 2nd day of President Kovind's visit

- India and Guinea have signed three MoUs on the second day of President Ram Nath Kovind's three-day visit to that country.
- These MoUs were signed between the two countries Cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e- Vidhyabharati - e-Aarogya Bharati e-VBAB Network Project and Renewal Energy.
- Both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen political and economic engagement. President also announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city.

Extra Shots:

Guinea (Capital/Currency): Conakry/Guinean franc

- President: Alpha Condé

UP extends bilateral cooperation MoU with Netherlands in several fields

- Uttar Pradesh government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed by officials in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Netherlands ambassador to India, Marten van den Berg extending the cooperation between two countries till 2024.
- The MoU is also related to cooperation in fields of transport management, energy efficiency, sewerage and effluent treatment, agriculture, dairy and horticulture, development of smart cities in UP, cultural heritage and the cycle track infrastructure development in various cities of the state.

Extra Shots:

Uttar Pradesh: Capital City(Lucknow) CM(Yogi Adityanath) Governor(Anandiben Patel)

Netherland (Capital/Currency): Amsterdam/Euro

- Prime Minister: Mark Rutte

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

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan of \$200 million.
- **OBJECTIVE:** to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of India's Maharashtra State to better connect rural areas with markets and services.
- Maharashtra accounted for almost 15% of India's gross domestic product in fiscal year (FY) 2017, the biggest share among India's states.
- About 20 million people, or 17% of the state's population, still live below the national poverty line.
- Agriculture accounts for about 47% of employment, engages as much as 79% of the rural labor force, and contributes 11% to the state gross domestic product.

Extra Shots:

ADB: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank aimed to promote social and economic development in Asia.

- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Membership: 68 countries
- Purpose: Economic development
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Takehiko Nakao

Maharashtra: Capital City(Mumbai) CM(Devendra Fadnavis) Governor(C. Vidyasagar Rao)

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

- The Kerala government and Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to give a push to the state's endeavour in space technology.
- The agreement signed by State IT Secretary M Sivasankar and VSSC Director S Somanath. It was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- VSSC and the Kerala Government joining hands for the project, Kerala is set to make major strides in the space technology sector.

Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City(Thiruvananthapuram) CM(Pinarayi Vijayan) Governor(Palanisamy Sathasivam)

ISRO: The Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India.

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

Tripura's Banned Insurgency Group NLFT (SD) signed agreement with Centre to Abjure Violence

- The National Liberation Front of Tripura (SD) agreed to join the mainstream and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the central government, Tripura government and the NLFT (SD) is led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma.

Extra Shots:

Tripura: Capital City(Agartal) CM(Biplab kumar dev) Governor()

Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL

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- Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in a formal function held at CIAL.
- The agreement was signed by Captain Satish Kumar S, Officer-in-Charge, NAE and Shri ACK Nair, Airport Director CIAL.
- The MoU was aimed with the commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery.

Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City(Thiruvananthapuram) CM(Pinarayi Vijayan) Governor(Palanisamy Sathasivam)

MoHUA launched Swachh Survekshan 2020

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020.
- It is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry.
- The scheme was launched by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, the Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- **THEME:** Cleanliness is Our Right
- **NOTE:**The Ministry also launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water plus Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar Mobile App and AI enabled mSBM App.
- **Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit** contains contains the detailed survey methodology and component indicators with scores. It aims to help the cities to prepare themselves for the final survey which will be released on January 2020.
- **SBM Water plus Protocol and Toolkit** aims to ensure that no untreated wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.
- **Swachh Nagar Mobile App** have features to track waste collection by ULBs through route and vehicle monitoring, notify citizens, online collection of user fee for waste collection and an effective grievance redressal mechanism

AI enabled mSBM App is a mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). It will help the beneficiary to get approval from the ULB nodal officer to verify and approve the application. It will reducing the processing time for applicants

Axis Capital Ex-chief Dharmesh Mehta and investors bought 100% stake in IDFC Securities Ltd

Former Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Axis Capital, Dharmesh Mehta and other investors bought 100% stake in IDFC Securities Ltd from IDFC Financial Holding Company (IDFC FHCL) for an undisclosed amount. Both the entities entered into an agreement to sell/acquire the stake.

Extra Shots:

Axis Capital: Axis Capital Limited (Erstwhile ENAM Securities Private Limited) is one of India's leading financial expert with the sole aim of providing focused and customized

- Founded: 2005
- Parent organization: Axis Bank
- Subsidiaries: Axis Capital USA, LLC, Axis Capital Limited, Research Division

Indian Army signed MoU with Tata Realty and Housing

- Indian Army signed an MoU with Tata Realty & Housing.

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- The MoU will empower the Indian Army personnel to take over, with immediate effect, dwelling units in 13 'Ready to Move in' projects of Tata Realty across India.
- The projects are spread over 10 cities including Gurugram, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune among others at a discount ranging from 11% to 27%.

Extra Shots:

Tata Realty and Housing: Tata Realty And Infrastructure Limited (TRIL) is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Sons, executing projects in Real Estate and Infrastructure across India

- Founded: 2007
- Subsidiaries: TRIL IT4 Private Limited, MORE
- Parent organizations: Tata Sons, Standard Chartered Private Equity Limited

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

- Prime Minister Modi and his France counterpart President Emmanuel Macron hold a bilateral discussion to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors.
- They signed various MoUs in different sectors.

MoUs:

- An administrative arrangement was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India and the Ministry of National Education and Youth of the French Republic. The MoU aimed for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training.
- A memorandum of agreement was signed between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA).
- The cooperation agreement was signed between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and ATOS.
- Implementing agreement was also signed between ISRO and CNES France for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness.

Extra Shots:

France (Capital/Currency): Paris/Euro

- Prime Minister: Edouard Philippe
- President: Emmanuel Macron

India, Bahrain agree to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts

- India and Bahrain agreed to further enhance cooperation in the field of security, counter-terrorism and the exchange of intelligence and information, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the Gulf nation.
- The two countries also signed MoUs on cultural exchange programme, space technology, solar energy.
- The two countries also agreed to focus on enhancing cooperation in energy and strengthen maritime security in the Gulf region.

Extra Shots:

Bahrain (Capital/Currency): Manama/ Bahraini dinar

- King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

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- Prime Minister: Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) signs MoU to set up AI Digital Lab

- Microsoft and Indian School of Business (ISB) have signed an MoU to set up an AI Digital Lab powered by PlatiFi technologies(a Microsoft partner).
- OBJECTIVE: to study issues that are relevant for business and public policy.
- It will also offer an executive 3-day nontechnical program titled “Leading Business Transformation in the Age of AI”, which will kick start in October 2019.

Extra Shots:

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. It develops, manufactures, licenses, supports and sells computer software, consumer electronics, personal computers, and related services.

- Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen
- CEO: Satya Nadella

Indian Bank and Tata AIG General Insurance signed an MoU

- The public sector Indian Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata AIG General Insurance to offer a variety of general insurance products to its customers.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Ms Padmaja Chundur MD and CEO of Indian Bank and Mr Saurabh Maini, Senior Vice President and Business Head.

Extra Shots:

Indian Bank is an Indian state-owned financial services company.

- Established: 1907
- Headquartered: Chennai

IIT Guwahati signs MoU with RD Grow Green India for safer drinking water

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RD Grow Green India Pvt. Ltd.
- The initiative made by the team from IIT Guwahati resulted in one of the successful incubation of a company within IIT Guwahati (RD Grow Green India Pvt Ltd) taken the challenge to supply contaminant-free drinking water in the Assam state presently using the technology.

Extra Shots:

Assam: Capital City(Dispur) CM(Sarbananda Sonowal) Governor(Jagdish Mukhi)

Indian Navy signs MoU with IMD

- Indian Navy (IN) signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India Meteorological Department (IMD) at naval Base in Kochi, Kerala. The MoU aims to handle the Cyclone Detection radar (CDR) building by IMD to the IN.
- The MoU was signed by the flag officer RJ Nadkarni, AVSM, VSM, Chief of employees, Southern naval service Command (SNC) and Dr. D Pradhan, further Director General of Meteorology.

Extra Shots:

Kerala: Capital City(Thiruvananthapuram) CM(Pinarayi Vijayan) Governor(Palanisamy Sathasivam)

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GeM signs MoU with SIDBI to enable the growth of MSMEs

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and trade has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- It aims to benefit Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), ladies entrepreneurs, Self facilitate teams (SHGs), ladies Self facilitate teams and varied loan beneficiaries under MUDRA and Stand-up schemes.
- The MoU was signed in Delhi.

Extra Shots:

SIDBI: Small industrial Development Bank of India is a development financial institution in India.

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow
- Chairman and Managing Director: Mohammad Mustafa

APPOINTMENT

NAME	ROLE
Ms. Padmaja	High Commissioner of India to the Cook Islands
Pavan Kapoor	Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates(UAE)
Pramod Agrawal	Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Coal India Limited (CIL)
Amit Nayyar	Paytm president
Parthasarathi Mukherjee	MD & CEO of LVB,Resigns
Pramod Chandra Mody	CBDT Chairman
PK Sinha	Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the PMO
S V Ranganath	Interim chairman- Cafe Coffee Day
Rakesh Asthana	Additional charge as Narcotics control Bureau secretary
Girraj Prasad Gupta	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Guruprasad Mohapatra	Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
Ravi Capoor	Secretary in Ministry of Textiles
R N Ravi	Governor of Nagaland
Abhay Thakur	Permanent representative of India to the economic community of West African States
Atish Dabholkar	Director of Italy based International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)
Bala Prasad	Special Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind
Madhumita Hazarika Bhagat	High Commissioner of India to the Republic of

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	Cyprus
Siddhartha Mohanty	MD&CEO of LIC Housing Finance
M S Velpari	Director (operations) at the Bengaluru based Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
Noel Quinn	HSBC's interim CEO
Kandikuppa Sreekant	Chairman and MD of Power Grid
Rajesh Kumar Srivastava	New director (exploration) in ONGC
Sandeep Kumar Gupta	Director (finance) in IOC
Naaz Joshi	Miss World Diversity
Abdalla Hamdok	New prime minister of Sudan
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	New home secretary
Rajeev Gauba	Cabinet Secretary
Ajay Kumar	Defence Secretary
Giuseppe Conte	Italian PM steps down
Ravinder Takkar	CEO of vodafone India
Harshad Pandurang Thakur	Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare(NIHFW)
PT Usha	Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission member
VG Somani	Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
Alejandro Giammattei	President of Guatemala
Madan Lokur	Fiji's SC judge
Chandrima Shaha	First woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
Anurag Adlakha	YES bank- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Shri Ghotu Ram Meena	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Congo
Sonia Gandhi	Interim president of the Congress party

SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

Australia Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20

- Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry became the first cricketer to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs.
- She took 100 wickets in the T20 format.

Extra Shots:

Australia (Capital/Currency): Canberra/ Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

Adarsh Singh wins double gold in shooting meet

- In Shooting, young Adarsh Singh won the gold medal in both the men and junior 25 metres rapid fire pistol event in New Delhi.
- The 17-year-old Adarsh shot 584 to top the qualification rounds, his score way above the second-ranked shooter in both the competitions.

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Vinesh Phogat wins third successive gold in 53kg

- Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat has bagged gold in women's 53kg category of the Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw.
- The 24-year-old prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition.
- This was her third consecutive gold in the 53 kg category after winning Gold at Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey.

Thailand Open: Satwiksairaj, Chirag 1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty today became the first Indian pair to win a BWF Super 500 badminton tournament.
- They beat World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash of Thailand Open 21-19, 18-21, 21-18 in Bangkok to win the men's doubles category.

Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

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

Franky Zapata crosses Channel on hoverboard

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

Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal

- The pilot project to install 3-D traffic signal was started in Mohali.
- Employing the 3-D technique to make traffic signal fully actuated and on a real-time basis is first of its kind in the country.
- The new system will have sensors which would automatically switch on the green and red signals depending upon the number of vehicles coming from that particular side.

India tops latest ICC Test rankings

- India topped the latest ICC Test team rankings while New Zealand is placed 2nd and South Africa is in 3rd position.
- India skipper Virat Kohli retains his number one position in the latest ICC Test batsmen's rankings.

Ravichandran Ashwin named as Professional Cricketers Association's Player of the month

- Ravichandran Ashwin named as Professional Cricketers Association's Player of the month of July 2019.
- He is the fastest Indian bowler (also in some records the fastest in the world) to reach the 50-, 100-, 150-, 200-, 250- and 300-wicket mark in Test cricket.
- He became the third Indian to win the ICC Cricketer of the Year award.

Fiona Kolbinger first woman to win 4,000km cycling race

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

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- She took 10 days, 2 hours and 48 minutes to complete the challenge .It includes about 40,000 metres (131,000ft) of climbing.

Extra Shots:

Bulgaria (Capital/Currency): Sofia/Lev

- President: Rumen Radev

Diego Forlan announces retirement from professional football

- Former Uruguay captain and English Premier League winner with Manchester United.
- Diego Forlan announced his official retirement at the age of 40.
- He was named the best player at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa where Uruguay finished fourth.
- He scored 36 goals in 112 matches for his country.

Amla retires from international cricket

- South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all international cricket with immediate effect.
- Amla played 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is between in his 15-year-long cricketing career.
- He went on to make 18,000 runs including 55 centuries and 88 fifty-plus scores across all formats of the game. He is the only South African to have scored a triple century in the Test format.

Mary Kom, Lovlina Borgohain selected for world boxing C'ships

- Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom and Lovlina Borgohain have been selected for the upcoming women's world boxing championships based on their recent performances.
- The 36-year-old Mary Kom, who has already claimed two gold medals this year India Open and a recent tournament in Indonesia, has been selected in the 51kg category.
- World and Asian bronze-medallist Borgohain will be competing in the 69kg category.
- The world championships are scheduled from October 3 to 13 in Russia.

Serena Williams Tops Forbes List Of Highest-Paid Sports Women

- US tennis superstar Serena Williams topped Forbes magazine's list of the highest-paid women in sports for the fourth straight year.
- The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion earned \$29.2 million in the 12-month period.
- Japan's Naomi Osaka is on 2nd place with total earning \$24.3 million.
- Former Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber is third on the list with total earnings \$11.8 million.
- The highest placed athlete from a different sport was US footballer Alex Morgan, who clocked in at 12th. Morgan earned \$5.8 million, most of it in endorsements.
- Indian badminton star PV Sindhu and Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn were the other non-tennis players in the top 15.

Cricket Australia unveil new transgender inclusive policy

- Cricket Australia announced a new guideline which enables transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels.
- The decision aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.
- The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.

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Extra Shots:

Australia (Capital/Currency): Canberra/ Australian dollar

- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison

BCCI agrees to come under the ambit of NADA

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) today agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- This landmark decision makes Indian Cricket's governing body a sports federation as per government norms despite being financially autonomous.
- Sports Secretary Radheshyam Jhulaniya, who along with NADA Director General Navin Agarwal met BCCI CEO Rahul Johri along with the Board's General Manager (Cricket Operations) Saba Karim in New Delhi.

Extra Shos:

BCCI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India is the national governing body for cricket in India. The board was formed in December 1928 as a society, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.

- Founded: December 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chief Exec: Rahul Johri
- Presidents: Vinod Rai (interim), C.K. Khanna
- Women's coach: W. V. Raman
- Men's coach: Ravi Shastri

NADA: The National Anti-Doping Agency is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.

- Headquarters: U.S
- CEO: Navin Agarwal

Colin Ackermann becomes the 1st player in T20 cricket history to claim a 7-wicket

- Colin Ackermann(28) plays for Leicestershire Foxes set the new T20(Twenty20) world record with seven wickets for just 18 runs (7-18) to victory by 55 runs against the Birmingham Bears in 2019 Vitality Blast.
- The event is held in Grace Road, England, and Wales.
- The previous T20 best of (6-5), taken by Malaysian bowler, Arul Suppiah for Somerset against Glamorgan in 2011.

Extra Shots:

South Africa (Capital/Currency) : (Cape Town(Legislative)/South African rand)

- President: Cyril Ramaphosa

Indian junior shuttlers win 6 medals at Bulgarian Open

- In Badminton, Indian junior shuttlers won six medals at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships which concluded in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria .
- The medals comprised of three gold, a silver and two bronze.
- The gold medals were won by Samiya Imad Faruqui in women's singles, the duo of Edvin Joy and Shruti Mishra in Mixed Doubles and pair of Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt in women's doubles.
- Men's doubles combination of Ishan Bhatnagar and Vishnuvardhan settled for the silver medal.

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- Malvika Bansod and Meiraba Luwang won a bronze each in other singles events.

Extra Shots:

Bulgaria (Capital/Currency): Sofia/Bulgarian lev

- President: Rumen Radev

Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open title

- In Badminton, reigning national champion, Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open today.
- He beat Singapore's Loh Kean Yew.
- Extra Shots:
- The 26-year-old Sourabh from Madhya Pradesh had won the Slovenian International in May this year.
- He had also won two Super 100 titles at the Dutch Open and Russian Open last year.

Wrestling: Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix

- India's top two wrestlers continued their impressive run this season with Bajrang Punia defending his title at Tbilisi Grand Prix and Vinesh Phogat reaching her fourth final at Medved event.

Rafael Nadal won Montreal Masters title

- Rafael Nadal won the Montreal Masters Cup. He won the 35th Masters crown. He defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev.
- He extended his record haul of Masters 1000 titles. Nadal got the title for the first time in his career. Rafael Nadal, it was the third title of 2019.

Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup

- Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup in Toronto, Canada.
- She defeated Serena Williams.
- In the Rogers Cup men's final, Spanish player Rafael Nadal won the title. It is his fifth Rogers Cup title.
- **Men's singles:** Rafael Nadal
- **Women's singles:** Bianca Andreescu
- **Men's doubles:** Marcel Granollers, Horacio Zeballos
- **Women's doubles:** Barbora Krejčíková, Kateřina Siniaková

P.T. Usha appoints in AAAs Athletes Commission

- Legendary Indian sprinter P.T. Usha, one of India's greatest athletes.
- She is appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission.
- This is the 2nd time she is appointed as member .P.T. Usha appointed a member of the Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission

Aishwarya Pissay is the first Indian to claim a World Title in Motorsports

- Aishwarya Pissay created history becoming the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports. She is 23-year-old lifted the FIM World Cup in the women's category after the final round of the championship in Hungary.

India's Hockey team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

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

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Extra Shots:

- Japan (Capital/Currency): Tokyo/Yen
- Prime Minister: Shinzō Abe

Indian team won 2 Gold medals in World Archery Youth Championship 2019

- Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh picked up the first gold for India.
- They defeated Switzerland rivals Andrea Vallario and Janine Hunsperger with 152-147 scores at the World Archery Youth Championships 2019.
- The event is organized by the World Archery Federation in Madrid, Spain from 19 -25 August 2019.

Extra Shots:

World Archery Federation

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- First Vice-president: Mario Scarzella
- President: Uğur Erdener

PV Sindhu won gold at the 2019 BWF World Championships

- Indian badminton and World number five PV Sindhu won gold at the BWF World Championships 2019.
- She became the first-ever Indian badminton player to win a gold medal at the event.
- PV Sindhu defeated world number four Nozomi Okuhara of Japan and secured 21-7, 21-7.
- This is her fifth medal at the world championships.
- Men's singles: Kento Momota (Japan)
- Women's singles: P. V. Sindhu (India)
- Men's doubles: Mohammad Ahsan, Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
- Women's doubles: Mayu Matsumoto, Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
- Mixed doubles: Zheng Siwei, Huang Yaqiong (China)

Mohun Bagan to take on Kerala Gokulam in summit clash of Durand Cup

- Mohun Bagan will take on Kerala Gokulam in the final of Durand Cup Football tournament today at 5 PM at VYBK ground in Kolkata.
- 16-time Durand Cup winner Mohan Bagan has reached final beating Real Kashmir 3-1 after 10 years whereas Gokulam Kerala has defeated East Bengal 3-2 in the semifinal.

India won Bronze in World Archery Youth Championships

- The Indian team of Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare clinched a bronze medal in the junior compound men's team event in the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain.
- They defeat Colombia's Jagdeep Teji Singh Mejia, Gomez Zuluaga Felipe and Toro Vasquez Manuel 234-231.

Liverpool crunches Chelsea to win UEFA Super Cup 2019

Football club, Liverpool produced their best to win the 44th UEFA Super Cup 2019 by beating Chelsea with 5-4 on penalties at the Vodafone Park, Istanbul, Turkey.

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

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

India's Men's team clinched first cycling gold at UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships 2019

- Cyclists Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh of India won the first cycling gold by defeating Australia in men's team sprint event at UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Junior Track Cycling World Championships 2019 held in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Bronze was won by Great Britain. The event was held from August 14-18, 2019.

Indian Army emerged as the winner in 5th 'International Army Scout Masters Competition' 2019

- The Indian Army team participated for the 1st time & has emerged as the winner among 8 teams in five stages of the 5th edition of 'International Army Scout Masters Competition 2019' held in Jaisalmer Military Station, Rajasthan from August 6-14, 2019.
- Indian Army was trained under the aegis of Southern Command.

2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title won by Kreishh Gurbaxani

- Mumbai based Kreishh Gurbaxani who is currently at the no. 2 spots in the India junior snooker rankings won the 2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title on August 14, 2019.
- He defeated Odisha's Asutosh Padhy for 5-4 in the 4-hour final contest. The winner, Kreishh, was awarded the champion's trophy and a cheque of Rs 30,000.

AIG Ashish Kapoor strikes 2 gold medals for India at WPF 2019 held in Chengdu, China

- Ashish Kapoor, an Assistant Inspector General (AIG) in Vigilance Bureau of Punjab has clinched 2 gold medals for India in both singles and doubles Tennis events during the 18th edition of World Police and Fire Games (WPF) 2019, held at Chengdu in China from August 11-17, 2019.

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

- In the Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held in Kazakhstan, India defeated Chinese Taipei by 2-1 in the summit clash and clinched the gold medal.
- The final was a tie of three matches - 2 singles and one double. India won both the singles matches but lost the doubles match.

FIFA bans former Nigeria coach Samson Siasia for lifetime

- FIFA's (Federation Internationale de Football Association) adjudicatory chamber of the independent ethics committee banned former Nigeria coach of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Samson Siasia, aged 52, for a lifetime as he was found guilty of a violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics.
- He had breached Article 11 (Bribery) of the 2009 edition of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

Ravi Shastri re-appointed as head coach of Indian men's cricket team

- Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by Kapil Dev, former Indian cricketer, unanimously re-appointed Ravi Shastri as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team for 2 years, ending with the 2021 T20 (Twenty 20) World Cup in India.

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- It will be Shastri's fourth stint with the national team, earlier, having served as the Cricket Manager (2007 tour of Bangladesh), Team Director (2014-2016) and head coach (2017-2019).

Former Chelsea footballer Ashley Cole retires from football

- Former Chelsea, Arsenal, and England football player Ashley Cole aged 38, announced his retirement from football, ending his 20-year playing career.
- It is expected that he would be pursuing a career in coaching. In 687 games throughout his career, he scored 20 goals and made 69 assists and won UEFA team of the year twice for Arsenal and Chelsea.

Hima Das and Mohammad Anas clinched gold in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter Event 2019 in Czech Republic

- In the 300m races held at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter Event 2019 in the Czech Republic, Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold in the women's and men's category respectively.

Australian cricketer Marnus Labuschagne becomes first concussion substitute

- Australia's Marnus Labuschagne born in South Africa became the first person to replace as a concussion substitute in Test cricket.
- He replaced Steve Smith who suffered a delayed concussion caused by a blow on the back of the neck by England's Jofra Archer's bowling during the second match of 2019 Ashes Series in Lord's, London.

Mumbai to host 2019 World Youth chess meet

- The 2019 World Youth chess championship is to be held in Mumbai from October 1-13, at the Renaissance Hotel in Powai, Mumbai under the aegis of All-India Chess Federation and organized by the All-Marathi chess Association.

BCCI announces a reduction in ban period to 7 years ending in 2020 for cricketer S Sreesanth

- BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain has ordered for the reduction in the ban of Indian cricketer Shanthakumaran Sreesanth (S. Sreesanth), who was alleged in a match-fixing scandal in 2013.
- His ban period is now lowered to 7 years by the Supreme Court (SC) which will end by September 2020 setting aside the BCCI disciplinary committee's order banning him for a lifetime.

Former Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson has been made an honorary life member of MCC

- The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) stated that Former Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson (37) has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the MCC, the custodian of the rules of cricket, during the second Test between Australia and England of 2019 Ashes Series at Lord's London.

Cincinnati Masters/ Western & Southern Open 2019

The Cincinnati Masters/ Western & Southern Open 2019 was held from August 12-18, 2019 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, a northern suburb of Cincinnati, in the United States. It was the 118th men's edition and the 91st women's edition.

Men's Singles Daniil Medvedev (Russia)

Women's Singles Madison Keys (America)

Men's Doubles Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Filip Polášek (Slovakia)

Women's Doubles Lucie Hradecká (Czech Republic) & Andreja Klepač (Slovakia)

IOCL clinched Dolo-650 Bangalore Cup All India Hockey Tournament 2019 by beating Army XI

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- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) won the title in the Dolo-650 Bangalore Cup All India Hockey Tournament 2019 by beating Army XI by 5-0. It was the second title for IOCL in a fortnight after Bangalore Super Division 2019.
- It was the 4th Edition of the tournament held at the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Hockey Arena, Bangalore.

Virat Kohli retains top spot in the latest ICC Test batsmen's rankings

- The latest test batsmen rankings were released by the ICC (International Cricket Council).
- The list was topped by India's Virat Kohli followed by Australia's Steve Smith at the second spot overtaking New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.

India's junior women boxers win 12 medals including 4 gold at 3rd Nations' Cup 2019 held in Serbia

India's junior women boxers team has clinched 12 medals(4 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze medals) at the 3rd Nation's Cup 2019 held in Sports Hall ,Vrbas, Serbia from August 14-18,2019.

4 Gold medal winner:

- Tamanna(Haryana) 48 kg
- Ambeshori Devi(Manipur) 57 kg
- Preeti Dahiya(Haryana) 60 kg
- Priyanka (Haryana) 66 kg

Russell Domingo appointed as the new head coach of Bangladesh

- Russell Domingo was appointed as the head coach of Bangladesh, replacing Steve Rhodes (English cricket coach and former cricketer) by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).
- Russel will remain as the head coach for the next two years.

Indian para-swimming team crossed Catalina Channel of US in 11 hours 34 min

- Indian para-swimming team of 6 members comprising Para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia from Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) has created history by becoming the 1st Asian swimmer team to cross the Catalina Channel (42 km)of US(United States) in just 11 hours 34 minutes. Rohan More was the coach of the team.

"Op-Blue Freedom" flagged off by KirenRijju and BaichungBhutia

- Op-Blue Freedom' a first of its kind in Asia, a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as for able-bodied persons.
- It was launched by sports minister (independent charge) Kiren Rijju and former Indian football team captain Baichung Bhutia at Talkatora garden, New Delhi.

India's Hockey team wins Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

- Indian Hockey teams (Men & Women) has won the Olympic test event for hockey held from 17-21 Aug 2019 held at Oi Hockey Stadium, Tokyo, Japan, during Tokyo 2020 Games test events. "READY STEADY TOKYO" is the official brand name and logo for the test events Tokyo 2020.
- The name of the hockey test event was "READY STEADY TOKYO - Hockey". It was organized by the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games.

Vikram Rathour is India's new batting coach

- Former opener Vikram Rathour, aged 50, was appointed as India's new batting coach. He succeeds Sanjay Bangar.
- Bharath Arun and R Sridhar retained as bowling and fielding coaches respectively.

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28-member Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijiju for Fit India Movement formed

The 28-member Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijiju was formed for Fit India Movement which aims to encourage people to inculcate physical activity and sports in their everyday lives.

It will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 29, 2019.

Paytm to continue as BCCI title sponsor till 2023 for Rs 326.8 crore

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Rahul Johri announced that Paytm will continue as the title sponsor of the Indian cricket board's domestic and international matches for the next five years i.e till 2023.
- The bid from One 97 Communications, holding company of Paytm, was the winning bid for Rs 326.80 crore.

V K Vismaya won gold in womens 400m held at MJS athletics Czech Republic

- Indian sprinter V K Vismaya won a best timing of 52.12s and won the gold medal in the women's 400m run at the International Athletic Meeting Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic.

Extra Shots:

International Athletic Meeting

- Headquarters : Monaco
- Membership: 215 member federations
- President: Sebastian Coe

DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

India test-fires Surface to Air-Missile from Chandipur in Odisha

- India today successfully test-fired its all weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) from a mobile launcher at launch complex III of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- It was the second developmental trial of the missile in this year from the same test range.
- The QR-SAM weapon system is a quick reaction, network-centric missile system capable of search-on-the-move.
- It is jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Ltd.
- QR-SAM system can also engage multiple targets within a range of around 25 to 30 km with two vehicle configuration for area air defence.
- It is a truck-mounted missile with a 360 degree rotatable, electro-mechanically operated, turret-based launch unit.

Extra Shots:

Odisha: Capital City(Bhubaneshwar) CM(Naveen Patnaik) Governor(Ganeshi Lal)

Indian Army employs E cars to its Delhi officials

- The Indian Army has launched an ecological initiative by employing electric cars (E-cars) for the use of Government officials in Delhi.
- E-cars initiative was launched by the Army in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EECL) under the Ministry of Power.

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- Electric vehicle technology is an alternative to combat air pollution and to reduce carbon emission footprint. The EESL has played a vital role in providing these e-vehicles to various Government agencies.

ISRO to get Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

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

Extra Shots:

ISRO: The Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India.

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

5th edition of 'IASMC' kicks off in Jaisalmer

- The 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition was inaugurated at the Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of the Southern Command.
- Army Scout Master Teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and India are participating in the 9-day event from August 6 to 14.

Extra Shots:

Chief of Indian Army: General Bipin Rawat

IAF Sukhoi fighter jet crashes in Assam's Tezpur

- A Sukhoi fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed near Tezpur in Assam.
- The Su-30 aircraft was on a routine training mission when it crashed in the local flying area in Sonitpur district.

Cochin Shipyard launched two ro-pax vessels for IWAI

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

Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

- The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station.
- During the conference, the divisional commissioner assured of adequate availability of all basic necessities and essential services to meet the requirements of the people.

GRSE launches fifth FPV for Coast Guard

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) launched a fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

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- The name of the coast guard is Kanaklata Barua.
- The coast is named after a freedom fighter from Assam.

Jamia Millia Islamia to unveil model of INS Kolkata on 15 August

- Jamia Millia Islamia, the public central university, at New Delhi is to unveil a model of the Indian naval ship INS Kolkata at the University on 15 August, the Independence day.
- The ship model is installed outside the University's Centre For Information Technology.
- It will be unveiled by Professor Najma Akhtar, the University's vice-chancellor.
- The ship model will be cased in a thick glass.
- The steel ship model costs around Rs.12 lakh.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to visit Japan, S Korea

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a two-nation tour of Japan and South Korea on the 2nd of September.
- As part of his visit to Japan, the Minister will co-chair the Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue with his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya.
- the Ministerial Dialogue will aim to further strengthen India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership and include wide-ranging discussions to enhance the bilateral defence and security engagements between the two countries.
- In the second leg of his tour, Mr Singh will visit South Korea on the 5th of September. He will have a bilateral dialogue with Minister of National Defence Jeong Kyeong Doo. He will also call on South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak – Yon

Extra Shots:

Japan (Capital/Currency): Tokyo/Yen

- Prime Minister: Shinzō Abe

South Korea (Capital/Currency): Seoul/Won

- Prime Minister: Lee Nak-yeon

ISRO to launch Cartosat 3 in October or November

- India plans to launch Cartosat-3, its advanced satellite in the month of October-November.
- ISRO plans to launch the Cartosat-3 using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.
- ISRO was supposed to launch CartoSat-3 in May 2019. ISRO has launched 8 Cartosats so far.
- Cartosat-3 is the third series of earth observational or remote sensing satellite.
- It is an advanced version with better spatial with a range of view, and resolution of up to 0.25m or 25cm as compared to the Cartosat-2 series satellites.
- Cartosat-3 has been developed to produce high-resolution pictures for strategic applications.

Extra Shots:

ISRO: The Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India.

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

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- Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- Subsidiary: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

IAF wing Commander S Dhama became the first Flight Commander of a flying unit

- Indian Air Force's (IAF) Wing Commander S Dhama the Flight Commander of a flying unit. She became the first female officer in the country to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit. She has taken incharge as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase.

Lieu Governor launches QR Code Scheme on Himmat Plus app

- Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal launched a QR Code Scheme on the Himmat Plus app which can be used by cab or auto-rickshaw passengers to verify the identity of the driver and raise an alarm.
- A user can scan the QR code using the Himmat Plus app. The 'Report Journey' button, the app sends the location with driver's unique ID to the Himmat dashboard working at Himmat stations of the Police HeadQuarters (PHQ).

BOOKS & AUTHORS

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

- The book titled 'Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi' in Tamil language .
- It refers the life and work of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Dravidian Progressive Conference) (DMK) leader Late M Karunanidhi, the former Tamil Nadu chief minister launched by K Veeramani, president of Dravidar Kazhagam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The book was first published by Frontline.

Vice President book Listening, Learning and Leading released

- Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled "Listening, Learning and Leading" of his two years in office.
- The Book "Listening, Learning and Leading" released by Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu received the first copy.

Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar: Actor's life story all set to be published

- Penguin Random House India is all set to publish a book on her, titled Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar approved by Boney Kapoor.
- The book will be written by author and screenwriter Satyarth Nayak and will be published under the Ebury Press imprint of Penguin Random House in October 2019.

Culture Minister Prahlad Patel launches book titled- the Diary of Manu Gandhi'

- Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched the book titled- the Diary of Manu Gandhi' at a function in New Delhi.
- The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
- The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally written in Gujarati language has been edited and translated by a well known scholar Dr. Tridip Suhrud.

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- The first volume of the book covers the period of 1943-1944. Manu Gandhi was a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi.

Obama The Call of History written by Peter Baker reveals Barack Obama years in office

- A new book on Barack Obama give an in-depth account of the former US President years in office while examining his legacy publishers Penguin India. Obama: The Call of History.
- The book is written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times, chronicles a period of great hope, tumult, accomplishments.

Book on the History of Jammu & Kashmir from 1889 to 2019 titled 'Kashmir's untold story: Declassified' to be released

Book titled 'Kashmir's untold story: Declassification' by Bloomsbury publishers was announced on August 14, 2019. The book portrays the time of political and geographical consolidations of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), beginning from the era of Maharaja Gulab Singh till the present day.

Former diplomat Rajiv Dogra pens latest novel "Second Night"

Former Indian diplomat, Television commentator, writer, and artist Rajiv Dogra wrote his latest (third) novel "Second Night" published by Rupa. This novel describes and focuses on friendship, love, and loss in the life of a woman.

Culture Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the book called 'the Diary of Manu Gandhi' in New Delhi

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism has launched the book called 'the Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44) at a function in the auditorium of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. The diary was in Gujarati language & it has been edited and translated by Dr. Tridip Suvrud. It has been brought out by National Archives of India in collaboration with Oxford University Press.

COMMITTEE IN NEWS

Gujarat: 10 Task Forces formed to formulate New Industrial Policy

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has formed 10 Task Forces to examine, review and suggest inputs for formulating New Industrial Policy of the state.
- The Task Force Committee will be headed by Chief Secretary JN Singh.
- The task force has been formed under the senior officials of Forest and Environment for controlling pollution and sustainable industrial development.
- Another task force has been formed under GIDC for matters related to infrastructural development in industries and matters related to land.

Extra Shots:

Gujarat: Capital City(Gandhinagar) CM(Vijay Rupani) Governor(Acharya Dev Vrat)

AWARDS

AWARDS AND HONOURS

PERSON

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Pushkin Medal 2019	Professor Meeta Narain of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
Forbes world's highest-paid actresses list 2019	Scarlett Johansson
Smart Policing Awards at the Homeland Security 2019	Dr. Jitendra Singh
'World's Best Bank' by Euromoney magazine	DBS bank
'Eminent Engineer Award' for the Year 2019	Prabhakar Singh
Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors (IOD) 2019	Shashi Shanker
Bronze medal at the 2019 'Technovation challenge'	Five girls from Noida for developing a mobile app named 'Maitri'
first female flight commander	Shalija Dhama
Taylor Swift	Highest-paid woman in music for the year 2019
Top award at 14th 'We Care Film Fest' for 2019	Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja'
SKOCH Governance Gold Award for the year 2019	DAY-NULM
Best navratna award in manufacturing category	Indian oil and natural gas company, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
Yoga Awards 2019	Individual-National category - Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat Individual-International category - Ms. Antonietta Rozzi, Italy
Bharat Gaurav Award 2019	Kapil Dev
IBC's Highest Honor in Amsterdam	Andy Serkis
'Pride of Nation Award'	Dr Vinayak S Hiremath
Entrepreneur of the year award 2019	Ruhan Rajput
2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award	Ravish Kumar
Geographical Indication (GI) tag	Tawlhlohpuan(a woven fabric) and Mizo Puanchei(a colourful Mizo shawl) from the State of Mizoram and Tirur betel vine from Kerala
JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019	Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB
Guinness book of records	Biopic- Chrysostom
World record for solving pyraminx puzzles	Chinmay Prabhu
2019 South Asian Spelling Bee competition	Navneeth Murali
2019NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award	Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D)
Clark Bavin Award 2019	Vivek Menon
4th spot in 2019 highest paid actors list	Akshay Kumar
100 greatest places in the world by Time magazine	Statue of Unity, Mumbai's Soho House
Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space science	ISRO for 2019-2020
Honorary doctorate degree by Melbourne's La Trobe University	"Shah Rukh Khan"
"Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto" by the	Priyam Chatterjee

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govt of France	
National Award	Indresh Tripathi, a MIG police station in-charge in Indore
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award	ISRO chairman K.Sivan
2019 Charlie Chaplin award constituted by BAFTA LA	Actor Steve Coogan
Best innovation awards at 14th World Education Summit-2019	Rajasthan
GI tag	'Panchamirtham' of Palani temple
2019 Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting	Rajdeep Sardesai
66th National Film Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Hindi Film: Andhadhun • Best Action: KGF • Best Choreography: Jyoti D Tommar for Padmaavat song 'Ghoomar' • Best Music Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Padmaavat • Best Sound Designer: URI • Best Adapted Screenplay: Andhadhun • Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for Padmaavat song 'Binte Dil' • Best Female Playback Singer: Bindu Malini for Nathicharami song 'Maayavi Manave' • Best Lyrics: Nathicharami • Best Supporting Actress: Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho • Best Supporting Actor: Swanand Kirkire for Chumbak • Best Film on Social Issues: Padman • Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Badhaai Ho • Best Actor: Ayushmann Khurrana for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for URI • Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati • Best Director: Aditya Dhar for URI • Best Feature Film: Hellaro • Best Original Screenplay: Chi La Sow • Best Dialogue: Tarikh • Best Cinematography: MJ Radhakrishnan for Olu • Special Mention Awards: Sruthi Hariharan, Chandrachoor Rai, Jojo George and Savithri

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- Best Costume Design: Mahanati
- Best Production Design: Kammara Sambhavam
- Best Editing: Nathicharami
- Best Special Effects: Awe and KGF
- Best Makeup artist: Awe

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ICMR introduces 2 new TB vaccines, VPM 1002 and Immuvac

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched a trial for two new TB vaccines.
- This is India's first large-scale TB vaccine trial.
- Two thousand participants from each of the six states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka will enroll over the next seven to eight months.
- Also, seven main centres will have six sub-sites, where these trials will be conducted.

Two new vaccines:

The two new TB vaccines that are introduced by ICMR are:

- Immuvac manufactured by Cadila Pharmaceuticals
- VPM 1002 manufactured by Institute of India, Pune

The medicines are to be tested with three testing phases. Based on the results the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will decide and set the price of the vaccines.

IIT Guwahati builds hand-held device to detect bacteria

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati researchers has developed a low-cost, hand-held device for rapid detection of bacteria, bringing portable bacterial detection kits closer to reality.
- Low-cost diagnostic device is a biocompatible sensor that can detect bacteria without cell culture and microbiological assays.
- The ready-to-use diagnostic tool could facilitate rapid detection and diagnosis at the point of care.

IIT Madras introduced a method to recycle urine

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) introduced the Project Water Chakra to recycle urine.
- The project was done by an IIT-M student with 3 project staff.
- The Project Water Chakra won the Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0 award in July 2019.
- The project has developed a prototype for the Carbon Zero Challenge.

Huawei launches its own Operating System Harmony OS

- Huawei Technologies launched its own Operating System (OS) named as HongMengOS in Chinese/ HarmonyOS in English. The first version of the OS launched later in 2019.
- It is a part of Huawei's play in the Internet of Things (IoT).
- It is used across different devices from smartphones to smart speakers and even sensors.

Researchers found the stunning super massive black hole ever

- Researchers from the Max Planck Institute, Germany have found the largest black hole ever.

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- It was named Holmberg 15A.
- The study will help them figure out how exactly these black holes are formed and how many such massive blackholes are yet to be discovered.

Holmberg 15A:

- The black hole was observed at the center of Holm 15A, the central galaxy of Abell 85 which is about 700 million light-years away. The radius of the black hole is about radius is about 790 Astronomical unit (AU).

IIT Kharagpur researchers develop low-cost blood test device

- Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed a low-cost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using blood taken from a fingerprick.
- The device requires a single drop of blood and a drop of reagent (a substance used to cause a chemical reaction) on the paper-based reaction chamber.

Researchers have developed a lens that works like human eye

- Harvard researchers have developed metalens, an electronic flat lens that works like the human eye.
- The technology used in the new artificial eye will revolutionize the lenses used in cameras, VR/AR headsets and eyewear. The special features of the lens include simultaneous focus, control of aberrations caused by astigmatism and image shifts.

NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) space agency confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission.
- It is an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa with the target.
- It is conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.
- The mission is managed by the Planetary Missions Program Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Jupiter's Galilean moon Europa consists of a huge ocean of liquid water beneath its icy shell.

Extra Shots:

NASA

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

Centre organized San Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August

- Centre has organized San-Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August.
- It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for Divyangjan accessible toilets.
- San-Sadhan Hackathon is an initiative that will make the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) (Divyangjan) easier by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

IITM develops Multimodal Robotic System called "GraspMan" with a human-like grasp

- A team of researchers led by Asokan Thondiyath at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) have developed a new class of Robotic System called "GraspMan", which has a human hand like grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities.
- The research has been published in Journal of Mechanisms and Robotics.

FDA of US approves PRETOMANID new drug for drug resistant TB

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- The United States(US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave approval to a new drug named Pretomanid, for treating extensively drug-resistant Tuberculosis (XDR TB) which is estimated to have a mortality rate of 60%. Pretomanid was developed by New York based non profit organisation TB alliance.
- It is used as a combination of drugs along with bedaquiline and linezolid collectively called as BPaL regimen.

China successfully launched a new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1

- A new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1 (SD-1) with 3 satellites, developed by the China Rocket Company affiliated to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALVT) was launched successfully from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. 3 satellites were developed by 3 separate Beijing-based companies.
- They will be used for remote sensing services, communication and Internet of Things (IoT).

India Gets Its First NEDL Finalized By ICMR

- India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The objective of the list is to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that does not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). With this, India became the first country to compile such a list

Scientists discovered a new pain-sensing organ in the skin

- Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden have discovered a new mesh-like organ in the skin that senses pain and able to detect painful mechanical damage such as pricks and pressure. The study has been published in the journal, 'Science'.
- The new two-cell receptor sensory organ is made up of glial 'Schwann' cells with multiple long protrusions present below the outer layer of skin (the epidermis).

Astronomers discovered a 2nd planet called 'B Pictoris c ' for Beta Pictoris star

- Astronomers at the Institute for Planetary sciences and Astrophysics, Grenoble, France (IPAG) have discovered a 2nd planet called 'B Pictoris c'. It is roughly around 3,000 times more massive than Earth.
- It orbits Beta Pictoris star, which is about nearly twice the mass of Sun and lies about 63 light years away from Earth. The discovery was published in the journal Nature Astronomy.

US tested the first Ground-Launched Cruise Missile after the exit from INF Treaty

- After the United States exited from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, The Pentagon, headquarters of the United States Department of Defense, for the first time, tested a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile with a range of more than 500 kilometres (310 miles) at San Nicolas Island in California, United States (US).

Membranes that can separate oil and water developed by IIT Guwahati researchers

- The researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, Assam invented two distinct and special membranes that can separate oil and water, even under harsh conditions. This development is expected to be used in applications of oil spill management.
- The work is published in ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering journal.

NASA's MMS Mission took 1st high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock

- America's space agency, NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Magnetospheric Multiscale mission (MMS) has obtained 1st high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock event.

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- These shocks are launched from the Sun which continually releases streams of charged particles called the solar wind, which has 2 types, slow and fast. When a fast stream of solar wind overtakes a slower stream, it creates a shock wave. The findings have been published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Space Physics.

US startup Cerebras Systems unveils World's largest processor with 1.2 trillion transistors called Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine

- New artificial intelligence (AI) company Cerebras Systems based in United States(US) has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor, the Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine (WSE) with 1.2 trillion transistors, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips.

DRDO hands over MMR design to the Indian army

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman, and Secretary of the Department of Defence (Research & Development- R&D) G. Satheesh Reddy handed over the design of the Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian army in an event held at the DRDO bhawan in New Delhi.
- It has been designed and developed by the Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), which is DRDO's premier research laboratory.

NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) space agency, has confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission, an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa, with the target to launch by 2023.
- It will be conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa.

Russia successfully sent its First Humanoid Robot into space 'Fedor'

- Russia launched its first unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named 'Fedor' (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research) in Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- It will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS).

Amid increasing tensions with US, Iran unveils its new home-grown missile defence system, "Bavar-373"

- The Iranian Defense Ministry has unveiled its new home-grown air defence system called "Bavar- 373" at a time of increasing tensions between Iran & United States(US) since US President Donald Trump in 2018 withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear deal -2015 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.
- It is a mobile surface-to-air missile system which means "believe" in Farsi.

Ocean Power Classified As Renewable Energy By The Govt

- The proposal to declare ocean energy as renewable energy was approved by R K Singh, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister. According to the proposal, all forms of ocean energy, such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, will now be considered as renewable energy and also be eligible for meeting non-solar renewable purchase obligations (RPO)

India is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO2) in the world: Greenpeace

- According to a data released by a non-governmental environmental organization, Greenpeace, India is the world's top emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide(SO2) in the world with more than 15% of all the SO2 hotspots, tracked by NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.

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- The name of the report is "Global SO₂ emission hotspot database: Ranking the world's worst sources of SO₂ pollution". It is written by Sunil Dahiya and Lauri Myllyvirta.

WWF and Discovery tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans

- Discovery India and World Wide Fund (WWF) India have tied up with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans.
- It is done as a move to protect the Sundarbans- the mangrove forest, habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict and also as part of a global movement "Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers".

World bank reports economic growth to be affected by water pollution

- According to the World Bank report- "Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis", one-third of the potential economic growth will be affected in heavily water polluted areas leading to invisible crisis of water quality.
- Nitrogen which is used as a fertilizer in agriculture, affects the water system by entering rivers, lakes and oceans and finally transforming into nitrate

SCHEME

One Nation-one Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four States

- One Nation-One Ration Card scheme has launched on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.
- The Centre is intended to extend the programme to all states by August next year so that the portability of the food security card implemented.

Postal department decides to convert India Post Payments Bank to a SFB

- The postal department decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank.
- Aim: to provide micro credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's. Targeting the milestone of one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.
- The decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir from July 29-31, 2019.
- Objective: to adopt a 100-day action plan and a five-year vision to align the Department of Posts with the Prime Minister's "New India" initiative.
- The decision included "Converting the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a Small Finance Bank (SFB).

Extra Shots:

IPPB: India Post Payments Bank is a 100% government owned payments bank operating under the Department of Posts.

- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Parent organization: India Post
- CEO: Suresh Sethi
- Headquarter: New Delhi

Government aims to enrol 150 million workers under PM pension scheme

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- Union government has enrolled around 150 million workers over the next three years under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM).
- The pension scheme will benefit a large pool of people who earn less but form a large part of the labour market.
- The government is likely to achieve the 150 million numbers over the next two to three years. The total enrolment, 50-60 million workers will be from the construction sector.

Life Insurance Corporation of India new term plan Jeevan Amar launched

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a cheaper term plan called 'Jeevan Amar' which will extend more benefits and flexibility to its policyholders.
- This new term plan is not a market-linked plan. In non-market-linked plan, the policyholders can't claim the invested /insured amount on maturity.
- The nominee gets the death claim in case of the sudden death of an assured person during the policy term.
- The Jeevan Amar policy option to select between two categories: Smoker and non-smoker.
- **AGE:** LIC is providing this plan for people above 18 years. It is claimed till the age of 65 years with the maximum age at maturity is 80 years.

Extra Shots:

LIC: Life Insurance Corporation of India is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company.

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Founder: Government of India
- Headquarters: Mumbai

IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

Days	Celebrated as	Theme
1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	
6	Hiroshima Day	
5	National Handloom day	
9	International Day of the Indigenous Languages World's Indigenous People	
9	Nagasaki Day	
10	World Biofuel Day	Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)
12	World Elephant Day	
12	Vikram Sarabhai's 100th birth anniversary	
13	International Left-Handers Day	
13	World organ donation day	
15	India Celebrates 73rd Independence Day	

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14	Pakistan observed its Independence Day as Kashmir Solidarity Day
12	International Youth Day Transforming education
17	The Parsi New Year 'Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz'
19	World Humanitarian Day
19	World photography day
20	World Mosquito Day
20	Sadbhavana Divas or Harmony Day
21	World Senior Citizen
21	2nd International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
22	observes first International Day for Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief
23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice
August 25- September 8	National Fortnight On Eye Donation
26	Women's Equality Day
29	International Day against Nuclear Tests
29	National Sports Day
30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

OBITUARIES

NAME	DESIGNATION
VB Chandrasekhar	Former Indian cricketer
Dutch Princess Christina	The youngest sister of former Queen of the

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	Netherlands- Beatrix
Richard Williams	Triple Oscar-winning and triple BAFTA-winning animator
Peter Fonda	Hollywood actor
Rizia Rahman	Noted Bangladeshi novelist
Damodar Ganesh Bapat	Padma Shri awardee and renowned social worker
Neelam Sharma	Former DD news anchor
Umesh Bhat Bhavikeri	Former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Ankola (Karnataka)
Niranjan Singh Tasneem	Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi (1999) award winner
Ranjit Guru	Veteran Odisha based journalist
Jagannath Mishra	Former Bihar chief minister
Mohammed Zahur 'Khayyam' Hashmi	Veteran music director-composer
Babulal Gaur	Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh
Dayanidhi Nayak	Renowned freedom fighter
Takis (Panayiotis Vassilakis)	Greek sculptor
Amarendra Sharan	Former Additional Solicitor General (ASG)
Vidya Sinha	Veteran actress
José Luis Brown	Argentina's football legend
Madan Mani Dixit	Nepal's veteran Journalist
DJ Arafat	Ivorian musician
Shri ArunJaitley	Former finance minister
Noel Kelman	Former Indian Navy Commander
Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya	India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP)
Navnitbhai Shah	Socialist leader and former MLA
Mukerian Rajnish Kumar Babbi	Punjab Congress MLA
Nimu Bhowmik	Veteran Bengali actor
Ferdinand Karl Piëch	Architect of Volkswagen's global expansion
Nicolas Leoz	Former South American football chief
Valerie Harper	Veteran comedian and four-time Emmy winner
D.A. Pennebaker	Oscar-winning documentary maker
Situ Mallick	National Bravery Award winner
Kanti Bhatt	Veteran Gujarati journalist, author, and columnist
Anant Setalvad	Veteran cricket commentator of All India Radio
Jean Arasanayagam	Renowned Srilankan contemporary poet and fiction writer
YG Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy	Noted educationalist, journalist and social worker
Bjorg Lambrecht	Belgian cyclist

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J. Om Prakash	Veteran Bollywood filmmaker
Toni Morrison	Nobel Prize winning novelist
Sushma Swaraj	Former external affairs minister
V. G. Siddhartha Hegde	Indian coffee tycoon
Malcolm Nash	Former England cricketer
Karpuri Devi	Madhubani painting and Sujni artist
Steve Sawyer	Greenpeace warrior & a founder of Global Wind Energy Council

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