



Current Affairs - Aug 2019

Month Type



- 140 Current Affairs were found in Period - Aug 11 - 20, 2019 for Type - All

Appointments

- ▶ Alejandro Giammattei has been elected as new president of Guatemala (Central America).
- ▶ Government appointed VG Somani as Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), to head Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- ▶ Noted Indian sprinter P.T. Usha has been appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission, as her 2nd appointment at the post.
- ▶ Noted biologist Chandrima Shaha became first woman to get elected as President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA), for 3 years.
- ▶ Ravi Shastri has been re-appointed as head coach of Indian men's cricket team till 2021 by Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).
- ▶ Ravinder Takkar has been appointed as MD and CEO of Telecom Firm Idea-Vodafone, replacing Balesh Sharma.

[Top](#)

Awards

- ▶ Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad Scientist K Thangaraj has been selected 2019's J C Bose Fellowship for his outstanding contribution in the field of population and medical genomics.
- ▶ Biographical documentary "100 Years of Chrysostum" will receive Guinness Award in category of longest documentary. It is based on life of Philipose Mar Chrysostum, directed by filmmaker Blessy. It is 48-hour and 8 minutes long documentary.
 1. Former Padma Bhushan awardee Philipose Mar Chrysostum is a Metropolitan Emeritus of Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.
- ▶ France government conferred Indian Chef Priyam Chatterjee with 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mrite Agricoleto' (Order of Agricultural Merit), in recognition of his great contribution towards reinventing gastronomic scene in India.
- ▶ ISRO Chairman K.Sivan has been conferred with Tamil Nadu Government's Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award, for his extraordinary contribution in India's Space Programme.
- ▶ India Today TV journalist Rajdeep Sardesai won 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for his Outstanding Political Reporting over three decades, honored by Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust in New Delhi. The award carries cash prize of INR 2 lakhs.
 1. Another award, for Environment reporting was given to Down to Earth's Ishan Kukreti and journalist Sharada Balasubramaniam.
- ▶ Indian Actor Shah Rukh Khan felicitated with 'Excellence in Cinema' honour at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2019 (Australia). 2019 marks 10th edition of festival in Victoria (cultural city of Australia).
- ▶ National Sports Awards 2019 announced -
 1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (Highest Sports honor in India) - Para Games athlete Deepa Malik and wrestler Bajrang Punia.
 2. Arjuna Award -
 1. Ravindra Jadeja (cricket)
 2. Poonam Yadav (cricket)

3. Mohammed Anas Yahiya (athletics)
4. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (football)
5. Sonia Lather (boxing)
6. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (hockey)
7. S Bhaskaran (bodybuilding)
8. Ajay Thakur (kabaddi)
9. Anjum Moudgil (shooting)
10. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (badminton),
11. Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (athletics)
12. Pramod Bhagat (para sports-badminton)
13. Harmeet Rajul Desai (table tennis)
14. Pooja Dhanda (wrestling)
15. Fouaad Mirza (equestrian)
16. Simran Singh Shergill (polo)
17. Swapna Burman (athletics)
18. Sundar Singh Gurjar (para sports-athletics)
19. Gaurav Singh Gill (motorsports).
3. Dronacharya Award (For Outstanding Coaches in Sports)
 1. Regular - Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Vimal Kumar (badminton).
 2. Lifetime - Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Mezban Patel (hockey).
4. Dhyan Chand Award (Lifetime Achievement in Sports / Games) - Manoj Kumar (wrestling), C Lalremasanga (archery), Arup Basak (table tennis), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and Manuel Fredricks (hockey).
5. Malualna Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy -
 1. Panjab University Chandigarh - 1st Place.
 2. Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) Amritsar - 2nd Place.
 3. Punjabi University Patiala - 3rd Place.
6. About the awards -
 1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna -
 1. Named after former PM Rajiv Gandhi, It was instituted in 1991-92. First recipient was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. In this, a medal, a citation and 7.5 lakh rupees are given to the winner.
 2. Arjuna Award -
 1. It was instituted in 1961, as India's second-highest sporting award. It is bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for four years.
 2. It carries bronze statuette of Arjuna, a scroll and a monetary award of 5 lakh rupees.
 3. Dhyan Chand Award -
 1. It is lifetime achievement sporting honour in India, named after legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand. It has been given since 2002. It comprises a statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of 5 lakh.
 4. Dronacharya Award -
 1. It is awarded for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games, named after Guru Drona, a character from epic *Mahabharata* of ancient India. It was instituted in 1985.
 2. Award comprises a bronze statuette of Dronacharya, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of 5 lakh.
7. Govt had recently constituted a 12-member selection panel for national sports awards, headed by SC judge (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma.
 1. Panel including six-time world champion boxer M. C. Mary Kom and former football captain Bhaichung Bhutia.
 2. National sports awards will be given away on National Sports Day, August 29, the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand. According to the Sports Ministry, it is a new idea of one selection committee for all the awards.

Top

Books

1. ▶ Book, titled 'Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar' will be launched on Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary, written by Satyarth Nayak.

2. ▶ New Book titled *Kashmir's untold story: Declassification*, written by Iqbal Chand Malhotra and Maroof Raza will be released in September 2019. It portrays time of political and geographical consolidations of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), beginning from era of Maharaja Gulab Singh till present.
3. ▶ New novel *A splendid Second Night* written by Rajiv Dogra has been released.
4. ▶ Noted actor Anupam Kher's autobiography titled "Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly" has been launched.

[Top](#)

Committees

1. ▶ Govt. has set up A three member committee to resolve dispute between the Indian Railways and Steel Authority of India (SAIL) regarding issues related to the quantity and supply of high-quality steel rails.
 1. Doubts based on quality of rails supplied by SAIL arose after a team from the University of Illinois conducted a study Transportation Technology Transfer (TTT). Study stated that tensile strength of the existing tracks were not adequate for 25-tonne axle load operations.
 2. SAIL reported that the rails were supplied after stringent (strict) inspection was done by RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service), a third party inspection agency.
2. ▶ Injeti Srinivas, Secretary (Corporate Affairs) submitted Report of High Level Committee on CSR to Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
 1. Committee made several recommendations, including making CSR expenditure tax deductible, provision for carry forward of unspent balance for a period of 3 – 5 years, aligning Schedule 7 with the SDGs by adopting a SDG plus framework, balancing local area preferences with national priorities etc.
 2. The High Level Committee on CSR was constituted in October 2018 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Corporate Affairs) to review existing CSR framework and make recommendations on strengthening the CSR ecosystem.
3. ▶ 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 multiple taxes can be removed, enabling airlines to save upto 400 crores annually.
4. ▶ National green tribunal formed a committee to examine the allegations of illegal sand mining in Yamuna River.
5. ▶ Panel headed by CBDT member Akhilesh Ranjan submitted report to Finance Ministry, to replace Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code(DTC).
 1. Idea to replace Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 was given by PM Narendra Modi in September 2017, stating that Income-Tax Act 1961, had been drafted more than 50 years ago and needed a change.

[Top](#)

Days

1. ▶ Aug 12 - International Youth Day, proclaimed by UN General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1999. 2019 Theme is *Transforming education*.
 1. On this occasion, National Youth Awards 2016-17 were conferred upon 20 individuals (aged between 15-29 years) and 3 organizations.
 2. Aug 12 is also Observed as World Elephant Day, being observed since 2012.
2. ▶ Aug 12, 2019 marks 100th Birth anniversary of ISRO Founder Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, known as father of India's Space Programme.
3. ▶ Aug 13 - World organ donation day. Aug 13 is also observed as International Left-Handers Day.
4. ▶ Aug 15, 2019 - 73rd Independence Day of India.
 1. PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation from Red fort in Delhi.
 1. PM announced that government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households, amid rising need of water conservation. It will focus on integrated management of water including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability such as groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and reuse of household wastewater in agriculture.
 2. PM also announced appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff, who will be a 5 Star rank officer and will be above 3 Service Chiefs. CDS will be a single-point military advisor to government who will coordinate long-term planning, procurements, training and logistics of services.

2. On this occasion, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh dedicated 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to people who were killed in Jallianwala Bagh massacre and unsung heroes who were incarcerated in Andaman Cellular jail during freedom struggle. Jung-E-Azadi Memorial is being built in Kartarpur, near Jalandhar.
3. President Ram Nath Kovind approved 132 Gallantry Awards and other decorations to Personnel of Armed and Paramilitary Forces.
 1. Awards include 2 Kirti Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 8 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 90 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 5 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 7 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 5 Yudh Seva Medals.
 2. Kirti Charka - Sapper Prakash Jadhav, Hasrshpal Singh
 3. Vir Chakra - Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman.
 1. Abhinandan was on a mission to defend Indian Borders amid recent standoff between India and Pakistan after recent Pulwama Terror Attack in which 40 CRPF Personnel were martyred.
 2. After this attack Indian Air Force carried out air strikes in Pakistan, destroying a major Jaish-E-Mohammad Terror camp in Balakot, killing over 300 Terrorists. As a response to this air strike, Pakistan sent over 20 F-16 American Fighter Jets, which intruded into India but were unable to do any harm due to swift reaction by Indian Defender Jets.
 3. Among these jets was a Mig-21, which carried Abhinandan Varthaman. Abhinandan followed the Pakistani F-16s, downing one before getting down itself due to some damage.
 4. Abhinandan ejected and was flown to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, where he was surrounded by Pakistani Mob who harmed him physically. He was later captured by Pakistan Army.
 5. As per Geneva convention, Pakistan was bound to return Abhinandan as he was on National Duty. The same happened, and Abhinandan was returned to India within 60 Hours.
 6. Along with Abhinandan, 5 Vay Sena Medals are awarded to pilots who carried out Airstrikes in Balakot after Pulwama attacks.
 4. Shaura Chakra - Ajay Singh Kushwah, Vibhuti Shankar Dhoundiyal, Maheshkumar Bhure, Sandeep Singh, Brajesh Kumar, Hari Singh, Ajveer Singh Chauhan, Shive Kumar, Amit Singh Rana, Sable Dnyaneshwar Shriram, Zaker Hussain, Shiq Hussain Malik, Subash Chander, Imran Hussain Tak.
 5. Along with Gallantry awards to Defence Forces -
 1. 06 personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were honored with Police Medals.
 2. 56 personnel have been awarded Fire Service Medals and 44 personnel have also been awarded Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals.
4. On this occasion, Air India became 1st Indian airline to fly over North Pole while connecting New Delhi and North America. Inaugural flight over Polar region took off from New Delhi to San Francisco.
5. In Chhattisgarh, a 15-km long national flag was unfurled on this occasion. This event was organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation, to enter Champions Book of World Records (for longest tricolour).
6. President also awarded Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman on occasion of Independence Day -
 1. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awardees -
 1. SANSKRIT - Ashok thapliyal, Sujata Tripathi, Sanju Mishra, Abhijit Hanmant Joshi, Sharach chandra Dwivedi
 2. PALI - Anoma Shriram Sakhare
 3. PRAKRIT - Ashish Kumar Jain
 4. ARABIC - Dr. Fauzan ahmad
 5. PERSIAN - ER.M. Shahbaz Alam
 6. CLASSICAL KANNADA - G B harisha, S. Karthik, Dr. M. Byrappa
 7. CLASSICAL TELUGU - Addanki Srinivas, V. Triveni, DK Prabhakar
 8. CLASSICAL MALAYALAM - Rajeev RR, Santhosh Thottingal
 9. CLASSICAL ODIA - Subrat Kumar Prusty
 2. In addition, President also awarded certificate of honor to -
 1. SANSKRIT - 15 Awardees
 2. PALI - Uma Shankar Vyas
 3. PRAKRIT - Kamal Chand Sogani
 4. ARABIC - Faizanullah Farooqi, Mohammad iqbal Husain, Mohd. Samiullah Khan
 5. PERSIAN - Iraq Raza Zaidi, Chander Shekhar, Mohammad sidiq Niazmand

6. CLASSICAL KANNADA - Hampa Nagarajaiah
 7. CLASSICAL TELUGU - Ravva Srihari
 8. CLASSICAL MALAYALAM - CP Achuthan Unny
 9. CLASSICAL ODIA - Antaryami mishra
5. ▶ Aug 19 - UN World Humanitarian Day. 2019 theme is 'Women Humanitarians'. It is dedicated to recognize humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes.
1. Aug 19 is also observed as World Photography Day.
 2. Aug 19 is also birth anniversary of 9th president of India - Shanker Dayal Sharma.
6. ▶ Aug 20 is observed as Sadbhavana Diwas, commemorating birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi.
1. Aug 20 is also observed as World Mosquito Day.
7. ▶ Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz, is celebrated every year on August 17 to mark beginning of new Iranian calendar.

Top

Defence

1. ▶ DRDO transferred design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army, Developed by Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES). MMR has load bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT), to reduce Strategic Mobility time of mobilising Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs).
2. ▶ Defence Ministry approved setting up of a Committee under Chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition) (currently *Apurva Chandra*) to review Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009. Committee will revise and align procedures, to ensure seamless flow from asset acquisition to life cycle support.
3. ▶ Defence minister Rajnath Singh approved extension of benefits of Child Care Leave (CCL) to single male service personnel as well as certain relaxations of CCL provisions in case of women officers of defence forces. Currently, Child Care Leave (CCL) is granted only to women officers in defence forces.
4. ▶ Home Ministry stated that all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.
 1. This corrects anomaly where CAPF personnel between ranks of Constable to Commandant in 4 forces - CRPF, BSF, ITBP and SSB superannuated at age of 57, instead of 60. While officers from rank of Deputy Inspector General upto top-most rank of Director General in these 4 forces retired after attaining age of 60.
5. ▶ Indian Army launched "Mission Reach Out", aimed to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
6. ▶ Indian Navy will host multilateral naval exercise named 'MILAN' at Visakhapatnam in March 2020. MILAN is a biennial exercise, which started in 1995.
7. ▶ Indian Navy's INS Tarkash participated in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain, off South Coast of United Kingdom (UK).
8. ▶ New Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) named Kanaklata Barua has been launched.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ 4th Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19 released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare -
 1. Foodgrains – 284.95 million tonnes.
 1. Rice – 116.42 million tonnes. (record)
 2. Wheat – 102.19 million tonnes (record)
 3. Nutri / Coarse Cereals – 42.95 million tonnes.
 4. Maize – 27.23 million tonnes.
 5. Pulses – 23.40 million tonnes.
 6. Gram – 10.13 million tonnes.
 7. Tur – 3.59 million tonnes.
 2. Oilseeds – 32.26 million tonnes.

1. Soyabean – 13.79 million tonnes
2. Rapeseed and Mustard – 9.34million tonnes
3. Groundnut – 6.69 million tonnes
3. Cotton – 28.71 million bales (of 170 kg each)
4. Sugarcane – 400.16 million tonnes (record)
5. As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2018-19, total Foodgrain production in country is estimated at 284.95 million tonnes which is higher by 19.20 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of foodgrain.
2. ▶ As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), 33% of India's skilled youth are jobless. Nearly a third of trained young men and more than a third of trained young women were unemployed.
3. ▶ Cab aggregator Ola acquired Pikup.ai, an Artificial Intelligence startup based in Bengaluru. In Acquiring, staff of target company joins acquiring firm.
4. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) announced that a Document Identification Number (DIN) will be allotted to all communications made by tax department to assesseees, for better taxpayer services and accountability in official dealing.
5. ▶ Government issued a scheme named *Partial Credit Guarantee offered by Government of India (GoI) to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) for purchasing high-rated pooled assets from financially sound Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)/Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)*.
 1. Scheme would enable public sector banks (PSBs) to purchase pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs amounting to Rs. one lakh crore.
 2. Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. *Nirmala Sitharaman* in her Budget Speech for Union Budget 2019-20 had made the announcement to support fundamentally sound Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in getting continued funding from banks.
 3. Announcement said - *For purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs, amounting to a total of Rupees One lakh crore during the current financial year, Government will provide one time six months' partial credit guarantee to Public Sector Banks for first loss of up to 10%.*
 4. Window for one-time partial credit guarantee offered by Govt. will open from date of issuance of Scheme for period of six months, or till such date by which Rupees One lakh crore assets get purchased by banks, whichever is earlier.
 5. One-time guarantee provided by Govt. on pooled assets will be valid for 24 months and can be invoked on occurrence of default.
 6. Eligible NBFCs/HFCs (as on as on 31-03-2019) -
 1. CRAR of NBFCs/CAR of HFCs should not be below regulatory minimum (i.e. 15% for NBFCs and 12% for HFCs) as on 31-3-2019.
 2. Non-Performing Asset should not be more than 6% .
 3. Micro Finance Institutions and Core Investment Companies are not covered under the Scheme.
 7. NBFCs/HFCs can sell up to a maximum of 20% of their standard assets subject to a cap of Rs. 5,000 crore at fair value. Any additional amount above 5,000 crore will be considered on *pro rata* basis. Individual asset size in pool is capped at Rs. 5 crore.
 8. NBFCs/HFCs will pay a fee equivalent to 0.25% per annum of the fair value of assets being purchased by bank under this Scheme to GoI.
6. ▶ Govt. approved additional central assistance of Rs. 4432.10 crore to three States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) - 3338.22 crores to Odisha for Cyclone Fani, 1029 crore to Karnataka for drought and 64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh for avalanches and hailstorm.
7. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Govt. announced to waive off loans taken from non-licensed money-lenders by tribals living in 89 scheduled villages in Chhindwara, to make tribals debt-free. Government will also provide tribals with debit cards. Through this, they can withdraw up to Rs 10,000 from ATMs installed at weekly markets.
 1. State Government also announced "Mukhyamantri Madad Yojna" for providing assistance to tribal families on childbirth and death of a family member. Under this, tribal family will get 50 kg of rice/wheat, on birth of a child. In case of death, 100 kg of rice or wheat and utensils for cooking food would be given.
8. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed agreement to invest \$23 million in non-convertible debentures(NCD) being issued by GRIL (GR Infraprojects Limited), to support road sector investment plans of India. This will promote GIRL's ability for construction of roads and highways in India through purchase of new building equipment.

9. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended Companies (Share Capital & Debentures) Rules by removing Debenture Redemption Reserve requirement for Listed Companies, NCFs and HFCs. Provisions relating to creation of Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) have been revised for -
 1. Removing requirement for creation of a DRR of 25% of value of outstanding debentures in respect of listed companies, NBFCs registered with RBI and for HFCs registered with National Housing Bank (NHB) both for public issue as well as private placements.
 2. Reduction in DRR for unlisted companies from present 25% to 10% of outstanding debentures.
 3. Till now, Listed Companies had to create a DRR for both Public Issue as well as Private Placement of Debentures, while NBFCs & HFCs had to create DRR only when they opted for Public Issue of Debentures. It is aimed at creating a level-playing field between NBFCs, HFCs and listed companies' on one hand and also between them and Banking Companies & All India Financial Institutions on other, which are already exempted from DRR.
10. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended provisions relating to issue of shares with Differential Voting Rights (DVRs) under Companies Act 2013, to help startups by enabling promoters of Indian companies to retain control of their companies, even they raise equity capital from global investors.
 1. Raising equity capital from global investors with DVR shares now making up to 74% of total voting rights instead of existing 26%.
 2. Requirement of distributable profits for 3 years period has removed for a company to be eligible to issue shares with DVR.
11. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) stated that Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) stood at 220.18 million with transaction value 9685 crores during July 2019. This will help improve the reaching out of financial inclusion in India. AePS allows a bank customer to use Aadhaar as an identity to access respective Aadhaar enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions.
12. ▶ Oyo Hotels and Homes partnered with ACKO General Insurance to provide a complimentary insurance cover of upto 10 Lakh as part of booking price for guests at its hotels across India.
13. ▶ RBI asked banks not to count failed transactions at ATMs due to technical reasons, as part of "free ATM transactions", which are permitted every month. RBI said that Using ATMs for non-cash withdrawal transactions also should be not part of the free transactions facility.
14. ▶ RBI issued final draft *enabling framework for regulatory sandbox (RS)* for fintech startups, enabling them to set up their own regulatory sandbox for live testing of innovative products in the areas of retail payments, digital KYC(Know your customer) and wealth management. It will be for firms that have minimum net worth of INR 25 lakh.
 1. RS refers to live testing of new products/services in a secure & controlled regulatory environment, where the regulators can allow certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
 2. It also permits carrying out field tests so that benefits and risks of emerging financial innovations can be evaluated.
 3. Concept of Regulatory Sandbox was proposed by a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen, former executive director of RBI.
15. ▶ Saudi Arabia's oil firm Saudi Aramco will acquire 20 % stake of Reliance Industries's oil and chemicals business for about \$15 billion (approx Rs 1.06 lakh crores).
 1. As part of deal, Aramco will supply 700,000 barrels per day on a long-term basis of crude oil to Reliance's twin refineries(Reliance & petrochemical complex) at Jamnagar in Gujarat, which has capacity of 68.2 million tonnes per annum.
 2. Reliance also announced launch of Jio Fiber, its promising optical fibre-based service that was announced last year. It will provide broadband speeds upto 1GBPS, along with a bundled landline connection and DTH Service. Commercial launch of jio Fiber will begin from Sep 5, 2019.

Top

International

1. ▶ As per NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, July 2019 was hottest July Month ever recorded, with average temperatures in July 2019 being 1.71 degrees F above 20th-century average of 60.4 degrees. It also shrank Arctic and Antarctic sea ice to historic lows.
2. ▶ As per environmental organization Greenpeace, India is world's top emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide(SO₂), with over 15% of all SO₂ hotspots, tracked by NASA' OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.
 1. Norilsk smelter complex in Russia is the largest SO₂ emission hotspot in world, followed by China, Mexico, Zagros (Iran) and Kriel in Mpumalanga province (South Africa).

2. SO₂ is produced from burning of coal in power plants and other industries and it is known to largely contribute to air pollution.
3. ▶ As per global assessment of forest biodiversity titled *Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations* by *World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)*, number of forest wildlife populations have declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.
 1. 60 % of threats accounted from Habitat loss, 40 out of 112 forest-dwelling primate populations threatened due to over exploitation & 43% amphibian populations, 37 % of reptile populations, 21 % of bird populations were threatened due to Climate change.
4. ▶ China launched a new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1 (SD-1) with 3 satellites, to be used for remote sensing services, communication and Internet of Things (IoT). SD-1 carrier rocket is capable of sending 200 kg payloads to solar synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 km.
5. ▶ Denmark's Jyske Bank launched world's first negative interest rate mortgage - with Minus 0.5% annual interest rate.
 1. Jyske bank borrowers will make a monthly repayment as usual, but amount still outstanding will be reduced each month by more than borrower has paid. Throughout repayment period, borrower will actually pay lesser than it borrowed.
6. ▶ During recent visit of Piyush Goyal (Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways) to Vladivostok (Russia), India and Russia agreed to Boost Ties To Achieve \$30 Billion In Bilateral Trade By 2025.
7. ▶ Germany based Financial Major Deutsche Bank will trigger major overhaul by creating a so-called *bad bank*, that would house or sell assets valued at up to 50 billion euros (\$56 billion), after adjusting for risk and comprising mainly long-dated derivatives.
8. ▶ Iceland commemorated loss of 1st glacier "Okjokull", lost due to climate change with a bronze plaque unveiled for the same. Plaque bears inscription "A letter to the future". Okjokull was officially declared dead in 2014 at age of 700 years.
9. ▶ India contributed \$1 million to help reform the United Nations (UN) Development system by contributing to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) for the resident coordinator system. SPTF is a specific fund established mainly to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions in an efficient and transparent way.
10. ▶ India suspended weekly Jodhpur-Munabao Thar Link Express amid ongoing issues with Pakistan over Kashmir row. Earlier, India had cancelled Samjhauta Express after Pakistan had suspended all train services to India.
 1. Thar Express is Indian portion of international passenger train operated weekly (every Saturday morning), between Jodhpur and Munabao in India.
 2. Passengers from Munabao (Rajasthan) are taken to Karachi (Pakistan) via Munabao - Khokhrapar (Pakistan's Sindh province) crossing.
11. ▶ Newly discovered Kajin Sara lake in Nepal is likely to be world's highest lake, located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality in Manang district of Nepal. It is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, estimated to be 1,500-metre-long and 600-metre-wide. Once its location is verified, it will be world's highest lake.
 1. Current highest lake is Tilicho Lake, at an altitude of 4919 metres in Nepal. It is 4 km long, 1.2 km wide and 200 metres deep.
12. ▶ South Korea removed Japan from its preferred trade list, because Japan failed to uphold international principles while managing its export controls on sensitive materials. Preferred trade list is a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade.
13. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved new drug-Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant strain of Tuberculosis (TB), developed by New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance. It is used alongside two other antibiotics (bedaquiline and linezolid) to treat extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis.
14. ▶ US tested a ground-launched cruise missile with range over 500 kilometres, range which was prohibited under recently abolished Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia. It was signed in 1987 and banned land-based missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 km. US had withdrawn in August 2019.

Top

Meetings

1. ▶ 5th BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting held in Sao Paulo (Brazil), attended by Prakash Javadekar (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), on India's Behalf.
2. ▶ BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was held in run-up to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in December 2019 in Chile (South America). India was represented by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.
 1. BASIC bloc of four advanced developing countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) was established in 2009.

National

1. ▶ 16 State Governments signed MoU with Ministry of Textiles to take Samarth - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS) forward. After the training employment will be provided to all beneficiaries in various textiles related activities, covering entire value chain of textiles sector except spinning and weaving.
 1. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a new skill development scheme, called "Samarth" - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)" from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It aims at skill development of 10 lakh youth upto 2020, with outlay of 1300 crores.
2. ▶ Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched a Special Drive with a Code Name - Operation "Number Plate" to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in 'No Parking' areas for longer duration.
3. ▶ A Peace agreement signed between Central Government, State government of Tripura and Tripura's banned insurgency group National Liberation Front of Twipra led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma (NLFT-SD). NLFT-SD agreed to abjure path of violence and join mainstream.
4. ▶ A rare variety of tea named 'Golden Butterfly' from Upper Assam's Dikom Tea Estate has set a new record after being auctioned for INR 75,000 per kg at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC). 'Golden Butterfly' tea is characterised by extremely mellow and sweet caramel flavour.
 1. Earlier, 'Maijan Golden Tips' tea was sold for 70501 / kg and Manohari Gold' (from Manohari Gold Estate in Dibrugarh) was sold at 50,000/Kg.
5. ▶ According to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) -
 1. Total forest cover in India is 24.49 % of geographical area.
 2. Lowest forest and tree cover is in Haryana (6.79 %), followed by Punjab (6.87 %), Rajasthan (7.26%).
 3. Highest forest and tree cover - Union Territory of Lakshadweep (97%).
 4. Out of 6 States with highest forest and tree cover, four are in Northeast India - Mizoram (88.84%), Arunachal Pradesh (80.93%), Meghalaya (79.37%) and Manipur (78.68%). Goa and Kerala have more than 50 % of geographical area as forest / tree cover.
6. ▶ Agricultural Ministry will launch a farm equipment rental app to aid farmers in accessing advance technology at affordable prices. Through this, small farmers will be able to make use of tools that are expensive to own. It has been named Uber for tractors. Trial run for the app was conducted in Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.
7. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched 'Village Volunteers System' aimed at providing government services at doorsteps of people, to be officially launched on 2 October 2019. It is aimed at providing governance services at doorsteps of people. Village secretariats would be set up in each village to deliver governance to people in 72 hours.
 1. Under this scheme, State govt had recently invited applications for recruitment of over 4 Lakh volunteers. 1 volunteer will cover 50 families in each village and they would get an allowance of Rs. 5000 per month.
8. ▶ As per Govt. Data, there has been a 41% reduction in stubble burning incidents in 2018 as compared to 2016, in States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi'. The scheme launched for the purpose had outlay of 1151.80 Crores.
9. ▶ Bar Council of India (BCI) imposed 3 year moratorium (stay) on opening of new institutions except for national law universities (NLUs), if proposed by a state. This has been decided to curb mushrooming of law colleges and improve standard of existing institutions.
 1. BCI can approve / recognize LLB degree and LLM and Ph.D degrees are not under its control.
10. ▶ Chhattisgarh government announced increase in reservation for Scheduled caste (SC) from 12% to 13% and for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 14% to 27%. Now, reservation in state has reached 72 %, well above limit of 50 % mandated by Supreme court.
 1. New district named "Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi" was also announced, to be carved out of Bilaspur. State will now have 28 districts.
 2. Development of Lemru forest area as 'Lemru elephant reserve' was also announced.
 3. State govt. will also launch a new scheme 'Suposhan Abhiyan' on October 2, 2019, to fight malnutrition.
11. ▶ Environment ministry launched website unccdcop14india.gov.in with information related to COP14. 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14) will take place on 2-13 September 2019 at Greater Noida (UP).
12. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 11 - 20, 2019) -

1. India's first-of-its-kind clinical ecotoxicology facility inaugurated at AIIMS Delhi, to investigate increasing number of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food, and air.
2. Karnataka government launched E-Step, an initiative to empower student start-ups, as part of Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS).
3. HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar released patriotic song "Watan" produced by Doordarshan to mark Independence Day 2019. It is sung by Javed Ali, penned by Alok Shrivastav and composed by Dushyant.
4. MoU signed between Naval Air Enclave (NAE) Kochi and Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), in connection with commencement of naval air operations from NAE, a naval aviation facility.
5. Japanese Ship JS Sazanami visited Kochi (Kerala) on a goodwill visit.
6. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy organised Curtain Raiser ceremony for 3rd Edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2019). RE-INVEST 2019 will be held in October - November 2019 in Indi, coinciding with 2nd Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA).
7. 9 Day event Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival), initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) held at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh. Theme is *A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce*.
8. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik dedicated 'The Rath', a steel monument seeking to accentuate Odisha's diverse culture and rich heritage, built at Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar.
9. Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) organized exhibition on 'DAE Technologies: Empowering India through Technology' in New Delhi.
10. A two-day International Conference titled 'Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global' held in New Delhi, organized by National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee (25 years) celebration of its establishment in 1995.
11. 2nd meeting of Govt formed High Powered Committee of chief ministers headed by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income, under NITI Aayog held in Mumbai.
12. India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants has been operationalised.
13. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) launched a nationwide Hackathon called "San-Sadhan" for Divyang/ physically challenged people accessible toilets, to be held from September 14-15, 2019 in New Delhi.
14. Indian and Sri Lankan Coast Guards agreed for establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional co-operation.
13. ► Geographical Indications Registry under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Tirur betel leaf from Kerala, Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.
 1. Tirur betel Leaf (Kerala) is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District of Kerala.
 2. Tawlhlohpuan (Mizoram) is compactly woven fabric from Mizoram. It is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving and intricate designs that are made by hand.
 3. Mizo Puanchei (Mizoram) is colourful Mizo shawl considered essential by most women from State and common costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies.
 4. GI product is recognised as originating from specific geographical origin. This tag is exclusive and similar item originating from different location is not allowed to use it.
14. ► Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district, has been declared as state's first 'Community Reserve'. Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east. It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.
15. ► Government assured that ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants will not be increased beyond 10% in a given year and it will monitor price increase as per Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) 2013.
16. ► Government made "Headgear" mandatory for children above 4 years while travelling on a motorcycle. The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019. Only Sikhs wearing turban have been exempted from provision of Section 129 that makes helmets mandatory for all riders of motorcycles above 4 years of age.
17. ► Govt. announced First-Ever Global Investors Summit in Jammu & Kashmir to be held in October 2019. It will be a major push to bring investment in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh region, after recent bifurcation of J& K in 2 Union Territories.

18. ▶ Govt. appointed Harshad Pandurang Thakur as Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare Delhi.
19. ▶ Govt. reconstituted Inter-State Council , with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman and 6 Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of all states / UTs as members.
 1. Member Union Ministers -
 1. Amit Shah (Home)
 2. Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance)
 3. Rajnath Singh (Defence)
 4. Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj)
 5. Thaawar Chand Gehlot (Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment)
 6. Hardeep Singh Puri (Minister of State (IC) of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)
 2. Article 263 of Constitution provides for establishment of an Inter-State Council which will advise upon disputes that may arise between states.
 3. Government reconstituted standing committee of the Inter-State Council with chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah. 4 Union ministers and 8 chief ministers are members.
20. ▶ Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (IC) for Housing & Urban Affairs launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020), the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 1. Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar – an integrated waste management app and AI enabled mSBM App were also launched.
 2. Earlier, Swachh Survekshan League 2020 (SS League 2020) was launched with objective of sustaining the on ground performance of cities along with continuous monitoring of service level performance on cleanliness.
 3. Swachh Survekshan 2020 field survey will be conducted in January 2020.
21. ▶ IIT Kanpur developed a kit in collaboration with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to spread awareness about sexual abuse among children. The kit can be used in classrooms for kids aged between 8-12 and in a group of 30-35 students in one session.
22. ▶ ISRO associated First space museum of India opened at Hyderabad (Telangana), housed in Birla Science Museum. It aims to spread knowledge on science and technology and also as a way to encourage young students to explore space.
23. ▶ India got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), aiming to bridge regulatory system's gap that does not cover all medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). India is first country to compile such a list.
 1. NEDL builds upon Free Diagnostics Service Initiative and other diagnostics initiatives of Health Ministry to provide expanded basket of tests at different levels of public health system. It will enable improved health care services delivery through evidence-based care, improved patient outcomes and reduction in expenditure.
24. ▶ Indian Railways' 2nd UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to busy route in East Coast Railway zone (ECOR).
 1. 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018.
 2. UDAY ExpressIt is a specially-designed double decker air conditioned train with chair car coaches which is primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. It is equipped with several advanced facilities.
25. ▶ India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to boost chemical industry. Government is also planning to set up Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.
26. ▶ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 (SSG 2019) in New Delhi, to be instituted from August 14 to September 30, 2019. SSG 2019 will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India.
 1. With over 5.8 lakh villages, 639 districts, and 32 States/UTs declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) in rural India, India is poised to be completely Open Defecation Free by October 2, 2019.
27. ▶ Karnataka government amended Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison", to strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes. Govt also ordered suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes.
28. ▶ Manipur CM N Biren Singh launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme with the aim to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.
29. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) signed MoU with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) to work jointly on National Solar Mission.

1. NSM was inaugurated in 2010, with a target of 20GW by 2022, which was later increased by PM Modi government to 100 GW by 2022.
30. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announced “Mo Sarkar” initiative, to ensure transparency in governance focusing fully on the common public and will be commenced from October 2, 2019. Govt. will work on this initiative to ensure that people get their rights with help of the 5T mantras - Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Transformation and Time.
31. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched online revenue payment system, enabling easier land revenue payments-online, as first such initiative of State revenue department of Odisha under 5-T mantra - Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Time and Transformation.
32. ▶ Odisha Government approved ‘Integrated Management Plan of Chilika and Ansupa Lake’ for conservation of ecology and promotion of sustainable livelihood of fishermen living around two wetlands. The plan will be executed over 5 years at investment of 179 crores.
33. ▶ Odisha government released Draft Agricultural Policy 2019, to focus on increasing income of farmers -
 1. Special Focus will be on about 50000 single landless women in Odisha.
 2. Draft policy deals with 8 specific strategies. They are leveraging science and technology, adoption to climate change, markets, higher productivity, infrastructure, diversification, skilling and strengthening institutions.
 3. Draft Policy says average farmer's income in Odisha has grown over 7 times in 13 years between 2002-03 and 2015-16, now being over 77100 per month.
 4. The policy proposes a new scheme called *SAMRIDHI*. Although not a proper full form, the draft policy signifies *SAMRIDHI* as Science and technology in farming, Adaptation to climate change, Access to Markets, Optimum use of Resources, Infrastructure, Diversifying of farming, Highlights need to upgrade skills of farmers Strong farm-related Institutions.
 1. Termining Existing KALIA a disruptive scheme, draft policy bets big on a calibrated approach to scheme in the next five-years to have optimum results in increasing farm productivity, raising incomes of farmers and landless labourers.
 2. Under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme, farmers get Rs 5000 financial assistance per crop. A farm household is entitled to get Rs 10,000 per year for two crops (Kharif and Rabi).
34. ▶ On occasion of First Death anniversary of Former PM Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Aug 16, Dr Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Health and Family Welfare) inaugurated Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi.
35. ▶ Panchamirtham, an ‘abhishega prasadam’ of Murugan temple (Tamil Nadu) has been bestowed with Geographical Indication tag. Panchamirtham is a combination of five natural substances — banana, jaggery, cow ghee, honey and cardamom. It hails from Palani Town in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu.
36. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to legislation for bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, and two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will come into existence on October 31.
37. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated underground ‘Bunker Museum’ at Raj Bhavan (residence of Governor of Maharashtra) in Mumbai. The 15,000 square feet museum has virtual reality (VR) booths in which visitors can time travel to 19th century.
 1. Bunker was discovered by Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao last year, along with two identical cannons, atop foothills of Raj Bhavan. Twin cannons (1.15 metre in diameter and 4.7 metre in length) were found covered in mud 25 metres apart from each other.
 2. It was created in 19th century to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships, to defend Bombay Castle from naval attacks. It resembles fort and is made up of 13 rooms. Rooms bear names such as Gun Shell, Shell Store, Cartridge Store, Pump, Central Artillery Store, Shell Lift and Workshop.
38. ▶ Railways launched 1st batch of CORAS (Commando for Railway Security), in Railway Protection Force. CORAS is a special Railway Unit established in RPF, to meet challenges to Railway security.
39. ▶ Reliance Jio and Microsoft partnered to accelerate digital transformation in India. Under this, Microsoft will bring in its Azure Cloud on Jio Network and target the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift.
40. ▶ Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) will launch a new scheme called “Supra” (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement), to promote research in cutting edge areas of science. Aim is to fund new scientific and engineering breakthroughs with global impact.
41. ▶ Supreme Court approved Chardham highway project, which will connect four holy places of Uttarakhand through 900 km all-weather roads. Supreme Court modified an earlier order of National Green Tribunal by constituting a fresh high-powered committee to look into environmental concerns.

1. SC directed that in case of non-survival of any sapling, further plantation should be done and compensatory afforestation should be 10 times number of trees cut.
2. Char Dham Highway is a proposed two-lane (in each direction) express National Highway in state of Uttarakhand, with minimum width of 10 metre. It will connect 4 holy places in Uttarakhand - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, spanning 900 kms.
42. ▶ Tamil Nadu Govt. announced creation of two new districts, taking total number of districts to 37. Vellore district will be trifurcated into Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet.
 1. Earlier in July 2019, Tamil Nadu Govt. announced creation of 2 new districts - Tenkasi and Chengalpattu, by bifurcating Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram districts respectively.
43. ▶ Tamil Nadu officially declared Tamil Yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) as state butterfly to symbolise its rich natural and cultural heritage. Tamil Nadu became fifth Indian state to declare its state butterfly. Maharashtra was 1st state to officially declare Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*) as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).
44. ▶ West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee launched World's 1st museum dedicated to life of 16th-century saint and social reformer, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, designed by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM).

[Top](#)

Persons

1. ▶ Google announced Arantza Pena Popo of Georgia as Winner of its *Doodle for Google 2019* contest, for her Doodle titled "Once You Get It, Give It Back." Google awarded Arantza with a USD 30,000 college scholarship and a USD 50,000 technology award for her school.
 1. Arantza's Doodle was inspired by one of her family photo of her mother and younger sister.
2. ▶ Public broadcaster Prasar Bharti introduced 2 awards namely *Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award* & *Achyutananda Sahoo Award*, in memory of noted DD News anchor Neelum Sharma who passed away recently.
3. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 11 - 20, 2019) -
 1. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Visited China, to attend 2nd meeting of the India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. He also attended 4th India-China Media Forum. 5 MOUs signed -
 1. Plan of Action to Implement Protocol between Foreign Ministries on Cooperation in Bilateral Relations 2020.
 2. Cooperation in Sports, Cultural Exchange, Traditional Medicine and cooperation among national museums.
 2. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi visited Bhutan -
 1. MOUs signed -
 1. Cooperation in Space Exploration.
 2. Cooperation in Relating to Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation
 3. MoU between National Knowledge Network of India (NKN) and Department of Information Technology & Telecom (Druk Research and Education Network) on Peering Agreement.
 4. Power Purchase Agreement Between PTC India Limited and Druk Green Power Corporation Limited for Sale and Purchase of Mangdechhu Power.
 1. PM Inaugurated Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan, as a major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 with support of India.
 2. Cost of this project is 4,500 crores INR and this 720MW run-of-river power plant built on Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district. It is funded by India through a 70 % loan and a 30 % grant. It is estimated to generate 2,923 GWh of electricity.
 5. Cooperation in Judicial Education and Mutual Exchanges.
 6. MoU between Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law (Bhutan) and National Law School of India University Bangalore to develop academic and cultural interchange in areas of legal education and research.
 7. MoUs between Royal University of Bhutan and IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, NIT Silchar, IIT Delhi.
 2. Also, PM Modi launched RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, one of oldest dzongs in Bhutan. India announced that an additional \$100 million will be available to Bhutan under SAARC currency swap framework to meet foreign exchange requirement
 3. Launch of RuPay card in Bhutan will be done in two phases - in first phase, India's banks will issue RuPay cards that can be used by Indian travellers in Bhutan. In 2nd phase-banks of Bhutan will be empowered to issue RuPay cards to

4. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 11 - 20, 2019)

1. Peter Munya, Kenya's Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives visited India to attend 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held in New Delhi.
2. Hamid Karzai, Former President of Afghanistan visited India.

[Top](#)

Science

1. ▶ IIT Guwahati researchers invented two distinct and special membranes that can separate oil and water, even under harsh conditions. Membranes are super-water repellent in air and super oil-repellent in water.
2. ▶ IIT Kharagpur Researchers developed a low-cost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using blood taken from a finger prick. Device requires only a paper strip based kit integrated with a smartphone to enable analytics and readout functions and an LED light for imaging.
3. ▶ NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission took first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock, made of particles and electromagnetic waves launched by Sun. These interplanetary shocks provide ideal test beds for learning about larger universal phenomena.
 1. Interplanetary shocks are type of collisionless shock, where particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another.
 2. MMS was launched in March 2015 to study Earth's magnetosphere. It consists of constellation of four identical spacecraft that orbit in tetrahedral formation around Earth through dynamic magnetic system surrounding our planet to study Magnetic reconnection.
4. ▶ Researchers 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.
5. ▶ Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden discovered a new mesh-like organ in skin that senses pain and able to detect painful mechanical damage such as pricks and pressure. This could pave way for devising painkilling medication effectively. New two-cell receptor sensory organ is made up of glial 'Schwann' cells with multiple long protrusions present below outer layer of skin (epidermis).
 1. Activation of the organ creates electrical impulses in the nervous system that result in reflex reactions (such as pulling our hand away when we feel a jab from a sharp object) and experience of pain.
6. ▶ Researchers from Indian IIT Hyderabad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar have developed process of synthesizing bone implant materials from eggshells. Through this, bone substitute materials such as tricalcium phosphate, a commonly-used bone substitute material can be produced from natural sources.
 1. Eggshell waste can help to replace commercially available tricalcium phosphate (produced by using harmful chemicals) and has capability to develop implantable biomaterial for tissue regeneration.
7. ▶ Researchers from Rajiv Gandhi University Arunachal Pradesh (RGU) discovered **5** new fish species in various districts of state.

The discovered fish species are:

Species	Place
Mystus prabini	Sinkin and Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang valley district.
Exostoma kottelati	Ranga river in Lower subansiri district.
Creteuchiloglanis tawangensis	Tawangchu river in Tawang district.
Garra ranganensis	Ranga river
Physoschistura harkishorei	Dibang and Lohit rivers in lower Dibang valley district.

8. ▶ Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered 2 new species of freshwater fish from north-eastern and northern parts of country.
 1. Glyptothorax gopii - New species of catfish found in Kaladan river of Mizoram. It measures 63 mm standard length without caudal fin (tail fin). It has been named to celebrate contribution of eminent taxonomist K.C. Gopi.
 2. Garra simbalbaraensis - It was found in Simbalbara river of Himachal Pradesh. It measures 69 mm standard length without caudal fin (tail fin) and has a yellowish-grey colour fading ventrally.

[Top](#)

Sports

1. ▶ 2019 Rogers Cup Tennis Winners (Montreal, Canada) -
 1. Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain), defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
 2. Women's Singles - Bianca Andreescu (Canada), defeated Serena Williams (US)
 3. Men's Doubles - Marcel Granollers (Spain) AND Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)
 4. Women's Doubles - Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková AND Czech Republic Kateřina Siniaková
2. ▶ 2019 Western & Southern Open Tennis (Cincinnati Masters) -
 1. Men's Singles - Daniil Medvedev (Russia). He Defeated David Goffin (Belgium)
 2. Women's Singles - Madison Keys (US). She defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)
 3. Men's Doubles - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) AND Filip Polášek (Slovakia)
 - Women's Doubles - Lucie Hradecká (Czech Republic) AND Andreja Klepač (Slovenia)
3. ▶ 3 New Women's events have been included in Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 to be held in Birmingham (England). It will be first major multi-sport event to give additional spot to women's medals, with 135 medals for women and 133 medals for men. Newly added events are - Women's T20 cricket, beach volleyball and Para-table tennis.
 1. Shooting will not be part of the 2022 CWG even despite India's threat of boycotting the entire event in form of protest.
4. ▶ Aishwarya Pissay became first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports by winning FIM World Cup (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) in women's category at Varpalota in Hungary. She also finished 2nd in FIM Junior category.
5. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) agreed to come under ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). Till now, Sweden-based International Dope Testing Management (IDTM) was collecting cricketers' samples on behalf of BCCI and submitting them to the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL). NADA will now collect samples of all cricketers during various tournaments.
6. ▶ Chennai Lions defeated Dabang Delhi to win Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) league Season 03 title.
7. ▶ Former Australian bowler Mitchell Johnson elected as an Honorary Life Member of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in England.
8. ▶ Hyderabad Open badminton 2019 -

1.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Sourabh Verma (India)
Women's Singles	Yeo Jia Min (Singapore)
Men's Doubles	Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana (Indonesia)
Women's Doubles	Back Ha-na & Jung Kyung-eun (South Korea)

9. ▶ India won Under - 12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held in Kazakhstan, defeating Chinese Taipei. Indian team comprised Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Pranav Rethin.
10. ▶ India's Ajith Haridas and Vijay Lancy won men's doubles title (40+) in BWF World Senior Badminton Championships 2019 in Katowice (Poland), defeating Danish pair of Esben Hedegaard and Morten Rasmussen.
 1. India won 7 Medals and was ranked 11th. Medals included 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze.
 2. Germany was at top, followed by England and Japan.
11. ▶ India's Deepak Punia won gold medal at Junior World Championships held in Tallinn (Estonia), defeating Russia's Alik Sherbakov. He is 1st Indian in 18 years to win a Junior World Championship title. Other Indian medalists at the event -
 1. Vicky Chahar - bronze in 92 kg category.
 2. Sajjan Bhanwal - Bronze in 77kg Greco-Roman category.
12. ▶ Indian Wrestler Bajrang Punia won gold in 65kg men's freestyle at Tbilisi Grand Prix 2019 (Georgia).
13. ▶ Indian sprinters Hima Das and Muhammed Anas won a gold each in women's and men's 300m races respectively at Athletický Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic. This was Hima's sixth gold in European races since July 2.
14. ▶ Indian team consisting of Esow Alben, L Ronaldo Singh, Y Rojit Singh and Jemsh Singh won India's first gold at a world cycling event, after they won gold at Junior Track Cycling World Championships, in Frankfurt (Germany).
15. ▶ Liverpool FC (England) defeated Chelsea FC (England) to win UEFA Super Cup 2019 League Football held in Istanbul (Turkey).
16. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA) high-performance centre for hockey at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), as a joint initiative of Tata Steel, Tata Trusts and Government of Odisha to nurture sports talent in State.

Top

