



Current Affairs - Aug 2019

Month Type



- 139 Current Affairs were found in Period - Aug 1 - 10, 2019 for Type - All

Appointments

- ▶ Abhay Thakur has been appointed as New Indian permanent representative to economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- ▶ Giriraj Prasad Gupta appointed as Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance).
- ▶ Government gave additional charge of post of Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau to Rakesh Asthana (Director General of Civil Aviation Security (DG CAS)).
- ▶ Indian theoretical physicist Atish Dabholkar has been appointed as new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.
- ▶ LIC Subsidiary LIC Housing Finance appointed Siddhartha Mohanty as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ▶ Misc. Appointments (August 2019) -
 - Govt. appointed Madhumita Hazarika Bhagat as New Indian Ambassador to Republic of Cyprus.
 - PSU Power Grid Corporation appointed Kandikuppa Sreekant as its chairman and managing director.
 - Global Financial Firm HSBC appointed Noel Quinn as interim CEO.
 - Indian IT Firm Mindtree appointed Debashis Chatterjee as its new MD & CEO.
 - Government extended tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director (MD) Dinesh Kumar Khara by 2 years.
 - Government appointed Ghotu Ram Meena as New Indian Ambassador to Democratic Republic of Congo (Central Africa).
 - Elangbam Valentina Devi, a 9-year-old girl from Manipur was made the ambassador of 'Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission'. She had planted two Gulmohar trees near her house in Kakching district of Manipur when she was in class 1. She wept immensely when she saw the trees uprooted after coming from school.

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Awards

- ▶ As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO instituted two categories of awards in journalism - *Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research*, to recognize journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
 - There are two categories of awards, wherein the first category holds a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000, a medal and citation. 2 journalists or freelancers of print media will be awarded.
 - Second category holds 3 cash prizes of Rs 3,00,000, 2,00,000 and 1,00,000 and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media.
- ▶ English actor and film director Andy Serkis will receive International Broadcasting Convention's (IBC) highest award "International Honor for Excellence" for bringing extraordinary humanity to computer-generated characters.
- ▶ Former India cricketer Arun Lal conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's). He won his battle against jaw cancer and was coaching Bengal.
- ▶ Former Indian cricketer Kapil Dev has been conferred with Bharat Gaurav Award 2019 by East Bengal Football Club. Other Awardees -
 - Footballer Bhaichung Bhutia - 'Identifying and Nurturing the Icon' award.

2. Former Footballers Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly - Lifetime achievement award.
 3. Footballer P.K. Banerjee - *Coach of Coaches* award.
 4. Laldanmawia - *Best Footballer of the Year* award.
5. ▶ Government announced 66th National Film Awards 2019. Awards are given in 31 categories.
1. Jury Heads - Rahul Rawail (Feature Film Category), AS Kanal (Non-Feature Film Category) and Utpal Borpujari (Best Writing on Cinema).
 2. Uttarakhand named winner of newly created Film friendly state Awards. Awardees -

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Hellaro (Gujarati) directed by Abhishek Shah
Best Direction	Aditya Dhar for Uri: The Surgical Strike
Best Actor (Male)	Ayushmann Khurrana for Andhadhun AND Vicky Kaushal for Uri: the Surgical Strike
Best Actor (Female)	Keerthy Suresh (Mahanati)
Best Supporting Actor (Male)	Swanand Kirkire (Chumbak)
Best Supporting Actor (Female)	Surekha Sikri (Badhaai Ho)
Best Hindi Film	Andhadhun
Best Film on Social Issues	Padman
Best Music Direction	Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Padmaavat)
Best Background Score	Shashwat Sachdev (Uri: The Surgical Strike)
Best Female Playback Singer	Bindu Malini (Maayavi Manave – Nathicharami, Kannada)
Best Male Playback Singer	Arjit Singh (Binte Dil – Padmaavat)
Best Lyrics	Nathicharami (Kannada)
Best Cinematography	MJ Radhakrishnan for Olu (Malayalam)
Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
Best Child Artist	PV Rohit (Kannada), Sahib Singh (Punjabi), Talha Arshad Reshi (Urdu) and Shrinivas Pokale (Marathi)
Best Film on Environment Conservation	Paani
Best Children's Film	Sarkari Area Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod (Kannada)
Best Regional Films	
Malayalam	Sudani from Nigeria
Marathi	Bhonga
Urdu	Hamid
Tamil	Baaram
Rajasthani	Turtle
Telugu	Mahanati
Assamese	Bulbul Can Sing
Punjabi	Harjeeta
Bengali	Ek Je Chhilo Raja
Garo	Anna
Kannada	Nathicharami
Konkani	Amori
Gujarati	Reva
Sherdukpan	Mishing
Panchanga	In The Land Of Poisonous Women
Non Feature Films	
Educational	Sarala Virala
Sports	Swimming through the Darkness
Investigative Film	Amoli
Environment Film	The World's Most Famous Tiger
Promotional Film	Rediscovering Jalam
Science & Technology Film	G.D Naidu: The Edison of India
Arts and Culture Film	Bunkar: The Last of The Varanasi Weavers

6. ▶ Indian Origin Doctor Bhasha Mukherjee won Miss England Title 2019. She will enter into Miss World contest 2019 on behalf of England.
7. ▶ Indian journalist Ravish Kumar of NDTV news channel is among 5 chosen winners of 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award, to be presented in Manila (Capital of Philippines) in September 2019.
 1. Other Winners of 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award -
 1. Ko Swe Win (Myanmar)
 2. Neelapaijit Angkhana (Thailand)

3. Cayabyab Rayamundo Pujante (Philippines)
4. Kim Jong Li (South Korea)
2. Ramon Magsaysay Award, named after former Philippine president Ramon Magsaysay, is Asia's premier prize and highest honour, regarded as Asia's equivalent of Nobel Prize. It was established in 1957 by trustees of New York City (NYC) based Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Philippine government.
8. ▶ Industrial Awards (August 2019) -
 1. Vinayak S Hiremath from Karnataka has been felicitated with 'Pride of Nation Award' by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
 2. Co-founder and director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd, Ruhan Rajput was honoured as *entrepreneur of the Year* 2019 for his excellence in service sector.
 3. Indian Actor Shah Rukh Khan conferred with an honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, by La Trobe University (Australia).
 4. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs instituted PMAY(U) Awards for Beneficiaries for the first time to recognise the contribution of States/UTs, Urban Local Bodies and Beneficiaries.
 1. PMAY(U) has achieved a significant milestone of approving more than 85 Lakh houses against a demand of about 112 Lakh houses in urban areas. Out of these, 50 Lakh houses are at various stages of construction and over 26 Lakh houses have already been completed.
9. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Shri Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee. Awards were announced in January 2019.
10. ▶ Sardar Patel Memorial *Statue of Unity*, a 182 Metres Tall Structure in Gujarat's Kevadiya town has been shortlisted for 'The Structural Awards 2019' of UK-based Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE). It was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi on October 31, 2019.

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Books

1. ▶ Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah launched book 'Listening, Learning and Leading', based on Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office.
2. ▶ Book by Former RBI Governor named *Resurgent India* has been launched. The book talks about key priorities that can be implemented by the new government in national interest, irrespective of the political agenda of the party that come to power.
3. ▶ Book co-authored by Microsoft President Brad Smith & Carol Ann Brown titled *Tools and Weapons: The Promise and The Peril of the Digital Age* will be released in September 2019.
4. ▶ Book titled *Oru Manidhan, Oru Iyakkam* has been released. It depicts life of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Dravidian Progressive Conference) (DMK) leader Late M Karunanidhi, the former Tamil Nadu chief minister.

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Committees

1. ▶ Government 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.
2. ▶ RBI Task Force on Offshore Rupee Markets headed by Usha Thorat has recommended the extension of onshore market hours to 9 am to 9 pm, from 9 am to 5 pm, to improve access of overseas users and allow Indian banks to freely offer prices to global clients around the clock.
 1. Panel was constituted in August 2018, amid sharp growth in offshore trading volumes in rupee Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) (Offshore markets) market.

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Days

1. ▶ 8 August is celebrated in India as August Kranti Din. On this day in 1942, foundation of Quit India Movement, run by M K Gandhi was laid, after which whole of India united against British and British rule had to kneel down.
2. ▶ World Breastfeeding Week observed from 1st to 7th August 2019.

1. As per a Govt report, Northeastern state of Manipur topped in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in India.
3. ▶ Aug 10 - World Biofuel Day, to create awareness about importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. 2019 Theme is *Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)*.
 1. National Policy on Biofuels 2018 envisages production of biofuel from UCO. Presently, 850 crore litres of High Speed Diesel (HSD) is consumed on a monthly basis in India. National Policy on Biofuels 2018 aims 5% blending of Biodiesel in HSD by 2030.
 2. On this occasion, Rajasthan became 1st state to release biofuel rules 2019 (after notification of Centre on April 30, 2019) with the vision to promote use of biofuels.
 3. Aug 10 is also birth anniversary of V V Giri, 4th president of India from 24 August 1969 to 24 August 1974.
4. ▶ Aug 2 is birth anniversary of Noted freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya, the designer of Indian flag. Venkayya's design for National Flag was finally approved by M K Gandhi in a Congress meeting in Vijayawada in 1921.
5. ▶ Aug 7, 2019 observed as 5th National Handloom Day, being observed since 2015. Bhubaneswar (Odisha) was chosen as venue for main event due to its rich tradition of Handlooms. National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.
6. ▶ Aug 9 is observed as International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples. 2019 Theme is *Indigenous Languages*, dedicated to 2019 being marked as International Year of Indigenous Languages by United Nations (UN). The day was proclaimed by UNGA in 1994. August 9 marks 1st meeting of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held in 1982.
7. ▶ August 6 marks anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The incident took place on August 6, 1945, when United States dropped an atomic bomb named Little Boy, on Hiroshima in Japan. This was first ever usage of an atomic bomb against a nation.
8. ▶ August 9 marks anniversary of the atomic bombing in Nagasaki during World War II. The incident took place on August 9, 1945, when United States dropped an atomic bomb named *Fat Man*, on Nagasaki in Japan.
 1. Three Days Earlier, on Aug 6, An atomic bomb named *Little Boy* was dropped on Hiroshima (Japan). The two bombings killed between 129000 and 226000 people, most of whom were civilians. It still remains only use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict.

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Defence

1. ▶ DRDO successfully flight-tested its state-of-the-art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur (Odisha).

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Economy

1. ▶ A joint venture company named *Khanij Bidesh India limited (KABIL)* has been set up with participation of 3 Central Public Sector Enterprises - National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Mineral Exploration Company limited. KABIL will ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian domestic market. Equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in ratio of 40:30:30.
2. ▶ As per LinkedIn's fourth edition of Top Companies list for India 2019 -
 1. Walmart Owned Flipkart ranked as best workplace in India.
 2. Top 5 - Flipkart, Amazon, OYO, One97 Communications, Uber.
3. ▶ As per report *Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019* by market research firm Euromonitor International -
 1. Walmart, which acquired Flipkart in 2018(\$16 Bn deal) topped rankings in India for 2018 with Gross Merchandise Volume(GMV) of \$14.49 Billion. Amazon is 2nd with \$9.8 Bn GMV followed by Future Group with \$3.8Bn GMV(3rd position) and Reliance 4th (\$3.6 Bn).
4. ▶ AustralianSuper and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan will invest \$1 billion each in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Master Fund. The agreements include commitments of \$250 million each in the Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$750 million each in future opportunities alongside Fund.

1. NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015. It manages over \$4 billion of capital commitments across three funds.
2. Fund invests in equity capital in core infrastructure sectors in India with a focus on transportation, energy and urban infrastructure.
5. ▶ Grexter Living, Bengaluru based co-living services startup has acquired i2Stay, which will expand the scale of operations of the combined entity and also enable it to move into newer cities.
6. ▶ Gross GST revenue collected in July 2019 remained INR 102083 crores (CGST -17,912 crore, SGST - 25,008 crore, IGST - 50,612 crore and Cess is 8551 crores).
7. ▶ Housing sector regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) opened a liquidity infusion facility of Rs.10000 crore for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to improve liquidity in sector, to boost lending and accelerate growth of Stressed NBFC Sector.
8. ▶ In its 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting, RBI reduced policy repo rate by 35 basis points (bps).
 1. Repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was reduced from 5.75% to 5.40%, lowest since April 2010.
 2. Reverse repo rate revised to 5.15% (from 5.50%).
 3. Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate revised to 5.65% (From 6 %).
 4. RBI has also reduced GDP growth Projection for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%.
 5. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is 4 % and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) is 18.75 % (will update on October 12, 2019).
 6. RBI Monetary Policy Committee is headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das with members – Ravindra H. Dholakia, Michael Debabrata Patra, Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Chetan Ghate and Pami Dua.
 7. RBI also stated to make available National Electronic Funds Transfer system on a 24x7 basis from December 2019 as per the Payment System Vision 2021 document.
9. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (August 2019) -
 1. Ratings agency CRISIL has cut its forecast for India's GDP growth by 20 basis points for FY 2019-20 to 6.9% from 7.1%.
 2. As per National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India's GDP growth will be 6.2% in FY 2019-20, down from 6.8% in 2018-19. The decline in estimation was due to flat growth in the agriculture sector as it depends largely on the south-west monsoon.
10. ▶ LIC launched a new term insurance plan called 'Jeevan Amar', as a non-linked, non-participating, life term assurance plan.
 1. Policyholder cannot claim the amount on maturity. Nominee will receive death claim in case of demise of life assured during term of policy.
 2. Plan is available for ages 18-65 years with maximum age maturity at 80 years offering policy terms from 10 years to a maximum of 40 years.
11. ▶ Manila (Philippines) based Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved \$200 million loan for improving road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra to connect rural areas with markets and services. The total cost of the project is \$296 million.
12. ▶ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) published draft e-Commerce Guidelines for consumer protection 2019, applicable on all business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce platforms.
 1. It aims to make e-commerce platforms and their sellers more transparent and accountable to consumers.
 2. It also seeks to curb sale of counterfeit products online and unfair trade practices by a series of consumer safeguards that forbid e-commerce companies from influencing pricing, adopting unfair promotion methods or misrepresenting quality of goods / services.
 3. It mandates e-commerce firms to self-declare compliance and also provide way for customers to contact them directly.
 4. It proposes to make mandatory for e-commerce entities to accept returns in event products delivered are defective, wrong or spurious or if they do not have characteristics or features advertised.
 5. It makes mandatory for e-commerce platforms to declare all details about their sellers including address, website and email address.
13. ▶ Monetary limits for filing of appeals by Income Tax Department further enhanced by CBDT, To effectively reduce taxpayer grievances and help Department focus on litigation involving complex legal issues and high tax effect.

Appellate Forum	Existing Monetary Limit(Rs.)	Revised Monetary Limit(Rs.)
Before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal	20,00,000	50,00,000
Before High Court	50,00,000	1,00,00,000
Before Supreme Court	1,00,00,000	2,00,00,000

14. ▶ Mumbai based Fynd, a Google-backed firm that connects retailers with online stores and consumers, has been acquired by Reliance industries. Reliance will own 87.6% stake in Fynd, valued approx 295 crore INR.
15. ▶ Odisha government unveiled 'Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme' for the calendar year 2019 under the notation "AQ" series. It aims to stop people from transacting with 'suspicious' non-banking private financial institutions.
 1. Any eligible person who deposits minimum amount INR 2000 in any Small Savings Schemes during 2019 can obtain a free web-based coupon from designated offices.
 2. A state-level lucky draw of the scheme will be held on April 26, 2020, in which the people can win cash award as an incentive for their habit of thrift. First prize will be Rs 5 lakh.
16. ▶ PNB Housing Finance raised fresh equity of Rs 522 crore (\$75 million) as External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) from Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) of Singapore.
17. ▶ Payments startup EnKash launched India's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups. Freedom card enables availing credit facility for immediate needs and to manage liquidity of startups.
18. ▶ Postal department will convert India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to provide micro credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's. Payments Banks are commercially unviable due to too many regulatory restrictions on operating procedures.
19. ▶ Private life insurer Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance tied up with MobiKwik to offer mobile-based group insurance solutions for customers of MobiKwik. Key Points: i. Edelweiss Tokio Life will provide life insurance upto 5 lakh through MobiKwik.
20. ▶ RBI Approved Scheduled bank status for Bengaluru Based Jana Small Finance Bank, which now has over 260 branches.
21. ▶ RBI allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India, Including *Bank of China Limited* in 2nd Schedule of RBI Act 1934.
22. ▶ RBI barred both deposit-taking and non- deposit taking NBFCs (Non-Banking Finance Companies) from charging pre-payment /foreclosure charges on any floating rate term loans sanctioned for purposes other than business to individual loan borrowers.
 1. Earlier, RBI barred commercial banks from charging such penalties from individual borrowers with mortgage loans in May 2014.
23. ▶ RBI has put penalty of INR 1.5 crores on Bank of India for of 'non-compliance with RBI direction on frauds' in Rotomac Group companies.
 1. RBI has also imposed penalty of INR 50 lakh on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for delay in reporting of fraud observed in account of Kingfisher Airlines Limited.
24. ▶ RBI imposed collective penalty of Rs 11 crore on 7 public sector banks, for non-compliance with certain RBI directions related to 'Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts'.
 1. Allahabad Bank and Bank of Maharashtra have been imposed with a penalty of Rs 2 crore each.
 2. Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and United Bank of India have been imposed with a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore each.
 3. Oriental Bank of Commerce has been imposed with a penalty of Rs 1 crore.
 4. RBI has also imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Corporation Bank for non-compliance of norms related to cyber security framework for banks, frauds classification and reporting.
25. ▶ RBI permitted all categories of billers (except prepaid recharges), who provide for recurring bill payments to participate in BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) on a voluntary basis. Presently, BBPS covers billers in 5 segments including DTH(Direct-to-Home), electricity, gas, telecom, and water bills.
26. ▶ RBI tightened fit-and-proper criteria for directors on boards of state-run Public Sector Banks (PSBs), to determine 'fit and proper' status of person to be eligible to be elected as a director on PSBs. It has for the first time, laid down exhaustive list for the disqualification of directors.
 1. PSBs are required to constitute Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) consisting of minimum of three non-executive directors from amongst board of directors. Centre's nominee director shall not be part of the NRC. Elected director shall hold office for 3 years.
 2. Several other conditions have been laid out by RBI.
27. ▶ RBI will set up a "Central Payment Fraud Registry", to track frauds in payment systems. Under this registry, payment system participants will be provided access to it for near-real time fraud monitoring. The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks. Currently, banks report all banking frauds to the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell of RBI.
28. ▶ RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo partnered to launch an industry first co-branded health credit card, powered by Mastercard.

29. ▶ Registration for PM Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana began, as newly launched old age pension Scheme aimed at improving livelihoods of small and marginal farmers.
 1. Scheme is for farmers aged 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000 will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.
 2. The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry. Government will also make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund.
 3. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.
30. ▶ Relaxing bank lending norms to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), RBI allowed banks on lending through NBFCs (other than MFIs- Microfinance Institutions) to Agriculture, MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and affordable housing to be treated as priority sector lending for banks.
 1. Banks have been allowed on-lending to agriculture (investment credit) up to Rs.10 lakh, MSMEs up to Rs. 20 lakh and housing up to Rs.20 lakh per borrower (increased from Rs.10 lakh) to be classified as priority sector lending.
 2. RBI also eased bank's exposure limits to help NBFC sector under stress. It has raised bank's exposure limit to a single NBFC to 20% of Tier-I capital of bank against 15% earlier.
31. ▶ SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank have signed a bancassurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to Bank's customers.
 1. Indian Bank also signed similar corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.
32. ▶ SEBI approved Singapore Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange of India to operate jointly in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, Gandhinagar. The two entities will create a new platform for trading called NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)-SGX Connect.
33. ▶ Singapore based Financial firm DBS Bank tied up with Social Alpha, the non-profit start-up incubator to mentor & support start-ups focusing including inclusion, healthcare, and the environment in India, over next 18 months.
34. ▶ State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch got connected to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS), making SBI only Indian bank to have obtained license to do business in local currency in China and also inducted to CNAPS by People's Bank of China (PBOC).
 1. CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments.

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International

1. ▶ India ranked at 7th place in global GDP rankings 2018, as per data by World Bank. India was ranked 5th in 2017. In 2018 data, UK and France again moved ahead of India to reclaim their 5th and 6th spots respectively.
 1. Top 3 - US (\$20.5 trillion), China (\$13.6 trillion), Japan (\$5 trillion).
 2. India recorded a GDP of \$2.73 trillion in 2018, which is less than that of the UK (\$2.82 trillion) and France (\$2.78 trillion).
 3. Drop in India's position on the global GDP table reflects the slump in India's overall economic growth. India is, however, still the fastest-growing major economy in world.
2. ▶ An agreement Signed between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
 1. NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material.
3. ▶ As per Water Stress Index 2019 formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is 46th highest risk country in world. 11 out of India's 20 largest cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress and 7 are in the 'high risk' category. India is rated 'high risk' in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index.
4. ▶ As per languages directory Ethnologue, Pacific island Oceanic nation Papua New Guinea has highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in world (840). India stands fourth in list with 453 languages. 2019 is the United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages.
 1. Director lists 7,111 living languages worldwide. Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi and Arabic are most widely spoken languages worldwide.
5. ▶ Bangladesh signed deal with Russia for lifetime supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) in Bangladesh. RNPP will come into operation by 2022.

1. In 2017, Russia and Bangladesh signed spent fuel sent back agreement for management of nuclear waste of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). Work on these two units of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP), each producing 1200 MW of electricity is to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively.
6. ▶ Chinese telecom Major Huawei launched its own operating system called HarmonyOS or HongMeng in Chinese, amid Huawei facing threat of losing access to Google's Android platform. First version of Huawei's operating system would launch in late 2019.
7. ▶ European Nation The Netherlands banned wearing of face-covering clothing including burqa and niqab worn by conservative Muslim women. The law also bans motor helmets and ski masks.
8. ▶ Forbes' List Of Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 -
 1. US Tennis Player Serena Williams topped the List for 4th consecutive year with estimated total earnings of \$29.2 million.
 2. Japan's Naomi Osaka was 2nd on the list with earnings of (\$24.3 million).
 3. Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (\$5.5 million), with Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn (\$5.3 million).
9. ▶ Global Payments Firm Mastercard launched Identity Check Express as next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution that aims to redefine e-commerce journey for Indian consumers. It will help eliminate unnecessary friction and enhance the security of online transactions.
10. ▶ India and Pakistan will participate in upcoming major military exercise Tsentr (centre) 2019 under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), to be held in September 2019 at Orenburg, Russia. SCO members are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.
11. ▶ India contributed US \$5 million to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in support of UNRWA's core programmes and services, including education, health care, and relief and social services.
12. ▶ India signed United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation. So far 46 countries have signed this international treaty on settlement agreements. Benefits -
 1. It is important for growth of mediation in India and enhancing ease of doing business in India particularly in legal front. It will help to boost confidence of investors especially foreign investors investing in India.
 2. It will provide positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment for adhering to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) or external dispute resolution (EDR).
 3. In December 2018, UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation. It provides uniform framework for enforcing international settlement agreements which results from mediation.
 4. It aims to become essential instrument that facilitates international trade and in promotion of mediation as alternative and effective method of resolving trade disputes. It also seeks to contribute to strengthening access to justice, and to the rule of law.
13. ▶ Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of "Ghaem".
14. ▶ Pakistan announced a five-point plan that included suspension of bilateral trade in response to India's move to end special status for Jammu and Kashmir. Also, Pakistani ambassadors will no longer be in New Delhi and their counterparts in Pakistan will also be sent back.
 1. This decision by cash-strapped Pakistan will not cause much impact on India as India has already downgraded trade with Pakistan After Pulwana Attacks.
 2. Pakistan also permanently stopped Samjhauta Express train services that linked India and Pakistan.
15. ▶ Saudi Arabia has de-recognized Pakistani PG medical degree programmes such as MS/MD degrees, as Pakistani medical programs lacked properly structured trainings.
16. ▶ US designated China a "currency manipulator", after China's central bank allowed Yuan (Chinese Currency) to fall against USD. This may escalate already stressed trade relations between two nations.
 1. US accused China of manipulating its currency to gain unfair competitive advantage in international trade and that China still targets on continuing to receive hundreds of billions of dollars which it have been taking from US with unfair trade practices and currency manipulation.
 2. US will now engage with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to eliminate unfair competitive advantage created by China's latest actions.

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1. ▶ 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok (Thailand). India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. During this meeting, new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 was adopted.
 1. Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is sub-regional cooperation organisation comprising India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
2. ▶ Government organized 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Shillong (Meghalaya), with theme *Digital India: Success to Excellence*. This is the first time the event is being organized in North-Eastern region of the country. This Conference provides a platform to disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing sustainable e-Governance initiatives.

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National

1. ▶ Bills Passed / Presented in Budget Session of Parliament 2019 -
 1. Concerned session is First of newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha. It was held between June 17 - Aug 7, 2019.
 2. During this Session, total 40 Bills (33 in Lok Sabha and 07 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced. 35 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 32 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha and 30 Bills have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.
 3. Productivity of Lok Sabha was approx. 137% and that of Rajya Sabha was approx. 103%.
4. **Bills passed by Both Houses (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha)**
 1. Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 -
 1. The historical bill was Introduced in Rajya Sabha by Home Minister Amit Shah. Bill provides for reorganisation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.
 2. Bill reorganises state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature.
 1. UT of Ladakh will comprise Kargil and Leh districts, and UT of Jammu and Kashmir will comprise the remaining territories of the existing Jammu and Kashmir.
 3. **UTs** of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will be administered by Lieutenant Governors, appointed by President.
 4. Bill provides for a Legislative Assembly for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, with total number of seats in Assembly being 107. Of these, 24 seats will remain vacant on account of certain areas of Jammu and Kashmir being under occupation of Pakistan.
 1. Lieutenant Governor may nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women, if they are not adequately represented.
 5. Assembly will have a term of five years, and the Lieutenant Governor must summon the Assembly at least once in six months. Legislative Assembly may make laws for any part of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir as per any matter in the Concurrent List applicable to Union Territories. Further, Parliament will have power to make laws in relation to any matter for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
 6. UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have a Council of Ministers of not more than ten percent of the total number of members in Assembly.
 7. High Court of Jammu and Kashmir will be the common High Court for the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have an Advocate General to provide legal advice to the government of UT.
 8. Legislative Council of state of Jammu and Kashmir will be abolished. All Bills pending in Council will lapse.
 9. Central government will appoint Advisory Committees, for various purposes. These Committees must submit their reports within six months to Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, who must act on these recommendations within 30 days.
 10. Schedule lists 106 central laws that will be made applicable to Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. These include Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Right to Education Act, 2009. Further, it repeals 153 state laws of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, 166 state laws will remain in force, and seven laws will be applicable with amendments. These amendments include lifting of prohibitions on lease of land to persons who are not permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir.
 2. Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill 2019 -
 1. It allows trusts to establish units in Special Economic Zone (SEZs). It replaces Special Economic Zone (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 promulgated March 2019 and amends SEZ Act 2005.

2. It amends definition of “person” under Section 2(v) of SEZ Act 2005 to include ‘trusts’. Apart from trusts, it also includes any entity that central government may notify from time to time in definition of ‘person’. As per act, proposal for establishment of SEZ be made by any “person”.
3. *The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill 2019*, aimed at providing relief to persons in Jammu and Kashmir living in areas adjoining international border.
 1. It will replace *The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance 2019* by amendments in Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act 2004 and bringing persons residing in the areas adjoining International Border within the ambit of reservation at par with persons living in areas adjoining Actual Line of Control (ALoC).
4. *Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2019* -
 1. It amends Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973 and replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 that was promulgated in March 2019. It sets up Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homoeopathic education and practice.
5. *Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill 2019* -
 1. It provide for reservation of posts in appointments by direct recruitment of persons belonging to SC/ST and Educationally Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections to teachers' cadre in Central Educational Institutions. It aims at implementing 200-point reservation system instead of 13-point roster system for concerned recruitment.
6. *Central Universities (Amendment) Bill 2019* -
 1. It amends Central Universities Act 2009, which establishes universities for teaching and research in various states. Bill provides for establishment of two central universities in Andhra Pradesh to be known as the Central University of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh.
7. *Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Bill 2019* -
 1. It amends Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and replaces Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance 2019 which was promulgated in February 2019.
 2. It sets up Medical Council of India (MCI) which regulates medical education and practice.
 3. 1956 Act provides for supersession of MCI and its reconstitution within a period of three years from the date of its supersession. In interim period, Act requires government to constitute a Board of Governors, to exercise powers of MCI. The Bill amends the Act to reduce time period for supersession of the MCI from 3 years to 2 years.
 4. Act provides for Board of Governors to consist of up to seven members including persons of eminence in medical education, appointed by government. Bill amends this provision to increase strength of Board from 7 to 12 members.
8. *Dentists (Amendment) Bill 2019* -
 1. It amends Dentists Act 1948, which regulates profession of dentistry and constitutes Dental Council of India, State Dental Councils and Joint State Dental Councils.
 2. Register of dentists is maintained under Act in Part A and Part B. Persons with recognised dental qualifications are registered in Part A and persons not possessing such qualifications are in Part B. Part B persons are those who have practicing as dentists for at least 5 years.
 3. Under the Act, composition of mentioned Councils includes representation from dentists registered in Part B. The Bill seeks to remove mandatory requirement of representation of dentists registered in Part B in these Councils.
9. *Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019* -
 1. Bill amends Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, which provides for a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC), as well as Human Rights Courts.
 2. Under the Act, chairperson of NHRC is a person who has been a Chief Justice of Supreme Court. Bill amends this to provide that a person who has been a Judge of Supreme Court.
 3. Act provides for two persons having knowledge of human rights to be appointed as members of the NHRC. Bill amends this to allow three members to be appointed, of which at least one will be a woman.
 4. the Act, the chairperson of a SHRC is a person who has been a Chief Justice of a High Court. The Bill amends this to provide that a person who has been a Judge of a High Court will be chairperson of a SHRC.
 5. Act states that chairperson and members of the NHRC and SHRC will hold office for five years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. Bill reduces the term of office to three years or till the age of seventy years,

whichever is earlier.

6. Bill provides that government may confer on a SHRC human rights functions being discharged by Union Territories. Functions relating to human rights in case of Delhi will be dealt with by NHRC.

10. Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. Bill additionally allows 'offline verification' of an individual's identity, without authentication, through modes specified by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) by regulations. During offline verification, agency must obtain consent of individual, inform them of alternatives to sharing information, and not collect Aadhaar number / biometric information.
2. It allows voluntary linking of the 12-digit identification number as part of know your customer (KYC) guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection.
3. Entities using Aadhaar - Under the Act, usage of Aadhaar number for establishing identity of an individual, is permitted. Bill removes this provision and makes the permission subject to several UIDAI regulations.
4. Aadhaar number of children - Bill specifies that at the time of enrolling a child to obtain an Aadhaar number, enrolling agency shall seek consent of his parent or guardian. After attaining 18 years age, child may apply for cancellation of its Aadhaar.
5. Disclosure of information in certain cases - Under the Act, restrictions on confidentiality of Aadhaar information do not apply in case disclosure is pursuant to an order of a District Court (or above). Bill amends this to allow such disclosure only for orders by High Courts (or above). Bill amends rule to allow such disclosure on directions of officers not below the rank of a Secretary (Joint Secretary earlier).
6. UIDAI Fund - Under the Act, fees and revenue collected by UIDAI will be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Bill removes this provision, and creates Unique Identification Authority of India Fund.
7. Complaints - Under the Act, courts can take cognizance of an offence only if UIDAI registers a complaint. Bill amends this to allow individual to register complaints in certain cases, including impersonation or disclosure of their identity.
8. Bill defines Aadhaar ecosystem to include enrolling agencies, requesting agencies, and offline verification-seeking entities.
9. Penalties - Under the Bill, UIDAI may initiate a complaint against an entity in Aadhaar ecosystem for failure to comply with Act or UIDAI directions, and furnish information required by UIDAI. Adjudicating Officers appointed by UIDAI may impose penalties up to 1 crore rupees on such entities.

11. Right to Information (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It amends Right to Information Act 2005.
2. Under the Act, Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) are appointed for term of five years. Bill states that central government will notify term of office for the CIC and ICs.
3. Bill seeks to amend provisions related to salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs, stating that these will be determined by the central government.
4. Act states that at the time of the appointment of the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level), if they are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to the pension. Bill removes these provisions.

12. New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill 2019 -

1. Bill seeks to provide for establishment of a 7 Member NDIAC to conduct arbitration, mediation, and conciliation proceedings. It declares NDIAC as an institution of national importance.
2. International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) is a registered society to promote resolution of disputes through alternative dispute resolution methods (such as arbitration and mediation). Bill seeks to transfer existing ICADR to central government
3. Members of NDIAC will hold office for three years and will be eligible for re-appointment. retirement age for Chairperson is 70 years and other members is 67 years.
4. NDIAC will establish a Chamber of Arbitration which will maintain a permanent panel of arbitrators. NDIAC may also establish an Arbitration Academy for training arbitrators and conducting research in area of alternative dispute resolution.

13. National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It amends National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act 2008 and provides for a national-level agency to investigate and prosecute offences listed in a schedule (scheduled offences).
 2. Scheduled offences are to be investigated and prosecuted by NIA. These offences under Acts such as Atomic Energy Act 1962 and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967.
 3. Bill seeks to allow NIA to investigate the following offences, in addition - human trafficking, offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under Explosive Substances Act 1908.
 4. Bill states that in addition, officers of NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries
 5. Act allows the central government to constitute Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences. Bill amends this to state that central government may designate Sessions Courts as Special Courts for trial of scheduled offences.
14. Companies (Amendment) Bill 2019 -
1. It amends Companies Act, 2013.
 2. **Act** contains 81 compoundable offences punishable with fine or fine or imprisonment, or both. **Bill** re-categorizes 16 of these offences as civil defaults, where adjudicating officers may now levy penalties instead.
 3. Under the **Act**, if companies which have to provide for **Corporate Social Responsibility**, do not fully spent funds, they must disclose reasons for non-spending. Under the **Bill**, any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of funds under Schedule 7 of Act (e.g., PM Relief Fund) within six months of financial year.
 1. However, if CSR funds are committed to certain ongoing projects, then unspent funds will have to be transferred to an Unspent CSR Account within 30 days of end of the financial year, and spent within three years.
 2. Any violation may attract fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,00,000 and every defaulting officer may be punished with imprisonment of up to three years and / or fine 50,000 and 25,00,000.
 4. Under the **Act**, the National Financial Reporting Authority can debar a member / firm from practising as a Chartered Accountant for a period between six months to 10 years, for misconduct.
 1. **Bill** amends punishment to provide for debarment from appointment as an auditor / internal auditor of a company, or performing a company's valuation, for period between six months to 10 years.
 5. **Bill** states that a company may not commence business, unless it files a declaration within 180 days of incorporation, confirming that every subscriber to Memorandum of the company has paid for shares taken by him, and files a verification of its registered address with RoC within 30 days of incorporation.
 6. **Act** requires companies to register charges on their property within 30 days of creation of charge, extendable upto 300 days with permission of RoC. **Bill** changes deadline to 60 days (extendable by 60 days).
 7. Under the **Act**, change in period of financial year for a company associated with a foreign company, has to be approved by National Company Law Tribunal. **Bill** transfers these powers to central government.
 8. Under the **Act**, a regional director can settle offences with a penalty of up to five lakh rupees. **Bill** increases this ceiling to Rs 25 lakh.
 9. Under the **Act**, central government or certain shareholders can apply to NCLT for relief against mismanagement of the affairs of company.
 1. **Bill** states that in such a complaint, government may also make a case against an officer on ground that he is not fit to hold office, for reasons such as fraud / negligence. If NCLT passes an order against officer, he will not be eligible to hold office in any company for five years.
 10. If a person holds beneficial interest of at least 25% shares in a company or exercises significant influence or control over the company, he is required to make a declaration of his interest.
15. Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2019 -
1. It provides for a mechanism to ban unregulated deposit schemes and protect interests of depositors. It also seeks to amend three laws - Reserve Bank of India Act 1934, Securities and Exchange Board of India Act 1992 and Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002.
 2. Bill bans unregulated deposit schemes. A deposit-taking scheme is defined as unregulated if it is taken for a business purpose and is not registered with the regulators listed in the Bill.

3. Bill provides for the appointment of one or more government officers, not below rank of Secretary to state / central government, as Competent Authority. Police officers receiving information about offences under Bill will report to Competent Authority.
4. Police officers (not below rank of an officer-in-charge of a police station) may seize any property believed to be connected with an offence under Bill, with or without a warrant. Competent Authority will have powers similar to those vested in a civil court.
5. Bill provides for the constitution of one or more Designated Courts in specified areas.
6. After provisional attachment of deposit taker's assets, Competent Authority will approach Designated within 30 days (extendable to 60 days). to make provisional attachment absolute and ask for permission to sell assets.
7. Designated Court shall will seek to complete process within 180 days of being approached by Competent Authority.
8. Bill provides for central government to designate an authority to create an online central database for information on deposit takers.
9. Bill defines three types of offences, and penalties related to them -
 1. Running (advertising, promoting, operating or accepting money for) unregulated deposit schemes.
 2. Fraudulently defaulting on regulated deposit schemes
 3. Wrongfully inducing depositors to invest in unregulated deposit schemes by willingly falsifying facts.
 4. Penalties -
 1. Accepting unregulated deposits will be punishable with imprisonment between 2 - 7 years, along with fine ranging from 3 - 10 lakh rupees.
 2. Defaulting in repayment of unregulated deposits will be punishable with imprisonment between 3 - 10 years, and a fine ranging from 5 lakh rupees to twice the amount collected from depositors.
 3. Repeated offenders will be punishable with imprisonment between 5 - 10, along with a fine ranging from Rs 10 lakh to five crore rupees.
16. Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019 (Informally called as *Teen-Talak Bill*) -
 1. It replaces an Ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019.
 2. Bill makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void and illegal. It defines talaq as talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by a Muslim man resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce.
 1. Talaq-e-biddat refers to practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of word 'talaq' thrice in one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.
 3. Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine.
 1. Cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant.
 4. Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to accused. Bail may be granted only after hearing woman, and if Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.
 5. Offence may be compounded by Magistrate upon request of woman.
 1. Compounding refers to the procedure where the two sides agree to stop legal proceedings, and settle dispute.
 6. Affected woman is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children, with amount to be determined by Magistrate.
 7. Affected Muslim woman is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. Manner of custody will be determined by Magistrate.
17. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2019 -
 1. It amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016., which provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.
 1. Under the **Code**, a creditor may file an application before National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for initiating insolvency resolution process. NCLT must find existence of default within 14 days. A Committee of Creditors (CoC) consisting of financial creditors will then be constituted for taking decisions regarding insolvency resolution. CoC may either decide to restructure debtor's debt by preparing a resolution plan or liquidate debtor's assets.

2. CoC must complete a resolution process within 180 days, extendable by 90 days if the extension is approved by NCLT.
3. If resolution plan is rejected by CoC, debtor will go into liquidation. Code places financial creditors ahead of operational creditors. In a 2018 Amendment, home-buyers who paid advances to a developer were to be considered as financial creditors.
2. Bill addresses three issues -
 1. Strengthens provisions related to time-limits.
 2. Specifies minimum payouts to operational creditors in any resolution plan.
 3. Specifies manner in which representative of a group of financial creditors (such as home-buyers) should vote.
3. Resolution plan -
 1. Code provides that resolution plan must ensure that operational creditors receive an amount which should not be lesser than amount they would receive in case of liquidation. Bill amends this to provide that amounts to be paid to operational creditor should be higher of -
 1. Amounts receivable under liquidation, and
 2. Amount receivable under a resolution plan, if such amounts were distributed under same order of priority (as for liquidation).
 1. E.g, if default were for Rs 1,000 crore and resolution recovered 800 crores, operational creditor must at least get an amount which they would have received if Rs 800 crore have been obtained through liquidation proceeds.
 3. Bill states that this provision would also apply to insolvency processes.
 4. As per **Code**, NCLT must determine b existence of default within 14 days of receiving a resolution application. **Bill** states that in case NCLT does not find existence of default and has not passed an order within 14 days, it must record reasons in writing.
 5. **Code** states that insolvency resolution process must be completed within 180 days, extendable by a period of up to 90 days. **Bill** adds that resolution process must be completed within 330 days, including extension and time taken in legal proceedings. On the enactment of Bill, if any case is pending for over 330 days, Bill states it must be resolved within 90 days.
 6. **Code** specifies that, in cases when debt is owed to a class of creditors beyond a specified number, financial creditors will be represented on committee of creditors by an authorised representative, who will vote on behalf of creditors.
18. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2019
 1. It amends Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, which seeks to protect children from offences such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography.
 2. The Bill enhances jail term / fine for various types of sexual crimes against children.
 3. Act penalises storage of pornographic material for commercial purposes with a punishment of up to three years, or a fine, or both. Bill amends this to provide that the punishment can be imprisonment between three to five years, or a fine, or both.
19. National Medical Commission Bill 2019
 1. It seeks to repeal Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and provide for a reformed medical education system.
 2. Bill sets up National Medical Commission (NMC). Within three years of the passage of the Bill, state governments will establish State Medical Councils at state level. NMC will consist of 25 members, appointed by central government.
NMC will look after Functions related to medical education and profession across nation.
 3. Central government will constitute a Medical Advisory Council, as primary platform through which states/UTs can put forth their views and concerns before NMC.
 4. Bill sets up autonomous boards under the supervision of NMC.
 1. Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) and the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB).
 2. Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) - Will have the power to levy monetary penalties on medical institutions which fail to maintain the minimum standards as laid down by the UGMEB and PGMEB.

3. Ethics and Medical Registration Board - Will maintain a National Register of all licensed medical practitioners, and regulate professional conduct.
 5. NMC may grant a limited license to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine. These practitioners may prescribe specified medicines in primary and preventive healthcare.
 6. There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate and post-graduate super-speciality medical education in all medical institutions regulated under the Bill.
 7. Bill proposes a common final year undergraduate examination called the National Exit Test for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice.
20. Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019 -
1. It seeks to amend Motor Vehicles Act 1988, to provide for road safety.
 2. Government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour. Bill defines golden hour as time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is highest. Bill increases minimum compensation for hit and run cases.
 3. Bill requires government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India, to be utilised for related causes.
 4. Bill defines a good samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim.
 5. Bill allows government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in vehicle may cause damage to environment / driver / other road users.
 6. Government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments.
 7. Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board to be created by central government. It will advise central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management.
 8. Bill increases penalties for several offences under the Act.
 1. Maximum penalty for driving under influence of alcohol or drugs has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, penalty will be a fine of up to Rs 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year. government may increase fines mentioned under Act every year by up to 10%.
21. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2019 -
1. It amends Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.
 2. Bill additionally empowers government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds such as terrorist organizations.
 3. Bill adds Provisions related to that if investigation is conducted by an officer of National Investigation Agency (NIA), approval of Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
 4. Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Schedule lists nine treaties. Bill adds another treaty to the list - International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).
22. Repealing and Amending Bill 2019
1. Bill repeals 68 laws that have been listed in the First Schedule of the Bill. These include Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act 1976 and Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2001.
 2. Bill makes minor amendments to two Acts which relate to substitution of certain words. The two Acts are Income Tax Act 1961, and India Institutes of Management Act 2017.
23. Code on Wages Bill 2019 -
1. It subsumes relevant provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. After enactment of Code on Wages, all these four Acts will get repealed.
 2. The Code on Wage universalizes provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.

3. At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply on workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only. This would ensure "Right to Sustenance" for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage from existing about 40% to 100% workforce.
4. At present, many of the states have multiple minimum wages. Through Code on Wages, the methodology to fix the minimum wages has been simplified and rationalised by doing away with type of employment as one of the criteria for fixation of minimum wage.

24. Consumer Protection Bill 2019

1. It replaces Consumer Protection Act 1986.
2. Six consumer rights have been defined in the Bill -
 1. To be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property
 2. To be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services
 3. To be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices
 4. To seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.
3. Government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to protect and enforce rights of consumers. CCPA will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.
4. CCPA may impose a penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser of up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to two years for misleading advertisement. In subsequent offence, fine may extend to Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of up to five years.
5. Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up at the district, state, and national levels.
6. District CDRC will entertain complaints where value of goods and services does not exceed Rs one crore. State CDRC will entertain complaints when the value is more than Rs one crore but does not exceed Rs 10 crore. Complaints with value of goods and services over Rs 10 crore will be entertained by the National CDRC.

25. Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It seeks to amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, which contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration, and defines law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
2. Bill seeks to establish Arbitration Council of India (ACI) for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanism.
3. Under the **Bill**, Supreme Court and High Courts may now designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for the appointment of arbitrators, within 30 days.
4. Under the Act, arbitral tribunals are required to make their award within a period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings. Bill seeks to remove this time restriction for international commercial arbitrations. It adds that tribunals must endeavour to dispose off international matters within 12 months.
5. Bill requires that written claim and defence to claim in an arbitration proceeding, should be completed within six months of appointment of the arbitrators.
6. Bill clarifies that 2015 Act shall only apply to arbitral proceedings which started on or after October 23, 2015.

26. Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2019

1. It amends Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act 2008, which established Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA). AERA regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services provided at civilian airports with annual traffic above 15 lakh passengers.
2. Act defines a major airport as one with annual passenger traffic over 15 lakh, or any other airports as notified by the central government. Bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports to over 35 lakh.
3. Bill adds several clauses related to determining tariff, tariff structures, or development fees.

27. Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 -

1. Bill amends Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1971, which provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises in certain cases.
2. Bill adds a provision laying down the procedure for eviction from residential accommodation. It requires an estate officer to issue a written notice to a person if he is in unauthorised occupation of a residential

accommodation. Notice will require the person to show cause of why an eviction order should not be made against him, within three working days.

3. After considering the cause shown, estate officer will make an order for eviction. If the person fails to comply with the order, the estate officer may evict such person from the residential accommodation, and take possession of it.

28. Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill 2019

1. It amends Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956.
2. **Act** fixes maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court at 30 judges (excluding Chief Justice of India). **Bill** increases this number from 30 to 33.

29. Other Two Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament were The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 2019 AND The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2019

5. Bills Passed by Lok Sabha (Pending in Rajya Sabha) -

1. Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It amends Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956, which provides for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
2. Under the **Bill**, when a state puts in a request regarding any water dispute, central government will set up a Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC), to resolve the dispute. DRC will comprise of a Chairperson, and experts with at least 15 years of experience in relevant sectors.
 1. DRC will seek to resolve dispute through negotiations, within one year (extendable by six months). If dispute cannot be settled by DRC, central government will refer it to Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal, within 3 months from receipt of report from DRC.
 2. Central government will set up an Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal, for adjudication of water disputes. All existing Tribunals will be dissolved, and pending disputes will be transferred to new Tribunal. Tribunal will consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, three judicial members, and three expert members.
3. Under the **Act**, Tribunal must give its decision within three years, which may be extended by two years. Under the **Bill**, the proposed Tribunal must give its decision on the dispute within two years, which may be extended by another year.
4. Under the **Act**, decision of Tribunal must be published by central government in official gazette, with same force as that of an order of Supreme Court. **Bill** removes requirement of such publication.
5. **Bill** adds that decision of Tribunal will be final and binding on parties involved in dispute. **Bill** makes it mandatory for central government to make a scheme to give effect to decision of Tribunal.
6. Under the **Act**, central government maintains a data bank and information system at national level for each river basin. **Bill** provides that central government will authorise an agency to maintain such data bank.

2. The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill 2019

1. It amends Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act 1951, which provides for erection of a National Memorial in memory of those killed / wounded on April 13, 1919, in Jallianwala Bagh. It also creates a Trust to manage the Memorial.
2. Under Act, Trustees of Memorial include PM as Chairperson, President of Indian National Congress, Minister in-charge of Culture, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Governor of Punjab, Chief Minister of Punjab, and 3 eminent persons nominated by government. **Bill** removes President of Indian National Congress as a Trustee.
3. Act provides that three trustees nominated by government will be trustees for a period of five years and will be eligible for renomination. **Bill** allows government to terminate term of a nominated trustee before expiry of period of his term without assigning any reason.

3. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 -

1. Bill prohibits discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment.
2. Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household.
3. No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.
4. Educational institutions shall provide inclusive education, sports and recreational facilities for transgender persons, without discrimination.

5. A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
6. Government will take measures to ensure full inclusion of transgender persons in society.
7. Bill recognizes several offences against transgender persons. Penalties for these offences vary between six months and two years, and a fine.
8. National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) will be formed with Union Minister for Social Justice as (Chairperson) and other designated members.

4. Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 -

1. Bill defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with intention to hand over the child after birth to intending couple.
2. Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during pregnancy.
3. Intending couple should have a 'certificate of essentiality' and a 'certificate of eligibility' issued by the appropriate authority.
Certificate of essentiality will be issued upon fulfilment of given conditions related to proven infertility and other terms.
4. To obtain a certificate of eligibility from appropriate authority, surrogate mother has to be - a close relative of the intending couple, a married woman having a child of her own, 25 to 35 years old, a surrogate only once in her lifetime and possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy.
5. Central and state governments shall appoint one or more appropriate authorities within 90 days of the Bill becoming an Act.
6. To act as Surrogacy clinics, Clinics must apply for registration within a period of 60 days from the date of appointment of the appropriate authority.
7. Central and the state governments shall constitute National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and State Surrogacy Boards (SSB), respectively.
8. Offences under Bill include undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy, exploiting surrogate mother, abandoning a surrogate child, selling or importing human embryo or gametes for surrogacy. Penalty is imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees.

5. Dam Safety Bill 2019 -

1. It provides for surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across country.
2. Bill applies to all specified dams in the country. These are dams with height over 15 metres, height between 10 metres to 15 metres and subject to certain additional design and structural conditions.
3. National Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted and will be chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission. All other members will be nominated by central government.
 1. Functions of Committee include formulating policies and regulations regarding dam safety standards and prevention of dam failures, and analysing causes of major dam failures and suggesting changes in dam safety practices.
4. National Dam Safety Authority will be headed by an officer not below rank of an Additional Secretary. Functions include
 1. Implementing the policies formulated by the National Committee on Dam Safety.
 2. Resolving issues between State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state
 3. Specifying regulations for inspection and investigation of dams
 4. Providing accreditation to agencies working on construction, design, and alteration of dams.
5. State governments will establish State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs). All specified dams situated in a state will fall under the jurisdiction of that state's SDSO. In certain cases National Dam Safety Authority will act as the SDSO. These include cases where a dam extends over multiple states or is owned by a central public sector undertaking. SDSOs will
 1. Keep perpetual surveillance, inspect, and monitor operation and maintenance of dams
 2. Keep a database of all dams and recommend safety measures to owners of dams.

6. Bill provides for constitution of State Committees on Dam Safety by state governments. Functions of Committee include -

1. Reviewing work of SDSO
2. Ordering dam safety investigations
3. Recommend dam safety measures and reviewing progress on such measures
4. Assess potential impact on upstream and downstream states.

7. Owners of specified dams are required to provide a dam safety unit in each dam.

8. Bill provides for two types of offences -

1. Obstructing a person in discharge of his functions under the Bill and
2. Refusing to comply with directions issued under the Bill.
3. Offenders will be punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine, or both.

6. Bills Passed by Rajya Sabha (Pending in Lok Sabha) -

1. Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. Bill amends Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act 2004.
2. **Act** provides for reservation in appointment (by direct recruitment) in state government posts for SC/ST and backward classes. It provides for reservation in admission in professional institutions for certain reserved categories. **Bill** additionally provides for reservation in appointment and admission in professional institutions for economically weaker sections.
3. Reservations of upto 10% for economically weaker sections in appointment and admission to professional institutions will be in addition to existing reservation under the Act.

2. National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It seeks to amend National Institute of Design Act 2014, which declares National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad as an institution of national importance.
2. Bill seeks to declare four National Institutes of Design in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana as institutions of national importance. Currently, these are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas.

7. Bills Introduced in Lok Sabha -

1. Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill 2019 -

1. It Bill seeks to amend Chit Funds Act 1982, that regulates chit funds, and prohibits a fund from being created without prior sanction of state government. Under a chit fund, people agree to pay a certain amount from time to time into a fund. Periodically, one of subscribers is chosen by drawing a chit to receive the prize amount from the fund.
2. **Act** specifies various names which may be used to refer to a chit fund. These include chit, chit fund, and kuri. **Bill** additionally inserts 'fraternity fund' and 'rotating savings and credit institution' to this list.
3. **Act** defines certain terms in relation to chit funds - 'chit amount', 'dividend' and 'prize amount'. Bill changes names of these terms to 'gross chit amount', 'share of discount' and 'net chit amount', respectively.
4. Under the **Act**, the 'foreman' is responsible for managing chit fund, who is entitled to maximum commission of 5% of chit amount. **Bill** seeks to increase the commission to 7%.
5. Under the **Act**, chits may be conducted by firms, associations or individuals. Maximum amount of chit funds which may be collected - 1 lakh for chits conducted by individuals and firms with under 4 partners and 6 lakh rupees for firms with four or more partners. **Bill** increases these limits to three lakh rupees and 18 lakh rupees, respectively.
6. **Act** does not apply to any chit started before it was enacted and any chit (or multiple chits being managed by the same foreman) where amount is less than Rs 100. **Bill** removes limit of Rs 100, and allows state governments to specify base amount over which provisions of Act will apply.

2. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2019 -

1. The Code applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks. It does not apply to apprentices.
2. Code repeals and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

3. Central and state governments will set up Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Boards at national and state level, respectively.
 4. Code specifies several duties of employers related to health of employees, including a workplace that is free from hazards that may cause injury or diseases, and free annual health examinations.
 5. Work hours will be as per rules prescribed by government. For overtime, worker must be paid twice the rate of daily wages.
 6. No employee may work for more than six days a week. Exceptions may be provided for motor transport workers. During medical leave, worker must be paid half his daily wages.
 7. An offence that leads to death of an employee will be punishable with imprisonment of up to two years, or a fine up to five lakh rupees, or both. For any other violation employer will be penalised with a fine between two and three lakh rupees.
3. DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019
1. Bill provides for regulation of use of DNA technology for establishing the identity of certain persons. Same Bill had been previously introduced in Lok Sabha in August 2018, but lapsed.
 2. DNA testing is allowed only in respect of matters listed in the Schedule to the Bill. These include offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and for civil matters such as paternity suits.
 3. Bill provides for the establishment of a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks, for every state, or two or more states.
 4. Bill states that the criteria for entry, retention, or removal of the DNA profile will be specified by regulations.
 5. Bill provides for the establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board, which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories.
 6. Any laboratory undertaking DNA testing is required to obtain accreditation from the Board.
 7. Bill specifies penalties for various offences, including: (i) for disclosure of DNA information, or (ii) using DNA sample without authorization.
2. ▶ Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announced all Delhi households consuming 200 units of power or less will now get complete waiver on electricity Bill.
3. ▶ Government announced repealing Article 370 and introduced Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 in Rajya Sabha.
1. The resolution was passed by Home Minister Amit Shah in the upper house.
 2. The Historical Bill aims at repealing special status to Jammu and Kashmir and will make J&K an integral part of India. Bill proposes Jammu and Kashmir as a Union Territory with a legislature, while Ladakh as a Union Territory without a legislature.
3. Article 370 of Indian constitution gives autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
1. Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. got the article added with a 1954 Presidential Order, without presenting it into parliament.
 1. In October 1947, then-Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir signed the 'Instrument of Accession', which specified three subjects- Foreign affairs, Defence and Communications on which J&K would transfer its powers to India.
 2. In July 1949, Sheikh Abdullah, then chief minister of J&K Joined Indian Constituent Assembly and negotiated special status of J&K, leading to adoption of Article 370 in 1954 through the Presidential Order.
 3. The article has reportedly done more harm to Jammu and Kashmir than good. The scrapping of Article 370 will pave way for social and economic inclusion of J& K in India and will cause increase in economic activities and decline in terrorism in state.
 2. Article 370, along with Article 35A, defined that Jammu and Kashmir state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to resident of other Indian states. Indian citizens from other states could not purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir.
 3. Article is drafted as Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions in Part XXI of the Constitution. The Indian Constitution still describes it as a temporary provision. However, it was continuing for over 70 years.
 4. Article 370 provided six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir:
 - The State is allowed to have its own Constitution.
 - The Central legislative powers over the State were limited to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications.
 - Only with concurrence of State Government, other constitutional powers of Indian Government could be extended to State.
 - Concurrence was only provisional. The State's Constituent Assembly should ratify the provision.

- Until State Constituent Assembly was formed, State Government was given authority to give concurrence. Once State Constituent Assembly finalised scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible.
 - Only if State's Constituent Assembly approves the Article 370, it could be repealed or amended.
 - Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in state. It can declare an emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression.
4. Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 2019 made by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind was published. Once this order was tabled by the home minister, it came into force immediately and supersede the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 1954.
5. J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019 was moved by Home Minister Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha. Bill bifurcates Jammu and Kashmir into 2 new Union Territories, one with legislature (Jammu and Kashmir) and other without legislature (Ladakh).
6. Key changes in J & K political scenarion after the decision -

1. Earlier	Now Onwards
Jammu & Kashmir was a state with special status.	Now Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory.
Only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to buy land in the state.	People from anywhere in India will be able to buy a property and do business.
No 'outsider' could settle in the state.	Now any citizen of the country can settle in J&K.
RTI could not be filed	No restriction on filing RTI
Period of Legislative assembly was 6 years.	It will now be 5 years.
Jammu & Kashmir had a separate flag.	Only National Flag will be applicable there.
J&K had a separate constitution.	No separate constitution, law & order will be under central government.
Ladakh was a part of Jammu & Kashmir	Ladakh will be a separate Union Territory without a legislature.
The constitutional head was Governor	Head will now be Lieutenant Governor.

4. ▶ Government launched One Nation-One Ration Card scheme on pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharastra and Gujarat. It seeks to allow portability of food security benefits. Govt. Indents to extend this scheme to all states by August 2020 so that portability of food security card implemented.
5. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways exempted armoured and other specialised vehicles of Indian armed forces and paramilitary forces from new stringent vehicular emission norms (BS-VI) which are set to take effect from 1st April, 2020. Exemption has been granted because these vehicles operate in remote and inhospitable terrains with most challenging operational and environmental conditions.
6. ▶ According to Vidhi centre for for Legal Policy's report titled "Building Better Courts (Surveying the Infrastructure of India's District Courts)" -
1. Delhi (90%) and Kerala (84%) are top-performing states in court infrastructure facility whereas Bihar (26%) and Manipur (29%) have poorest infrastructure in lower judiciary.
7. ▶ Actor Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti, a Maharashtra government's initiative to train athletes from tribal areas for international sports events. It will help Maharashtra government to hunt for talented athletes in remote areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli, and will be extended to entire state soon.
1. The mission is directed towards 6 sporting disciplines namely- archery, shooting, volleyball, swimming, weightlifting and gymnastics.
8. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government will launch Navodayam scheme, as a complete outreach programme for thousands of ailing MSMEs. Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for the one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020. About 86,000 MSMEs have been identified for restructuring under Navodayam with an outlay of Rs 3,900 crores.
9. ▶ As a step towards 'One Nation One Ration Card', Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated inter-State portability in two clusters of adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and Gujarat & Maharashtra.

This will enable beneficiaries from either States' cluster to avail the benefits accruing to them under the National Food Security Act from any of the two States.

1. Govt aims Pan India roll out of "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme from June 1, 2020.

10. ▶ As per report, tigers face glooming threat from Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) transmitted from CDV-infected dogs living in and around wildlife sanctuaries. It has found that 86% of tested dogs around Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan carried CDV antibodies in their bloodstream. In 2018, over 20 lions from Gir Wildlife Sanctuary had died due to canine distemper virus infection.
11. ▶ Bureau of Indian Standards published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity. BIS also announced setting up Pashmina testing centre in Leh region of Jammu and Kashmir to check the quality of pashmina collected.
 1. Centre will have standards testing lab, machines and scientists to check the quality of pashmina collected. Pashmina is a fine type of Kashmiri wool, meaning 'Soft Gold' in Kashmiri.
 2. Kashmir Pashmina has been accorded Geographical indication (GI) tag under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
12. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (Aug 5, 2019) -
 1. General Approvals -
 1. Approved Ratification of amended Framework Agreement of the International Solar Agreement (ISA) for opening up the ISA membership to all countries that are members of United Nations. It will put solar energy in global agenda with universal appeal for developing and deploying solar energy.
 2. MOUs -
 1. Tunisia - Cooperation in Exploration and Use of Outer space for Peaceful Purposes.
 3. CCEA Approvals-
 1. Approved plan construct New Line between Vaibhavwadi – Kolhapur (now Shri Chhatrapati Shahumaharaj Terminus) (108 km) with an estimated cost of Rs. 3,439 crore. The project will be completed by 2023-24 and will be executed by Construction Organization of Central Railway.
 2. Approved increasing speed of the Delhi-Mumbai route (including Kanpur-Lucknow) to 160 Kmph' at a total cost of Rs. 6,806 cr by 2022-23, under Mission Raftaar. It will ensure upto 60% increase in average speed of passenger trains and doubling of average speed of freight traffic.
 1. 1,483 Kms long Delhi-Mumbai Route passes through 7 states, namely Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 3. Approved increasing speed of the Delhi-Howrah route (including Kanpur-Lucknow) to 160 Kmph' at a total cost of Rs. 6,685 cr by 2022-23, under Mission Raftaar. Like similar approval for Delhi-Mumbai route, this will ensure upto 60% increase in average speed of passenger trains and doubling of average speed of freight traffic.
 1. 1,525 Kms long Delhi-Howrah Route passes through 5 states, namely Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
13. ▶ Cabinet approved increasing number of judges in Supreme Court from the present 31 to 34. In this regard, cabinet approved Introducing a bill to amend Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956.
14. ▶ Department of Revenue will conduct India's 1st National Time Release Study (TRS) for enabling faster movement of cargo across borders to benefit traders. TRS is an to measure efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
 1. National TRS is an internationally recognized tool advocated by Brussels based World Customs Organization (WCO) that will measure bottlenecks in clearance of goods, from time of arrival until physical release of cargo.
 2. It is part of India's commitment to improve global trade, conducted between 1- 7 August 2019. From now onwards exercise will be HELD on annual basis, during same period every year.
 3. Expected Beneficiaries will be export oriented industries and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) who will enjoy greater standardization of Indian processes with comparable international standards.
15. ▶ Environment ministry unveiled a draft 'Nation Resource Efficiency Policy' which suggests the institutional mechanism and a three-year action plan through the principle of 6R and 'green public procurement'.
 1. In India, consumption of fossil fuels, biomass, metal ores and non-metal ores was increased by over 6 times in 45 years, from 1.18 billion tonnes (BT) in 1970 to 7.4 BT in 2015. It is projected to be doubled by 2030 from 2015 level.
 2. 6R stands for Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redesign, Re-manufacture and Refurbish.

3. Green public procurement is to procure products with lower environmental footprints such as secondary raw materials and locally sourced materials.
4. Draft suggests to set up 'National Resource Efficiency Authority' (NREA) to develop an action plan with 3 years time-frame, create and maintain database, measure progress and build capacities.
5. Under initial action plan (2019-22), draft seeks to constitute an inter-ministerial body – National Resource Efficiency Advisory Board (NREAB) – for coordination among different agencies.
16. ▶ General Conferences (Aug 1 - 10, 2019) -
 1. For 1st time since Independence, 'Nagar Kirtan' carrying Guru Granth Sahib which was taken out from Nankana Sahib district of Punjab province of Pakistan, arrived at Attari in Amritsar (India). Nagar Kirtan will culminate at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala district of Punjab in India after passing through various cities and towns, marking 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev
 2. e-version of Rozgar Samachar has been launched by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector. Journal has been priced at 75% of the cost of its print version and is available for an annual subscription fee of 400.
 3. HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive, to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in country, so that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens.
 4. Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab Anandpur Sahib will be listed in the Asia Book of Records for becoming most visited museum in Indian sub-continent in a single day, with over 20000 visitors on a single day on March 20, 2019.
 5. City of Lakes, Udaipur (Rajasthan) hosted 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event called "ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF)" on 2019 theme 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'.
 6. Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (MP-SAPCAR) has been released, making MP 2nd state after Kerala to develop an action plan to manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
 1. With rising AMR, antibiotics are increasingly becoming ineffective for treating diseases in humans. If there is no timely containment, AMR is likely to cause nearly 10 million deaths by 2050 and result in significant global economic losses.
 7. 15th India-US Defence Policy Group meeting 2019 on defence issues held in Washington (US).
 8. HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated TechEx - technology exhibition at IIT Delhi, to demonstrate products and prototypes developed under the two flagship schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) namely IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY).
 9. Foreign Ministers from South East Asia Nations attended 52nd ASEAN summit in Bangkok (Thailand).
 10. Govt. organized Regional Conference on Good Governance with the theme "Strengthening State Institutes of Public Administration" at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 11. E-commerce Firm Flipkart launched Samarth, an initiative to bring Indian artisans, weavers, and makers of handicrafts to its platform. Walmart-owned Flipkart partnered with 5 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help artisans use online marketplace to sell their products.
 12. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India's first underwater train project will be launched in Kolkata (West Bengal) under Hooghly river. It is a 16-kilometer long Kolkata Metro project, to connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan.
 13. Nigeria joined Global coalition group of the willing on pollinators as the fourth African nation to protect pollinators and their habitats by developing and implementing National pollinator strategies, where currently world's pollinator species are on decline. Other Nations in coalition are Ethiopia, Burundi and Morocco.
 14. Government sanctioned 5595 electric buses in 64 cities for intracity and intercity operations under Phase-II of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME-India) Scheme.
 15. Delhi government announced that 11,000 hotspots will be installed to provide Wi-Fi before the end of 2019. The announcement was part of Mr. Kejriwal's election agenda in 2014 but didn't see light of day during his tenure as Delhi CM.
 16. 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave held at International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar (Haryana).
 17. Uttar Pradesh government has extended bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024, that sought cooperation in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management including restoration of water bodies and mobility planning.
 18. English Actor Steve Coogan will be honored with BAFTA Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy.

17. ▶ Government approved project for interlinking of Kosi and Mechi rivers of Bihar, with cost INR 4900 crores, as 2nd major river interlinking project in country to be approved by Central Government after Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh.
 1. Approval came after project secured last remaining mandatory nod from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
 2. It envisages diversion of part of surplus water of Kosi river through existing Hanuman Nagar barrage to Mechi River of Mahananda basin.
 3. It will channel surplus water from Kosi into Mahananda, optimizing redistribution of surplus waters and providing it for irrigation of 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across districts of Kishanganj, Araria, Purnia and Katihar in north Bihar.
18. ▶ Gujarat Govt. launched 'Vhali Dikri Yojna', aimed at welfare of girl child. 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.
 1. 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 and another Rs. 1-lakh at the time of marriage.
19. ▶ IIT Madras partnered with National Institute of Ocean Technology to harness electricity from ocean waves. Both institutions will together develop turbines that can harness the power of ocean waves to generate electricity.
20. ▶ ISRO Chairman K Sivan laid foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre at Peenya in Bengaluru.
 1. Control centre would facilitate intensified activities foreseen for ASSAM, in view of increasing debris population and operational space assets.
 2. It would host a range of activities pertaining to the protection of Indian space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near-earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions.
21. ▶ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002. These vaccines aim to prevent infection (pre-exposure) or prevent primary progression or reactivation of latent TB infection (post-exposure), all of which have critical role to play in India's big fight against TB.
22. ▶ India's first wireless 3-D Smart Traffic Signal System called Intelights launched in Mohali (Punjab), which proposes a Intelligent Traffic Timer Control to regulate traffic signals with smart bird's eye view using wireless sensor system. Intelights has been devised by students at Chandigarh university.
23. ▶ Microsoft India partnered with Apollo Hospitals Group to set up a National Clinical Coordination Committee (NCCC), to co-ordinate in cardiovascular-related Artificial Intelligence(AI) projects. It will work for AI-powered Cardiovascular Disease(CVD) Risk Score API (application program interface) built on Microsoft Azure (cloud computing service), to predict the risk of disease.
24. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) unveiled draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for coastal zone management, prepared by Society for Integrated Coastal Management.
 1. ESMF lays out guidelines out for coastal States to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones.
 2. It proposes key activities for coastal zone development that consist investments by States including mangrove afforestation/shelter beds, habitat conservation activities such as restoration of sea-grass meadows, rearing/rescue centres for turtles and other marine animals, creation of infrastructure for tourism, beach cleaning and development etc.
25. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will expand Rotavirus vaccine to entire country from September 2019, providing Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states / UTs.
 1. In India, every year there are 37 diarrheal deaths out of every 1000 children. Rotavirus diarrhoea presents in similar manner like any other diarrhoea but can easily prevented through rotavirus vaccination.
26. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced 4th edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2019, to honour outstanding young 1st generation entrepreneurs / ecosystem builders for their contribution in entrepreneurship development. Categories -
 1. There are total of 45 specially designed awards to be bestowed - 39 Enterprise Awards and 6 Awards.
 2. To be eligible, entrepreneur must be under 40 years age , must be a first-generation entrepreneur, hold 51% or more equity and ownership of business and women entrants individually or collectively owning 75% or more of the enterprise.\
 3. Winners will be presented with Trophy, Certificate and Cash Prize of Rs. 5 lakh (enterprises/ individuals) and Rs. 10 lakh (organizations/ institutes).
27. ▶ NITI Aayog launched 4th edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards, with theme *Women and Entrepreneurship*. WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to US \$100,000 to award winners.

1. Award is being organized annually by NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from India, launched under Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
28. ▶ Protection from Lynching Bill 2019 passed by Rajasthan Assembly, making Rajasthan 2nd State after Manipur to have a dedicated legislation that criminalises mob lynching as a special offence. Manipur Assembly had passed a similar Bill in December 2018.
 1. Bill makes Mob Lynching offence cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences. Life imprisonment and a fine up to Rs.5 lakh to convicts in cases of mob lynching involving victim's death.
29. ▶ RBI opened a Money Museum in Kolkata in March 2019, aiming at improving people's knowledge of the banking system with the help of interactive displays. It has a big tree made using unusable coins and demonetized notes attached with a computer model outlining how money gets transferred to the account digitally.
30. ▶ Rajasthan Assembly passes Bill against honour killing, titled *Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill 2019* - It makes honour killing punishable by death penalty or life imprisonment.
 1. Bill has laid down death penalty/life sentence and a fine up to Rs.5 lakh for killing a couple or either of them on basis that their marriage had dishonoured or brought disrepute to caste/community/family.
 2. Bill also proposes punishment up to 7 years for criminal intimidation. Punishment is also based on Level of Hurt caused.
31. ▶ Rajasthan government launched a new higher education model titled- Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE, for distribution of faculties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources.
 1. RACE model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit colleges that lack infrastructure.
 2. RACE is expected to help channelise resources and ensure quality education amid less strength of teachers in state (by approx 2000).
32. ▶ Report titled *Grain by Grain* 2019 has been released, as a Green Rating Project (GRP) on the Indian fertilizer industry conducted by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
 1. Grain by Grain is 7th rating project undertaken by GRP, prior being pulp and paper, automobile, chlor-alkali, cement, iron and steel and thermal power sectors. Rating covers all 28 operational plants in country. Findings -
 - Grasim Industries Ltd's Indo Gulf Fertilisers unit at Jagdishpur, Uttar Pradesh emerged as top rated plant with 61% score. It received the coveted Four Leaves award.
 - Next three winners received Three Leaves award - Hazira (Gujarat) unit of KRIBHCO, Panambur (Karnataka) unit of MRPL, and Babrala (Uttar Pradesh) unit of Yara Fertilizers.
 - Imbalance in nitrogen cycle and climate change were 2 main environmental challenges. Nitrogen use efficiency was 35% for lowland rice and under 50% for upland crops.
33. ▶ To Boost Digital India initiative and bring technology to farmers, Govt. launched a mobile application named Meghdoot, that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.
34. ▶ Urkund, an anti-plagiarism (anti-piracy, anti-theft) Swedish software has been chosen by UGC to be accessed for free by Indian Universities through global tender process. Software will be provided to 900 universities. Previously used software was Turnitin but it was found to be 10 times more expensive without a proportionate increase in features or reliability.
35. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt's *Vriksharopan Mahakumbh* drive created world record by planting more than 22 crore saplings, on occasion of 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement on 8 August 2019.
36. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu launched Jharkhand Govt's Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana. Farmers having farmlands of less than 1 acre to 5 acres will be provided financial assistance of 5,000-25,000. Outlay of scheme is INR 3000 crores. This scheme is apart from the benefits that the farmers are getting under Pradhan Mantri Kisan yojana. Money distribution -
 1. 5000- Under 1 acres of land.
 2. 10,000 - 1 - 2 acres of land.
 3. 15000 - 2 - 3 acres of land.
 4. 20000 - 3 - 4 acres of land.
 5. 25,000 - 4 - 5 acres of land.
37. ▶ West Bengal Government launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.

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1. ▶ France's Franky Zapata successfully crossed English Channel on a jet-powered hoverboard, as a first such achievement. He took just over 20 minutes and reached speeds of 110 mph to complete 22-mile journey.
 1. In 2011 he invented Flyboard, a device that uses a water jet to propel rider through air behind a boat. He later invented Flyboard Air, a board powered by four turbo jet engines that allows a rider to fly through air untethered, using a computer to keep it stabilized.
 2. English Channel is a narrow arm of Atlantic Ocean, which separates Southern England from northern France and links southern part of North Sea to Atlantic Ocean. It is busiest shipping area in world.
2. ▶ Obituaries (August 2019) -
 1. D. A. Pennebaker - Noted American Documentary Film Maker.
 2. Devadas Kanakala - Noted Telugu Actor.
 3. Malcolm Nash - England Cricketer.
 4. Jean Arasanayagam - Renowned Sri Lankan contemporary poet and fiction writer.
 5. J. Om Prakash - Noted Bollywood filmmaker and also maternal Grandfather of Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan.
 6. Kanti Bhatt - Noted Gujarati journalist and author.
 7. Anant Setalvad - Noted Cricket commentator.
 8. Toni Morrison - Noted American Novelist and 1993 Nobel laureate in literature. She was the 1st African American woman to win Nobel in literature.
 9. Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy - Noted educationist and Padma Shri awardee.
 10. Sushma Swaraj - Former Union External Affairs Minister. Many firsts to her credit - Youngest Cabinet Minister in Haryana Government in 1977, first woman Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998, first woman spokesperson for any national political party in the country and India's first full-time woman Foreign Minister.
 11. Harley Race - Noted American Professional Wrestler.
 12. Dayanidhi Nayak - Noted freedom fighter. He struggled against British Government during the Quit India movement.
3. ▶ Persons Resigned / Retired (August 2019) -
 1. New Zealand Cricketer Daniel Vettori retired from all forms of Cricket.
 2. New Zealand Cricketer Brendon McCullum retired from all forms of Cricket.
 3. South African Cricketer Dale Steyn announced his retirement from Test cricket.
 4. South African Cricketer Hashim Amla announced his retirement from Test all forms of International cricket.
 5. Uruguay Footballer striker Diego Forlan announced his retirement from professional football.
4. ▶ Visits from India (Aug 1 - 10, 2019) -
 1. Piyush Goyal (Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways) visited Vladivostok (Russia), to explore investment opportunities and strike close partnerships with the Far East provinces.
 2. Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan attended 8th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial meeting held in Beijing (China)
 3. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar visited Bangkok (Thailand). He attended ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting, 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM), 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting.
 4. President Ram Nath Kovind Visited West African Nations Benin, Gambia and Guinea. This visit is the first-ever visit of Head of State/Head of Government of India to each of the three countries.
 1. Benin -
 1. India and Benin signed four MoUs on education, health and e-visa facilities. The signing of the agreement on mutual exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports and agreement on the fresh line of credit of 100 million US dollars by India to finance development projects in Benin.
 2. India also extended free tele-education courses to over 15,000 Beninese students and tele-medicine courses to 1,000 doctors and paramedics in Africa.
 2. Gambia -
 1. India offered Gambia a grant of US dollars 500,000 in support of skill development and cottage industry project. In addition, the two sides also signed and exchanged a MOU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
 3. Guinea -
 1. President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea for his exceptional contribution to advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between

India and Guinea.

2. India extended a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Conakry Water Supply Project in Guinea.

3. MOUs -

1. Cooperation in field of traditional system of medicine and homeopathy.

2. MOU Between Guinea and Telecommunications Consultants India Limited for Participation in the e-VBAB Network Project.

3. Cooperation in field of renewable energy.

5. ▶ Visits to India (Aug 1 - 10, 2019) -

1. 7th meeting of India-Bangladesh Home Minister Level Talks (HMLT) held in New Delhi, attended by Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister for Home Affairs of Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum use of Ganges water. River Ganges water is being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.

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Science

1. ▶ A Mexico Researcher discovered way to turn cactus leaves into non toxic and biodegradable material with similar properties to plastic. This innovation offers a promising solution to one of the world's biggest pollution conundrums caused by toxic and non-biodegradable plastics.

2. ▶ IIT Kanpur Researchers developed world's first robot hand for the rehabilitation of stroke patients, as a two-finger robotic hand (exoskeleton) that uses a four-bar mechanism and has four degrees of freedom (DOF). It uses brain signals, with the help of the brain-computer interface (BCI).

3. ▶ NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission discovered GJ 357 d, a super-Earth planet located 31 light years away from our solar system.

1. Researchers claim that it is the first nearby "super-Earth" planet that could possibly support life as it orbit within its star's "habitable zone or Goldilocks Zone".

2. It is located in GJ 357 planetary system which has diminutive M-type dwarf sun, about one-third the size of our own sun and harbour in three planets including GJ 357 d.

4. ▶ Remains of World's largest parrot, *Heracles inexpectatus* that lived 19 million years ago have been discovered in New Zealand which is well known for giant birds. It is nicknamed as "Squawkzilla".

5. ▶ Researchers at IIT Kharagpur developed a technology which can generate energy from solid waste with high moisture content, called Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC). It can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.

6. ▶ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati developed a portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays. The hand-held device, with bio-compatible sensor, can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis.

7. ▶ Scientists at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia developed an automated system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time. FRBs are mysterious and powerful flashes of radio waves from space, thought to originate billions of light-years from Earth.

8. ▶ Scientists at University of Leeds (UK) created world's thinnest gold measuring 2 atoms thick or million times thinner than a fingernail, with official measurement being 0.47 nanometres.

1. The material is regarded as two-dimensional (2D) because it comprises just two layers of atoms sitting on top of one another.

2. The material could have wide-scale applications in the medical device and electronics industries -- and also as a catalyst to speed up chemical reactions in a range of industrial processes.

3. Lab tests show that ultra-thin gold is 10 times more efficient as a catalytic substrate than the currently used gold nanoparticles, which are three dimensional (3D) materials with majority of atoms residing in bulk rather than at surface.

9. ▶ US and Chinese scientists developed a novel computer model that can help accurately predict air pollution levels in the region a season in advance. It uses certain climatic patterns related to oceans which have a regulatory effect on wintertime air pollution over northern India.

1. Inter-annual variability of wintertime aerosol pollution over northern India is regulated mainly by a combination of El Nino - a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns -- and the Antarctic Oscillation (AAO), a low-frequency mode of atmospheric variability of the southern hemisphere.

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Sports

1. ▶ 2019 Citi Open Tennis Winners (Also called Washington Open) -

1. Men's Singles - Nick Kyrgios (Australia)
2. Women's Singles - Jessica Pegula (US)
3. Men's Doubles - Raven Klaasen (South Africa) AND Michael Venus (New Zealand)
4. Women's Doubles - Cori Gauff (US) AND Caty McNally (US)

2. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (UK) won Hungarian Grand Prix 2019 - -

1. Formula 1 Season 2019 -

1.	Round	Grand Prix	Winner	date
	1	Australian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	17 March
	2	Bahrain Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	31 March
	3	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	14 April
	4	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	28 April
	5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	12 May
	6	Monaco Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	26 May
	7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	9 June
	8	French Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	23 June
	9	Austrian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)	30 June
	10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	14 July
	11	German Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch)	28 July
	12	Hungarian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	4 August
	13	Belgian Grand Prix		1 September
	14	Italian Grand Prix		8 September
	15	Singapore Grand Prix		22 September
	16	Russian Grand Prix		29 September
	17	Japanese Grand Prix		13 October
	18	Mexican Grand Prix		27 October
	19	United States Grand Prix		3 November
	20	Brazilian Grand Prix		17 November
	21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		1 December

3. ▶ Misc. Sports events (August 2019) -

1. Australian Female Cricketer Ellyse Perry became first cricketer (Both Male / Female) to reach milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.
2. India won 6 medals at Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament 2019 in Kaspiysk (Russia). India won 2 golds, 1 silver, and 3 bronze. Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Neeraj (57kg) won Gold Medals.
3. Germany cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger became first woman to win cycling's Transcontinental Race 2019, from Bulgaria to France. She cycled for more than 2,485 miles across Europe in just over 10 days.
4. Indian men's 20km race walk team that finished 4th in IAAF World Race Walking Cup held in 2012 in Russia, has now been honored with a Bronze after disqualification of second-placed Ukrainian team for dope violation.
5. 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition with teams from 8 countries, held at Jaisalmer Military Station in Rajasthan.
6. Bangalore(Karnataka) will host 10th AASF (Asia Swimming Federation) Asian Age Group Championships 2019 in September - October 2019. Swimming Federation of India(SFI)will organize the 9-day event.

7. Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won gold in women's 53kg category at Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw (Poland).
 8. India's Surya Shekar Ganguly won 2019 Belt and Road China Hunan International Chess tournament at Hunan province (China).
 9. Cricket Australia announced new transgender inclusive policy, enabling transgender players to play the game of cricket at highest levels.
 10. World Archery suspended Archery Association of India, causing panic for Indian archers looking to compete at Olympics. However, World Archery wrote to Indian Olympic Association, stating that suspension might be lifted if a clear roadmap is established.
 11. Chris Gayle became first West Indies' cricketer to play 300 ODIs, achieving this against India.
 12. Indian Army participated in Sniper Frontier Competition 2019 in Belarus, as part of International Army Games.
4. ▶ Thailand Open (Badminton) 2019 Winners -
1. Men's Singles - Chou Tien-chen (Chinese Taipei)
 2. Women's Singles - Chen Yufei (China)
 3. Men's Doubles - Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India) AND Chirag Shetty (India)
 1. India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated China's Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen to win in men's doubles final of Thailand Open badminton championship in Bangkok. This is the first-ever Indian men's combination to win a BWF Super 500 title.
 4. Women's Doubles - Shiho Tanaka (Japan) AND Koharu Yonemoto (Japan)
 5. Mixed Doubles - Wang Yiliu (China) AND Huang Dongping (China)

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