Current Affairs - Oct 2019

Month All Type All

- *195 Current Affairs were found in Period - October 21 - 31, 2019 for Type - All*

Appointments

1. Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been appointed by UNICEF and Ministry of Women and Child Development as ambassador to raise awareness against sexual abuse of children.
2. Actress Deepika Padukone and Badminton Player PV Sindhu named as ambassadors for PM Narendra Modi's new initiative called 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' movement, aiming to bring commendable work done by women to light ahead of the Diwali festival.
3. Alberto Fernandez won Argentina's presidential elections, with country facing severe economic crisis.
4. BJP's Manohar Lal Khattar sworn in as Chief Minister of Haryana for second straight term. Dushyant Chautala as been appointed as deputy CM.
5. Datta Padsalgikar has been appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA). He is Former Mumbai Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP.
6. Dineshwar Sharma has been appointed as administrator of UT of Lakshadweep.
7. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi has been re-elected as President of Mozambique (East Africa).
8. Govt. appointed Pankaj Kumar as New chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Other Notable appointments approved by appointments committee -
    1. Braj Raj Sharma - Chairman of Staff Selection Commission.
    2. Sanjeev Nandan Sahai - Secretary in Ministry of Power.
    3. Pramod Kumar Das - Secretary in Ministry of Minority Affairs.
    4. Ashok Malik has been appointed policy advisor in Ministry of External Affairs in rank of additional secretary.
9. Govt. appointed Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
10. Incumbent Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal party retained power in Canadian general election 2019 with a narrow margin.
11. Joko Widodo has been re-elected as President of Indonesia, for his 2nd successive term.
12. Manoj Jain has been appointed by Govt as CMD of GAIL, India's biggest natural gas company. Also,
    1. Arvind Singh has been appointed as chairman of Airports Authority of India
    2. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu will head National Highways Authority of India.
    3. Pramod Kumar Tiwari has been appointed as Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards.
    4. Vijayendra has bee appointed as new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
13. Misc. Appointments (Oct 2019) -
    1. Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia appointed as Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (principal spokesperson of government).
    2. Govt. appointed Pradipta Kumar Bisoi as Secretary in Department of Posts.
    3. Govt. Approved assignment of additional charge of Secretary in Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Amarjeet Sinha (Secretary in Department of Rural Development).
    4. Government appointed PK Gupta as new CMD of PSU NBCC (National Buildings Construction Corporation).
    5. Rajiva Sinha appointed as new chief secretary of West Bengal and Srikant Baldi appointed as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh.

6. Surendra Kumar Ghotia appointed as Chief (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief) of South Western Air Command. He succeeded Harjit Singh Arora, who was recently appointed as vice chief of Indian Air Force (IAF).
7. Tata Communications has named Amur S Lakshminarayanan as its MD and CEO.
8. Govt. appointed Amrit Lugun as New Ambassador of India to Greece.
9. Govt. appointed Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi as New Ambassador of to Niue (Oceanic Nation).
10. Vijay Patil elected as president of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
11. Government appointed Anumula Gitesh Sarma as New Indian Ambassador to Australia.
12. Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) appointed Chairman of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Kallam Satish Reddy as its President for 2019-21.
13. Pradeep Kumar appointed as Member (Signal & Telecom) in Railway Board and P.C. Sharma has taken over as Member (Material Management) in Railway Board.
14. Kishan Dan Dewal has been appointed as New Indian Ambassador to Georgia.
15. American multinational financial Firm CITI Group appointed Peter Babej as CEO of its Asia-Pacific region.
16. Upender Singh Rawat has been appointed as New Indian Ambassador to Republic of Nicaragua (Central America).
17. Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas has been appointed as New Indian Ambassador to Republic of Cape Verde.
18. Arun Kumar Sahu has been appointed as New Indian ambassador to Grenada.
19. Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas has been appointed as India's New Ambassador to Gambia.
20. Birender Singh Yadav is appointed as New Indian Ambassador to Iraq.
21. Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi appointed as New Indian Ambassador to Small Oceanic Nation Samoa.
22. Indian-American interventional gastroenterologist Amit Sachdev is among 15 people appointed to 2019-2020 Class of White House Fellows. Amit Sachdev has been placed at Department of Health and Human Services.
23. Govt, Approved charge of Secretary, Department of Expenditure to Atanu Chakraborty. He is also Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs.

14. New Governors appointed -
    1. Satya Pal Malik - Goa
    2. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai - Mizoram
    3. Girish Chandra Murmu - Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu-Kashmir
    4. Radha Krishna Mathur - Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh
15. Rafael Mariano Grossi of Argentina has been elected as the new Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, succeeding Yukiya Amano of Japan.
16. Sophie Wilmes has been chosen as Belgium's new prime minister. She is the first female head of government of Belgium.

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Awards

1. 28th Vyas Samman for 2018 has been conferred on Noted Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagoori.
    1. It was anounced in March 2019. Award is given by KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem".
    2. Vyas Samman started in 1991, and carries an amount of 4 lakh.
2. Bollywood Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has been honoured with Golden Dragon Award at Cardiff International Film Festival (UK) for excellence in cinema in global arena.
3. European Union (EU) Parliament awarded 'Sakharov Prize for Human Rights' to Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti, who has been jailed and sentenced to life imprisonment in China for "separatism". European Parliament also urged China to immediately release Ilham Tohti as well as called for the respect of minority rights in China.
    1. Sakharov PrizeIt is awarded by the European Union (EU) Parliament annually for free speech, constituted in memory of Soviet physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov.
4. Industrial Awards (Oct 2019) -
    1. Kavitha Gopal became first female student of IIT Madras to receive President of India Prize, at 56th convocation of IIT Madras.
    2. International body of people of Indian origin Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will honour 3 Indian-Americans for their contribution in the health field as well as for promoting health awareness among the diaspora. It Includes -
        1. Rahul Shukla (CEO of S S White Technologies and Shukla Medical).

2. Hitesh Bhatt (CEO of Bhatt Foundation)
3. H R Shah, Chairman and CEO of TV Asia.

3. Former IIT Madras Director MS Ananth conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the TiECON Chennai 2019.
4. IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services named as overall most outstanding company in India's IT services sector in Asiamoney 2019 outstanding company's poll.
5. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) awarded 46 biomedical scientists from different institutes across the country for excellence in biomedical research. 39 awards for 2017 and 2018 were presented to 46 scientists.
6. Bollywood Movie Gully Boy', starring Ranveer Singh won best film from India award in regional finals at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2019. Gully boy is also India's official entry to 92nd Oscar Awards 2020.
7. Promoters of Marg ERP, which provides inventory and accounting software to over one million active users including to 2,50,000 MSMEs, has bagged Udyog Rattan Award from Government.

5. Jewish U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg won 2019 Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture, comprising 1 Million USD Cash Prize. It is given by Berggruen Institute, an independent think tank which develops ideas to shape political and social institutions.
6. Mohun Bagan Athletic Club has conferred life membership to 2019 Nobel laureate Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee.
    1. In 1911, Mohun Bagan became first Indian club to win the Indian Football Association (IFA) Shield beating the East Yorkshire Regiment of British Army in final.
7. New Delhi based Gandhi Mandela Foundation has constituted India's first International Award, The Gandhi Mandela Award. It will honor exemplary work of Heads of Governments and other distinguished persons/organizations around world. Awardees will be selected by a jury of eminent personalities.
8. President Ram Nath Kovind presented First ever National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards in New Delhi, as highest recognition given by Government in domain of CSR. The awards were instituted in 2017 by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
    1. In 2019 edition, 19 companies from a total of 528 entries have been selected for awards.
    2. Categories -
        1. Recongnition to a company based on total eligible CSR Spend (Up to 4 awards, and up to 4 honourable mentions).
        2. Corporate Awards in CSR in Challenging Circumstances (Up to 5 awards, and up to 5 honourable mentions).
        3. Recognition to a company to be given based on contribution to National Priority Schemes (NPS) (Up to 11 Awards, and up to 11 honourable mentions).

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Books

1. Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen's last novel of her Naxal trilogy has been translated into English as *'The Parrot Green Saree'*, by Tutun Mukherjee. In Bengali, novel was titled 'Phoenix'.
2. Book *Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics*, written by educationist and Padma Shri recipient K N Pandit has been released.
3. Book *The True Meaning of Yoga,* written by noted philosopher Atman in Ravi (AiR) has been released.
4. Final book by late Noted British economist Anthony Atkinson, titled *Measuring Poverty around the World* has been released.
5. New Book *Dark Fear, Eerie Cities: New Hindi Cinema in Neoliberal India,* written by Sarunas Paunksnis has been released.
6. New Book *Suncatcher* by Booker Prize–nominated author Romesh Gunesekera shall be released soon.
7. New Book *The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra* by Arupjyoti Saikia shall be released soon.

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Committees

1. Government formed a committee to resolve differences between Niti Aayog and Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) over who will implement its ambitious artificial intelligence mission. Committee will be headed by principal scientific advisor K VijayRaghavan.
2. Government has set up a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, To understand the stress and devise the strategy to eliminate financial burden in the telecom sector.
3. High-Level Advisory Group headed by economist Surjit S. Bhalla submitted its report and favoured India signing free trade agreements (FTA) with trade partners.

1. Report supports government's resolve to go ahead with negotiations for proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
2. Panel was assigned asked to assess global environment and make recommendations for boosting India's share in global merchandise and services trade, managing pressing bilateral trade relations, and mainstreaming new age policymaking.

4. Insurance regulator IRDAI has set up a committee to evaluate applications filed under the Regulatory Sandbox approach to promote innovative ideas to foster growth in insurance sector. Panel will be headed by IIIT Bangalore Director S Sadagopan.
    1. Regulatory Sandbox (RS) refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations for limited purpose of testing.

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Days

1. Oct 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day in India, in memory of the policemen killed at Hot Springs in North Eastern Ladakh by Chinese troops on this date in 1959.
    1. Till October to November of 1959, Indian Police personnel were responsible for defending 2,500 mile long border of India with then Tibet.
    2. Oct 21 also observed as World Iodine Deficiency Day.
    3. Oct 21, 2019 also marks 76th anniversary of Azad Hind Movement, commemorated at Red Fort, Delhi. Azad Hind Movement was established in Singapore in 1943 on Oct 21, conceptualized by Netaji Subhsh Chandra Bose.
2. Oct 22 is observed as International Stuttering Awareness Day, marked in 1998.
3. Oct 23 - International Snow Leopard Day.
    1. On this day, Government of India launched its first national protocol to assess the population of this elusive and endangered species in India. It will contribute to the global 'Population Assessment of the World's Snow Leopard's (PAWS) initiative.
4. Oct 24 is observed as -
    1. United Nations Day. It marks enactment of UN Charter on this day in 1945. 2019 theme is *Our Planet. Our Future*.
    2. International Day of Diplomats, celebrated since 2017.
    3. World Development Information Day, established by UNGA in 1972.
    4. WHO World Polio Day.
5. Oct 25, 2019 is observed as Ayurveda day, being observed since 2016.
    1. Ministry of AYUSH, in 2016 decided to celebrate Ayurveda Day every year on day of Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).
    2. On this occasion, Ministry of Ayush distributes "National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award", comprising of cash reward of 5 lakhs.
6. Oct 27 is observed as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2019 theme is *Engage the Past Through Sound and Images*. It was marked by UNESCO in 2005.
    1. Oct 27 is also Birth Anniversary of K R Narayanan, 10th President of India.
7. Oct 28 is observed as International Animation Day (IAD), proclaimed in 2002.
8. Oct 29 is observed as Internet Day. In 2005, it was decided to propose to UN the designation of October 29 as World-wide Day of the Information Society, which resulted in Internet Day being celebrated on that day.
9. Oct 31 is Observed as UN World Cities Day, proclaimed in 2013. 2019 Theme is *changing the world: Innovations and better life for future generation*.
10. Oct 31 is observed as National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).
    1. It was introduced by Government in 2014, marking Birth Anniversary of Legendary Leader and 1st Home Minsiter and Deputy PM of India, Shri Sardar Valabh Bhai Patel.
    2. On this occasion in 2018, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's memorial in Gujarat's Narmada district. Called the Statue of Unity, the bronze sculpture is the world's tallest statue measuring 600 feet (182m). It has overtook China's Spring Temple Buddha (153m) and USA's Statue of Liberty (93m). It was constructed in 33 months at 2,989 crores.
    3. Like every year "Run for Unity" campaign was organized on this occasion.
    4. Oct 31 is also Death Anniversary of Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She was killed on this day in 1984.
    5. Oct 31 is observed as World Thrift / Savings Day. In India it is observed on 30th october.
    6. Oct 24 - 31 is observed annually as Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week, initiated in 2012.
11. United Nations Disarmament Week is observed annually betweene Oct 24 - 30.

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Defence

1. 2nd India Myanmar Naval Exercise called IMNEX-2019 held at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
2. DRDO began manufacturing of hypersonic missiles, that are five times faster than speed of sound. This technology increases the survival against modern ballistic missile defence system.
    1. Indian Air Force also test fired surface-to-surface cruise missile BrahMos from Trek Islands in Car Nicobar Islands, with its range of 300 KM.
3. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved issuance of two Open General Export Licences (OGELs) for export of certain parts &components and intra-company transferof technology to select countries. It will give a boost to defence exports and enhance ease of doing business.
    1. Countries allowed under OGELs - Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Poland and Mexico. Export of items to a 'Special Economic Zone' is not permitted.
    2. OGEL is a one-time export licence to be granted to a company for a specific period (two years initially).
4. Indian and Oman Air Force Joint exercise named EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V held at Air Force Base Masirah (Oman).
5. Indo-French joint exercise 'Shakti 2019' began at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Bikaner (Rajasthan).
6. War Exercise by Sudarshan Chakra Vahini of Indian Army, named Sindhu Sudarshan, held at Jaisalmer field firing range in Rajasthan.

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Economy

1. Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Proposal from Korea based carmakers Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corp to acquire a stake in ANI Technologies – the parent firm of ride-hailing platform Ola and Ola Electric Mobility (OEM). The investment amounts to US$300 million.
2. Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of 4.15% stake in Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) by Jomei Investments Limited (JIL). JIL is wholly-owned by Advent International GPE IX Limited Partnership, a fund managed by Advent International Corporation.
3. Competition Commission of India approved Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) acquiring minority stake in Hero Future Energies Global Ltd. (HFE UK), and Hero Future Energies Private Ltd (HFE India).
    1. Stake will be acquired by way of subscription to equity shares in HFE UK and non-voting compulsorily convertible preference shares in HFE India.
    2. This transaction was approved through 'green channel,' a much quicker route for clearing certain categories of mergers and acquisitions, that was introduced by CCI recently.
4. ICICI Bank exited GST Network, selling its entire 10 % stake to 13 state governments. Stake sale is for aggregate cash consideration of 1 crore.
    1. ICICI Bank exited GSTN following government's decision to make GST Network into a public sector entity.
    2. As per the decision, Centre will own a 50 % stake in GST Network and remainder will be held by the states on a pro-rata basis.
5. India signed US$165 loan agreement with World Bank for implementation of Odisha integrated irrigation project for climate resilient agriculture. It aims to support small farmers to strengthen resilience of their production system and improve market linkage for their produce.
6. India's domestic payments platform-Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has hit landmark of one billion Transactions, 3 years after its launch in April 2016. It also crossed 100 million users, making it the fastest adoption of any payments system anywhere in world.
    1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates UPI platform, aims to take network global by enabling acceptance of UPI in Singapore and UAE.
7. Indian GDP Growth Forecasts (Oct 2019) -
    1. Standard & Poor (S&P) Global ratings reduced India's growth to 6.3% from its previous estimation of 7.1% for 2019-2020.
    2. RBI in its 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review reduced GDP Growth Foreacst for 2019-20 to 6.1 % (From 6.9%).
    3. International rating agency Moody's reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20, from 6.2% earlier.

4. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), a part of Fitch group, lowered India's GDP Growth forecast for FY 2019-20 to 6.1%, from 6.7 % earlier.
5. Fitch Ratings slashed India's GDP growth forecast in current fiscal to 5.5 %. down from 6.6 % projection earlier.

8. Indian Railways decided to allow carriage of goods of e-commerce Firm Amazon on a pilot basis for three months, to be ferried during non-peak hours (11 AM to 4 PM).
    1. Carrying of e-commerce consignment ofAmazon in EMU services commenced from Sealdah to Dankuni in EMU local (suburban services) managed by Eastern Railways. 7 MT of consignment per day has been allowed to be carried.
9. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India imposed penalties of Rs 1.01 crore on Cholamandalam MS GIC.
    1. Penalty of 1 crore is for violation of Clause that specifies that no commission shall be payable to any intermediary on acceptance of a ported policy.
    2. Other penalty of 1 lakh is for motor insurance and was for violating outsourcing guidelines by agreeing to payment terms not in interests of insurer.
10. Joint venture between Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Ebix received approval from IRDAI. The venture, branded as BSE-Ebix Broking Insurance Broking Pvt. Ltd., will enable distribution outlets, wealth management advisors, Points of Sale (POS) to sell life and non-life insurance product.
11. Mahindra Two Wheelers Europe, a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra, will acquire 100 % ownership of Peugeot Motocycles (PMTC). Brand's presence in Europe will be fortified, with PMTC's headquarters continuing to be based at Mandeure (France).
12. Misc. Corporate News (Oct 2019) -
    1. Axis Bank launched ‘Express FD’, a digital fixed deposit (FD) product that allows a customer to open an FD account in three minutes through digital mode without opening a savings account. It offers attractive interest rates, zero issuance fees and no penalty on pre-mature withdrawal of up to 25% of amount. Amont can be between 5000 - 90000, for tenure between 6 to 12 months.
    2. Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launched Pragati Rath of HDFC bank, which will provide financial and digital literacy to people during a month-long initiative.
    3. UCO Bank launched digital products called UCash, Digilocker and an app. UCash allows Customers to withdraw money from ATMs without using debit card. Digilocker will enable sharing of verified electronic documents without use of physical documents. Mobile app comes as integration of 4 existing apps – UCO Mbanking, UCO UPI, UCO Mpassbook and UCO Secure.
    4. U GRO Capital (formerly known as Chokhani securities) signed its first co-origination of loan agreement with Bank of Baroda, to necessitate joint contribution of credit flow with competitive rate of interest, to empower SMEs by using U GRO Capital’s co-lending platform ‘GRO-Xstream’.
    5. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed MoU with Union Bank of India (UBI). It will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on portal and will create an efficient procurement system for government entities.
    6. ICICI Bank launched a new Fixed deposit (FD) scheme called “FD health” which provides investors a complimentary critical illness cover on 33 critical illnesses for customers the age bracket of 18-50 years.
    7. LIC launched Indian life insurance industry’s first joint mass media campaign with the slogan ‘Sabse Pehle Life Insurance’. It will encourage Indian households to opt for adequate life insurance cover as fundamental necessity in their lives.
    8. Payment services Firm Mastercard along with cricketer M S Dhoni launched a nationwide initiative to increase the acceptance and adoption of digital payments among merchants.
    9. Home Credit India tied-up with Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) for joint lending using end-to-end automated processing which will help customer get real-time approval and disbursement.
    10. SBI Card launched 'SBI Card Pay', a payment feature based on Host Card Emulation (HCE) technology for faster, convenient and more secure card payments using mobile phones.
    11. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed MoU with Federal Bank to offer a number of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to registered users.
    12. Aditya Birla Finance Limited partnered with Indian Dental Association (IDA) to launch an easy EMI facility for patients going for dental treatments.
    13. Indian Overseas Bank launched healthcare insurance policy through online platform in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance Company.

14. Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its first overseas branch at Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). With this, Kotak can now accept offshore deposits and offer advisory services to clients based outside UAE.
15. United Bank of India and Srei Equipment Finance Limited partnered to offer loans to MSMEs and retail customers under a co-lending arrangement.

13. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will now be eligible to apply for National Pension System (NPS) at par with Non Resident Indians (NRIs), after a permission by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
    1. Now, any Indian citizen, resident or non-resident and OCIs are eligible to join NPS till age of 65 years.
    2. Till now, subscribers under National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have crossed 3.18 crores.
    3. NPS was notified for government employees joining service on or after 1 January 2004. It was extended to all citizens from May 2009, to corporates in December 2011 and to Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in October 2015. It now has over 66 Lakh govt and over 19 lakh private employees.
    4. In 2019, tax exemption limit under section 10(12A) of IT Act, for lump sum withdrawal rom NPS account on exit/maturity was increased from 40% to 60%. Moreover, remaining 40% of corpus is already tax-exempt as it is mandatorily utilised for annuity purchase.
14. RBI imposed 1 crore penalty on Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with promoter holding norms. Bandhan bank failed to bring down shareholding of its “non-operative financial holding company” to 40 % of its paid-up equity capital within 3 years of commencement of business.
    1. RBI also imposed a penalty of 35 lakh on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for violating norms on frauds classification and notification.
15. Researchers from US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) developed a new technology to capture carbon dioxide from a stream of air, virtually at any concentration level. It may pave way for new strategies to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas levels.
    1. Most methods of removing CO_2 from gas required higher concentrations of CO_2. The new method could take out gas even when it was present in very low concentrations.
    2. Device is a specialized battery with a stack of electrodes that absorbs carbon dioxide from the air passing over its surface as it was being charged up, and then released the gas as it was being discharged.
16. Tata Motors approved equity infusion of 6,500 crore from its promoter Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd, along with raising 3500 crores via external commercial borrowing. Tata Motors total debt stands at around 50,000 crores.
17. Vijaya Bank museum has been inaugurated in Bengaluru, at Vijaya Tower, headquarters of erstwhile Vijaya Bank. Vijaya bank was merged with Bank of Baroda in April 2019.
18. Vreedhi Financial Services (VFS) secured a non banking finance company licence from Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to offer credit and other services to micro enterprises operating in tier two three cities and small towns.
19. World Bank stated that it will continue with USD 6 billion annual lending target for India to support infrastructure development and alleviate poverty. As of now, 97 projects are being currently executed in India with loan assistance from World Bank, with commitment of USD 24 billion.

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International

1. Australian Airline Qantas completed first non-stop commercial flight from New York to Sydney, as world's Biggest duration nonj-stop Commercial flight. It took 19 hours and 16 minutes to complete.
2. 11th Edition of Mercer Global Pension Index 2019 (37 Nations) -
    1. India improved its ranking to 32nd position, up from 33rd last year.
    2. Top 3 - Netherlands (1), Denmark (2), Australia (3)
3. 14 start-ups have been selected for 2019 SEED awards, granted to organisations working on sustainable development.
    1. Award highlights contribution of green and social enterprises to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
    2. SEED was founded by UN Environment Programme (UN Environment), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.
    3. 5 Indian Staruips have won the awards under various categories - Aikya Organics, Stonesoup, Aarohana Ecosocial Development, Ecozen Solutions and Farmers Fresh Zone.

4. 2000-year-old street has been unearthed by reseacrhers in Jerusalem (Israel), believed to have built by Pontius Pilate and was uncovered for first time since the city was sacked by the Romans in 70AD.
    1. It was an ancient walkway which was used by pilgrims as their way to worship at the Temple Mount in the 'City of David' in Jerusalem.
    2. Archaeologists revealed over 100 coins trapped beneath paving stones. The discovery of coins pointed out that these are dated between 17 CE to 31 CE that means the work of street construction was completed during the time that Pontius Pilate governed Judea.
    3. The street links to most important places in Jerusalem – the Temple Mount and Siloam Pool.
    4. Pontius Pilate was known as the fifth governor of the Roman province of Judaea. He is best known as a person who presided over Trial of Jesus and ordered his crucifixion.
5. 3 Indian-origin chief executive officers (CEOs) featured in Top 10 names in *The Best-Performing CEOs in World 2019* list compiled by Harvard Business Review (HBR), featuring 100 CEOs.
    1. List is topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.
    2. Indian CEOs in List - Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen (6th), MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga (7th) and Microsoft chief Satya Nadella (9th). List also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on 89th spot.
6. A Chinese company signed an agreement to lease Tulagi island in the Solomon Islands, a day after Beijing recruited the Pacific nation as its latest ally in strategically important region.
7. A MOU has been drafted by India, Nepal and Bhutan to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation park, which will include bio-diversity rich landscapes. Unlike other parks that are species oriented, this peace park will be landscape oriented.
    1. Such a kind already exists in Manas park region (Assam). However, only a part of the trans-boundary protected area in India and Bhutan is being conserved based on the landscape.
    2. In new peace park, the entire park will have its conservation protocols completely based on landscape.
8. According to Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report -
    1. Only four countries - Colombia, India, Jamaica and Uruguay - scored perfectly across all four parameters. These Nations thus have most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
9. Airline IndiGo became member of International Air Transport Association (IATA) which represents around 290 airlines across world.
    1. In March 2019, SpiceJet became first Indian low-cost carrier to take membership of IATA. Indian full-service carriers Vistara and Air India are members of IATA too.
10. As per KPMG Report -
    1. Amazon, Apple and Alibaba are top 3 Disruptive companies.
    2. Disruptors' list complements the fact that tech industry leaders ranked e-commerce platforms first and social networking second as the most disruptive business models over next 3 years.
11. As per President of International Court of Justice, Pakistan violated its obligations under Vienna Convention in Kulbhushan Jadhav case. ICJ found that Pakistan had violated its obligations under Article 36 of Vienna Convention and appropriate remedies were due in the case.
    1. ICJ ruled then that Pakistan must review death sentence awarded to Jadhav and grant him consular access.
12. BRICS Nations' New Development Bank (NDB) approved 2 projects worth USD 800 million in Brazil and India, bringing Bank's portfolio to 44 projects with loans of USD 12.4 billion.
    1. Projects Include 500 Million USD *Fundo Clima – Brazil National Climate Fund Project* and India's 300 Million USD *Renewable Energy Sector Development Project*. Indian Part will be given to REC Limited to support Government's increasing investment in renewable energy sector.
13. China is constructing a huge cosmic ray observation station in Sichuan province, equivalent to 200 soccer fields, located 4,400 meters above sea level. Rocks from Ice Age were blasted for the construction.
    1. Three underground pools will hold the detectors. The detectors collect high energy photons generated by remote celestial bodies.
    2. The observatory is named as "Large High-Altitude Air Shower Observatory" (LHAASO).
    3. The main objective of the observatory is to study the origin of cosmic rays, their acceleration and transmission mechanism.
14. China will launch test flights for the next two space rockets in its Smart Dragon series meant for commercial use in 2020 and 2021.

1. Solid-propellant Smart Dragon-2, weighing about 60 tonnes and with a total length of 21 meters, will be capable of sending 500 kg payloads into orbit at an altitude of 500 km (310 miles).

15. Cyclone 'Kyarr' intensified to become first Super Cyclonic storm in Arabian Sea in last 12 years after Cyclone Gonu ravaged Oman coast in 2007. It is likely to continue its movement west-northwestwards towards Oman coast during next five days.
16. Dubai hosted 2019 First Global DXB Challenge, a large gathering for creative young minds in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence. Theme is *Ocean Opportunities*.
17. Global Health Security Index 2019 by Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security and Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It is the first comprehensive assessment of epidemic and pandemic threats globally.
    1. India ranks 57th on Overall list, out of 195 Nations.
    2. Bottom 5 - Marshall Islands (191), São Tomé and Príncipe (192), North Korea (193), Somalia (194), Equatorial Guinea (195).
    3. Top 5 - US (1), UK (2), Netherlands (3), Ausralia (4), Canada (5).
    4. Neighbours - Sri Lanka (120), Bangladesh (113), Pakistan (105), Nepal (111), China (51).
18. Grasim Industries signed agreement to form a joint venture company in India with Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen GmbH (MR) of Germany, for manufacturing and sale of Composite Hollow Core Insulators to serve power transmission and distribution (T&D) industry globally.
19. In response to India's Complaint against Pakistan for its refusal to let PM Modi's plane use Pakistan airspace to Saudi Arabia, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said that Flights carrying national leaders are considered as "state aircraft" and are not subject to ICAO provisions.
    1. India approached world body ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) after Pakistan denied permission for PM Modi to use its air space. PM Modi is to visit Saudi Arabia to attend the Future Investment Initiative.
    2. In September 2019, Pakistan rejected India's plea to allow PM Modi's flight to use its air space. It had also refused to allow President Ram Nath Kovind to use its airspace in the same month for his visit to Iceland.
20. India ranked 63rd in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking 2019, up from 77th rank last year.
    1. India was ranked 142 in 2014 report. It improved to 130 in 2015 and 100th in 2016. It further improved to 77th in 2017 and now ranked 63rd in 2018 report, released in Oct 2019. In 2015, India had set a goal to join top 50 economies on ease of doing business ranking by 2020.
    2. India for the third time in a row was among the top 10 performers on the list. The other top 10 performers - Saudi Arabia at rank 62, Togo in African continent at rank 97, Jordan (75), Tajikistan, Pakistan 108, Kuwait (83), China (31) and Nigeria (131).
    3. Top 5 - New Zealand (1), Singapore (2), Hong Kong (3), Denmark (3), South Korea (5).
    4. Bottom 5 - Somalia (190), Eritrea (189), Venezuela (188), Yemen (187), Libya (186).
    5. Neighbours - Bangladesh (168), Pakistan (108), Nepal (94), Sri Lanka (99).
21. India signed Agreement with Pakistan for the operationalization of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.
    1. To celebrate 550th Birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak, Indian Government passed a resolution in November 2018 for the construction of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. The 4.2 km corridor connects the Dera Baba Nanak in the Indian side with the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan.
    2. Travel is Visa free and pilgrims have to carry a valid passport alone. Persons of Indian origin are required to carry OCI card.
    3. Pilgrims have to return on the same day.
    4. Prevailing issue is that csh-strapped Pakistan will levy 20 USD as service charge per pilgrim per visit. India had consistently urged Pakistan not to levy charges.
22. India's Adani Group partnered with San Francisco (USA) based *Digital Realty,* for joint work in data centre, co-location and interconnection solutions. This will boost Adani Group's foray into data centre domain.
    1. Two companies will evaluate operation of data centres and data centre parks jointly, and will also cultivate undersea cable provider communities of interest across India.
23. Master in Management Rankings 2019 by *Financial Times* -
    1. IIM Calcutta ranked 17th globally. It Replaced IIM Ahmedabad as India's Best.
    2. Other Indian Institutes in Top 50 - IIM Ahmedabad (21), IIM Bangalore (44).
    3. Top 3 - University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) (1), HEC Paris (France) (2), London Business School (UK) (3).
24. Mukesh Ambani led-Reliance Industries became world's sixth-largest energy entity in terms of market capitalization, overtaking British oil major BP Plc. RIL achieved this after hitting market cap of $130.76 billion. Saudi Aramco is world's largest energy entity, that pumps about 10% of the world's crude.

25. Oldest known natural pearl in the world has been discovered by Abu Dhabi archaeologists working at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island. Dubbed 'Abu Dhabi Pearl', it was found in layers that have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE, during the Neolithic period.
26. Pakistan released a new coin in order to commemorate the 550th anniversary of Sikhism Founder Baba Guru Nanak. The coin worth Pakistan Rupees 50 will be available at Kartarpur Sahib along with a postal stamp worth PKR 8 to travelling pilgrims. Earlier, Nepal had issued a coin to commemorate 550th anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.
    1. Also, Air India painted Sikh religious symbol 'Ik Onkar' on tail of one of its aircraft, to mark 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.
27. Singapore-based AirCarbon Pte Ltd Launched global blockchain-based carbon exchange called *AirCarbon Exchange*, offering a marketplace for airlines and other corporate buyers to trade securitised carbon emissions.
    1. It will provide a ready supply of credits, also called EEUs (eligible emission units), for those in transportation industry to acquire CO2 offsets for compliance and voluntary purposes when list of compliant units is approved.
    2. Carbon credits will be securitised into tokens using blockchain technology, making them tradable. Each tradable token will be backed by one equivalent tonne of carbon credits.
    3. New exchange is a collaboration venture with the Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (Seas), and supported by Enterprise Singapore.
28. Social Network Twitter banned all political advertising worldwide, saying that the reach of such messages "should be earned, not bought".
29. South American Nation Chile cancelled hosting two major international summits, including a UN climate change conference, due to anti-government protests in country.
    1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit was planned for November and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) was planned between 2 to 13 December 2019. But, Chile has pulled out hosting for both events.
30. Swiss financial Group Credit Suisse released 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report -
    1. It tracks both growth and distribution of wealth, in terms of numbers of rich, and status of inequality globally.
    2. 47 million people who are just 0.9% of world's adult population, owned $158.3 trillion, which is 44% of world's total wealth.
    3. At the other end, 2.88 billion people who account for 57% of world's adult population, owned $6.3 trillion, which is 1.8% of world's wealth
    4. China overtook US in 2019 to become 'country with most people in top 10% of global wealth distribution'.
    5. India -
        1. India's total household wealth grew by 5.2% in dollar terms in the period. Net wealth per adult grew at 3.3%, sharply slower than average 11% growth rate reported in 20 years to 2019.
        2. Non-financial assets of Indian households grew by 6.9% in 2018-19, outpacing 1.4% growth in financial assets.
        3. Report estimates wealth per Indian adult at $14,569. However, wealth distribution is very uneven in India with few wealthy holding huge chunks. India accounts for 2% of the world's millionaires.
31. UN Member Nations endorsed a proposed road map for action on nitrogen challenges called Colombo (Sri Lanka) Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.
    1. Aim is to halve nitrogen waste by 2030. Declaration was developed with technical support from International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), joint activity of UNEP and Internationals Nitrogen Initiative.
    2. Reducing reactive nitrogen will help to reduce Eutrophic zones that are affecting fishing and tourism.
    3. Reactive Nitrogen means nitrogen compounds like nitrogen oxides, nitrous oxide, ammonia, etc, Most of them are result of intensive farming and misuse of fertilizers.
32. US House of Representatives officially recognized mass extermination of Armenians by Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1917 as genocide.
    1. Members of the house also backed a new legislation that proposes sanctions on Turkey for its recent military offensive in northern Syria.
    2. These two resolutions will now be sent to US Senate,which is controlled by the Republicans.
    3. Democrats have majority in US House of Representatives.
33. United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) launched its cinema ad campaign 'Feed Our Future' against hunger and malnutrition in India, in collaboration with in-cinema advertising platform UFO Moviez and SAWA -the Global Cinema Advertising Association.

1. This is for second time WFP has launched this campaign in India to raise awareness on hunger and malnutrition, a reality facing millions of people around the world.

34. World Health Organization (WHO) released Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2019 -
    1. India reported most, 27 % of global TB Cases, followed by China (9 %), Indonesia (8 %) and Pakistan (6 %).
    2. India plans to end TB By 2025, 5 years ahead of Global UN SDG Target of 2030.

Top

Meetings

1. 18th NAM (Non Aligned Movement) summit held in Baku (Azerbaijan). On India's Behalf, It was attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
    1. NAM is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. After United Nations, it is largest grouping of Nations.
    2. Theme was *Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of the contemporary world*.
2. 2nd assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted by India in New Delhi.
    1. ISA offers concrete solutions to reduce cost of solar installations in developing countries.
    2. Assembly was be co-chaired by French Deputy Minister Brune Porison.
    3. Prior to this meet, 81 countries of 121 members had signed Framework Agreement of ISA. Of these, 58 have ratified it.
    4. During the meet, Two New Countries- Eritrea and St. Kittis and Nevis Signed ISA Framework Agreement, Taking Signatory count to 83.
3. Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar participated in 29th ministerial meeting of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change at Beijing (China).
    1. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro also announced that Indian and Chinese Citizens will not required Visa to visit Brazil.

Top

National

1. 2019 Haryana Legislative Assembly elections (90 seats) -
    1. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remained Largest party, winning 40 seats and getting 36.5 % votes.
    2. Indian National Congress 2nd with 31 seats, Jannayak Janta Party got 10 seats.
    3. BJP Will remain in power, after forming alliance with some independent elected MLAS.
2. 2019 Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections (288 seats) -
    1. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remained Largest party, winning 105 seats and getting 25.7 % votes.
    2. Shiv Sena 2nd with 56 seats, Nationalist Congress Party got 54 and Indian National Congress got 44 seats.
    3. BJP-Shiv Sena will remain in power.
3. Andhra Pradesh will bring port-related services also under Ease of Doing Business ambit through a new online platform called SMARTPORT. SMARTPORT will be covered under Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act and tracked through a single-desk portal to bring in transparency and establish a corruption-free environment.
4. Archaeological Survey of India discovered that present-day state of Andhra Pradesh had a maritime center near banks of Swarnamukhi river around 2,000 years ago.
    1. Excavations Began in Dec 2018 at state's Gottiprolu. Sizes of bricks were common in Satavahana/Ikshvaku period of Krishna valley.
    2. Team also unearthed four armed sculptures of Lord Vishnu, belonging to Pallava period according to the analysis of headgear and drapery.
5. Assam Cabinet approved a legislation that rules no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021.
    1. Earlier In September 2017, Assam government passed "Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam". Under this, job candidates with two children alone would be eligible for government employment and existing government staff were to strictly follow two children norms.
6. Bali Jatra, one of biggest trade fairs of Odisha, will be held in November 2019, for 8 days.

1. It is held in Cuttack at Gadagadia Ghata of the Mahanadi river, to mark the day when ancient Sadhabas would set sail to distant lands of Bali, as well as Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Sri Lanka for trade and cultural expansion.

7. Cabinet Approvals (Oct 23, 2019) -
    1. General Approvals -
        1. Approved Regulations for recognizing ownership or mortgage / transfer rights to residents of Unauthorized Colonies (UCs) in Delhi.
            1. It will benefit more than 40 lakh residents of unauthorized colonies spread over around 175 sq kms, as development / redevelopmentcan now take place in these colonies resulting in a clean, secure and healthy living environment.
            2. In coming winter session of Parliament, Government will introduce a Bill for recognizing General Power of Attorney (GPA), Will, Agreement to Sell, Purchase and possession documents, which will be a one-time relaxation for this purpose for the residents of UCs.
        2. Approved proposal for revival of ill PSUs BSNL and MTNL by approving several terms -
            1. Administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services to BSNL and MTNL so as to enable these PSUs to provide broadband and other data services. It be funded by Government by capital infusion of Rs 20140 Crores, with additional GST amount of 3674 Crores to this spectrum also to be borne by Government.
                1. By using this spectrum allotment, BSNL and MTNL will be able to deliver 4G services, compete in the market and provide high speed data using their vast network including in rural areas.
            2. BSNL and MTNL will also raise long-term bonds of Rs 15,000 Cr for which sovereign guarantee will be provided by Government.
            3. BSNL and MTNL will also offer Voluntary Retirement to their employees, aged 50 years and above through attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Ex-gratia component of VRS will require 17169 Crores, to be borne by Government.
            4. BSNL and MTNL will be merged into one entity.
        3. Approved Cadre review of Group “A” General Duty (Executive) Cadre and Non-GD cadre of Indo- Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
            1. Creation of two new Commands (Western Command at Chandigarh and Eastern Command at Guwahati) to be headed by Additional Director General & assisted by Inspector General.
            2. Proposal is for creation of 60 posts in Group ‘A’ Executive General duty Cadre and 02 posts in Group ‘A’ Non-GD cadre at various levels. Creation of proposed posts in Cadre Review of Group ’A’ posts in ITBP will enhance its supervisory and administrative capabilities.
            3. In total, apprpoval is made for creation of over 3000 new posts in ITBP.
    2. CCEA Approvals -
        1. Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Rabi Crops of 2019-20 to be marketed in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2020-21, in line with principle of fixing MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all India weighted average cost of production (CoP), which was announced in Budget 2018-19.
            1. Highest increase in MSP has been recommended for lentil (Rs. 325 per quintal) followed by safflower (Rs. 270 per quintal) and gram (Rs. 255 per quintal).
            2. MSP of Rapeseed & Mustard has been increased by Rs. 225 per quintal. For both wheat and barley, the MSP has been increased by Rs. 85 per quintal.
        2. Approved Review of Guidelines for Granting Authorization to market Transportation Fuels, as a major reform of guidelines for marketing of petrol and diesel. Existing policy for granting authorization to market transportation fuels had not undergone any changes since 2002. Features -
            1. Entities seeking authorisation would need to have a minimum net worth of Rs.250 crores, down from current requirement of 2000 crores.
            2. Non – Oil Companies can also invest in the retail sector.
            3. Entities seeking market authorisation for petrol and diesel are allowed to apply for retail and bulk authorisation separately or both.
            4. Companies are been given flexibility in setting up a Joint Venture or Subsidiary for market authorisation.
            5. In addition to conventional fuels, authorized entities are required to install facilities for marketing at least one new generation alternate fuel, like CNG, LNG, biofuels, electric charging, etc. at their outlets within 3 years of

operationalization.
6. CCTV facilities will be set up at all retail outlets.
7. Authorised entities are required to set up minimum 5% oftotal retail outlets in the notified remote areas within 5 years of grant of authorisation.
8. An individual may be allowed to obtain dealership of more than one marketing company in case of open dealerships of PSU OMCs but at different sites.

3. MOUs -
    1. St. Vincent & the Grenadines - Traditional Systems of Medicine.
    2. USA - Science and Technology.
    3. Approved administrative arrangement on Cooperation in field of Railways between Ministry of Railways and Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission to strengthen future technical exchanges and cooperation.
    4. Kuwait - Capacity building and strengthening accounting, financial and audit knowledge base in Kuwait.

8. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) launched an online aptitude test dubbed as 'Tamanna' (Try And Measure Aptitude And Natural Abilities), to help students make right career choices, for students of Classes 9 and 10.
    1. It aims to help students of Class 9 and Class 10 make a better choice of subjects, and eventually help them in making an informed decision while choosing subjects in Class 11 and 12.
9. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of over 1000 Indians from different populations across country, to generate data on genetic diseases, Called *IndiGen Genome project*. Its outcomes will assist in efficient diagnosis of rare genetic diseases.
10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu (Bridge) in Ladakh, named in honor of Colonel Chewang Rinchan who was one of highly decorated officers in Indian Army, Including Maha Vir Chakara (1952). Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu has been constructed at an altitude of 14,650 feet in forward area of Ladakh region.
    1. It is also India's Highest Altitude All-weather Permanent Bridge, at 14650 feet across Shyok river.
    2. Defence Minister also stated that Siachen Glacier, world's highest battlefield, is now open for tourists and Tourism.
11. General Conferences (Oct 21 - 31, 2019) -
    1. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched a social service initiative called 'Odisha-Mo Parivar' (Odisha, my family), aimed at encouraging environment protection, blood donation and welfare of Odias in distress.
    2. Home Minister Amit Shah declared Gandhinagar as first district in Gujarat to become kerosene-free.
    3. 38th edition of Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 inaugurated in UAE. Mexico is Guest of Honour at 38th edition of SIBF. Theme is 'Open Books Open Minds'.
    4. Govt. launched first ever common foundation course called the "Aarambh" for civil servants at Statue of Unity, Gujarat.
    5. India and South American nation Ecuador signed Protocol for Completion of Joint Feasibility Study (JFS) between two countries, in line with the government's efforts to expand its trade presence in the region.
    6. Southern Railway launched Rail Dhandora app, to view commercial circulars, pertaining to ticketing, catering and other amenities like freight and parcel bookings.
    7. India and US signed a joint Statement of Intent (SoI) to co-develop a range of cutting-edge warfighting technologies. It was signed during 9th meeting of India US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) 2019 held in New Delhi.
    8. 5th International Conference on Road Tech (Sustainable Roads and Highways) held in New Delhi.
    9. DEFCOM 2019 wlll be held in November 2019 at Manekshaw Centre (New Delhi), with theme *Communications as a Decisive Catalyst for Jointness*.
        1. DEFCOM is a landmark symposium for collaboration between Indian armed forces, academia and industry, research and development organisations, and the Industry on aspects pertaining to Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
    10. Indian Railways has run its first Buddhist Circuit train covering sites related to Gautam Buddha in India and Nepal. Destinations Included Lumbini (where Buddha was born), Bodhgaya (where Buddha gained enlightenment), Sarnath (where Buddha gave his first sermon), Kushinagar (where Buddha attained nirvana).
    11. International workshop on Environmental Flows Assessment and Implementation for India Held In New Delhi.
    12. Making a foray into the personal digital healthcare domain, Facebook unveiled a "Preventive Health" tool that connects people to health resources and sends checkup reminders. It is Launched first in US.

13. Ahead of assembly elections, Delhi Government agreed to implement Central scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) that promises small and marginal eligible farmers an income support of Rs.6,000 a year in three instalments. Earlier, West Bengal and Delhi Governments had refused to implement it.
14. National Cyber Security Cooardinator's office in partnership with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) launched a platform called 'TechSagar'. It is a platform to discover consolidated and comprehensive repository of India's cyber technological capabilities through a portal.
15. 1st India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' meet held in Guwahati (Assam). Bangladesh was represented by Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi.
16. Vibrant Goa - Global Expo & Summit 2019 Held in Goa. During the event, DRDO signed 30 licensing agreement for Transfer of Technology with 16 Indian companies.
17. Minister of Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar conferred National Panchayat Awards 2019 in New Delhi. He also launched a Spatial Planning Application called 'Gram Manchitra' which is a Geo Spatial based decision support system for panchayats.
18. Andhra Pradesh government launched project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in state by 2022, for at least the next 30 years. Project aims to provide 1418.49 million litres of water daily to about 110 urban local bodies in the state. Project cost is 46,675 in first phase and 9200 crore in the second phase. Loan of Rs 2,500 from Asian Development Bank will kick-start the project.
19. Tourism Department of Arunachal Pradesh organized Tawang festival, to promote the tourist attractions and traditional values.
20. Delhi Police flagged off 30 'PRAKHAR' vans, as special vehicles to curb street crimes.
21. 48th Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) organized by Ministry of Textiles began in Greater Noida (UP).

12. Government accorded 'Maharatna' status to PSUs Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation.
    1. It will impart greater operational and financial autonomy thus enhancing powers to their Boards to take financial decisions.
    2. Boards of Maharatna PSU can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures (JV) and wholly owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in India as well as abroad. This is subjected to ceiling of 15% of net worth of concerned CPSE, limited to INR 5000 crore in one project.
    3. All Maharatna PSUs so far are -
        1. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
        2. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
        3. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
        4. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
        5. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
        6. Coal India Limited (CIL)
        7. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
        8. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
        9. Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited (POWERGRID)
        10. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
13. Health and Family Welfare Minister released 14th National Health Profile (NHP) 2019, prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence -
    1. Life Expectancy in India increased from 49.7 years in 1970-75 to 68.7 years in 2012-16.
    2. Life Expectancy of females is 70.2 years and males is 67.4 years.
    3. Highest population Density was reported in Delhi with 11,320 people per square km and the lowest population Density was reported in Arunachal Pradesh with 17 people per square km.
    4. Infant Mortality Rate declined considerably to 33 per 1000 live births in 2016. It is now 37 in rural and 23 in urban areas.
    5. India in 2017 registered a birth rate of 20.2 per 1000 population, death rate of 63 and natural growth rate was 13.9 per 1000 population.
14. Home Ministry released Bureau of Police Research and Development's flagship publication "Data on Police Organizations" (DoPO 2018) in New Delhi.
    1. There has been increase of 19,686 Police personnel in sanctioned strength of State Police and 16,051 in strength of CAPFs.
    2. There has been 20.95% increase in strength of Woman Police, taking percentage of women in Indian Police to 8.73%.

3. Overall Police Population Ratio at state level stood at 192.95 policemen per lakh population.

15. IIM Kozhikode and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals announced a special drive Labelled as “La Eve (meaning The Woman)” to support women entrepreneurs in country. MRPL would provide seed fund assistance from the start funding initiative under start-up India Program.
16. IIT Delhi will announce its Endowment Fund on October 31, 2019 ahead of its Golden Jubilee Convocation ceremony on November 2. Institute has set its target as 1 billion USD.
    1. Endowment funds are big source of income for top global universities. Endowment funds of Harvard and Stanford are over 39 billion USD and 27 billion USD respectively. Endowment Fund is an investment fund established by an organization.
17. Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Became New Union Territories, w.e.f Oct 31, 2019.
    1. J&K's status as a state has also ended. It was announced in the Rajya Sabha, on August 5, to divide Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories. Highlights of Bill that was passed for the same effect (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. The bill repeals Article 370, which as a temporary arrangement and gives autonomous status to state of Jammu and Kashmir.
        3. 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.
        4. UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will be administered by Lieutenant Governors, appointed by President.
        5. 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.
        6. 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.
        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. Schedule lists 106 central laws that will be made applicable to UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. These include Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Right to Education Act, 2009.
        9. 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. Girish Chandra Murmu is appointed as Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu-Kashmir Radha Krishna Mathur is appointed as Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh.
    3. Number of states in the country is 28 now and number of union territories increased to 9.
    4. Government plans to make Ladakh the first Indian union territory (UT) to run completely on renewable energy.
    5. Govt. announced that Bamboo Technology Parks would be set up in the two new Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) under NEC will implement the project.
    6. Realizing importance of Indian Himalayan region and recognizing need to study its ecology, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar approved proposal of setting-up of a New Regional Centre of the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development at Ladakh.
    7. Government employees of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will now get their salaries and other benefits as per the 7th Pay Commission.
18. Ladakh administration organized first-ever Ladakh Literature festival. It will now be held annually.
19. Lucknow-based City Montessori School (CMS) won Guinness World Record for becoming the ‘world’s largest school’ in terms of strength of students, with 18 branches and approximately 56,000 students.

20. MOU has been signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under Ministry of AYUSH and Frankfurter Innovationszentrum Biotechnologie GmbH (FiZ). Aim is research in field of genomics and develop evidence-based guidelines supported with latest technologies.
21. Madhya Pradesh-based Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication (MCNUJC) and UNICEF signed agreement to jointly work in area of child rights.
22. Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad launched MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), a platform to connect startup ecosystem. It was inaugurated during MeitY Startup Summit 2019 in New Delhi. It is aimed to be a social media platform for all stakeholders of startup ecosystem.
23. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) Ravi Shankar Prasad unveiled BHIM 2.0, an upgraded version of NPCI developed UPI app.
    1. He launched it during MeitY Startup Summit 2019 in New Delhi. MeitY Startup Hub (MSH) was also launched, as a platform to connect startup ecosystem.
    2. Other initiatives include Indian Software Product Registry and selected Incubation Centres under Technology Incubation Development for Entrepreneurs 2.0 (TIDE 2.0).
        1. TIDE 2.0 is aimed at strengthening nearly 2000 technology based startups in areas of national concern by taking advantage of emerging technologies as well as empowering 51 incubation centers across country.
    3. BHIM was launched in December 2016. BHIM 2.0 has added a bunch of new functionalities including -
        1. Increased transaction limit, an option of applying for IPOs, linking multiple bank accounts, offers from merchants, a donation gateway and three additional regional languages are new additions.
        2. 3 additional languages- Konkani, Haryanvi and Bhojpuri, over and above existing 13.
        3. Increased transaction limits for high value transactions- increasing the existing cap of Rs. 20,000 and now up to Rs. 1,00,000 from verified merchants.
    4. During the event, Fintech Firm BharatPe won DigiDhan Mission Fin-tech Award 2018-2019 for 'Innovation in Digital Payments through Emerging Technology'.
24. Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy) and Ministry of Defence signed MoU for integration of AYUSH under health establishments of Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), to provide traditional medicine services at the armed forces' hospitals and dispensaries.
25. Ministry of Railways and Indian School of Business (ISB) signed MoU for a strategic partnership. It covers several aspects including executive education programs, developing research opportunities, developing case studies and pedagogical materials, and creating of a future-ready leadership pool for Indian Railways.
26. Ministry of Science and Technology issued *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Nano pharmaceuticals in India*, as a crucial step for providing predictable regulatory pathways and transparency for nano pharmaceuticals in India.
    1. Impact of nano material waste disposal on environment should be declared.
    2. It makes it compulsory for pharma companies to present data on how plasma, off-target tissue and disease sites are affected by repeated dosing.
    3. It provides guidelines for animal toxicology data. It allows toxicology studies to be performed only on rodent species and dogs.
    4. Guidelines have been provided for information on the ingredients, physio chemical characterization data on nano pharmaceuticals, waste disposals, nano carriers, stability studies and analytical method validations.
27. Mokgweetsi Masisi has been elected as New President of Botswana (Southern Africa).
28. Most advanced electronic interlocking system has been mounted on Grand Cord Route (GCR) by Indian Railways, to increase speed of trains and reduce travel time between Delhi and Howrah from present 17-19 hours to 12 hours.
    1. Indian railways replaced 65 years old obsolete mechanical signalling system at Tundla station in Uttar Pradesh with most advanced and secure electronic interlocking system.
    2. It will increase train handling capacity of Tundla Junction to 250 trains per day from 200 trains currently. Trains outside Tundla will have to stop for a relatively short time and schedule of trains will be improved.
    3. Grand Chord is a part of Howrah-Gaya-Delhi line and Howrah-Allahabad-Mumbai line. This route connects Sitarampur (West Bengal) and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Junction, Uttar Pradesh.
29. Nagaland government launched an ex-gratia scheme for students studying outside Nagaland, called 'Nagaland Government Ex-gratia Scheme for Students Studying outside Nagaland' (NGESSO). It will provide 5 lakh as one-time payment to families of students in case of unfortunate death of any student while studying outside state.

30. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released figures of criminal records registered in India during year 2017-18 -
    1. As per report, 50 lakh cases of cognizable crime were registered across country.
    2. Total number of crime against women are 3,59,849 cases while Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases.
31. Odisha Govt signed Letter of Understanding (LoU) on "drink from tap mission" with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), To provide quality drinking water to every urban household in the state. UNICEF will provide cooperation to Odisha for implementation of "drink from tap" program.
32. Odisha government as allocated INR 3208 crores under Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme in 3 years to transform Puri into a world heritage city.
33. Odisha's Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti launched a state Strategic Action Plan (SAP) with the support of UNICEF & UNFPA, aiming to end child marriages in Odisha by 2030.
    1. Oct 29 is also observed as Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction. It commemorates destruction brought by Super Cyclone 1999. Theme of 2019 is *Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience*.
34. On occasion of Deepawali, UP Govt Organized event for lighting 4 lakh earthen lamps along banks of Sarayu river, in Ayodhya. The event has entered Guinness World Records for its scale.
35. On recommendation of Election Commission, Ministry of Law and Justice amended Conduct of Election Rules 1961, to now allow senior citizens and person with disabilities (PwD) in absentee voter list. The absentee voter refers to a vote cast by someone who is unable to go to polling station.
    1. Disabled and people aged over 80 years can now cast their vote through postal ballot. Currently voting through postal ballot is available to Indian armed forces and to those assigned poll duties.
36. President Ram Nath Kovind addressed commemoration of Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary) of Vishwa Shanti Stupa in Rajgir (Bihar).
37. President Ram Nath Kovind approved Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2019. It makes Tamil Nadu first Indian state to enact a law on contract farming. Aim is to set a policy framework and institutional mechanism on agricultural produce and livestock contract farming.
38. President Ram Nath Kovind launched Endowment Fund of Indian Institute Technology Delhi. Institute has set its target as 1 billion USD.
    1. Endowment funds are big source of income for top global universities. Endowment funds of Harvard and Stanford are over 39 billion USD and 27 billion USD respectively. Endowment Fund is an investment fund established by an organization.
39. QS India University Rankings 2019 -
    1. Top 10 -
        1. IIT Bombay
        2. IISC Bengaluru
        3. IIT Madras
        4. IIT Delhi
        5. IIT Kharagpur
        6. IIT Kanpur
        7. University of Hyderabad
        8. University of Delhi
        9. IIT Roorkee
        10. IIT Guwahati
    2. This is 2nd India specific ranking of India's higher education institutions from Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the global higher education think tank behind QS World University Rankings.
40. UP CM Yogi Adityanath announced scrapping traditional number '100' for immediate police assistance, launching '112' as an integrated emergency number for police, medical and fire emergencies in state.
    1. The '112' helpline number is an integration of police (100), fire (101) and women (1090) helpline numbers.
    2. Till now, 20 states and Union territories have adopted a single emergency helpline number '112'.
41. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched government's flagship scheme '*Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana'*. It will provide a fund worth Rs 15000 to every family where a girl child is born. The amount will be released to the family in a phased manner.
    1. Kanya Sumangala scheme aims to make sure that parents will take proper care of the girl child, in order to get benefits undet the scheme.

2. Funds will be released in various installments, when the girl child completes various milestones such as birth, vaccination, admission to Class 1, 5, 9 and graduation.

42. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 15-point reform charter, to enable effective functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures. Key Points Include -
    1. Pre and post Legislative Impact should be assessed.
    2. Functioning of Department related Standing Committees of Parliament should be ensured through longer tenures instead of reconstitution every year as at present. Recommendations to committee should be based on academic backgrounds.
    3. Minimum number of sittings for both Parliament and State Legislatures per year should be approximately prescribed.
    4. Political parties should take responsibility be enforcing a code of conduct.
    5. Rules should be framed that take automatic effect against erring members in case of interruptions and disruptions.
    6. Political parties should ensure at least 50% attendance of the members of legislatures everyday to address issues of lack of quorum.
    7. Secretariats of legislatures should publish regular reports on attendance of members during proceedings.
    8. Functioning of anti-defection law and whip system should be reviewed.
43. Week Long 3rd edition of Guwahati International Film Festival has beeen inaugurated. Iran is focus country in this edition.
44. West Bengal government decided to abolish no-detention policy and re-introduce pass-fail system in classes 5 and 8. Students will have to take exams for promotion from these classes to 6 and 9.
45. World Bank included Kolkata and Bengaluru, besides Delhi and Mumbai, for preparing ease of doing business report to provide a holistic picture of business environment of India.
    1. Report ranks 190 nations based on ten parameters, which includes ease of starting a business, construction permits, getting electricity, getting credit, paying taxes, trade across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

Top

Persons

1. Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitaraman released a commemorative coin on Paramahansa Yogananda to mark his 125th birth anniversary. Paramahansa Yogananda was an Indian monk, guru and yogi who introduced millions of teachings of meditation and Kriya Yoga through his organization Self-Realization Fellowship.
2. Nepalese man Nirmal Purja shattered previous mountaineering record for successfully climbing world's 14 highest peaks, completing it in 189 days. 8027 meter High Mount Shishapangma in China was last of 14 peaks that are more than 8000 meters. Previous record for climbing 14 peaks was seven years, 10 months and six days,. set by South Korean climber Kim Chang-ho in 2013.
3. Obituaries (Oct 2019) -
    1. Jose Jose - Noted Mexican singer.
    2. Jessye Norman - Noted American opera star, also won 4 Grammy awards.
    3. H L Trivedi - Noted kidney transplant surgeon and Padma Shri Awardee.
    4. Farook Khan - Noted Indian-origin journalist in South Africa. He started Miss India South Africa Pageant.
    5. Krishna Gopalkrishna Kadekodi - Noted philatelist and coin collector.
    6. M Gopal Gowda - Noted Kudmi Konkani folk artist.
    7. Eric Pleskow - Noted American-Austrian film producer and Hollywood Tycoon.
    8. Satyapriya Mohathero - 2nd highest Buddhist leader of Bangladesh and head of Sima Bihar of Ramu.
    9. Diahann Carroll - Noted Americn Actress.
    10. Colathur Gopalan - Noted Indian nutritionist. He was responsible for initiating nutrition research in independent India.
    11. Peter Edward Ginger Baker - Noted English drummer, co-founder of rock band “Cream”.
    12. Andrés Gimeno Tolaguera - Noted Spanish tennis player. He won French Open in 1972.
    13. Kadri Gopalnath - Noted saxophonist and Padma Shri awardee.
    14. Dominic Jala - Archbishop of Shillong and Apostolic Administrator of Roman Catholic Diocese of Nongstoin, India.
    15. Sara Danius - Noted Swiss author and first female head of Swedish Nobel literature award body.
    16. Alexei Leonov - Noted Russian astronaut. On 18 March 1965, he became first human to conduct a spacewalk, exiting capsule during Voskhod 2 mission for 12 minutes and 9 seconds.
    17. Alicia Alonso - Noted Cuban Ballet Artist and choreographer.
    18. KB Siddhaiah - Noted Kannada writer.

19. Kalidas Karmakar - Noted painter from Bangladesh.
20. Mark Hurd - Co-CEO of US Based Tech firm Oracle.
21. Dadu Chougule - Noted Maharashtra Wrestling legend, also recipient of Major Dhyanchand award.
22. T.P. Radhamani - Malayalam and Telugu Actress.
23. Marieke Vervoort, Belgian Paralympic athlete ended her life through euthanasia (practice of intentionally ending a life to relieve suffering).
24. Dilip Ramanbhai Parikh - Former Chief Minister of Gujarat.
25. K R Wadhwaney - Noted sports journalist.
26. C Raghavachari - Noted journalist.
27. N Venkatachala - Former Supreme Court judge and Karnataka Loykayukta.
28. Sadako Ogata - Japanese diplomat and first female to be appointed as UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
29. John Witherspoon - Noted American Actor.
30. Nanammal Padma Shri awardee & India's oldest Yoga teacher.
31. Gurudas Dasgupta - Noted Indian politician and leader of Communist Party of India. He was known Trade Unionist.
32. Taro Chatung - Veteran Arunachal Pradesh journalist.
33. Geetanjali Ramakrishna - Noted Telugu actress.

4. Persons Resigned / Retired (Oct 2019) -
    1. Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).
    2. Italian footballer Claudio Marchisio announced his retirement from football.
    3. Rajat Monga resigned as senior group president of Yes Bank.
    4. German footballer Bastian Schweinsteiger announced his retirement.
    5. FIFA banned former chief of Salvadorean Football Association Reynaldo Vasquez for life & and imposed 475,000-euro fine after a corruption investigation.
    6. American competition swimmer and 2-time Olympic gold medalist Conor James Dwyer announced his retirement after being handed 20-month doping ban for having testosterone in form of pellets, surgically inserted into his body.
    7. England Female Cricketer Jennifer Louise Gunn announced retirement from international cricket.
    8. Chinese badminton player Li Xuerui announced her retirement. She reached a career high of no. 1 in women's singles for 124 weeks.
    9. Cricketer Abhishek Nayar announced retirement from all forms of Cricket.
    10. Lebanon's prime minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation, amid porests due to corrpution charges.
5. USA president Donald Trump announced that Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died in a raid conducted by US special forces in north western Syria. Baghdadi repportedly killed himself by detonating a suicide vest.
6. Visits from India (Oct 21 - 31, 2019) -
    1. Minister of state for external affairs V Muraleedharan attended meet in in Reunion Islands (French territory), along with Leaders from France and Vanilla Islands – consisting of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The met aims at exploring economic and development partnership.
    2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visited Saudi Arabia -
        1. He attended Plenary Session of 3rd Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh.
        2. 12 MOUs were signed. Which Include -
            1. Strategic Partnership Council Agreement.
                1. It is significant, as Saudi Arabia is only 4th nation with whom India shares such an inter-governmental mechanism, which is headed by the Prime Minister. Other Nations are Russia, Germany and Japan.
            2. Cooperation in Field of Civil Aviation, medical products regulations, Renewable Energy, Security, Combating illicit trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors.
            3. Military acquisition, industries, research, development and technology.
            4. Letter of Intent between Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monshaat) of Saudi Arabia and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, of India.
            5. MoU between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Saudi Aramco.
            6. MoU for Cooperation between National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul)
            7. MoU between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Saudi Payments, To launch Indian Payments service Rupay in Saudi Arabia.

3. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan Visited Japan and Russia.
    1. In Tokyo (Japan), He attended Global Forum on Steel excess Capacity.
4. Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister Piyush Goyal Visited Sweden, for attending 19th Indo – Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation. He also Visited Switzerland.
5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Tashkent (Uzbekistan), to attend meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
6. President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Philippines and Japan -
    1. Philippines -
        1. He attended 4th ASEAN - India Business Summit in Manila.
        2. 4 Agreements were signed in fields of Maritime Security,Tourism, Science and Technology and Culture.
        3. He unveiled first M K Gandhi monument in Philippines, as a bronze bust at Miriam College, Quezon City.
    2. Japan -
        1. Attended Enthronement Ceremony of Emperor Naruhito of Japan, who completed his ascension to the Chrysanthemum Throne after his father's abdication earlier this year.
        2. Laid foundation stone for Sri Sathya Sai Sanathana Samskruti Project at Sai no Sato, Kakegawa.
7. Minister of States for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Chaube attended conference of Health Ministers of BRICS countries at Curitiba in Brazil.
    1. Govt has set a target of ensuring at least 70 % infants to have access to breast milk by 2025, to be increased to 100 %. India has taken inspiration from Brazil's success in the field of human milk bank decided to adopt a similar model in creating a wide network of human milk banks.

7. Visits to India (Oct 21 - 31, 2019) -
    1. PM Narendra Modi met JP Morgan International Council in New Delhi. After 2007, this was the first time that the International Council met in India.
    2. 28-member delegation from European Union Visited India to assess situation in Kashmir, after revoking of Article 370. The delegation stated that Situation is normal in State and India's move has been in right direction.
    3. World Bank President David Malpass visited India.

Top

Science

1. Britain's Natural History Museum named a tiny, blind and wingless beetle after climate activist Greta Thunberg. The honey-coloured insect, measuring less than one millimeter, was discovered in Kenyan capital Nairobi in 1960s. It was earlier known as *Nelloptodes gretae*.
2. French Scientists found new stable compound of Plutonium unexpectedly, while trying to create plutonium dioxide nano particles using different precursors. Plutonium at its pentavalent state showed a peculiar behavior, which scientists learnt that is because it was stable. Scientists thus confirmed that Plutonium exhibited stability properties at its pentavalent state.
    1. Unstable radioactive dangerous plutonium that is predominantly used in nuclear applications are tricky to transport, store and dispose. This new development may aid in handling and transportation of the element.
3. IIT Hyderabad and School of Architecture Bhubaneswar researchers developed bio-bricks from agricultural waste, serving dual purposes of development of eco-friendly sustainable material and waste management.
    1. Bricks are made from agro-waste like wheat straw, paddy straw, sugarcane bagasse and cotton plant. Bio-bricks are more sustainable than clay bricks.
    2. The bricks also provide good insulation to heat and sound and help in maintaining humidity of buildings and make house more suitable for hot-humid climates.
4. IIT Kharagpur graduate Debayan Saha has invented a device called “PM 2.5”, which when fitted near the silencer pipe in vehicles will curb air pollution. The technology developed by uses a combination of electric energy and wave energy to influence the pollutants like PM 2.5 such that they act like a magnet attracting other particulate pollutants from the ambient atmosphere to get attached to it.
5. NASA reported that ozone hole near south pole is in its smallest size since it was discovered. In 2006, the hole was 10.3 million square miles. It has now been reduced to 3.6 million square miles. Scientists say that the hole is smaller than it was found in 1985. Ozone hole reaches its peak in September and October and disappears by late December.

1. Ozone layer shields life from harmful solar radiation, which was harmed by man-made chlorine compounds. This led to thinning of Ozone layer in the Southern Hemisphere.
2. International Montreal Protocol was framed in 1987, banning chlorine compounds in refrigerators and aerosols.
3. Now, the reason for reducinng of Ozone layer is mainly due to global warming, more than because of reduction in usage of chlorine compounds. This is a good news in terms of Ozone hole reduction, but bad in terms of rising global temparature.

6. Operation of a land-based prototype of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) submarines has been successfully carried out. AIP has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine as it enhances submerged endurance of the boat several folds.
    1. Fuel cell-based AIP has merits in performance compared to other technologies. DRDO programme to build a fuel cell-based AIP system for Indian Naval submarines has crossed several milestones in technology maturity.
7. Researchers at Stanford University (US) developed a new catalyst that helps to turn carbon dioxide from cars into fuels like propane or natural gas.
    1. Catalysts induce chemical reactions without being used up. In new research, scientists combined ruthenium and iron oxide nano particles to form new catalyst. This arrangement activates hydrocarbon formation from Carbon-Dioxide.
    2. Earlier methods only produced simplest hydrocarbon methane from effluents of vehicles. This method produces propane and other higher hydro carbons including natural gas. Also, earlier methods involved two steps processes - reduce carbon dioxide to carbon monoxide and combine carbon monoxide and hydrogen to form hydrocarbons.
8. Researchers developed a new dielectric capacitor- a device that stores energy like a battery, taking inspiration from a French pastry. The croissant is made by folding multiple layers of dough. Researchers found that by pressing and folding a polymer film capacitor, they were able to store 30 times more energy than the best-performing commercially available dielectric capacitor.
    1. It may pave way for efficient, low-cost, and environmentally-friendly electric energy storage systems for wind and solar sources.
    2. Study noted that dielectric capacitors generally have ultrahigh power density making them suitable for technologies such as motor drives, and space vehicle power systems.
9. Researchers found that call of male white bellbird (Procnias albus) is loudest bird call recorded in the world, that can reach 125 decibels, almost as loud as a very loud rock concert, and more than 9 decibels higher than the loudest recorded call of the screaming piha (Lipaugus vociferans), which held previous record of being the world's loudest bird.
10. Researchers from Indian Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT-H) created the first-ever 'Indian brain atlas'(IBA), in collaboration with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technolog. Study revealed that Indian brain, on an average, is smaller in height, width and volume when compared to Western and other Eastern populations.
11. Scientists at John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (US), have developed Lithium-Ion batteries that can operate under extreme conditions like submersion, ballistic impact, cutting and heat.
    1. Lithium-Ion batteries are commonly used in every household item, but are susceptible to catastrophic fire and explosion.
    2. Scientists used water-in-salt and water-in-bisalt electrolytes in batteries. These electrolytes were incorporated in a polymer matrix to reduce water activity and elevate energy capabilities of the battery. This gives the batteries higher energies to withstand heat and pressure.
12. Scientists discovered six new lizard species of Dravidogecko family in the Western Ghats. Dravidogecko is a small size lizard found in wet forests in mid-to-high elevations. This is seen as a significant development as only one species of the genus was known so far.
    1. Species have been named as Dravidogecko Septentrionalis, D Janakiae (after botanist Janaki Ammal from Kerala), D Tholpalli, D Meghamalaiensis, D Douglasadamsi (after British author and satirist Douglas Noel Adams) and D Smithi (in honour of British herpetologist Malcolm Arthur Smith).
13. US and Australian Scientists discovered 'the footprints a monstrous galaxy' being called as 'Cosmic Yeti' in early universe. The discovery provides new insights into the first growing steps of some of biggest galaxies in universe. It was forming new stars at a rate that was over 100 times faster than in Milky Way.

Top

Sports

1. 15th World Wushu Championships 2019 (Shanghai, China)
    1. Medal Table -

1.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	14	1	1	16
2	**Iran**	9	2	1	12
3	**Hong Kong**	5	4	1	10
4	**Indonesia**	3	0	1	4
5	**Macau**	2	5	5	12

2. India Ranked 10th with 4 Medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze). Indian Medalists -
    1. Gold - Praveen Kumar (Men's 48 KG)
    2. Silver - Y. Sanathoi Devi (Women's 52 KG) and Poonam (Women's 75 KG)
    3. Bronze - Vikrant Baliyan (Men's 60 KG)
2. 2019 Denmark Open Badminton Title (Odense, Denmark) -
    1. Men's Singles - Kento Momota (Japan)
    2. Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
    3. Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
    4. Women's Doubles - South Korea's Baek Ha-na AND Jung Kyung-eun
    5. Mixed Doubles - Indonesia's Praveen Jordan AND Melati Daeva Oktavianti
3. 2019 Erste Bank Open Men's Tennis (Vienna, Austria) -
    1. Singles - Dominic Thiem (Austria)
    2. Doubles - Rajeev Ram (US) AND Joe Salisbury (UK)
4. 2019 European Open Men's Tennis Title (Antwerp, Belgium) -
    1. Singles - Andy Murray (UK). He defeated Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland)
    2. Doubles - Germany's Kevin Krawietz AND Andreas Mies defeated Rajeev Ram (US) / Joe Salisbury (UK)
5. 2019 French Open Badminton (Paris) -
    1. Men's Singles - Chen Long (China)
    2. Women's Singles - An Se-young (South Korea)
    3. Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. They defeated Indian duo of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty**.
    4. Women's Doubles - South Korea's Lee So-hee AND Shin Seung-chan
    5. Mixed Doubles - Indonesia's Praveen Jordan AND Melati Daeva Oktavianti
6. 2019 Stockholm Open Men's Tennis Title (Sweden) -
    1. Singles - Denis Shapovalov (Canada)
    2. Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND Édouard Roger-Vasselin (France)
7. 2019 Swiss Indoors Men's Tennis (Basel, Switzerland) -
    1. Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland). It is his 10th Swiss Open Title and Career Title No. 103.
    2. Doubles - Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) AND Horia Tecău (Romania)
8. 7th CISM World Military Games held in Wuhan (China).
    1. Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	**China**	133	64	42	239
2	**Russia**	51	53	57	161
3	**Brazil**	21	31	36	88
4	**France**	13	20	24	57
5	**Poland**	11	15	34	60

    2. India ranked 11th with 8 Medals (5 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze).
9. Bangladesh Cricketer Shakib Al Hasan has been suspended for two years by International Cricket Council (ICC) for not reporting a corrupt approach. Shakib has been handed a full ban for a year and a 12-month suspended sentence.
10. Bengal Warriors won 7th season of Vivo Pro Kabaddi League 2019, as their first title, defeating Dabang Delhi.

11. China has been given Hosting rights by FIFA, for revamped version of Club Football World Cup, having 24 teams. It will be held in June and July 2021.
    1. The decision was made despite China's suppression of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, and the internment of more than one million Uighur Muslims in state of Xinjiang. The same is being criticized globally.
12. Former South African Cricketer Graeme Smith has been elected an Honorary Life Member of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in England.
13. India won 7 Medals at Olympic Test Event for Boxing .
    1. Gold - Shiva Thapa and Pooja Rani.
    2. Silver - Ashish.
    3. Bronze - Nikhat Zareen, Simranjeet Kaur, Sumit Sangwan and Vahlimpuia.
14. India's Kuhoo Garg and Dhruv Rawat won badminton mixed doubles title at Egypt International 2019 in Cairo, Egypt. They defeated India's Utkarsh Arora and Karishma Wadkar.
15. India's Prithvi Sekhar won men's final of World Deaf tennis championship in Antalya, Turkey. He defetaed Jaroslav Smedek of Czech Republic in Final.
16. India's Riya Bhatia won ITF women's tennis tournament in Lagos (Nigeria), defeating Nastja Kolar of Slovenia.
17. Indian Cricketer Jasprit Bumrah and Female Cricketer Smriti Mandhana won Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award. Other winners are Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne, and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.
    1. *Cricket Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team* by Prashant Kidambi was adjudged the Wisden India Book of the Year.
18. Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh won gold medal in men's junior Keirin event at Asian Track Cycling Championships at Incheon in South Korea. James Singh won bronze in same event. India also secured 2 bronze medals in men's and women's Jr. sprint team.
19. International Cricket Council (ICC) anounced that 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup will be held in South Africa in Jan - Feb 2020.
20. Karnataka won 2019–20 Vijay Hazare Domestic Cricket Title, defeating Tamil Nadu. It is karnataka's 4th title of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
21. Mercedes' British Racer Lewis Hamilton Won Mexican 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	Charles Leclerc (Monaco)	1 September
14	Italian Grand Prix	Charles Leclerc (Monaco)	8 September
15	Singapore Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	22 September
16	Russian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	29 September
17	Japanese Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	13 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	27 October

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	date
19	United States Grand Prix		3 November
20	Brazilian Grand Prix		17 November
21	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		1 December

22. Misc. Sports News (Oct 2019) -
    1. 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championships held in Bengaluru. India finished with medal tally of 64 medals (20 gold, 24 silver and 20 bronze).
    2. Indian Female chess player Koneru Humpy ranked world number 3 in 2019 rankings by Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE).
    3. Australian Female cricketer Alyssa Healy created world record for highest individual score in women's T20I, scoring 148 runs off 61 balls. Also, Harmanpreet Kaur became 1st Indian to play 100 T20 International matches.
    4. FIFA banned Eugenio Figueredo, former president of South American Football Confederation CONMEBOL, due to bribery charges.
    5. Army's Abdul Quadir Khan won Silver Medal at 53rd Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Championship held at Batam (Indonesia).
    6. For first time, a floating basketball court brought to India in Arabian Sea near Mumbai (Maharashtra). It has been brought for the National Basketball Association (NBA) game 2019, which features the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers, in First week of October 4 & 5 2019.
    7. Austria's Christine Wolf won Hero Women's Indian Open Golf Title at Gurugram, Haryana.
    8. Surender Singh of India created three world records at World Powerlifting Championships in Berlin, Germany. Also, Three-time World Champion Mukesh Singh won yet another gold.
    9. FIBA (International Basketball Federation) stated that India will host Tokyo Olympic Games 3×3 basketball qualifying tournament in March 2020 with a total participation of 40 teams (20 male and 20 female teams).
    10. Dutee Chand broke her own 100-meter national record with a time of 11.22 seconds, during National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi.
    11. Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge has become 1st athlete to run sub 2-hour marathon, busting mythical 2-hour barrier for marathon on a specially prepared course in a huge Vienna park (Austria). He finished marathon in 1 hr 59 min 40.2 sec and became the first ever to run a marathon in under 2 hours.
    12. Kenya's female runner Brigid Jepscheschir Kosgei has set a new world record in the 2019 Chicago Marathon held in Chicago (US). Kosgei completed in 2 hours 14 minutes and 4 seconds, better than Earlier record of Paula Radcliffe with 2 hours 15 minutes and 25 seconds.
    13. Sports Ministry decided to provide access to four of its sporting infrastructure, free of cost to federations and athletes from November 2019. It is aimed at making sporting infrastructure accessible to all sports persons. 1st phase will see stadiums in the capital, including Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN), Indira Gandhi Stadium (IG), Major Dhyanchand National Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range.
    14. 17-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal became youngest cricketer in world to score a double century in One Day cricket, playing in Vijay Hazare season against Jharkhand.
    15. Raunak Sadhwani will be 65th Indian Grand Master (Chess) at age of 13 years.
    16. Cricketer Rohit Sharma has created new record in test cricket, gdetting past Australian great Don Bradman. The record is about test average of 99.84 on home soil, which is higher than Don Bradman's average of 98.22 on home soil in test cricket.
    17. Logo for Paris 2024 Olympic Games has been unveiled, in the art deco style which was trending in 1924 when Paris last hosted Olympics. The Logo also incorporates lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789.
    18. Sprinter Dutee Chand named Sportsperson of the Year in 2nd edition of the Vogue Women of the Year awards.
    19. Minerva Punjab FC has been renamed as Punjab Football Club, as per an agreement with Round Glass Sports Private Ltd.
    20. Indian Boxer and Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom has been included in a 10-strong athlete ambassadors group to represent boxers in the build-up to 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games by the IOC's Task Force for the sport.
    21. American Golfer Tiger Woods secured a record-equalling 82nd PGA Tour crown, winning Zozo Championship in Japan.

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