TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - visited UK’s IP Switch Smart grid factory in Suffolk county to assess the working of the smart grid system
  - The government has already sanctioned ₹7 crore from the Tamil Nadu Innovation Fund to Tangedco for setting up a pilot project
  - Tamil Nadu, with more than 8,000MW of wind power and around 2,500MW of solar power, is one the few states that can employ a smart grid for optimization of power and minimizing transmission losses.
  - The CM is currently on a three-nation tour to the U.S., U.K., and Dubai to bring foreign direct investment to the State.

- The historic Pallava-era coastal town of Mamallapuram near Chennai - may host the second edition of the India-China informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, scheduled between October 11 and 13 this year

- Pallikaranai marsh, Point Calimere, Pulicat and Koothankulam in Tamil Nadu – were among the 100 priority wetlands identified by the Union government under its national initiative on wetlands rehabilitation
The state government has been asked to prepare a brief document on the management plan of these four selected wetlands for the next five years.

Once recognised by the Centre, funds can be sought for management of the wetlands.

In Tamil Nadu, as per a study by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural history (Sacon) in 1991, there are 1,175 wetlands that cover 1.24% of the total area.

The district-level monitoring committee for implementing the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 - has been constituted in Chennai.

Earlier, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on July 15, 2019 directed preparation of district environmental plans, monitored by the district collector, and put on the public domain through websites.

The committee comprises representatives of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, revenue, directorate of public health and preventive medicine and fisheries departments besides 15 zonal officers of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

The Nilgiris district administration - implemented a Madras high court order banning sale of plastic water bottles and soft drinks in PET bottles, and food items in plastic covers at all check posts on the highways leading to Udhagamandalam.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to be honoured with the prestigious 'Global Goal Award' award from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for his exemplary leadership and commitment in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, one of the ambitious projects of the PM, was launched on October 2, 2014, on the occasion of Gandhi’s birth anniversary.

It aims to make India 'Open Defecation Free' by 2019.
✓ This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.

The Department of social welfare – is planning to set up three special fast track courts to ‘exclusively’ handle cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

Tamil Nadu government – signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Sixteen US-based companies to invest ₹2,780 crore in the state
✓ Haldia Petrochemicals signed an in-principle agreement for investing ₹50,000 crore to set up a Naphtha Cracker Unit in the state.

The Tamil Nadu government – is planning to implement 100% online ticketing system for cinema theatres

Tamil Nadu Government - signed MoUs with 19 more US firms on September 4, attracting Rs 2,300 crore more in investment.
✓ The agreements were signed at a meeting held by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami in San Jose in the Silicon Valley.

✓ This follows the earlier signing of MoU’s with 16 US companies on September 3, for investments worth Rs 2,780 crore, leading to more than 20,000 jobs in the state

✓ The companies that signed the MoUs include incoln Electric, Wearable Mems, Caldon Biotech, ZL Technologies, Kapisoft, Kloud Learn, Sierra Health Alerts, Acts Global Tech Solutions, Ripe.io, Latent.ao, Achireum, Nature Mills, SAi, ACS Global Tech Solutions, Dotsolved Systems, TIE Global, USISPF, Google X and DCF Ventures, among others
✓ These agreements would lead to a creation of more than 6,500 jobs in the state

✓ The chief minister also launched ‘Digital Accelerator’ scheme along with the assistance from the American Tamil Entrepreneur Association to fund new ventures by state-based entrepreneurs.

✓ The state government will allocate Rs 50 crore for the scheme, from which 10% of the total investment will be provided as assistance to entrepreneurs for starting the business.

✓ The CM unveiled ‘Yaadhum Oorey’, an investment facilitation portal for the assistance of entrepreneurs from Information technology (IT) and health sectors in San Francisco.

Two teachers from the State and one from Puducherry – conferred with the National award for best teachers on the occasion of Teachers’ day by the President

✓ Headmaster R Selvakannan from Karur district and social science teacher M Mansoor Ali from Gopichettipalayam bagged the awards from the state.

✓ S Sasikumar, headmaster-in-charge from Puducherry also received the award.

✓ President Ram Nath Govind gave away the awards to 46 Teachers, selected by the Ministry of HRD, on the occasion of Teachers Day.

Tamil Nadu - has been ranked tenth in the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index (SARAL)

✓ Karnataka has been given the first rank in the index, followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Madras high court Chief Justice V K Tahilramani – submitted her resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind, marking a copy to CJI Ranjan Gogoi
Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - visited Tesla’s electric vehicle manufacturing unit in Fremont, San Francisco in the US

The chief minister was accompanied by the State Ministers M C Sampath, R B Udayakumar, K T Rajenthra Bhalaji and chief secretary K Shanmugam.

The team visited various automobile units in the U.S. that make e-vehicles and batteries, including Bloom Energy's premises in San Francisco, which has been a frontrunner in solid oxide fuel cells

Bloom Energy is headed by K.R. Sridhar, a native of Tamil Nadu.

Water level in the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur - reached the full capacity of 120ft on September 7

This was for the 43rd time that the dam had reached its full capacity since its inception in 1934

Last year too, the water level had touched 120ft.

Five schools from Chennai - have figured on the list of top 10 schools in different categories across the country, in the EducationWorld India school rankings 2019-20.

Emerging the best of the Chennai schools pool for the fourth year in a row, Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Madras (KVIITM), secured the second rank in government day schools category

The School KFI and Shishya School, both in Adyar, have been ranked 7 and 10 in the day co-education schools category
The Centre’s policy think-tank, NITI Aayog - has given its approval for Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) to take loans from various international banks for its phase II project.

✓ Chennai Metro’s phase II, which aims to cover 118.9 km at an estimated cost of ₹69,180 crore, will require loans from various agencies.

✓ While the State government would contribute ₹13,723 crore initially, the rest, ₹55,457 crore, would be split between the State (20%), Centre (20%) and banks (60%).

✓ CMRL has already taken a loan of ₹20,196 crore from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) for building 52 km of the project, the agreement for which has been signed earlier.

✓ For the remaining phases, CMRL needs more loans and has sought funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), New Development Bank (NDB) and the World Bank.
The State Agriculture Department - intends to bring 25 lakh farmers under

the Prime Minister’s Crop Insurance Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – this year

The Tamil Nadu government - signed six MoUs with investors from Dubai on September 9

These agreements are expected to provide an investment of nearly Rs 3,750 crore to the state, apart from providing employment opportunities to around 10,800 people

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was in UAE on the last leg of the CM’s 14-day three-nation trip abroad to meet investors and Tamil diaspora.

The CM had earlier met entrepreneurs in the UK and US to bring in investments to the State

Overall, the CM had signed pacts for investments worth ₹8,830 crore that was expected to generate jobs for 37,300 people during his 13-day visit to UK, US and UAE

The famed Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple - has been adjudged the second best ‘Swachh Iconic Place’ (for cleanliness) by the ministry of Jal Shakti Abhiyan

The renowned Srivilliputhur palkova has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry of India

Palani panchamirtham, Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees have recently received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

Tamil Nadu Government - to introduce online, single window admissions from the next academic year (2020-21) to various arts and science colleges in the state, similar to the engineering admissions
The Tamil Nadu government – to implement the upgraded version of STAR 3.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration) project within a year in the Registration department

The state government - announced on September 13 that board exams for Classes V and VIII will be held at the end of current academic year, 2019-20

Tamil Nadu – may have around three lakh to three-and-a-half lakh small and marginal farmer beneficiaries in the PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY) scheme

✓ The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 12

✓ The scheme offers a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month to beneficiaries when they attain 60 years of age.

✓ Vellore tops the list with 32,276 in the category, followed by Salem (27,842) and Cuddalore (26,065) districts.

The Tamil Nadu government - has set up a 16-member multi-disciplinary committee to implement the ambitious ‘Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery’ project

✓ The project aims to restore the Cauvery river and its tributaries on the lines of the Ganga Restoration and Rejuvenation.
Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had announced the project in July on the lines of Namami Gange, the flagship programme of the Centre.

The members of the committee will be from the Ministry of water resources, municipal administration and water supply, rural development, environment and forests, TWAD Board, TN water investment company, and revenue administration and disaster management.

At present, Asian Development Bank-assisted climate change adaptation programme is being implemented in the Cauvery delta for upgrading infrastructure and strengthening the embankment at a budget of ₹1,560 crore.

Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) of the Union Jal Shakti ministry has been entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed project report for the rejuvenation of the Cauvery river and its tributaries — Bhavani, Amaravathi and Noyyal.

The State’s Chief Minister had earlier met PM in June and requested financial support to the programme, which is expected to cost ₹7,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore.

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) in Vandalur - has been recognised as an institutional member in the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

The Tamil Nadu government - released the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019, on September 16.

Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami released the Policy note, which targets ₹50,000 crore in investment and 1.5 lakh new jobs in the sector.

Industries Minister M.C. Sampath and Transport Minister M.R. Vijayabaskar received the first copies of the policy at an event in the Secretariat.
The Centre has approved the Tamil Nadu government’s proposal to secure a $478.07 million loan from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and OFID (OPEC Fund for International Development) for phase II and III of the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project.

✓ The phase for which the approval was given will cover 57km – from Thatchur in North Chennai to Sriperumbudur – linking Kolkata, Tirupati and Bengaluru national highways.

✓ The total project is estimated to cost $827.43 million

✓ The ring road will connect various national highways and the Ennore and Kattupalli ports

✓ The proposed project is expected to reduce the travel time, decongest city roads and substantially minimize pollution.

✓ Tamil Nadu entered into a ₹2,470-crore agreement with JICA for the Ennore Port-Thatchur 24.52km phase I early this year

Adani Power, through its arm Raigarh Energy Generation Ltd (REGL) Chhattisgarh - will supply 185MW to Tamil Nadu over a period of next three years

TNSMART, a web-based decision support system developed by the State Disaster Management Authority - has received a positive mention from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of the UN

✓ A report on the status of disasters in the Asia-Pacific region has mentioned that TNSMART was used during the 2018 northeast monsoon, particularly during Cyclone Gaja

Ripon Buildings, headquarters of the Greater Chennai Corporation - becomes the first public building in the city to become self-sufficient in water usage.
A ₹50 lakh project plans to recycle wastewater (greywater) and use it for toilet flushing, air conditioning and gardening.

The Tamil Nadu government – has set up a high-power committee for investment facilitation and single window clearances for the investments committed during the recent three-nation trip undertaken by the Chief Minister.

The CM-led delegation visited the UK, US and Emirates for 13 days, in which memoranda of understanding was signed with 41 companies, attracting investment proposals of ₹8,835 crore with potential employment to 35,520 people.

Tamil Nadu - recorded an economic growth rate of 8.17% during 2018-19

The growth rate was well ahead of the national figure of growth rate of 6.81% in the last fiscal year

Tamil Nadu government – signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on September 19 over faecal sludge treatment plants in urban local bodies across the State

Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched flood protection work in Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts at a budget of ₹68.6 crore

The flood protection work will benefit six lakh people residing in Tambaram, Perungalathur, Mudichur, Vardarajapuram, Selaiyur, Pallikaranai suburbs, apart from conserving water of around 172 million cubic feet

Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) – signed an agreement with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) to install roof top solar systems on top of all state government buildings
Tamil Nadu - has once again bagged the Krishi Karman Award for its performance in agricultural production.

✓ The award has been given, this time, for oilseeds production for the year 2017-18.

✓ In 2017-18, the State produced 10.382 lakh tonnes of oilseeds with a productivity 2,729 kg per hectare.

✓ The all-India figure of productivity for oilseeds is 1,284 per hectare and the State’s productivity was 113% higher than the overall tally.

✓ In 2017-18, the food grains production of the State was 107.133 lakh tonnes.

✓ This was the fifth time that the State received the award since 2011-12

✓ The State was chosen for its performance in food grain production for 2011-12 and 2015-16, pulses for 2013-14 and coarse cereals production for 2014-15.

Justice Vineet Kothari – is appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Madras high court by a notification from the Centre on September 20, following the resignation of Justice V K Tahilramani

World Bank – to provide an assistance of $245 million (about ₹1,744crore) - to relocate around 28,000 people living in slums on the banks of the Adyar river and the Buckingham Canal in the city.

Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu – records the maximum drop in the road fatalities in 2016 to 2018

The Centre - has released ₹300 crore to the Tamil Nadu government to implement a deep sea fishing scheme in four districts of Palk bay, including Ramanathapuram district
The total cost of the scheme is ₹1,600 crore, of which the Centre’s share is ₹800 crore

- Tamil Nadu Music And Fine Arts University – renamed as ‘Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University’

- Train services on the city’s suburban section and from Chennai to six major cities - are among the 24 routes the railways is planning to introduce privately operated trains.

- The Tamil Nadu government - has submitted proposals to the Centre for starting six new government medical colleges in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Tirupur and Namakkal.

- In August, the cabinet committee on economic affairs had approved setting up of 75 government medical colleges in the entire country by 2021-22

- Now, the state has 23 government medical colleges, including 4 in Chennai.

- Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) - is planning to establish an adventure sports park with facilities for mountain biking and a variety of rope adventures at Nilgiris

- This is the first such government-run facility to come up at a tourist place in the entire state.

- The Madurai Kamaraj University - is all set to become the first university in the state to study Keeladi finds

- It will sign a tripartite agreement with Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology and Harvard University to research the findings at Keeladi in Sivaganga district
✓ Once the MoU is signed, all findings of Keeladi and other archaeological excavations including Mannalur and Konthagai will be studied at Madurai Kamaraj University before sending it to a laboratory at the Harvard University, US, for further analysis and testing

✦ Kerala and Tamil Nadu - have agreed to set up a five-member committee, headed by secretaries of respective departments, to decide on various inter-state water issues between both states, including the Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP)

✦ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - to sign MoUs for 15 new projects worth ₹5,574 crore, lay foundation stone for 5 new projects and inaugurate production in 3 other units on September 26

✓ The 23 projects worth ₹7,175 crore are expected to generate 45,846 new jobs in the state

✓ The state has signed 41 MoUs attracting investments worth ₹8,835 crore in various sectors during the recent CM’s tour of the US, UK and Emirates

✦ After Odisha and Kerala, the Tamil Nadu government - is set to go 100% electronic in its offices soon, replacing the manual files

✓ The process will begin from the Secretariat, with all departments becoming ‘e-offices’

✓ All government departments/PSUs have been directed to take steps to implement the system through Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), the nodal body for e-governance initiatives

✓ e-Office also involves the use of an Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System (IFHRMS) application, developed by WIPRO, for all Human Resources (HR)/Office Procedure (OP) activities such as payment of bills, sanctioning of leave, increments etc., and maintenance of associated registers in electronic form.
The Greater Chennai Police - has bagged two SKOCH awards for the effective implementation of CCTV surveillance - ‘Third Eye’ project with public partnership and introducing digital technology for cashless payment of fine against traffic violations.

Tamil Nadu government - signed an agreement with KfW, German development bank, for a loan assistance of €203 million (₹1,575 crore) on September 26

✓ The pact will help purchase 2,213 BS-VI buses and 500 electric buses in the initial phase, which will be introduced in all 8 transport corporations in the early part of next financial year.

Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - signed 15 MoUs with various firms across sectors – from auto components to energy, IT to textiles — attracting investments to the tune of ₹7,175.71 crore

Tamil Nadu government - has invited nongovernment organisations (NGOs) to open schools in remote and inaccessible tribal villages in the state

✓ The move is expected to reduce school dropouts and improve the standard of education among tribal children

✓ The literacy rate of Tamil Nadu tribals is just 54.34% as against the state’s average of 80%

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - flagged off four ambulances under ‘My Hospital- My Pride’ scheme for public use at the Secretariat on September 28

✓ Chennai-headquartered automobile major Ashok Leyland has come forward to donate the four ambulances, costing ₹60 lakh

The Tamil Nadu government - is developing a new ‘app’ for the public to ‘live’ track government buses and plan trips accordingly.
The new ‘Locate and Access My Bus’ (LAMB) app will be available on android

STATE

The final version of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam - was released by the government on August 31

✓ A total of 3,11,21,004 people have been found eligible for inclusion in the final version of the NRC.

✓ This leaves out a total of 19,06,657 people, including those who did not submit their claims.

✓ Any person who is not satisfied with the outcome of the NRC can file appeal before the Foreigners' Tribunals within 120 days

✓ The NRC was first prepared in Assam in 1951, based on the Census data

✓ It is being updated to honour the promises made in the Assam Accord of 1985, signed between the All Assam Students Union (AASU), and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), the State and the Centre in the presence of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 15, 1985

Bihar Government - has imposed a ban on wearing of T-shirts and jeans by the employees in the state secretariat.

✓ The government has ordered the employees to wear decent, simple, sober and comfortable clothes in the office.

✓ Previously in 2015, Goa government's art and culture department had banned its staff from wearing jeans and sleeveless clothes

✓ The Rajasthan Labour department had also banned its employees from wearing jeans and t-shirts in June 2018.
✓ Recently Tamil Nadu Government has banned the casual wear in its offices in June 2019

❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - signed a $200 million loan agreement with the Centre - to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra.

❖ Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh - will have a common high court, Jammu and Kashmir High Court

✓ The two Union Territories will come into existence from October 31, 2019.

✓ Earlier, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 on August 9 dividing the state into two UTs

✓ The Union Government on August 5, 2019 abrogated Article 370 of the Indian constitution, revoking the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir

❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot - inaugurated the country’s first ever Information portal, Jan Soochna Portal-2019 on September 13

✓ The portal provides information about various government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information, 2005 Act.

❖ The UP Government - has decided to scrap the law that envisages the government pay the income tax of the state’s Ministers on September 13

❖ After Assam, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar - announced that the National Register of Citizens will be implemented in the state.
 Delhi Police - has launched ‘Tatpar app’ to provide safety and a convenient 24x7 online mode services to its citizens.

Telangana – announces 2020 as the ‘Artificial Intelligence’ Year

Jammu and Kashmir - has become the first state to distribute the highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

✓ The scheme provides a health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year to poor and vulnerable families

Delhi – to become the first state in the country to implement the Street Vending Act, 2014, to provide legal protection to street vendors and hawkers across the capital

✓ Under the Street Vending Act, 2014, 28 town vending committees have been set up, each with 30 members

Jammu Central University and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) - has signed an MoU to establish Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) in the region.

Gujarat – has emerged as a leader in plastic exports from India with a big share of 45% in the national exports

**NATIONAL**

‘Angikaar’, a campaign for change management – was launched by Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs

✓ The campaign has been launched in line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi

✓ The objective of Angikaar is to bring social behaviour change with special focus on waste management, water and energy conservation, tree plantation, sanitation, health and hygiene
✓ This newly announced scheme will be launched in all target cities on October 2, 2019 during the 150th year of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary celebrations

♦ India’s highest sky cycling track - has been built and tested at an altitude of 9,000 feet at Gulaba, a tourist destination at Manali

♦ Union Cabinet - approves the setting up of the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in the country, with its Secretariat Office in New Delhi.

♦ The Government - has decided to make it mandatory for all medical colleges to have emergency medicine department by 2022

♦ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu - inaugurated the nation’s longest electrified rail tunnel on September 1, 2019.

♦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana, the Centre’s pension scheme for traders, during a visit to Nagpur on September 7

✓ All shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders with GST turnover below Rs 1.5 crore and aged between 18-40 years can enrol for the scheme.

✓ The scheme, which is an extension of the PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana, will make all beneficiaries eligible for a monthly pension of Rs 3000 after the age of 60 at a tiny monthly contribution.

♦ The Ministry of Human resource development (MHRD) - declares five higher education institutes as Institutions of Eminence (IoE)

♦ Health Minister Harsh Vardhan – kickstarted ‘POSHAN Maah 2019’ with a year-long social and mass media campaign on the ‘Eat Right India’ movement.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to hand over the connection number ‘Eight crore’ under the government’s flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, commonly referred to as Ujjwala – at a function in Aurangabad, Maharashtra on September 7

President Ram Nath Kovind – to embark on a visit to Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia from September 9

The Centre - has identified 130 wetlands for priority restoration in the next five years

✓ The highest number of such identified wetlands are in Uttar Pradesh (16) followed by Madhya Pradesh (13), Jammu & Kashmir (12), Gujarat (8), Karnataka (7) and West Bengal (6).

✓ A new concept, named as ‘Wetland Health Card’, would be introduced to monitor the entire ecosystem based on multiple parameters

✓ To conserve wetlands and other water bodies, the ministry would also form ‘Wetland Mitras’ (group of self-motivated individuals) across the country

The government – is planning to honour playback singer Lata Mangeshkar with the “Daughter of the Nation” title when she turns 90 on September 28

The country’s biggest detention centre to house foreign convicts and people declared “foreigners” by tribunals – to come up in Assam’s Goalpara district by early next year

Cannabis, commonly known as ganja - will be grown, henceforth, at Central institute of medicinal and aromatic plants (CIMAP) in Lucknow (UP) and Pantnagar (Uttarakhand)

The newly-established Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog – announces that the startups focussing on “commercializing” cow by-products like dung and urine, in addition to dairy, could receive up to 60% of their initial investment as government funding
The kamdhenu aayog, set up by the government in February with an initial corpus of ₹500 crore, aims to chalk out strategies to attract youth for cow-based entrepreneurship

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launches National Animal Disease Control programme and Artificial Insemination Programme in Mathura**

National Animal Disease Control Programme is aimed at doubling farmers’ income, eradicating Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis in livestock.

- It intends to vaccinate over 500 Million Livestock against the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- The entire funding of Rs 12,652 crores for the programme will be provided by the Central Government over a period of five years till 2024

**HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal – launched the ‘National students and faculty startup policy 2019’ in the presence of minister of state, Sanjay Dhotre**

- The framework was prepared by a 15-member committee under Prof Ashok Jhunjunwala of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana’, an ambitious pension scheme for farmers, shopkeepers and self-employed persons at Ranchi on September 12**

- The PM also launched the ‘Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan Yojana’, a pension scheme for shopkeepers and retail traders on the same occasion
✓ The ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana’ scheme will help small and marginal farmers by providing a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month, on attaining the age of 60.

✓ Farmers who are currently between 18 and 40 years of age can apply for the scheme.

✓ Another ‘Swarojgar’ pension scheme was also rolled out for self-employed persons in the same event.

✓ The Prime Minister also launched 462 Ekalvya Model Residential Schools during his visit to Jharkhand.

✓ Ekalvya schools provides free education from Class 6 to 12 to Scheduled Tribe students in tribal-dominated areas.

嗲 India - has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own BIS standards to over 100 countries including European nations.

✓ Two PSUs Medani and Ordnance factory at Avadi, Chennai and private firms SNPP (Palwal), Starwire (Faridabad) in Haryana and MKU (Kanpur) in Uttar Pradesh are manufacturing bulletproof jackets as per the BIS norms.

嗲 Prime Minister Narendra Modi – launched the Swachhta hi Seva 2019 at Mathura on September 11, 2019.

✓ The theme chosen this year is ‘plastic waste awareness and management’.

✓ It is a massive nationwide awareness and mobilization campaign on plastic waste management and Swachhta (cleanliness).

✓ The collected plastic waste will then be recycled and effectively disposed before Diwali, which is on October 27, 2019.
The campaign will end on October 2, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, when India will become ODF under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

India’s tallest Air Traffic Control tower - was inaugurated recently at the Indira Gandhi International Airport

India - has recently become a member of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub.

The Hub now has 16 member nations, following the inclusion of India into it

The hub was launched in May 2018 on the sidelines of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from the G20 member nations in 2017

The operations of the hub are supported through a Central Secretariat, which is established in Berlin, Germany

India’s first National Anti-microbial Resistance Hub – comes up in Kolkata

The Government – announces ban on making, production, manufacturing, import, export, stocking, transport, sale and advertisements of e-cigarettes

It makes the offence punishable with jail terms from one to three years and fines ranging between ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

Rajnath Singh - became the country’s first Defence Minister to fly the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas when he co-piloted a trainer version in Bengaluru

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India – is building a museum in Himachal Pradesh to showcase its 159-year-old history.
✓ The museum will be housed in Shimla at Chadwick House where the first batch of audit and account officers from independent India underwent training in 1950.

✓ The Supreme Court – to create a permanent five-judge Constitution bench from October 1

✓ The new bench will be available round the year to adjudicate complex constitutional statuette questions and interpret laws.

◆ The Centre - has sanctioned an additional amount of ₹4,315.15 crore for implementation of the 10% quota for the economically weak among the general category across 158 centrally funded higher education institutions (HEIs).

◆ Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot - inaugurated a Management Information System (MIS) on September 18, 2019 in New Delhi

◆ The portal will be fully accessible for persons with disabilities

✓ Accessible India Campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 3, 2015, on the occasion of the International Day of People with Disabilities.

✓ The nation-wide ‘Accessible India Campaign’, which is also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, was launched for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

✓ The programme aims to create an accessible physical environment for persons with disabilities in the country

◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the nations at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23

◆ Union Home Minister Amit Shah - proposed the idea of a single multipurpose identity card for citizens.
PM Modi - inaugurated a 50 kW capacity, $1 million "Gandhi Solar Park" at the Headquarters of the UN in New York on September 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has announced a USD 150 million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations

✓ The LoC will be utilized for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on the requirement of the Pacific island nations

✓ The PM also announced a total allocation of USD 12 million to the member states for the implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice


✓ Prime Minister Modi also invited Leaders of PSIDS to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

✓ India's relationship with Pacific Island nations has strengthened with the evolution of Act East Policy, resulting in the setting up of the action-oriented Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC).

✓ The first and second editions of the India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC) took place in Fiji (2015) and Jaipur (2016).

✓ To continue the top level engagement, Modi extended an invitation to all the leaders for the 3rd FIPIC Summit to be held in Port Moresby in first half of 2020.
Kashmir’s famed saffron - has finally been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag

The Centre – to roll out ‘One Nation One Tag’ initiative soon to end the use of multiple smart tags on tolled roads

India – to hold the second edition of joint hackathon with Singapore, at IIT-Madras on September 28 and 29

✓ The winners of the “Singapore India Hackathon 2019” will be awarded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

✓ The move is aimed at promoting collaboration of Indian students with their international peers to work on solutions to problems faced by our societies

✓ There are 20 teams with six members each, including three from India and three from Singapore.

✓ They are working on developing solutions to problem areas identified in India.

The transport ministry - has removed the minimum educational qualification for obtaining a driving licence for commercial vehicles including trucks and buses.

✓ Earlier, as per section-8 of the central motor vehicles rules, minimum Class VIII pass was required to get commercial driving licence

✓ The minimum educational qualification was now removed as many trained drivers from backward regions were denied getting licences due to the lack of it

✓ The new norm will come into effect from September 30

The income tax department - extended the deadline for linking the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar by three months
✓ The date for linking PAN and Aadhaar has now been extended from 30th September, 2019, to 31st December, 2019

шение

✓ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan - has recently launched a new ‘TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign’ in the country

✓ The campaign has been launched with the objective of eliminating the dreaded tuberculosis from India.

✓ He also launched 25 National TB Prevalence Survey vans to carry out a survey across the country in the next six months

✓ This survey will help the government to collect a national-level data about the current situation of TB in the country.
COMMITTEES

The UGC - has set up a five-member committee to look into the allegations of sale of fake degrees by certain universities

✓ It will be headed by Chairman DP Singh and assisted by UGC Joint Secretary (Private Universities) Surender Singh

✓ The committee was directed to complete its enquiry within three weeks

The Union Government - has constituted a 5-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into issues concerning the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

✓ It comprises Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Jitendra Singh, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Narendra Singh Tomar and Dharmendra Pradhan.

✓ The GoM will look into the development, economic and social issues of the two UTs and suggest ways to improve the situation

✓ According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the two new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh will come into existence from October 31, 2019.

BJP MPs Jayant Sinha and P P Choudhary - to head the Parliament’s standing committees on finance and external affairs respectively in the 17th Lok Sabha

A three-member Committee - has been formed by the Union Government to oversee the implementation of bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

✓ It will be headed by former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra

✓ Its members include retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer Giriraj Prasad.
The Union Territory status will come into effect from October 31.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill 2019 was passed by the Indian Parliament in August 2019, bifurcating the State into 2 UTs.

INTERNATIONAL

Qatar’s public works authority - has painted the roads in capital Doha with a blue coloured ‘heat-reflecting pigment’ to cool down surface temperature as part of a Pilot project.

Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam - announced that the government will formally withdraw an extradition bill that triggered months of demonstrations.

US - briefly dethroned Saudi Arabia as the world’s top exporter for the month of June.

Sri Lanka - inaugurates South Asia’s tallest tower named ‘Lotus tower’

The tower has been built at a budget of $104.3 million with 80% of the funding by China under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

New York - became the second US state to ban flavoured e-cigarettes.

The move follows an outbreak of severe pulmonary disease, killing and sickening people in the State.

Michigan became the first state to declare a ban earlier in September, but that law has yet to be implemented.

Taiwan and Kiribati - ended their diplomatic relations following Taiwan’s tensions with China.
The first of its kind, Bedari Kindness Institute - was unveiled recently at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

✓ The University of Wisconsin already has a Center for Healthy Minds, in which preschoolers were introduced to sensory games, songs and stories that are designed to help them pay closer attention to their emotions

For the first time ever, the Saudi Arabian government - will open applications for online tourist visas for citizens of 49 countries, while others can apply at embassies and consulates overseas

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Reliance Power - has signed a partnership agreement with Japan's power utility JERA to set up a 750MW, gas-based combined cycle power plant in Meghnaghat, Bangladesh

✓ This project is India’s largest foreign direct investment in Bangladesh and from Japan to Bangladesh in the power sector

✓ Energy relations between India and Bangladesh also includes an agreement signed by State-run power major NTPC's trading arm to supply 300 MW power to the country in September last year.

✓ India’s Tripura also supplies power of around 190 MW power to Bangladesh.

India and Pakistan - failed to finalize an agreement on the Kartarpur sahib corridor during their third round of talks at Attari

India - announced a ‘staggering’ $1billion line of credit for Russia’s resource rich Far East region

✓ In the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the PM unveiled the ‘Act Far East’ policy to boost India’s engagement with the Russian region.
✓ It has to be recalled that India was the first country to open a consulate in Vladivostok

✓ Modi, who arrived in Russia on a two-day visit on September 4, is the first Indian PM to visit to its Far East region.

✓ Modi and Putin chaired the 20th India-Russia annual summit on September 4

✓ During the meeting, the two sides signed 15 agreements and MoUs to improve bilateral ties in areas like defence, space, trade, oil and gas, nuclear energy and maritime connectivity.

✓ The Prime Minister also emphasised India’s commitment to become a $5 trillion economy by 2024.

❖ The first 2+2 meeting between India and Japan – to take place soon

✓ It will be held as a run-up to the annual Modi-Abe summit scheduled to be held in India in December.

✓ India has 2+2 talks with all quad members—US, Australia and now Japan

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in Vladivostok on the margins of the eastern economic forum and held discussions on a wide range of subjects, including trade and cultural relations.

✓ The two Prime Ministers met for the third time this year after the G-20 meeting in Osaka and G-7 summit in Biarritz, France

❖ India - is backing the revival of a new regional economic bloc, the South Asia sub-regional Economic Cooperation (Sasec).

✓ The new bloc of fast growing south Asian countries will be without Pakistan.
✓ SASEC consists of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India

✓ The foundation of Sasec was laid way back in 2001 when Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal agreed for deeper cooperation to accelerate economic growth in the sub region.

✓ Maldives and Sri Lanka joined the group in 2014 and in 2017, Myanmar was included.

✓ The new block assumes importance due to the slow progress of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the political hostilities between India and Pakistan

✓ The finance ministers from the new sub regional economic block are expected to meet in New Delhi next spring to device the strategy for the way ahead.

ителов Силана и Непала - наследственное право

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♦ India and Nepal – jointly opened South Asia’s first cross-border oil product pipeline on September 10

✓ The 69km pipeline extends from state-run Indian Oil’s terminal in Motihari in north Bihar to Nepal Oil Corporation’s Amlekhgunj depot in Narayani zone of southern Nepal.

✓ The ₹324-crore pipeline is part of New Delhi’s efforts to deepen engagement with Kathmandu as part of its “neighbourhood first” policy.

✓ India and Nepal have had a fuel supply agreement since 1974 and the pipeline was first proposed in 1996

♦ Switzerland and India - have signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as science & technology, people-to-people, and climate change
✓ The agreements were signed following a high-delegation level meeting between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and his Swiss counterpart Ueli Maurer

✓ The three agreements signed are on -
  ✓ Technical cooperation on climate change
  ✓ Science and technology alliance and
  ✓ Renewal of Hindi Chair at University of Lausanne

✓ The President has addressed the Federal Council of Switzerland and the India-Switzerland Business Roundtable.

✓ Kovind is currently embarking an official three-nation visit to Switzerland, Iceland and Slovenia since September 9

◆ Pakistan - announced that it will open the Kartarpur corridor for Indian Sikh pilgrims

✓ The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Pakistan’s Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur

✓ Indian pilgrims will have to obtain just a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, set up by Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev in 1522.

◆ India and Mongolia - signed 4 MoUs on cooperation in the fields of culture, space exploration, Animal Health and Dairy and disaster management on September 19

◆ India - will join Bangladesh to commemorate 100 years of ‘Bangabandhu’, the founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2020, and an International Fleet Review in 2021 to mark 50 years of the Liberation of Bangladesh
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - leaves for Russia to participate in the fifth edition of Eastern Economic Forum as its ‘Chief guest’ at Vlaivostok

- First Mobile Science Exhibition – flagged off at Leh Palace, in Leh

- Over 190 countries - adopted a ‘New Delhi Declaration’, identifying multiple measures to restore degraded land globally, on the concluding day of the UN conference (COP14) on combating desertification in Greater Noida.

✓ The countries will, however, have to mobilize a huge sum of $300 billion to step up the restoration exercise for commercially viable sustainable land management.

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier addressed the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Delhi NCR on September 9
✓ The COP is the supreme decision-making body of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with 197 member countries

✓ COP meeting is held biennially since 2001 with the last COP13 held at the Ordos, China in September 2017.

✓ India will take over COP presidency from China for the next two years (2019-2021).

✓ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994

✓ UNCCD addresses semi-arid, arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dry-lands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems are found.

ромею 17th Green Building Congress - held in Hyderabad on September 26

✓ India is third in the rankings, only behind the US and the UK, with a green footprint of 7 billion square feet (sft)

✓ India is working on a target of 10 billion sft by 2022

✓ India’s total built-up space stands at about 40 billion sft
DEFENCE

- A Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Yard-45005 - was launched at L&T shipyard in Kattupalli off Chennai

- The Indian Army - to deploy its first Integrated Battle Group (IBG) along the India-Pakistan border by the end of 2019
  - It plans to form and deploy 11 -13 IBGs to protect its western and eastern borders.

- IAF Chief BS Dhanoa – flies with Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the recipient of Vir Chakra on his last sortie before his retirement

- The Indian Air Force - inducted the first batch of 8 Apache helicopters at the Pathankot airbase on September 3
  - India was the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E was the most advanced variant
  - The IAF has signed a contract with Boeing and the US government for 22 Apache attack helicopters in September 2015

- Yudh Abhyas 2019, the joint military exercise between India and United States begins on September 5 at the Joint Base Lewis Macard near Washington
  - This is the 15th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately between the two countries

- INS Khanderi - is all set to be commissioned in Mumbai on September 28
  - It is the second of the six French-origin Scorpene diesel-electric submarines under construction at Mazagon Docks
The IAF - resurrected its 17 ‘Golden Arrows’ Squadron in Ambala on September 10

The Army - to conduct a major Exercise ‘HimVijay’ beginning October in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam with its newly created Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) involving 15,000 troops

The naval variant of the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) - successfully conducted an “arrested landing” for the first time on a shore-based runway

In a first, SSS Defence, a firm in Bengaluru - has indigenously designed and developed two sniper rifle prototypes for the armed forces.

India and Thailand - to organize Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16-29 Sep 2019

✓ The exercise covers company- level joint training on counter-terrorism operations in the jungle and urban phases.

DRDO - successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed Man-Portable

✓ Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system on September 11 at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) - have successfully carried out the third firing of ‘Astra’, Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile on September 18

✓ The missile hit the live aerial target near Odisha at maximum range of approximately 90 km

✓ The Astra is an indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile with a range of over 70 km
SITMEX-19, a naval maritime exercise between India- Singapore Thailand - has started with its sea phase in the Andaman Sea

The Indian Air Force - has “technically accepted” the Rafale jet at the Bordeaux manufacturing facility of Dassault Aviation in France.

The second INS ‘Khanderi’ Scorpene submarine - was recently handed over to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL)

✓ The 1775 tonne Khanderi is a Kalvari class diesel-electric attack submarine, that can target surface ships and submarines with its deadly armament of torpedoes

✓ Indian Navy had commissioned first Khanderi submarine on December 6, 1968, and served till its decommissioning on October 18, 1989.

✓ Submarine Khanderi has been designed by a French organization Naval Group.

✓ It has been named after a deadly sawfish Khanderi that is found in the Indian Ocean.

✓ Khanderi will be India’s 17th submarine once commissioned.

✓ Earlier, Defence Ministry of India approved Project-75 in 1997 that allows Indian Navy to acquire 24 submarines.

✓ INS Karanj (under trials), INS Vela, INS Vagir and INS Vagsheer are other India’s upcoming submarines being manufactured by MDL

Indian Air Force (IAF) – inaugurated a resurfaced Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar, Arunachal Pradesh recently

✓ It will enable operations by military transport aircraft at the remote base near the China and Myanmar borders
Defence minister Rajnath Singh – commissioned Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel, ICGS Varaha at the Chennai Port Trust in the presence of Coast Guard director general K Natarajan

✓ The vessel is designed and developed by Larsen and Toubro at Kattupalli near Ennore.

✓ It is fourth in the series of seven 98m offshore patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard

India’s first indigenous ‘Beyond visual range air-to-air missile’ (BVRAAM) for fighters, ‘Astra’ - is now finally ready for induction after 15 years of development

Defence minister Rajnath Singh - commissioned the second Scorpene submarine, INS Khandari, at the Naval Dock at Ballard Pier

✓ It was undergoing several sea trials for the last two and a half years.
ECONOMICS

- Reliance Jio - has topped the telecom market with a 31.7% market share in the second quarter of 2019
- Thomas Cook, one of the world’s best and oldest travel companies – has gone bankrupt
  - The last-ever Thomas Cook flight landed at the Manchester Airport on September 23

RANKINGS

- Vienna in Austria, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia - ranked as the top three cities in the World, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2019
  - Vienna had taken the top spot from Melbourne last year, which was ranked at No. 1 for seven consecutive years
  - Osaka, Japan and Calgary, Canada make up the remaining top five on the annual Global Liveability Index of 140 cities around the world.
  - Honolulu scored the highest among U.S. cities, ranking 22nd
**Global Liveability Index 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sydney, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Osaka, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Calgary, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
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<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<td>Adelaide, Australia</td>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>Karachi, Pakistan</td>
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<td>Tripoli, Libya</td>
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<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>139</td>
<td>Lagos, Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: THE ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

◆ **Times Higher Education (THE) World University rankings 2020**

**IIT-ROPAR MAKES STRONG DEBUT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Indian universities in top 500*</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Institute of Science</td>
<td>301-350</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT, Ropar</td>
<td>301-350</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT, Indore</td>
<td>351-400</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT, Bombay</td>
<td>401-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT, Delhi</td>
<td>401-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>IIT, Kharagpur</td>
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<tr>
<th>Global best</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford (UK)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Institute of Technology (US)</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge (UK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford University (US)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

◆ **River Vasishta (Tamil Nadu), Ghaggar (Haryana and Punjab), Bhadar (Gujarat), Mithi (Maharashtra), Sabarmati (Gujarat), Hindon (Uttar Pradesh) and Sutlej (Punjab) – ranked in the Top 5 Dirtiest river stretches in the Country**

✓ These rivers were ranked as the top 25 dirtiest patches of 351 polluted river stretches according to the analysis done by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani - has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore

India - has improved by four places to be ranked 44th in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 (WDCR)

- The World Digital Competitiveness Ranking measures the capacity of countries to develop, adopt and explore digital technologies
- The countries are ranked based on three parameters - Knowledge, Technology and Future readiness
- The US continued to top the rankings list, followed by Singapore at 2nd, Sweden at 3rd, Denmark at 4th rank and Switzerland at 5th rank
- India was ranked at 48th position last year

Niti Aayog - has announced the first ever ranking of school education quality across the nation

- The report of Niti Aayog on School Education Quality Index 2019 will be released on September 30
- As per the rankings, Rajasthan, Kerala and Karnataka were announced as the top performers among large states in the overall category
Delhi is ranked among the best in governance with regard to school education.

Uttar Pradesh was placed at the bottom of the ranking.

**APPOINMENT**

- **Sunil Gaur** - has been appointed as the Chairperson of the PMLA Appellate Tribunal.

  - The PMLA or the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 has been put in place to fight money laundering.

  - The PMLA 2002 and its rules came into force on July 1, 2005

- **President Ram Nath Govind** - appoints new Governors to five states, Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh

  - The 58-year old Tamilisai Soundararajan, chief of the Tamil Nadu BJP unit since 2014 and daughter of veteran Congress leader Kumari Ananthan has been appointed governor of Telangana

- **Chief justice of the Meghalaya high court, Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal** - is set to swap places with Justice V K Tahliramani, Chief justice of the Madras high court.

  - This may be the first such instance in which the chief justice of one of the older and bigger high courts of the country will be moving to the smallest and the youngest high court.

  - The Madras high court, which is a chartered high court, was one of the three established at the Presidency Towns by Letters Patent granted by Queen Victoria in June 1862.

  - The court has 57 judges against a sanctioned strength of 75.
✓ In contrast, the Meghalaya high court was created out of the Gauhati high court in March 2013, and it has a sanctioned strength of just three judges.

✓ At present, it has only two judges including Chief Justice Mittal.

✓ The other judge, Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew, was appointed in November 2018.

✓ Justice Vijaya K Tahlramani became a judge of the Bombay high court, which is another chartered high court, in June 2001.

✓ She has delivered several landmark judgments including the Bilkis Bano case (Godhra riots case), which the Supreme Court transferred from Gujarat to Maharashtra.

✓ Justice Tahlramani was made chief justice of the Madras high court in August 2018.

✓ Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal, who belongs to the Punjab and Haryana high court, became chief justice of the Meghalaya high court in May 2019.

❖ Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane - assumed charge as vice chief of the Army on September 1

✓ Lt Gen Naravane will be in contention for the Army chief’s post as he will be the senior-most commander when incumbent Gen Bipin Rawat retires on December 31

❖ Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora - assumed charge of the post of the Chairman of the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) on September 3

✓ India took over as the chair of the organisation from Romania for 2019-21
The general assembly of the AWEB, held in Bengaluru, was attended by delegates of 45 countries.

Veteran politician and former Union minister Arif Mohammad Khan - was sworn in as the 22nd governor of Kerala on September 6.

Tamil Nadu BJP Chief Tamilisai Soundararajan - was sworn in as the Governor of Telangana on September 8 at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad.

Chief Justice of Telangana high court Raghavendra Singh Chouhan administered oath of office and secrecy to Tamilisai in the presence of Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

US President Donald Trump - has nominated Indian-American circuit court judge Anuraag Singhal as a federal judge in Florida.

P K Mishra, additional principal secretary to PM - appointed as the new principal secretary to PM.

Lieutenant General (Retired) Abhijit Guha - has been appointed as the head of the UN mission in Hodeidah, Yemen.

Former World cup winning captain, Kapil Dev - was announced as the first Chancellor of Haryana's Sports University in Rai town of Sonepat district.

The Sports University of Haryana is the third such fully-fledged government sports university in India.

The other two are Swarnim Gujarat Sports University in Gandhinagar in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University in Chennai.

The university will conduct academic and training programmes in physical education.
President Ram Nath Kovind – appoints Justices V Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy as judges of the Supreme Court.

✓ Justice Ramasubramanian, reputed for his scholarly and comprehensive judgments on complex issues, will be the first judge from Tamil Nadu in the last five years.

✓ Justice Ramasubramanian, who will be the second Supreme Court judge from Madras high court, will have a little more than three years in the apex court.

✓ He is currently heading the Himachal Pradesh High Court

✓ This is the second time in Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi’s tenure that the apex court will function at full strength.

Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria – to take over as the country’s 26th Chief of Air Staff

✓ Bhadauria will succeed Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, who is

✓ retiring on September 30

The Supreme Court Collegium - recommended the alleviation of Justice A A Kureshi – the senior-most judge of Gujarat high court – as chief justice of Tripura high court

Congress leader and Member of Parliament, Shashi Tharoor – nominated as a member of the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs

Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat – takes over as the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee
✓ The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, who retires on September 30, handed over the baton to Bipin Rawat on September 28.

✓ Air Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria will take over as Air Force chief from Mr. Dhanoa, following which Gen. Rawat will be the most senior service chief.

✓ In the current set-up, the most senior chief functions as the Chairman of the panel.

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his last Independence Day address, announced the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who will be above the three chiefs.

✓ The announcement was aimed at military reforms and tri-service integration.

♦ Bulgaria’s Kristalina Georgieva - was selected as the new chief and Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently.

♦ Justice Rajendra Menon – set to be the next Chairperson of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)

✓ His name was recommended by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi.

✓ Justice Rajendra Menon is the former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

✓ The current Chairperson Justice Virender Singh is retiring on October 6.

✓ The Armed Forces Tribunal was established in 2009 under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007 at New Delhi.
AWARDS

PM Narendra Modi – conferred the National Yoga Awards 2019 for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga.

✓ The names of winners were announced during the International Day of Yoga, 2019

✓ Winners of Yoga Awards 2019

✓ Bihar School of Yoga, Munger (National Category)

✓ Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission (Individual Category)

✓ Japan Yoga Niketan (International Category)

✓ Antonietta Rozzi, Italy (Individual-International category)

✓ Winners of 2018 Yoga Awards

✓ Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik (Individual- National category) and the Yoga Institute, Mumbai (Organisation – National category)

In a first in the history of Indian sports, the name of a woman athlete – six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom – has been recommended by the Sports Ministry for the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award
Again, for the very first time, the Sports Ministry has recommended nine ‘woman’ athletes for the Padma awards.

Reigning world champion, badminton star P V Sindhu, has been nominated for the Padma Bhushan, the country’s third highest civilian award.

- United Nations - honoured five Indian women police officers for their commendable services in UN mission in South Sudan.

- India’s ‘Yogi of the Racetrack’ - has won ‘Best Video’ award for the Asia & Pacific Region in the UNWTO Tourism Video Competition 2019.

- Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing - received the 11th International Hrant Dink Award - jointly along with Turkish activist against male violence Nebahat Akkoç.

- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina - was conferred Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award-2019.

- Zoya Akhtar’s Gully Boy, featuring Ranveer Singh as an aspiring rapper - has been selected as India’s official entry in the International Feature Film category at the 92nd Oscars this year.

- Moti Bagh, a documentary based on an Uttarakhand farmer’s life - has been nominated for the Oscars.

  - The documentary film is directed by Nirmal Chander.

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan – was named the Dadasaheb Phalke award recipient for the year 2018 for his contribution to the Indian film industry.

- Seventeen-year-old Payal Jangid from Rajasthan’s Alwar district - became the first Indian to receive the ‘Changemaker Award’ at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019 in New York.
Payal was recognized with the award for her contribution to abolishing the practice of child marriage in her native Hinsla and other neighbouring villages.

She is also the sarpanch (president) of the Bal Panchayat (children’s parliament) in Hinsla, which is a Bal Mitra Gram (child-friendly village) — a concept founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

The Union Government - has constituted Sardar Patel National Unity Award, the highest civilian award for contribution to India’s unity and integrity

The award will be presented by the Indian President at a ceremony along with the Padma awards presentation at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Further, not more than three awards will be given in one year.

The awards committee will be constituted by the prime minister

It will include the secretary to the president, principal secretary to the prime minister, Cabinet secretary and home secretary as members and 3-4 eminent persons, who will be selected by the Prime Minister.

PT Usha, India's former athlete and Olympian - has been awarded the prestigious International International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) Veteran Pin Award.

PT Usha was honoured with this prestigious award during the 52nd Congress of the IAAF held in Qatar on 24 September

Usha reached the final of the 400 m hurdles at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 but missed the bronze medal by a hundredth of a second
PT Usha, known as Payyoli Express, won 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles at the 1986 Asian Games at Seoul

She also won five gold medals in 1985 Asian Games in Jakarta

Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu – presented the 28th Saraswati Samman award to acclaimed Telugu poet Dr. K. Siva Reddy

Dr Reddy was presented the award for his Telugu poetry collection ‘Pakkaki Ottigilite’.

Dr. Reddy has been a recipient of the Central Sahitya Academy award, Gangadhar Mehar National Award and Kabir Samman Award.

Pakkaki Ottigilite is a collection of the author’s poems which was published in 2016.

The collection comprises 104 poems in blank versus.

Indian journalist, Kallie Puri - was conferred “India’s Most Powerful Women in Media” award.
BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- **Loktantra Ke Swar and The Republican Ethnic**
  - These two books are a compilation of 95 selected speeches delivered by President Ram Nath Kovind during his second year in office.

PERSONALITIES

- **For the first time, a Hindu girl, Pushpa Kolhi - has become a police officer in Pakistan's Sindh province after passing the provincial competitive examinations**

- **Anupriya Lakra – becomes the first tribal woman from Odisha to fly a commercial plane**
  - Anupriya, a 27-year-old tribal woman from Odisha’s Maoist-hit Malkangiri district, joined IndiGo as a co-pilot earlier this month and will soon be flying commercial planes.
  - Anupriya, who belongs to the Santal community, joined a flying institute in Bhubaneswar in 2012 after giving up her engineering studies midway.

- **Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, is stepping down as its chairman on its 20th year anniversary**
  - Ma will be replaced by CEO Daniel Zhang, who will also take on the role of chairman.
  - Ma founded Alibaba in 1999 along with a group of 18 people to connect Chinese exporters to American retailers from his apartment in Hangzhou, where Alibaba is now headquartered.
The US – has designated the chief of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Noor Wali Mehsud as a global terrorist

Prime Minister Narendra Modi – became the third most followed world leader in Twitter after Barack Obama and Donald Trump

✓ He has recently crossed the mark of 50 million followers on his twitter account

✓ Among the incumbent world leaders, Modi is close behind US President Donald Trump, who has 64 million followers.

Wing Commander Anjali Singh - has become India's first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad

✓ Anjali has been posted with the Indian embassy in Moscow, Russia, as the Deputy Air Attache on September 10

Mayak Vaid - has become first ever Asian to complete Enduroman triathlon in a World record time

Pakistan’s foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi - has announced the invitation of former Indian PM Manmohan Singh for the inauguration of the Kartarpur corridor on November 9, 2019

✓ It will be opened for Indian Sikh pilgrims, ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh guru

✓ The Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara is believed to have been established by Guru Nanak Dev in 1522

✓ The Kartarpur corridor is being built by India and Pakistan to connect Darbar Sahib -- the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev -- in Pakistan's Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab
The corridor will enable visa-free movement of pilgrims between the two religious shrines

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - to carry out the separation of Chandrayaan-2 landing module (lander Vikram and rover Pragyan) from the orbiter between 12.45pm and 1.45pm on September 2

- Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) - to undertake ambitious 'Samudrayaan' project in 2021-22

- Ashok Leyland - has become the first Indian company to get BS-VI certification for its entire range of heavy-duty trucks with gross vehicle weight of 16.2 tonne and above

  ✓ The company has become the first Indian original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to meet BS-VI emission norms, which come into force from April 1, 2020.

- Chandrayaan-2’s Vikram lander - lost contact with ISRO at a distance of barely 2.1km from the Moon’s surface after a 48-day journey in the early hours of September 7, 2019

  ✓ However, the Orbiter will remain in the orbit of the moon for one year to send pictures and other information to the ISRO

  ✓ Till date, only three countries — Russia, the US and China—have successfully softlanded on the Moon

- Isro – to tie up with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa) for its next moon mission, Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE)

  ✓ The project is likely to be implemented in 2024, after India’s proposed human spaceflight mission in 2022
Scientists - have announced that water has been found for the first time in the atmosphere of an exoplanet, which has earth-like temperatures that could support life

✓ The exoplanet, K2-18b, has eight times the mass of earth and twice as big as the Earth

✓ Of the more than 4,000 exoplanets discovered till date, this is the first known to combine a rocky surface and an atmosphere with water

Global standards body 3GPP- has approved India’s regional navigation system NaVIC, developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)

Pandit Jasraj, the doyen of Indian classical vocal music – becomes the first Indian musician to have a planet named after him

SPORTS

Nadubhagam Chundan of Pallathuruthy Boat Club - finishes first in the final of annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race held in Punnamada backwaters in Alappuzha, Kerala

India - defeated Nepal to clinch the SAFF Under-15 Championship at the Kalyani Stadium in Kolkata

Jasprit Bumrah - became the third Indian to get a Test hat-trick in the second test match against West Indies at Kingston

✓ Bumrah claimed the wickets of Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase in three successive deliveries to claim the Hat trick

✓ Harbhajan Singh was the first Indian to pick up a hat-trick in Test, against Australia in Kolkata in 2001 and pacer Irfan Pathan was the second Indian to achieve the feat against Pakistan in Karachi in 2006.
Yashaswini Deswal, the Haryana shooter – clinched her maiden gold by topping the women’s 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro

Rishabh Pant – becomes the fastest Indian wicket-keeper to claim 50 dismissals in Test cricket, breaking the record held by M S Dhoni

✓ Rishabh Pant claimed his 50th test dismissal in his 11th test during India vs West Indies on September 1, 2019.

✓ Former skipper MS Dhoni had taken 15 tests to get to 50 Test dismissals.

✓ Earlier, Rishabh Pant had equaled the world record for most catches in a test by a wicket-keeper in a Test against Australia at Adelaide in December 2018, when he had taken 11 catches, joining the likes of English wicket-keeper Jack Russell and South African AB de Villiers

Virat Kohli - has surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni to become India’s most successful Test skipper with the team’s 28th win under his captainship in the second Test against West Indies at Kingston

✓ The 28 wins have come from 48 matches for Kohli as captain.

✓ Overall, former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith remains the most successful captain in the world with 53 Test wins, followed by ex-Australia skipper Ricky Ponting, who recorded 48 Test wins in his captaincy tenure.

Mithali Raj, India’s highest run getter in T20 Internationals - announced her retirement from the game’s shortest format

✓ Mithali Raj was the first Indian cricketer to reach the landmark of 2000 T20I runs.
Afghanistan’s leg spinner Rashid Khan has become youngest test cricket captain ever in the Test Cricket history

✓ The record was earlier held by Zimbabwe's Tatenda Taibu who was 20 years and 358 days old when he led his side against Sri Lanka in Harare in 2004

✓ Rashid is 20 years and 350 days old, leading Afghanistan against Bangladesh in

✓ the one-off Test at Chittagong, Bangladesh on September 4

Lasith Malinga, Sri Lankan fast bowler - becomes the first T20 bowler to claim 100 wickets

India’s Payas Jain - settles with a silver medal in the 25th Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

India Red – defeated India Green to lift the Duleep Trophy at the M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru

Hearing impaired rifle shooter Dhanush Srikanth – bettersthe world record score again in the 10m air rifle event in the national trials at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi

The Canadian teen Bianca Andreescu – defeats Serena Williams (US) to lift the US Open Women’s title in New York

The No. 2 seed Spaniard, Rafael Nadal – defeated the fifth seed, a first-time Russian finalist Danill Medvedev – to lift the US Open Men’s singles title in New York

✓ Nadal is the second-oldest US Open champion in the Open Era, since Ken Rosewall (35) in 1970.

India - topped the medal tally in the Track Asia Cup cycling competition in New Delhi
✓ India finished the tournament bagging 10 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals

✓ Ronaldo Laitonjam won four Gold medals in the meet for the country

✓ Esow Alben also won a gold in men’ elite keirin event

♦ Karate, sport climbing and baseball/softball - have been added to the programme for the 2022 Asian Games at Hangzhou

♦ Noted hockey umpire Javed Shaikh and the Bengaluru-based Raghu Prasad - are the two Indians included in the men’s panel that will officiate at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

♦ Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt - scripted history by becoming the first woman to claim two hat-tricks in white ball cricket against West Indies in Antigua

✓ She had earlier claimed her first hat-trick in a T20 game against India in March last year

♦ India - clinched the U-19 Asia Cup with a thrilling five-run win over Bangladesh in Colombo

✓ Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankolekar returned with a five-wicket haul to help the nation win the Asia cup

♦ Lakshya Sen - clinched the men’s singles title at the Belgian International Challenge badminton in Leuven, Belgium

♦ Sourabh Verma - won the Vietnam Open title

♦ Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen - won the Belgian International on September 15
Kaushal Dharmamer - won the Myanmar International title on September 15

Pankaj Advani – won his 22nd World title on September 15 by winning a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Mandalay

Spain - defeated Argentina to win the FIBA Basketball World Cup for the first time since 2006

Vinesh Phogat - has become first Indian wrestler to quality for the 2020 Olympics

✓ She got the opportunity after beating American Sarah Hildebrandt in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Vinesh Phogat – secured Bronze medal at the Wrestling World Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on September 18

✓ Vinesh became the fifth Indian woman wrestler to win a World medal.

Dhanush Srikanth - becomes the first shooter with hearing impairment to get selected in the Indian national squad

Indian pugilist, Amit Panghal created history - by becoming the first Indian boxer to enter the final of the men’s Boxing World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia

✓ Earlier, Manish Kaushik settled for a bronze medal in the lightweight (57kg-63kg) category

Indian Wrestlers, Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya – bagged a bronze medal each at the ongoing World Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Tamil Nadu’s Archana Suseendran - received a invitation from the IAAF to feature in the women’s 200m event of the world championships
Amit Panghal – settles for Silver medal after losing the final of the 52kg weight division at the men’s World championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia

✓ With the win, Panghal became the first boxer from the country to win a silver at the event, apart from securing a quota place for himself at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

✓ This is the first time that two Indian boxers finished on the podium at a single edition of the Worlds, bronze winner Manish Kaushik being the other medallist.

Deepak Punia - entered the final of the World wrestling championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

✓ The 20-year old Punia becomes the youngest wrestler to reach World’s finals

Deepak Punia – settles for Silver medal at the World championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan after pulling out of the final bout against Iranian legend Hassan Yazdani in the 86kg division

✓ Four Indians have now qualified for the 2020 Olympics in their respective weight categories and they include Vinesh Phogat, Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia

Rahul Aware - defeated Tyler Graff of the USA to win bronze medal in the 61kg category at the World championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

✓ With his win, India’s campaign in the tournament ended with the best-ever haul of 5 medals (1 Silver and 4 Bronze) and 4 Olympic quotas.
The other Indian medal winners at the World Wrestling Championships 2019 included Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Vinesh Phogat, who all secured a bronze medal each.

GM Koneru Humpy - won the FIDE women’s Grand Prix which concluded in Skolkovo, Russia.

Football legend Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe (United States) – won the FIFA best player award in Men’s and women’s category for 2019.

Manipur – wins the title in the senior women’s National football championships at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.

Asian Powerlifting Championship gold medallist Arthi Arun - has bagged five gold medals in the Commonwealth Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships 2019 in the 72kg category.

Arthi is the only player from Tamil Nadu in the 28-member Indian team for the championships.

The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta - emerges world champions in the IBSF World Snooker Team event in Mandalay.

This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden world title.

Rupa Gurunath, daughter of former BCCI president N Srinivasan - took charge as the new president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA).

Rupa and the other office-bearers were unanimously elected for a three-year term from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

World Championship silver medallist wrestler, Deepak Punia - has become the new world No. 1 in 86kg category.
India – finished fourth in the medals tally with their best-ever haul of 52 medals in the 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championships in Bengaluru

- India won 15 Gold medals, 19 silver and 18 bronze in the event

- Japan with 79 medals (47 gold, 17 silver, 15 bronze), Thailand with 63 (21, 18, 24) and Hong Kong with 57 (15, 24, 18) finished as the Top 3 in the tournament

- India’s Kushagra Rawat was declared the best swimmer in the open category.

Tamil Nadu fencer C.A. Bhavani Devi - won the women’s sabre individual silver in the Tournoi satellite competition (World level) at Ghent (Belgium) on September 29

India - lifted the SAFF under-18 football championship for the first time

- The Indian soccer team has defeated Bangladesh in the title clash at Kathmandu on September 29

OBITUARY

Robert Mugabe, the world’s oldest head of state before his ouster in 2017 - has died in Singapore at the age of 95.

Ram Jethmalani, former Union Minister and Senior criminal law practitioner (95 years)

- In 1977, Jethmalani contested and won the Bombay north-west Lok Sabha seat, backed by the Bharatiya Jana Sangh

- Jethmalani became a member of Rajya Sabha for the first time in 1988
He became Union law minister in 1996 under former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He served as the Union law minister and the minister of urban development in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government in 1998 and 1999.

On May 7, 2010, Jethmalani was elected as the president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Green Revolution pioneer, Professor Khem Singh Gill (89 years) - passed away in Ludhiana.

REPORT

HISTORICAL TIES OF MAMALLAPURAM WITH CHINA – A REPORT

Mamallapuram – is expected to host the proposed second edition of the India-China informal summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.
Mamallapuram, 50km south of Chennai, was the centre of defence and trade ties with China that are more than 1,700 years old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Languages Indians Speak</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>% of speakers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<td>Bengali</td>
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<table>
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<th>Languages Indians Speak</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>% of speakers</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2011

Total for 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is around 96.7%. The remaining Indians speak other languages

**MIGRANT POPULATION – A REPORT**

In 2019, the number of international migrants reached nearly 272 million, up from 221 million. India remained at the top, with 17.5 million Indians living abroad. The war in Syria has led to large-scale displacement, with 8.2 million Syrians now living outside their country. The US continues to be the biggest magnet and had 50.7 million migrants in 2019.

India’s diaspora - continues to be the largest in the world at 17.5 million – constituting 6.4% of the total world migrant population of 272 million in mid-2019.

- UAE, US and Saudi Arabia — with 3.4 million, 2.6 million and 2.4 million — were the top three destinations for Indians.

- The European region has the highest number of the immigrants at 82 million in 2019, followed by North America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million).

- The US hosted the largest number of international migrants (close to 51 million), followed by Germany and Saudi Arabia, with 13 million migrants each.
In a historic move to revive the sagging economy, the Government – introduces an ordinance to reduce the Corporate tax rate to 22% (effective 25.17% with cess and surcharge) from 29.5% for domestic firms that do not seek exemptions and to 15% (effective 17%) for manufacturing start-ups.

British travel firm Thomas Cook collapsed into bankruptcy on September 23
For the first time, India’s population census will be a paperless affair, with the Census 2021 being conducted digitally, according to Union home minister Amit Shah. The 16th Indian census since 1865 is also set to be the costliest so far. So what does it take for a headcount of all Indians?

### Cut-off date
- Each Census has its ‘census moment’ or reference date so that all the data refers to a well-defined period of time in order to get accurate information about the population.
- For the 2021 census, the reference points are October 1, 2020, for the states of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. For the rest of the country, the reference date will be March 1, 2021.
- This means that anyone born after these dates, or those who died before these dates, will be excluded from the census.
- Counting in J&K will be conducted from September 1 to September 30, 2020. In Himachal and Uttarakhand, counting will take place between October 1 and October 5, 2020.
- Counting exercise in Union Territories will happen between February 9 and February 28, 2021.
- A revision count will be conducted from March 1 to March 5, 2021, to collect data from anyone initially left out.

### An app to collect population data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enumerators (in lakhs)</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grown by almost 3 times since 1981

- Much of the census preparation will focus on teaching officials how to collect the data, which for the first time will be collected on a mobile app.
- The digital procedure will ensure data is published sooner than for Census 2011, which only became public seven years later.

### Costliest census

- **2011**: ₹2,200 crore
- **2021**: ₹12,000 crore

A rise of more than 445% in 10 years

### Step by step

- The first exercise will involve the house-listing operations, usually conducted about six months prior to counting.
- While the first step involves classification of buildings, including household amenities and construction material used, even whether you have tiled flooring or not, the second step involves recording details of the individuals residing in the country — whether an Indian national or a foreigner.

### Polyglot census

- Census 2021 will be conducted in 16 languages — the same as Census 2011.
- Last time, in 2011, the number of languages (spoken by at least 10,000 people) recognised by the census was 121 — with 19,569 languages and dialects identified as mother tongues.

### Marking their territory

- A year before the Census exercise begins, territorial boundaries will be fixed and the state, as well as the Centre, are requested not to effect any changes till after the census to ensure accurate maps can be drawn for the enumerators and no overlap takes place.

### PSST, IT’S A SECRET:

While the Census of India Act, 1948, makes it incumbent on every citizen to furnish all information truthfully, it also guarantees secrecy of information collected — with the details of an individual neither open for inspection nor admissible as evidence in any court.
IMPORTANT DAY

Teachers' Day 2019 – September 5

Hindi Divas 2019 – September 14

- The day commemorates the adoption of Hindi as an official language of India
- The Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the country’s official language on this day in 1949
- Hindi with 341 million native speakers is the fourth most spoken language in the world, after Mandarin, Spanish and English

Engineer’s Day - September 15

- The day marks the birth anniversary of India’s greatest engineer, Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

World Ozone Day 2019 – September 16

- World Ozone Day 2019 Theme: 32 Years and Healing

World Alzheimer's Day – September 21

International Day of Peace – September 21

- United Nations has declared “Climate Action for Peace” as a theme for International Day of Peace-2019.
World Rhino Day – September 22

✓ In India, the day was observed with awareness programmes at Kaziranga National Park (Assam), Manas National Park (Assam) and Laokhowa Burachapori (Assam)

International Day of Sign Languages – September 23

✓ On 19 December 2017, the UN General Assembly declared 23 September as International Day of Sign Languages

✓ The theme of Sign languages Day 2019 is – Sign Language Rights for All.

World Tourism Day 2019 – September 27

✓ Theme 2019 - "Tourism and jobs: a better future for all"

✓ The United Nations decided to celebrate September 27, 1980, as the first World Tourism Day