

## Last 6 Months National & State Current Affairs 2019

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## Last 6 Months National & State Current Affairs 2019

### January 2019 – National & State Current Affairs

#### *India, Pakistan exchange lists of civilian prisoners & fishermen in their custodies*

- India and Pakistan today exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in their custody.
- The lists were exchanged through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.
- India handed over lists of 249 Pakistan civilian prisoners and 98 fishermen in its custody.
- Pakistan has shared lists of 54 civilian prisoners and 483 fishermen in its custody, who are Indians or believed-to-be-Indians.

#### *Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations*

- India and Pakistan on Tuesday exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between them.
- In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry said, the list was exchanged through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

#### *Lok Sabha passes Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill*

- The Lok Sabha passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill yesterday. It amends the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and replaces the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.
- The Bill is aimed at revamping medical education regulatory system in the country.
- The 1956 Act provides for supersession of the MCI and its reconstitution within a period of three years.

#### *ISRO launches Samwad with students to engage them on space science activities*

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a new platform called 'Samwad with Students' on January 1, 2019 in Bengaluru, as part of its enhanced outreach programme.
- Through the initiative, ISRO aims to constantly engage youngsters across India in activities concerning space science to capture their scientific temperament. The new conversation mission aims to inspire students cutting across schools and colleges.
- During the inaugural event in Bengaluru, 40 students and 10 teachers from select schools interacted with ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan at the Anthariksh Bhavan.

#### *Cabinet clears setting up of committee to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord*

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a high-level committee for implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.
- Briefing media in New Delhi on Wednesday evening, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said, the committee is expected to be set up in the next three days.
- He also announced the establishment of a Bodo museum and modernization of All India Radio Station and Doordarshan Kendra in Kokrajhar.

#### *Cabinet committee clears continuation of umbrella scheme for family welfare*

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of five schemes under the 'Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions' during the Fourteenth Finance Commission period 2017-18 to 2019-20, an official statement said.
- An overall outlay of Rs 2381.84 crore for the scheme will be spent during the Fourteenth Finance Commission period and would be funded 100 per cent by the Central Government Budgetary support.

#### *Cabinet approves restructuring of National Health Agency as the National Health Authority*

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- Union Cabinet has approved the **restructuring of National Health Agency as the National Health Authority for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- He said, **the National Health Authority will have full accountability, authority and mandate to implement the Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana through an efficient, effective and transparent decision-making process.**

### ***PM Modi inaugurates Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar***

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 106th Indian Science Congress at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara near Jalandhar on January 3, 2019.**
- He delivered the inaugural address before Nobel laureates, eminent scientists, policymakers, young researchers and school children, from across the country and abroad.
- PM Modi gave away the slogan of **New India as “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan”.**
- **The theme of this five-day mega event is ‘Future India: Science and Technology’.**

### ***Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana achieves 6 crore mark***

- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu handed over 6 crore LPG connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to Jasmina Khatoon from Shivpark, Khanpur, Delhi.**
- In order to provide clean cooking fuel to BPL households in the country, **the Government launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide 8 Crore deposit-free LPG connections to women** belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families with a **budgetary allocation of Rs. 12800 crore.**
- Implementation of **PMUY** resulted in significant increase in national LPG coverage, in general and Eastern States, in particular.

### ***Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair declared as authorised Immigration Check post***

- **Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair was declared as an authorised Immigration Check post for entry into and exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.**
- This decision of the Union Government will open up **the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities.**
- For this purpose, the Superintendent of Police (CID) of the Andaman and Nicobar Police has been appointed as the **‘Civil Authority’** for the purpose of the immigration check post.

### ***India Pharma 2019 & India Medical Device 2019 to be held in Bengaluru in February 2019***

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), will organise **the 4th International Conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector on February 18-19, 2019 in Bengaluru.**
- The theme for India Pharma 2019 is **‘Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare’** and that of India Medical Device 2019 is **‘Med-Tech India: Gearing up for Ayushman Bharat’.**

### ***Punjab Cabinet approves plan to distribute smartphones among youth***

- **Punjab Cabinet approved the modalities for the distribution of smartphones, with graduating students of government schools, colleges and technical institutions to be covered in the first phase of the scheme.**
- Students would be required to submit a self-certification, stating that they do not already possess a smartphone.
- In addition, **one-time bundled 12 GB data and 600 local minutes talk time (voice) valid for one year would also be provided under the scheme.**

### ***Punjab Cabinet approves online transfer policy for teachers***

- Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh approved the **Online Transfer Policy-2019 of the School Education Department**, thus ensuring equal opportunity for all employees using online method for seeking

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transfers.

- The transfer policy would **become effective from academic session 2019-20**.
- The policy would be applicable to all teaching cadre posts i.e. ETT, HT, CHT, Master, C&V, Lecturer, Vocational Masters, Principals and Headmasters, except employees on extension of services after attaining the age of superannuation.

### ***Saubhagya Scheme: Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang District achieves 100% electrification***

- The East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh achieved 100 percent electrification under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya Scheme).
- The information was given by the Arunachal Pradesh's Power Department on January 2, 2019.
- The Pasighat Electrical division of the state has electrified 2,662 households which were earlier left out till the end of December 2017.
- The division has achieved the target covering a total 71 villages under the district, **excluding Pangin sub- division Nari-Koyu**.

### ***FSSAI notifies new food packaging norms, asks food businesses to comply with norms by July 1, 2019***

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on January 3, 2019 **notified the new food packaging regulations, replacing all provisions regarding the packaging requirements prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011**.
- While notifying the new packaging norms, **the regulator asked food businesses to comply with new regulations by July 1, 2019**.
- The new regulations **bar the use of recycled plastics and newspapers to wrap food articles**.

### ***HRD Ministry constitutes task force to look into suicides of JNV students***

- The Union Human Resource Development Ministry on December 31, 2018 **constituted a task force to look into the issues of suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**.
- The task force has been constituted under the **Chairmanship of Psychiatrist, Dr Jitendra Nagpal**.
- The task force will look into the circumstances leading to the **suicidal deaths of students residing in the hostels of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas residential schools**.

### ***Government launches nationwide cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan 2019'***

- Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, on January 4, 2019 **launched the 'Swachh Survekshan 2019'**, the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in New Delhi.
- **Launched as a part of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'**, the **Swachh Survekshan 2019** aims to evaluate the achievements in the cleanliness level in urban areas of the country.
- **The survey will cover 40 crore people across over four thousand towns and cities**.

### ***New Delhi World Book Fair begins at Pragati Maidan***

- The 27th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which has the UAE's third largest emirate Sharjah as its 2019 guest of honour, is set to enthrall book lovers from January 5 to 13 at Pragati Maidan.
- **Inaugurating the fair, Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar expressed happiness that books have not lost their popularity even after the advent of various media like audiobooks and e-books**.
- Over 20 countries including **Canada, China, Sri Lanka, and the US are participating in the book fair**. More than six hundred publishers from across the country are participating in the event.

### ***Odisha to participate as partner state in 'Indus Food 2019'***

- **Odisha will participate as a partner state in the upcoming mega international food and beverage show 'Indus Food**



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2019', according to state MSME Minister Prafulla Samal.

- The Indus Food meet is a mega international food exposition organized at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh on January 14 and 15. The event is organized jointly by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and Department of Commerce.

### ***NGT imposes Rs 100 crore fine on Meghalaya Government for failing to curb illegal mining***

- The National Green Tribunal on January 4, 2018 imposed a fine of whopping Rs 100 crore on the Meghalaya government for its failure to curb illegal coal mining in the state.
- A senior advocate, who is assisting the tribunal as an amicus curiae in the matter, said a report of a high-level committee was submitted on January 2 before a bench headed by NGT chairperson A K Goel.
- The green tribunal imposed Rs 100 crore fine on the state government as a "deterrent" and for its "inaction" to curb illegal mining in the north eastern state.

### ***Govt allocates Rs 10,900 cr for development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in next 4-years: ISRO Chairman***

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan has said that the Union Government has allocated 10,900 crore rupees for the development of 40 satellite launch vehicles in the next four years.
- Dr Sivan said that Chandrayan Mission will be launched within three months.
- It will land in one part of the Moon which is still unexplored. He also said that the human space flight Gaganyaan is planned to be launched by 2022, the 75th anniversary of Independence.

### ***Secunderabad rly station first in SCR zone to hoist tricolour***

- Secunderabad Railway Station became the first railway station of South Central Railway (SCR) zone to hoist a huge tricolour on a 100-foot tall pole at its main entrance here Wednesday.
- This is in keeping with the directive of the Railway Board to hoist the national flag at A1 category railway stations.
- The tricolour was unfurled by senior cabin man R Ashoka Chary and senior technician Gopal Reddy.

### ***International Kite Festival kicks off in Ahmedabad***

- In Gujarat, the nine-day long international kite festival kicked off at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad this morning.
- Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said, development is touching new heights in Gujarat.
- Governor OP Kohli said, kites give a message to people of achieving new heights.
- More than 150 kite fliers from 45 countries are participating in this edition of the festival.

### ***In Railways' Airport-Like Plan, No Boarding 20 Minutes Before Departures***

- The railways is planning to seal train stations just like how airports function, and passengers will have to arrive 15-20 minutes before scheduled departure of trains to complete the process of security checks.
- The security plan - with high-end technology - has already been put in motion at Prayagraj, in anticipation of the Kumbh Mela which begins this month and at Hoobly railway station in Karnataka with a blueprint for 202 more stations ready for implementation, Railway Protection Force Director General Arun Kumar said.

### ***Odisha Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigns***

- Odisha Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigned today after he stoked a controversy for his remarks on the acquittal of the accused in a gang rape-and-murder case of 2011-2012. Quoting sources, AIR correspondent reports that Maharathy has sent his resignation letter to the chief minister's office.

### ***Govt notifies High-Level Committee for implementation of Clause VI of Assam Accord***

- The government has notified a High-Level Committee for implementation of Clause six of the Assam Accord.

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- The clause envisaged that appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, should be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the people of Assam.
- **The nine-member committee, comprising of eminent Assamese persons from different fields, is headed by former bureaucrat MP Bezbaruah.** The committee will examine the effectiveness of actions **since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.**

### ***Cabinet approves 10% quota for economically backward upper castes***

- Union Cabinet has approved **10 per cent reservation** in direct recruitments and for admission in higher educational institutions for the **economically backward section in the general category.**
- Sources said, the reservation benefit is likely to be availed by those **whose annual income is below Rs 8 lakh and have up to five acres of Agricultural land.**
- The government is **likely to bring a constitutional amendment bill in Parliament on Tuesday** as the quota will be **over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation.**

### ***NCR launches mobile app to help people navigate through Prayagraj during Kumbh Mela***

- The North Central Railway, **NCR has launched a mobile application to help people navigate through Prayagraj city during Kumbh Mela starting from January 15.**
- The **'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App'** will also provide information regarding all the 'Mela special' trains that will run during the period.

### ***WCD minister Maneka Gandhi confers National Awards to 97 Anganwadi Workers***

- The Union Women and Child Development Minister, **Maneka Gandhi conferred National Awards to 97 Anganwadi Workers at a function in New Delhi on January 7, 2018** for exceptional achievements for the year 2017-18.
- The government had formulated the scheme in 2000-2001 to award Anganwadi Workers at the National and State Levels.

### ***Lok Sabha passes bill to remove leprosy as ground for divorce***

- **The Lok Sabha on January 7, 2019 passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018, which seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce.**
- Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.

### ***Government to soon make Aadhaar linking with driving licence mandatory***

- The Union Government will soon make it **mandatory for linking Aadhaar with driving licences**, as per Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The Minister for Law, Electronics and Information Technology said that the Government is soon going to bring a law that will make the linking process mandatory.

### ***Government to introduce redrafted Citizenship Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha***

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing parliamentary session.
- The Bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The bill was first introduced in Parliament in 2016 and was examined by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

### ***AAI bans single-use plastic items at 129 airports across country***

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) imposed a ban on single-use plastic items at its 129 airports across the country.
- The Authority undertook various steps to eliminate single-use plastic items at passenger terminals and city side.

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These steps include banning of single-use plastic items like straws, plastic cutlery, plastic plates etc.

### **Norway PM Erna Solberg inaugurates green compound at Royal Norwegian Embassy**

- Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg inaugurated a new green compound at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi. Solberg is on an official visit to India.
- The embassy obtained a Green Rating for Integrated Habitat by the Government of India.

### **Open Acreage Licensing Programme Bid Round-II launched**

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched NIO and MRSC for Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round-II.
- In this bid round, **14 E&P blocks**, with an area of approximately 30000 sq. km., are being offered for bidding to the investor community under the investor friendly HELP regime.

### **HRD Minister approves addition of 5000 more seats in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**

- The Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar on January 7, 2019 **approved an increase of 5000 seats in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) for the Academic Year 2019-20.**
- The number of seats in JNVs, at present, total to around 46600. The addition of 5000 seats will mean availability of 51000 seats from AY 2019-20. **The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are residential schools for talented rural children.**

### **Supreme Court reinstates Alok Verma as CBI Director**

- The Supreme Court on January 8, 2019 **reinstated Alok Verma as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director**, three months after the government divested him of his powers and sent him on forced leave.
- Earlier on December 6, 2018, the apex court reserved its order on the pleas filed by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Alok Verma and NGO Common Cause**, challenging the decision of the Central Government to remove Verma as the CBI chief.

### **India, Norway sign MoU, release Joint Statement**

- **India and Norway released a Joint Statement on January 8, 2019 after extensive talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Norwegian PM Erna Solberg**, during the latter's official state visit to India from January 7-9, 2019.
- The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway paid a state visit to India at the invitation of PM Modi. She was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising state secretaries, senior officials and business leaders.
- MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Norway on India – **Norway Ocean Dialogue.**

### **Lok Sabha passes Citizenship Amendment bill**

- The Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 passed **the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill**, which seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants **who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.** The bill has now been tabled in the Rajya Sabha.
- Under the **1955 Act**, one of the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months and for 11 of the previous 14 years.

### **Lok Sabha passes bill to provide 10 per cent reservation to EWS in general category**

- The Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019 passed the **Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill 2019 to provide 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions to economically backward section in the general category.**
- The lower house of the parliament passed the bill with **over two-thirds of majority, almost after four and half hours of debate.** While 323 members voted in favour of the bill, only three voted against it. The bill will now be

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tabled in the Rajya Sabha on January 9, where proceedings have already been extended by a day.

### ***ISRO plans to set up Space Galleries***

- **Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO has planned to set up Space Galleries in various locations in the country.**
- The Space Galleries are expected to disseminate the knowledge about space science and technology amongst the citizens of the country.
- Initially, **Space Galleries are planned to be established at Birla Science Centre at Hyderabad, Nehru Science Centre at Mumbai and National Science Centre at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**

### ***Selection Committee chaired by PM removes Alok Verma as CBI Chief***

- **CBI Director Alok Verma**, who was reinstated to the post by the Supreme Court on Tuesday, **has been transferred.**
- He was on Thursday appointed **Director General, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards.**
- The Selection Committee, **headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, which appoints the CBI chief took the decision.
- The three-member committee also comprises Leader of the single largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha **Mallikarjun Kharge** and Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi's nominee, **Justice A K Sikri.**

### ***Women and Child Development Ministry launches '#www: WebWonderWomen' Campaign***

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** on January 9, 2018 launched an online campaign, '**Web - Wonder Women**' also known as '**#www**'.
- The Campaign aims to discover and celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving positive agenda of social change through the social media itself.
- The **Ministry partnered with the Breakthrough and Twitter India** for '**#www: WebWonderWomen**' campaign.

### ***Cabinet approves establishment of three new AIIMS***

- The Cabinet on Thursday **approved the establishment of three more All India Institute of Medical Sciences, AIIMS** to boost healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- Two of them will be set up in **Jammu and Kashmir's Samba and Pulwama district.** The third AIIMS will be set up at **Rajkot in Gujarat.**

### ***Centre, six states sign agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project***

- **An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project** was signed in New Delhi on Friday among the States of **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand** in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- All the six Chief Ministers were present on the occasion.
- Under the agreement, **three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries - Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.**

### ***First manned mission to space by December 2021: ISRO***

- **ISRO** announced on January 11, 2019 **that it is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space by December 2021.**
- Addressing a press conference, ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan said that a human space centre has been set up for the mission.
- Under the **Gaganyaan project**, India is planning to send three astronauts to outer space for seven days and bring them back.

### ***Environment Ministry launches National Clean Air Programme***



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- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan on January 10, 2019 launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, a time-bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner.
- The **National Clean Air Program (NCAP)** aims to cut pollution in the **102 worst affected cities by 20-30 percent by 2024**, taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of PM concentration.

### ***Cabinet approves creation of Vice Chancellor post for India's first rail university***

- The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of the post of Vice Chancellor for India's first rail and transportation university, **National Rail & Transport Institute (NRTI)**, which has been set up in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- The Vice-Chancellor shall be the Principal Executive Officer of the institution and shall exercise general supervision and control over the affairs of the institution and shall be mainly responsible for implementation of the decisions of all the authorities of the Institution deemed to be University.

### ***Alok Verma resigns after PM Modi-led panel removed him as CBI Chief***

- The sacked CBI Chief, Alok Verma on January 11, 2019 announced his resignation from service, refusing to take charge of the new role as DG, Fire Services.
- The move comes a day after a high-powered selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed him from the post of CBI Director in a 2:1 vote, less than 48 hours after he was reinstated to the position by the Supreme Court after he was sent on forced leave by the government.

### ***ISRO to set up Human Space Flight Centre in Bengaluru for manned missions***

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a 'Human Space Flight Centre' in Bengaluru, which will support its quest of making country's maiden manned space mission a success.
- Gaganyaan, an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the foundation of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme. In its maiden crewed mission, it will send three astronauts to orbit the Earth at an altitude of 400 km, for up to seven days. Gaganyaan is a Rs 10,000-crore project and the space agency has kept a target to conduct the manned mission by December 2021. It will, however, conduct two unmanned missions before that.

### ***Rajyavardhan Rathore launches National Youth Parliament Festival 2019***

- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore today launched the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** at a function in New Delhi. The festival will continue till 24th of next month.
- The theme of the festival is- **Be the Voice of New India and Find solutions and contribute to policy**. Addressing the media in New Delhi, Col Rathore said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat programme in December 2017, had shared the idea of organising Youth Parliaments for young people.

### ***Gujarat becomes first state to implement 10 per cent quota for EWS in general category***

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced on January 13, 2019 that his government will implement the **10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category with immediate effect**.
- The announcement comes less than a week after the Indian Parliament passed a constitutional amendment bill to facilitate 10 per cent reservation for upper castes in higher education and employment.

### ***Puducherry to ban single-use plastic from March 1***

- Puducherry government has decided to ban the production, sale and use of single-use plastic products in the Union Territory from **March 1, 2019**. The announcement was made by Chief Minister V Narayanasamy on January 13, 2019 after a cabinet meeting.
- The neighbouring Tamil Nadu government had in June 2018 announced that it would ban the use of plastic items including non-biodegradable carry bags from January 1, 2019, to "gift a plastic-free state to future generations".

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### ***Punjab government to regularise over 5100 teachers with full pay scale***

- In Punjab, the government has said that it will regularise over 5100 teachers with full pay scale next month.
- By regularising over 5,100 teachers, the state government is making efforts to uplift educational standards in the state.

### ***Union Minister Harshvardhan launches special weather services for Kumbh Mela***

- Science and Technology Minister Dr Harshvardhan on January 14, 2019 launched the special weather services for Kumbh Mela at a function in New Delhi.
- For this purpose, four Automatic Weather stations have been installed at four locations at Prayagraj.

### ***PM Modi releases commemorative coin and stamp on Guru Gobind Singh ji***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, 2019 released a commemorative silver coin of Rs 350 and stamp on Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji to mark his 352nd birth anniversary.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Chief Justice of India JS Khehar and several Sikh leaders were also present at the event.

### ***President gives assent to Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019***

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind on January 12, 2019 gave his assent to the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019 which aims to provide reservation in public employment and higher education to economically weaker sections in the general category.
- The Rajya Sabha had passed the Constitution 124th (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that seeks to provide 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions to economically backward sections in the general category on January 9, 2019.

### ***India's first smart electric cabs Blu-Smart launched in Delhi***

- Gensol Mobility has launched India's first ever 100 percent smart electric fleet of taxis namely Blu-Smart in Delhi NCR.
- Blu-Smart is a shared travel solution and will be surge-price free according to the company.
- In the first phase, 70 Blu-Smart cabs will be available in Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram and Aerocity.

### ***Sikkim launches 'One Family, One Job' scheme***

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on Saturday launched 'One Family, One Job' scheme.
- The scheme envisions employment to a member of every family which does not have a government job in the state.
- Under this scheme, all loan debts in the farming and agriculture sector would be revoked.
- At present recruitments are being made for Group C and Group D posts in 12 government departments.

### ***Teachers, academic staff of tech institutes to get 7th Central pay commission benefits***

- The government has approved a proposal to extend the 7th Central Pay Commission benefits to teachers and other academic staff of the state government and government-aided degree level technical institutes.
- This will have additional Central government liability of over 1240 crore rupees. The Centre will reimburse 50 per cent of the total additional expenditure from 1st January 2016 to 31st March this year to be incurred by these institutes for payment of arrears.

### ***Tamil Nadu introduces road safety robot 'ROADEO'***

- The Chennai Traffic Police inducted a road safety robot into service on January 14, 2019 for traffic management.
- The robot is named as 'ROADEO'.

### ***Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches DD Science and India Science channels***

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- The Department of Science and Technology, along with Doordarshan, launched two science communication initiatives - DD Science and India Science.
- The aim is to launch a 24/7 channel dedicated to science.
- The two channels will have science based documentaries, studio based discussions, and virtual walkthroughs of scientific institutions, interviews and short films and will be free to access.

### ***PM Modi dedicates Kollam Bypass of Kerala to the Nation***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Kollam Bypass of the Kerala to the Nation.
- The Kollam Bypass on the National Highway-66 considerably reduces travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram, besides avoiding traffic congestion in Kollam town.
- This is the first National Highway project in the country taken up on a 50:50 Centre-State partnership.

### ***Odisha celebrates 1st Turtle Festival in Puri***

- Hundreds of tourists thronged Puri sea beach here to witness the first Odisha Turtle Festival held today to create awareness and promote ideas on conservation of olive ridley turtles.
- The one-day festival organised by Cox & Kings Foundation in association with Humane Society International/India and Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) featured events like sand art and painting exhibitions. Several attractive stalls showcasing local artifacts were also put up at the festival.

### ***India-Myanmar begin Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' for UN peacekeeping***

- The second India-Myanmar bilateral Army exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' commenced at Chandimandir military station near here on Monday, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here.
- The Myanmar delegation will form the core group of trainers who will further impart training to Myanmar Army personnel who are likely to serve in UN peacekeeping operations.

### ***Newly built broad gauge railway line inaugurated in Una district of Himachal Pradesh***

- Minister of State for Railways, Manoj Sinha inaugurated the newly built broad gauge railway line between Amb Andora and Daulatpur chowk in Una district in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Union Government has increased the railway budget from Rs 108 crore to Rs 385 crore.

### ***Maharashtra cabinet approves schemes for financial welfare of OBCs and SC/ST communities***

- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved schemes worth over Rs 700 crore for financial welfare of OBCs and the SC/ST communities.
- The State Cabinet approved eight different schemes to provide financial support in the forms of the individual loan, group loan and interest subvention to OBCs, SCs and STs.
- It cleared Rs 250 crores for the OBCs, while a sum of Rs 300 crores have been allotted to the SCs/STs.

### ***DBT, ICAR sign MoU for cooperation in agricultural biotechnology research and education***

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 14, 2019 to increase emphasis on multi-disciplinary research and development activities and nurturing innovations in agricultural biotechnology research and education.
- The Department of Biotechnology has undertaken several activities and programs to promote Biotechnology Research & Development in the areas of agriculture biotechnology.

### ***ISRO launches UNNATI Programme; will launch Kalamsat, Microsat-R satellites on January 24***

- National space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 17, 2019 launched the UNNATI (UNISpace Nano-satellite Assembly and Training by ISRO) programme at the U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.
- UNNATI is a capacity building programme on nanosatellite development.

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- The UNNATI Programme is an ISRO initiative to commemorate the **50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50)**.
- UNNATI programme is planned to be conducted by U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) of ISRO for 3 years in 3 batches and **will target to benefit 90 officials from 45 countries**.
- ISRO will launch a student satellite called '**Kalamsat**' and an imaging satellite known as '**Microsat-R**' on January 24, 2019, marking the first launch of the ISRO in 2019.

### ***Government to set up over 460 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country***

- The Union government will soon **set up over 460 more Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country**.
- Addressing the valedictory programme of the **First Eklavya Model Residential Schools National Sports Meet in Hyderabad**, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said that the government is spending about 25 thousand crore rupees on these schools.

### ***SC relaxes conditions for Maharashtra dance bars***

- The Supreme Court on January 17, 2019 **set aside some provisions of a law imposing restrictions on the licensing and functioning of dance bars in Maharashtra**.
- A bench headed by Justice A K Sikri quashed certain provisions of the 2016 Maharashtra law like the mandatory installation of CCTV and a partition between barrooms and the dance floor.

### ***CCI imposes penalty on Chemists and Druggists Association of Baroda***

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has **imposed a penalty on the Chemists and Druggists Association of Baroda (CDAB) after it found it to be in contravention of the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002**.
- The move was undertaken after a complaint was filed with the **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) in 2009** alleging that the CDAB has indulged in restrictive trade practices.

### ***Government constitutes Group of Ministers on issues relating to lottery***

- The Ministry of Finance on January 16, 2019 constituted a **Group of Ministers (GoM) on issues relating to lottery**.
- The GoM was constituted in pursuance of the decision of **GST Council taken in the 32nd meeting held on January 10, 2019 at New Delhi**.
- The GoM is headed by **Sudhir Mungantiwar, Finance Minister, Maharashtra**.

### ***Election Commission of India launches Voter Awareness Forums***

- The Election Commission of India on January 16, 2019 **launched Voter Awareness Forum (VAF) in New Delhi**. Similar **VAFs were launched by the Chief Electoral Officers in the state capitals and by District Election Officers in the districts simultaneously**.
- The VAFs will facilitate members to check their **names and details on the electoral roll through online NVSP portal of the ECI and the voter helpline number - 1950**.

### ***Union Home Minister approves report on use of space technology in border management***

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has **approved the report of a task force created by MHA to identify areas for use of space technology in improving Border Management**.
- **Headed by Joint Secretary (Border Management)** and comprising members from BSF, Department of Space and BM Division, MHA, the task force consulted all stakeholders including Border Guarding Forces (BGFs), ISRO, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) to finalise the report.
- The major recommendations of the report include building capacity in **BGFs to use space resources for security, operational planning and border infrastructure development**.
- To execute the project in a time bound manner, the report has **proposed a short, medium and long term plan for**



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implementation in five years in close coordination with ISRO and MoD.

### ***PM Narendra Modi launches National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai on January 19, 2019.
- The development of the Museum was guided by the Museum Advisory Committee headed by Shyam Benegal. An innovation Committee headed by Prasoon Joshi provided an upgrade to the NMIC.
- Built at a cost of Rs 140.61 crore, the museum depicts the journey of over a century of Indian cinema in a story telling mode with the help of visuals, graphics, artifacts, interactive exhibits and multimedia expositions.
- The Museum is housed in two buildings – the New Museum Building and the 19th century historic palace Gulshan Mahal – in the Films Division campus in Mumbai.

### ***Narendra Modi inaugurates India's first private Howitzer-manufacturing facility in Gujarat***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Armoured Systems Complex of Larsen and Toubro in Gujarat, the first private facility in the country where the K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns will be manufactured.
- L&T had in 2017 won the Rs 4,500-crore contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply 100 units of K9 Vajra-T 155 mm/52 calibre tracked self-propelled gun systems to the Indian Army under the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative.

### ***Bihar Government lifts ban on sale of live fish in Patna***

- Bihar Government lifted ban on sale of live fish, three days after it banned the sale, transportation and storage of all kinds of fish dead or alive in Patna for 15 days.
- The ban was lifted following a directive from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after reports of growing protests by fishermen and vendors selling fish.

### ***Shehri Samridhi Utsav to begin from February 1; will focus on extending outreach of DAY-NULM***

- Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, on January 18, 2019 informed that a series of events named 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav' will begin from February 1, 2019 and will go on till February 15, 2019.
- The event, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will focus on urban livelihoods and extending the outreach of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable, and facilitate access of SHG members to the other government schemes.

### ***NAS Shibpur to be commissioned as INS Kohassa***

- Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur will be commissioned as INS Kohassa by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba on January 24, 2019.
- The move is being undertaken to enhance the operational capability of Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- NAS Shibpur was established in 2010.

### ***IIT-Hyderabad to launch full-fledged bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence***

- The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has announced the launch of a full-fledged bachelor's programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology from the new academic session, which is a first for the country and only the third globally.
- The Institute was already offering a Masters in Technology programme in AI-Machine Learning (ML).

### ***2nd World Orange Festival begins in Nagpur***

- The second World Orange Festival began in Nagpur on January 18, 2019.
- The festival, while offering its famed oranges to the world, will also showcase and brand the exquisite fruit in order

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to boost its export.

### ***Regional Conference on 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme' held in Mumbai***

- A Regional Conference on 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme' was held in Mumbai on January 17, 2019.
- Programme Implementing Agencies including NGOs and state government representatives from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa were present for the conference.

### ***Indians over 65 and under 15 years can use Aadhaar Card to visit Nepal, Bhutan***

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on January 20, 2019 announced that **Aadhaar Cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan.**
- However, Indians belonging to the age bracket of 15 to 65 years will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries.

### ***15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas begins at Varanasi***

- The 15th edition of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) began at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on January 21, 2019, giving a chance to the Indian diaspora to participate in the ongoing Kumbha Mela.
- For the first time in the history of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the event is being held in Varanasi, the cultural and spiritual capital of India.

### ***Defence Minister launches India's second defence industrial corridor***

- Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on January 20, 2019 **inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor from Tiruchirappalli**, taking a major step forward to boost indigenous production of defence equipment.
- The TN Defence Industrial Corridor is a mega corridor, which will link **leading military manufacturing units in five cities of South India, including Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli.** The project will require an investment worth Rs 3,000 crore.

### ***Second World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 to be held in Goa***

- The 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products will be held in Goa from January 23, 2019. The three-day forum will be inaugurated by **AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik.**
- The forum is expected to witness participation from 20 countries.

### ***Tamil Nadu's 'jallikattu' enters world record***

- A grand jallikattu (bull-taming) event held in Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu on January 20, 2019 entered the world record for the maximum number of bulls released into the sporting arena which was over 1,300 and almost double than the previous record.
- The bull taming sporting event, coordinated by Tamil Nadu Health Minister C Vijayabaskar at Viralimalai saw the participation of 1,354 bulls and 424 tamers.

### ***National Women's Party launched in Mumbai***

- The National Women's Party (NWP), which has been formed with the motto of women empowerment, was launched in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** on January 21, 2019.
- The party has been founded by **Dr Swetha Shetty**, a medical practitioner-cum- activist from Hyderabad, who would also serve as its President.

### ***Government constitutes NITI Aayog-led Committee to monitor pricing of drugs***

- The Government on January 21, 2019 constituted a **Standing Committee headed by NITI Aayog to oversee the drug pricing regime.**
- The constitution of the Committee is seen as a move that would curb the powers of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) when it comes to regulating the prices of medicines in the country.

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- The Standing Committee on Affordable Medicines and Health Products will be headed by NITI Aayog Member (Health).

### ***PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Varanasi***

- **The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas on January 22, 2019 in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.** In the history of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the event is being held for the first time in Varanasi, the cultural and spiritual capital of India.
- **For the first time, the three-day-long Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas convention is being organised from January 21 to 23** instead of January 9 to 11 to allow the NRIs to visit the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.
- **The convention was inaugurated in the presence of Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, the Chief Guest of the event.** Around 6,000 non-resident Indians (NRIs) are expected to take part in the three-day event.

### ***Assam to give 10% quota to economically weaker sections in general category***

- The Assam Government has **decided to give 10 percent quota in Government jobs and educational institutes to economically weaker sections in general category.**
- The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held under the **Chairmanship of Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati.**

### ***Kinnar Akhara, the new feature at Kumbh Mela 2019***

- **Kinnar Akhara**, a group of transgender saints pursuing religious activities, emerged as a very significant feature at Kumbh Mela 2019 at Prayagraj.
- **Akhara has provided a forum to transgenders to pursue a dignified life with religious rituals.**
- **Juna Akhara**, a traditional powerful Akhara of Sanyasi saints and seers, has given the recognition to Kinnar Akhara and has allowed to be part of Shahi Snan procession.

### ***Ministry of Culture to organise auction of Mementos received by the Prime Minister***

- National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, **will organise an auction of prestigious memorable gifts presented to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi from all across India.**
- The amount raised in lieu of auction will be used for the **Project 'Namami Gange'.**

### ***Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra awarded Saraswati Samman 2017***

- **Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman, 2017,** for his poetry collection in Gujarati named **"Vakhar".**
- This is the 27th edition of the prestigious award instituted by K.K.Birla foundation given every year to an outstanding work of an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years in any of the languages mentioned in Schedule 8 of the constitution.
- The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of 15 lakh rupees. **Noted film director and author Gulzar gave away the award at a solemn function at National museum auditorium in New Delhi this evening.**

### ***President Ram Nath Kovind confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019***

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind on January 22, 2019 **conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.**
- **The awards were presented to 26 shortlisted awardees including one joint award for National Child Award (now renamed as Bal Shakti Puraskar) under the category of innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery.**

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- Under National Child Welfare Awards category (now renamed as Bal Kalyan Puraskar), 2 individuals and 3 institutions were awarded.

### ***Vice President presents Chhatra Vishwakarma, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana awards***

- Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented the second Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards to students and their mentors and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) awards to institutions at an event organised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on January 21, 2019 at New Delhi.
- The awards challenge young students to come up with novel ideas that have a great potential to impact life in villages through technological interventions at the grass root level.

### ***PM Narendra Modi launches Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2019 launched the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- The first batch of 40 Indian-origin people are at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and they would be beginning their tour from there.
- Under the eligibility criteria, all people of Indian-origin, aged between 45 and 65 can apply and a group will be selected out of them.
- The first preference will be given to people from 'Girmitiya countries' such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.
- Prime Minister Modi, during his, also inaugurated the Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul.

### ***Indian Navy commences largest-ever coastal defence exercise – 'Sea Vigil'***

- The Indian Navy on January 22, 2019 commenced its largest-ever coastal defence exercise - 'Sea Vigil'-off the Indian coast, ten years after the "26/11" attack.
- The exercise, a first of its kind, is being undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and is involving all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.

### ***Maharashtra Government approves Rs 253 cr Nirbhaya scheme for Mumbai***

- The Maharashtra cabinet on January 22, 2019 approved the implementation of the Centre's Nirbhaya scheme, which seeks to curb crimes against women, for Mumbai.
- The Nirbhaya Fund was initiated in 2013 by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing safety and security of women across India.

### ***15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas: India, Mauritius agree upon partnership in various sectors***

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas on January 22, 2019 in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. In the history of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, the event is being held for the first time in Varanasi, the cultural and spiritual capital of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth held talks on January 22, 2019 on the sidelines of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- They discussed ways to boost bilateral trade and investment, including finalisation of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement. They also discussed the ongoing bilateral development co-operation projects.

### ***PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23, 2019 inaugurated the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at the iconic Red Fort in Delhi to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary.
- The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque to inaugurate the Museum. The museum showcases various artefacts



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related to Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army.

### ***Cabinet decides to strengthen NE autonomous councils***

- Cabinet has approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase powers of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East.
- The proposed amendment will give more powers to Autonomous District Councils of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

### ***Ayush Minister Shripad Naik inaugurates 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019***

- Union Minister of State for Ayush Shripad Naik inaugurated the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in Panaji, Goa this evening. In his inaugural address, Mr Naik said that India is the second home of homoeopathy.
- The forum is themed on 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing Global Collaboration'. Around 150 delegates from 21 countries are participating in the event.

### ***India testfires indigenous enemy radar-buster missile***

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) from naval warship INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
- India achieved the milestone on January 18 when DRDO successfully carried out test of the indigenously Next Generation Anti Radiation Missile (NGARM) which can hit enemy radars at 100 kilometres.

### ***ISRO to launch Kalamsat, Microsat-R satellites on PSLV-C44 rocket***

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a students' satellite Kalamsat and an imaging satellite Microsat-R from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on January 24, 2019, marking its first launch of the ISRO in 2019.
- The Kalamsat is a 10 cm cube nanosatellite weighing about 1.2 kg and has a life span of about two months.
- It has been developed by Space Kidz India and their team including Rifath Sharook, Srimathy Kesan, among others.

### ***India, Maldives agree to continue close cooperation on maritime security, counter-terrorism & medical cooperation***

- India and Maldives have agreed to continue their traditionally close cooperation on issues of maritime security, counter-terrorism and medical cooperation.
- This was decided during the meeting between Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Maldivian counterpart Mariya Ahmed Didi in New Delhi on Thursday.

### ***Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissions new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa'***

- Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Naval Air Base will enhance the maritime capability along with keeping the northern part of Andaman sea and the area under surveillance.
- The INS Kohassa will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier.
- The airport at Diglipur will be utilised for both Defence and civil aircraft.

### ***Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurates National Declamation Contest on Patriotism and Nation Building***

- Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the National Declamation Contest on Patriotism and Nation Building during the National Declamation Contest, organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) with the support of Department of Youth Affairs.
- The aim of the National Declamation Contest is to further strengthen the spirit of Nationalism amongst youth and masses for wholehearted participation in nation building.

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### ***Government to launch Technology Mission Centre on Solar Energy & Water Treatment in Chennai***

- Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan will launch three important centres, set up by Department of Science and Technology (DST), at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) on January 25, 2019.
- The first of these is the establishment of DST –IITM Solar Energy Harnessing Centre.

### ***DAY-NRLM successful in reducing poverty through livelihood diversification***

- The pace of reduction of poverty in India has speeded up in recent years as per the Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2018 and as per the note published by the Brookings Institution.
- The Deendayal Antodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is aimed at alleviation of rural poverty through building sustainable community institutions of the poor.

### ***ECI to host international conference on making elections inclusive and accessible***

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will be hosting an International Conference on 'Making Elections Inclusive and Accessible' on January 24, 2019, in consonance with the 9th National Voters' Day which will be held on January 25, 2019.
- Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa will be attending the conference along with heads and dignitaries from six Election Management Bodies (EMBs) namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Russia and Sri Lanka and three International Organisations including Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, UK and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS).

### ***Jan Shikshan Santhans: Government launches new reforms, guidelines to align JSS with National Skill Qualification Framework***

- Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum and Natural Gas (MSDE) on January 24, 2019 launched new reforms and guidelines for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) to further strengthen the skills ecosystem benefiting those in the underprivileged sections of society.
- The motive behind the new guidelines is to align the JSSs to the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). By aligning JSSs to the National Skill Framework, the Government aims to provide standardised training across sectors.

### ***CEMILAC clears Biojet fuel for Aircraft; IAF to operate biojet fuel flight on January 26***

- After months of ground and flight trials, the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), a premier military certification agency, on January 22, 2019 cleared the use of indigenously produced bio-fuel for use in the military aircraft.
- P Jayapal, Outstanding Scientist and Chief Executive of the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification deliberated on the results of various tests conducted on bio-jet fuel as per procedure recommended by top certification agencies.

### ***Government to develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across country***

- The Union Government has decided to renovate and develop around 400 abandoned airstrips across the country to strengthen air-connectivity.
- The information was shared by Secretary of Union Civil Aviation department R N Choubey in Jamshedpur on January 25, 2019.
- The first such MoU was signed with Jharkhand government to develop the abandoned airstrip at Dhalbhumgarh.

### ***Fourth edition of Bharat Parv begins in Delhi***

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- **Fourth edition of Bharat Parv**, showcasing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will begin at Red Fort in Delhi today. It will continue till 31st January.
- Tourism Ministry said, the five day event is a part of Republic Day Celebrations and the objective of this festival is to generate a patriotic fervour and promote rich cultural diversity of the country.

### ***I&B Ministry to increase advertisement rates by 11% to private TV channels***

- **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has decided to revise the advertisement rates offered by the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) to private TV channels.
- The Ministry in a statement said, the revision would lead to an increase in rates of around 11 per cent over the rates of 2017 in respect of most of the private TV channels.

### ***Millennials will be eligible to vote for 1st time in 2019 general elections***

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** said on January 25, 2019 millennials will be eligible to vote for the first time in the general elections this year.
- Addressing the gathering on the National Voters' Day celebrations in Delhi, **the President said these first-time voters will determine the fate and future of 21st Century India**. He said it is a matter of pride to be a voter in world's largest democracy.

### ***India's fastest indigenous train renamed as Vande Bharat Express***

- **India's fastest indigenous train** which will run from Delhi to Varanasi has been named as Vande Bharat Express. Briefing media in New Delhi today, Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the semi high-speed train soon.
- **He said, it was named Train 18 and now it has been given a new name after taking suggestions from the general public.**
- **He said, it is also energy efficient and the first locomotive-less train in the country.** Mr Goyal said, the train will be fully air-conditioned and will stop at Kanpur and Allahabad.

### ***Yuva Swabhiman Yojana: Employment scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh***

- On the occasion of Republic Day, **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Saturday announced the launch of the 'Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' for youths from the economically weaker sections in urban areas.**
- In his Republic Day address at the Police Parade Maidan here, Kamal Nath said the youths were the future of India and they had immense talent which needed to be honed.
- "Under this scheme, 100 days of employment will be provided to youths from economically weaker sections in urban areas. They will also be given skill training," he said.

### ***Kerala government to launch NRI pension scheme***

- The **Kerala government** will soon launch a 'Pravasi Dividend Pension Scheme' to provide regular pension to Non Resident Keralites on a one-time payment of Rs 5 lakh, Governor P. Sathasivam said on Friday.
- He announced the scheme during his address to the state Assembly.
- There are 2.1 million migrants from Kerala across the world whose estimated total annual remittances to the state have been found to be Rs 85,092 crore, a study said.
- Of these, close to 90 per cent are in the Middle East.

### ***PM Modi lays foundation stone for AIIMS Madurai in Tamil Nadu***

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, AIIMS at Madurai in Tamil Nadu today. He also inaugurated the super speciality blocks of Madurai's Rajaji Medical College and Thanjavur and Tirunelveli Medical Colleges through video conferencing. Mr Modi also dedicated a dozen Post

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**Office Pass Port Seva Kendras to the nation.**

- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that **AIIMS hospitals have a brand name in providing quality health care for people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Gujarat to Guwahati.**

***Assam Rifles creates history by showcasing "Nari Shakti" at parade***

- **The all-women Assam Rifles contingent created history this year by participating for the first time in a Republic Day parade.**
- **Contingents of the Navy, India Army Service Corps and a unit of Corps of Signals were all led by women officers.**
- **Capt Shikha Surabhi from the Corps of Signals became the first woman to perform bike stunts, alongside her male teammates as part of daredevils.**

***Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardha inaugurates 3 specialized centres at Madras IIT***

- **Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated three specialized centers at Madras IIT on Saturday.**
- **The new centers would pursue research on solar power generation and storage, waste water management and solar power based desalination.**

***Southern Railway bags number one position for cleanliness in country***

- **The Southern Railway has bagged the number one position for cleanliness in the country.**
- **The Divisional Railway Manager Shirish Kumar Sinha said, this achievement was under the category of other than Premium Category trains in the recent Trains Cleanliness Survey conducted by IRCTC on all India level.**

***70th Republic Day Observed***

- **India celebrated its 70th Republic Day with a grand display of its military might and rich cultural diversity as the ceremonial parade rolled down the majestic Rajpath in the presence of **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** as the chief guest.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his tributes to the martyrs by laying a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti before the start of the parade in presence of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the three service chiefs.**
- **The overall theme for the Republic Day celebrations this year is the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and tableaux of many states, themed on the preeminent leader of the Independence movement who championed the idea of non-violence, were lined up during the parade.**
- **Officials said Ramaphosa is the second South African president, after Nelson Mandela, to attend the grand event as its chief guest.**

***India signs agreement with OECD for participation in PISA 2021***

- **Human Resources Development Ministry today signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021.**
- **He said, the student assessment by PISA will ensure learning outcome through education. Students will be selected by PISA through random sampling.**
- **PISA is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate the education system worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students.**

***Maharashtra Govt launches housing scheme for construction workers in rural areas***

- **Maharashtra state labour department has launched a housing scheme for construction workers in rural areas. Officials said the **Atal Construction Workers Awas Yojana (Rural)** is aimed at providing financial assistance of Rs 1.5 lakh each to construction workers to build pucca houses or to convert existing homes into pucca houses.**



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- The rural development department's state management room for rural housing could be entrusted with the implementation of the scheme. "The houses will measure 269 sqft in carpet area. Beneficiaries can build larger houses, but at their own cost," the official added.

### ***World's biggest cyclothon Swasth 'Bharat Yatra' culminates in Delhi***

- **The Swasth Bharat Yatra, the world's biggest cyclothon to push people to eat right, culminated in New Delhi today. The campaign was flagged-off on 16th October last year on the occasion of World Food Day.**
- **The yatra began from six different locations - Leh, Panaji, Thiruvananthapuram, Puducherry, Kolkata and Agartala on six different tracks in which more than ten thousand volunteer cyclists covered over twenty thousand kilometres spreading the message of 'Eat Safe, Eat Healthy and Eat Fortified.'**

### ***Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Atal Setu in Goa***

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated four-lane 5.1-kilometer long "Atal Setu", the third Cable Bridge across river Mandovi in Panaji, Goa.
- **Infrastructure works worth Rs 15000 crore have been sanctioned for the state of Goa.**

### ***Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone for six-lane access-controlled highway to link Akshardham with EPE Junction***

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for development of a six-lane corridor from Akshardham in East Delhi to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway junction on Baghpat Road.
- **The 31.3 km road stretch is part of NH-709B that will run from Akshardham to Saharanpur Bypass.**

### ***Kumbh contributes to infrastructure Development at Prayagraj City***

- **Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 has changed the face of entire city and suburbs.**
- **Investment of crores for the infrastructure development in the town by Prayagraj Development Authority has widened most of the roads particularly Sangam, Public places and historical buildings bound roads.**
- **Vehicular Transport has been strengthened and roads have been freed from traffic jams due to removal of encroachments.**

### ***Ministry of Defence launched 'RDP INDIA 2019'***

- **The Ministry of Defence launched a mobile app 'RDP India 2019' on the Republic Day with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event to the general public all over the world.**
- **The app contained information about the Parade on Rajpath, New Delhi, including Order of the March, details of the tableaux presented by different States and Ministries, children cultural performances, fly past and names of recipients of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.**

### ***SC forms Constitution Bench to hear plea challenging 'Hindu prayers' in Kendriya Vidyalyayas***

- **The Supreme Court on January 28, 2019 constituted a Constitution Bench for hearing a plea challenging the mandatory requirement to recite Sanskrit and Hindi prayers in morning assembly sessions of 1,125 Kendriya Vidyalyayas (KVs) across the country.**
- **The bench of Justices R F Nariman and Vineet Saran observed that the matter of Hindu prayer recitation in Kendriya Vidyalyayas required examination by constitution bench and accordingly placed the matter before the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi to constitute bench.**

### ***ECI hosts international conference on Making our Elections Inclusive & Accessible***

- **The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Shri Ashok Lavasa today inaugurated an International Conference on 'Making our Elections Inclusive and Accessible'.**
- **ECI is hosting the International Conference on the occasion of 9th National Voters Day which is observed on 25th January every year.**

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### ***K J Alphons to inaugurate first Swadesh Darshan Project in Sikkim***

- K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism will on January 30, 2019 inaugurate the first project under the Swadesh Darshan Project of the Union Ministry of Tourism at the Zero Point, Gangtok, Sikkim. This project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for Rs. 98.05 crores.
- The project is officially named as “Development of North East Circuit: Rangpo– Rorathang- Aritar- Phadamchen- Nathang-Sherathang- Tsongmo- Gangtok-Phodong- Mangan- Lachung-Yumthang- Lachen- Thangu-Gurudongmer- Mangan- Gangtok-Tuminlingee- Singtam”.
- The Ministry sanctioned 16 projects for Rs. 1349.04 crores covering all North Eastern States under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.

### ***Beating the Retreat ceremony held in Delhi***

- The four-day long celebrations of the 70th Republic Day concluded on January 29, 2019 with 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony, which was held at the historic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi.
- The Beating Retreat' marks a centuries-old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat. The ceremony began with the arrival of Indian President Ram Nath Kovind guarded by his well decorated bodyguards.
- This year, Indian tunes were the flavour of 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony.

### ***Prakash Javadekar to inaugurate New Campus for National Museum Institute at Noida***

- Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development will inaugurate the new Campus of the National Museum Institute at A-19, Sector 62, NOIDA (Institutional Area).
- Since its inception, the Institute has been one of the leading centers in the country for training and research in the field of art and cultural heritage.

### ***PM to lay foundation Stone for extension of Terminal Building at Surat Airport; to attend the New India Youth conclave in Surat***

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Surat and Dandi in Gujarat on January 30, 2019.
- During the visit, the Prime Minister will lay the Foundation Stone for the extension of Terminal building at Surat Airport. The Terminal building is being constructed at a cost of Rs.354 crore with an area of over 25,500 square metres.

### ***Nari Shakti is Oxford Dictionary's Hindi Word Of The Year 2018***

- Nari Shakti was chosen as the Hindi word of the year 2018 by Oxford Dictionary.
- The announcement was made during a session at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival.
- In 2017, Oxford Dictionary had chosen 'Aadhar' as the word of the year.

### ***Ministry of Statistics, NCAER sign MoU for improving official statistical system of India***

- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on January 29, 2019 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for improving official statistical system of India.
- Under the MoU, both the sides will use new data technologies, knowledge generation and knowledge sharing and capacity building in the field of Official Statistics.

### ***UP Cabinet approves construction of Ganga Expressway to connect Prayagraj with Western UP***

- Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet on January 29, 2019 approved the construction of a four-lane Ganga Expressway connecting Prayagraj to Western Uttar Pradesh.

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- **Ganga Expressway will provide better connectivity to Prayagraj.** Once completed, it would be longest expressway in the world.
- **For the first time in the history of Kumbh,** UP State Cabinet meeting was held at Prayagraj. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chaired the meeting.
- The four-lane expressway will be 600 kilometres long and can be expanded to six-lane in future.
- **The construction of Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj would cost around Rs 36,000 crore.**

### ***Maharashtra Government launches special scheme to curb infant deaths***

- **The state government of Maharashtra on January 29, 2019 launched a special scheme to curb infant deaths.** The government started distributing baby-care kits to the children born in primary health centres and government hospitals, as part of its efforts to reduce the infant mortality rate.
- Speaking after the launch, the state's **Women and Child Development Minister Pankaja Munde** said that the scheme is only applicable for the first child and it is expected to benefit around four lakh women across the state.

### ***PM Modi dedicates National Salt Satyagraha Memorial to the nation***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi **dedicated National Salt Satyagraha Memorial to the nation at Dandi village, situated in South Gujarat on Arabian sea coast.**
- At the memorial site, he also unveiled statues of **Mahatma Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis** who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930.

### ***Western Railway provides 'segway' to RPF personnel***

- The Western Railway has provided Segways, the two-wheeled, self-balancing and battery-powered electric vehicles, to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel deployed at major railway stations in Mumbai.
- **This is the first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways.** The western railway has got six Segways and five more are expected in the next few weeks.

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### ***Piyush Goyal launches the IEA's 'The Future of Rail' report***

- Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal on January 30, 2019 launched the "The Future of Rail" report of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- **The Future of Rail is the first-of-a-kind report that analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world** through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.
- The report reviews the impact of existing plans and regulations on the future of rail and explores the policies that could help to realise an enhanced future of the railways.
- **This first ever global report has a focus on India.**

### ***PETROTECH-2019 to be organised from February 10 to 12, 2019***

- **PETROTECH-2019, the 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition, being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, is all set to be inaugurated on February 10, 2019.**
- India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### ***Microsoft India increases focus on North East; signs pact with Sikkim***

- Microsoft India on Thursday announced plans to increase investments in the eight North Eastern states of

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India.

- As part of its commitment to partner the region in its transformation, **the Microsoft signed an MoU with the Sikkim Government to revamp the educational system in the state.**

### ***Air India resumes its services from New Delhi to Najaf in Iraq***

- Air India announced to resume its services from New Delhi to the holy city of Najaf in Iraq after 25 years.**
- Indian Ambassador to Iraq, Dr Pradeep Rajpurohit said the services will commence from February 14, 2019 and it is initially being planned for twice a week.
- Najaf is a city some 160 kilometres from Baghdad.**

### ***MoU inked for new innovations in fight against TB***

- An international body and a Tata Trusts-backed collaboration have signed an MoU to accelerate the roll-out of new, people-centred innovations in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) in India and other countries.**
- India has set a target for complete elimination of tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.
- The Stop TB Partnership and the India Health Fund (IHF) signed an MoU during the former's board meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

### ***BioChem USA inks MoU for setting up Biorefinery in Gujarat***

- BioChem USA and Department of Industries, Government of Gujarat on Thursday signed an MoU in the presence of Chief Minister Vijay Rupani for setting up of a Biorefinery in Dahej Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) at an estimated investment of Rs 3000 crores.**
- According to an official release the plant will generate around 2000 employment.

### ***India to launch communication satellite GSAT-31 aboard Ariane-5***

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would be launching its latest communication satellite GSAT-31, aboard Ariane-5 (VA 247) on February 6, 2019 from French Guiana.**
- Ariane-5 is the launch vehicle of the European launch services provider Arianespace. According to Arianespace, the launch of Ariane-5 (VA 247) is scheduled for 2:31 am India time on February 6. In its first mission on 2019, Arianespace would be launching two telecommunications satellites with Ariane 5.

### **The launch vehicle would be carrying two communication satellites:**

- Saudi Geostationary Satellite 1/Hellas Sat 4
- Hellas Sat along with GSAT-31

### ***Gujarat govt increases DA of over 9.61 lakh employees***

- Gujarat government has announced an increase in Dearness allowance of more than 9.61 lakh employees and pensioners by 2 per cent.**
- The hike in dearness allowance will be given with retrospective effect of July 1, 2018. This was announced by Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel at Gandhinagar on January 31, 2019.

### ***PM Modi visits all 3 regions of Kashmir, Jammu & Ladakh to inaugurate, lay foundation stones for various development projects***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today visited all the three regions of Kashmir, Jammu & Ladakh to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for various development projects.**
- During his day long visit to Srinagar, Jammu & Leh, PM Modi inaugurated around 7000 Crore projects related to healthcare, higher education, skill development and employment in the State.**
- PM Modi had earlier visited Jammu, Srinagar and Leh on 18th May last year to lay the foundation stones for**



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various infrastructure projects in the state. In the last leg of his day long visit, **PM Modi arrived in Srinagar and unveiled the plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone for Rs 1828 crore All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) coming up on 207 acres at south Kashmir's Awantipora area of Pulwama district.**

- He also digitally launched various projects under **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** for whole country. PM also laid foundation stone digitally for 3 Model Degree Colleges in north Kashmir's Kupwara, Baramulla and Kishtwar districts.

### ***PM dedicates 294-km-long electrified railway lines in West Bengal, to the nation***

- PM Modi dedicated to the nation the railway electrification of the **294-km-long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and the Khana-Sainthia sections.**
- The electrification of this section will enable ease of transportation of coal, stone chips and ballast to North and Northeast India in a seamless manner, a statement from PM's office said.
- The PM launched a nearly **300-km-long electrified section of the railways in Durgapur.** He also inaugurated a **20-km-long Hijli-Narayangarh third line.**

### ***NBCC to construct Ayurveda and Naturopathy hospital in Goa***

- NBCC, a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises, **will construct an Ayurveda and Naturopathy hospital in Goa at a cost of over 267 crore rupees.**
- A memorandum of understanding was signed with **the Ministry of AYUSH in this regard.** In a statement, the company said, 250-bed hospital will be completed in the next 24 months.

### ***CJI Ranjan Gogoi inaugurates Andhra Pradesh High Court new building at Amaravathy***

- **The Andhra Pradesh High Court new building at Amaravathy, was inaugurated today by the Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi.** It's after functioning from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Camp Office for over a month's time, the AP High Court today moved to a new building at Amaravathy on a temporary basis.
- **The two-storied building is located at Nelapadu in Amaravati region has 16 court halls and the building costing Rs 150 Crore houses a 2.70 lakh square feet office space.** Thus, Andhra Pradesh is getting its own court four and half years after the state bifurcation.

### ***ISRO sets up Human Space Flight Centre for Gaganyaan mission***

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 31, 2019 **unveiled its Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at ISRO Headquarter campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka for its maiden manned space mission 'Gaganyaan'.**
- The space flight centre was inaugurated by **K Kasturirangan**, former ISRO Chairman, in the presence of K Sivan, current ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space.

### ***Ministry of Coal signs MoU with Poland's Ministry of Energy***

- **The Union Ministry of Coal** on February 4, 2019 signed a Memorandum of Understanding **with Ministry of Energy, Republic of Poland in New Delhi on cooperation in the field of coal mining.**
- The MoU was signed between Haribhai Parathibhai Chaudhary, Minister of State for Coal and Mines and Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Secretary of State for Poland's Ministry of Energy.

### ***Special Postage Stamp on Kumbh Mela released***

- **Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication, Manoj Sinha released a special postage stamp of the Indian Postal Department on Kumbh Mela.**
- The world's largest religious and cultural human congregation, **'Kumbh 2019'** began at Prayagraj (erstwhile Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh on January 15, 2019 and will go on till March 4, 2019.

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### ***UK Home Secretary orders extradition of Vijay Mallya to India***

- **UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid today ordered the extradition of Vijay Mallya to India, in a major blow to the embattled liquor baron.** The 63-year-old businessman had lost a legal challenge against his extradition in a British court in December.
- **Under the Extradition Treaty procedures, the Chief Magistrate's verdict was sent to the Home Secretary because only he is authorised to order Mallya's extradition.**

### ***National Road Safety Week begins; Motor car rally flagged off***

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari today flagged off Suraksha Yatra - a motor car rally from Rajghat in New Delhi to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.** The flag off was also part of an event to launch the 30th National Road Safety Week.
- **The rally will travel through places historically associated with Gandhiji, both in India, as well as in Bangladesh and Myanmar.** It will conclude at Yangon in Myanmar on the 24th of this month, covering a total distance of over seven thousand kilometre. It will take up advocacy on Road Safety concerns along the route.

### ***Delhi government launches 'zero fatality corridor'***

- **The Delhi government on Monday kicked off its pilot project of creating Delhi's first 'zero fatality corridor'** while also issuing actionable points to all agencies to ensure a 10% reduction in road accidents by the end of the year.
- **The stretch has four blackspots to be studied — Burari Chowk, Bhalswa Chowk, Jahangirpuri Bus Stand and Mukundpur Chowk.** This 3km stretch claimed 67 lives over the two years — 2016 and 2017.

### ***Maharashtra govt sets up panel to review welfare schemes for tribals***

- **The Maharashtra government has set up a committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.**
- **The 17-member committee, headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president Vivek Pandit, will undertake the study of various works done for providing employment opportunities, minimum wages and proper livelihood to tribals.**

### ***Government launches Shehri Samridhi Utsav to extend outreach of DAY-NULM***

- **The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in February 2019 launched the Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative that aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the most vulnerable.**
- **The event will facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.**
- **The Day one of Shehri Samridhi Utsav began with a series of rallies led by women's' SHGs across the country.** These rallies spread awareness about DAY-NULM in urban poor communities.

### ***India's communication satellite GSAT-31 launched from French Guiana***

- **Indian Space Research Organisation's latest communication satellite, GSAT-31 was successfully launched by Arianespace aboard its launch vehicle Ariane 5 from the spaceport in French Guiana on February 5, 2019.**
- **The launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-247 lifted off from Kourou Launch Base in Guiana Space Center (CSG) at 2:31 am (IST) carrying two telecommunications satellites.** This is Arianespace's first launch of the year and the 103rd Ariane 5 mission.

### ***Swachh Bharat Mission launches 'Darwaza Band - Part 2' campaign; Amitabh Bachchan stars in campaign films***

- **The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on February 6, 2019 launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign**

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for sustainability of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of villages across the country.

- The campaign was launched in Mumbai in the presence of actor **Amitabh Bachchan**, Maharashtra's Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation Babanrao Lonikar, Secretary of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Parameswaran Iyer and other dignitaries.
- The 'Darwaza Band- Part 2' campaign is supported by the World Bank and will be rolled out countrywide immediately after the launch.
- The campaign was produced by the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

### ***India and Germany join hands on water and waste management***

- India and Germany have joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management.
- During the meeting of 3rd Indo-German Working Group for cooperation on water and waste management which concluded in New Delhi today, both sides discussed potential cooperation in this area.

### ***India and New Zealand review bilateral relations & regional cooperation***

- The second foreign office consultations between India and New Zealand was held yesterday in New Delhi.
- The consultations between the two sides provided an opportunity to review the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, trade and economic ties. India reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with New Zealand in these areas.

### ***Union Cabinet approves amendments to Cinematograph Act, 1952***

- The Cabinet has approved amendments to the Cinematograph Act, 1952 to tackle film piracy and Copyright infringement.
- Briefing media, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, there are penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.

### ***Cabinet approves establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog***

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for the establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny.
- It will lead to the development of the cattle population in the country including the development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog was announced in the budget on the 1st of this month.

### ***Cabinet approves establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri***

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.
- It will have jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar.

### ***CCEA approves "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" scheme of Prasar Bharti***

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Proposal of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding Prasar Bharati's "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development" scheme at a cost of Rs.1054.52 crore for 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- Out of Rs. 1054.52 Crore, an amount of Rs. 435.04 Crore was approved for the continuing schemes of All India Radio and an amount of Rs 619.48 Crore was approved for the schemes of Doordarshan.

### ***BPRD to organize 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission***

- The Bureau of Police Research and Development, BPRD will organise the 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission in New Delhi on February 7, 2019.
- The two day Conference will discuss the issues of Skills and Competence at the grass-root level, attitudinal changes in police, gender sensitisation, harnessing technology and community policing. Former Governor of

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**Jammu and Kashmir N. N.Vohra will inaugurate the conference.**

***Health Ministry reviewed the preparedness on Seasonal Influenza H1N1***

- The Union Health and Family Welfare Secretary Preeti Sudan has reviewed the state of preparedness and action taken to deal with H1N1 influenza cases in New Delhi.
- The Health Ministry in a statement said till February 3, 2019, a total of 6701 cases and 226 deaths have been reported in the country.

***Maharashtra declares virginity test as sexual assault***

- The Maharashtra government on February 6, 2019 announced that it will soon make forcing a woman to undergo virginity test a punishable offence.
- Certain communities in the state follow a custom whereby a newly-wed woman has to prove that she was virgin prior to the marriage.

***Cabinet approves proposal for higher power allocation to Telangana, Jharkhand***

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 6, 2019 approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power to allocate 85 per cent power from Telangana Super Thermal Power Project (4000MW) of NTPC Ltd to the Telangana government.
- The cabinet also approved the proposal to allocate 85 per cent power from the expansion project of Patratu Thermal Power Station (4000MW) of Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited to the Jharkhand state government. Both the projects will be set up in two phases.

***NTPC, EDMC sign MoU for waste management***

- The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) on Thursday for the disposal and management of solid waste in its jurisdiction.
- A senior corporation official said that the NTPC will be setting up an integrated waste management plant which will have a capacity to process 2,000 MT of garbage.

***Punjab govt signs MoU with Canada province on education***

- Punjab Government on Thursday inked an MoU with the Government of Alberta, Canada.
- The two sides also agreed to explore information exchange and cooperation in other priority areas of energy, agriculture, environment management and technologies, beside aerospace, defence, hospitality and retail.

***5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meet to be held in Delhi***

- The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting will be held in New Delhi today.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen will co-chair the meeting.

***Jammu & Kashmir Government grants Divisional Status to Ladakh Region***

- The Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Satya Pal Malik on February 8, 2019 granted the Divisional Status to Ladakh Region, while exercising its powers under Section 5 of Land Revenue Act, 1996.
- The Ladakh division will comprise Leh and Kargil districts with its headquarters at Leh. Till now, the Ladakh region formed a part of the Kashmir Division of Jammu & Kashmir.

***PM Modi launches DD Arun Prabha channel in Itanagar today***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that basic infrastructure has been a long-standing demand of Arunachal Pradesh which was ignored by the previous governments.
- Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the DD 'Arun Prabha' Channel in Itanagar. It will be a



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24x7 satellite television channel and is Doordarshan's second channel for the north-eastern region, after DD North East.

### ***Prime Minister lays the foundation stone for a National Highways Project in West Bengal***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the four laning of the Falakata-Salsalabari section of NH -31 D in the northern part of West Bengal.
- This 41.7 km long section of National Highways falls in the Jalpaiguri district of the West Bengal and will be constructed at a cost of about Rs 1938 Crore.
- The project will reduce the distance from Salsalabari and Alipurduar to Siliguri by nearly 50 km.

### ***Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban): Government institutes PMAY (U) Awards to reward top performers***

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on February 8, 2019 instituted the 'PMAY (U) awards for Implementation and Innovation' under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to reward the "Top Performers" in different categories and attain the goal of 'Housing for All' in a sustained manner.
- The award scheme aims to recognise the outstanding performance and promote a healthy competition between States and UTs, Urban Local Bodies, Beneficiaries and Housing Finance Corporations.
- The Award has 3 broad levels. The first level is for States, UTs and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for performance on key indicators of the Mission.

### ***Ujjwala Utsav observed; PMUY anthem 'Ujjwala Bharat Ujjwala' released***

- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas observed the Ujjwala Utsav to celebrate the stellar role played by all stakeholders such as district nodal officers, policy makers, distributors and beneficiaries in making Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) a success.
- The occasion also saw the launch of the PMUY anthem 'Ujjwala Bharat Ujjwala', composed and developed by eminent singer Padma Shri Kailash Kher.
- The PMUY anthem is available on online music platforms such as Amazon, Apple, Hungama, Wynk, Google Play, Saavn, and many others.

### ***5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meet held in Delhi***

- The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen co-chaired the meeting.
- The last Joint Consultative Committee Meeting between the two countries was held in October 2017 at Dhaka.

### ***India Pavilion inaugurated at 69th Berlin International Film Festival***

- The India Pavilion at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2019 was inaugurated by Director European Film Market, (EFM) Matthijs Wouter Knol.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Knol said that the stakeholders of EFM will actively consider participating in the Golden Jubilee year of IFFI.

### ***Urban Affairs Ministry launches Light House Project challenge***

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has instituted a challenge for States and Union Territories to select six sites across the country for constructing the lighthouse projects under Global Housing Technology Challenge- India (GHTC- India)
- The challenge has been launched to bring about paradigm shift in housing construction technology sector. The states and union territories that score the highest marks will be awarded lighthouse projects.

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### ***SC directs NCM to decide on redefining 'Minority' & guidelines for identifying minorities within 3 months***

- The Supreme Court on February 11, 2019 directed the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to take a decision within three months on a representation seeking guidelines to redefine the term 'Minority'.
- A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi asked petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay to re-file his representation to the Minority Commission and directed the Commission to take a decision in this regard within three months in the context of state-wise population of a community.

### ***Chinook Helicopters: First batch of 4 Boeing heavy-lift helicopters arrive in India from US***

- The first batch of four Boeing heavy-lift Chinook Helicopters, CH-47F (I), arrived at the Mundra airport in Gujarat on February 10, 2019.
- Procured from the United States, the Chinook Helicopters are expected to provide impetus to the heavy-lift capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) and strengthen the defence ties with the United States.
- Manufactured by Boeing, the CH-47F (I) will be stationed at Chandigarh air base of the Indian Air Force. The Chandigarh air base takes care of providing necessary items to Siachen and Eastern Ladakh sectors.

### ***PM Modi laid foundation stone for Sela Tunnel; 7 EHV Sub-stations; 24 LT Sub-stations in Arunachal Pradesh***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 9, 2019 laid the foundation stone for the Sela Tunnel Project in Arunachal Pradesh during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura.
- The tunnel will be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs. 687 crore.
- The Tunnel would be completed in the next three years. It covers a total distance of 12.04 kms which consist of two tunnels of 1790 meters and 475 meters.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for 7 Extra High Voltage (EHV) Sub-stations and 24 Low Tension (LT) Sub-stations in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. This project is aimed at meeting the objectives of affordable 24X7 power to all, especially in the remote locations.

### ***Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army conducts 'Exercise Rahat' in Jaipur***

- In Rajasthan, Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army conducted a two- day Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise "Exercise Rahat".
- It involves all stake holders at the national and state level.
- This was the eighth such exercise conducted by the Indian Defence Forces.

### ***PM visits Assam, lays foundation stone of North East Gas Grid***

- PM visited Assam as a part of his visit to Arunachal, Assam and Tripura.
- He laid foundation stone for North East Gas Grid which will ensure uninterrupted availability of natural gas across the region and boost industrial growth in the region.
- He inaugurated Hollong Modular Gas Processing Plant in Tinsukia which will deliver 15% of the total gas produced in Assam.

### ***Highlights of PM Modi's visit to Hubli, Karnataka***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Hubli, Karnataka in the final leg of his one day long tour to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- He unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of Indian Institute of Technology – Dharwad and Indian Institute of Information Technology – Dharwad.
- City Gas Distribution Project at Dharwad was dedicated to the nation on this occasion.
- To ensure Energy Security, 1.5 MMT Mangalore Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility and 2.5 MMT Padur SPR facility of ISPR were also dedicated to the nation.

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- The Doubling of 18 km long Chikjajur-Mayakonda Section was dedicated to the nation. Chikjajur-Mayakonda Section is a part of 190 km long Hubli – Chikjajur Doubling project and is located on Bengaluru – Hubballi route of South Western Railway.

### ***Highlights of PM Modi's visit to Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu***

- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu and unveiled several development projects in the State.**
- He laid the foundation **Stone of Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC) multi speciality Hospital at Tiruppur.**
- He dedicated ESIC Hospital Chennai to the nation. This 470-bedded hospital will provide quality treatment on all disciplines of medicine.

### ***PM Modi served 3 billionth meal to children in Vrindavan***

- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh on February 11, 2019.**
- He unveiled the plaque to mark the serving of **3rd billionth meal by Akshaya Patra Foundation at Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir.**
- **The Prime Minister served the 3rd billionth meal to underprivileged children from schools.**
- Akshaya Patra serves as an implementing partner of **Mid-Day Meal Scheme.**

### ***Delhi Government Launches 16 Bike Ambulances For Congested Areas***

- **Delhi government has launched bike ambulance services to ensure health assistance reaches on time in the congested areas of the national capital.**
- The bike ambulances, which will be called the "**First Responder Vehicles**", will have a portable oxygen cylinder, first aid kit and dressing materials, air-splints, GPS and a communication device.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain **launched the fleet of 16 bikes at Delhi Secretariat.**

### ***Rajasthan government launches 'Rajiv Gandhi Career Portal'***

- **Rajasthan School Education Minister Govind Singh Dotasara Wednesday launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Career Portal' for students from classes 9 to 12.**
- The portal aims to provide career guidance with information on entrance examinations, scholarships and employment-oriented courses.
- "It is a big step of the government towards providing employment-oriented education to students. **The portal is developed with support from UNICEF and is a first-of-its-kind in the country,**" Dotasara said.

### ***India, Norway launch 'India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative' to combat Marine Pollution***

- **The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on February 11, 2019 signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch the 'India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative'.**
- **The Joint Initiative was signed by Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Norwegian Ambassador to India and Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**
- The launch of the initiative came after the Indian and Norwegian governments **signed an MoU to establish the 'India-Norway Ocean Dialogue' during the Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg's visit to India in January 2019.**
- A Joint Task Force on **Blue Economy** was also established under the aegis of the MoU to promote multi-sectoral cooperation in various aspects of Blue Economy.

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### *HRD Ministry to take immediate steps to protect Maithili language and scripts*

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of a committee, which it had constituted in 2018 to make a report for the promotion and protection of **Maithili language and its scripts**.
- The committee has submitted its report to the Ministry. In the report, it has made several recommendations for the promotion and protection of the **Maithili language**. The report was examined in the Ministry and it has been decided to take immediate action on some of the recommendations of the committee.
- **Mithilakshar** or **Tirhuta** is the script of broader cultural **Mithila**. The scripts of **Mithilaksar, Bangla, Assamese, Nebari, Odia and Tibetan** are part of the family.
- It is an extremely ancient script and it is one of the scripts of the broader North Eastern India.
- Mithilakshar had come to its current shape by 10th Century AD. The oldest form of Mithilakshar is found in the Sahodara stone inscriptions of 950 AD.

### *President unveils life size portrait of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament*

- President Ram Nath Kovind on February 12, 2019 unveiled the life size portrait of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at the Central Hall of Parliament.
- The former Prime Minister provided crucial leadership in challenging situations. The 1998 nuclear test in Pokhran and the 1999 Kargil war are examples of his firm decisions taken in the interest of the nation.

### *I&B Ministry organises first annual conference of Media Units*

- The Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry will organise the first annual conference of Media Units in **New Delhi on February 13, 2019**.
- The conference aims to give a unique platform to the officers of the **Indian Information Service** working in different Media Units to converge at an All-India level.
- The conference will involve discussions and deliberations upon the emerging areas of the evolving communication paradigm.
- It will be chaired by Information and Broadcasting Minister **Rajyavardhan Rathore**.

### *Minority Status of Aligarh Muslim University: Supreme Court refers case to 7-Judge bench*

- The Supreme Court on February 12, 2019 referred the petition seeking withdrawal of minority status of the **Aligarh Muslim University** to a seven-judge bench.
- A three-judge bench headed by **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** referred the matter to the larger bench to determine the correctness of minority status of AMU and to define the parameters for granting minority status to the institution.

### *India's first Mega Aqua Food Park commissioned in Andhra Pradesh*

- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** on February 12, 2019 commissioned **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park** at **Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh** through video conferencing.
- The park is promoted by **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd.** It will be the first Mega Aqua Food Park operationalised exclusively for fish and marine products processing in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd** has been set up in **57.81 acre of land** at a cost of **Rs. 122.60 crores**.

### *Govt approves the introduction of Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Bill, 2019*

- The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of **Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI)**



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### **Bill, 2019.**

- The Bill provides for amendment of the legal framework to act as a deterrent to the erring NRI spouses and creating more accountability and offer protection against exploitation of Indian Citizens married to NRIs.
- Once the Bill is passed, **marriages performed by NRIs would be registered in India or Indian Missions & Posts abroad.**

### ***Cabinet approves allotment of land for New Viral Vaccine Manufacturing Unit in Tamil Nadu***

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the proposal for allotment of 30 acre land to Pasteur Institute of India (PII) for establishment of **New Viral Vaccine Manufacturing Unit at Coonoor in Tamil Nadu.**
- The project entails production of **Viral Vaccines (like TCA anti-Measles Vaccine, JE Vaccine) and Anti Sera (like Anti Snake Venom and Anti Rabies Sera) at the PII, Coonoor.**

### ***NITI Aayog signs agreement to document systemic transformation in education***

- The NITI Aayog on February 12, 2019 signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) to codify, document and share best practices to improve learning outcomes in public school education through systemic reforms, based on their collective experiences of working with various state governments in India.
- The SOI was signed in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, by Alok Kumar, Adviser (HRD), NITI Aayog and Barun Mohanty, Managing Director (International), MSDF.
- Under the agreement, *NITI Aayog and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation will document the reforms pursued by various state governments that have initiated systemic reforms in education and have begun to see improved learning outcomes over the past few years.*

### ***Defence Ministry begins process of procurement of 111 Naval Helicopters for Indian Navy***

- The Defence Ministry on February 12, 2019 issued Expression of Interest to shortlist potential Indian strategic partners and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for the procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) for the Indian Navy at an estimated cost of **over Rs 21,000 crore.**
- These Naval Utility Helicopters will replace Chetak Helicopters and will be utilised for albeit SAR, CASEVAC (Casualty evacuation), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), passenger roles and torpedo drops.

### ***Parliament passes Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019***

- The Parliament on February 13, 2019 passed the **Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018** that seeks to **remove leprosy as a ground for divorce.** The bill was passed after upper house of the Parliament Rajya Sabha approved it without discussion.
- The lower house of the Parliament, Lok Sabha had passed the bill on January 7, 2019. Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.
- **The Bill seeks to uphold the rights of people with leprosy as the disease is curable.**

### ***Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana; 5,67,88,890 enrolments made till December 2018***

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), 5,67,88,890 enrolments have been made till **December 2018.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana was launched on May 9, 2015.**
- This Scheme is administered through both public and private sector life insurance companies in tie-up with **Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks.**

### ***Bihar Government announces universal old age pension scheme-Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna***

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- The state government of Bihar has announced a universal old age pension scheme called Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna (MVPY) for all people above 60 years of age.
- The scheme will come into force from April 1, 2019. Except those senior citizens who have retired from government service, all will be eligible for 400 rupees monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community.
- The currently old age pension scheme is applicable to only the BPL category.

### ***AYUSH Minister launches e-AUSHADHI portal***

- Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik on February 13, 2019 launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.
- The portal aims to increase transparency, improve information management facility, improve data usability and increase accountability.
- e-AUSHADHI is an acronym for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative.

### ***Cabinet approves revision in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Chhattisgarh***

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the cabinet note on the proposal for official amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016 so as to modify the list of scheduled tribes of Chhattisgarh.
- The act will called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

### ***Third Indo-German Environment Forum held in New Delhi***

- The third Indo-German Environment Forum with the theme "Cleaner Air, Greener Economy" was held in New Delhi on February 13, 2019.
- While inaugurating the forum, Union Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that India and Germany have had a rich cooperation engagement for the last 60 years which extends to sectors such as natural resource management, urban environment protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation and innovative green technologies.

### ***IAF Carries Out Vayu Shakti Exercise at Pokhran***

- The Indian Air Force today carried out an exercise in Pokhran, Rajasthan, involving around 140 fighter jets and attack helicopters.
- In the exercise, the IAF showcased firepower capability of indigenously-developed platforms like Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter and efficacy of Akash surface-to-air missile and Astra air-to-air missile.
- Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat, defence attaches of several countries and top officials of defence ministry also witnessed the exercise.

### ***President Kovind launches Digital Kisan Platform in 4th Agri Leadership Summit***

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched Digital Kisan Platform in the Fourth Agri Leadership Summit, organised by the Haryana government at Gannaur in Sonipat district today.
- The President visited the Agri exhibition in the International Horticulture Market and later honoured nine farmers with Krishi Rattan Pursakar and also conferred Kisan Rattan Pursakaar on Vice Chancellor K P Singh for Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar. The President will address the participants of the Summit.

### ***New mobile app launched for beneficiaries of PMAY (U) mission***

- Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri on February 14, 2019 launched the PMAY (U) mobile application in New Delhi.

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- A one-minute film showcasing the impact of PMAY (U) in the lives of beneficiaries was also released on the occasion. Speaking during the launch, the Minister emphasised that the mission intends to create a closer interface with its beneficiaries.
- The mobile application has been developed to bring beneficiaries directly in contact with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) mission.

### *UAE's Tabreed to build India's first district cooling system in Amaravati*

- A UAE-based international cooling provider has entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh government to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in the state's new capital Amaravati.
- The agreement between the National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed) and Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) is for a contracted cooling capacity of 20,000 refrigeration tonnes and this will be the company's first plant outside its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market, a statement released by the firm said.

### *Vande Bharat Express: PM Modi launches India's first semi-high speed train*

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2019 flagged off India's first Semi High Speed Train, 'Vande Bharat Express' on New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route from the New Delhi Railway Station.
- With maximum speed of 160 kmph, Vande Bharat Express or Train-18 offers travel classes like Shatabdi Train but with better facilities with a totally new travel experience to passengers.

### *Inland Waterways Authority of India launches new portal 'LADIS'*

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on February 15, 2019 launched a new portal called 'LADIS' – Least Available Depth Information System in New Delhi to ensure optimum use of national waterways.
- The portal will ensure that the real-time data on least available depths (LADs) is disseminated for ship and barge and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on the national waterways in a more planned way.
- The LADIS portal is hosted at on IWAI's website and has been built in house by the IWAI.

### *India liberalises e-visa regime, makes it more tourist friendly*

- The Union Tourism Ministry recently made a series of amendments in India's e-visa regime, liberalising it further and making it more tourist friendly. The e-tourist Visa, which was introduced in September 2014 with 46 countries has now been made applicable for 166 countries.
- The existing restriction of allowing foreigner for a maximum of three times has also been removed.
- Further, e-visa will be valid for entry through 2 two more designated airports such as Bhubaneswar and Port Blair, raising the total number of such airports to 28.

### *NITI Aayog, SCISP agree to provide continuing momentum to India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership*

- NITI Aayog and Saudi Centre for International Strategic Partnerships (SCISP) have agreed to provide continuing momentum to the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership.
- A high-level delegation, led by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, held extensive discussions with SCISP in Riyadh. Talks were also held with senior representatives from 12 Saudi ministries during the two-day visit which concluded yesterday.

### *India, Argentina exchange 10 MoUs and agreements*

- India and Argentina exchanged 10 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and agreements during the Argentine President Mauricio Macri's ongoing three-day visit to India from February 17 to 19.

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- **Six MoUs were exchanged between the two sides including an MoU on Defence Cooperation.** Furthermore, an MoU was signed on tourism, while another was exchanged on Collaboration and Cooperation between Prasar Bharati India and the Federal System of Media and Public Contents Argentina.

### List of MoUs signed between India and Argentina

1. MoU between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of the Argentine Republic on Defence Cooperation
2. MoU between Republic of India and Republic of Argentina for cooperation in the field of Tourism
3. MOU on Cooperation and Collaboration between Prasar Bharti, India and the Federal System of Media and Public Contents, Argentina
4. MoU in pharmaceuticals between Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), GoI, and National Administration of Drugs, Food and Medical Technology, Argentina
5. MoU on Antarctic Co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic and the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India
6. Work Plan on Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Production and Labour of the Argentine Republic within the MoU signed in 2010.
7. Work Plan for the year 2019-21 between Indian Council of Agriculture Research Republic of India and the State Secretary of Agro industry of the Ministry of Production and Labour of the Argentine Republic within the MoU signed in 2006.
8. Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Information & Communications Technology and Electronics between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Government Secretary of Modernization of the Republic of Argentina
9. MOU between Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP), India, and CNEA, the Secretariat of Energy, Argentina
10. Agreement for the establishment of India-Argentina Centre of Excellence for Information and Technology

### India, Morocco sign four MoUs

- **India and Morocco on Monday signed four MoUs following the delegation-level talks** between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita in Rabat.
- Briefing media after the meeting, Mrs Swaraj said, **the MoUs include setting up of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Cooperation in Housing and Human Settlement, Reciprocal facilitation of procedures for issue of Business Visa and Cooperation in Youth Matters.**
- In a series of tweets, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, **both countries agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism to develop a comprehensive approach to combat the menace, including cross- border terrorism, terrorist financing and recruitment of terrorists.**
- He said, Mrs Swaraj and her Moroccan counterpart discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in a number of areas, including defence and security, counter-terrorism and trade and investment.

### Government to launch 3 initiatives centering women's safety

- **Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry will on Tuesday launch three initiatives, including safety tool "Panic Button" and DNA analysis facilities,** said an official on Monday. The initiatives will be jointly launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi.
- **The Panic Button, which was conceived in 2015, will be launched across 14 states at a cost of Rs 321.69 crore made available from the Nirbhaya Fund,** said an official statement. This emergency response system was soft-



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launched in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland recently.

- **Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM)**, a web portal developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), will also be launched at Tuesday's event which will help online track deployment of assets and infrastructure created under the Safe City projects.
- **The DNA analysis centres will have facilities like refrigeration of samples**, automated DNA extractor and sequencer, centrifuges and genetic analysers, among others. A sum of Rs 78.86 crore has been sanctioned for this initiative.

### ***Jindal Stainless sets up first dedicated facility for Railways in Chennai***

- **Jindal Stainless**, a subsidiary of JSL Lifestyle Ltd, **commissioned its first dedicated facility for the railways in Chennai Monday and expects a revenue of Rs 300 crore.**
- Demonstrating its robust engagement with the Indian Railways, Jindal Stainless, through its subsidiary JSL Lifestyle Ltd, commissioned its first dedicated facility for Railways in Chennai, the company said in a statement here.
- **The company is expecting an initial revenue of nearly Rs 100 crore annually from this facility and the revenue is expected to touch nearly Rs 300 crore annually once the enhanced capacity reaches 7,200 tonne**, it said.

### ***Gujarat Govt comes up with a special board for Transgenders to provide social security***

- **The Gujarat government has formed a special board for the transgender community, an official release said Monday. The 'Transgender Welfare Board' has been constituted by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide social security to the community**, it said.
- The new board will have the state social justice and empowerment minister as its chairman. **It will have 16 other members, including two transgender-women representatives, two male transgenders, two from the eunuch community and two representatives of NGOs. The rest of the members will be government officials.**

### ***Rajnath Singh launches pan-India number 112 for women safety***

- **Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi today launched a range of citizen safety initiatives in New Delhi.**
- **It includes the Emergency Response Support System, ERSS, for women safety in 16 states and Union territories.**
- **The states include Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir. The service has already been launched in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland.**
- **Persons in distress can dial a pan-India number: 112. Under this system, all the states have to set up a dedicated Emergency Response Centre, ERC.**

### ***Bill to make Sanskrit second official language of HP passed***

- **The House on Saturday passed the Himachal Pradesh Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2019, paving the way for making Sanskrit the second official language of the state.**
- The Bill was tabled in the House on February 14 by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Once given assent by the Governor, it will amend the Himachal Pradesh Official language Act, 1975.

### ***Two Day One Health India Conference Inaugurated in New Delhi***

- **Two day long One Health India Conference, 2019 was today inaugurated in New Delhi.**
- It was inaugurated by Dr Harsha Vardhan.
- The conference plans to launch India's new One Health Initiative - an intersectoral approach to tackling the

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most urgent health threats in India as well as in low and middle income countries across South and South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***PM flags off 1st ever diesel to electric converted locomotive twin engine at Varanasi***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2019 **flagged off the first ever diesel to electric converted locomotive twin engine of ten thousand Horse Power at DLW Varanasi.**
- **He also inspected an exhibition on locomotives at DLW campus.** Such locomotives will be more economical and will increase the speed of goods trains.

### ***All Indian Cine Workers Association announces total ban on Pakistani artists***

- **The All Indian Cine Workers Association has announced a total ban on all the Pakistani artists working in the film industry.**
- In a statement, the Association's General Secretary Ronak Jain said that strong action will be taken against the organisation that continues to work with Pakistani artists.

### ***CCEA approves 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' Scheme for farmers' welfare***

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on February 19, 2019 **approved the launch of 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers.**
- The Central Government will **provide a total financial support of Rs 34,422 crore for the scheme.**

### ***The Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan scheme consists of three components:***

- Component-A: 10,000 MW of Decentralised Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants.
- Component-B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.
- Component-C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

### ***Kerala Police Introduces India's First RoboCop***

- **KP-Bot is India's first humanoid Police robot that will work at the Kerala Police Headquarters in the state capital. It has been given the Sub Inspector (SI) rank.**
- Chief Minister Vijayan welcomed the robot into the service at the police headquarters with an honorary salute Tuesday and the 'RoboCop' responded with a perfect salute.
- **Kerala Police has become the first police department in the country to use a robot for police work.**

### ***Cabinet approves National Policy on Electronics 2019; aims to make India global hub in ESDM Sector***

- The Union Cabinet on February 19, 2019 **approved the National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019), proposed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- The 2019 Policy on Electronics **proposes to propel the growth of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) industry in the country.** It replaces the National Policy of Electronics 2012 (NPE 2012).

### ***Cabinet approves setting up of a company under Department of Space***

- The Union Cabinet on February 19, 2019 approved the **setting up of a new company under Department of Space (DoS) to commercially exploit the research and development work carried out by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Centers and constituent units of DOS.**
- The new company shall take license from DoS/ISRO and provide sub-license to industries for small satellite technology transfer.

### ***Operation Digital Board launched to provide better digital education***

- **Government launched Operation Digital Board on the lines of Operation Blackboard to provide better digital education in schools.**

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- Under the initiative, **7 lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and 2 lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be equipped with digital boards in the next three years.**
- It will improve the quality of education and offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning.
- It will convert the monologue classrooms into interactive ones.

### ***Cabinet approves Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Integrated Development of Theme-based Tourist Circuits***

- The Union Cabinet approved continuation of **the Swadesh Darshan Scheme during 14th Finance Commission period and beyond.**
- **It approved Rs 2055.96 crores for 60 on-going projects completing in December 2019.**
- Funding of Rs. 324.09 crore was approved for 6 projects for which substantial funds have been released and projects will be completed in September 2020.

### ***Ordnance Factory Board gets bulk production clearance for 'Dhanush' Artillery Gun***

- Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) **received the bulk production clearance (BPC) from the Indian Army and the Ministry of Defence on February 18, 2018 for production of 114 'Dhanush', the first ever indigenous 155mm x 45 calibre artillery gun.**
- The weapon is the first long rang artillery gun to be produced in India and it is a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative.

### ***Asia's premier Air show 'Aero-India' began in Bengaluru***

- **The 12th edition of Asia's premier Air show 'Aero India-2019' began at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru.**
- 61 aircraft, including HAL's indigenous products LCA Tejas are all set to roar in the city skies.

### ***Kerala hosted Attukal Pongala, world's largest religious congregation of women***

- **In Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram hosted the Attakal Ponkala festival which is considered as one of the world's largest religious gathering of women on a single day.**
- Lakhs of women prepared 'Pongala'- the offering in makeshift brick stoves to worship the presiding deity of Attakal Bhagavathy temple.

### ***Prime Minister inaugurates Virtual Experiential Museum at Varanasi***

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **the newly established Virtual Experiential Museum (VEM) in a Centrally Protected Monument under Archeological Survey of India, Man – Mahal, situated on the bank of the Ganges at Varanasi.**
- Virtual Experiential Museum has been established by the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) working under the Ministry of Culture.

### ***Cabinet approves creation of post of Secretary and Joint Secretary in the newly created Department of Fisheries***

- The Union Cabinet approved creation of **one post of Secretary in the level 17 (Rs.2,25,000 fixed per month) and one post of Joint Secretary in the level 14 (Rs.144200-218200 per month) in the newly created Department of Fisheries on permanent basis.**
- The positions will ensure smooth functioning and fulfil the mandate of the newly created Department.

### ***Cabinet approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin beyond March 2019***

- The Union Cabinet approved the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) beyond March 2019 (PMAY-G) Phase-II.**
- **The total target under PMAY-G Phase-II is construction of 1.95 crore houses by 2022.**

### ***Cabinet approves Implementation of National Rural Economic Transformation Project under DAY-NRLM***

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- The Union Cabinet approved the Implementation of an Externally Aided Project namely **“National Rural Economic Transformation Project” (NRETP) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) through loan assistance from World Bank.**
- The technical assistance provided by NRETP will enhance the livelihoods promotion and access to finance and scale-up initiatives on digital finance and livelihood interventions.

### ***Cabinet approves modifications in National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools***

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the revision of **norms under ‘Mid Day Meal Scheme’ with an outlay of Rs 12,054 Crore for 2019-20 in addition to the subsidy of about Rs 8000 crore borne by Department of Food & Public Distribution.**
- The Cooking cost is enhanced to Rs. 4.35 and Rs. 6.51 per child per school day, thus Cooking cost is enhanced by Rs 361 crore.

### ***Cabinet approves Phase-II of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme***

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved **the Phase-II of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme for achieving cumulative capacity of 40,000 MW from Rooftop Solar (RTS) Projects by the year 2022.**
- The programme will be implemented with **total central financial support of Rs.11,814 crore.**

### ***Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman’s India visit***

- The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, **Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, visited India on February 19-20, 2019.**
- This first ever visit by his Royal Highness followed the official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2016 at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud; the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques (Head of State & Government).

### **List of MoUs/Agreements signed**

- MoU on investing in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Tourism between the Union Ministry of Tourism, and the Saudi Commission for tourism and national heritage of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- MoU for Cooperation in the field of housing
- Framework Cooperation Program between Invest India and Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) on enhancing bilateral investment relations
- MoU for Cooperation on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and Saudi Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) for exchange of audio visual programme
- Another agreement was signed by Saudi Arabia to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched by Prime Minister Modi

### ***India’s fighter jet ‘LCA Tejas’ now fully combat-ready; gets Final Operational Clearance***

- Landmark day for India’s defence sector, **India’s first self-made fighter jet, Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK I (LCA Tejas) on February 20, 2019 received the Final Operational Clearance for induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a fully-weaponised fighter jet.**
- The formal declaration of Final Operational Clearance (FOC) of the aircraft was made by Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Secretary of Defence (R&D).

### ***MHA announces to conduct ‘All India Citizens Survey of Police Services’ to test public perception of police***

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on February 21, 2019 **announced to conduct a pan-India survey**



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called 'All India Citizens Survey of Police Services' to gauge public perception of police.

- The survey will be conducted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development with the help of the National Council of Applied Economic Research in a period of nine months.

### ***MHA approves entitlement of air travel to all personnel of CAPFs***

- In a significant decision, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved the entitlement of air travel on Delhi-Srinagar, Srinagar-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Jammu sectors to all the personnel of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPFs).
- The decision will immediately benefit approximately 7,80,000 personnel of the CAPFs in the ranks of Constable, Head Constable and ASI who were otherwise not eligible earlier.
- This includes journey on duty and journey on leave, i.e; while going on leave from Jammu and Kashmir to home and return.

### ***Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 150 Sri Lankan students***

- Sri Lanka's 150 students from all 25 districts were awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi scholarships for study in India.
- India recently opened up new trilingual school in Polonnaruwa and Saraswathy College in Kandy.

### ***Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated VIVID 2019***

- The 'VIVID-Vision Insight and Voices as India goes Digital'- the District Informatics Officer (DIO) meet was inaugurated by National Informatics Centre (NIC) on February 21, 2019.
- VIVID started in 2017, as an annual event, with the objective to empower NIC officials in the field of technology.

### ***Union Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurates 1st Mega Food Park of Tripura***

- Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala.
- ***This is the first Mega Food Park in the state of Tripura.***
- The Mega Food Park has been set up in 50 acre of land at the cost of Rs. 87.45 crore.

### ***Environment Ministry, University of British Columbia sign MoU on forestry science***

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for next 10 years in New Delhi.
- The MoU will help in exchange of students, researchers and faculty, developing research projects, livelihood opportunities and augment income of the forest based communities.

### ***President promulgates four Ordinances including Ordinance banning Triple Talaq; Unregulated Deposit Schemes***

President Ram Nath Kovind on February 21, 2019 promulgated the four ordinances, namely:

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance, 2019
- The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019
- The Companies (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019
- The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Ordinance, 2019

### ***Union Home Minister inaugurates "Waste to Wonder" Park in South Delhi***

- The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the "Waste to Wonder" Park under the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).
- The main attractions of the "Seven Wonders Park" are the different sized tall replicas of the Taj Mahal (20 ft.), the Great Pyramid of Giza (18 ft.), the Eiffel Tower (60 ft.), the Leaning Tower of Pisa (25ft.), Rio de

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Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue (25 ft.), Rome's Colosseum (15 ft.), and New York's Statute of Liberty (30 ft.).

### ***BEL signs Teaming Agreement with Hughes India for Helicopter SATCOM Solutions***

- The Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hughes India entered into a Teaming Agreement for design, development, supply, installation, integration and commissioning of **Satellite Communication solutions for helicopters under the Ministry of Defence at Aero India 2019, Bengaluru.**
- The Teaming Agreement will enable MoD's strategic users to get enabled with helicopter-based Satellite Communication links for real-time and assured communications using ISRO's Ku band satellites.

### ***NABH revamps Entry-Level Certification process for Hospitals***

- The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations (NABH) revamped Entry-Level Certification Process to make it simpler, digital, faster and user-friendly.
- The revised process is driven through a new portal called **HOPE - Healthcare Organizations' Platform for Entry-Level-Certification** with a focus to promote quality by enrolling a wide range of hospitals across the country including **Healthcare Organizations (HCOs) and Small Healthcare Organizations (SHCOs).**
- The aim is to create a momentum for HCOs and SHCOs that want to avail benefits associated with **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and **Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** by getting themselves NABH certified.

### ***Vice President inaugurates Nellore FM Station***

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Nellore All India Radio FM Station in Andhra Pradesh and asserted that radio broadcasting has made a comeback in the era of continuous bombardment of visual content.
- Apart from broadcasting entertainment programmes in Telugu, the FM station would provide important information to farmers and other sections.

### ***Vice President inaugurates Krishnapatnam port-Obulavaripalle rail line; initiates various railway projects***

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu initiated a series of railway projects including the inauguration of the much-awaited new railway line between Venkatachalem -Vellikallu and Obulavaripalle - Cherlopalli (part of Krishnapatnam - Obulavaraipalle rail line project).
- He laid the foundation stones for redevelopment of Nellore railway station and passenger amenities at all railway stations from Krishnapatnam to Rapuru station.
- The other passenger oriented initiatives that were launched include **Nellore-Chennai Central MEMU service** and **high speed Wi-Fi** at Nellore, Guntur and Renigunta railway stations.

### ***President unveils statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai***

- President Ram Nath Kovind on February 21, 2019 unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in Chennai.
- The Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, founded by Mahatma Gandhi, completed 100 years. It has worked for the promotion of Hindi in the southern states.
- By putting up a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the Sabha paid respects to the Father of the Nation in his 150th year.

### ***Jitendra Singh addresses launch of 'Shisht Bharat Campaign'***

- The Union Minister of State of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh addressed the launch of 'Shisht Bharat Abhiyan' organised by an NGO.

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- The theme of the event was to discuss the importance of moral science education in schools and colleges and to include **Moral Science as a subject in the educational curriculum.**

### ***India decides to stop its share of river waters which flow into Pakistan***

- **Union Minister for Water Resources, Nitin Gadkari announced that the Government has decided to stop the share of river waters which flow into Pakistan.**
- According to the Indus Waters Treaty, subject to certain conditions, India has the right to use water flowing in eastern rivers, namely, **the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej while Pakistan controls the right to use water in western rivers, namely, the Indus, the Jhelum and the Chenab.**

### ***President approves amendments to Indian Stamp Act, 1899 for rationalisation of stamp duty***

- **President gave his assent to the Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 which were introduced as part of the Finance Act, 2019.** The Finance Bill 2019 was passed by both the Houses of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, on February 12, 2019 and February 13, 2019 respectively.
- **The amendments propose to create the legal and institutional mechanism to enable states to collect stamp duty on securities market instruments at one place by one agency on one instrument.**

### ***In a first, India invited as 'Guest of Honour' to OIC meet, Sushma Swaraj to attend***

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will attend the inaugural meeting of the foreign ministers' conclave of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),** a powerful grouping of Muslim majority nations, as India has been invited to attend the plenary in Abu Dhabi.
- **Swaraj will attend the plenary in Abu Dhabi next month. This is the first time that India has been invited to an OIC meeting as a guest of honour.**

### ***Over 12 lakh people treated for free under Ayushman Bharat; 10000 Wellness Centres operational***

- **Indu Bhushan, the CEO of Ayushman Bharat, on February 22, 2019 announced that over 12 lakh people received free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY),** while around two crore beneficiary e-cards have been issued since the launch of mission in September 2018.
- **The announcement was made during the 25th edition of Medical Fair India (MFI) 2019 held in Delhi, organised by Messe Dusseldorf India, a fully owned subsidiary of Messe Düsseldorf GmbH.**

### ***Delhi government launches 'Connect Delhi' for Najafgarh***

- **The Delhi government on Friday launched the first phase of the "Connect Delhi" initiative covering the Najafgarh area of the national capital.**
- **"Connect Delhi" is an initiative to rationalise the bus and feeder services in the city with a vision that all residential areas and villages of Delhi are connected with a reliable public transport facility within 500m of walking distance, at a frequency of 15 minutes.**
- **Speaking to the media, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said whenever there was a discussion about buses, it was mostly about the numbers.**

### ***Kamal Nath Government Launches Farm Loan Waiver Scheme in Madhya Pradesh***

- **Kamal Nath government on Friday started doling out funds by launching the ambitious project formally from Ratlam district in Madhya Pradesh.**
- **In the first phase of loan waiver, 25.49 lakh farmers would receive the waived off loan amounts in their accounts while starting off the waiver. Nath transferred over Rs 134 crore into the bank accounts of 40,000 plus farmers in Ratlam. He also laid foundation of over Rs 197 crore worth developmental works in the district.**
- **Under the Jai Kisan loan waiver scheme, farmers who had unpaid farm loans as on March 31, 2018 would be**

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covered and those who had paid their dues by December 12, 2018 would also benefit through proportionate amount to be transferred in their accounts.

### ***PM Modi dedicates National War Memorial to the nation***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019 **dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation in a solemn ceremonial function in New Delhi.**
- The National War Memorial, located near the India Gate in New Delhi, is a fitting tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives defending the nation, post-independence.
- **The Memorial commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions, and Counter Insurgency Operations.**

### ***The layout of the National War Memorial comprises four concentric circles, namely:***

- Amar Chakra or Circle of Immortality
- Veerta Chakra or Circle of Bravery
- Tyag Chakra or Circle of Sacrifice
- Rakshak Chakra or Circle of Protection

### ***Aero India 2019 culminates; Drone Olympics held***

- **The 12th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition, Aero India 2019 culminated on February 24, 2019 at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru.**
- For the first time, *the 2019 edition of Aero India combined the defence and civil aviation segments into a holistic event with the co-involvement of the defence and civil aviation ministries. The 12th edition of Aero India intended to be a "Runway to a billion opportunities" and put India on the Global map.*
- **The theme of 2019 Aero India exhibition is 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities' that aims to bolster business in the international aviation sector and provide a platform to showcase India's aeronautical advancements.**

### ***Prime Minister Modi to confer National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 Awards***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will confer the **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 awards to the winners on February 27, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan.**
- **Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore had launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 on January 12, 2019** in order to encourage the youth in the age group of 18-25 years to engage with public issues and understand the common man's point of view.
- **The themes of the festival were "Be the Voice of New India" and "Find solutions and contribute to policy".**

### ***Union Home Minister to inaugurate various residential and office buildings of CAPFs, CPOs and Delhi Police***

- The Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 29 infrastructure projects (both residential and non-residential buildings) of Central Armed Police Forces (BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, NDRF & SSB).**
- The projects of the Delhi Police and the Central Police Organizations (Land Ports Authority of India and Central Forensic Science Laboratories) will also be inaugurated on the same occasion.
- **These projects have been constructed at various locations across the Country at a total cost of Rs.1,714.97 crore.**

### ***Government launches Rail Drishti Dashboard to keep people informed about ongoing Railway works***

- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti Dashboard in New Delhi to keep people informed about the work going on in the Railways across the country.**
- The Ministry of Railways will get suggestions and comments through the platform and will plan on future



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actions.

- People will get useful information from Rail Drishti through Railway WiFi facilities that are continuously expanding in the country.

### ***Government increases Risk & Hardship allowance for CAPF personnel deployed in J&K***

- Union Home Ministry announced the hike in Risk and Hardship allowance for Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed in Left Wing Extremism states and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Troops up to the rank of Inspector will now get Rs 17,300 against the existing Rs 9,700, while the officers will get Rs 25,000 against the existing Rs 17,300 per month.

### ***Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey launches National Programme to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis***

- Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched 'National Action Plan - Viral Hepatitis', a national programme aimed at eliminating viral hepatitis, recognized as an important public health problem.
- The programme was launched in Mumbai in presence of Amitabh Bachchan, the goodwill ambassador for Hepatitis, WHO South-East Asia Region.

### ***Assam launches PRANAM commission to protect parents of state government employees***

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on February 26, 2019 launched the PRANAM Commission, which is a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for the protection of parents of state government employees.
- The Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Bill, stated to be the first-of-its-kind bill in the country, aims to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need.
- The PRANAM Bill makes it mandatory for the state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income.
- Under the bill's provisions, if the PRANAM Commission gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee are being ignored, then 10 or 15 per cent of the employee's salary will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or differently-abled siblings.

### **Composition of PRANAM Commission**

- Chief Commissioner: V B Pyarelal
- Commissioners: Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma and Jugabala Buragohain

### ***Exercise Sampriti 2019: India-Bangladesh joint military exercise to be held from March 2***

- India and Bangladesh will be conducting a joint military exercise, 'Exercise Sampriti 2019' at Tangail, Bangladesh from March 2 to March 15, 2019.
- This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- As part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh defence cooperation, Exercise Sampriti is an important bilateral endeavor between India and Bangladesh.
- The exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies.

### ***ISRO to launch electronic intelligence satellite 'Emisat'***

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would be launching an electronic intelligence satellite Emisat for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in March 2019.
- In the special mission, ISRO would also be launching 28 third-party satellites and demonstrate its new technologies like three different orbits with a new variant of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.

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- The exact date of the mission has not been specified yet.
- **ISRO would be using a PSLV rocket with four strap-on motors. For the first time, it will be trying to orbit the rocket at three different altitudes.**

### ***National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar a part of AIIMS Delhi; AIIMS Rewari to come up as 22nd AIIMS in country***

- **The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar, Haryana, recently dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is an integral part of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.**
- This tertiary healthcare institute dedicated for cancer care is the second campus of the AIIMS Delhi only.
- **Built at a cost of Rs. 2035 crores, NCI is the largest investment by the Government in a single hospital project and holds the unique distinction of being one of the mega healthcare projects to be completed in a record time of 3 years.**

### ***NDMA to conduct national workshop on heat wave risk reduction***

- **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is conducting a two-day national workshop on heat wave risk reduction on February 27-28, 2019.**
- The workshop, to be held at Nagpur, has been organised in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government.

### ***Government launches '2nd Edition of ISL Dictionary' for hearing impaired persons***

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot on February 27, 2019 launched the '2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary'.
- The dictionary has been prepared by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The second edition of dictionary includes total 6000 words. The first edition of the dictionary was launched on March 23, 2018 with 3000 words.
- **The Dictionary includes total 6000 words under the categories of academic, legal, medical, technical and everyday terms.**

### ***National Institutes of Design inaugurated at Bhopal and Jorhat***

- **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi.**
- Both institutes are autonomous institutions under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Four new NIDs have been set up in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) with a total outlay of Rs. 434 crore.

### ***Government brings 42 non-scheduled cancer drugs under price control***

- **The Union Government announced on February 27, 2019 that it has brought 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control, capping trade margin at 30 per cent, which would reduce their retail prices by up to 85 per cent.**
- This was made possible after the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) invoked extraordinary powers in public interest, under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 to bring 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control through trade margin rationalisation.
- **The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DOP) stated in a notification that invoking paragraph 19 of DPCO, 2013 places a cap on trade margin of 30 per cent and directs the manufacturers to fix their retail price based on the price at first point of sale of the product of the non-scheduled formulations containing any of the 42 drugs.**

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- According to NPPA's available data, the MRP for 105 brands will be reduced up to 85 per cent resulting in a minimum saving of Rs 105 crore for the consumers.

### **Indian Railways launches new facility; Rail passengers can now view reservation chart, vacant berths online**

- Union Minister of Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal on February 27, 2019 launched a new facility for Public Viewing of Train Charts and Vacant Berths to enhance travel experience and bring greater transparency for Indian Railway passengers.
- With this, rail passengers can view the information about reservation chart and vacant berths through IRCTC website.

### **SHREYAS: Union HRD Ministry launches Scheme to provide apprenticeship opportunities to graduates**

- The Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar on February 27, 2019 launched the 'Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills' (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship or training opportunities to fresh graduates of 2019.
- Launched primarily to skill non-technical students of BA, BSc. BCom courses, the SHREYAS programme intends to introduce BA, BSc, and BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.
- These courses will be available to the students from Academic year April-May 2019.

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### **Tribal Affairs Minister launched MSP for Minor Forest Products:**

- The Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched the revised MSP for MFP for the welfare of Tribals at the National Workshop organized by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a centrally-sponsored scheme aimed to ensure fair and remunerative price to MFP gatherers.
- The scheme is officially known as 'Mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain for MFP' was planned as a social safety initiative for MFP gatherers.

### **Karnataka to launch water conservation scheme today:**

- A water conservation scheme 'Jal Amrutha' was launched by Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, in Bengaluru. A function was organized by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department at Dr. B R Ambedkar Bhavan in Bengaluru. The state government declared 2019 as the Year of Water.

### **Google launches 'Bolo' to tutor children to read Hindi, English:**

- Google unveiled speech-based 'Bolo' app aimed at rural children, to teach them how to read in English and Hindi. The app is aimed at bridging learning gap in education and is available on Google play store in India. The app, which uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology and features an animated character 'Diya'. It is a freeto- use app first available in India. It is designed to be work even in offline.

### **Irani launches scheme for development of knitwear sector:**

- Union Minister Smriti Irani Thursday launched a scheme for development of knitting and knitwear sector under PowerTex India, which will be in operation upto March 31, 2020. The Ministry has approved combined SFC (Standing Finance Component) of PowerTex India Scheme and Knitwear Scheme with an outlay of Rs 487.07 crore.

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### **Government brings transport scheme to boost agriculture exports; to reimburse freight cost through DBT:**

- The government introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products with a view to boosting export of farm commodities to certain countries in Europe and North America.
- Under the Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme, the government would reimburse a certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce. The scheme covers freight and marketing assistance for export by air as well as by sea.

### **Aviva Life Insurance launches Wings to empower women at the workplace:**

- Aviva Life Insurance has announced the launch of 'Wings', a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce, said a company statement issued today. The program is an initiative of the SHE division of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.
- SHE was conceptualised in 2016 by Aviva India's Women Network, an active community of socially enabled women who take up the charge of addressing causes in the interest of women empowerment. The new initiative has been aimed to empower the women in Aviva to fulfil their professional and personal goals.
- An effective practice of mentoring at the workplace helps women ideate about what they will become, giving them a clearer picture of their future and their growth prospects.

### **Cabinet approves 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana' for financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects:**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran (JI-VAN) Yojana' for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects.
- The scheme aims to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector and support the industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.
- The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with the total financial outlay of Rs 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24.

### **Tripura government launched Notun Disha initiative:**

- The government of Tripura announced 'Notun Disha' (New Direction) for assessing the academic level of students in classes III-VIII and then improving their current level. It was launched by state Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath.
- The Notun Disha is a one-month project to provide training to teachers. Training will be provided by NGOs and educational institutions to 800 teachers. In that initiative the state government has decided to distribute laptops to 800 school teachers to assess the level of students' development in different disciplines.

### **'i-help' initiative launched in Assam:**

- The 'i-help' initiative to promote digital electoral literacy in Assam launched in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. It is a joint initiative of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Common Service Centres (CSC) in Assam

### **Gram Samridhi Yojana: New scheme to help unorganised food processing sector:**

- India's food processing ministry is working on a new scheme — Gram Samridhi Yojana — to bolster the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas, an official said. About 66% of unorganised food processing units are in rural areas and of these, 80% were family run.



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- The Rs 3,000 crore scheme funded by the World Bank and the centre will help cottage industry, farmer producers' organisation and individual food processors to increase capacity, upgrade technology besides skill improvement, entrepreneurship development and strengthening the farm-to-market supply chain.

### **IRCTC launches its own payment aggregator system called IRCTC iPay:**

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), has launched its own payment aggregator system called "IRCTC iPay". With the launch of IRCTC iPay, passengers will not need any third-party platforms as all payment options like credit card, debit card, UPI – Unified Payment Interface, International Card are integrated into the platform. The back-end support will be provided by Delhi based MMAD communications, which is IRCTC's technology partner.

### **Mobile app developed by IIPHG, PHFI to combat exam pressure:**

- A mobile application to cope with exam related stress and anxiety for students and their parents has been developed by Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, Gujarat, (IIPHG) in collaboration with National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat. The mobile application is called 'Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior.'

### **Khattar announces scheme for farmers, families having income less than Rs 15k per month:**

- Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi' scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Chandigarh. It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas up to 5 acres and the families with an income of less than Rs. 15,000 per month. The scheme would provide a sum of Rs. 6,000 yearly.

### **Bharat Electronics launches SWAGAT - Automatic Fare Collection Gating System:**

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence public sector undertaking, presented SWAGAT - the Automatic Fare Collection Gating System.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the system on Monday as part of the inaugural of Phase I of the Ahmedabad Metro.
- SWAGAT is an initiative steered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with BEL and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) with the support of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Bank of India (SBI).

### **CBSE launches new Shiksha Vani' app to upload podcast on Class 10, 12 exam evaluation process:**

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a new podcast app 'Shiksha Vani' to upload podcast on Class 10, 12 exam evaluation process. This app will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner. Its first episode, on the evaluation process of Class 10 and 12 board examinations, has been released on the platform.
- This episode is helpful for all the students, as when the examinations proceed, the episode helps students understand how their completed papers will be evaluated.

### **Himachal Pradesh: EC officials reach world's highest polling station:**

- Tashigang, a small Himachal Pradesh village at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is now the highest polling station in the world. Located around 29 km from the India-China border, this polling station covers two villages of Tashigang and Gete. As per the revised electoral rolls, the two villages have 48 voters, of which 30 are men and 18 women.

### **MP's Cong govt issues ordinance to give 27 pc quota to OBCs:**

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- The Madhya Pradesh government Saturday issued an ordinance raising reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 27 per cent from the present 14 per cent.

### **Assam government launched “Rice Knowledge Park” under APART:**

- Rice Knowledge Bank-Assam is an agriculture webportal. It is dedicated to magnifying knowledge on rice production technologies and techniques, best production practices and state agriculture facts. It was launched under the World Bank funded project – Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).
- This portal is the efforts of Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society (ARIAS), Assam Agricultural University (AAU) with technical assistance from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

### **NTPC to set up 100 MW floating solar power project in T'gana:**

- State-owned NTPC Limited is setting up a 100 mw Floating Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Solar Project at Ramagundam in Telangana.

### **CM Rawat lays foundation stone for Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project:**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat laid the foundation stone for the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project which is considered to be a tourist novelty.
- The Rs 300-crore ropeway project is expected to be completed in three years.

### **Arecanut gets its first GI tag for ‘Sirsi Supari’:**

- Arecanut (also known as supari or betel nut) is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ‘Sirsi Supari’ grown in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka has received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.
- The arecanut has unique features like a round and flattened coin shape, particular texture, taste and has a hard seed. These features are not seen in arecanut grown in any other regions.
- It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks in Karnataka.

### **Ancient tribal language Gondi to be taught in tribal districts of MP:**

- In Madhya Pradesh, ancient tribal language Gondi will be taught in tribal districts. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has decided to include Gondi in the primary education curriculum of the state’s tribal-dominated districts.

### **Country’s first oil museum to come up in Guwahati**

- Assam, the state where oil was discovered and produced for the first time in the country more than a century ago, will have the first Oil Museum in the country.
- All major oil and gas PSUs of the country – ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and EIL are coming together for this project, which was launched by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The oil museum will be named after KD Malaviya, called the father of India’s hydrocarbon industry. The museum to come up at a cost of Rs 104 crore.

### **Govt planning to set up yarn bank:**

- The government is planning to set up a yarn bank in all powerloom centres and clusters, so that weavers could get their raw materials in enough quantity and at a reasonable price.
- This would also help weavers to plan their production program in advance. Each yarn bank would cost around Rs 2 crore.

### **Kerala’s jaggery gets GI tag:**

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- The Marayoor Jaggery, a traditional and homemade product manufactured at Marayoor, a place in Idukki district of Kerala, has bagged Geographical Indication tag.
- Marayur jaggery is known especially for its organic and traditional production using the sugar cane cultivated in the region. Jaggery is a dark brown sugar balls made from sugarcane and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process.

### **New railway zone for Andhra, to be headquartered in Visakhapatnam: Piyush Goyal**

- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced a new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh, that is the Southern Coast Railway and it will be headquartered in Visakhapatnam. It will be the 18th zone in the country.

### **India's first LGBTQ clinic and HIV treatment centre inaugurated in Mumbai:**

- The country's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for the for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community has been inaugurated in Mumbai. A patient gets tested at India's first holistic LGBTQ clinic and community-based HIV clinic at Humsafar Trust, Santacruz, Mumbai.
- The centre will give free counselling and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). ART is the use of HIV medicines to treat the infection, and is recommended for everyone who is infected with virus and delays the progression of the disease.

### **India's deepest shaft cave discovered in Meghalaya:**

- India's deepest shaft cave Krem Um Ladaw has been discovered in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district during the annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition'. The cave has a 105 m deep shaft entrance passage, Meghalaya Adventurers' Association General Secretary Brian Kharpran Daly said. This comes a year after the world's longest sandstone cave was discovered in Meghalaya.

### **Delhi Cabinet adds 1,000 low-floor AC electric buses to its public transport fleet:**

- The Delhi Cabinet on Saturday approved a proposal to add 1,000 low-floor AC electric buses to the national capital's public transport fleet, claiming to be the first city in the country having a large number of such vehicles.

### **Smriti Irani inaugurates "Titanwala Museum" in Rajasthan's Bagru:**

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani Monday inaugurated the 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru that showcases the Chhipa community's hand-block printing.

The museum is an example that art and culture are not dependent on the government for being nurtured or preserved. It will go a long way in taking the name of Bagru on the world map

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**Union Ministry of Home Affairs distributed special kits ‘ SAECKs ‘ to states and union territories to collect evidence on sexual assault cases:**

- Over 3,100 special kits for collecting blood and semen samples, besides other evidence, to carry out immediate investigations into sexual assault cases have been distributed among States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Home Affairs, officials said Sunday.
- The Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (SAECK) or 'rape investigation kits' are designed to carry out immediate medico-legal investigation and aid in furnishing evidence in sexual assault and rape cases.

**Around 5000 Konyak women dance to set a Guinness World Record at Mon, Nagaland:**

- The programme organized at Mon (Nagaland) during the Aoleang Monyu festival (usually held between 1st April to 3rd April every year) around 5000 Konyak Naga women in their traditional attire attempted to set a Guinness World Record for the ‘Largest Traditional Konyak Dance’.
- The festival is celebrated for the arrival of Spring and for a good upcoming harvest.
- The theme of the Aoleang Monyu festival aka Mini Hornbill festival was ‘Empowering women for cultural heritage’.
- Konyak Union in coordination with other organisations of the tribe, namely, Konyak Nyupuh Sheko Khong (KNSK) and Konyak Students’ Union (KSU) organized the event. The objective of the event was to preserve the cultural heritage of the region and the people and to promote tourism.

**India and the Netherlands agreed to improve the bilateral cooperation in various fields:**

- India was agreed to improve the bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands in various fields, including political, economic scientific and cultural cooperation during the Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi.

**20 states join pan-India single emergency helpline number '112':**

- Twenty states and Union territories have so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' on which immediate assistance can be sought by anyone in distress.
- The '112' helpline is an integration of police (100), fire (101) and women (1090) helpline numbers and the project is being implemented under the central government's Nirbhaya Fund.
- The single number for emergency services is similar to '911' in the United States.

**Terror funding, drug trade, fake currencies forced India to suspend LoC trade with Pak:**

- Infiltration of third-party goods, channeling funds and arms for terrorists, clandestine trade of drugs and pumping fake currencies were among some compelling reasons, which left India with no other option but to suspend the Line of Control (LoC) trade with Pakistan, said sources in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- "LoC trade across Chakkan-Da-Bagh and Salamabad was intended to be a confidence-building measure for the population living in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir and living across LoC in PoJK and J-K. However, third parties manipulated the trade and misused the facility for trading goods being produced from outside Jammu and Kashmir," said sources.

**Cabinet approved the funds for implementing 10% EWS Quota:**

- Recently, Rs. 4315.15 crores budget has been approved by Union Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi, to create over 2 lakhs additional seats in 158 central education institutions.



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- The additional seats were created over next two years to implement 10 per cent Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation.

### **Ministry of External Affairs sets up Indo-Pacific Wing:**

- The Indo-Pacific Wing is currently headed by joint secretary Vikram Doraiswami.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing is a big step by the government and it is expected to give thrust to the Indo-Pacific centred policymaking.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing integrates the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad.
- The Indo-Pacific diplomacy of India India has repeatedly placed ASEAN at the centre of its policy.
- Even the US has recently renamed its Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command as it seeks to give teeth to its Indo-Pacific policy.

### **NITI Aayog & Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) ensures success of the FAME II Scheme:**

- Under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme, the NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) have released a report titled 'India's Electric Mobility Transformation'
- 'Progress to Date and Future Opportunities'. The report is based on opportunities for the automobile sector and government.

### **India join hands with Japan and UAE to set up two projects in Africa:**

- India joined hands with Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to implement two projects in Africa as it seeks to extend its footprint on the continent as a counter to China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

### **First-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' inaugurated in Gurugram:**

- India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in Gurugram on Thursday, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
- Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan inaugurated the park in Vikas Sadan building complex

### **Election Commission invokes Article 324 to defer PM Modi biopic:**

- India's Electoral Commission has issued an order to ban display of any biopic or publicity material during Manual Code of Conduct, which could sub serve the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.

### **India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park Launched In Mumbai:**

- India's first exotic Bird Park 'Essel World Bird Park' was launched by EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd, the entertainment arm of the \$6-billion Essel Group in Mumbai.
- The Park is spread over 1.4 acres of land and surrounded by flora and fauna.
- It is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has 200 species of special plants and trees for the birds.

### **India and Sweden launches joint programme on solution for smart cities, clean tech:**

- India and Sweden inked a pact that will deal a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme is co- sponsored by Indian Department of Science and Technologies (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.
- Vinnova donate to Swedish participants upto 2,500,000 Swedish Krona (around Rs. 1.87 crore). From Indian side, provide upto 50% per project to the Indian partners.

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- Triple helix model of innovation that include participation of industry, academia and government is implemented in this project.

### **ICMR Launches Malaria Elimination Research Alliance:**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control in order to eliminate the disease from India by 2030.
- The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDCP) of India has also developed a comprehensive framework to achieve the target of "Malaria free India by 2030".

### **Bimal Verma again moves military court challenging appointment of Karambir Singh as Navy Chief:**

- Vice Admiral Bimal Verma on Tuesday once again moved a military tribunal challenging appointment of Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as the next chief of naval staff after the defence ministry did not respond to his statutory complaint.

### **Ladakhi war veteran dedicates 'Maitri' bridge to locals:**

- Naik Phunchok Angdus (Retd) on Monday dedicated a Cable Suspension Bridge named as 'Maitri', constructed by Fire and Fury Corps, to locals here on the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- This comes after civil administration directed the Army to build a bridge to help the locals of Choglamsar, Stok and Chuchot villages (largest villages of Ladakh Region) in their commute. The bridge was inaugurated by senior Ladakhi war veterans in the presence of Lt Gen YK Joshi, AVSM, VrC, SM, General Officer Commanding 'Fire and Fury Corps'.

### **COMCASA: First secure link between India, US navies set up:**

- India and the US have structured the first reliable communication link between the Indian Navy & US Central as well as Pacific Naval Commands under the COMCASA pact at New Delhi, India.
- The Indo-US military-information sharing pact, COMCASA was signed at the 2+2 bilateral summit on 6th September, 2018.
- By implementing the path-breaking agreement, COMCASA the US has initiated the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module GPS System in some of C-130 and C-17 transport aircraft.  
US has given assurance of not disclosing India's data with another country and without prior permission US couldn't access it.

### **"Sahulat", a mobile app launched to facilitate elderly voters in Jammu:**

- 'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders was launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, in Jammu
- District Election Officer Mohammad Aijaz Asad launched the Android-based application to reach out to the voters who are 90 years old or above

### **Vikram Nath appointed as first Chief Justice of new Andhra Pradesh High Court:**

- Justice Vikram Nath, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed on Wednesday as the first Chief Justice of the newly-constituted Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- The collegium of Supreme Court comprising of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi besides Judges S A Bobde and N V Ramana recommended the name of Justice Vikram Nath.
- The new Andhra Pradesh High court was established on January 1 this year following the division of a combined high court of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

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### **Miss India runner up Sana Dua to be election dept's brand ambassador in J-K:**

- Femina Miss India 2017 runner up Sana Dua will be the brand ambassador of Jammu and Kashmir election department for general polls, Chief Electoral Officer of the state Shailendra Kumar

### **MHA (the Union Ministry of Home Affairs) gives approval for renaming 'Durjanpur' in MP as 'Shivdham'**

- The Central Government has given its approval for the proposal of the Madhya Pradesh State Government, to change the name of a village in Madhya Pradesh from 'Durjanpur' to 'Shivdham'.
- Durjanpur is situated in Katni District of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Home Ministry's approval came after a no objection notice from the Geographical Survey of India (GSI), the Department of Post, the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

### **Ace paddler Sharath Kamal wins sportsperson of year award 2019**

- Sharath Kamal, Ace table tennis player was titled Sportsperson of the Year Award 2019 at the annual awards and scholarships function organised by the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA) and the India Cements in Chennai.
- Stephen Fleming, CSK (Chennai Super Kings) coach, Mike Hussey, and CSK CEO K S Viswanathan were present in the function.
- Ten up-and-coming sportspersons were also given scholarships to the tune of Rs 3 lakh.
- TNSJA Lifetime Achievement awardees: Vijay Amritraj (Indian tennis player), V V Kumar ( former India leg-spinner), R Gnanasekaran(Asian Games gold medallist (200m).
- Coach of the year: R B RAMESH (chess coach) iv. India Cements -TNSJA Team of the year 2018-19: Tamil Nadu Women's Football team. v. India Cements -TNSJA Young Achiever of the year 2018-19 : P M Tabitha( athlete) vi. India Cements -TNSJA Young Achiever of the year 2018-19: D.Gukesh (world's second youngest Grand Master).

### **Autobiography of social worker Sankurathri Chandrasekhar released:**

- 'Ashakiranam,' an autobiography of noted social worker Sankurathri Chandrasekhar, was released at a function held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. Religious scholar Chaganti Koteswara Rao released the book while writer and literary critic Vadrevu Veeralakshmi Devi reviewed the work.
- Penned by Dr. Chandrasekhar in English with title 'A Ray of Hope' the autobiography was translated into Telugu by Godavarthi Satyamurthy.

### **New Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court sworn-in:**

- Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was Thursday sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.
- West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi administered the oath of office to Justice Radhakrishnan in a solemn ceremony at the high court.

### **Assam celebrates Kati Bihu festival:**

- Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across the state.
- Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal extended their prayers and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Kati Bihu hoping that the festival will bring in peace and prosperity in the state.

### **Chennai Central has been renamed as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Chennai Central after Dr. MG Ramachandran:**

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- Chennai Central railway station renamed by the Tamil Nadu State Government as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station after late Chief Minister Dr. MG Ramachandran.
- Neeraj Sharma, Railway Executive Board Director notified that the change of name would be possible provided there should not be any inaugural event as a result of the election code of conduct.

### **Justice Nandrajog sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay HC:**

- Justice Pradeep Nandrajog was on Sunday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- He was earlier Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- He now succeeds Justice Naresh Patil, who retired as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

### **ECI appointed Bihar Ex CEO Ajay V Nayak as Special Observer for West Bengal**

- Ajay V Nayak, The Election Commission has appointed Ajay V Nayak, ex-Bihar chief electoral officer, as the Special Observer for West Bengal. The first phase polls held in April 11 in Cooch Behar and Alipurpur constituencies.
- Polls in the remaining 40 constituencies will be held in six phases. i. Earlier, The Election Commission of India has named Vivek Dubey, 1981 batch IPS officer, as the Special Police Observer of West Bengal.

### **To ensure good menstrual health, Project Kannamma initiated by Rotary Club of Madras North:**

- Project Kannamma is an initiative by Rotary Club of Madras North to provide biodegradable sanitary napkins under the brand name, "Aavaram" to the girl students in government schools of Tamil Nadu.

### **The M3 version of EVMs to be used in Nizamabad Lok Sabha and Likely To Enter Guinness Book with Record EVMs**

- The Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana may enter in the Guinness World Records for the maximum number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) of M3 version used in the polling booth.

### **Nagaland observes 75th anniversary of Battle of Kohima:**

- The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima was observed by the Nagaland government on Thursday with representatives from the UK and Japan speaking on the theme of 'Remembrance, Reconciliation and Rebirth'.
- The dignitaries from the UK and Japan assembled at the programme to seek "reconciliation and forgiveness" for the "sufferings and pain" caused against each other at the Battle of Kohima, that was fought in three stages during the Second World War in 1944.

### **Meghalaya Cabinet approved for the creation of Directorate of Dairy Development**

- The Meghalaya Cabinet approved the proposal for the creation of a new Directorate of Dairy Development to boost the milk production.

### **Himachal Pradesh celebrates 72nd state day:**

- Governor Acharya Devvrat unfurled the national flag at an event on the historic Ridge maidan in Shimla to mark the day.
- He inspected an impressive parade led by Parade Commander Deputy Superintendent of Police Shakti Singh.

### **Odisha celebrated 84th foundation day on April 1, 2019:**

- The day is also known as 'Utkal Divas'.
- Odisha was the first State to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, Odisha was part of Bihar.

### **West Bengal celebrated Bengali New Year on 15th April:**



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- On 15th April 2019, Bengali New Year also known as Pahela Baishakh was celebrated in West Bengal and among Bengali communities in Assam, Tripura and also in Bangladesh.

### **Telangana secured top spot in eLearning Training for Field Staff :**

- Telangana has secured the first rank for the second year in a row in the e-Learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), Government of India.
- The training is being imparted to achieve the goal of “training for all”.
- Over 20, 000 field staff in different districts of Telangana was imparted training on 12 soft skills modules and 3 domain-specific modules on RTI, Office Procedures, and Finance & Accounts.
- The institute is also mentoring other states to spread the Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) Programme as a national mission.

### **Calcutta Sports Journalists’ club annual awards 2019:**

- Jhulan Goswami, former captain of India national women’s cricket team, awarded the “Sportsperson of the Year” honor at the Calcutta Sports Journalists’ club (CSJC) annual awards function 2019 held at Kolkata, West Bengal while Sukumar Samajapati, former India winger and Sambaran Banerjee, former national selector and Bengal’s Ranji Trophy winning captain honoured ‘Lifetime Achievement’ awards.

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### **C'garh cops deploy first ever anti-Naxal women's commando unit:**

- The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard, its frontline anti-Naxal force.
- Comprising 30 women led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwari Nand, officials said they have received extensive training in jungle combat.
- "A first-of-its-kind platoon of women DRG commandos has been raised. Of the 30 recruits, 10 are surrendered women Naxals, while 10 others are assistant constables who were part of the erstwhile Salwa Judum (anti-Naxal militia) movement," Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava told PTI.

### **MP's Orchha makes it to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites”:**

- The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body.
- Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa river. It is located around 80 km away from Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh and 15 km from Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh. Orchha was built by king Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century.
- The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.

### **Mumbai most vulnerable to cyberattacks, Delhi, B'luru next:**

- Mumbai topped the 15-city list of the most vulnerable cities to cyberattacks in 2019, followed by Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata, Quick Heal Security Labs revealed.
- The 'Annual Threat Report 2019' put Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal as the top three states at most risk.
- The report compiled data from several cyberattacks that took place in 2018 on Windows and Android.

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### **Cabinet approves creation of Directorate of Dairy Development:**

- The Meghalaya Cabinet Monday approved the proposal for creation of a new Directorate of Dairy Development in the state to increase milk production.
- Home Minister James K Sangma said the state government had launched the Meghalaya Milk Mission and Rs 215 crore has been sanctioned.

### **Rajasthan govt's iStart enrolls 300 startups in one month:**

- The Rajasthan government's flagship initiative iStart -- aimed at creating jobs and facilitating innovation -- witnessed registration of 300 startups in just one month.
- iStart portal is intended to foster innovation, create jobs and facilitate investment.

### **Tree Ambulance launched in Chennai:**

- A unique 'Tree Ambulance' service - an initiative to provide care to trees besides spread green cover, was launched by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- The service launched for the first time in the state, aims at providing first aid treatment to trees, uprooted tree planting, seed bank, seed ball distribution, plant distribution, aiding tree plantation, shifting trees, survey of trees and removal of dead trees.
- The ambulance can be availed through the helpline number - 9941006786. People can register themselves as volunteers in their website- [www.treeambulance.org](http://www.treeambulance.org).
- Expressing delight over flagging off the 'Tree Ambulance' on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2019.

### **NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH inked MoU for Rudraksh Plantation in Uttarakhand:**

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand as a part of CSR initiative under the NamamiGange Programme.
- The project aims at planting 10 thousand Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand.

### **Chennai to get its first unmanned substation:**

- The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has identified a substation to be upgraded into an unmanned substation — the first of its kind in the city.
- The 33 kilo volt (KV)/11 KV substation, located right at the heart of the central business district of Anna Salai, near the Express Mall on Woods Road, has been chosen for the upgrade. It was constructed only a year ago.
- Once the substation becomes unmanned, there will not be any need for posting maintenance staff and it can be operated remotely.

### **'Chardham Yatra' begins in Uttarakhand's Garhwal:**

- Amid chanting of Vedic hymns and other religious rituals, the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri temples were thrown open for pilgrims on Tuesday, heralding beginning of the 'Chardham Yatra', the six-month-long pilgrimage to four prominent Hindu shrines in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
- Earlier in the morning, palanquins carrying idols of goddesses Gangotri and Yamunotri reached their respective temples in Uttarkashi district on the auspicious occasion of 'Akshay Tritiya' and were installed in the sanctum sanctorum amid hymns by the chief priests.

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- During the winter, the idol of Gangotri is kept at Mukhba temple and that of Yamunotri in Kharsali temple.

### **Navy Service Selection Board inaugurated in Kolkata:**

- Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba Tuesday inaugurated the Navy's first full-fledged Service Selection Board (SSB) at the Diamond Harbour near Kolkata.
- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, has attended the inauguration.
- This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and caters for selection of both permanent and short service commission officers. The other boards are located in Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore.

### **India removed from US currency monitoring list, China stays:**

- The US Treasury Department has removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners.
- US Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies, the department removed India and Switzerland from the previous currency watch list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies.
- India, along with China, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and South Korea, was placed in the bi-annual currency watch list in October last year.
- Now nine major trading partners continue to be placed on Treasury's 'Monitoring List' of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices.

### **Electric vehicles to get green number plates:**

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has announced a green registration mark for all battery operated vehicles, where private vehicles will bear white fonts on a green background on the number plate and commercial vehicles will have a yellow font on a green background.
- The new mandate is supposed to help provide a preferential treatment to the vehicles with no carbon emissions, like parking, free entry in congested areas as well as a concessional toll on highways.

### **Anti-dumping duty imposed on saccharin imports from Indonesia:**

- The Finance Ministry has, on the recommendations of the Commerce Ministry, imposed an anti-dumping duty of \$1,633.17 per tonne on the import of saccharine from Indonesia. Saccharine is a compound most commonly used in sugar-substitute sweeteners.
- Indonesia, until recently, accounted for a large chunk of India's saccharine imports.
- In 2017-18, India imported \$4.36 million worth of saccharine from Indonesia, which is 43% of the total imports of the sugar-substitute compound.
- However, imports from Indonesia have declined since then. In the April 2018 to February 2019 period, India imported only \$1.48 million worth of saccharine from Indonesia, about 20% of its total imports from around the world.

### **Kerala CM rings opening bell at London Stock Exchange as KIIFB lists masala bonds:**

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rang the opening bell at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) to mark the listing of masala bonds sold by Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).
- KIIFB, a state government agency, had raised Rs 2,150 crore through its debut masala bond issue at a fixed interest rate of 9.723% per annum. KIIFB plans to raise Rs. 5,000 crore through masala bonds to fund large and critical infrastructure projects in Kerala.

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- Indian Rupee denominated overseas bonds are popularly known as masala bonds.

### **Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka sworn in as Chief Justice of Karnataka HC**

- Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai R Vala administered the oath of office to Justice Oka at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan.

### **Justice Ramachandra Menon sworn in as Chief Justice of C'garh**

- Justice PR Ramachandra Menon was Monday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Governor Anandiben Patel administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function here at Raj Bhawan.
- He was earlier a judge in the Kerala High Court.

### **Raj Guv administers oath to new Chief Justice of HC**

- Justice S Ravindra Bhat was Sunday sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. He was administered the oath by Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh at the Raj Bhawan

### **Mangaluru police gets all-women patrol unit:**

- Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit in the city.
- Flagging off the 'Rani Abbakka Force' in Mangaluru on Tuesday, Sandeep Patil, Commissioner of Police, said the Karnataka police is giving utmost importance to the protection of women and children.

### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar conferred with award:**

- The Art of Living founder Sri SriRavi Shankar was Sunday conferred with the 'Order of St George' Award at St George Orthodox Church in Kottayam district of Kerala.
- Former Chief Minister of state Oommen Chandy, who inaugurated the function, said the country was blessed to have the presence of a person like Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

### **Gujarat: shops, businesses can remain open 24X7 now**

- Shops and other businesses in Gujarat can remain open round the clock now with the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019 coming into force from May 1.
- With this, commercial establishments in municipal corporations limits, or those near national highways, railway stations, state transport depots, hospitals and petrol pumps will be allowed to operate 24 hours.
- The shops and commercial entities operating near state highways and within municipality limits can now operate between 6 am to 2 am.

### **School bags can weigh only 10% of child's weight, no homework for students of classes I, II: Karnataka government:**

- The circular, issued by the department of primary and secondary education, issued clear guidelines on the upper limits that school bags can weigh. As per the circular, bags of students of Class I and II can only weigh around 1.5kg to 2kg while those of Class III, IV and V can weigh 2kg to 3kg.
- Students from Class VI-VIII can have their bags weighing only up to 3kg-4kg and those of Class IX and X can weigh up to 5kg.

### **NIOS, NHMPH ink MoU in Mumbai:**



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- The National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resources Development and National Health Mission of Public Health Department of Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mumbai.
- It added that the aim is to impart uniform structured and quality training to Multipurpose Health Workers Class III Male Health Workers and Community Health Workers followed by their assessment evaluation and certification.

### **Brahmakalashotsava Festival 2019:**

- The Brahmakalashotsava festival 2019 has started in Karnataka. This is a 6-day festival celebrated annually in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple situated in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka.

### **54-year-old Celebrity Elephant Ramachandran Opens Thrissur Pooram Festival in Kerala:**

- The opening of the popular Thrissur Pooram festival in Kerala was attended by around 10,000 people along with 54-year-old tusker, Kerala's tallest elephant 'Thechikottukavu Ramachandran' after it has cleared the fitness test. Earlier, a ban had been imposed on the elephant after it killed two people during an event in Guruvayur, Kerala.

### **Blessed with beauty, India's organic state 'Sikkim' celebrates its statehood day:**

- Sikkim celebrated its 43rd statehood day with great fanfare on May 16.
- It was on this day in 1975 that Sikkim had officially become a state under the Union of India and Kazi Lhendup Dorjee became its first chief minister.
- A grand function was held at the Samman Bhawan auditorium in the capital town where Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling highlighted the achievements of his government.
- Sikkim has witnessed massive development and progress over the last two decades under his government, said Chamling, who has broken the record of former West Bengal Jyoti Basu as the longest serving chief minister by being in office for nearly 24 years.

### **Kerala Assembly to digitise all records, to save Rs 35 crore annually:**

- The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-VidhE-Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.
- Soon, the state Legislative Assembly will go completely paperless with the state government undertaking an initiative to digitise all records.
- This is expected to save around `35 crore to `49 crore annually and time as the state has been spending around `40 crore for taking tonnes of paper printouts.
- The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 14 months.

### **Meghalaya govt approves setting up of Farmers' Commission:**

- The Meghalaya government Thursday approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers.
- State cabinet approved the proposal made by the Agriculture Department to set up the Farmers' Commission in line with the resolution passed at the 'farmers' parliament'.

### **Harda district of Madhya Pradesh becomes the first where women handle entire work of counting votes:**

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- In Harda district of Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes. This first of its kind initiative was taken for the empowerment of women. Presently, 84 women are being trained for counting in at Polytechnic College.

### **Rajasthan set to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents:**

- Rajasthan Government is set to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents. It will appoint peer educators and shadow educators for counseling the youngsters in order to ensure coordination with other medical and health schemes.
- Ujjala Clinics function under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram(RKSK) in 10 districts of the state. They are established at district hospitals, community health centers and selected primary health centers in Udaipur, Rajsamand, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Bundi, Karauli and Dholpur districts.
- The adolescent health strategy is aimed at reducing malnutrition and anemia. It will improve the knowledge and behaviour of the adolescents with regards to sexual and reproductive health.
- Ujala Clinic is the new name of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinic(AFHC).

### **Mumbai Metro tie-up with Instamojo for card payments:**

- Reliance Infrastructure promoted Mumbai Metro announced a tie-up with payment gateway 'Instamojo' to enable card payments aimed at boosting cashless travel.
- 'Instamojo' is the technology partner facilitating this cashless initiative where there is no need for point-of-sale (POS) terminal, or installing any payment apps on the commuter's smartphone, making it an Electronic Point of Sale, said an official spokesperson for Mumbai Metro One Pvt. Ltd. (MMOPL).

### **In a first, Maharashtra proposes single-window registration of land titles:**

- The Maharashtra government is working on a system of registration of land titles to ensure single-point availability of the entire gamut of information.
- For this purpose, it proposes to introduce the Maharashtra Land Titling Act, which sources say will be a single-window mechanism for authenticating land titles.
- The state had released a draft land titling act last year for public debate and has now decided to go ahead with it. Maharashtra's move is seen as a pilot for a national rollout of online land title records with the government.
- Maharashtra is planning to implement the system in Mumbai for starters.

### **Maharashtra Gov signs ordinance to bring medical admissions under SEBC quota:**

- Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao on Monday signed an ordinance to provide quota under Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) Reservation Act, 2018 to candidates seeking admission to post-graduate medical and dental courses.
- The ordinance will give reservation to students in admissions to educational courses including under-graduate courses requiring the passing of the NEET or any other National Entrance Test.

### **Telangana IT/ITES exports grow 17% at Rs 1.09 lakh Cr in FY19:**

- Telangana registered about 17 per cent growth in IT and IT Enabled Services (ITES) exports to over Rs 1.09 lakh crore in the last fiscal.
- In 2017-18, IT/ITES exports stood at Rs 93,442 crore and added over 68,000 IT professionals in the state. In 2018-19, the figure touched Rs 1,09,219 crore, an official release said.

### **MeitY, Nasscom to jointly set up Internet of Things facility in city:**

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- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will set up a Centre of Excellence in Internet of Things in Visakhapatnam in association with Nasscom.
- Industries would be encouraged for use of chat-bots, robots, power plants, data analytics and automation in the domains of automobiles, mineral-based plants, health, and finance (loan distribution).

### **Telangana to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad:**

- Telangana has released a draft blockchain policy to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad. It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration.
- Telangana Government had signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018.

### **Meghalaya govt push for medicinal plant cultivation:**

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday launched a new project to boost the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Sangma also inaugurated a processing unit of essential oils here on this occasion.
- The Rs 18-crore 'Aroma Mission' will ensure that agriculture and allied sectors get due importance and the farmers their benefits.

### **Cabinet approves cloud seeding programme:**

- The Karnataka cabinet Monday approved a cloud seeding programme, to be implemented in June, following reports that there would be deficit rainfall in the state.
- Rural Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told reporters here that his department has called a tender for two years for cloud seeding at a cost of Rs 88 crore.
- The cabinet approved the proposal for Rs 93 crore, as the bidder quoted Rs 91 crore, he said, adding the amount also includes Rs two crore lump sum grant for the department.

### **Statehood day of Goa observed on May 30:**

- 32nd Statehood day of Goa was celebrated on May 30. On May 30, 1987, Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. Earlier it was a union territory with Daman and Diu from 19 December 1961 to 30 May 1987.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant announced the launch of 'Green Goa, Clean Goa' initiative under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to treat the garbage waste at its source.
- Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on December 1961.

### **J-K approves state healthcare investment policy to boost medical infrastructure:**

- The Jammu and Kashmir State Administrative Council (SAC) Friday approved the 'State Health Care Investment Policy-2019' aimed at promoting private parties and entrepreneurs to set up healthcare infrastructure in the state.
- The policy is expected to improve accessibility of quality healthcare services to the people, promote establishment of hospital, medical and allied educational infrastructure and establish the state as a destination of choice for private healthcare service providers, besides promoting medical tourism.

### **Justice AK Mittal sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court:**

- Justice A K Mittal was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court .

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- Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice Mittal at the Raj Bhavan here in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, his cabinet colleagues and senior government officers.

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#### **INDIA OPENS WATER CLINIC FOR ELEPHANTS IN MATHURA**

- India has opened its first specialized hydrotherapy treatment centre for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments. It is situated in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a collaboration of Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), Wildlife SOS. The jumbo hydrotherapy centre: It is near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which has over 20 rescued elephants.

#### **20TH MEETING OF THE FSDC CHAIRED BY NIRMALA SITHARAMAN HELD IN NEW DELHI**

- The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi. This was chaired under the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, and Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg among others.
- Current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including those concerning Banking and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) were reviewed in the meeting.

#### **35TH GST COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The 35th Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting was held in New Delhi. It was chaired by the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and it was her first meeting after assuming the office.

- Introduction of Aadhaar-enabled GST Registration
- NAA tenure extended by two years
- 10% penalty to apply for any delay in depositing profiteered amount
- E-invoicing to start from January 2020
- E-ticketing made mandatory for multiplexes
- Rate cut decision on electric vehicles, chargers & leasing
- Solar power generating systems and wind turbines
- Rate cut for lottery put on hold
- GSTAT to be GST Appellate Tribunal
- For non-filing of GST returns, E-way bills to be blocked

#### **WORLD'S LARGEST MULTI-STAGE, MULTI-PURPOSE SCHEME KALESHWARAM LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT INAUGURATED IN TELANGANA**

- The first phase of the world's largest multi-stage, multi-purpose scheme Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) worth Rs 80,000 crore was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Telangana Chandrashekar Rao at Medigadda in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district near the borders with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- It is constructed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL). The project, built across Godavari river, has become the world's biggest in terms of capacity



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### **BALAKOT AIRSTRIKES CODE NAMED AS ‘OPERATION BANDAR’ BY IAF**

- The Indian Air Force mission to bomb a terrorist hideout in Pakistan’s Balakot was codenamed ‘Operation Bandar’ (Monkey), while Indian Army had taken up massive defensive measures in case Pakistan retaliated which was codenamed as “Operation Zafraan”.

### **‘ADARSH STATION SCHEME’ DEVELOPED 1,103 RAILWAYS STATIONS**

- Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha stated that under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS), of the 1,253 stations which were identified for development, 1,103 railway stations were developed.
- Modernisation and upgradation of railway stations in Indian Railways are undertaken from time to time under various modernisation schemes such as Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Adarsh Station Scheme.

### **CENTRAL COMMAND CENTRE FOR AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT WAS INAUGURATED BY MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI IN NEW DELHI**

- Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi to ensure higher standards of safety.
- It was inaugurated in the presence of the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI) Guruprasad Mohapatra, Board Members and senior AAI officials. India became the seventh nation to implement C-ATFM after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Brazil.

### **AN ENTREPRENEUR VIRAL SUDHIRBHAI DESAI CHANGED UDHANA RAILWAY STATION INTO INDIA’S FIRST GREEN RAILWAY STATION**

- Viral Sudhirbhai Desai, a young entrepreneur from surat launched an initiative to change Udhana railway station in Gujarat into India’s first green and clean railway station like Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

### **RUSSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YURY TRUTNEV’S VISIT TO INDIA**

- **Mr. Yury Trutnev**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District along with his delegation visited India from 15-19 June 2019.
- The delegation included senior officials from the Russian Ministry for Far East Development, Far East Investment and Export Agency, representatives of Russian regions, industry representatives and academia.

### **A HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT GROUP PRESENTED THEIR SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY TARGET: NITI AAYOG**

- The group stressed the Government on improving the functioning of the public sector banks and accelerating the pace of exports and employment generation.
- The group gave their views on the opening of doors for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the bank and insurance sector, accelerating the disinvestment process and better management of water resources.
- Before the first full Budget of the Modi 2.0 government, all the participants and economists participating in this meeting gave their suggestions to achieve growth.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the first full budget of the new government on July 5, 2019, in the Lok Sabha.

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- N Chandrasekaran (Chairman, Tata Sons), T V Narendran (Global CEO and MD, Tata Steel), Anil Agarwal (Chairman, Vedanta Resources), Sanjiv Puri (Chairman and MD, ITC), and Vijay Shekhar Sharma (CEO, Paytm) are present along with other industrialists.
- Bimal Jalan (former RBI Governor), Shankar Acharya (former Chief Economic Adviser), Surjit Bhalla (former PMEAC member), Vikram Limay (CEO, NSE), Sonal Varma (Chief Economist, Nomura), Shekhar Shah (DG, NCAER), and Bibek Debroy (Chairman, EAC-PM) were also present in the meeting.

### **UNION GOVT DEVELOPED A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO END TB BY 2025**

- Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Health, and Family Welfare Minister stated that the Government has developed an ambitious National Strategic Plan to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.

### **ODISHA CM RELEASES FLOOD HAZARD ATLAS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD**

- The State Government of Odisha released a Flood Hazard Atlas for efficient management of flood in the state. It was released by the Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik.
- This is jointly prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDAMA) analyzing data relating to flood from 2001 to 2018.

### **CPWD CONSTITUTED A 7 MEMBER CORE GROUP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION DOCUMENT**

- The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), constituted a seven-member core group chaired by Additional Director General (training & research) M K Sharma to prepare a roadmap for implementation of a five-year “vision document” (STVD) as directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The other members of the group are C K Verma, Indu Gural Chaudhary, Harish Kumar, Naimuddin, Manish Kumar and Rajesh Kumar.

### **THE SECOND EDITION OF “HEALTHY STATES, PROGRESSIVE INDIA” REPORT RELEASED BY NITI AAYOG**

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released the Second Edition of “Healthy States, Progressive India” Report. It ranked States and Union territories (UTs) innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes and their overall performance.
- It was developed by NITI Aayog with technical assistance from the World Bank in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MOVE TO SET UP KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS TO DOUBLE FARMERS’ INCOME BY 2022**

- The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar announced that central Government has decided to use digital technology in rural India to double farmers’ income by the year 2022. For this, the Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community.

### **JAPAN GIFTS IMPHAL PEACE MUSEUM TO MANIPUR, BUILT ON WWII MEMORIES**

- Japan gifted Imphal Peace Museum to Manipur to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War, at Maibam Lokpa Ching popularly known as Red Hill (about 20 km southwest of Imphal).

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- The inauguration was attended by Manipur Revenue minister Karam Shyam, Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu, High Commissioner of United Kingdom Dominic Asquith and TNF Chairman Yohei Sasakawa among others.

### **GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TO INTRODUCE SELF DEFENCE TRAINING FOR GIRLS UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA**

- Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha' was launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy which comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, effective from the academic year 2018-19. The activity of Self Defence training for girls comes under Samagra Shiksha.

### **SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE IN JAMMU TO HAVE ITS OWN DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE BY SEPTEMBER 2020**

- The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, a religious pilgrimage atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September 2020.
- The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to impart advanced disaster management training to the shrine board staff in batches to prepare a dedicated disaster response force for the shrine.

### **31.4% OF INDIAN CHILDREN WILL BE STUNTED BY 2022: UN REPORT**

- The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that 31.4% of Indian children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED PANEL FOR BETTER COORDINATION AMONG MINISTERS**

- Central Government has formed a committee for coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the state governments after a tug of war between the two ministries. The panel formation will help in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.

### **KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA BONG-KIL SHIN SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH BMVSS AND LAUNCHED 'JAIPUR FOOT KOREA'**

- South Korean Ambassador to India Bong-kil Shin launched a collaborative initiative between South Korea and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) named 'Jaipur Foot Korea'.
- An agreement was also signed by the Korean Ambassador with BMVSS to provide assistance in prosthetic limbs sector.

### **MHA RELEASED THE RANKINGS OF POLICE STATIONS FOR 2018; RAJASTHAN TOPS THE LIST**

- The Kalu police station in Bikaner district of Rajasthan was ranked the best police station in the country. It was awarded the first rank for its performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, crime detection, community policing and maintenance of law and order, women help desk facility, drinking water facility and WiFi.

### **AROUND 2.22 CRORE VILLAGERS RECEIVED DIGITAL EDUCATION UNDER PMGDISHA**

- Electronics and Information Technology Minister Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that around 2.22 crore villagers were given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).

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- The government has enrolled 636 training partners.

### **UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA SCHEME, 81,03,196 HOUSES WERE APPROVED**

- Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri announced that 81,03,196 houses were approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. 47,57,987 houses are at stages of construction and 26,07,913 houses were completed or occupied.

### **STANDING GROUP OF SECRETARIES CONSTITUTED ON RESOLVING E-COMMERCE ISSUES: PIYUSH GOYAL**

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that a Standing Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been constituted for ensuring inter-ministerial coordination on resolving issues related to e-commerce.

### **7<sup>TH</sup> INDIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN NEW DELHI**

- The 7th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Brunei Darussalam was held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary(East) and Brunei side was led by Hajah Siti Norishan Haji Abdul Ghafor, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Government.

### **23RD EDITION OF 4-DAY SINDHU DARSHAN FESTIVAL HELD AT SINDHU GHAT SHEY IN LEH**

- A four-day event of 23rd Sindhu Darshan Festival 2019 celebrated at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Jammu and Kashmir's Leh from 24 to 27 June 2019.

### **CABINET APPROVED BILL TO FINE PEOPLE WITH RS 10,000 FOR BLOCKING AMBULANCES**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the bill to fine people with Rs 10,000 for blocking ambulances. The rule is the part of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill.
- The Bill was approved as several cases were reported where ambulances were stuck for hours either due to agitation on roads, traffic or due to a minister's visit, which sometimes caused patients to lose their lives.

### **GOVERNMENT FORMS 18-MEMBER WORKING GROUP HEADED BY RAMESH CHAND, NITI AAYOG MEMBER, TO REVISE CURRENT SERIES OF WPI**

- Government formed a 18-member working group headed by Ramesh Chand, member of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, to revise current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base year 2011-12 and come up with a new Producer Price Index (PPI).

### **MOA SIGNED BETWEEN MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND IIT KHARAGPUR TO SET UP CICMT**

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between Ministry of Shipping and IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Kharagpur to set up Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur. CICMT is the first of its kind centre in India with the focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building, and testing.

### **GO TRIBAL CAMPAIGN BY TRIBES INDIA LAUNCHED IN NEW DELHI**

- "Go Tribal Campaign" by Tribes India was launched by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh in the presence of Shri R.C. Meena, Chairman, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Shri Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED in New Delhi.



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### **THE 32ND EDITION OF ISTA CONGRESS TAKES PLACE IN HYDERABAD**

- An eight-day event of the 32nd edition of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress has started in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Telangana government have jointly hosted the event which is being held for the first time in South Asia.

### **MHRD UNVEILED A FIVE-YEAR VISION PLAN EQUIP TO TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION**

- The Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) to transform higher education with the help of more than 50 initiatives.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED PILOT SCHEME ON FORTIFICATION OF RICE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION THROUGH PDS**

- Union Minister Smriti Irani of Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry stated that based on the information received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, central Government approved the centrally sponsored pilot scheme on fortification of rice and its distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS).

### **RS 450 CRORE NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL LANGUAGE TRANSLATION TO BE TABLED BEFORE UNION CABINET**

- The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology (Meity) Will Put Forward The Proposal Of National Mission On Natural Language Translation With An Outlay Rs 450 Crore For Next 3 Years Before The Union Cabinet. It Is One Of The Key Missions Identified By The Prime Minister's Science, Technology And Innovation Advisory Council (Pm-Stiac).

### **FLOW OF RAW SEWAGE INTO RIVER GANGA WILL BE STOPPED BY 2022**

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a national conference, exhibition and awards ceremony 'Innovative Water Solutions' in New Delhi announced that the flow of raw sewage into the Ganga river will be fully stopped by 2022.

### **MEETING OF EXPERT WORKING GROUP OF PARIS PACT INITIATIVE OF UNODC HELD IN NEW DELHI**

- 2-day Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan was organised in New Delhi from June 27-28, 2019. It was hosted by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC). It was inaugurated by the Additional Secretary, Revenue Mr. Anil Kumar Jha.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A 3-MEMBER PANEL TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOLAR AND WIND POWER PLAYERS**

- Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (Independent Charge) R K Singh approved the formation of a three-member dispute resolution committee with members M F Farooqui, former Heavy Industry Secretary, Anil Swarup, former Coal Secretary and A K Dubey, former Sports Secretary to resolve disputes between private solar & wind power developers and public sector Solar Energy Corporation of India and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) beyond contractual agreement.

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### **INDIA & CHINA VOW TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO BOUNDARY ISSUE**

- The two sides of India and China have agreed to come to mutually acceptable, reasonable and fair solutions to their thorny boundary issues.
- Now special representatives appointed by both China and India (From India, NSA(National Security Adviser) Ajit Doval and from China State Councilor Wang-Yi) in order to rework the framework for the settlement of boundary.

### **ALL GRAM PANCHAYATS BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY UNDER BHARATNET BY MARCH 2020**

- Electronics and IT Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that all gram panchayats(GPs) in the country will be connected with the high-speed broadband under BharatNet project by March 2020.

### **HIGH-LEVEL GROUP HEADED BY DR. SURJIT S. BHALLA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRADE AND POLICY**

- The Union ministry of commerce had constituted a high-level advisory group headed by economist Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council on Foreign trade policy for ways to boost India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade.

### **FSSAI PLANS RED COLOR-CODING LABEL FOR SUGARY AND SALTY FOODS**

- As per the draft regulation issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority(FSSAI) (Labelling and Display regulation) of India Packaged food companies will be required to label high fat, sugar and salt content levels on the front side of the package with "red-color-coding".

### **INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR) IN INDIA FALLS BUT THE PACE OF CHANGE SLOWS**

- According to the sample Registration system (SRS), India's infant mortality rate declined by 9 positions from 42 in 2012 to 33 in 2017. Madhya Pradesh and Assam had the worst IMR of 47 and 44 respectively while Kerala and Tamil Nadu recorded the lowest IMR of 10 and 16 respectively.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA AT 6.1% IN 2017-18**

- According to a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) between July 2017 and June 2018 covering 4.3 lakh people revealed that the unemployment rate was about 6.1% in
- 2017-18, highest in 45 year since 1972-73. The unemployment rate in rural areas was about 5.3% while in urban areas it was about 7.8%.

### **INDIA HAS 20 HEALTH WORKERS PER 10,000 PEOPLE: NSSO STUDY**

- A recent study based on the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) data, India has 20.6 health workers per 10,000 people. This is less than the World health Organization's (WHO) minimum overreach of 22.8 per 10,000 people. rural areas with 71% of India's population have only 36% of health workers.

### **KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE SUBMITTED THE DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY TO THE NEW UNION HRD MINISTER RAMESH POKHARIYAL**

- The K. Kasturirangan Committee has submitted the 484-pages draft report of National Education Policy to the new Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhariyal. The report on the National Education Policy has been put on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)'s website for suggestions from the public till June 30.

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### **CABINET APPROVED A NEW INITIATIVE TO CONTROL FMD AND BRUCELLOSIS TO SUPPORT LIVESTOCK REARING FARMERS**

- The Cabinet, first since the outcome of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, approved a new initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support livestock rearing farmers. The FMD and Brucellosis is a common threat among livestock like cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheeps, goats, pigs etc. The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 13,343 crores for the implantation of the initiative.

### **CABINET APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF PM-KISAN YOJANA TO ALL ELIGIBLE FARMERS**

- The newly formed Union Cabinet has given its consent for the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana ((PM-KISAN) to all eligible farmer families, irrespective of the size of their landholding. Earlier, it was applicable to farmers having two hectares of land.
- The extension will include additional of 2.5 crore farmers which will led to rise its coverage to 14.5 crore farmers. The outlay of the revised scheme will be Rs 87,217.50 crore for 2019-20.

### **CABINET APPROVED RS 3,000 PENSION FOR SMALL TRADERS**

- Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Modi has approved to give monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to small traders, businessmen, and shopkeepers after they attain the age of 60 years and turnover below Rs 1.5 crore.
- The aim is to provide universal social security to all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons a monthly pension under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana (PM-KPY).

### **ELEPHANTA FESTIVAL KICKED OFF IN MUMBAI**

- Elephanta festival, a two day festival of art and culture organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) held on Elephanta-Gharapuri (island), Mumbai to promote tourism and culture in Maharashtra.
- The festival was inaugurated by tourism minister Jaykumar Rawal on Gateway of India. The theme for this year is 'Swarang'.

### **TWO-DAY YOGA MAHOTSAVA CELEBRATED IN NEW DELHI**

- As a Curtain Raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 which is celebrated on June 21, a two-day Yoga Mahotsava was inaugurated by Shri Rajeev Kumar, Vice-Chairman of Niti Ayog at New Delhi.
- The Yoga Mahotsav-2019 was organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under Ministry of AYUSH(Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). The theme of IDY 2019 in India is "Yoga for Heart".

### **SC/ST CANDIDATES JOINING VOCATIONAL TRAINING WAIVED OFF**

- The ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India announced that fee for SC/ST candidates who join vocational training under Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) have been waived off. This decision was taken by the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey at the senior officials meet.

### **6TH ROUND OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION HELD IN NEW DELHI**

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- 6th India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Indra Mani Pandey, Additional Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs) and the Chinese delegation was led by Ambassador Fu Cong, Director General, Department of Arms Control of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **MOHFW ORGANIZED NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR POPULATION RESEARCH CENTERS**

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) organized a two-day National Workshop for Population Research Centers (PRC) in New Delhi. It focused on the various features of the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry for simultaneous supervision.

### **DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2019 SUBMITTED BY DR. KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE**

- A committee headed by Dr. Kasturirangan submitted draft national education policy 2019 to Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Minister of State for HRD, Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre in New Delhi to rename Minister of Human Resource Development to Minister of education.

### **HARYANA HIGH COURT DECLARES OF ENTIRE ANIMAL KINGDOM AS 'LEGAL ENTITIES'**

- The Haryana High court (HC) declared the entire animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic, as a legal entity having rights of a living person.
- The verdict of Punjab and Haryana HC comes a year after Uttarakhand HC passed similar order to protect and promote greater welfare of animals.

### **AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MARSHALL ISLANDS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTIFIED**

- The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information with respect to taxes was signed on 18th March, 2016 at Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Indian-Marshall Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) was notified to the gazette of India.

### **HEALTH MINISTRY CHAIRED THE MEETING TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE REVISED NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM (RNTCP) HELD IN DELHI**

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan held a high level meeting to review the status of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) in New Delhi. At the meeting, the ministry directed all the officials to take a necessary step as "Mission Mode" to eliminate TB (Tuberculosis). The slogan for TB-Free India is "TB Harega Desh Jitega".

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RECONSTITUTES EIGHT KEY CABINET COMMITTEES**

- Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Central Government has reconstituted eight key Cabinet Committees. These include -Appointments Committee, Committees on Accommodation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.

### **DR HARSH VARDHAN REVIEWED THE STATUS OF NIPAH VIRUS DISEASE IN KERALA**

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW), reviewed the status of Nipah Virus Disease (NVD) in Kerala along with Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) and the Ministry officials. As of now, 15 people are under observation in the state. Since June 4, 2019, Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC) at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has been activated and it is coordinating activities for Nipah containment.



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- 3rd advance estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19 released by the Government The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare released the 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19. Food grains production stood at 283.37 million tonnes, which was higher by 17.62 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of food grain.

### **PM NARENDRA MODI RECONSTITUTED NITI AAYOG**

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of government's policy think tank, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. It is scheduled to meet on June 15 for the first time after Modi government won a second term. It will be chaired by the prime minister.

### **DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH FORMED COMMITTEE TO WORK ON MODALITIES OF REVISING PENSION UNDER OROP**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed a committee to work on modalities and methodology on the implementation of the next revision of pension to over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme. The newly constituted committee is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Sanjiv Mittal.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A COMMITTEE HEADED BY KIRIT PARIKH, AN ECONOMIST, TO REVIEW LPG MARKETING**

- To review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, the Central Government constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh. The other members of the panel include the former petroleum secretary GC Chaturvedi, former Indian Oil chairman MA Pathan, IIM Ahmedabad director Errol D'souza, and a joint secretary in the petroleum ministry.

### **NITI AAYOG HAS PROPOSED TO SELL ONLY E-VEHICLES AFTER 2030**

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030. This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers

### **NGT FORMED PANEL TO DISCUSS PLEA SEEKING BAN ON PLASTIC PACKAGING**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a panel to look into the needs for further norms to restrict the use of plastic packaging of food products. This was formed after a plea to seek a ban on the plastic packaging of food products. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel formed the panel.

### **ICG INAUGURATED ITS 4TH SUBORDINATE OFFICERS CONCLAVE 2019 IN NEW DELHI**

- A two-day 4th Subordinate Officers Conclave 2019 organized by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was inaugurated by Rajendra Singh, Director General (DG) of ICG at ICG Headquarters in New Delhi. DG Rajendra Singh conferred 'Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak' to Navik Vinod. Also a Coast Guard Benevolent Association App was launched. Through this app, the Coast Guard Personnel can log on the site and apply for the required financial assistance online.

### **GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020 LEAGUE**

- Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 League (SS 2020) in New Delhi. It will be a cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India on a quarterly basis. It will be integrated with

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Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted between January - February 2020. It will be conducted under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U).

### **INDIA'S FIRST DINOSAUR MUSEUM INAUGURATED IN GUJARAT**

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the new Dinosaur Museum-cum-Park at Raiyoli village in Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
- This is the first such park in the country and also the world's third park which exhibits remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records. The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd created the whole infrastructure of the museum.

### **15TH FINANCE COMMISSION HELD A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ADCS OF MEGHALAYA**

- 15th Finance Commission headed by the Chairman Shri N.K. Singh held meeting with the representatives of Autonomous Development Councils (ADCs) of Meghalaya as part of its visit to the State. There are 3 ADCs in Meghalaya namely the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council

### **I&B MINISTRY INSTITUTED AYDMS TO BE GIVEN TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**

- To recognise the contributions made by media in spreading awareness about Yoga and for promotion and commemoration of International Yoga Day which is held every year on June 21, The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) headed by the Minister Prakash Javadekar instituted a new award called Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from year 2019.

### **MHA ALLOWS ALL STATES TO SETUP FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS**

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up Foreigners Tribunals (FTs). In this regard, it has amended the Foreigners Tribunals Order, 1964 by the Foreigners Tribunal Order, 2019. It is to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

### **ASI DECLARED CHAUKHANDI STUPA AS MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared Chaukhandi Stupa as a protected area "Monument of national importance". The ancient Buddhist site situated in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh. It is said that Chaukhandi stupa was a terraced temple constructed between 4th to 6th century of the Gupta period.

### **INDIA & PORTUGAL TO SET UP NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE MUSEUM IN LOTHAL**

- Government of India announced that it will join hands with Portugal to set up maritime museum near ancient Harappans civilization at Lothal in Gujarat. It will be a similar model of the museum which is at Lisbon, Portugal administered by the Portuguese Navy. It will be built in a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

### **ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF KHEER BHAWANI MELA CELEBRATED IN J&K**

- Annual festival of Kheer Bhawani Mela on Zeasht Ashtami was celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit devotees assembled and prayed at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district in J&K. It is one of the biggest religious functions of the Kashmiri Pandits. The day marks the commencement of annual pilgrimage.

### **AMASEBAILU BECOMES KARNATAKA'S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED GRAM PANCHAYAT**

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- Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has been named as the Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. The allocation of fund between the Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30: 20, and the rest is given by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.

### **BANCHA BECAME THE FIRST SOLAR KITCHEN ONLY VILLAGE IN INDIA**

- Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh became the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves. There was no use for Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders as all 75 houses relied on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs. The solar-powered stoves were developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai.

### **KAZAKH-INDIAN INVESTMENT FORUM HELD IN AHMEDABAD**

- Kazakh-Indian Investment Forum was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on June 7, 2019, to attract investments. It was organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in India with the support of the Honorary Consulate of Kazakhstan in the state of Gujarat Dilip Chandan, the National Company-Kazakh Invest and Jain International Trade Organization.

### **IRSDC SIGNED A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH SNCF AND AFD**

- Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) and French Development Agency (AFD). Under this agreement, a grant up to 7 lakh euros will be provided to boost capacity building for railway station development program in India.

### **CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO ALL BY 2024: CENTRE**

- The minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that central Government committed to provide clean drinking water to all citizens by 2024, which is one of the poll promises given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Drinking water coverage: This is less than 5 percent in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, while Sikkim has 99 percent.

### **JAPAN WILL INVEST RS 13,000 CRORE IN NORTH-EAST IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

- The Government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, nearly Rs 13,000 crore in several ongoing as well as new infrastructure projects in the North-East Region. This was announced after a meeting of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) Minister Dr Jitendra Singh with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu.

### **CENTRAL INDIA GOT ITS FIRST SIKH MUSEUM IN RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH**

- Central India got its First Sikh Museum in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The museum Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh Museum is located at Gurudwara Gurusingh Sabha in Guru Nanak Nagar. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Bagel on the 'Shahidi Divas' of the fifth Sikh Guru, Arjun Dev.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED TO SET UP DSRA**

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved to set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA), a new agency which will develop sophisticated weapon systems and technologies. It will enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space. It will provide research and development support to Defence Space Agency (DSA), that will be set up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### **GOVERNMENT REDUCED THE ESI CONTRIBUTION RATE TO 4% FROM 6.5%**

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- Government reduced the Employees State Insurance (ESI) contribution rate to 4% from 6.5%. This will benefit 36 million workers and 1.28 million employers and will lead to an estimated annual saving of around Rs 5,000 crore for firms. The reduced rates will be effective from July 1, 2019. The Central government through the Ministry of Labour & Employment decides the rate of contribution under the Employees' State Insurance Act 1948 (the ESI Act).

### **FARMERS CONTRIBUTION TO BE RS 100 PER MONTH TO PM-KISAN PENSION YOJANA**

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced that farmers in the country are expected to contribute Rs 100 per month under the Pradhan Mantri (PM) Kisan Pension Yojana. It seeks to provide a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 on the attainment of 60 years of age. The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund. Pension Fund will be managed by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). It will be responsible for the pension payout.

### **DGT PARTNERED WITH CISCO & ACCENTURE FOR SKILLING PROGRAMME**

- Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) joined hands with Cisco and Accenture, private sector companies, to skill the youth for digital economy through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The implementation partner is Quest Alliance.

### **MARITIME INFORMATION SHARING WORKSHOP 2019 HELD IN GURUGRAM**

- The two-day event of Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019 (MISW 2019) hosted by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) held in Gurugram, Haryana on June 12, 2019. The workshop was inaugurated by Vice Admiral MS Pawar, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GRANTED THE APPROVAL TO SET UP OF E-FOREIGNER TRIBUNAL (E-FT) IN ASSAM**

- Central Government has permitted to set up e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam. It is a quasi-judicial authority which assesses the question of the authenticity of a person's citizenship. It should be set up by July 31, 2019, when the final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published. The people left out in the final NRC can challenge their exclusion through these tribunals. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of e-FT Mission is Anand Prakash Tiwari.

### **NITI AAYOG HAS PROPOSED TO SELL ONLY E-VEHICLES AFTER 2030**

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030. This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers.

### **INDIAN COAST GUARD (ICG) CO-HOSTED THE 12TH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosted the 12th Capacity Building workshop in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in New Delhi.

### **FOR THE FIRST TIME, INDIA TO HOST COP-14 OF UNCCD IN SEPTEMBER 2019**

- To address the issues of land degradation and desertification, for the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019. It will be held between September 2 and 13, 2019 at the India Expo Center and Mart, New Delhi.



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### **SECOND EDITION OF WORLD FOOD INDIA TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI FROM 1-4 NOVEMBER, 2019**

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced that World Food India (WFI) 2019, a biennial event, will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi

The tagline of the event will be “Forging Partnerships for Growth”.

### **10TH EDITION OF REGIONAL GRIHA SUMMIT 2019 WAS HELD IN NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA**

- The 10th edition of Regional Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) summit, 2019 was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari addressed this meeting. The theme of 2019 summit was “Transformation Strategies for Built Environment”. This theme was adopted to focus on the impact of incorporating sustainability initiatives into functioning public buildings.

### **LUCKNOW BUILDS ITS FIRST ROAD FROM PLASTIC WASTE**

- Lucknow constructed its first plastic waste road. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has started using plastic waste to construct roads as a pilot project. This environment-friendly road is being constructed as a trial from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow.

### **3RD EDITION OF NAMASTE THAILAND FESTIVAL 2019 CONCLUDES IN NEW DELHI**

- A two-day event of Namaste Thailand Film Festival 2019 concluded its third edition at Select Citywalk in New Delhi. It was organized by Royal Thai Embassy with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand. The festival was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Thailand to India, H.E Chutintorn Gongsakdi.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A COMMITTEE HEADED BY KIRIT PARIKH, AN ECONOMIST, TO REVIEW LPG MARKETING**

- To review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, the Central Government constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh.

### **INDIA HOSTING INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF KIMBERLEY PROCESS 2019**

- India is hosting the Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) from 17th to 21st June 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Besides the meetings of different Working Groups and Committees of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), two special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes will also be held.

### **2ND MEETING OF INDIA-ITALY JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM WAS HELD IN NEW DELHI**

- The 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr Diego Brasioli, Principal Director for Security, Disarmament and non-Proliferation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

### **BSF AND BGB AGREED TO INCREASE COORDINATED PATROLS**

- Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) signed a Joint Record of Discussion at the 48th Director General (DG)-level talks which concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was signed between DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md Shafeenul Islam. Both sides agreed to undertake joint efforts to bring down the killing incidents to zero.

### **FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG HELD IN NEW DELHI**

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- The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. This was the first governing council meeting under the new Modi government. The guiding principle of Union Government is “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwaas”.

### **DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH FORMED COMMITTEE TO WORK ON MODALITIES OF REVISING PENSION UNDER OROP**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed a committee to work on modalities and methodology on the implementation of the next revision of pension to over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme
- The newly constituted committee is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Sanjiv Mittal and consists of representatives from the three services.

### **NPCI TIE-UP WITH TELANGANA TO OFFER MEESEVA SERVICE PORTAL**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) of Mumbai signed an agreement with the state Government of Telangana to offer a mode of payment options like UPI (Unified Payments Interface ) Collect Request, RuPay Debit and Credit Cards to the users of the ‘MeeSeva’ portal of the Telangana Government.
- The portal offers 150 government services and in 2018, it crosses 100 million transactions.

### **RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE TO UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES UP TO RS 3,500 PER MONTH**

- Rajasthan government will provide unemployment allowance up to Rs 3,500 per month to the unemployed youths having graduation or equivalent degree in the state. They will get the benefit of the Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana.
- Male applicants will receive Rs 3,000 per month. Women and differently-abled applicants will receive Rs 3,500 per month.

### **MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SCHEME FOR SMOKELESS KITCHENS ‘CHULLAH-FREE AND SMOKE-FREE MAHARASHTRA’**

- The project named “Chullah (wood-fired stove)-free and smoke-free Maharashtra” will be launched by the Government of Maharashtra.
- A pilot project is aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women.

### **TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT APPOINTS K SHANMUGHAM AS NEW CS AND JK TRIPATHY AS DGP**

- Tamil Nadu Government appointed K Shanmugam as Chief Secretary (CS) of Tamil Nadu succeeding Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan. JK Tripathy was appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) succeeding TK Rajendran.

### **HARYANA LAUNCHES KRISHI KIOSK FOR FARMERS**

- Om Prakash Dhankar, Haryana agriculture, and farmers’ welfare minister launched ‘Krishi kiosk’ for farmers at Panchkula, Haryana.

### **WEST BENGAL INTRODUCES FREE CROP INSURANCE SCHEME BANGLA SHASHYA BIMA FOR FARMERS**

- West Bengal Government launched a crop insurance scheme, Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) for the 2019 ‘Kharif’ season to protect farmers from losses due to natural disasters and provide a steady income in case of unstable market prices.

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### **JUSTICE PK SAIKIA APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF LOKAYUKTA IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

- Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh. The oath was administered by Governor Dr. B D Mishra at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhawan in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, other ministers, and officials. He became the first Lokayukta of the state.

### **RAJASTHAN'S BJP CHIEF MADAN LAL SAINI PASSED AWAY AT AIIMS, DELHI**

- President of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Rajasthan unit Madan Lal Saini, aged 75, passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was diagnosed with infection in lungs.

### **JUSTICE V RAMASUBRAMANIAN SWORN IN AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT**

- Judge of Telangana High Court, Justice V Ramasubramanian sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. He succeeded Chief Justice Surya Kant.

### **JUSTICE RAGHVENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN SWORN-IN AS THE SECOND CHIEF JUSTICE OF TELANGANA HIGH COURT**

- Acting Chief Justice of Telangana High Court, Raghvendra Singh Chauhan sworn-in as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. He succeeded Chief Justice T.B. Radhakrishnan in April, 2019 and sworn in as acting Chief Justice. He hails from Rajasthan.

### **PUNJAB TO BAN ONLINE FOOD DELIVERY WITHOUT HYGIENE RATING**

- Punjab has announced that it is going to ban online food delivery without hygiene ratings. This was announced by the health minister Brahm Mohindra under Tandarust Punjab mission. A timeline of 3 months has been provided for compliance after which no online food will be delivered without hygiene ratings. The hygiene ratings will be provided as per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.

### **TELANGANA STATE FORMATION DAY OBSERVED ON JUNE 2**

- Telangana Formation Day is observed annually on June 2 to mark the official formation of the state after its bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh in 2014. It is the youngest state of India. This year marks the fifth Telangana State Formation Day.

### **ASSAM GOVT HIKES PARENTAL INCOME LIMIT UNDER FEE WAVIER TO RS 2 LAKHS**

- Assam govt has increased the parent's annual income limit of students eligible for fee wavier scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh. This was announced by Assam education minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya.

### **RS 384 CRORE SANCTIONED BY BIHAR CABINET FOR OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME**

- Bihar cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar sanctioned Rs 384 crore for old age pension scheme under the Chief Minister Old Age Pension Scheme for financial year 2019-20. Under this scheme, people in the age group of 60-79 will get Rs 400 per month and people aged above 80 will get Rs 500 per month as pension with the total beneficiaries being 36.50 lakh.

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### **IMD ISSUED 'RED-COLOUR' WARNING FOR DELHI DUE TO RISE IN TEMPERATURE**

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued 'Red-colour' warning for Delhi-NCR with as the temperature had reached 46.8 degree Celsius, the highest since May 2013. It forecasted that the heat waves in central and northwest central India including Rajasthan will continue to hit maximum temperatures and they are expected to reach 50 degree Celsius.

### **FREE RIDES SCHEME FOR WOMEN'S IN DELHI**

- Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has announced free rides in Delhi metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for women to ensure safety and make transport with higher fare affordable. This project will cost Rs 700 crores to the Delhi government.

### **SATISH CHANDRA VERMA APPOINTED AS ADVOCATE GENERAL OF CHHATTISGARH**

- The government of Chhattisgarh has appointment Sathish Chandra Verma as it's new Advocate General (AG) with immediate effect succeeding Kanak Tiwari. He has been appointed by the Governor of Chhattisgarh after exercising the powers conferred by Clause (1) of Article 165 of the constitution of India.

### **V.P SIVAKOLUNDHU ELECTED AS PUDUCHERRY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER**

- Deputy Speaker of Puducherry Assembly V.P Sivakolundhu has been unanimously elected as speaker of Puducherry assembly after congress's V Vaithilingam stepped down from the post. Congress member MNR Balan (Oulgret Constituency) has been appointed as Deputy Speaker.

### **AJEYA KALLAM APPOINTED AS PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO ANDHRA PRADESH CM YS JAGANMOHAN REDDY**

- Ajeaya Kalama, Retired IAS officer and Former Andra Pradesh Chief Secretary, was appointed as Principal Advisor to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Initially, the term of appointment will be 3 years with a fixed remuneration of Rs 2.5 lakh per month.

### **PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER TO DECLARE 550TH PARKASH PARB AS NATIONAL TOLERANCE DAY**

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the 550th Guru Nanak Prakash Purab as National Tolerance Day cited the Sikhism founder's message of love and compassion. Parkash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev (also known as Guru Nanak Jayanti), celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru and Sindhi Community Guru Nanak.

### **JUSTICE PRASHANT KUMAR APPOINTED AS ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE JHARKHAND HIGH COURT**

- Justice Prashant Kumar, judge of Jharkhand High Court, is appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court following the appointment of the present Acting Chief Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The appointment has been made by Article 223 of the Constitution of India.

### **MADHYA PRADESH CABINET PASSED A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE RESERVATION FOR OBCS TO 27%**

- The Cabinet of Madya Pradesh (MP) State Government passed the resolution to increase the reservation quota for OBC (Other Backward Class) from the current 14 percent to 27 Percent. The resolution will be taken in the monsoon session of the state assembly.



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### **HARYANA CABINET APPROVED CHANGES IN STATE JOB RECRUITMENT RULES**

- The Haryana government Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, relaxed the state job recruitment rules in Group B posts such as teachers and educational supervisors and Group C, D posts. The cabinet decided to grant five extra marks for the first time candidates taking police exam and also decided to give 10 percent extra marks to widows, orphans and people from denotified tribes, besides those who do not have an immediate family member in any government job.

### **UTTARAKHAND'S MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND FINANCE PRAKASH PANT PASSED AWAY**

- Uttarakhand minister Prakash Pant passed away at the age of 58 in the US where he was taking treatment for cancer. He is from Pithoragarh. Pant handed over his portfolios to Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, before leaving to the United States.

### **HARYANA GOVT WITHDRAWS EPBG QUOTA FOR ACCOMMODATING EWS RESERVATIONS**

- Haryana government has issued an order to withdraw Economically Backward Persons in General Caste Category (EBPG) reservation since Economically Weaker Sections reservation (EWS) came into effect. EWS comes under Constitution 124th Amendment Bill, 2019 passed by the parliament to allow 10% reservation for economically backward sections in the general category in government jobs and academic institutions in January 2019

### **KERALA SAHITHYA AKADEMI AWARDEE, POET AND LYRICIST PAZHAVILA RAMESAN PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 83 IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA**

- Pazhavila Ramesan, Poet and lyricist passed away at the age of 83 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He hailed from Perinadu in Kollam district of Kerala. He worked as the Director at the Kerala Bhasha Institute (State Institute of Languages). He won Kerala Sahithya Akademi award in 2017.

### **GREEN MIZORAM DAY CELEBRATED ON JUNE 11, 2019**

- In Mizoram, Green Mizoram Day was celebrated throughout the state on June 11, 2019. Chief Minister of the state Zoramthanga planted saplings at the premises of the Assam Rifles headquarters in Aizawl. This day has been observed since June 11, 1999.

### **BIHAR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI VRIDDHA PENSION YOJNA**

- The State Government of Bihar launched Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above 60 years of age which is effective from April 1, 2019. This was launched by the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Under the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna, Poor people above the age of 60 years will get Rs 400 per month and those people above the age of 80 years will get Rs. 500 per month.

### **ANDHRA PRADESH CM APPOINTS 5 DEPUTY CMS IN CABINET**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister(CM) Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed 5 Deputy CMs in a full 25-member Cabinet, one each from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Classes (BC), Minority and Kapu communities. The 5 Deputy CMs are Pamula Pushpa Sreevani, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, L Narayana Swamy and Amzath Basha.

### **JUSTICE DHIRUBHAI NARANBHAI PATEL SWORN IN AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF DELHI HIGH COURT**

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- Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. His oath of ceremony is administered by lieutenant governor of Delhi, Anil Baijal. He succeeded Justice Rajendra Menon, who retired after 2 decades of service.

### **FORMER PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER AND DMK LEADER R.V. JANAKIRAMAN PASSED AWAY**

- RV Janakiraman, a former Chief Minister of the union territory of Puducherry and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) passed away in Puducherry at the age of 79. He was from Alathur in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu.

### **VETERAN TAMIL PLAYWRIGHT AND ACTOR 'CRAZY' MOHAN, AGED 67, PASSED AWAY IN CHENNAI**

- Renowned Tamil playwright and comedy actor Mohan Rangachari, popularly known as 'Crazy'

Mohan, passed away at Kauvery Hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu after he suffered a major heart attack. He was 67. He was born on October 16, 1952, in Tamil Nadu.

### **GOA CABINET APPROVES 10% QUOTA FOR ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD SECTIONS**

- The Goa cabinet chaired by the Chief minister Pramod Sawant approved the amendment of 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections of a general category in education and employment. The state cabinet also assured the reservation for Muslims and Christians, who are not covered under the quota.

### **MEKATHOTI SUCHARITHA APPOINTED AS THE HOME MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) YS Jaganmohan Reddy appointed Mekathoti Sucharitha, aged 45, a representative from Prathipadu (SC) reserved constituency in Guntur district, as the Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh. She became the first Dalit woman home minister of Andhra Pradesh after the formation of Telangana.

### **FIRST MEETING OF ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET APPROVES SEVERAL KEY DECISIONS**

- The new cabinet meeting chaired by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has approved some key decisions including hike of old age pension from 2,000 to Rs 2,250 and approves salaries of Aasha workers (health workers in rural areas) from Rs.3,000 to Rs.10,000 per month and also increased the salary of community health workers under the Tribal Welfare Department from current Rs 400 to Rs 4,000 a month.

### **KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES "PINK SARATHI VEHICLES"**

- The state government of Karnataka launched "Pink Sarathi vehicles" for women safety. This was launched by the Chief Minister of Karnataka, H.D.Kumaraswamy. The vehicles were procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) under the 'Nirbhaya' scheme. BMTC has received Rs.56.07 crore from the central Government.

### **ASSAM TRANSPORT MINISTER CHANDRA MOHAN PATOWARY LAUNCHED STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION'S CHALO APP**

- Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched the Assam State Transport Corporation's (ASTC) Chalo app for Guwahati. It will help the travellers to know about the live arrival time of their bus. The Chalo app is developed by the Zophop Technologies Pvt Ltd, a technology-driven transport solutions company. Assam became the first state in India to have a state-wide smart transport solution and common mobility card for its commuters.

### **BIHAR CABINET APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO PUNISH CHILDREN WHO ABANDON THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS; ALSO SANCTIONED DPR FOR DAGMARA HYDEL POWER PROJECT**

- Bihar Cabinet led by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approved the proposal seeking provisions to punish children who abandon their elderly parents. They could face jail time over charges of abandonment. The state cabinet also sanctioned Rs 11.68 crore for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of a multi-purpose 130-MW Dagmara hydel power project in Supaul district.

### **IN BIHAR, 160 CHILDREN LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO ENCEPHALITIS AND HEAT-WAVE**

- In Bihar, 160 children have lost their lives due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and heat wave. The total toll due to AES and heat wave has been pegged at 104 and 56 respectively. The toxic substance in lychee causes Acute

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Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), locally known as Chamki Bukhar, which is a form of brain fever that happens due to the inflammation of the brain.

### **UTTAR PRADESH STATE CABINET GIVES APPROVAL TO 6 PROPOSALS**

- The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved six Proposals including the one to convene the state Assembly's Monsoon Session from July 18, 2019. Among others, The cabinet has also gave its assent to a proposal regarding the formation of Gorakhpur Zoological Park with the cost of Rs 181.82 crore. It would be called as Ashfaquallah Zoological Park.

### **HP GOVERNMENT MAKES GPS TRACKING DEVICES MANDATORY FOR TREKKERS**

- The Himachal Pradesh Government made it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency. A decision in this regard was taken at a review meeting on preparedness for the monsoon chaired by Shrikant Baldi, Additional Chief Secretary in Shimla. The trekking and other yatras will be restricted during adverse weather.

### **PUNJAB GOVERNMENT SET TO LAUNCH A UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FROM JULY 2019**

- Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu announced that the State Government is set to launch its flagship universal health insurance scheme named "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY)" with effect from July 1, 2019. This Health scheme will be the first of its kind in the state and provide annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family to 43.18 lakh families of Punjab.

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