



Monthly **GK** Mania



October - 2019

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Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day

29th October 2019 was observed as Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction on 'Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience' in reminiscence of destruction brought by Super Cyclone 1999. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated an awareness rally and photo & painting exhibition on Disaster Response equipment, unveiled the Annual Newsletter of OSDMA 'The Response' and applauded volunteers, agencies and institutions for their praiseworthy works in the field of Disaster Management for year 2019 on this occasion.

National Symposium for eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized National Symposium on 'United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis' theme on October 30, 2019. Health and Family Welfare minister Dr Harsh Vardhan conducted the inaugural ceremony and inked the "Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021". It is alarming to learn that more than 1.5 billion people are affected globally with this Lymphatic Filariasis (Hathipaon) and Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar) which are categorized under Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD). Indian government is planning to begin the use of Triple Drug therapy to weed it out in a phased manner from November 2019. Besides this, programmes for prevention of this disease through Mass Drug Administration using combination of 2 anti-filarial drugs namely DEC and Albendazole as well as Morbidity management and Disability Prevention services are on wheels.

India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council

On October 29, 2019 during the third Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inked a bilateral "Strategic Partnership Council" pact as well as agreements in areas of defence, civil aviation, infrastructure, non-renewable energy sector, preventing narcotics trafficking etc. The proposed Strategic Partnership Council will involve multiple sections from NITI Aayog, External Affairs Ministry and counterpart organizations from Saudi Arabia. The Joint Statement also included India's condemnation of the recent drone attacks on Aramco petroleum processing facilities at Abqaiq and Khurais in eastern Saudi Arabia. Both the nations condemned terrorism in all forms.

Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde: The 47th CJ of India

On 18th November 2019, 63 year old Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde will take oath as the 47th Chief Justice of India. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed him on this post under Article 124 of the

Constitution of India. He will replace incumbent Ranjan Gogoi. He will serve the post for a total of 17 months and will be demitting office on 23 April 2021. He was Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court in October 2012 and was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court in April 2013.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Parv

On 31st October 2019, Kendra Vidhyalaya Sangathan under Ministry of HRD will organize a four day Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Parv. Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will inaugurate it to showcase the spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat”. It will promote communication and artistic skills of students through various competitions in which students will prepare their own projects and will display vivid customs, dress, agriculture, economy, climate and topography. They will organize exhibitions on themes like Fit India, Swachh Bharat, Ban on Single use plastic, etc. The event is for the purpose of helping children overcome linguistic and geographical barriers.

National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards

In October 2019, President Kovind presented the National Corporate Social Responsibility Awards (NCSRA) to selected companies for their outstanding contribution in CSR in New Delhi. In 2019 edition of NCRSA, 19 companies from a total of 528 entries were selected. These awards are the highest recognition given by Government of India in the domain of CSR, encouraging companies to spend amount on recognising impact, usage of technology, innovation, gender and environment issues, scalability, replicability and sustainability of CSR activities.

World's largest Face Recognition system to track criminals

Government of India has invited proposals from IT companies worldwide to install world's largest facial recognition system in India to track criminals. National Crime Record Bureau will receive the proposals and will select a robust system to identify criminals, missing children, unidentified dead bodies, etc. to create National Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS). For avoiding misuse of the technology, the requisite system is ought have a strong regulatory framework for facial recognition as well as security wall to protect the collected data .

Sri Sathya Sai Sanathana Samskruti Project in Japan

On 24th October 2019, President Kovind laid foundation stone for Sri Sathya Sai Sanathana Samskruti Project 'Sai no Sato' in Japan. It will be developed as a temple on the lines of Akshardham and Swaminarayan Temple for promotion of Indian traditional culture and help in searching for inner peace and happiness, seeking to bring communities and cultures together. President described the place as an excellent ambience for contemplation of self and society, individual and community and remove the distance between “us and them”.

National Panchayat Awards 2019

On 23rd October 2019, during a function in New Delhi, Minister of Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar bestowed 246 national panchayat awards to Panchayats and States in various categories for their best performance at different levels, including the delivery of services. Among these, 195 awards were presented under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar category, 20 Gram Panchayats in Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar category, 3 Gram Panchayats in Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award category, 22 Gram Panchayats in Child-Friendly Gram Panchayats Award and 6 states were awarded under e-Panchayat Puraskar category. Tomar also launched an App called 'Gram Manchitra' which will be a Geo-Spatial based decision support system for panchayats.

First national protocol for snow leopard in India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the first national protocol to enumerate the snow leopard population in the country on the occasion of International Snow Leopard Day i.e. October 23, 2019 at the inaugural session of the 4th steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program in Delhi. The day was meant to encourage protection and conservation of the snow leopards and preservation of the beautiful wildlife of the Himalayas. India has 400 to 700 snow leopards across Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh which are facing threat of poaching. Snow leopards play an important role in their ecosystem as top predators.

No Government jobs for people with more than 2 kids

In October 2019, the government of Assam decided that no Government jobs will be provided to persons with more than 2 children after 1 January 2021. In September 2017, the Assam government had approved the "Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam" that advocated this decision. According to 2011 census Indian population is 121.08 crores while population of Assam is 3.09 crores. It is worth knowing that the Population Density of Assam is 398 per sq km which is even greater than that of most populous country of the world, China. The graph of annual population growth of the state shows an increase of one million per year.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

In October 2019, Delhi government gave nod to implementation of ambitious Central scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) that promises small and marginal eligible farmers an income support of Rs.6,000 a year in three instalments directly into their bank accounts. Further, the Delhi Government has now sent names of 11,000 farmers, who will be the beneficiaries of the scheme, having combined land holding/ownership of upto 2 hectares.

Punjab adopted New Kiln technology

According to October 2019 latest report, Punjab government succeeded in cutting emissions by 70% after adoption of a new kiln technology in the state. According to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the districts of Punjab like Barnala and Sangpur have seen 100% conversion while around 800 to 900 kilns in Punjab are yet to convert to the new technology. In the new kiln technology, the bricks are arranged in zig-zag pattern to permit hot air to cover long path unlike traditional kilns. This improved the heat transfer due to zig-zag pattern makes the operation more efficient and reduces coal consumption by 20%. Fans are also employed to regulate air. Flashback says, following orders from National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Punjab Government had ordered the closure of traditional kilns in March 2019 to curb the toxicity of the National Capital Region.

The First StartUp Summit

In October 2019, to bring the key stakeholders and startups of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) together, the first StartUp Summit was held in New Delhi. Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) launched a series of new initiatives that included MeitY Startup Hub to facilitate the vision of the Ministry regarding technology, startups, innovation and creation of intellectual properties. The Minister declared “Reform, Perform and Transform” as the main focus areas of the Government of India. The summit concentrated on progress of the Transformation Technology schemes like Digital India, make in India, Startup India and Smart Cities and the Digital Initiatives like eNam, Digital payments and eVisas etc.

The Beginning of CCRT e-portal & YouTube Channel

In October 2019, Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture, introduced an e-portal and a YouTube channel of Rashtriya Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) at a ‘Digital Bharat-Digital Sanskriti’ program at CCRT headquarters in New Delhi. It has been done to take India to a newer digital pinnacle and promote Indian culture. Besides this, the Minister also released a book titled ‘Dewas Ki Sanskritik Parampara’ authored by Jeevan Singh Thakur and published by CCRT. CCRT has also begun publication of books from the series- ‘Untold Tales of India’s Cities, in order to explore and comprehend unknown aspects of lesser-known places in India and their rural and semi-urban culture. In addition to these, CCRT has also produced a documentary film called ‘Rahas’, based on Rasalila in Chhattisgarh with the objective of learning different regional cultures for better insight of Indian traditions.

Book 'Bridgital Nation'

On 20th October 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book titled 'Bridgital Nation' authored by Chairman, Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran and Roopa Purushothaman in benign presence of noted industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata in New Delhi. The book is about

positivity, creativity and constructive mindset that devises solutions of the problems. And technology is the bridge between aspiration and achievement as it leads to transparency and targeted delivery. It is the technological intervention that has reformed and transformed governance in India in the last five years.

K Parasaran became the Most Eminent Senior Citizen Awardee

On 20th October 2019, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu conferred the Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award upon legal luminary and former Attorney General K Parasaran for his exceptional contribution to the field of law and justice as well as his extraordinary personality on the occasion of the Elder's Day celebration of an organization working for the welfare of the elderly, Age Care India. Throughout his distinguished career, he had handled a wide array of cases.

Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu of Ladakh

On 21st October 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu that has been constructed at a height of 14,650 feet in the forward area of Ladakh region. Built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), it is a strategically important road Durbuk Shyok Daulat Beg Oldie in sub sector north in eastern Ladakh. BRO employed micro pile technology during the foundation of the bridge to meet the technological challenges in this 1400 feet span remote area of Ladakh. Named after Colonel Chewang Rinchan, who was one of the highly decorated officers in the Indian Army from Ladakh who had been honored with the Maha Vir Chakra award twice, the bridge consists of 6900 cubic meters of concrete and 1984 metric tons of steel.

NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2019

Policy think tank of Indian government, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and CEO Amitabh Kant released India Innovation Index (III) 2019. In this index that has been developed on the lines of Global Innovation Index (GII), Karnataka emerged as the Most Innovative State followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh to complete the top ten list. And among Union Territories Delhi, Chandigarh and Goa have topped the list. The index intended to analyse innovation at State/UT level and promote competitiveness among them.

NCERT is about to revise its 14-year-old curriculum

In October 2019, the National Council of Educational Research and Training revealed its plan of revising the 14-year-old National Curriculum Framework in accordance with a new National Education Policy. The Council will pretty soon form a new committee to frame the curriculum. The National Curriculum Framework has been revised four times viz. in 1975, 1988, 2000 and 2005. This proposed revision will be the fifth framework. The Council has started survey on the primary education in Shillong, Bhopal, Rajasthan, Mysore blocks. The existing education policy was framed in 1986 which underwent revision in 1992. Former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan and his team framed a new education policy draft that advocates only essential core material in each subject. They emphasized on discovery-based, engaging and enjoyable style of learning.

Maharashtra Board Introduced 25% MCQ for 12h Board

The registration process for 12th board exams are in process which will conclude on October 23, 2019. This board exam will take place in February-March next year and will have some changes in the exam pattern. As per the revised evaluation scheme, at least 25% questions in the HSC exam question paper will be objective and multiple-choice type. The final evaluation for class 12 students will be for 600 marks instead of 650 marks. There will be practical component for all subjects. Same goes for class 10th. For Maharashtra Board class 10 students, component of internal assessment has been re-introduced. The theory examination will be of 80 marks and 20 marks will be of internal assessment. Among those 20 marks of internal assessment, 5 marks have been assigned to listening skills of a student and 5 marks for oratory skills of the student.

IIT Bombay Innovator Launched Diabetic Foot Screening Device

In October 2019, during the Medical Device Innovation Camp, conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar launched an innovative and affordable device to semi-automatically screen patients with diabetic foot neuropathy condition. Innovator Nishant Kathpal demonstrated and explained the device, "Unlike other devices to check for diabetic neuropathy, our device is based on a relatively novel concept of tissue stiffness. It makes patient screening faster and more reliable, leading to more effective treatment and care."

The BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting & India

In October 2019, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent charge) Prahlad Singh Patel took part in BRICS Culture Ministers' meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil and reaffirmed India's commitment to contribute towards strengthening bonds between member countries. India proposed to add literature as another field of cooperation between countries to enhance cooperation in the field of literary works. It also propagated ideas on Letter of Intention (LoI) on Creative Economy in BRICS Countries to touch a milestone in the BRICS cultural cooperation.

The Second phase of LOTUS-HR

In October 2019, Minister of Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan and the Dutch Royal couple, Netherlands' King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima launched the second phase of an Indo-Dutch project called Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse(LOTUS-HR) at Barapullah drain in New Delhi. LOTUS-HR is a water treatment laboratory that is meant to treat dirty water of Barapullah Drain before it deposits into Yamuna. This project was started in 2017 at the Sun Dial Park in New Delhi as part of collaboration between the governments of India and the Netherlands. This innovative pilot scale modular plant will treat 10,000 litre sewage water per day and will also display a self-sustaining model for end user.

The Beginning of Ganges Dolphin census

October 2019 propelled the annual Ganges river Dolphin census along the 250 km stretch of Upper Ganga between the Hastinapur Wildlife sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site including the upstream of Bijnor Ganga Barrage. The World Wide Fund in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department have organized this census. This year they have employed a tandem boat survey method which is said to be more accurate in comparison to previous year's direct counting. In this officials are using two boats that move in tandem to count the dolphins. They are spotted when they come on surface and make strange sound while breathing. In 2015, the count was 22 and that has so far remained stable.

Conclusion of Rozgar Mela

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship conducted Skill India Rozgar Mela in October 2019 in Bikaner in which more than 100 corporate took part and 2000 youths were shortlisted in the event. This was one of the largest job fairs organized by the NSDC in which the aspirants had opportunities to register with Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) which is meant to increase productivity and align training and certifications according to the requirement of the country and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra Yojana (PMKKY). In the last 18 months over 1088 Rozgar Melas have been organized by the NSDC.

Three month rural stint for PG Medical students

In October 2019, the Board of Governors (BoG) of Medical Council of India made 3-month rural stint in a district hospital mandatory for all Postgraduate medical students before they get their degrees. The resolution which was adopted in this context reads: "Considering the importance of medical education, the CCHFV resolves to take steps to increase the availability of doctors and specialists in the country to improve access to quality and affordable health care. The CCHFV further resolves for adoption and smooth implementation of District Residency Programme as may be provided for by MCI through regulations." Besides this, states like Gujarat and Maharashtra had made one-year rural posting mandatory for UG medical students which has been challenged in court.

A New eel-loach species 'Pangio Bhujia'

In October 2019, Scientists from Kerala have discovered a new species of eel-loach named 'Pangio bhujia' in Kozhikode district of state. It is a unique species of miniature subterranean fish. It is approximately 3 centimetres long pinkish-red in colour and stays in purest waters of deep subterranean aquifers. It lacks dorsal fin, which has never been encountered in genus Pangio to which this new species belongs to. It is also unique among order Cypriniformes (an order of ray-finned fish, including the carps, minnows, loaches, and relatives) and is highly unusual even among bony fishes generally.

Anita Pai : The New Chief Operating Officer of Yes Bank

In October 2019, former ICICI Chief General Manager, Anita Pai got appointed as the Chief Operating Officer of Yes Bank, which is the 4th-largest Private Sector Bank in India. In this capacity she will look into the information technology functions. Prior to this, she looked into ATM Business, Branch banking Service and Phone Banking at ICICI. While former head of marketing at Kotak Life, Jasneet Bachal got appointed as the Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of the Yes Bank to head brand, retail, corporate marketing and corporate communications. The duo will report directly to Chief Executive Ravneet Gill.

Chandi Prasad Bhatt became Indira Gandhi Awardee

On October 31, 2019, renowned environmentalist and social activist Chandi Prasad Bhatt will be honored with the 31st Indira Gandhi award for national integration for the years 2017 and 2018. 85 year old Bhatt belongs to Uttarakhand, and had founded the Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar in year 1964, which later became a parent organisation for the Chipko Movement, in which he was one of the pioneers. Prior to this, his efforts were well acknowledged with the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1982) for community leadership, the Padma Bhushan (2005) as well as the Gandhi Peace Prize.

Venkaiah Naidu received the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros

In October 2019, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu became the proud recipient of the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros, 'Order of the Green Crescent'. The President of the Union of Comoros Azali Assoumani honored him on his first-ever high-level visit to Comoros in Moroni, the capital city of Comoros. He thanked the government of Comoros receiving the honor on behalf of 1.3 billion Indians as a symbol of India-Comoros friendship.

The Sahyatri mobile app of Railways

In October 2019, Union Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Nityanand Rai launched the Indian Railways' Sahyatri mobile app and a website www.railways.delhipolice.gov.in for the passengers to register their complaints online at the NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) Convention Centre on Sansad Marg, New Delhi. It will enable Railway police to address the complaints of passengers from across India, provide information on several issues and help in crime detection by integrating the criminal database online. The app will also help railway passengers locate the jurisdiction of a police station and the details of GRP officials by geo-tagging with Google Maps

National Health Mission is in news

In October 2019, 14 states were penalized for not performing in various health parameters under the National Health Mission (NHM). In the Health system Strengthening Conditionality Report of states 2018 – 19 report, the states were evaluated on the basis of Immunization status, Health and Wellness Centers (HWC), Provisioning of mental health services at the district headquarters, Screening of 30 people around the HWC for non – communicable diseases, Performance of district hospitals and Rating PHC – Primary Health Center. Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Assam were the top performers, while Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Nagar Haveli, Mizoram, J&K, Himachal Pradesh appeared as the worst performers.

Discovery of ‘plastic-eating’ bacteria

As per the journal, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Advances publication of October 2019, researchers of Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh have discovered two ‘plastic-eating’ bacterial strains namely ‘Exiguobacterium sibiricum strain DR11’ and ‘Exiguobacterium undae strain DR14’ from the wetlands of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Because of its high molecular weight and long chain polymer structure, Polystyrene which is a key component in Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items like disposable cups, cutlery, toys, packaging materials etc is quite resistant to degradation but the discovered strains were found to have great potential to decompose this synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymer. This discovery is bound to mitigate the environmental pollution caused by plastics and to eliminate SUP by 2022, which is the Central Government’s goal.

Appearance of Kanyashree University in West Bengal

Mamata Banerjee government chose International Day of the Girl Child i.e. 11th October 2019 to announce the plan of establishment of Kanyashree University in Nadia district and Kanyashree colleges across the state. Before this, the West Bengal government had started a Kanyashree scheme to empower girls in year 2013 to ensure that girls study in schools and delay their marriages until the age of 18 years and this scheme was well acknowledged by the United Nations for Public Service in 2017. The scheme has been allocated a budget of Rs 7,000 crore since its launch.

Mukesh Ambani once again topped Forbes India Rich List 2019

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani with a wealth worth \$51.4 billion topped in the recently released Forbes India Rich List 2019 for the 12th consecutive time. He added \$4.1 billion to his net worth as Jio, which is a three-year-old telecom unit of his Reliance Industries and became one of India's biggest mobile carriers with 340 million subscribers. Infrastructure tycoon Gautam Adani stood second as he jumped 8 spots on the list with a net worth of \$15.7 billion.

Ashok Leyland owners Hinduja brothers secured the third spot with a net worth of \$15.6 billion, Shapoorji Pallonji Group's Pallonji Mistry grabbed the fourth spot with a \$15 billion net worth and Kotak Mahindra Bank's Uday Kotak held the fifth rank with \$14.8 billion net worth.

Dutee Chand broke national record

Indian Star sprinter Dutee Chand broke her own national record, clocking 11.22 seconds in the women's 100m semifinals on her way to the gold medal at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships on 11th October 2019. The 23-year-old surpassed her previous timing of 11.26s which she had set at the Asian Championships in April 2019. At that time she had equalled Rachita Mistry's 11.26-second effort at the Asian Championship. Dutee later clocked 11.25 seconds in the final to claim the gold, leaving Archana Suseendran and Himashree Roy in the wake.

India received the first tranche of Swiss account of Indian citizens

In October 2019, India has got the first details of accounts of Indian citizens in Swiss banks under the new regular system of automatic exchange of information (AEOI). The Federal Tax Administration (FTA) of Switzerland has exchanged details of financial accounts including resident's country, name, address and financial institution with tax identification number, balance in the account and capital income under 75 global standards of AEOI to 75 countries. It conveyed India details about the accounts which are currently active. Apart from this, it has also shared information about the accounts that have been closed in 2018. The next tranche of information between India and Switzerland is expected in September next year.

The BS-VI emission norms

In October 2019, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that India will be adopting the Bharat Stage Six (BS-VI) emission norms by April 2022 which is expected to bring transformation in fuels. It is worth knowing that the Government has spent Rs 60,000 crore on switching from BS-IV fuel to BS-VI fuel to tackle the alarming pollution levels. In April 2019, the Supreme Court of India had given verdict that no Bharat Stage IV vehicle shall be sold across the country with effect from April 1, 2020. Instead, the Bharat Stage VI (or BS-VI) emission norm will come into force from April 1, 2020 across the country.

Justice Ajay Lamba: The New CJ of Gauhati High Court

In October 2019, Justice Ajay Lamba took oath as Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court. Governor Professor Jagdish Mukhi at the Raj Bhawan administered his oath in Gauhati in the presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Secretary Alok Kumar, Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia, senior officials of the state government, high court judges and members of the legal fraternity. Prior to this, he was a judge of the Allahabad High Court.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Medicine

On 7th October 2019, professor of medicine at Harvard University William Kaelin Jr; the director of clinical research at the Francis Crick Institute in London Sir Peter Ratcliffe and the director of the Vascular Research Program at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering, Gregg Semenza together received the 2019 Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability. They had identified molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying oxygen levels. They added a valuable insight into how oxygen levels affect cellular metabolism and physiological function. Prior to this, all knew about the importance of oxygen but how cells adapt to changes in levels of oxygen was still a mystery.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (RSAS) has split the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics between James Peebles of Princeton University, United States of America (USA) “for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology” (after the Big Bang theory) and the other half jointly to Michel Mayor from the University of Geneva, Switzerland and Didier Queloz, University of Geneva, Switzerland, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (UK) “for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star”. The three scientists have contributed to the understanding of the evolution of the universe and earth's place in the cosmos.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino will share the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their pivotal role in making lithium ion batteries. Akira Yoshino is a Japanese chemist, who invented the lithium ion batteries. Goodenough is an American professor, who doubled the lithium battery's potential, creating the right conditions for a vastly more powerful and useful battery. Goodenough is also the first person to get a Nobel at an age of 97. The previous record-holder was Arthur Ashkin, who had won the Physics Nobel in 2018 at 96. And M Stanley Whittingham is an British–American chemist currently serving as a professor at Binghamton University, New York, who has eliminated pure lithium from the battery.

Saturn : The planet with maximum moons

The International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center announced 'Saturn' as the new 'Moon King' on October 7, 2019. Under the guidance of an astronomer at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, D.C., Scott Sheppard the team has discovered 20 new moons of Saturn. They employed the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii and found that three of the newfound moons are prograde, orbiting in the same direction that Saturn rotates, while 17 are retrograde, traveling in the opposite direction. Each is between 2 and 5 kilometers wide. With this, the figure of moons of Saturn has reached 82. With this, Saturn has surpassed Jupiter, the previous record holder of having maximum number of moons i.e. 79.

7th October 2019 : The First World Cotton Day

Globe observed the very first World Cotton Day on 7th October 2019. The World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva hosted the event for the day to celebrate the advantages of cotton, ranging from its qualities as a natural fibre to the benefits people obtain from its production, transformation, trade and consumption. The event highlighted the challenges faced by the world's cotton economies, as cotton is significant for the least developed, developing and developed economies worldwide. This event was proposed by four countries viz. Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali to underline the significance of cotton as a global commodity. From India, Union Textiles Minister, Smriti Irani is participating in a plenary session organized from 7th to 11th October 2019. The event involves a cotton exhibition organized by the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), TEXPROCIL and India's NIFT.

Inauguration of National e-Assessment Centre

In October 2019, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey inaugurated National E-Assessment Centre in Delhi and Regional E-Assessment Centers in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad. The centres are meant to implement the faceless assessment system for Income Tax Return. This is to eliminate the interface between Assessing Officer and Assessee to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the system.

The Beginning Of 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship'

In October 2019, IIM Bangalore has signed a contract with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to start a new programme 'Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship' (MGNF). An independent public interest-oriented policy think-tank, IIMB's Centre of Public Policy (CPP) will deliver this two-year Fellowship programme on pilot basis in Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Eligible Fellows in the age group of 21-30 years with a graduate degree from a recognised university will be enrolled for this programme. It will identify and train a group of young, committed and dynamic individuals, who will leverage the IIMB ecosystem in management, entrepreneurship and public policy and work with the district administration in strengthening the process of skilling to create a vibrant local district economy.

The 2019 Goa Maritime Conclave

In October 2019, Naval War College (NWC) of Goa organized Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) on "Common Maritime Priorities in IOR and need for Regional Maritime Strategy" theme. The National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Kumar Doval inaugurated this conclave which had three sub themes like "Opportunities and Challenges in IOR"; "Imperatives and Priorities for Forging a Common Agenda in the IOR" and "Regional Constructs and Strategies in the IOR". On this occasion the 31st edition of the Naval War College Journal was also released.

Conclusion of Wildlife week

On 8th October 2019, the Wildlife Week which was organized on “Life Below Water: For People And Planet” theme for preservation of underwater fauna and flora got concluded. Organized by National Board of Wildlife, the week witnessed Central and State Governments, environmentalists and activists accelerating the awareness of conservation of wildlife via seminars, processions to manifest the responsibility of protection of flora and fauna as well as birdwatch events at Bengaluru-Jakkur Lake in Bengaluru and at Yamuna River Front, Delhi.

A compulsory pre-exam for CS Executive & Professional students

For the students of CS Executive and Professional programme enrolled under the new syllabus of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), the deadline for clearing the pre-exam for December 2019 session has got extended. Earlier the deadline for clearing the pre-exam was October 10 that has now been extended till October 31. The ICSI CS December 2019 exams, for Executive and Professional courses, will be held from December 20 to December 30.

The Changed name of New Delhi- Lohian Khas New Delhi Intercity Express

In October 2019, Railways renamed New Delhi- Lohian Khas New Delhi Intercity Express as ‘Sarbat Da Bhala Express’ as a tribute to Guru Nanak Dev on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations (November 12, 2019). It has been done on request of Union Food Processing Industries minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Equipped with 2 Air Conditioner (AC) Chair Car coaches, 6 Second class sitting coaches, 7 General Coaches, it runs from Delhi to Lohian Khas in Jalandhar, Punjab via holy city Sultanpur Lodhi. The Railway Ministry granted Rs. 22 crore to upgrade Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and launch 14 new trains.

The 10th India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

In October 2019, Shanti Raghavan & Dipesh Sutariya of EnAble India, an NGO that works towards economic independence and dignity of people with disability were honoured with Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019. The duo worked for building an ecosystem of skilling, employment and entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Jubilant Bhartia Foundation and Schwab Foundation instituted this award for Social Entrepreneurship in year 2010 for acknowledging promising social entrepreneurs who implement sustainable solutions.

Death of HL Trivedi

Padma Shri Awardee and renowned kidney transplant surgeon Dr Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi died at the age of 87. He was honored with Padma Shri in year 2015 for his valuable contribution to society as a nephrologist. Dialysis centres in all district hospitals of Gujarat and

more than 5,000 successful kidney transplants were his credentials. He achieved pioneering feats in reconstructive surgery of the kidney using laparoscopic techniques. His research papers published in 2017, conveyed that the most cost-effective treatment for end-stage renal disease patients was living donor kidney transplantation as compared to deceased donor kidney transplant and long-term dialysis. He was a pioneer in stem cell research also and under his leadership IKDRC witnessed techniques used to generate blood cells from stem cells in kidney transplant recipients. He founded the “Hamilton Organ Procurement Program” (HOPE) in 1974, which was the first of its kind in the world.

CAC witnessed resignations

In October 2019, Kapil Dev and Anshuman Gaekwad also tabled their resignations after Shantha Rangaswamy resigned from BCCI's 3-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The three members resigned from the CAC after facing a conflict of interest notice by the BCCI ethics officer Justice (Retd) DK Jain. The notice was issued on a complaint by Sanjeev Gupta, who pointed out that they were a part of the committee despite being directors of players' association. Vinod Rai, the Chief of Committee of Administrators (CoA) finally clarified the three members of the committee- Kapil Dev, Shantha Rangaswamy and Anshuman Gaekwad were not conflicted in their understanding. The CAC was only appointed for selecting the head coaches and it doesn't exist anymore as it was just a one-time committee.

Stipend for trade apprentices

On 30th September 2019, Minister of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey at State Ministers' Conference on Skill Development in New Delhi announced a minimum stipend in the range of five thousand to nine thousand rupees per month from now onwards for trade apprentices. It will be given on the basis of their qualification. Besides this, employers having four or more workers will be eligible to engage apprentices. Along with this a new structure of Kaushal Vikas Mitra from State to village level will be erected.

Discovery of an 'Ancient River' in UP

On 2nd October 2019, a team of researchers and experts of Union Jal Shakti Ministry reported discovery of a dried-up river during the geophysical survey in the Kaushambi and Prayagraj region in Uttar Pradesh. It has been found about 26 km south of the current Ganga-Yamuna confluence at Prayagraj and is said to be an important link between the rivers. The remnant (Palaeochannel) of the inactive river is about 4 km wide and 45km long under a 15-meter-thick layer of the soil that could be a potential groundwater recharge source. It is likely to present a new aspect to understand the present day scenario of Ganga-Yamuna Rivers to map North-West India's rivers with a new perspective.

Bindra's new book "The Tech Whisperer"

In October 2019, digital transformation expert Jaspreet Bindra launched his new book "The Tech Whisperer". Published by Penguin India that features a chapter on AI (Artificial Intelligence). The book describes and simplifies the most revolutionary technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, Internet of things, virtual reality, etc. and illustrates how companies can employ these to drive their digital transformation. The author has referred to James Barrat's book "Our Final Invention" which speculates that "AI will be the final invention by humankind.

National Law University in J&K

On 2nd October 2019, the governor of Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik gave nod to the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Bill 2019 for establishing a National Law University in the J&K, which will help in disseminating knowledge about law and legal processes and promoting legal awareness to achieve political, social and economic justice. Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Act enactment will bring J&K at par with other states where such universities have already been established. Flashback says a conference of law ministers in India in the year 1995 had adopted a resolution to erect a law school in each state modelled on the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the objective of improving the quality of professional legal education and many states have enacted laws to set up such universities since then.

Kalli Purie received 'India's most powerful women in media' award

In September 2019, Indian journalist Kallie Puri got honoured with the global honour "India's Most Powerful Women in Media" award at the prestigious Confluence Excellence Awards at the British Parliament. She began working with the India Today Group from year 1996 as a marketing executive and reporter for their flagship magazine, India Today and is now the Vice-Chairperson of the India Today Group. She earned her graduation in Politics, Philosophy & Economics from Oxford University in England. She has a rich experience of leading a wide range of media verticals like Aaj Tak, India Today Television, Aaj Tak HD, Tez, a digital newspaper, apps and Dilli Aaj Tak. In March 2017, she was adjudged as the 5th most powerful woman at the sixth edition of Impact Magazine's Awards and has recently received 'Outstanding Media & Entertainment Award' at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.

'Panditjasraj': A Planet with a name of Indian artist

In September 2019, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a minor planet 2006 VP32 (300128) after Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj. Discovered in year 2006, it traverses the cosmos between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. The classical music legend Pandit Jasraj is the

pioneer of Indian classical singing. He belongs to Mewati Gharana of music and is famous for singing khayals with some addition of thumri in it. With this, he joined the galaxy of immortal composers like Mozart, Beethoven and Tenor Luciano Pavarotti. He was acknowledged with Padma Vibhushan (2000), Padma Bhushan (1990), Padma Shri (1975), Lata Mangeshkar Award and many more.

1st October 2019 : The 94th Raising Day of MNS

The Military Nursing Service (MNS) is celebrating its 94th Raising Day today. The nursing officers took the Florence Nightingale Pledge to re-dedicate themselves to high quality, selfless nursing care to their patients. It is worth knowing that MNS is the only all women corps in the Armed Forces that came into existence on March 28, 1888 with the arrival of the first batch of 10 qualified British Nurses in Bombay, to organize nursing in Military hospitals in India.

KS Dhatwalia: PIB's new Principal DG

In September 2019, Senior Indian Information Service officer, KS Dhatwalia got appointed as the Principal Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB). He has taken place of Sitanshu Kar, and has become the 28th Principal Spokesperson of the government. He will continue to hold the additional charge of Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication. The appointee has vast experience of working in various Media Units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



World Cities Day

Globe celebrated October 31, 2019 as World Cities Day (WCD) on ‘Changing the world: Innovations and better life for future generations’ theme. Discussions regarding how urbanization can be used to achieve sustainable development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda were done at length. The New Urban Agenda about construction, management and habitation of cities was adopted in Quito, Ecuador at the UN Conference popularly known as Habitat Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016. Instituted in 2013, the day is meant to encourage the international community’s interest in global urbanization.

MIT removed CO2 from air!

According to the latest publication of journal, Energy and Environmental Science, scientists of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States have developed a new technology to capture carbon dioxide (CO₂) from a stream of air at any concentration level at room temperature and normal air pressure in contrast to traditional methods that require high concentration of air for the same. This development will lead to a reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) levels. Researchers used specialized battery with a stack of electrodes coated with a compound called poly anthraquinone compounded with carbon nanotubes that absorbs CO₂ from air passing over its surface as it was being charged up, and then released gas as it was being discharged. The study highlighted electrodes’ natural affinity for CO₂ as they readily reacted with its molecules in airstream/feed gas. The technology took advantage of ‘binary nature of the adsorbent’s affinity to carbon dioxide’

The Second International Solar Alliance Assembly

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is hosting the second assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi. Around 400 delegates from 81 nations are participating in this ongoing two day event which began on October 30, 2019 to reduce the cost of solar installations in developing nations. The assembly is being co-chaired by French Deputy Minister Brune Poirson along with Union Minister of State for New and Renewable energy Raj Kumar Singh. Indian government has allotted 5 acres of land to ISA. In addition to this, it has also released a sum of Rs 160 crore for building infrastructure.

World's top 10 best-performing chief executives

Harvard Business Review (HBR) has put out 'The Best-Performing CEOs in World, 2019' that features 100 CEOs from across the globe. American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang topped the list. This time three Indian-origin CEOs viz. Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen (6th spot), MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga (7th) and Microsoft chief Satya Nadella (9th spot) managed positions in the top ten. Besides them, India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta (89th spot), Apple CEO Tim Cook (62nd spot), Nike CEO Mark Parker (20th), JP Morgan Chase chief Jamie Dimon (23rd spot), Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson (37th spot), Disney CEO Robert Iger (55th) and SoftBank head Masayoshi Son (96th rank) were also placed in the list. The 2019 list has also given place to four female CEOs.

Development of Renewable energy storage device

According to publication of the journal Nature Communications of October 2019, the scientists from Queen Mary institute of London in the United Kingdom reported development of a new dielectric capacitor, a device that stores energy (like battery). They pressed and folded a polymer film capacitor and could store 30 times more energy than best-performing commercially available dielectric capacitor. The dielectric capacitors in general have ultrahigh power density that fares well with the technologies that require accumulating energy over a period of time and then releases it very quickly like motor drives and even space vehicle power systems. Before this latest development, such capacitors struggled with limitation of storing low amounts of energy but this new innovation promises a significant impact on the field of pulse power applications and has a potential of a step-change in field of dielectric capacitors.

Discovery of Stable form of Plutonium

In October 2019, a team of scientists led by Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf came across accidental discovery of a new compound of Plutonium in France. They were working to create plutonium dioxide nanoparticles using different precursors as the unstable radioactive dangerous plutonium used in nuclear applications are tricky to transport, store and dispose. And in this process, they happened to study a peculiar behavior of plutonium which showed stability in its pentavalent state. Thus, the team confirmed its stability using Pu M4 edge technology. It is worth knowing here that Plutonium waste does not dissolve in water so when dumped underground, it contaminates water table to a radius of 10 km.

Discovery of world's oldest known natural pearl

In October 2019, Abu Dhabi archaeologists working at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island came across the oldest known natural pearl 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' in the world off the coast of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. They found it in layers of soil and have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE of the Neolithic period. It is an evidence that pearls and oysters were being used in the

UAE nearly 8,000 years ago. Before this Abu Dhabi Pearl discovery, the earliest known pearl in the UAE was discovered in Neolithic site of Umm Al Qaiwain at a Neolithic cemetery close to Jebel Buhais, in UAE's another province Sharjah.

WFP's campaign 'Feed Our Future'

In October 2019, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in collaboration with India's largest in-cinema advertising platform, UFO Moviez and the Global Cinema Advertising Association, SAWA has launched its cinema ad campaign 'Feed Our Future' against hunger and malnutrition in India. Showbox Music TV Channel, LF (Living Foodz TV Channel) and Red FM 93.5 are supporting it to drive the message of zero hunger deeper into the hearts & minds of India. It will connect with audiences to highlight urgent attention for addressing critical issues of hunger and malnutrition prevalent in the nation.

The 2019 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit

The 18th edition of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit will take place from October 25 and October 26, 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. It will be preceded by Ministerial meetings and senior official meetings. Founded during the collapse of the colonial system and independence struggles of Asia, Africa and Latin American countries, the movement is about the attainment of independence for many countries. India and Nepal are founding members of NAM and Nepal has been an active participant since its inception. The principles of non-alignment form one of the basic tenets of Nepal's foreign policy.

Interpol's General Assembly in 2022

The 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022 will be hosted in India as part of celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. Prior to this, India hosted this meeting in year 1977. In the ongoing 88th Interpol General Assembly in Santiago, the director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Rishi Kumar Shukla, is representing the country along with Delhi police commissioner Amulya Patnaik and Madhya Pradesh police chief V K Singh at the general assembly. The annual meetings of Interpol General Assembly are meant to take all major decisions affecting general policy, working methods, the resources needed for international cooperation and finances.

Ceasefire in Afghanistan

After the collapse of the United States and Taliban talks in the wake of September 2019 incident of Taliban attack that killed a US soldier followed by US President Donald Trump's declaration of talks with insurgents 'dead', European Union have called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan to push anew for a truce (an agreement to end the fighting) as a guarantee of goodwill and good preparation for normalisation of these relationships. The US has a big number of American troops in

Afghanistan as part of US-led coalition and European Union is urging the US to reduce its force in Afghanistan without influencing counterterrorism fight against Al-Qaida and Islamic State group for accomplishment of peace agreement.

Great Britain clinched Sultan of Johor Cup 2019

In October 2019, Great Britain defeated India by 2-1 in the final to win the ninth edition of men's Sultan of Johor Cup hockey tournament held at Johor Bahru in Malaysia. In this international men's under-21 field hockey tournament, India's Shilanand Lakra has been one of the standout performers and remained the highest scorer of the tournament. Overall, Great Britain is currently the most successful team after having won the tournament three times (2015, 2018 2019), followed by India (2013 and 2014).

Joko Widodo walked in the Presidency of Indonesia

On 20th October 2019, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo took oath for his second and final five-year term amid a string of fresh challenges of security, corruption and economic slowdown. Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, claimed victory with 55.5% of the vote in the April presidential election. The president is planning to push two bills to replace laws that have hampered job creation and has warned to sack underperforming civil servants in his second innings. Besides him, 76-year-old Vice President Maruf Amin also took oath replacing Widodo's Vice President in his first term, Jusuf Kalla.

State emergency in Santiago

On 19th October 2019, President Sebastian Pinera of Chile has declared state emergency in Santiago for 15 days in the wake of violent protests over an increase in the price of metro tickets. The subway system has been shut after witnessing attacks on stations which is said to be the worst violence the city has seen in years. The violence led to torturing of 16 buses and total destruction of a dozen metro stations. The newly appointed head of national defence, Major General Javier Iturriaga del Campo informed that the military will patrol major trouble spots in the city of seven million but will not impose a curfew at present.

Demise of Renowned painter Kalidas Karmakar

18th October 2019 witnessed death of noted painter Kalidas Karmakar of Bangladesh at the age of 73 in Dhaka. The deceased Kalidas was a prolific painter, who employed new mediums and styles for his art work while maintaining his signature style. He named his work alluvial art implying the art of the delta land which gave expression to the precarious nature of the alluvial land and its people, their struggles and hopes. He had also experimented with performance art that combined artist's body as an object of art along with his paintings. He was acknowledged with Shilpakala Padak in 2016 and the Ekushey Padak in 2018 by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution to fine arts.

The EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V Exercise

On 17th October 2019, the Air forces of India and Oman began their joint exercise 'EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V' at Masirah Air Force Base in Oman. IAF contingent comprising of MiG-29 UPG (upgrade) combat aircraft along with C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft is participating with Oman's RAFO comprised of Eurofighter Typhoon, F-16 and Hawk 200 combat aircraft. It is worth knowing that this is for the first time, MiG-29 fighter aircraft is participating in an international exercise outside India. The bilateral exercise is meant to increase interoperability during mutual operations between two Air Forces and it will provide a chance to learn from each other's best practices. The IAF participation in exercise will also promote professional interaction, exchange of operational knowledge and experience.

The US imposed \$7.5-billion tariffs on EU goods

In October 2019, the US has imposed tariffs of 7.5-billion dollars on European goods. Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskies are among its high-profile targets. The US did so ignoring pleas from European officials for a last-minute reprieve and French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire warning of retaliation. Washington is indulged in a trade war with China and it could risk destabilising the global economy further. Civilian aircraft from Britain, France, Germany and Spain are in line of fire.

Indo- Japanese 'Dharma Guardian-2019'

On 19th October 2019, India and Japan will start the second edition of joint military drill at the Eastern Command's Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School at Vairengte in the North-East, which will continue till 2nd November, 2019. Indian and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will undergo platoon-level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenario. This exercise is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges in wake of global terrorism. The first edition of the exercise which was held in 2018, was also focussed on training and equipping the contingents to undertake counter insurgency in urban and semi-urban terrain. Insurgency is a prevalent situation in the North-Eastern states of India where hilly and difficult terrain with thick forest, poses a challenge for the Army.

Lionel Messi claimed the sixth Golden Shoe award

In October 2019, the Argentina superstar, Lionel Messi has been bestowed the European Golden Shoe for the sixth time for scoring the most league goals across Europe's top divisions. He scored 36 goals in 34 La Liga appearances in 2018-19. Besides this, he scored three in the Copa del Rey and 12 more in the Champions League. His efforts helped Barca in successfully defending the La Liga title as he claimed the Golden Shoe for the third successive season. With the six Golden Shoes in his name, Messi has surpassed Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the award four times.

The RCEP Meeting

Thailand hosted the 2019 October Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership meeting in Xinhua. The trade ministers of 16 nations attended this and discussed on economic affairs in the region. India posed a tough stand on market access, e – commerce and investment. Before agreeing on the proposed RCEP free trade pact, India needs to sort out issues on investment, e – commerce, taxation, MSME and policies framed by local bodies. Currently, there is strong opposition against RCEP in India by domestic constituencies viz. dairy cooperatives (Amul), farmer organizations, industrial sectors and civil society organizations as they fear that the Indian market will get flooded by cheap Chinese goods and farm items, especially from New Zealand and Australia.

World Bank report on South Asian Economy

In October 2019, World Bank released ‘South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De)Centralization Work’ report. In which Bhutan emerged as the fastest growing economy followed by Bangladesh in South Asia. The overall growth in South Asia is shows slow down in this fiscal in line with a global downward trend. Growth in South Asia in October 2019 has dropped to 5.9% in 2019, down 1.1% points from April 2019 estimates. According to a report in India, growth is expected to drop to 6% this fiscal year and is then expected to gradually recover to 6.9% in fiscal year 2021 and to 7.2% in 2022.

Dubai will host 2019 First Global DXB Challenge

Dubai will be hosting the 2019 first Global DXB Challenge on ‘Ocean Opportunities’ theme from 24th to 27th October 2019 at the Festival Arena in Dubai, UAE. The challenge is about addressing the world’s most critical environmental issues via employment of robotics. It will be a large gathering for creative young minds in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence. The event is meant to encourage and empower youth with a passion for science, technology, mathematics, engineering, and develop their skills and equip them with the tools necessary to contribute to shaping the future. A team of five girls in the age group of 14 and 18 from different schools in Mumbai will represent India in a robotics competition.

The Ongoing FATF Plenary meet

The international terror financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is conducting a six day meet in Paris from October 13 and October 18, 2019. 205 countries and jurisdictions across the globe including delegates from IMF, UN, World Bank and other leading organizations are participating in this event to focus on financial flows that are linked to terrorism and crime. This inter-governmental body established in 1989 to fight money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system has put South Korea and Iran in the blacklist category, while the Bahamas, Botswana, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Pakistan, Panama, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Yemen are in Grey list. The status of Pakistan is still under question as it was added to the Grey list category in 2012 and later was

removed from the list in 2015. However, in 2018 Pakistan was again pushed in the grey list category. This year it is likely to occupy Dark Grey list which is in between Black and Grey categories as Pakistan's performance was found to be inadequate and managed to pass in only 6 criteria out of the 27.

World Standards Day

The members of the International Electro technical Commission (IEC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) celebrated the World Standards Day on October 14, 2019 to pay tribute to the experts worldwide who develop voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards. They celebrated the achievements of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), International Engineering Task Force (IETF), International Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), ISO, IEC and ITU. In India, the World Standard Day was celebrated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on 'Video Standards create a global stage' theme. It holds significance as mobile phones, IT and other electronic devices boosted video production and is estimated that by 2020, 80% of internet traffic will be consumed by video streaming data. This day was instituted in year 1946 and is meant to set standardization at international level.

International Day of Rural Women

Globe celebrated 15th October 2019 as International Day of Rural Women on 'Rural Women and girls building climate resilience' theme. This day was instituted in 2007 to recognize the role of rural women in food security, agriculture, land and resource management, nutrition and domestic care work. It should be noted that the three main sustainable goals viz. ending poverty and hunger, empowering women and girls, ensuring food security can be achieved only by improving the role of rural women in every aspect of global development.

The Second India-China Informal Summit

In October 2019, the second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping was held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. In this India has relaxed e-visa rules for Chinese nationals, who will be able to apply for e-Tourist visa (e-TV) with 5-year validity and multiple entries costing USD(United States Dollar) 80. Besides this, the duo agreed to set up a new mechanism for trade and investment related issues. In the matter of trade deficit, China agreed to take severe action on reducing the trade deficit which is of \$53 billion and welcomed investment in sectors like information technology and pharmaceuticals from India as it would enhance job creation in both sides. In addition to these, the two nations agreed for mutual cooperation in areas like defence and security, reduction of terrorism by strengthening the framework against terror financing, training and supporting the terrorist groups etc. They designated year 2020 as the 'Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges'.

UNICEF : the first UN organisation to employ cryptocurrency

In October 2019, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) became the first United Nations' organisation to transact in cryptocurrency. The organization is all set to receive and disburse donations in cryptocurrency through the newly launched UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund and will be carrying out transactions on Ether and Bitcoin platforms. The Ethereum Foundation will be the first donor to contribute through the French National Committee in the UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund.

US astronaut received Russian honor

In October 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin honored US astronaut Nick Hague, who survived a botched space launch last year, with prestigious state courage award. A Russian Soyuz rocket bound for the International Space Station began malfunctioning due to damaged sensor just two minutes after liftoff on October 11, 2018, that forced its two-men crew of Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin to make an emergency landing. The duo landed unscathed in the Kazakh. Hague has recently returned to Earth, having successfully made it to the International Space Station in a repeat launch in March this year.

The 2019 Nobel Prize of Economics

In October 2019, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences conferred the prestigious 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics upon cofounder of Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, his French-American wife, Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer of United States for their 'experimental approach to alleviating global poverty'. Their work will help in eradication of poverty. The trio's experimental research methods have so far benefited more than 5 million Indian children, who are part of remedial tutoring programmes in schools. With this, Esther Duflo has become the second woman to win the prize after Elinor Ostrom (2009) of US. She is also the youngest-ever to win this prize. It should be noted that unlike other prizes, the Nobel prize for Economics, was not created by the prize founder but by Riksbanken, the Swedish central bank in 1968.

Demise of Alexei Leonov, the first space walker

In October 2019, Russia's Alexei Leonov, the first man to conduct a spacewalk in 1965 passed away at the age of 85. The 'cosmonaut No 11' was trained together with Yury Gagarin, the first human who went to outer space in 1961 and was selected to perform the first spacewalk amid the cold war between Soviet Union and the United States, who locked horns in a frantic race to conquer space. Leonov in year 1965 scripted history when he left a spacecraft during the Voskhod 2 mission for a spacewalk that lasted 12 minutes and nine seconds. He was honored twice with the country's top honour, as the Hero of the Soviet Union. After 10 years in 1975, Leonov commanded the Soyuz 19 in the first joint space mission between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Indian-American Congressman introduced bipartisan resolution

In October 2019, Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US House of Representatives. Bipartisan refers to any bill, act, resolution, or other political act in which both of the two major political parties agree about all or many parts of a political choice. Bipartisanship involves finding a common ground. Krishnamoorthi did so to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's dedication to public service. This resolution was cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 14 other lawmakers viz. George Holding, Brad Sherman, Joe Wilson, Gerry Connolly, Peter King, Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Frank Pallone, Brenda Lawrence, Pete Olson, Pramila Jayapal, TJ Cox, David Price, and Ted Yoho. The resolution emphasises the influence of Gandhi's teachings on civil rights leaders around the world including Dr Martin Luther King.

The First Satellite Servicing Spacecraft MEV-1

In October 2019, first satellite-servicing spacecraft with name "MEV-1" (Mission Extension Vehicle-1) was launched on Russian Proton rocket from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome (launching site for spacecraft) in Kazakhstan. Developed by American global aerospace and defense technology company Northrop Grumman, the spacecraft is meant to track down and connect to any satellite in space that's running low on fuel and replenish its supply. The robotic Mission Extension Vehicle-1 has a 15-year design life and it is docked with a typical 2,000-kg [4,400 lbs.] supply.

The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair

On 13th October 2019, the first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair wrapped in New Delhi. The three day Fair that began on 11th October acted as a major platform to promote export of products of cooperatives which will enhance rural and farm prosperity. Organisations from 36 nations as well as 150 Indian cooperatives participated in the Fair. The event was on purpose of addressing the challenges being faced by Cooperatives, like delivery and available markets.

The 218th birth anniversary of Belgian physicist

Google celebrated the 218th birth anniversary of Belgian physicist Joseph Antoine Ferdinand Plateau on 14th October 2019 with a special doodle which was created by animator-filmmaker Olivia Hu. Born on October 14, 1801 in Brussels, Plateau invented the 'phenakistoscope' the first animation device that used the persistence of vision principle to create an illusion of motion in 1832. He used counter-rotating disks with repeating drawn images in small increments of motion on one and regularly spaced slits in the other. The two disks one with small equidistant radial windows, through which the viewer could look, and another containing a sequence of images, when rotated at the correct speed, the synchronization of the windows and the images created an animated effect. The projection of stroboscopic photographs, creating the illusion of motion, finally led to the development of cinema.

India-Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Drill

The navies of India and Bangladesh started their first ever bilateral exercise at Visakhapatnam from October 12 which will continue till October 16, 2019. The exercise will include air familiarisation of Bangladesh Navy aircrew and a 10-day training exercise between Indian Navy Marine Commandos and BN SWADS. Prior to this, a two-day Indian Navy (IN) and the Bangladesh Navy (BN) Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was held in northern part of the Bay of Bengal that saw participation of INS Ranvijay, a guided-missile destroyer and INS Kuthar, an indigenously built missile Corvette as well as BNS Ali Haider, a Type 053 frigate and BNS Shadinota, a Type 056 stealth guided missile corvette.

The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize – 2019

On 11th October 2019, the 100th Nobel Prize for peace has been awarded to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abhiy Ahmed Ali for his efforts towards peace and international cooperation. He was rewarded for his initiatives to resolve border conflict with Eritrea. Apart from this, he also initiated many reforms in Ethiopia. He dedicated his first 100 days of power in lifting the state of emergency in the nation. He granted amnesty to thousands of political prisoners, legalized outlawed opposition groups, discontinued media censorship as well as increased the influence of women in Ethiopian political and community life.

The Socialists are all set to rule Portugal

In October 2019, Portugal's center-left Socialists won the general election with 36.6% of the vote. With 226 seats in the 230-seat parliament awarded in the official count, the Socialists claimed 106 seats, compared to the 77 seats for the second-place Social Democratic Party. However, the Socialists still needs 10 seats for claiming majority in parliament. They have the option of taking power as a minority government or pursue alliances with other left-of-centre parties to pass legislation. In their last term they sought alliance with the Portuguese Communist Party and the radical Left Bloc. The Socialist leader and incumbent prime minister, Antonio Costa preparing to govern for another four years has promised to continue efforts to improve debt-heavy Portugal's public finances.

Brunei welcomed Indian-origin Singaporean judge

In October 2019, Indian-origin Singaporean judge, Justice Kannan Ramesh got appointed as a judicial commissioner or part time judge of the Supreme Court of Brunei for a period of two-years. In this post, he will spend up to a month in Brunei each year to read, hear and write judgments mainly on commercial cases and certain civil ones. However, he will continue to be a full-time judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He was appointed as judicial commissioner of Singapore Supreme Court in May 2015.

Olga Tokarczuk & Peter Handke : Nobel Prize awardees in Literature

In October 2019, The Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee announced two Nobel Prizes for literature. The 2018 Nobel Prize for Literature will be given to Polish author Olga Tokarczuk "for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life" and the 2019 Nobel Prize in Literature will be given to Austrian author Peter Handke "for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience." It is worth registering here that this is for the first time in 118-year history that 2 literature prizes are given in the same year. And Ms. Tokarczuk is the 15th woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature in more than a century.

The Fourth Environmental Enforcement Award 2019

On November 13, 2019, 1996-batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Ramesh Pandey will be honored with the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2019 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand for battling trans-boundary environmental crime. He launched M-Stripes (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive Protection & Ecological Status), a novel software-based patrolling in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, UP on the request of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to avoid poaching. Currently, he is working as a Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow and Secretary of Uttar Pradesh (UP) State Bio-diversity Board (SBB).

The 50th IFFI

From 20th to 28th November 2019 Goa will host the Golden Jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019. Russia will be the partner country. In this, films with audio deion will be screened for the first time for the visually impaired. The event will showcase over 200 best films from 76 countries as well as 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian Panorama section. Gujarati period drama "Hellaro" directed by Abhishek Shan will be the opening film of feature section and "Nooreh", a Kashmiri language tale directed by Ashish Pandey will be the opening non-feature film. 12 prominent films in different languages that have completed 50 years in 2019, will also be shown. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2019 winner Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured on the occasion.

Demise of Buddhist leader Satyapriya Mohathero

October 2019 saw death of the second highest Buddhist leader of Bangladesh and head of Sima Bihar of Ramu in Cox's Bazar, Satyapriya Mohathero passed away at the age of 89 in Dhaka. His Ramu monastery had sheltered a large number of people during the Liberation War of Bangladesh 1971 in the face of Pakistani atrocities. Born in 1930, he became a monk in 1950 and President of the Bangladesh Sangharaja of Bhikkhu Mahasabha in 2006.

Mauritius parliament got dissolved

In October 2019, Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth of Mauritius announced dissolution of the parliament and commencement of general elections on 7th November 2019. The 57 year old Jugnauth, who is also the Finance Minister of the nation will seek another term as leader of the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM). He has been working as Prime Minister since 2017 when he took over from his father, Anerood Jugnauth. It is worth knowing that Mauritius is a popular tourist destination and one of Africa's most stable nations that holds elections every five years and the last one was in 2014.

Demise of Farook Khan

October 2019 witnessed the death of an Indian-origin journalist, Farook Khan in South Africa. The 77 year old died of cancer. He belonged to Maharashtra and had begun the Miss India South Africa Pageant as part of the Miss India Worldwide Pageant which has seen hundreds of young women from the diaspora find new avenues for their careers. He had hosted the international Miss India Worldwide four times in South Africa and offered to host again in 2021 to celebrate its 30th anniversary. He had been a journalist for 60 years, who earned fame for his investigative reporting during apartheid.

The Syria - India MoU

In October 2019, India and Syria entered into a contract to upgrade the existing India-Syria Center for Excellence in Information and Technology (IT) to the Next Generation Center for Excellence in Information and Technology (NexGen-ISCEIT) in Damascus. This centre was meant to provide the latest software and tools for (IT) training which later came on halt because of the terrorist war on Syria. T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Dr. Riad K Abbas, Ambassador of Syrian Arab Republic to India were the signatories of this contract.

5th October : World Teachers Day

UNESCO and the International Labor Organization instituted 5th October as the World Teachers Day in the year 1966 to improve the situation of teachers across the globe. The two organizations pleaded proper guidelines for the status of teachers' rights, responsibilities, their initial preparation, further education, recruitment, employment and teaching via the policy of education personnel, education personnel recruitment, initial training of education personnel, employment, and working conditions of teachers. "Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession" was the theme for this year that underlined the challenges of the 21st century of 'teaching in diversity' and 'diversity in teaching.' The role of young teachers in the changing climate of education and schooling, the need to draw in and retain a new generation of dedicated educators were discussed at length on the occasion.

The Retirement Of Claudio Marchisio

In October 2019, Italian former professional footballer & Juventus midfielder, 33 year old Claudio Marchisio announced his retirement from football after suffering persistent knee injuries. The popular ‘little prince’, had joined Juventus at the age of just seven & played almost 400 matches. Marchisio won 55 caps for Italy and participated at Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Euro 2012, winning a runners-up medal, and at the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup, where he won a third-place medal. In 2006, he played his first professional game for Juve.

The World of Health Policies

In October 2019, The National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) got redesignated as the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Priority Medical Devices and Health Technology Policy. Established under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Government of India to serve as an apex body for technical assistance, it will continue to assist in policy and strategy development in the provision and mobilization of technical assistance to improve health outcomes. Besides this, Rajasthan became the first Indian state to launch ‘Policy on Pneumoconiosis Detection, Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation’. A standing committee under the chairmanship of Rajasthan’s chief secretary, D B Gupta will monitor and periodically review progress of implementation of the policy. In January 2015, Rajasthan was the first Indian state to notify Pneumoconiosis as an epidemic characterized by inflammation, coughing, and fibrosis due to inhalation of dust.

The World Space Week

Like every year, globe is celebrating the World Space Week from 4th of October to 10th Of October 2019 on “ The Moon: Gateway to the Stars” theme . The United Nations (UN) General Assembly instituted this week via adoption of the resolution (A/RES/54/68) to commemorate the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I on October 4, 1957, and its entry into force, on 10th October 1967, based on the Treaty on Principles governing the activities of use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies in exploration. Around 25 UN entities and the World Bank Group routinely employ space applications in making important and essential contributions to the work of the United Nations, like implementation of world conferences and those of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

The Beginning of Bada Dashain in Nepal

The greatest and longest hindu festival of Nepal called Bada Dashain formally began on September 29, 2019. The first day of this Dashain marks the beginning of Navaratri festival also. During this festival seeds of maize, wheat, barley, etc are sowed in a “Ghada” (earthen pot) and kept in houses or temples as part of the vedic tradition and then the sprouts are taken on 10th day which is observed as vijayadashami. This festival is celebrated in some parts of India, by the Buddhist, Hindus and Kirats of Nepal and the ethnic Nepali speaking Indian Gorkhas of Darjeeling hills, Sikkim, Assam and other North-Eastern states of India as well as among the Lhotshampa of Bhutan and the Burmese Gurkhas of Myanmar.

Venezuela called for an investigation against USA

In September 2019, Venezuela called for an investigation of possible violations by the United States. The Executive Vice-President Delcy Rodriguez reported to the UN General Assembly about the US government's support to the criminal building of a parallel government amid the efforts of paramilitary and criminal gangs to destabilise Venezuela. The US government had propped up National Congress politician Juan Guaido, falsely claiming that he was the legitimate ruler of Venezuela. Rodriguez further pointed out that 32 nations suffered economic aggression from the United States and its allies and one-third of humanity was suffering the consequences of that punishment.

The discovery of 'Goldschmidtite' inside a diamond

In September 2019, Nicole Meyer, a graduate from the University of Alberta's Diamond Exploration Research and Training School (DERTS), Canada and the lead author of the research, discovered a new mineral named 'Goldschmidtite' (K,REE,Sr)(Nb,Cr)O₃ inside a diamond from a mine- Koffiefontein pipe in South Africa run by De Beers. It has been named goldschmidtite in honor of Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, who was the founder of modern geochemistry. The new mineral contains high concentrations of niobium, potassium and the rare earth elements lanthanum and cerium and the rest of the mantle consist of other elements, like magnesium and iron. This mineral was formed about 170 kilometers beneath Earth's surface, at temperatures reaching nearly 1,200 Celsius. It is worth registering here that this is the second new mineral discovered by DERTS after Nixonite (Na₂Ti₆O₁₃), which was discovered by Garrett Harris.

Munir Akram : Pakistan's new UN envoy

On 1st October 2019, Pakistan sacked Maleeha Lodhi and appointed Munir Akram as UN envoy. He has been made the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. He is an experienced hand who served on this post from 2002 to 2008. He was dismissed by the then president Asif Ali Zardari because of his disagreement in presenting the case of assassination of Benazir Bhutto to the United Nations. Akram had entertained controversy after he was accused of domestic violence by his partner, Marijana Mihic, in December 2002. Besides him, Khalil Ahmad Hashmi has been made Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN in Geneva; Muhammad Aejaz (Hungary Ambassador) ; Syed Sajjad Haider (Kuwait Ambassador); Imran Ahmad Siddiqui (Dhaka High Commissioner); Ahsan KK Wagan (Ambassador of Oman) ; Major General Muhammad Saad Khattak (Sri Lankan High Commissioner) ; Abdul Hamid (Consul General in Toronto) and Abrar Hussain Hashmi (Consul General in Houston) are the names of other appointees.



The unique initiative of the Sports Ministry

In October 2019, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) took first-of-its-kind decision of providing access to government's playfields and sporting infrastructure to national and state federations, leagues and clubs and to all sports persons free of cost from 1st November 2019. The free of cost sporting facilities will also be accessible to coaches training athletes who are not part of camps organised in Sports Authority of India (SAI) centers. From 1st November onwards, Training sessions can be booked by a coach online and the coach can charge a reasonable training fee from his/her trainees. All this will contribute to the accomplishment of Fit India Movement.

Government is ready to relax VIP clause in National Sports Code

In October 2019, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju proclaimed that the government is very much open to relaxing the clause in the proposed National Sports Code which prohibits intervention of Ministers, MPs and MLAs in the sports administration in the country. Addressing on behalf of government he elaborated that no profession can be singled out with regard to the governance of the sport, as it is not the profession but suitability of a person which matters in running the sports federation. The government will fit a Sports Code which is acceptable to all and is in the best interest of the sport.

The 2019 Indian Sports Honours

The list of winners of Indian Sports Honours, which is an initiative of Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, RP-SG Group and India cricket team captain Virat Kohli were announced on 11th October 2019. Under Jury Honours, Sandeep Chaudhary (Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year); Rakshita Raju (Differently Abled Sportswoman of the Year); Saurabh Chaudhary (Emerging Sportsman of the Year) ; Manu Bhaker (Emerging Sportswoman of the Year); Pulella Gopichand Sportsman of the Year (Individual, Coach of the Year) were the winners. Besides them, 92 year old Milkha Singh, best known as the 'Flying Sikh' and most remembered for finishing fourth in the 400m final in the 1960 Rome Olympic Games, was presented the lifetime achievement award. While 23-year-old Mandhana, who was ruled out due to a fracture in her right toe against the ongoing ODI series against South Africa, received sportswoman of the year award in the team category. Mandhana has so far played 50 ODIs and 62 T20s, scoring 1,951 and 1,344 runs respectively. Besides these, under Popular Choice Honours, Breakthrough Performance of the Year (Male) went to Jasprit Bumrah; Jemimah Rodrigues won Breakthrough Performance of the Year (Female) ; Sunil Chhetri won Spirit of Sport Honour; Dipa Karmakar Club of the Year won Comeback of the Year and Whistle Podu Army CSK Fan Club won Chennai Super Kings Fan Club of the Year.

The Latest Sports Records

In October 2019, Surender Singh created three world records at the ongoing World Powerlifting Championship in Berlin, Germany. He won a gold medal in 110 kg category, Classic Raw and the Best Lifter Award in Classic Raw and Single Ply. Apart from this, in cricket, Rohit Sharma established the record of hitting most number of sixes in a single test. He scored 13 sixes in India's first test against South Africa. He also became the sixth Indian to score a century in both the innings during India's opening test against South Africa at Visakhapatnam. Rohit posted a 176 runs in the first innings and 127 runs in the second innings of the first Test match against South Africa in Visakhapatnam. This was his first test as an opener. Besides him, India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the joint fastest to take 350 wickets, matching Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan's feat in his 66th Test.

Papua New Guinea is in for ICC T20 World Cup

Papua New Guinea's men's team had never before played at a major International Cricket Council tournament, in any format of the game, but surprisingly they managed to secure a qualification for the 2020 Twenty20 World Cup in thrilling fashion in October 2019. History was made at a qualifying tournament after the Barramundis first defeated Kenya by 45 runs at the Dubai International Stadium. Norman Vanua made 54 runs off 48-balls and led his team to 118 run score off 19.3 overs. In reply Kenya got wrapped up at 73 from 18.4 overs. Then PNG witnessed the Netherlands beating Scotland by four wickets yet the Netherlands failed to topple PNG in the group on net run rate. That made way for PNG, who topped their qualifying pool heading into the final day of group stage matches in the UAE, booked their berth at October's tournament in Australia. Besides them, Ireland also booked their place at next year's tournament.

The Korea Open 2019

From September 24 to 29, 2019, the 19th edition of Badminton Super 500 tournament, Korea Open 2019 took place at Incheon International Airport Skydome in Incheon, South Korea. US\$400,000 was the total prize money for this tournament. Kento Momota (Japan, Men's Singles); He Bingjiao (China, Women's Singles); Fajar Alfian & Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia, Men's Doubles); Kim So-yeong & Kong Hee-yong (South Korea, Women's Doubles); Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand, Mixed Doubles) emerged as the winners of this tournament.

Manchester United : The first team to score 2,000 Premier League goals

On 27th October 2019, Manchester United became the first team to score 2,000 goals in the Premier League when 22-year-old midfielder, Scott McTominay fired a low strike beyond Tim Krul to put the Red Devils 1-0 up at Carrow Road. Arsenal stands second on the all-time list with 1,860 goals followed by Liverpool (1,795) and Chelsea (1,793) at third and fourth spots respectively. It is worth knowing here that Mark Hughes scored United's first Premier League goal in a 2-1 defeat to Sheffield United on August 15, 1992.

The 7th Military World Games

The 7th edition of Military World Games (also known as the Olympic Games for military) 2019 have begun from 18th October and will continue upto 27th October 2019 in the capital of Hubei Province, Wuhan, China. Chinese President Xi Jinping did the inaugural ceremony of this top multi-sport event for military personnel from across the globe. Besides, being the first international military multi-sport event taking place in China, it is also the largest ever military sports event going on in China. Over 10,000 athletes from more than 140 countries are participating in 329 events in 27 disciplines.

Delhi is in news

On 3rd October 2019, Delhi government announced the opening of a 'Sports University' under the aegis of Delhi Sports University (DSU) Bill on a 90-acre land in the Mundka area of the national capital. The proposed university will grant graduate, postgraduate and doctorate degrees in the subjects of sports to dispel the fear of employment uncertainty for sports persons as a graduate degree is compulsory for job. Further, sportsperson with such degree could also appear in the civil services examination. Apart from this, Delhi-NCR students created Guinness Book world records in two categories. The first record was in the category of 'environmental sustainability lessons to the largest number of students (approximately 5,000 children) at one place. The second record was of 'the largest number of assembly and lighting of solar lamps' established by 5,000 students.

Vaibhav Gehlot : The new president of Rajasthan Cricket Association

In October 2019, Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, was chosen as the president of the Rajasthan Cricket Association. He succeeded in the election with 25-6 margin of votes. Mahendra Sharma got elected as new secretary and Amin Pathan became new Vice President. And Mahendra Nahar and KK Neemawat got appointed as new joint secretaries of Rajasthan Cricket Association.

The new cricket records

In October 2019, Ravindra Jadeja became the second fastest Indian to take 200 wickets in Test cricket after dismissing Dean Elgar during the Day 3 of India's first test against South Africa in Visakhapatnam. This was Jadeja's 44th test and now he is behind R Ashwin, who did this feat in his 37th test match. Jadeja has also become the fastest left-arm bowler to take 200 wickets and is now ahead of Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath (47), Australia's Mitchell Johnson (49) and Mitchell Starc (50) and Pakistan's Wasim Akram who took 51 matches to reach the milestone. Apart from this, female Indian cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian to play 100 T20 International matches. The Indian captain for the shortest format of the game achieved this milestone in the T20I against South Africa in Surat on 4th October 2019. With this, she has joined

the row of Pakistan's Bismah Maroof and West Indies' Stafanie Taylor who also accomplished 100 appearances in this format. Overall, Harmanpreet has registered two additional appearances in T20Is than MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who have played the highest number of matches for India in men's cricket.

Big Cheers to India!

India registered the biggest victory over South Africa in the longest format of cricket and has created a new world record on 13th October 2019. India sealed the three-match Test series against South Africa after winning the second test in Pune by an innings and 137 runs. With this, India extended their winning streak in the longest format at home, and thus established a world record. This came as India's 11th consecutive Test series win at home which is the most by any side. Under Virat Kohli, India has won nine series, while the remaining two series wins were under former skipper MS Dhoni. Prior to this, Australia held this record with 10 straight series wins in their own backyard. This was also a red letter day for Virat Kohli, who scored a record-breaking double hundred, which was his career best score in the test format. He amassed 254 runs from 336 balls with the help of 33 fours, in a marathon innings and became the Indian batsman with the most number of double tons (7) to his name, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag who both had scored six double tons.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The 50th Edition of World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting for 2020 to be held in _____.
(a) India (b) Denmark (c) Switzerland
(d) France (e) Italy
- In September 2019, the 7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 was held in _____.
(a) Chicago (b) London (c) Bangkok
(d) Mumbai (e) Hong Kong
- In February 2020 _____ will host the 20th annual national conference Medrecon 2020 .
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Bihar
(d) Kerala (e) Uttar Pradesh
- India's first e-waste clinic will be established in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Bihar
(d) Odisha (e) Uttar Pradesh
- October 2019 is being observed as _____ cancer awareness month.
(a) Throat (b) Breast (c) Lung
(d) Skin (e) Kidney
- Which of the following states introduced 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana' in October 2019 ?
(a) Karnataka (b) Telangana (c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Himachal Pradesh (e) Bihar
- Which of the following nations will host 3×3 basketball qualifying tournament for Tokyo Olympics in March 2020 ?
(a) Afghanistan (b) Bangladesh (c) Bhutan
(d) Sri Lanka (e) India

8. What was India's rank in Henley & Partners Global Passport Index 2019 ?
(a) 80th (b) 81st (c) 82nd
(d) 83rd (e) 84th
9. Vikas Varma became Chief Operating Officer (COO) for _____ in October 2019.
(a) Visa (b) Mastercard (c) RuPay
(d) Maestro (e) None of the above
10. In October 2019, RBI approved formation of _____ Bank.
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Gujarat
(d) Telangana (e) Tamil Nadu
11. In October 2019, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of _____lakh on Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer Balancehero India Private Limited for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
(a) 10.02 (b) 11.58 (c) 12.88
(d) 13.75 (e) 14
12. In October 2019, which of the following nations permitted women to serve in the armed forces ?
(a) Afghanistan (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Italy
(d) Egypt (e) Greenland
13. In October 2019, a book titled, "The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China's Quest for Strategic Dominance" authored by _____ was released.
(a) S. N. Goenka (b) Dalai Lama (c) Phunchok Stobdan
(d) Surya Das (e) None of the above
14. October 2019, 'India Sports Summit–Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' was organized in _____
(a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) New Delhi
(d) Bengaluru (e) Hyderabad
15. October 2019, India won how many medals in World Youth Chess Championship 2019 that was held in Mumbai ?
(a) 2 (b) 5 (c) 7
(d) 8 (e) 10

16. In October 2019, Indian cricket player Jasprit Bumrah got appointed as brand ambassador of sportswear brand
- (a) Adidas (b) Puma (c) Nike
(d) Cultsport (e) DKS
17. Who authored book titled “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need” ?
- (a) Angela Merkel (b) Barack Obama (c) Michelle Obama
(d) Bill Gates (e) Melinda Gates
18. World Obesity Day was observed onOctober
- (a) 10th (b) 11th (c) 12th
(d) 13th (e) 14th
19. In October 2019, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty oflakh on Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer Balancehero India Private Limited for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
- (a) 10.02 (b) 11.58 (c) 12.88
(d) 13.75 (e) 14
20. In October 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the first of the 36 Rafale aircrafts from France which will be deployed in
- (a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana (c) J&K
(d) Uttar Pradesh (e) Assam

• ANSWERS •

- 1.(c) The 50th Edition of World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting for 2020 will be held in Davos-Klosters, **Switzerland** from January 21-24, 2020. The Chief Minister of Punjab Captain Amarinder Singh will be attending this meeting.
- 2.(d) In September 2019, the 7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 was held in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra on “Prosperous Society: Stronger Society” theme. WHEF 2020 will be organized in The Hague, Netherlands.
- 3.(d) In February 2020 Kochi in **Kerala** will host the 20th annual national conference Medrecon 2020 on ‘Value of Data in Healthcare Ecosystem’ theme. Lorraine Fernandes, president of the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA) in the US will address this conference in which more than 700 delegates from the healthcare sector in India and abroad will participate in the event.
- 4.(b) India’s first e-waste clinic will be established in Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**. Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have signed an agreement for the same. It will be set up on lines of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. In this electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or will be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.
- 5.(b) October 2019 is being observed as **Breast** Cancer Awareness month. On October 7, 2019, Indian shuttler PV Sindhu introduced the world’s first ‘Life-size Augmented Reality (AR) technology in the “ABC of breast health” app. It is an initiative of the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation.
- 6.(c) **Uttar Pradesh** introduced ‘Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana’ in October 2019 to strengthen the girl child. If a girl child is born, that family will receive Rs 15,000. Under community marriage scheme, the support amount to poor girls for marriage has been increased from Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000
- 7.(e) **India** will host 3×3 basketball qualifying tournament for Tokyo Olympics in March 2020. The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) will together organize this event in which 40 teams will participate.

- 8.(c)** India was ranked **82nd** in Henley & Partners Global Passport Index 2019. India's mobility score is 59 that implies Indian passport holders can visit a total of 59 countries without a prior visa . Japan and Singapore topped the list with mobility score of 190.
- 9.(b)** Vikas Varma became Chief Operating Officer (COO) for payment technology major, **Mastercard** India. He will look into new partnerships and development of digital payment solutions. Recently, Mastercard had announced an investment of around Rs 7,100 crore in India over the next 5 years.
- 10.(b)** In October 2019, RBI approved formation of **Kerala** Bank. It will be formed by amalgamating 13 district co-operative banks (DCBs) with Kerala State Co-operative Bank. With this, the 'Kerala Bank' will become the largest banking network in the state.
- 11.(c)** In October 2019, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹ **12.88** lakh on Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer Balancehero India Private Limited for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines. This firm was founded in 2014 and has headquarter in Gurgaon, Haryana.
- 12.(b)** In October 2019, **Saudi Arabia** permitted women to serve in the armed forces to increase women's rights. The women will be able to serve as private first class, corporal or sergeant.
- 13.(c)** In October 2019, a book titled, "The Great Game in the Buddhist Himalayas: India and China's Quest for Strategic Dominance" authored by **Phunchok Stobdan**, who is a distinguished academician, diplomat, author and foreign policy expert. The book presents several unknown insights of India-Tibet and China-Tibet relationships.
- 14.(c)** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS), Sportscom, and Sportskeeda together organized 'India Sports Summit–Fitness: \$10 Billion Opportunity' in **New Delhi** in October 2019. It was to advocate new policies for the sports sector, encourage investments in the sector of sports, create roadmap in encouraging fitness programmes in school education and industry participation in the FIT INDIA Movement.
- 15.(c)** In October 2019, India won **7** medals i.e. the highest medals won by a country in the Championship including 1 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze medals. R Praggnanandhaa bagged the most coveted gold in the U-18 Open category in this World Youth Chess Championships.
- 16.(d)** In October 2019, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-headquartered health and wellness start-up company appointed curefit Indian cricket player Jasprit Bumrah as brand ambassador of

sportswear brand **Cultsport**. This was launched in 2016 by Myntra co-founder Mukesh Bansal and ex-chief business officer at Flipkart Ankit Nagori.

- 17.(d)** **Bill Gates** authored book titled “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need”. It has been published by UK-based Allen Lane publishers and will be released in June 2020.
- 18.(b)** World Obesity Day was observed on **11th** October to raise awareness on obesity and ways to prevent them and also maintaining a healthy weight and reverse obesity crisis. It was instituted in the year 2015.
- 19.(c)** In October 2019, Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹ **12.88** lakh on Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer Balancehero India Private Limited for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines. This firm was founded in 2014 and has headquarter in Gurgaon, Haryana.
- 20.(b)** In October 2019, during the second India-France Ministerial level Annual Defence Dialogue 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the first of the 36 Rafale aircrafts from France which will be deployed at Ambala air force station in **Haryana**