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INTERNATIONAL

1. Antonio Costa re-elected as the PM of Portugal

Antonio Costa has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Portugal after winning the general elections.

Antonio Costa, the Socialist leader and incumbent prime minister, got the most votes in Portugal's general election, leaving it poised to continue leading the government for another four years.

2. Typhoon Hagibis strikes Tokyo, capital of Japan

"Hagibis" means "speed" in the Philippine language Tagalog.

3. Kais Saied elected as new President of Tunisia

4. UAE announces establishment of world's 1st AI university

UAE announced the establishment of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) in Abu Dhabi. This is the first graduate-level, research-based AI university in the world. MBZUAI will enable graduate students, businesses and governments to advance the artificial intelligence field.

5. India hands over 2nd pair of Mi-24V helicopters to Afghan Air forces boosting the capability of the Afghan Air forces.

These helicopters are a replacement for the four attack helicopters previously gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016.

6. Italy set to introduce web tax on digital giants from 2020

Italy approved a new tax on digital companies, including U.S. tech giants, as part of its 2020 draft budget on October 16.

The levy, due to be introduced from next year, will oblige companies such as Facebook, Google and Amazon, to pay a 3% levy on internet transactions, according to a text of the draft budget.

7. The mountaineer from Nepal, Nirmal Purja, created a new speed record by climbing the world's 14 highest peaks over 8,000 metres (26,250 feet) in just 189 days.

The 14th peak which he climbed was Shishapangma, located at Nyalam County, China. The other 13 peaks are Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Kanchenjunga, Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Gasherbrum II, K2, Broad Peak, Cho Oyu and Manaslu.

8. Sri Lanka has removed from FATF's Grey List of the international terror financing watchdog FATF (Financial Action Task Force)

FATF was founded in July 1989 with its headquarters in Paris, France.

9. World's oldest natural pearl 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' discovered on Abu Dhabi Island

10. The 38th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 was inaugurated by Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, UAE.

11. Saad Hariri resigns as Prime Minister of Lebanon

NATIONAL

1. Amit Shah flags off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express from the New Delhi Railway Station

The first commercial run of the train will start from 5th October.

Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express is a big gift for Jammu and Kashmir's development and for promoting religious tourism. This is the second Vande Bharat Express. The **first one runs in between Delhi and Varanasi.**

2. Palestine issues commemorative stamp to honour Mahatma Gandhi on 150th birth anniversary

3. Smriti Irani Inaugurates India's Largest 'Charkha' Made of Waste Plastic in Noida

This 'charkha' (spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. The 'charkha', which symbolises Gandhi's dream of Swadeshi (self-sufficing and self-reliance), measures 14ft, 20ft and 8ft and is made of 1,250 kg of used plastic.

4. Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th and Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary on 2nd October 2019

Note : Under Shastri's leadership, India won the 1965 war against Pakistan.

He gave the nation the powerful slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan to enthuse soldiers and farmers.

5. Nationwide 'Paryatan Parv 2019' to promote tourism begins

The aim is to propagate the message of 'Dekho Apna Desh' to encourage people to visit tourist destinations of the country and also spread the message of Tourism for All. This year's event is dedicated to 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

6. PM of India & Mauritius jointly inaugurated 2 projects in Mauritius via video conference

The 2 projects includes the phase-1 of the Metro Express and a new ENT Hospital. The Indian Government has granted \$275 million for the Metro Express project and a grant of \$14 million for the new ENT Hospital Project.

7. Tourism Ministry launches App "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India on the occasion of "Paryatan Parv 2019"

With Audio Odigos, tourists will now enjoy a more enriching experience and take back historical insights of the Indian culture and heritage.

8. IRCTC to compensate passengers on delay of Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off country's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express started its maiden journey from Lucknow.

It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The new Tejas Express will cover the distance between Delhi and Lucknow in six hours fifteen minutes.

An amount of Rs 100 will be paid in case the delay is for over an hour and Rs 250 for delays of over two hours.

This latest offer is in addition to the Rs 25 lakh free insurance that will be given to passengers of the train. This travel insurance also includes coverage of Rs 1 lakh against household theft and robbery during travel period of the passengers, again a first for those travelling onboard trains.

9. Goa Maritime Conclave 2019 inaugurated by the National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Kumar Doval, at Goa.

10. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India jointly launched Youth Co:Lab.

The lab aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India and to recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development. Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a chance to connect with governments, mentors, incubators and investors. They will also get the opportunity to pitch their ideas at UNDP's regional centre in 2020.

11. 5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy begins at the MIT World Peace University in Pune, Maharashtra.

Theme : 'role of science, religion and philosophy for world peace and well-being of mankind'.

12. AIIMS & Health ministry launches the 1st-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness "eDantSeva".

13. World fastest ant "Saharan silver ant" found in northern Sahara

14. Pak releases coin to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak

The coin worth Pakistan Rupees 50 will be available at the Kartarpur Sahib along with a postal stamp worth Pakistan Rupees 8 to the travelling pilgrims.

15. "DHRUV" a Learning Programme launched from ISRO, Bengaluru

"DHRUV" a Pradhan Mantri Innovation Learning Programme has commenced from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru and will conclude at IIT, Delhi.

The programme aims to further sharpen innovative imagination, skills and knowledge of the students who are expected to contribute to bringing solutions to socio-economic, political and environmental issues in the country.

60 brightest and talented students from Science, Mathematics and Performing Arts have been chosen for the programme.

16. GoI launches "Ganga Aamantran: Open Water Rafting Expedition"

It is a pioneering exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition on the Ganga river. The expedition will start at Devaprayag and culminate at Ganga Sagar covering the entire stretch of over 2500 kms of the River.

Ganga Aamantran is the 1st ever effort by National Mission for Clean Ganga to raft across the entire stretch of the river. It is also the longest ever social campaign undertaken through an adventure sporting activity to spread the message of River Rejuvenation and Water Conservation on a massive scale.

(Union Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat)

17. SARAS Aajeevika Mela begins in New Delhi

It has been organized by the Ministry of Rural Development under the initiative of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

It aims to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.

Over 200 stalls have been set-up at the Mela venue, where nearly 500 rural SHG craftswomen from 29 States and UTs will show-case varied range of products like handicrafts, handlooms, natural food products and a food court with regional cuisines at India Gate Lawns.

18. GoI launches Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) initiative

The initiative aims to assure dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

It also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant. With the initiative, the government is committed to achieve the target of reducing the maternal mortality and child mortality.

19. CBSE & NCERT launches 'Tamanna' test (online aptitude test) for Class 9 & 10 students.

Tamanna stands for "Try And Measure Aptitude And Natural Abilities".

20. 10th National Cultural Festival begins under the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' campaign in Madhya Pradesh

21. Govt launches Food Safety Mitra Scheme

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme, Eat Right Jacket and Eat Right Jhola. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced the scheme of Food Safety Mitra (FSM) through which it plans to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level..

During the event, the Minister also launched 'Eat Right Jhola' which is a reusable, washable and bio-degradable bag. 'Eat Right Smart Jacket' has been introduced to giving an identity to FSSAI staff to ensure transparent inspection. It's embedded with an RFID tag and QR code.

22. Indian Railways to become net zero carbon emitter by 2030

The move will be a part of India's strategy to combat climate change.

Indian railways is the world's largest railway network. It has a rail network of around 1,25,000km under single management. IR is to go green by setting up solar power generation capacities in its large tracts of land along its network.

23. J&K's Chenani-Nashri Tunnel to be renamed after Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

India's longest Tunnel Chenani- Nashri on NH 44, in Jammu and Kashmir will be named after Bhartiya Jansangh Founder Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

(Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017 had dedicated to the nation this 9.2 km long tunnel that reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 31 km.)

24. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off 9 'Sewa Service' trains

These trains are connecting small towns to major cities and one of those, the Vadnagar-Mehsana train, was the railways' gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who sold tea at the Vadnagar station during his younger days.

The 9 "Sewa Service" trains were launched without any additional investment by the railways and it was an example of how to use existing resources to the maximum.

25. NITI Aayog launches India Innovation Index 2019

Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.

(Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog: Rajiv Kumar; CEO, NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.)

26. NH No. 703AA in Punjab named as Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg

The road starting from Kapurthala connecting Goindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in Punjab.

27. Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu (Bridge) inaugurated in Ladakh by Rajnath Singh

It is named in honour of Colonel Chewang Rinchen who was one of the highly decorated officers in Indian Army from Ladakh. He was also a Maha Vir Chakara awardee (1952).

The Bridge, which is 1400 feet span, is constructed by the Border Road Organization.

28. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has launched a cinema advertisement campaign 'Feed Our Future' to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India.

29. Government of India has decided to open the entire area from Siachen base camp to Kumar Post for tourism purposes. The step has been taken to boost tourism in Ladakh.

(The Siachen Glacier at the height of around 20,000 ft in the Karakoram range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where the soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds.

The Glacier came under the strategic control of India in 1984 following 'Operation Meghdoot'.)

30. Indian Railways has launched 'one touch ATVM' at 42 suburban stations of Central Railway over Mumbai Suburban Network.

The machine has been launched to render fast ticketing to millions of commuters. This new machine will reduce the waiting time of the passengers and allow passenger to avoid standing in long queues.

31. Health Ministry to observe Vigilance Awareness Week from 28th October to 2nd November, 2019.

32. Finance Minister releases Commemorative Coin on 125th birth anniversary of Paramahansa Yogananda

Paramahansa Yogananda is known as the Father of Yoga in the West.

33. 'Aarambh', common foundation course for IAS probationers held in Statue of Unity

The Centre's first-ever common foundation course "Aarambh" (Beginning) for 2019 batch probationer civil servants has begun at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat.

34. India now has 28 states and 9 UTs

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the appointed day for the two Union Territories J&K and Ladakh was October 31.

This is for the first time that a state is converted into two Union Territories. The total number of states in the country will now be 28 while the total Union Territories will go up to nine.

35. UNESCO, DD Join Hands for TV Show on Gandhi's 150th Anniversary

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Doordarshan, country's public service broadcaster have joined hands to telecast TV bilingual programme 'Mahatma Lives' or 'Bapu Zinda Hain' on 1-2 October 2019.

(UNESCO Headquarters: Paris, France)

36. Gandhi Film Festival was organised in Mumbai from 2nd to 6th October, 2019

This film festival was a part of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebration and will focus on Gandhiji's message of non-violence and Swachh Bharat.

37. Govt launches 'PRAKASH' portal for monitoring coal supply to power plants

(PRAKASH – Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony)

38. The National Basketball Association (NBA) brought to India the first-ever Floating Basketball Court in the Arabian Sea in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

NBA India on December 20, 2018, had announced that the first-ever NBA game in the country would be organized on October 4 and 5 in Mumbai.

39. GoI launches eco-friendly crackers to fight air pollution

Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched eco-friendly green firecrackers which have been manufactured in India.

Environment-friendly fireworks have been developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs and manufactured by licensee-manufacturers.

A green logo as well as a Quick Response (QR) coding system has been developed for differentiation of green crackers from conventional crackers.

The crackers have been launched in a bid to "resolve the crisis of air pollution".

40. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launches trans-fat free logo

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the 'trans-fat-free' logo, which can be voluntarily used by food business operators in their outlets and also on food products.

The logo was launched to boost the 'Eat Right Movement' of FSSAI.

41. Day Care Recreation Centre inaugurated in Leh

The 1st Government-sponsored and operated Day-Care cum Recreation Centre for senior citizens has been inaugurated in Leh.

The day care Centre, co-sponsored by Government and the District Legal Service Authority will provide a raft of medical facilities including geriatric care, health consultations and check-ups, physiotherapy to the senior citizens. It would also provide legal service, the senior citizens would require on various legal issues.

The premise would be a one stop-shop for entertainment, medical services and legal aid for the aged people of the Ladakh region.

42. Railway police's website ("railways.delhipolice.gov.in") & mobile app "Sahyatri" launched

The database of criminals, including their photographs, active in railways' jurisdiction all over India would be uploaded on the Railway police's website. It will also have the facility to scan and read QR codes and make an emergency call.

The Sahyatri app will help railway passengers find out the jurisdiction of a police station and the details of GRP officials by geo-tagging with Google Maps.

It will also help the railway police in addressing complaints of passengers from across India and crime detection by integrating the criminal database online.

43. 38th India Carpet Expo begins in Varanasi

44. PM Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp in honour of Marshal of the Indian Air Force late Arjan Singh.

He served as the Chief of Air Staff from August 1964 to July 1969. Government of India designated him as the Marshal of the Air Force in January 2002. He remains the only officer of the IAF to be given a Five-Star rank.

Arjan Singh is an icon of Indian military history and the best remembered for providing excellent leadership to a young IAF during the 1965 war.

Even after retirement, he continued to serve in various positions including India's Ambassador to several countries.

45. Pope Francis elevates Indian nun from Kerala Mariam Thresia to sainthood at a grand ceremony at the Vatican City.

46. 129th Death Anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah observed in Bangladesh

47. NCERT to revise 14-year-old curriculum framework

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is planning to review the 14-year-old National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in accordance with new national education policy (NEP) and set up a committee for the purpose. The NCF has been revised four times so far – in 1975, 1988, 2000 and 2005. A panel led by former Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Kasturirangan had submitted the draft of the new national education policy to Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

48. India's livestock population has increased to over 535.78 million showing an increase of 4.6 per cent over Livestock Census-2012.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying released the 20th Livestock Census - 2019.

Among the States, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of livestock of 67.8 million (68.7 million in 2012), followed by Rajasthan 56.8 million (57.7 million), Madhya Pradesh: 40.6 million (36.3 million) and West Bengal: 37.4 million (30.3 million).

49. ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) celebrated its 58th Raising Day on 24th October 2019

(Indo-Tibetan Border Police was raised on 24 October, 1962 in the wake of Chinese aggression on Indo-China border).

APPOINTMENTS

1. RBI appoints Jai Bhagwan Bhorla as administrator for PMC Bank.

RBI had recently increased the amount of withdrawal allowed to the depositors of PMC from Rs 1,000 to Rs 10,000 and the directives will remain in force for a period of six months.

2. KS Dhatwalia appointed as PIB's (Press Information Bureau) Principal DG

3. SS Mallikarjuna Rao : MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank

4. Former Indian cricketer, Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of BCCI.

5. Air Marshal S K Ghotia appointed as chief of South Western Air Command

(Indian Air Force was founded on 08th October 1932. Headquarters of IAF is in New Delhi.)

6. Economist Surjit S Bhalla appointed as Executive Director for India at IMF for a period of three years

7. Amur Lakshminarayanan : MD and CEO of Tata Communications

8. Amrit Lugun : Ambassador of India to Greece

9. Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi : High Commissioner of India to Niue, with residence in Wellington, New Zealand

10. Sushil Chandra : MD & CEO of Oil India Limited

11. President Kovind appoints Chief Justices to 7 high courts

Name	High court
Lingappa Narayana Swamy	Himachal Pradesh High Court
Ravi ShankerJha	Punjab and Haryana High Court
Indrajit Mohanty	Rajasthan High Court
J.K. Maheshwari	Andhra Pradesh High Court
S. Manikumar	Kerala High Court

Arup K. Goswami

Sikkim High Court

Ajai Lamba

Gauhati High Court

12. Vijay Patil elected President of Mumbai Cricket Association

13. The Punjab government has appointed Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma (retired) as the new Lokpal.

The post was lying vacant since April 23, 2018, after Justice Satish Kumar Mittal (retd) had resigned.

The Lokpal holds the office for a term of 6 years.

14. Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples

15. Yes Bank Ltd appoints Anita Pai as COO (Chief Operating Officer) and Jasneet Bachal as the Chief Marketing Officer of the bank.

16. Kishan Dan Dewal : Ambassador of India to Georgia

17. J.P.S. Chawla assumes charge as new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) (Controller General of Accounts headquarters: New Delhi.)

18. Anoop Kumar Mendiratta appointed as new Law Secretary (Secretary, Legal Affairs) in the Union Law Ministry.

19. World Steel Association elected Sajjan Jindal as vice Chairman

20. Anup Kumar Singh appointed as Director-General of National Security Guard (NSG).

21. Sudhaker Shukla appointed as whole-time member of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

22. Former IMF chief Christine Lagarde appointed head of European Central Bank

23. SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar elected as the new chairman of IBA (Indian Banks' Association).

24. Upender Singh Rawat : Ambassador of India to the Republic of Nicaragua

25. Senior BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar sworn in as CM of Haryana for a second term

Senior BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for second straight time, with the support of Dushyant Chautala led Jannayak Janta Party.

Dushyant Chautala (leader of Jannayak Janta Party) took oath as deputy chief minister of Haryana.

26. Birender Singh Yadav to be next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Iraq

27. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde Appointed as 47th Chief Justice of India.

Justice Bobde will take oath as the CJI on November 18th, a day after incumbent Ranjan Gogoi demits office. He will have a tenure of 17 months and would demit office on 23rd April 2021.

28. Former Ias officers G C Murmu and R K Mathur appointed as new Lt Governors of J&K and Ladakh respectively

These newly appointed governors succeed Satya Pal Malik. These Union Territories will come into existence on October 31, 2019.

Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa, succeeding Mridula Sinha. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kerala state president P S Sreedharan Pillai was appointed as the 15th governor of Mizoram succeeding Jagdish Mukhi.

29. Rafael Grossi elected as the new IAEA head

He succeeds Yukiya Amano of Japan, who passed away in July. He will be the 6th head of IAEA since it was founded

IAEA : international atomic energy agency

(Headquarters IAEA: Vienna, Austria; Membership: 171 Member States)

30. Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Datta Padsalgikar appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA).

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presents Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award to the scholar, legal luminary and former Attorney General of India K Parasaran.

2. President Kovind to confer Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019 on the eminent senior citizens and institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons.

The Vayoshreshtha Samman is a Scheme of awards instituted by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry and gradually upgraded to the status of National Awards for institutions involved in rendering distinguished service for the cause of elderly persons.

3. Sachin Tendulkar gets most effective Swachhata Ambassador award on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

4. Ben Stokes named PCA (Professional Cricketers' Association)player of the year

5. 2019 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Human rights lawyer from Kyrgyzstan Azizbek Ashurov was awarded the 2019 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prestigious Nansen Award.

6. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019

The prize will be awarded jointly to William G. Kaelin, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza. They have been nominated for the prize for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability.

7. The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019

. The prize will be awarded to James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz.

James Peebles was honoured for his contributions to the understanding of the evolution of the Universe and Earth's place in the cosmos.

Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz were awarded the prize for finding 51 Pegasi b, a gas giant orbiting a star 50 light-years away. It was the first exoplanet to be discovered orbiting a star like our own.

8. "Spirit Of Kerala" wins People's Choice Award at the recently concluded My Rode Reel film competition.

9. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019

The prize will be awarded jointly to John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino. They have been nominated for the prize for the development of lithium-ion batteries. This lightweight, rechargeable and powerful battery is now used in everything from mobile phones to laptops and electric vehicles.

10. Russia honors astronaut Nick Hague with one of its highest honours ,“Order of Courage”

11. The Nobel Peace Prize for 2019

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali. He has been awarded for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea. He will receive a full cash prize, valued this year at 9-million kronor (\$918,000), a gold medal and a diploma.

12. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2018 and 2019

The Nobel Prizes in Literature **2018 and 2019** were announced at The Swedish Academy in Stockholm. Both winners will receive a full cash prize, valued this year at 9-million kronor (\$918,000), a gold medal and a diploma.

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 is awarded to the Polish author Olga Tokarczuk. She has been awarded “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.”

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2019 is awarded to the Austrian author Peter Handke. He has been awarded “for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience.”

13. Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey selected for Asia Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme

He is known for his investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers. The selection panel has recognised his excellent work in combating trans-boundary environmental crime.

14. Ashleigh Barty wins ‘The Don’ Award

Ashleigh Barty has been awarded Australian sport’s highest individual honour ‘The Don’ Award at the annual Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Barty was the first Australian to win the French Open in 46 years.

15. The Nobel Prize in Economics 2019

It was awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.”

Indian-born Abhijit Banerjee is an American citizen while Esther Duflo is French-American.

Michael Kremer is also from the US. Abhijit Banerjee, 58, was born in India and has a PhD from Harvard University.

He is a Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US.

16. Chandi Prasad Bhatt to get Indira Gandhi award for national integration

The 31st Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018 will be awarded to the pioneer of the Chipko Movement Chandi Prasad Bhatt for his services in promoting and preserving the national integration.

The award consists of a citation and cash of Rs 10 lakh to be given to the awardee by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on October 31, the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

17. Noted Film director and producer Priyadarshan gets MP govt’s Kishore Kumar award

(Khandwa is the birthplace of the legendary singer-actor Kishore Kumar and he had expired on October 13, 1987, in Mumbai.)

18. Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo jointly win 2019 Booker Prize

The Booker rules say the prize must not be divided, but the judges insisted they could not separate Atwood's - **'The Testament' and 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Evaristo**, who is the first black woman to win the prestigious award since its creation in 1969.

British Indian novelist **Salman Rushdie's** tragicomic **'Quichotte'** was among the six books shortlisted for the prize.

This was the fifth time that the Mumbai-born novelist was shortlisted, including the 1981 win where he bagged the award for "Midnight's Children".

19. India wins four UNESCO heritage awards

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation awards were announced at a ceremony held in **Penang, Malaysia**. 4 heritage landmarks from India were chosen for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019.

Heritage landmark	Award category	Place
Flora Fountain	Honourable mention	Mumbai
Keneseth Eliyadoo Synagogue	Award of Merit	Mumbai
Our Lady of Glory Church	Award of Merit	Mumbai
Vikram Sarabhai Library from (IIM)	Award of Distinction	Ahmedabad

Renewal of Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts in Hong Kong received the Award of Excellence, which is the highest award among all categories.
 (UNESCO President: Audrey Azoulay; Founded: 16 November 1945.
 Headquarters- Paris, France.)

20. Barcelona captain Lionel Messi wins 3rd straight Golden Shoe as top scorer in European Leagues

21. Hong Kong's orchestra wins "Orchestra of the year award 2019" at Gramophone Awards

22. Jennifer Aniston to receive People's Icon Award 2019

23. "Gully Boy" (bollywood movie) & "Delhi Crime" (Netflix series)wins at Asian Academy Creative Awards

24. The European Parliament has awarded the Sakharov Prize to Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti.

He has been awarded the Sakharov Prize for his attempts to "foster dialogue" between Chinese people and the Uighur.

Ilham Tohti, who is from the Uighur minority, has been a fierce critic of China's treatment of the Uighur people. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment in China for "separatism".

SPORTS

1. Manju Rani wins silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude in Russia.

2. Indian shuttler (badminton player) Lakshya Sen wins maiden BWF World Tour title in the Netherlands

3. Japan's Kento Momota wins Korea Open badminton tournament

4. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won 2019 Russia F1 Grand Prix

5. China Open : Lawn tennis

Japan's Naomi Osaka has defeated the world number one Ashleigh Barty to win the China Open held in Beijing, China.

6. Novak Djokovic defeated Australia's John Millman in the finals to win the Japan Open title (lawn tennis)

7. Indian female cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian to play 100 T20Is

8. Simone Biles wins 15th world title

American gymnast Simone Biles has clinched a record-extending 15th World Gymnastics Championship title in Stuttgart, Germany. With the victory, she has become the event's most decorated woman.

9. German Footballer Bastian Schweinsteiger announces his retirement

10. Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge becomes 1st athlete to run sub 2-hour marathon

He finished the marathon with an unofficial time of 1 hr 59 min 40.2 sec and became the first ever to run a marathon in under 2 hours.

11. M C Mary Kom wins bronze in World Women's Boxing Championships held in Ulan-Ude, Russia.

12. Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat wins men's singles title at Bahrain International Series

13. ICC changes super over rule for all its major events

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has changed the **super-over rule** for all its major events following the uproar over the outcome of the men's World Cup final this year when England was declared winners against New Zealand on boundary count.

As per new rule, in case of a super over tie, there will be a repeated super over until one team has more runs than the other.

(ICC Chairman: Shashank Manohar; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.)

14. Mercedes's Valtteri Bottas (of Finland) won 2019 Japanese Grand Prix

15. 17-year-old Mumbai's Yashasvi Jaiswal becomes youngest cricketer to score double hundred in One Day cricket

He playing in his debut Vijay Hazare season. He scored 203 off 154 balls against Jharkhand at Alur, Karnataka. His score comprised 12 sixes and 17 fours.

16. Indian Women football Team wins 3rd SAFF U-15 Women's Championship 2019 by beating Bangladesh by 5-3 in the penalty shoot-out.

The tournament was organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) and was held at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimpu, Bhutan.

17. England all-rounder female cricketer Jennifer Louise Gunn announces retirement from international cricket

18. Kuhoo Garg and Dhruv Rawat win the badminton mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo, Egypt.

19. Indian cyclist Ronaldo Singh wins gold medal at Asian Track Cycling Championships held at Incheon in South Korea.

20. Great Britain wins 9th Edition of Sultan of Johor Cup hockey Tournament 2019 held at Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

It was their 3rd title. India's Shilanand Lakra with 5 goals emerged as a top scorer; Japan's Kosei Kawabe was named as the Best Player of the tournament and Oliver Payne of Great Britain was named as the GoalKeeper of the tournament.

21. Raunak Sadhwani becomes India's 65th Grandmaster

. He defeated Russian GM Alexander Motylev to become the Grandmaster at the age of 13 years, 9 months and 28 days.

22. Canadian lawn tennis player Denis Shapovalov wins the Stockholm Open

23. Riya Bhati has won the ITF women's tennis tournament in Lagos, Nigeria.

24. Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma smashed the former Australia cricketer Don Bradman's record of highest average in Test cricket on home soil.

He broke the 71-year-old record that was previously held by Bradman by scoring an average of 99.84.

Bradman, the legendary Australia cricketer had an average of 98.22.

25. Indian Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and batswoman Smriti Mandhana won the Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award.

The other 3 winners are Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.

Smriti Mandhana became the third woman to win 'Cricketer of the Year', after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma. Former Indian cricketers Gundappa Viswanath and Lala Amarnath were inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame.

26. Karnataka wins their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy (cricket) 2019-20 after defeating Tamil Nadu

27. India's Prithvi Sekhar wins gold in World Deaf Tennis Championship

28. ICC bans Bangladeshi cricketer Shakib Al Hasan for 2 years from all forms of cricket. The Bangladeshi cricketer has been banned for not reporting to the ICC that he was approached by the bookies.

29. Lewis Hamilton wins Mexico Grand Prix 2019

30. America's Golf player Tiger Woods clinched historic 82nd title with Zozo Championship 2019, Chiba, Japan.

31. Indian boxer Shiva Thapa and Pooja Rani clinched gold medals in Olympic Test Event for Boxing in Tokyo, Japan

32. Zimbabwe, Nepal readmitted as ICC members

Zimbabwe and Nepal were re-admitted as ICC members in a meeting held in Dubai.

Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020. Zimbabwe Cricket had been suspended from membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) with immediate effect in July this year. Nepal had been banned in 2016 for "governmental interference" as well. (The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1 . India and the Netherlands – Past, Present and Future” - Venu Rajamony , India’s Ambassador to the Netherlands

2. “The Tech Whisperer” - Jaspreet Bindra released

3. “150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy”,:Fakir Hassen -launched in Johannesburg, South Africa.

4. “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need” : Bill Gates (it will be released on June 2020).

5. “India in a Warming world: Integrating Climate Change and Development”

This book is featuring a collection of articles by climate experts including Sunita Narain, Anil Agarwal, Dr Friederike Otto & Shibani Ghosh, edited by Navroz K Dubash. It is published by Oxford University Press(OUP).

6. “Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion’s Life” : Viswanathan Anand (Indian Chess player)

7. PM Modi releases book titled ‘Bridgital Nation’

The book has been authored by N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons and Roopa Purushothaman Eminent industrialist.

OBITUARIES

1. Dilip Parikh Former Gujarat Chief Minister (1997-98)

2. V Ganesan : Indian National Army (INA) veteran

3. Jose Jose : Legendary Mexican singer

4. HL Trivedi : Renowned kidney transplant surgeon and Padma Shri recipient

5. Krishna Kadekodi : 102 years old philatelist and coin collector Krishna Kadekodi

6. Farook Khan: an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa

7. Satyapriya Mohathero : Buddhist leader from Bangladesh.

8. Diahann Carroll : American actress, singer, and model

9. Kadri Gopalnath : Legendary saxophonist

10. Alexei Leonov : the legendary Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human to walk in space 54 years ago.

During this mission, on 18 March 1965, Leonov exited the spacecraft and walked for 12 minutes and 9 seconds.

11. Sara Danius : First female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body

12. Legendary Cuba ballet dancer Alicia Alonso passes away

13. Kalidas Karmakar : Internationally acclaimed painter of Bangladesh.

14. Writer and philosopher K.B. Siddaiah passes away

15. Oracle co-CEO Mark Hurd passes away

16. Dadu Chougule : wrestler and recipient of Major Dhyanchand award, passed away.

17. 2019 Padma Shri awardee & India's oldest Yoga teacher Nanammal passes away

18. First female UN refugee chief Sadako Ogata passes away

19. Former Karnataka Lokayukta N. Venkatachala passes away

20. Actor and comedian John Witherspoon passes away

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Saturn overtakes Jupiter as planet with most moons

A team of astronomers has discovered a haul of 20 new moons orbiting the ringed planet, Saturn. This discovery has brought its total to 82 moons, while Jupiter, by contrast, has 79 natural satellites.

The moons were discovered using the Subaru telescope on Maunakea, Hawaii.

2. Vishnu Nandan, only Indian aboard among 300 researchers to join MOSAiC Expedition

Vishnu Nandan will aboard the German research vessel Polarstern, anchored on a large sheet of sea ice in the Central Arctic, drifting along with it during the pitch-black Polar winter.

Led by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAiC, the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, will be the first to conduct a study of this scale at the North Pole for an entire year.

The expedition will help the researchers better understand the impact of climate change and aid in improved weather projections.

3. "GEMINI" system to warn fishermen of danger

GEMINI is a portable receiver developed to avoid communication blackouts. It linked to ISRO-satellites and is "fail-proof" and warn fishermen of danger.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services collaborated with Accord, a private company, to develop a box-shaped receiver that has an antenna and in-built battery that can last 3 to 4 days.

GEMINI works on GAGAN, developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India and is an India-made global positioning system and relies on the positioning system by ISRO's GSAT satellites.

When GEMINI is connected to an app, it also lets fishermen know the probability of fish-catch in the surrounding seas.

4. NASA Astronauts complete All-Woman Spacewalk

Nasa astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir have made history by completing the first-ever all-female spacewalk. They spent 7 hours outside the International Space Station (ISS) replacing a failed power control unit.

Ms Koch had already carried out four spacewalks but it was the first such mission for Ms Meir, who became the 15th woman to walk in space.

5. IIIT Hyderabad create first ever Indian Brain Atlas (IBA)

This will help in early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other brain-related ailments.

6. IIT Kharagpur graduate Debayan Saha develops unique device "PM 2.5" to curb vehicular air-pollution

IIT Kharagpur graduate Debayan Saha has invented a device called "PM 2.5" which he claimed when fitted near the silencer pipe in vehicles will curb air pollution. This device can neutralise the pollution emitted from 10 cars in its vicinity.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of Older Persons: 1 October

2019 Theme: The Journey to Age Equality.

2. International Day of Non-Violence: 2nd October

3. World Teachers' Day: 5 October

theme: 'Young Teachers: The future of the Profession'.

4. World Habitat Day: 7 October

Theme for 2019: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth. This year's Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be held in Mexico City

5. Air Force Day : 8th october

The IAF was founded on October 8, 1932.
Air Force Chief: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

6. World Post Day: 9 October

7. World Mental Health Day: 10 October

Theme : Suicide Prevention.

8. World Space Week: 4th-10th October

The theme for 2019 is: The Moon: Gateway to the Stars

9. International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

The theme for 2019: GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable.

10. World Migratory Bird Day: 12 October

Theme for 2019: Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!

11. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: 13 October

Theme for 2019: Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.

The 2019 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign (launched in 2016), centred on the 7 targets of the Sendai Framework.

12. World Standards Day: 14 October

2019 theme: Video standards create a global stage

13. International Day of Rural Women: 15 October

This year's theme is "Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience".

14. World Students' Day 2019

World Students' Day is celebrated every year on **October 15** on former president **APJ Abdul Kalam's** birthday.

15. World Food Day: 16 October

16. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty : 17 October

Theme: Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty.

17. World Statistics Day: 20 October

Theme: "Better Data, Better Lives".

18. World Day For Audiovisual Heritage: 27 October

19. National Unity Day. 31st October

The birth anniversary of Sardar Patel i.e. 31st October is observed as the National Unity Day every year.

20. World Cities Day: 31 October

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCES

1. 1st National Hindi Science writers conference begins in Lucknow

2. Gujarat to host conference of State Power Ministers

It will take place at Kevadia, on the banks of Narmada river.

3. 1st India Sports Summit held in New Delhi

4. India-China 2nd Informal Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping begins in Tamil Nadu

(The 1st summit took place in Wuhan in the wake of the Doklam crisis in April, 2018.)

5. PM Modi chairs meeting on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme in Delhi

'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' highlights India's diversity and furthers national unity. The goal of the initiative is to develop a holistic national perspective on important issues and encourage the celebration of India's vibrant regional cultures.

6. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 41st DRDO Directors Conference in New Delhi

(DRDO was formed in 1958; It is headquartered in New Delhi.)

7. India to host Interpol (International Criminal Police Organisation) General Assembly in 2022

Interpol is an international police cooperation organisation with 194 member states and 100 years of experience of international cooperation in policing with its HQ in Lyon, France.

8. 11th Nuclear Energy Conclave held in New Delhi

(A nuclear plant is coming up in the Gorakhpur of Haryana.)

9. The 18th NAM (Non Aligned Movement) Summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan

10. "Global Bio-India 2019" Summit to be held in New Delhi

RANKS AND REPORT

1. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates overtakes Jeff Bezos (Amazon founder and CEO) as the world's richest person

2. School Education Quality Index

Kerala has topped the "School Education Quality Index" launched by NITI Aayog. Uttar Pradesh was ranked at the bottom of the list. Chandigarh has topped the list of Union Territories.

3. India ranks 68th on Global Competitiveness Index released by World Economic Forum

World Economic Forum has released the Global Competitiveness Index report. In total, there are 103 indicators distributed across the 12 pillars on which the performance of the countries was evaluated.

As per the WEF's released report, India has moved down 10 places to rank 68th on an annual global competitiveness index which was **topped by Singapore.**

4. Forbes India Rich List 2019

It has been topped by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with net worth of \$51.4 billion.

Mukesh Ambani remained the richest Indian for the 12th year in a row.

Industrialist Gautam Adani jumped 8 spots on the list to become the 2nd richest Indian with net worth of \$15.7 billion.

The magazine stated that it was 'a challenging year' for the Indian economy.

5. With 30 million followers, PM Modi becomes most followed leader on Instagram

6. India ranked 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3 in Global Hunger Index 2019.

There were only four countries in the alarming hunger category are Madagascar, Chad, Yemen and the Central African Republic in the extremely alarming (worst) hunger category.

7. IMF cuts World and India growth rates

IMF downgrading global growth in 2019 to 3%, the slowest since the global financial crisis.

India's growth projections have also been downgraded to 6.1% and 7.0% in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

8. India ranked 82 among the 128 countries in the 2019 World Giving Index (helping a stranger)

According to the WGI, the USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.

9. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) releases Crime in India Report 2017

According to the report, 3.59 lakh cases of crime against women were reported in the country. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra with 31,979 cases and West Bengal 30,002 in cases of crime against women.

10. India ranked 63rd out of 190 in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking

New Zealand and Somalia retained their 1st and 190th spot respectively.

DEFENCE

1. Land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile successfully test-fired from Chandipur coast in Odisha's Balasore district.

The missile, with a strike range of **290km**, can be fired from land as well as sea-based platforms. BrahMos is a joint venture between the DRDO and the NPOM of Russia.
DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy, Established: 1958; Headquarters: New Delhi.

2. Nomadic Elephant 2019 : 14th Indo-Mongolian Joint Exercise

3. India receives 1st Rafale fighter jet "RB-001" built for Indian Air Force in France.

India has got the 1st Rafale fighter jet "RB-001" built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in France. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the 1st Rafale combat jet aircraft at Production Unit of Dassault Aviation in France.

However, the first batch of jets will arrive in India only in May 2020.

4. 2nd edition of India-Bangladesh CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) begins in Northern Bay of Bengal.

5. 2nd edition of Indo-Japan joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian 2019" to be held in Mizoram from 19 Oct to 02 Nov 2019

6. 10th edition of Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2019' begins in Seattle, US

7. India, Japan joint Air Force exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' 2019 began in West Bengal

8. India-Oman begin joint training exercise 'EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V' at Air Force Base Masirah, Oman

9. Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 (Danx-19) conducted by Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)

10. India-Myanmar Naval Exercise: IMNEX-2019 organised in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

11. Sudarshan Chakra Vahini War exercise of Indian Army begins in Jaisalmer

12. Indo-French joint Army exercise 'Shakti-2019'

Venue : Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

13. China unveiled Dongfeng-41 (DF-41) the most powerful intercontinental-range ballistic missile on the planet at the National Day parade, as China observed its 70th anniversary of Communist rule.

DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), more than any missile on Earth. The missile capable of carrying 10 independently targeted nuclear warheads and could theoretically, hit the United States in 30 minutes, according to the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. China has also displayed its underwater vehicles and new stealthy DR-8 drones thought to be able to fly up to five times the speed of sound.

BANKING / ECONOMY

1. RBI reduces repo rate by 25 basis points in 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy

The main decisions taken in the 4th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:
The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was reduced from 5.40% to 5.15%.

The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 4.90%.

The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate is revised to 5.40%.

RBI has also reduced the real GDP growth for 2019-20 from 6.9% to 6.1%.

2. 'Maharatna' status granted to state-owned HPCL & PGCIL

'Maharatna' status has been granted by the Government to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

3. India to extend over \$60 mn line of credit to Comoros

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has signed an MoU with the island nation Comoros. As per MoU, India will extend over \$60 mn line of credit to Comoros for Energy and Maritime Defence Cooperation.

The Vice President was also conferred 'The Order of the Green Crescent', the highest Civilian Honour of Comoros, by Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros in Moroni.

4. CBDT launches Faceless e-Assessment scheme

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has launched "Faceless e-Assessment scheme" that eliminates physical interface between an assessing officer and an assessee. They also inaugurated the National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC).

The "Faceless e-assessment scheme" is expected to bring in a "paradigm shift" in taxation by eliminating human interface in the income tax assessment system.

A total of 2,686 officials of the I-T department have been deputed for implementation of the scheme. With NeAC, there would be no physical interface between the tax payers and the tax officers.

Also, the above will bring transparency and efficiency and will improve the quality of assessment and monitoring.

There would be a NeAC in Delhi to be headed by Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax.

There are 8 Regional e-Assessment Centres (ReAC) set up at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad which would comprise Assessment unit, Review unit, Technical unit and Verification units.

5. Dearness allowance of central government employees hiked by 5% (from 12% to 17%.)

The hike would be effective from July 2019. The cost to the exchequer will be Rs 16,000 crore.

The cabinet also approved inclusion of 5,300 families under the development package of Jammu & Kashmir, who initially opted to move outside the state, but later returned and settled in the Jammu & Kashmir. This will enable such development package families to become eligible to get one-time financial assistance of Rs 5.5 lakh under the existing scheme.

6. SBI Card announced the launch of 'SBI Card Pay', a feature which allows contactless payment using mobile phones at PoS terminals.

Using SBI Card Pay, customers can make contactless payments at near field communication (NFC) enabled point of sale terminals with just one tap of their mobiles, without using the physical credit card or entering any PIN.

7. The State Bank of India opened its Melbourne office and becoming the first Indian bank to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria.

8. Reliance Mutual Fund renamed as "Nippon India Mutual Fund"

9. RBI rejects Indiabulls Housing & Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger deal

10. Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20

11. ICICI Bank launches new FD scheme "FD health" that comes with an in-built critical insurance policy

12. India Post launches mobile banking facility for savings accounts

13. Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Army for customised services

14. Axis Bank launches short-term online fixed deposits "Express FD"

it allows a customer to open an FD account in 3 minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank.

STATE NEWS

1. Rajasthan becomes the third state to ban certain categories of pan masala

Rajasthan became the third state in India after Maharashtra and Bihar to ban certain categories of pan masala containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, mineral oil and flavoured 'supari'. All such products will now be banned in the State under the Food Safety Act.

2. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Mo Sarkar' initiative

The objective of 'Mo Sarkar' is to improve governance by collecting feedback on behaviour and professionalism displayed by the Government officers.

3. Uttarakhand CM launches awareness campaign 'Urjagiri' to stop power(electricity) theft

4. HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the Pragati Rath of the HDFC bank

Pragati Rath will provide financial and digital literacy to the people during a month-long initiative by moving to different parts of Himachal Pradesh.

During the launching occasion, the bank provided a cheque Rs.1 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The bank has also announced that it is to launch the Sustainable Livelihood Initiative in the State.

(Governor of Himanchal Pradesh: Bandaru Dattatraya)

5. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launches 'YSR Vahana Mitra'

Under this, the government will provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per annum to owner-driver of an auto-rickshaw, or taxicab with the aim to meet their insurance premium, licence fee and other recurring expenses.

6. India's first e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal

This clinic would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.

The electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or can be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.

7. UP Culture Dept to organise training & performance programme of KHON Ramlila

The Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh government is going to organise the country's first training and performance programme of world-famous KHON Ramlila, a masked form of Ramlila art of Thailand in collaboration with the Thai government.

KHON Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage and it's a form of masked dance depicting the scenes of Ramlila.



It has no dialogues and background voices narrate the whole story of Ramayana. KHON Ramlila's performance is also a visual delight famous for its beautiful attire and golden masks.

8. Shirui Lily Festival, 2019 inaugurated in Manipur

9. Odisha's first Robot Restaurant opens in Bhubaneswar

Here two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged. Earlier Chennai and Bengaluru had introduced smart restaurants with robots machines imported from China.

10. First-ever Ladakh Literature Festival organized from 29 to 31 October 2019

11. TN becomes first State to enact law on contract farming

RAMANA ACADEMY