

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

FEBRUARY

BANKING

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** launches loan of **Ujjivan Bank KisanSuvidha loan** to offer financial credit services to small and marginal farmers.
- **Delhi** based P2P Lending platform, **Lendbox** had received its **NBFC- Peer-to-Peer(P2P)** certification from the RBI.
- The **Indian Banking Association** has issued advisory requesting banks to waive off the processing, documentation, inspection and all other service charges for **Kisan Credit Card** and **crop loans** up to **three lakh** rupees.
- **Two** Regional rural banks (RRBs) — **Pallavan Grama Bank** and **Pandyan Grama Bank** will be merged to form **Tamil Nadu Grama Bank**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has bought a **14% stake** in micro-financier **AnnapurnaFinance** for **Rs 137crore**.
- **Fino Payments Bank (FPB)** launches a **sweep account facility** in association with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB)**. As per the **RBI**, payment banks can only take deposits up to **Rs. 1 lakh** per account.
- **RBI** raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to **Rs.1.6 lakh** from the current **Rs.1 lakh** with a view to help small and marginal farmers.
- State-run power giant **NTPC** has signed an agreement with **HDFC Bank** for an **Rs 2,500 crore** loan to part finance capital expenditure.
- **RBI** reduces repo rate by **25 basis points**, **SBI** announced a cut in interest rates by **5 basis points** on its home loans up to **Rs 30 Lakh** stands at 8.70 %.
- The **ADB** has raised **5.22 billion pesos (\$100 million)** from its maiden issue of **Philippine peso-linked bonds** in the international market.
- The Reserve Bank's restructuring package for small businesses announced last month will help recast **Rs 1 trillion** of loans for **7,00,000** eligible micro, small and medium enterprises.
- **NTPC** has signed a term loan agreement for **Rs 5,000 crore** with **State Bank of India**.
- **RBI** cleared **Yes Bank** of Divergence charges i.e. disparity in reporting bad loans and provisioning numbers for the year ended March 2018.
- The Government of India, **Himachal Pradesh** and the **World Bank** signed **\$40 Million Loan** Agreement to bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla.
- **Edelweiss Group** has signed an **MoU** with **Bank of Singapore** to form a strategic partnership to provide clients of both entities the opportunity to access their respective product platforms.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, jointly with the **SBI** and the **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**, organized a **two-day workshop** on "**Committee of Creditors: an Institution of Public Faith**" in Mumbai.
- The State owned lender **SBI** expedite payment of insurance amount of **Rs. 30 lakh** each to the families of **CRPF** personnel killed.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**, India's **third-largest non-life insurance** provider in the private sector announced the launch of '**Trip Protector**'

- insurance policy, a pioneering policy in the non-life insurance segment in India
- **RBI** has warned regarding an app called **Any Desk**, warning all the online banking users against this fraudulent app stating that the app could first steal all your banking details and then all your money from the bank account.
- **Bank of Baroda** merging with **Dena Bank** and **Vijaya Bank** would be effective from **April 1** as per the scheme of amalgamation approved by the government.
- **Zimbabwe** began formal trading of **new currency RTGS dollar** as it tried to ease shortage of dollars that's crushed the economy.
- **Bank of Baroda** has tied up with Germany's **KfW Development Bank** have tied up to extend funding of **113 million dollars** to Refinance solar power projects in India.
- **RBI** and the **Bank of Japan** have formalized the **75- billion dollars** swap agreement, which would act as a cushion against any sharp swings in the local currency whenever the international financial markets turn volatile.
- The **World Bank**, **UN Women** and **SIDBI** have come together to launch a five-year tenor '**women's livelihood bond**' to raise **Rs.300 crore**.
- **ICICI Lombard** has entered into a strategic tie-up with **AnyTimeLoan.in (ATL)**, a **peer-to-peer** lending platform, to provide insurance cover for the latter's lenders and borrowers.
- **RBI** would shortly put into circulation new-series **Rs 100 denomination** bank notes bearing the signature of its Governor **Shaktikanta Das**.
- **DCB Bank** announced the launch of its **Open Banking Platform**, a significant step towards creating a collaborative ecosystem with enterprises, fin techs and app developers, and enhancing customer-service delivery.
- **IDBI Bank** and **LIC** have signed a **bancassurance** agreement under which the lender will offer LIC's insurance products at its branches.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched a **super-premium credit card**, the ICICI Bank **Emeralde Credit Card**, in two variants – **AmericanExpress** and **MasterCard**.
- The **RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty on the following banks for various reasons according to the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Name of the bank	Penalty levied	Reason
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1.50 crore	Not monitoring end use of funds
Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.	Rs. 1 crore each	not monitoring of end use of funds, exchange of information with other banks, and on restructuring of accounts
SBI	Rs 1 crore	not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers
Union Bank of India	Rs. 1 crore	for delay in exchange of information regarding the conduct of the borrower's account with other lenders.
Axis Bank	Rs2.2 crore	non-compliance of norms related to payment through cheques.
UCO Bank	Rs2 crore	non-compliance of norms related to payment through cheques.
Syndicate Bank	Rs1 crore	violation of guidelines related to checking fraud and managing risk.

ECONOMY

- **Paytm** acquired Delhi-based hotel booking platform **NightStay**.
- **GST** collections for January have crossed the **Rs 1 lakh crore** mark and is expected to be **Rs 103,000 crore**.
- **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** revised GDP growth rate to **7.2% for 2017-18**.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India **declined 11% to \$22.66 billion** during April-September period of the current fiscal. **Fiscal deficit** for the April-December period stood at **Rs 7.01 lakh crore or 112.4% of the budgeted target of Rs 6.24 lakh crore**.
- **6th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2018-19**

Repo Rate	6.25%
Reverse repo Rate	6%
MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	6.50%
Bank Rate	6.50%
CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio)	4%
SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	19.25%

- **RBI** enhanced the limit of collateral free agriculture loans from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.6 lakhs.
- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** agreed to compile a list of startups eligible for **angel tax exemption**.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has imposed penalties totaling **Rs.9 lakh** on **United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UIIC)**.
- **Facebook** acquired **GrokStyle** virtual search start-up to boost AI capabilities.
- Revised limit of Stock investment and Mutual funds for **Group A & B is Rs.50,000**, for **Group C & D is Rs.25,000**.
- The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by **USD 2.063 billion** to **USD 400.24 billion** till February 1.
- **NITI Aayog** signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** with the **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF)** to improve learning in public school education through systemic reforms.
- **US** warns countries, including India, against buying **Venezuelan oil**.
- **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy** and **Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)** with a total outlay of **Rs.2900 crore** approved.
- India's merchandise trade deficit is **\$14.73 billion** in January.
- **Income norm relaxed for judge posts** to have a minimum income limit of **₹7 lakh**.
- **RBI** withdrew the **20 per cent** limit on investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in corporate bonds of an entity.
- Government of India got **Rs.10000 crore** from **Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)** by additional offering.
- Expert committee led by **Anoop Satpathy** recommends **Rs 9,750** as **monthly national minimum wage**.

- The **United States and Canada** have submitted a counter-notification to the **World Trade Organization's** Committee on Agriculture on India's minimum support prices for **5 agricultural commodities**.
- India hiked the **customs duty** on all goods imported from **Pakistan to 200%**.
- **RBI** decided to transfer an **interim surplus** of **Rs.28,000 crore** to the government.
- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has signed an annual deal worth **USD 1.5 billion** to import **3 million tonnes** of **crude oil** in the fiscal year beginning April 1.
- As per **new angel tax norms**, an entity shall be considered as a **startup up to 10 years** from its date of incorporation and its turnover for any of the financial years since its incorporation hasn't exceeded **Rs 100 crore**.
- Centre revised additional installment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees, and Dearness Relief (DR). It **Increased 3%** over the existing rate of 9% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise.
- **Rs. 48,239 crore** to be pumped into **12 public sector banks** this fiscal year to help them maintain regulatory capital requirements and finance growth plans.
- Google will acquire Silicon Valley data migration company **Alooma** to grow its **cloud business service** in its latest efforts to compete with its rivals Amazon and Microsoft.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India decreased by **7%** to **USD 33.49 billion** during **April-December in the current fiscal**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has merged three categories of NBFCs — **Asset Finance Companies (AFC), Loan Companies (LCs) and Investment Companies (ICs)**— into one new category called **NBFC-investment and credit company (NBFC-ICC)** to ease operational flexibility of these institutions.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has constituted a **six-member committee** to recommend **steps to reduce litigation before the appellate forums** of **Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals)** and the **Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)**.
- India plans to auction **66 small oil and gas fields** of **Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Ltd.** as it tries to step up production to reduce the import bill of the world's third-biggest consumer of fossil fuel.
- On **33rd Goods and Services Tax (GST)** meeting GST rate was revised to **1% (from 8%) on affordable housing** and **5% (from 12%) on under-construction**.
- In **Odisha, Oil Marketing Companies** will engage more than **10,000 rural women** as **'Ujjwala Didis'** to act as grassroots energy ambassadors across the state to ensure sustainability of **LPG use**.
- The government released the draft national **e-commerce policy** proposing setting up a **legal and technological framework** for restrictions on **cross-border data flow**.
- During **April – January** India's fiscal deficit stood at **Rs.7.7 lakh crore** or **121.5%** of the budgeted estimate of **Rs.6.24 lakh crore for 2018-19**.
- **Adani Group** has won the bid to operate five out of **six Airports**, put up for privatization by the central government, for the **next 50 years**.
- **Thomas Cosok India Group** acquired **51% stake** in **Digiphoto Entertainment Imaging (DEI)** for **\$40.6 million** (Rs 289 crore).
- The government detected **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** evasion of around **Rs 20,000 crore** between **April 2018 and February 2019**.

INTERNATIONAL

- **UN** announced **2019** as the **International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements** to highlight its first publication in 1869.

- The **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** has ceased all assistance to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.
- According to the global report named “**2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report**”, Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has been marked as India’s highest ranked think tank.
- The **Chinese Lunar New Year** is being celebrated on **February 5th** this year around the world with lanterns, performances, decorations and food.
- **PM Modi and Monaco’s** reigning monarch **Prince Albert II** held talks on renewable energy sector and combating climate change.
- A new church and mosque will be constructed in **Abu Dhabi** in honour of the historic visit of **Pope Francis** and the **Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif, Dr. Ahmad Al Tayyeb** to the UAE.
- **Macedonia** signed an accord to join **NATO** to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance.
- President Donald Trump has nominated senior Treasury official **David Malpass** as the next chief of the **World Bank**.
- **Nepal** government has made it mandatory for **Indian citizens** who come to work in Nepal’s industries and other institutions to possess necessary work permits.
- The **India Pavilion** at the **Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2019** was inaugurated by Director European Film Market, (EFM) Matthijis Wouter Knol.
- According to **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, Earth’s global surface temperatures in 2018 were the fourth warmest since 1880.
- **ADB** has raised 5.2204 billion Philippine pesos (\$100 million) from a new issue of local currency bonds in the international market.
- **INS Trikand**, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multinational training exercise ‘**CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19**’ held from 27 Jan to 06 Feb, 2019.
- **Hindi** included as **third** official court language in **Abu Dhabi**.
- The five-day Multinational Maritime Exercise “**AMAN-19**” commenced in **Karachi** with the slogan “**Together for Peace**”.
- Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** to be on four-day visit to **Bangladesh**.
- The **Red Cross** called for a total ban on nuclear weapons, warning of the growing risk that such arms could again be used with devastating effect.
- United States President signs executive order to prioritize research & development in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- Philippines President **Rodrigo Duterte** has proposed changing his country’s name to **Maharlika** in an effort to move past its colonial history.
- **Hungary** to give life tax exemption to women with 4 children.
- The End of **NASA’s Opportunity Rover Mission** Captured By **Brazilian Artists**.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** unveil new international standard for hearing-safe audio devices.
- **India** and **Sweden** signed a **security protection agreement** that will enable the two countries to share classified information with each other.
- India Withdrawn ‘**Most Favored Nation**’ Status from Pakistan.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** embarked on a four-day visit to **Bulgaria, Morocco and Spain**.
- Schools in **France** to replace ‘mother and father’ with ‘parent 1 and 2’ under controversial same sex amendment.
- **Saudi Arabia** signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) becoming the **73rd** country to join the India-led renewable energy organization which now has a total of 122 members.

- **Sri Lanka's** 150 students from all 25 districts were awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi scholarships for study in India.
- In **Nepal**, a month-long 'Festival of India' began in **Kathmandu** to familiarize the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.
- **Trump** Launched Global Campaign to Decriminalize **Homosexuality**.
- **Australian** mammal becomes first to go extinct due to climate change.
- **Taiwan** unveils Asia's first draft law on same-sex marriage.
- **Russia** bans **smart phones** for soldiers over social media fears.
- Sudanese President **Omar al-Bashir** declares year-long state of emergency across **Sudan**.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** condemns Pulwama attack, keeps Pak in 'Grey' list for failing to stop terror financing.
- **Afghanistan** begins **export to India via Chabahar port**.
- In **Japan**, a ceremony was held in Tokyo to celebrate 30 years of Emperor Akihito's reign, with the attendance of the Imperial couple.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** jets destroyed the biggest training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Pakistan's Balakot in the strike carried out by 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets.
- **Mauritius has won a case against Britain** at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) involving decolonization of the strategically important island of Diego Garcia.

NATIONAL

- Government renames the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** as **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.
- Prime Minister unveiled the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial** at Dandi Village in Gujarat.
- The **Statue of Mahatma Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis** who marched with Mahatma Gandhi in the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 were also unveiled by Narendra Modi.
- As per a **Global economic Research report** prepared by **Oxford Economics**, **Surat** will be **world's fastest growing city** in the 2019-2035 periods.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a state of art super specialty Hospital named "**Rasilaben Sevantilal Shah Venus Hospital**" in Surat, Gujarat.
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, **Hardeep singh Puri** approves construction of **4 lakh** houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). PMAY (U) is a scheme launched by PM Narendra Modi in June 2015 to ensure Housing for all by 2022.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** proposes three models through which the states can implement the scheme. The models are **insurance model, trust-based model and hybrid model**.
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar inaugurated new Campus of **the National Museum Institute in Noida**.
- BESAFE's 3rd Annual Conference on '**Measurable impacts of behavioral based safety implementation** in Indian Industry' held in New Delhi
- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved the indigenous construction of 6 Projects 75(India) submarines under the strategic Partnership model at the cost of **Rs 40,000 crore**.
- A committee under the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** to explore prepaid payments by state electricity distribution companies to power plants constituted.
- **ICT Academy bridge 2019** conference inaugurated in **Chennai** .Theme of the Conference is "**Fostering India for Industry 4.0**"
- Defence Ministry approved the procurement of around 73000 **Sig Sauer rifles** from **United States of America**.

- The fourth edition of **International Spice Conference (ISC 2019)** was held in Hyderabad. The theme is '**Challenges of Change, Redefining the Value Chain.**
- PM Modi dedicated the Railway electrification of 294 kilometer long **Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and Khana- Sainthia Sections** to the nation in West Bengal also dedicated the 20 kilometer long **Hijli - Narayangarh** third line to the Nation.
- Minister of Railways and Coal, Piyush Goyal launched the **International Energy Agency's (IEA) the Future of Rail report** which analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world in New Delhi.
- PM laid foundation stones of two AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) at **Vijaypur in Samba** and at **Awantipora in Pulwam.**
- PM also laid the foundation stone for the construction of Northern Regional Centre Campus of **Indian Institute of Mass Communication** at Jammu.
- PM launched various projects under **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).**
- Prime Minister laid foundation stone of 1640 m span **double lane bridge** over River **Chenab at Sajwal.**
- PM laid foundation stone of the new terminal building of **Kushok Bakula Rimpochee (KBR) Airport in Leh.**
- Women entrepreneurs have set up around 1.38 lakh MSME (Micro, small and Medium Enterprises) projects under **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme**, since inception and up to 23rd January, 2019.
- Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) have released 6.23 crore free LPG connections to BPL (below poverty line) households, under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**, across the country.
- **Ministry of Union Labour and Employment** has **allowed women to work in mines**, both in opencast and underground, during the day and night, as part of the efforts to build more opportunities for women.
- **Braille voter slips for visually impaired and blind.** The initiative is part of the strategic framework for '**accessible elections**'.
- Prince Albert II of **Monaco** made his first Visit to India to review the bilateral relations between India and Monaco.
- 7th edition of **Kolhapur International film festival** inaugurated in **Kolhapur, Maharashtra.** Veteran filmmaker **Govind Nihalani** was honoured with the **Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Award** for his contribution to the film industry. Focus country of the festival is the Hungarian cinema.
- **Sahapedia** in partnership with UNESCO organized the second edition of India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF) 2019 in Delhi. It is also supported by the National Mineral Development Corporation.
- Ministry of New & Renewable Energy to set up **12000 MW grid-connected Solar Photovoltaic Power** projects with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support of Rs. 8,580 crore.
- PM has inaugurated **New High Court Circuit Bench** in Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- Union Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 2nd Phase of **River Information System (RIS)** between **Farakka and Patna on National Waterway-1** (River Ganga) in Prayagraj.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for citizens to verify their details, change the details, new registration and corrections, **helpline number is 1950** and **PwD , Voter Helpline app.**
- PM dedicated to the nation, **1.33 MMT Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility** of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL).

- PM laid the foundation stones for setting up a new **terminal of Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) at Krishnapatnam.ESIC Hospital, Tiruppur.**
- PM dedicated to the nation, **ESIC Hospital Chennai, BPCL's Ennore Coastal Terminal.**
- **Modi** laid foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Science (**AIIMS**) at **Changsari in Guwahati.**
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** centenary celebrations have been inaugurated by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The Meghalaya Cabinet decided to rename the **DikkiBandi stadium** in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker **PurnoA Sangma.**
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan released a Publication on climate actions in India titled India – **Spearheading Climate Solutions** in New Delhi.
- **UNICEF in Maharashtra** joined hands with **Goa WCD** for addressing issues in child protection.
- NITI Aayog Signs SoI with **MSDF (Michael & Susan Dell Foundation)** to Document Systemic Transformation in Education.
- Government **liberalizes the e-Visa regime** making it more tourists friendly. Duration of stay in India of e-tourists and e-business visas will be from **60 days to 1 year** with multiple entry subjects. No registration will be required if the stay is for a period of **less than 180 days**, in case of **e-Business Visa.**
- India and the European Union have made a decision to mutually invest up to **40 Million Euros (Rs.323 Crore)** on 7 Research and Innovation projects to tackle and handle immediate water challenges in the country which include India-H2O, LOTUS, PANI WATER, SAEASWATI 2.0, SPRING, and PAVITR.
- Government to Install **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** at **Every 25 Km** in India.
- SC directs states to sensitize cops about **scrapping of Section 66A of Information Technology Act.** Section 66A of IT Act provided jail term for people sending offensive contents in internet.
- **Argentinean** President **Mauricio Macri** visits India. 10 MoUs were exchanged in various fields.
- Women safety initiatives like Pan **India number 112**, Emergency Response Support System (**ERSS**), Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (**ITSSO**), Safe City Implementation Monitoring (**SCIM**) **Nirbhaya Fund scheme** launched.
- Commerce Minister launches '**SWAYATT**' on GeM.

STATES

- The Punjab government approved a rural development scheme "**Smart Village Campaign**" worth Rs 384.40 crore.
- The **Mizoram** Government issued an order to ban **the import of pigs and piglets** from Myanmar, because there is a possibility of outbreak of **Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)**. PRRS disease is also called as **Swine Flu.**
- **Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot** announced the monthly allowance scheme for educated unemployed youth from March 1st. Unemployed **boys will receive Rs, 3000** while **girls** will get an assistance of **Rs,3500** as monthly unemployment allowance.
- **Sikkim, Microsoft** ink pact for enhancing digital literacy.
- Odisha launched '**KALIA ChhatravrittiYojana**', which is a scholarship for the children of farmers who are the beneficiaries of KALIA scheme.
- Punjab government decided to constitute a 5 member high-powered committee to prepare a comprehensive action plan **for boosting the dairy sector** with the **aim of supplementing the income of farmers in a result-oriented manner.**

- **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** has decided to set up a "World Heritage Centre" housing "spiritual camps" of 45 countries, at its headquarter, **Mayapur in Nadia district of West Bengal.**
- **First State Level Awareness Programme on Agriculture Export Policy** to create awareness among farmers and stakeholders was held in **Pune, Maharashtra.**
- **Aspecial postage stamp** of the Indian Postal Department on **Kumbh Mela.** Its cost is five rupees released.
- UP government has invoked the **Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA)** banning strikes in all departments and corporations under it for a period of six months. A notification to this effect was issued by Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey.
- **The National Green Tribunal** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 25 lakh** on the **Uttar Pradesh** government for its failure to stop discharge of **dirty water into Upper Ganga canal.**
- UP govt forms SIT on **Sikh riots of Kanpur in 1984.** The four-member SIT will be headed by retired **UP Director General of Police, Atul.**
- **Haryana** approves new **MSME, pharma policies** to boost development.
- **Maharashtra** government constituted a committee to review **welfare schemes for tribals.** The 17 member committee will be headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president **Vivek Pandit.**
- Delhi government launches **Zero Fatality Corridor.**
- J&K Government Grants Divisional Status to **Ladakh Region.**
- Kerala HC verdict that banks are liable for unauthorized withdrawals from customer accounts.
- Yogi inaugurated a computerized mobile bus classroom **HP world on wheels in Varanasi.**
- Rajasthan introduces **5% quota bill for Gujjars, 4 other castes**
- **PM-Kisan scheme** and **Annadatha Sukhibhava scheme** have been amalgamated by **Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Himachal Pradesh** Assembly passed Official Language (Amendment) Bill 2019 to make **Sanskrit** as the **second official language** of the state. The first official language of Himachal is Hindi.
- Karnataka government set to make it a law to give priority for kannadigas in jobs lying under the **Group C and Group D** category in the private companies under **Sarojini Mahishi report.**
- **Mulugu and Narayanpet** -2 new Districts created in Telangana
- Union minister Smriti Irani launched the **Integrated Large Scale Eri Farming in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Odisha** approved Rs 466 Crore **Sanitary Napkin Scheme** for adolescent girls called **Khusi scheme.**
- **Bihar** becomes the 1st state to deploy **dog squad** to **check liquor smuggling.**
- **Odisha** launches **boat ambulance service for remote areas.** The ambulance service can be availed by dialling '**108**'. The first boat ambulance was introduced at **Batighar in Kendrapara district.**
- **Madhya Pradesh** Government launched 100-day employment scheme for youths **Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana'**
- **Tamil Nadu** launched the **Virtual learning portal** for rural students.
- Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL) Signs MoU With **Himachal Pradesh** To Establish **India's 4th White Cement Plant Project** in Nohra Dhar village.

- **Smriti Irani inaugurated Titanwala Museum at Bagru, Rajasthan**
- **Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM)** Commission launched by Assam chief minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- Odisha Cabinet Approves State Film Policy 2019.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **ISRO** named **10 companies** to transfer the technology for manufacturing **Lithium-ion cells** developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba.
- Iran Unveiled its Long Range Cruise Surface to Surface Missile, named **Hoveizeh** with a Strike range of **1,300 km (800 miles)**.
- **Pakistan** has test fired a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile '**Nasr**' with a strike range of about **70-km**.
- The **Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)**, the hub of **ISRO's** future manned missions, was inaugurated at ISRO headquarters in **Bengaluru**.
- **Mashoka 5** – Mobile App launched for booking of **Bungalow No.5**, in **New Delhi**.
- **National Testing Agency (NTA)** introduced mobile app for Mock Tests for JEE Mains 2019.
- The government's mega health insurance scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, popularly known as the **Ayushman Bharat**, has launched the **PM-JAY app** on Google Play Store.
- The government has approved a plan to use space technology in border management to check intrusion. Over **3 thousand incidents** of intrusion on country's borders took place in the **last 4 years**.
- **Chennai** Police Commissioner **A.K. Viswanathan** launched mobile App '**DigiCop**' of the city Police department.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the DD '**Arun Prabha**' Channel in **Itanagar**.
- Helicopter-launched anti-tank missile '**Helina**' test-fired in **Balasore, Odisha Coast**. Developed by the **Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The second indigenously developed "**Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)**" propulsion-based missile system was successfully flight tested in **Odisha** by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **A Himalayan cloud observatory** has been setup in **Tehri district** here receive forecast and monitor cloud burst incidents in the Himalayan region and help minimize the damage.
- Disaster relief exercise '**EX-RAHAT**' will be demonstrated in **Jaipur, Kota** and **Alwar** in **Rajasthan**.
- Ultra light Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar, Indian Army demonstrated its artillery firepower at the annual "**Exercise Topchi**" held near **Nashik**.
- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, **Shri Shripad Yesso Naik** launched the **e-AUSHADHI** portal, for online licensing of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs** and related matters at **New Delhi**.
- A new species of '**crying**' snake has been discovered in **Lepa-Rada district** of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **NASA** has tried for months to contact its **Opportunity rover** on **Mars**, but the **golf-cart-size robot** has failed to phone home to Earth ever since a record global dust storm engulfed the red planet.
- **NASA** Launching a brand new space mission '**SPHEREx**' that could solve two of the deepest questions about the universe.
- National Waterways, the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** launched a new portal **LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System** for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways

- Air force's major exercise **Vayushakti 2019** held in **Pokharan, Rajasthan**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)** has entrusted a **United Arab Emirates**-based, National Central Cooling Company **PJSC (Tabreed)**, with the task of developing the **District Cooling System (DCS)** proposed in Amaravathi.
- The country's **second-largest** IT services firm **Infosys** announced the launch of **InfyTQ**.
- Drainage-cleaning robot has been introduced for the first time at the **Chennai city corporation** and Robot named "**Bandicoot**" has been introduced at a cost of **18 lakh rupees**.
- India's first '**fulldome 3D Digital Theatre**' at the Science City in **Kolkata**, was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma
- **First walking robot "AntBot"** that can explore its environment and find its way home without GPS or mapping, opening new avenues for the navigation of autonomous vehicles.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a **National cyber forensic lab** and the **Delhi Police's** cybercrime unit '**CyPAD**'.
- China's **Xinhua News Agency** and the search engine **Shougou Company** who together collaborated in the development of the **artificial intelligence** anchor, called **XinXiaomeng**.
- **Australia** officially declared a **Great Barrier Reef rodent** extinct making it the first **mammal** believed to have been killed off by **human-induced climate change**.
- HRD Minister, **Shri Prakash Javadekar** launched "**Operation Digital Board**" to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country.
- **Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the **Tele-Law** that will have two components: **mainstreaming legal aid through common service centers** and **NyayaBandhu** (pro bono legal services) mobile application.
- PM Modi inaugurated '**ParamShivay**' Supercomputer of **833 teraflop capacity** built at the cost of **Rs 32.5 crore**.
- India's first humanoid robot '**KP-BOT**', gendered **female**, into the **Kerala Police force** at the rank of **Sub-Inspector**.
- A living member of species of tortoise not seen in more than **110 years** and feared to be extinct has been found in a remote part of the **Galapagos island of Fernandina**.
- A study conducted by 200 scientists from 18 countries has led to discovery of **300,000 new galaxies** using a **Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR)** telescope in **Netherlands**.
- **Navaratna Defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** has unveiled its new product, the **Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG)**, an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide at **Aero India 2019**.
- Iran is to launch a three-day annual navy drill "**Velayat 97**" in a vast area of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean including a sensitive global shipping route.
- The government of India launched the **National action plan- Viral Hepatitis in Mumbai**.
- The **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**, NASA's planet hunting satellite was launched on 18th April, 2018, for discovering transiting planets smaller than Neptune.
- The **Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)** announced that September 25 will be the launch date of the first Emirati astronaut's trip to the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Tejas Networks** announced the launch of its **innovative, ultra-converged** broadband access/edge product family which delivers wire line as well as wireless broadband services from a single integrated platform.
- The first time in the country space history, Indian Space Research Organization is going to launch a **PSLV-C45 mission** in March where it will release payloads in three different orbits.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** gave approval for the acquisition of defence equipment worth **Rs 2700 crore**.

SEMINARS & MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place	Theme/Tagline
BESAFE's 3rd Annual Conference	New Delhi	
ICT Academy Bridge 2019 conference	Chennai	Fostering India for Industry 4.0
International Spice conference	Hyderabad	Challenges of Change, Redefining the Value Chain
India-Monaco Business Forum	New Delhi	
Aero India	Bangalore	The Run way to a Billion Opportunities
12 th Regional Standards Conclave	Bhubaneswar	Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Startup
6th Meeting of Nation Health Mission	New Delhi	
2019 Asia LPG Summit	New Delhi	LPG – Energy for Life
2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission (NPM)	New Delhi	
2nd ASEAN – India Youth Summit	Guwahati	Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity
3-Day PETROTECH-2019	Greater Noida	
7th World Government Summit	Dubai (UAE)	The Year of Tolerance
1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference	New Delhi	State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges
2-Day Unani Medicine	New Delhi	Unani Medicine for Public Health
CREDAI Youth Con-19	New Delhi	
3rd Indo-German Environment Forum	New Delhi	Cleaner Air, Greener Economy
2-Day EarlyEd Asia 2019	Jaipur	
World Sustainable Development Summit 2019	New Delhi	Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise
5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019	Bhubaneswar	
2-Day One Health India Conference 2019	New Delhi	
14th Agricultural Science Congress – 2019	New Delhi	Innovations for agricultural Transformation
World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress-2019	Mumbai	Sustainable Development Goals
International Vision Zero Conference	Mumbai	
4th edition Indian Pharma 2019	Bengaluru	Enabling Quality Affordable Healthcare
Island Development Agency (IDA)-2019	New Delhi	
Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019	Mumbai	
Global Business Summit	New Delhi	
44th Global Summit of International Advertising Association	Kochi	Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities
Rising India Summit 2019	New Delhi	Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities
BioAsia 2019	Hyderabad	Life Sciences 4.0: transforming health care in India

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Air India** is resuming its services from **New Delhi** to the holy city of Najaf in **Iraq** after 25 years.
- **Uzbekistan** has lifted the ban on teaching Political Science.
- Indus River **Dolphin** declared as **Punjab's** State aquatic animal.
- 2nd Jharkhand International Film Festival to begin in **Ranchi** from 1st February, 2019.
- The Kala ghoda festival-KAGF, India's largest multi-cultural street festival begins in **Mumbai** to celebrate its 20 years of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture.
- Second edition of **World Count festival 2019** was held in **Pune, Maharashtra**, with an aim to bring together speakers from several socio-political spheres and share their insights on various issues.
- Air India's first ever Flight Simulator is ready for public viewing at Nehru Science Centre, **Mumbai**. Known as '**Boeing 747-200**', it was extensively used by the pilots, until due to technological obsolescence, it paved the way for new flight simulators.
- Smriti Irani launched India Size project in Mumbai.
- Union Minister **SmtHarsimratKaurBadal** lays Foundation Stone of Mega Food Park at **Mathura District** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- In Bihar, Governor **Lalji Tandon** and Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** jointly inaugurated the three -day KrishiKumbh in Motihari.
- Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurates Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- Union Science & Technology Minister to inaugurate North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC) at **Dharwad**.
- Shri K.J. Alphons to inaugurate 'Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady' project in Kerala.
- Union Minister of State **SadhviNiranjanJyoti** inaugurates Sikaria Mega Food Park, the 1st Mega Food Park of **Tripura**.
- Union Home Minister inaugurates "Waste to Wonder" Park in **South Delhi**.
- A helpline for quick redressal of public complaints was launched by **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** at the IT Park in **Dehradun**.
- Skill Development Minister inaugurates Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in **Odisha**.
- Civil Aviation Ministry organizing '**Aviation Conclave 2019**' with theme of "Flying for All" in **New Delhi**.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Kleinman Center for Energy Policy** at the **University of Pennsylvania** awarded **4th annual Carnot Prize** to **Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal**.
- **Tamil Nadu** bags **Swasth Bharat Yatra award** for **best performance** in commemoration of the **150th** birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **BehrouzBoochani**, an Iranian asylum-seeker has won the **Victorian Prize** for **Literature**.
- **India** bags the **Award of Excellence for 'Best in Show'** at New York Times Travel Show 2019.
- Manipur filmmaker **Aribam Shyam Sharma** returned **Padma Shri** to **protest against Citizenship Bill**.
- **Samith Ramachandran** received the **Aegis Graham Bell Award 2019**.
- **The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** has named a winner under the **'Miniratna'** category by the Ministry of MSME.
- SBI's UK head **SanjivChadha** honored with the **'Freedom of the City of London'** award.
- Bengali Priest Father **FranoisLaborde** got France's highest civilian honour **"National Order of the Legion of Honour"**.
- **Deepa Mehta** received **Lifetime Achievement Award** from **Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television**.
- **Sanjay Subrahmanyam** has been awarded Israel's prestigious **Dan David Prize 2019** for his work on encounters between Asians, Europeans and indigenous and colonial Americans.
- **Siddhartha Lal**, MD & CEO, Eicher Motors, awarded as the **EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2018**.
- **Sunil Chhetri**, the Indian football player conferred with the **first ever Football Ratna** honour by **Football Delhi**.
- **Yuwa**, a Jharkhand-based NGO which **works for girl empowerment**, won the **Laureus Sport for Good award**, becoming the **third Indian** entry to bag the honour.
- **Sushma Swaraj** conferred with **'Grand Cross of Order of Civil Merit'** award in **Spain** for helping **Spanish** nationals during **2015 Nepal Earthquake**.
- The Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year award won by **Novak Djokovic**.
- **DivyaKarnad** became the first Indian Woman to be honoured with the **'Future for Nature Award'** for her work on **marine conservation**.
- **Mahesh Elkunchwar** has been honoured with **2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- **The Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal** and **West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore** were conferred with the **"Saubhagya Award"** under **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**.

- **The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars)** has been announced at the **Dolby Theatre** in **Los Angeles, the USA**.

Category	Winner	Movie
Best Picture	Green Book	
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Olivia Colman	The Favourite
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Rami Malek	Bohemian Rhapsody
Best Directing	Alfonso Cuarón	Roma
Best Documentary Short	Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton	Period. End of Sentence
Best Documentary Feature	Free Solo	

- **The President of India** presented the prestigious **Gandhi Peace Prize** for the years **2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018** at a function in **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

Year	Winner	Contribution
2015	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari	for rural development and education
2016	Akshaya Patra Foundation	for providing mid-day meals to children across the country
	Sulabh International	for its work towards emancipation of manual scavengers
2017	Ekai Abhiyan Trust	for their contribution to education for rural and tribal children
2018	Yohei Sasakawa (Japan)	For eradication of leprosy

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Donald Trump** nominated senior treasury official **David Malpass** for **World Bank President**.
- **Prajnesh** is only third Indian player to break into **the top-100** barrier in the past decade after **Somdev Devvarman** and **Yuki Bhambri**.
- West Indian batsman **Chris Gayle** has announced **retirement** from **One-day Internationals** after the forthcoming **World Cup**.
- Malaysian 8-time world champion **Nicol David** has announced, she will retire at the end of **the 2018-19** squash season, bringing down the curtain on the Malaysian's illustrious career.
- Australia wicketkeeper **Alyssa Healy** set a new **Guinness World Record** after achieving the feat for the '**highest catch of a cricket ball**' at the **Melbourne Cricket Ground**.
- **World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan** first Indian-origin woman to get **Blue Plaque** in UK.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the organization	Name of the person
Director General of NCC(National Cadet Corps)	LT Gen Rajeev Chopra
Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command.	Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P
10th Venezuelan president.	Juan Guaido
Chairman of Federal Bank	Dilip Sadarangani
First Hindu woman in Pakistan to be appointed as a civil judge.	Suman Kumari
16th King in Malaysia	Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of central Pahang state
Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation	Rishi Kumar Shukla
Ambassador of Nepal to India.	Nilambar Acharya
The next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Honduras.	B. S. Mubarak
The Ambassador of India To The Republic Of Argentina.	Dinesh Bhatia
Interim CEO of YES Bank.	Ajai Kumar
The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation Bank.	PV Bharathi
Secretary of Ministry of Minority Affairs.	Shri Sailesh
Chairman of the African Union	Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi
New Union Sports Secretary	Rahadheyshyam Julaniya
Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of national carrier Air India.	Ashwani Lohani
The new Election Commissioner	Sushil Chandra
New CBDT chairman	Pramod Chandra Mody
The first female flight engineer to be inducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF).	Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal
Controller and Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the management strategy, policy and compliance department.	Chandramouli Ramanathan
A Brand ambassador for global sportswear giant PUMA for a two-year period.	MC Mary Kom
Director of South Africa's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.	Professor Faizel Ismail
First woman president to lead Astronomical Society of India	Dr. G C Anupama
Director (Finance) of Indian Oil Corporation a first under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.	A K Sharma
The ombudsman in the BCCI	Justice D K Jain
Vice-President of AHF (Asian Hockey Federation)	India's Mushtaque Ahmad
Mohamed Tahir Ayala, governor of Gezira state	Sudan's prime minister
President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for a third time.	Brijbhushan Sharan Singh
The Amazon's board of Directors.	Ms. Nooyi
President of Africa	Muhamadu Buhari
New Chairman ,National Book Trust (NBT)	Govind Prasad Sharma

SPECIAL DAYS

DATE	SPECIAL DAY	THEME
1 st February	Indian Coast Guard Day	
2 nd February	World Wetlands Day	
4 th February	World Cancer Day	I Am and I Will
	Sri Lanka Celebrated 71 st Independence Day	
6 th February	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.	
10 th February	World Pulses Day	
	National Deworming day	
11 th February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth
12 th February	National Productivity Council Day	circular economy for productivity & sustainability
13 th February	World radio day	Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace
18 th February	TajMahotsav	Parampara
21 st February	International Mother Language Day	Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation
22 nd February	World Thinking Day	
24 th February	Central Excise Day	
27 th February	World NGO Day	
28 th February	National Science Day	Science for the People and the People for Science.

SPORTS

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) signed a **five-year global partnership deal** with beverage manufacturer **Coca-Cola Company**. ICC and Coca-Cola's partnership will be continue till **2023**.
- India's women's cricket team **captain Mithali raj** has become the first woman to play **200 matches in the ODI format** when she played against **New Zealand in Hamilton**.
- Indian **paddler G Sathiyam** achieved a new career **rank of 28** in the world rankings.
- **South Korean footballer Ki Sung-yueng** announced his **retirement** from the **South Korean national team**.
- **Vani Kapoor** becomes first Indian to grab **Australian LPGA card**. She finished tied-12th in the first-ever **Australian LPGA Qualifying Tournament** to earn playing rights for the Australian Ladies PGA Tour.
- **INS Dronacharya** team won **Regetta trophy** (also called The Cock) in **Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019** conducted by **Indian Navy's Southern Naval Command (SNC)** and held in **Ernakulum Channel, Kerala**.

- Nepal's cricketer **Sundeep Jora**, who made his debut in T-20 International, against UAE, became the **youngest** man to score a **half-century** in **T20 Internationals** at the age of **17 years and 103 days** and entered the book of records.
- **Smriti Mandhana** has moved up three spots to attain the **number one rank** in the updated **ICC ODI** batting rankings. After scoring her fourth ODI century and an unbeaten 90 in the three-match series against New Zealand,
- Former captain of the **Pakistan** women team **Sana Mir** became the **first Asian woman** to play **hundred T20Is**.
- Indian squash player **Ramit Tandon** defeated Egyptian **Mohamed El Sherbini** in the finals to win the **Seattle Open**, a PSA challenger squash Tour event.
- **India** is among the six countries that have presented bids to host the next edition of the **Hockey World Cup**, the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** announced.
- **Sarfraz Ahmed**, who was banned for four ODIs by the ICC over remarks to South African all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo, will take the reigns as **Pakistan captain** at the upcoming **World Cup tournament**.
- **Smriti Mandhana scores India's fastest-ever T20I fifty**, She struck a half century in just 24 balls in the 1st T20I against New Zealand at Westpac Stadium in Wellington.
- **Vidarbha defeated Saurashtra** by 78 runs to retain Ranji Trophy 2018-19 edition at the Vidarbha Cricket Association in Nagpur.
- World champion Indian weightlifter **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** notched up a gold medal in 48kg category at the EGAT Cup in Thailand.
- With the end of AFC Asian cup in UAE, the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) world rankings list had some changes, in which **India** has been dropped out from the **top 100 rank** and closed at **106 rank**, but **Belgium's pole position remained same**.
- **Cricket Australia** announced former captain **Ricky Ponting's** appointment as an **Assistant Coach** to **Justin Langer** for the 2019 World Cup.
- **The International Paralympics Committee (IPC)** lifted the suspension on **Russia** imposed in August 2016 over a doping scandal.
- French tennis player **Corentin Moutet** has beaten **Andrew Harris** of Australia in the singles final and clinched the **Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament title** for the second time.
- **MS Dhoni** became first Indian to play **300 T20 matches**, he achieved the milestone against **New Zealand**.
- Australian former international cricketer **Shane Warne** named as **Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Rajasthan Royals Brand Ambassador**.
- **Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)** lifted the **9th Senior National Men's Hockey Championship** against the defending champions **Hockey Punjab** at Gwalior.
- **Indian young paddlers** clinched four medals, including gold, India won two silver and a bronze at the **Bahrain Junior and Cadet Open tournament in Manama**.
- **Cricketer Rohit Sharma** became the first Indian batsman to smash **100 sixes in T20Is**.
- **Jamie Chadwick** has become the **first female winner** of the **MRF Challenge Series** in Chennai.
- **83rd Senior National Badminton Championship** began in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran** has risen to career-best **97th rank** in **Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)** rankings.
- **Clouded Leopard** will be mascot for **National Games 2022** in **Meghalaya**.
- **Sports Authority of India** won the **9th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship** held in **Haryana**.

- **Derrick Pereira** has been named as **Head Coach** of the **IndiaU-23** team for the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Qualifiers** held in **Uzbekistan**.
- **Saina Nehwal, Parupalli Kashyap and Sourabh Verma** advanced to the semifinals of the **83rd Yonex-Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals**.
- **Vidarbha** became the 3rd team to retain the **Irani Cup** for the second time.
- South African bowler **Dale Steyn** surpassed Indian legend **Kapil Dev** to become joint **7th highest wicket taker** along with **Stuart Broad** of **437** wickets.
- **Saina Nehwal** won her fourth title in Women's singles at the **Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior Nationals** by **defeating P.V.Sindhu** and **Sourabh Varma** won in Men's singles in **Guwahati**.
- **Belgium** Tennis player **Elise Mertens** won **Qatar Open** final by beating **Simona Halep** for biggest title of her career.
- **World Mallakhamb Championship** hosted by **India** for first time in **Mumbai**.
- **Virat Kohli** maintained **top** spot in **ICC Test rankings** and **Cheteshwar Pujara** got **third spot**.
- **Niikhat Zareen** and **Meena Kumari Devi** won **Gold** medals at the **Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament**.
- **Indonesia** submitted bid to host the **2032 Olympics**.
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** banned 10 years on UAE-Based Coach **Ansari** for **Corruption**.
- **International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup** inaugurated by The Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** in **New Delhi**.
- **The organizing committee of Paris Olympics** proposed **Break dancing** for **2024 Olympics**.
- **BCCI** likely to request **ICC** to **ban Pakistan** from **2019 World Cup**.
- **Srilanka** became **first Asian cricket team** to win a test Series in **South Africa**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** defeated **Nagaland** by **179 runs** in the **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** to register the biggest ever victory in **T20 cricket**.
- **Chris Gayle** has broken **Shahid Afridi's** record for **most sixes** in international cricket.
- **Shreyas Iyer** smashed **highest T20 score** by an Indian Batsman in the **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** against **Sikkim**.
- **Apurvi Chandela** won gold medal at the **ISSF World Cup 2019** in women's 10-metre air rifle event.
- **Chennai Spartans** won the inaugural **Pro Volleyball League** title against **Calicut Heroes**.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** has broken **World Record** score of 245.0 by winning the gold In International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2019 10m Air Pistol event and secured **Olympic Quota**.
- **Olympic Committee** suspended **India** from hosting Olympic qualifying events.
- **Afghanistan** posted highest ever T20 total of 278 runs against **Ireland**.
- **Rashid Khan** became first bowler in T20I history to pick **4 wickets in 4 balls** against **Ireland**.
- Grandmaster **Abhijeet Gupta** won **Cannes International Open Trophy**.

- **Suresh Raina** became the first Indian to score **8000** runs in **T20s**.
- **FIFA** banned **Chelsea** for breaching of rules.
- **Manu Bhaker, SaurabhChaudhary** won gold in the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup** 10m air pistol mixed shooting team.
- Hungarian player **Veronika Major** won gold in the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup** 10m air pistol shooting.
- **Alastair Cook** received **Knighthood** officially from the **Queen**.
- **Sanath Jayasuriya** slapped with **2-Year ban** from all forms of cricket for breaching **Anti-Corruption Code**.

SURVEYS

- The **Indian unemployment rate** hit 4 decade high of **6.1% in 2017-18** report released by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**.
- As per the **2017-18 of Area and Production of Horticulture** crops released by the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare**, there has been a record production of horticulture crops in 2017-18 reached **311.7 million tonnes**.
- **Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal** launched the **The Future of Rail** report of the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.
- **Minister of Tourism, KJ Alphons** has revealed the country's tourism sector fetched **USD 234 billion** revenue last year and registered a **growth of over 19% in 2018**.
- **Assam** occupied the top slot in the ranking of **best budgetary practices followed by states** in Budget formulation surveyed by the **Transparency International**.
- **Fitch Solutions** projected the government's fiscal deficit to overshoot the budgeted target by **0.2 percent to 3.6 percent of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal**.
- **Stripe online payment processing firm** analyzed the **Indian online companies** positioned at **11th place** in the ranking of **overseas expansion for the 2019**.
- **Government** eyed on wider survey to account for **missing jobs, silence critics**.
- **The government** has decided to conduct a survey of **all agricultural households** in the country covering the period from **July 2018 to June 2019**.
- **India** has jumped to **36th position** on the **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index** and the **USA, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany** remained the top five economies.
- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** predicated **2018** was **Earth's fourth-hottest year**.
- **The International Labour Organization (ILO)** released **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019** unemployment rate will **fall to 4.9% in 2019** and **remains steady in 2020**.
- **The Odisha forest and environment department** revealed the population of dolphins in water has declined drastically from **469 in 2018 to 259 in 2019**.
- **The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** unemployment among educated people increased sharply in **2017-18**.
- **JioSaavn** has secured **1st rank India-wise** and **28th rank globally** in the **2019 list of 50 Most Innovative Companies**.
- **2019 Passport Index** has given **67th position** to **India** and **topped** the list by **UAE** on the basis of their visa-free scores.
- **Punjab** ranked **one** in highest alcohol consumption among kids surveyed by **AIIMS New Delhi**.
- India's rank was **47th Out of 100 Countries** in the **Facebook Inclusive Internet Index 2019** and topped by **Sweden**.
- **Mukesh Ambani** became world's 8th richest person with net worth of \$54bn wealth revealed by the **Top 10 Hurun Global Rich List 2019**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Author	Speaks About
Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice PN Bhagwati's Approach	Moolchand Sharma	The idealism and simplicity of the highest court in the country responding to even a petition filed on a postcard.
What Marx Left Unsaid	Malay, Arindam and Che Kabir Chaudhari	Why human beings must earn as per their skills, which will in turn determine their ability to contribute to society.
Let's Talk On Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters	Rakesh Anand Bakshi	Depicted as the comprehensive guide on radio-presenting in India.
Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India	Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram	A collection of essays on the country's atmosphere of fear and how the constitutional values are being threatened.
Selected Speeches: Volume-1	Vice President Venkaiah Naidu	Selected speeches delivered by Mr. Venkaiah Naidu at more than 400 meetings .
Simplicity & Wisdom	Dinesh Shahra	Guiding towards saintly wisdom and leading a content and happy life.
Khooni Vaisakhi	Punjabi writer Nanak Singh	To mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
Quality, Accreditation & Ranking - A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education	Dr. H Chaturvedi (BIMTEC, Director)	To ensure a paradigm shift in promoting research and innovation in Indian universities and colleges.

OBITUARIES

Name of the Person	Field/Importance
Hiten Bhaya	Former Planning Commission Member
K. Mahesh	Chairman of Sundaram Brake Linings Ltd
Alaa Mashzoub	Iraq novelist
Ramesh Bhatkar	Veteran Marathi actor
Harihar Karan	Former Congress senior MLA
Albert Finney	Oscar-nominated British actor
Gordon Banks	England World Cup-winner
Mojaddedi	Former Afghan interim President
Raj Kumar Barjatya	Veteran Film Producer
Namvar Singh	Noted Hindi writer
Andrea Levy	Author
Vishnu Wagh	Former Deputy Speaker of Goa
Pedro Morales	WWE Hall of Famer
Francis D'Souza	Ex-Goa deputy Chief Minister
Pratik Choudhary	Bengali singer
S Rajendran	AIADMK MP
Rabindra Prasad Adhikari	Nepalese Tourism Minister