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Important Days

Date	Important days	Theme
June 1	World Milk Day	"Drink Milk: Today & Everyday"
June 1	Global Day of Parents	"Honor Your Parents!"
June 3	World Bicycle Day	-
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	-
June 5	World Environment Day	Beat Air Pollution
June 7	World Food Safety Day	"Food Safety, everyone's business!"
June 3 - 7	Financial Literacy Week	"Farmers"
June 8	World Oceans Day	Gender and the Ocean
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day	-
June 12	The World Day Against Child Labour	"Children should not work in fields, but on dreams!"
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	
June 17 (every year on third Sunday of June)	World Father's Day	-
June 16	International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)	-
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	"Let's Grow the Future Together"
June 18	International Picnic Day	-
June 18	Autistic Pride Day	-
June 19	World Sickle Cell Day	-
June 19	World Sauntering Day	-
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	-
June 20	World Refugee Day	#StepWithRefugees — Take A Step on
June 21	International Yoga day	Yoga for Climate Action
June 21	World Music Day Or International Music Day or Fete de la Musique	-
June 21	World Hydrography Day	Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge
June 23	International Olympic Day	-

June 23	Public Service day	-
June 23	International Widows Day	-
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	-
June 26	The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	'Health for Justice. Justice for Health'
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	-
June 27	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day	-
June 29	National Statistics Day	"Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
June 30	World Asteroid Day	-
June 30	United Nations International Day of Parliamentarism	-

Important Banking News

RBI

RBI slaps Rs.1 crore fine on HDFC Bank for non-compliance of KYC norms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on private sector lender HDFC Bank for non-compliance of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and anti-money laundering norms, and for failure to report frauds.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI
- The issue pertains to a reference to the RBI from customs authorities regarding submission of forged bill of entries (BoEs) by certain importers for remittance of foreign currency.

RBI extends relaxed norms for NBFC loan securitisation till December 31

- The RBI has extended minimum holding period requirement for NBFCs to raise funds via loan securitisation to help the sector overcome liquidity shortage.
- As per the earlier notification issued by the Reserve Bank of India in November, the dispensation was valid till May, 2019. RBI has been decided to extend the dispensation provided therein till December 31, 2019,
- The relaxation in minimum holding period (MHP) criteria will primarily benefit housing finance companies and NBFCs, offering mortgage loans where the tenure is typically more than five years.

Second Bi-Monthly monetary policy:

- Repo rate reduced by 25 bps to 5.75 per cent for third time in a row
- Reverse repo rate now stands at 5.50 per cent, marginal standing facility (MSF) rate 6 per cent

- RBI changes policy stance to accommodative from neutral
- Cuts GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent for FY20
- Raises retail inflation forecast for April-September to 3-3.1 per cent and 3.4-3.7 per cent in October-March
- Projects upward bias in food inflation in near term due to rising prices of food items
- Forecast risks to inflation trajectory from monsoon uncertainties, unseasonal spike in vegetable prices, crude oil prices, financial market volatility and fiscal scenario
- Waives RTGS and NEFT charges to promote digital transactions
- Sets up a panel to review ATM charges, fees levied by banks
- To issue draft guidelines for 'on tap' licensing of small finance banks by August

USEFUL INFO	
Repo Rate	5.75%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.50%
MSF Rate	6.00%
Bank Rate	6.00%
CRR	4%
SLR	19.00%

RBI enters top-10 list of gold holders with 52.3-tonne purchase in FY19

- The Reserve Bank of India purchased 52.3 tonnes gold in FY19 to augment its foreign exchange reserves, according to the latest data released by the World Gold Council.
- It has entered league of world's top-10 gold holding central banks. RBI currently holds 612.6 tonnes of the metal as part of its foreign exchange reserves. The United States is the top holder of Gold Reserves.

RBI imposes ₹2 cr fine on Kotak Bank for lack of disclosure on promoter stake

- The Reserve Bank imposed a penalty of ₹2 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for not complying with its directions regarding dilution of promoters' shareholding in the company.
- The private sector lender was directed by RBI to furnish information about details of the shareholding held by its promoters and to submit details of the proposed course of action for complying with the permitted timeline for dilution of promoter shareholding.
- However, Kotak Mahindra Bank failed to comply with the directions and a show cause notice was issued to the bank as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance.
- As per RBI's banking licensing norms, a private bank's promoter holding has to be brought down to 40 per cent within three years of operations, 20 per cent within 10 years and 15 per cent within 15 years.

RBI issues revised norms to deal with stressed assets

- The Reserve Bank of India released fresh guidelines to deal with bad loans after the Supreme Court quashed its 12 February, 2018, circular, which mandated lenders to start resolution even if there was a one-day default.

- New NPA resolution norms replace all the previous models, the central bank said. Under the new norms, defaults are to be recognized within 30 days.
- Lenders will get a breather from the one-day default norm. They will get a 30-day review period to frame a resolution strategy. They have to submit a weekly report to the RBI on defaults by borrowers with exposure of ₹5 crore and above. New norms also applicable to small finance banks and large NBFCs

RBI forms committee to review ATM Interchange Fee Structure

- The Reserve Bank of India had announced in the Second Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy for the year 2019-20 that it will constitute a Committee to Review the ATM Interchange Fee Structure with a view to give a fillip to the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas.
- The committee is headed by V. G. Kannan, Chief Executive, Indian Banks' Association.
- To review the existing structures and patterns of costs, charges and interchange fees for ATM transactions;
- To review the overall patterns of usage of ATMs by cardholders and assess the impact, if any, on charges and interchange fees;
- To assess the entire gamut of costs in respect of the ATM ecosystem;
- To make recommendations on the optimal charge/interchange fee structure and pattern

RBI waives off charges for transactions using NEFT, RTGS

- With an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the Reserve Bank has waived off all charges for transactions using National Electronic Funds Transfer - NEFT and Real Time Gross Settlement - RTGS systems.
- RBI has advised banks to pass on the benefits to their customers with effect from 1st July, 2019.
- The Reserve Bank levies minimum charges on banks for transactions routed through its RTGS and NEFT System. RTGS is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT System is used for fund transfers up to 2 lakh rupees.

RBI relaxes norms for no-frills accounts

- Banks will now provide cheque books and other facilities to basic account holders.
- However, the banks cannot ask the account holders to maintain any minimum balance in lieu of such facilities.
- The apex bank eased regulations for Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Accounts, popularly known as 'no-frills' accounts.
- As per the BSBDA norms, account holders are not required to maintain minimum balance and get certain minimum facilities for free.
- These facilities include, four withdrawals from ATMs in a month, deposit of cash at bank branch, and ATM Card or ATM-cum-Debit Card.
- Also there will be no limit on number and value of deposits that can be made in a month in BSBDA

RBI to pump in ₹12,500 crore liquidity on June 20

- The Reserve Bank of India stated that it will infuse ₹12,500 crore into the financial system through bond purchases on June 20
- The purchase of government securities under the Open Market Operation (OMO) for ₹125 billion (₹12,500 crore) will be conducted on June 20, 2019.
- Earlier in the day, the RBI injected ₹15,000 crore into the system through bond purchases.
- The RBI uses open market operations (OMO) for injecting liquidity into the system through the purchase of government bonds (G-sec).

RBI panel on MSMEs suggests Rs 20 lakh collateral-free loan under Mudra

- The 8 member panel on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2019, headed by the former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman U K Sinha submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on June 17, 2019. The panel was formed to suggest long-term measures for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
- A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expert committee on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) has recommended doubling the cap on collateral-free loans to Rs 20 lakh from the current Rs 10 lakh. This will be extended to borrowers falling under the Mudra scheme, self-help groups, and MSMEs
- If the central bank approves the recommendation, the banking regulator will have to amend its July 1, 2010 circular that prescribes a maximum Rs 10 lakh for collateral-free loans.

Forex trading platform for retail participants ready for roll-out on Aug 5

- The electronic trading platform for buying/selling foreign exchange by retail customers of banks is ready for rollout by the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL). The customer registration process on the platform will commence on July 1.
- The charges will not be levied by the CCIL on transactions that do not exceed \$50,000 per day.
- A transaction charge of 0.0004 per cent will be charged by the CCIL for transactions in excess of \$50,000 per day.
- The size of a single transaction is not allowed to exceed \$5 million.

RBI launches complaint management system for grievance redressal

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanata Das launched Complaint Management System (CMS) to smoothen its grievance redressal process.
- The portal will be live on RBI's website where people will file their complaints against any of the RBI-regulated entities.
- The system has been equipped with all online features such as SMS/Email notifications, status tracking via unique registration number, receipt of closure advises and filing of appeals, to make the experience user-friendly.

- The information from CMS can be utilised for undertaking root cause analyses and initiating appropriate corrective action, wherever required.
- The system can also be used by RBI officials to track the progress of redressal, which will also allow regulatory and supervisory interventions.
- With the launch of CMS, the processing of complaints received in the offices of Banking Ombudsman (BO) and Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI has been digitalized.

Payments data must be stored in systems located in India, says RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said all data related to payment transactions must be stored in the country and that such information, if processed abroad, will have to be brought back within 24 hours.
- It said that all data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India.
- It further clarified that there is no bar on processing of payment transactions outside India if so desired by the PSOs. However, the data shall be stored only in India after the processing.

U.K. Sinha-led RBI panel suggests ₹5,000 crore stressed asset fund for MSMEs

- A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee has suggested a Rs. 5,000 crore stressed asset fund for domestic micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in a relief to small businesses hurt by demonetization, the goods and services tax and an ongoing liquidity crunch.
- The committee to study the problems faced by MSMEs was chaired by U.K. Sinha, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- The committee recommends for the creation of a distressed asset fund, with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crore, structured to assist units in clusters where a change in the external environment.
- The committee also suggested forming a government-sponsored Fund of Funds of Rs. 10,000 crore to support venture capital and private equity firms investing in MSMEs.

RBI issues norms for setting up FBAs for fixing efficient benchmarks for financial instruments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for setting up of financial benchmark administrator (FBA) for administering "significant benchmarks" in the markets for financial instruments.
- FBA will be a company incorporated in India and will maintain a minimum net worth of Rs 1 crore at all times.
- FBAs will ensure that a 'significant benchmark' is designed to be an accurate and reliable representation of the referenced (specified) financial instrument.
- It will also ensure that the "data used to construct a 'significant benchmark' is based on an active market involving arm's length transactions. Where such transactions are not available, it shall record justification for any data, information or expert judgment used to construct the benchmark".

RBI opens third office of Ombudsman in New Delhi

- The Reserve Bank has opened third office of the Banking Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Digital Transactions (ODT) at its New Delhi office.

- While announcing the ODT in December last year, RBI had said that there was an emerging need for a dedicated, cost-free and expeditious grievance redressal mechanism as the digital mode for financial transactions was gaining traction in the country.
- The Banking Ombudsman scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum for bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
- The scheme is introduced under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by RBI with effect from 1995.

RBI develops portal FLAIR for reporting of Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA)

- The Reserve Bank of India has developed a portal Foreign Liabilities and Assets Information Reporting (FLAIR) system (<https://flair.rbi.org.in>) for Indian companies to report the Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA).
- RBI mandates that all Indian companies which have received FDI and/or made FDI abroad (i.e. overseas investment) in the previous year(s) including the current year, should file the annual return on Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA). Earlier this was reported via e-mail to RBI.
- Now the reporting will be done by companies via the FLAIR portal of RBI. The reporting is done on July 15th of each year.

SBI

SBI launches digital residential property show in Hyderabad

- SBI has set up a new marketing outfit called 'Destination: The Home Shoppe' near IKEA in Hitec City
- At this Home Shoppe, the bank will have a digital display of residential projects from leading developers and approved by SBI
- It will function as a virtual property show bringing builder, customers and SBI under one roof. The Home Shoppe would facilitate the short-listing of projects by prospective buyers. The bank has already got 12 builders with 17 projects on board.

To boost profitability, SBI creates new group to focus on credit-light sectors

- State Bank of India (SBI) has formed a separate group within its Corporate Accounts Group (CAG) to cater to the non-fund-based requirements of clients in credit-light sectors such as pharmaceuticals, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) and information technology (IT). This is aimed at boosting its non-interest income.
- Both the newly created groups – CLG and FIG – have taken off, and have started contributing to the bank's business growth
- The focus on non-interest income is with a view to improve the profitability of India's largest bank without having to allocate capital.
- The credit-light group (CLG) will focus on generating non-interest income comprising letter of credit/bank guarantee commission, cash management charges, exchange income from forex activities, cross-selling

commission, remittances, and collections, among others. It is also responsible for garnering low-cost deposits.

- Further, a specialised group, Financial and Institutional Group (FIG), to address credit and transactional banking needs of insurance companies, broking firms, banks (private and foreign), and mutual funds has also been created within the CAG.

Asian Development Bank

ADB sanctions Rs. 1650 crore to Tripura for infrastructure development in 7 district headquarters

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project submitted by Urban Development Department (UDD) amounting to Rs. 1650 crore for overall infrastructure development of seven district headquarters town.
- The fund is meant for development of piped water supply, underground drainage, underground sewage or scientific septage management, roads with pavement.
- The seven district headquarters where the ambitious plan will be implemented include-Khowai, Ambassa, Dharmnagar, Kailashahar, Udaipur, Bishramganj, Belonia.
- The ADB will provide Rs. 1650 crore and out of which 80% is grant in aid and the state will have to repay back only 20% loan in due course of time.

World Bank

India signs a Loan Agreement worth US\$ 400 Million with the World Bank to help Treat and Eliminate Tuberculosis from India

- The World Bank and the Government of India signed a Loan Agreement of \$400 Million to expand the coverage and the quality of interventions for the control of Tuberculosis (TB), which kills approximately half a million people in India every year. The World Bank supported program will cover nine States of India.
- The World Bank's Program Towards Elimination of Tuberculosis will support the Government of India's (GoI) National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.
- It will do so by helping improve and strengthen diagnostics and management of drug-resistant tuberculosis and increase the capacity of public institutions engaged in monitoring and treating TB in the country.
- The Program will also strengthen the detection, treatment and monitoring of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis and will track progress in the detection of additional drug resistance.

India signs a Loan Agreement of US\$ 250 Million with the World Bank to develop 766 kms of Rajasthan's Roads and Highways as part of Rajasthan State Highways Development Project Phase-II

- The Government of India, Government of Rajasthan and the World Bank signed a US\$ 250 Million Loan Agreement for the Rajasthan State Highways Development Program II Project to build the State's capacity to better manage its highways and improve traffic flows on selected highways in State of Rajasthan.

- The World Bank-supported Project will support the construction, upgradation, improvement and maintenance of 766 kms of state highways and major district roads. It will also will help build an online project management system and a smartphone application to handle contract management, data reporting, quality control, etc.
- The loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 25-year maturity including a 5-year grace period.

India signs a Loan Agreement of \$328 Million with the World Bank for Improved Health Services in Andhra Pradesh

- The Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the World Bank Executive signed a Loan Agreement of \$328 Million to help improve the quality and responsiveness of public health services in Andhra Pradesh.
- The State of Andhra Pradesh has over the years demonstrated a strong commitment to improving health outcomes. In 2017-18, it allocated 5 percent of its total public expenditure towards health and has initiated significant steps towards strengthening its public health system.
- Maternal mortality ratio in the state declined by 52 percent and infant mortality fell to 35 per 1,000 live births from 54 over the decade from 2005. Ninety-three percent women now opt for institutional deliveries. Despite these positive steps, there exist disparities within the state in coverage of maternal and child health services and quality of service delivery. Non-communicable diseases are also on the rise and form 60 percent of Andhra's burden of disease.
- The World Bank Loan will support the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) as it scales-up its efforts to bring better health care to all its citizens, especially pregnant women and those at risk of non-communicable diseases, like hypertension, diabetes and cervical cancer.

World Bank approves \$147 Million Loan to the Government of Jharkhand for the implementation of Jharkhand Municipal Development Project

- The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank, signed a \$147 Million Loan Agreement to provide basic urban services to the people of Jharkhand and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the State.
- The Jharkhand Municipal Development Project will focus on improving the municipal sector's capacity to provide basic urban services. It will invest in urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and urban roads; and strengthen the capacity of the Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company (JUIDCO) as well as that of the ULBs to carry out reforms in the areas of urban finance and governance.

Tamil Nadu Health System reform programme gets \$287 mn loan from World Bank

- The central government, Tamil Nadu and the World Bank have signed a \$287 million loan agreement for the state's Health System Reform Programme that aims to improve the quality of health care, reduce the

burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services.

- Tamil Nadu ranks third among all Indian states in the NITI Aayog Health Index.

OTHER BANKING NEWS

Cryptocurrency exchange Koinex shuts down in India

- India's Largest cryptocurrency exchange, Koinex(Mumbai) terminating its digital asset trading services and other crypto-related operations citing regulatory uncertainty and disruption.
- It was facing problems with its payment services and gateways, along with non-crypto related transactions like payment of salaries, rent, and purchase of equipment.

YES Bank launches Click OD facility for MSMEs customers

- YES Bank launches Click OD (overdraft) facility for the bank's existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) customers to let them avail unsecured OD up to Rs 10 lakh digitally without any documentation.
- This unique proposition will be offered to selected customers based on their account conduct and credit history.
- The OD facility is an end to end digital offering where the limit will be disbursed through the bank's MSME portal.
- The bank is targeting a disbursement of Rs 100 crore for FY 2019-20 through the YES MSME portal. YES Bank's total exposure to MSMEs as on March 31, 2019, has crossed Rs 42,000 crore.

HDFC Bank conducts 'Traffic Paathshala' in Thiruvananthapuram

- HDFC Bank, in partnership with the Thiruvananthapuram Police, has launched a campaign to make roads safer by spreading awareness about the do's and don'ts of road safety. This initiative is called 'Traffic Paathshala'.
- Nearly four lakh people are expected to benefit from the initiative that covers the major road crossings in the city including the Central Bus Station and Central Railway Station.
- The awareness rally, which will be undertaken by groups of volunteers and HDFC Bank employees, would be held at all important and busy traffic junctions across the city.
- The volunteers would carry placards having traffic awareness messages to encourage people to follow road safety rules.

IDBI Bank, Tata AIG in bancassurance pact

- IDBI Bank has entered a bancassurance corporate agency agreement with Tata AIG.
- This is to provide the general insurer's products to the bank's two crore customers through its 1,850-plus branches.

HDFC to buy 51.2% in Apollo Munich Health for ₹1,347 crore

- Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) announced that it would be acquiring 51.2 per cent stake in Apollo Munich Health Insurance and would be later merging it with its general insurance arm HDFC Ergo.
- The two-stage transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is priced at about ₹1,347 crore. HDFC will pay about ₹73.2 per share to Apollo Hospitals for the acquisition.

UCO Bank declares Yashovardhan Birla willful defaulter

- Kolkata-based lender UCO Bank declared Yashovardhan Birla as a willful defaulter after Birla Surya Ltd failed to repay loans of ₹67.65 crore.
- Yashovardhan Birla is the director of Birla Surya and also chairman of the Yash Birla Group, an industrial conglomerate. According to the notice, Birla Surya Ltd was sanctioned a credit limit of ₹100 crore for fund-based facilities for the purpose of manufacturing of multi-crystalline solar photovoltaic cells from UCO Bank's corporate branch at Nariman Point, Mumbai.
- The present balance outstanding is ₹67.65 crore plus unapplied interest from the date of turning into a non-performing asset (NPA), 3 June, 2013.

J&K Bank to now come under RTI act, CVC guidelines

- The board of directors of Jammu & Kashmir Bank decided to bring the bank under the J&K RTI Act, 2009 and the CVC guidelines.
- The board, which met under the chairmanship of the bank's interim Chairman and Managing Director R.S. Chhibber, took significant decisions to improve the governance and bring transparency in the functioning of the bank.
- The board decided to implement J&K RTI Act 2009 and the CVC guidelines from June 17, 2019. The board took these important decisions after receiving directions from the state government that owns 59 per cent of the bank's shares

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20

- The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds for 2019-20 starting from June 2019 to September 2019.

The Bonds will be sold every month between July and September only through:

- Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), Designated post offices, and Recognised stock exchanges *viz.*, National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

LIC revises rule to increase maternity leave to 15 months

- Female employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will now get three more months of maternity leave during their service period.
- According to the revised rules for maternity leaves notified by the Finance Ministry, an employee will get a maximum of 15 months of maternity leave during her service period.
- As of March 31, 2018, out of LIC's total employee strength of nearly 1.12 lakh, 24,000 were women.

Bank of Baroda tags Dighi Port chairman Vijay Kalantri as wilful defaulter

- State-owned lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) has declared Vijay GoverdhandasKalantri, chairman and managing director of Dighi Port, as a "wilful defaulter" for not repaying his loans.
- The leading industrialist Vijay GoverdhandasKalantri and his son Vishal Kalantri, director of Dighi Port, owe nearly Rs 3,334 crore to a consortium of 16 Indian banks, including BoB, and Bank of India is the lead lender.
- The bank had reportedly placed a public notice in a Mumbai-based newspaper, with photographs of Dighi Port Limited (borrower), Vishal Vijay Kalantri (Director) and Vijay Kalantri (Director and Guarantor), declaring them as "wilful defaulters".

IRDAI Hikes Third party insurance on small, medium cars by 12-12.5%

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased the third party (TP) motor insurance premium for small and medium private cars by 12-12.5 per cent for 2019-20.
- It has also proposed a hike in TP premium for two-wheelers and heavy vehicles for the current year.
- The new rates will come into effect from June 16. The insurance regulator had in March deferred the hike in third party insurance premium due to the elections.

CII launches new Index to measure fiscal performance

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets.
- The Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt arrive at a more holistic picture of fiscal performance than the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio.
- The new index will use multiple indicators to measure the quality of Budgets at the Central and the State levels rather than a single indicator "fiscal deficit to GDP ratio" used till date.

Foreign exchange reserves swell by \$1.8 bn to \$421.8 bn: RBI

- The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion in the week to May 31,
- In the reporting week, foreign currency assets, which is a major component of the overall reserves, rose by USD 1.946 billion to USD 394.134 billion. The country's reserve position with the fund also declined by USD 5.3 million to USD 3.331 billion.
- The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund fell by USD 2.3 million to USD 1.443 billion

Max Life Insurance launches unique 'My Protection Quotient' tool on second 'Protection Day'

- Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd. ('Max Life'/Company'), one of India's fastest growing life insurance companies, announced the launch of a unique proprietary tool, 'My Protection Quotient' (MyPQ) further fortifying its commitment to ensure financial protection in the country.

- MyPQ is a smart tool designed to gauge the level of individual's financial protection and to promote awareness and importance of term plans in protecting the financial future of families.
- By launching MyPQ on the first-month anniversary of having dedicated 6th of every month as 'Protection Day

YES Bank conducts e-auction for forest produce

- YES Bank has conducted the first e-auction of forest produce in Dhanora Mahasangh in Maharashtra, something it will now aim to replicate in other states.
- The online auction enables the online purchase of goods aimed at facilitating effective and transparent price discovery. For farmers, this brings in greater transparency and eliminates the middle man, ensuring that they get a better rate for their produce.
- This is done under the Tech for Change initiative where the bank work with the government and corporates to create technology-based solutions which have a social impact.

FDI flow into India rises 6% to \$42 billion in 2018: UNCTAD

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India grew by 6 per cent to USD 42 billion in 2018, with strong inflows in the manufacturing, communication and financial services sectors, and cross-border merger and acquisition activities, according to a UN report that ranked India among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
- India ranks 10th amongst the top recipients of FDI in 2018
- The World Investment Report 2019, released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Wednesday, said global FDI flows slid by 13 per cent in 2018 to USD 1.3 trillion from USD 1.5 trillion the previous year the third consecutive annual decline
- India and UAE were considered among the top 10 most important sources of FDI for the 2019 to 2021 period
- India's FDI outflows more than doubled in 2017 to \$11.3 bn, mostly led by ONGC, which bought a 15% stake in an offshore field in Namibia from Tullow Oil

Centre reduces rate of ESI contribution to 4% from 6.5%

- The government has reduced the rate of contribution towards the Employees' State Insurance scheme from 6.5% to 4%. After the reduction of rates, effective from July 1, 2019, employers' contribution will be reduced to 3.25% from current rate of 4.75% while employees' contribution will be reduced from 1.75% to 0.75%, as per the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act 1948.
- The move "would benefit 12.85 lakh employers and over 3.6 crore employees."
- ESI Act, 1948 applies to organisations where 10 or more people are employed. All employees drawing salary upto Rs 21,000 are covered under the Act.

SEBI directs rating agencies to disclose probability of default

- The markets regulator directed credit rating companies to start disclosing the probability of default for the issuers they rate, troubled by the raters' track record of detecting defaults or near-defaults.

- Rating companies, in consultation with the regulator, will now create a uniform probability of default benchmark for each rating category on their website, for one-year, two-year and three-year cumulative default rates, both for the short term and long term
- The regulator introduced computation of cumulative default rates (CDR), standard operating procedure (SOP) in respect of tracking and timely recognition of default, probability of default (PD) benchmarks, rating symbol for instruments having explicit credit enhancement feature, disclosure of rating sensitivities in press release, disclosure on liquidity indicators and tracking deviations in bond spreads.

Canara Bank to charge for cash deposits

- Cash withdrawal more than five times in a month at a Canara Bank branch, you will pay Rs 100 for every transaction thereafter. The bank, however, gives five free cash withdrawals for saving banks (SB) accounts.
- However, senior citizen and Jan Dhan holders are exempt from the new levy.
- For current account/overdraft/open cash credit account holders a minimum Rs 100 will be charged withdrawals of Rs 5 lakh or more in a month. The new charges kick in from July 1.
- The Bank will also charge its SB account holders a minimum fee of Rs 50 per transaction if the deposit exceeds Rs 50,000 from the fourth cash deposit and thereafter.

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Rating

Fitch cuts India's GDP growth rate to 6.6% in FY20

- Global rating agency Fitch cut India's GDP growth rate forecast for FY20 by 20 bps to 6.6 per cent, even as it retained FY21 estimate at 7.1 per cent.
- Earlier this year, Fitch Ratings had slashed India's growth forecast for the next financial year beginning April 1, to 6.8 per cent from its previous estimate of 7 per cent.

DBS cuts India's FY20 GDP forecast to 6.8% from 7%

- DBS Bank has revised India's GDP growth for fiscal year 2020 downwards to 6.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from 7 per cent projected earlier.
- We expect inflation to remain sub-target this year (3.8 per cent YoY versus 3.4 per cent in FY19).

ORGANISATION	GDP RATE	
	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
World Bank	7.5%	-

Important Business News

Working group to review WPI series, Ramesh Chand to head task

- The Centre has constituted a working group for the revision of the current series of the wholesale price index (base 2011-12). The group will be headed by Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand.
- The group has been tasked to select the most appropriate base year for the preparation of a new official series of wholesale price index (WPI) and producer price index (PPI) in India.
- Other tasks include reviewing the commodity basket of the current series of WPI and suggest additions or deletions of commodities in the light of structural changes in the economy since 2011-12.

Flipkart to roll out reward system SuperCoins from July

- E-commerce firm Flipkart will roll out multi-brand rewards ecosystem 'SuperCoins' using which its customers can shop on various online platforms such as Zomato, OYO and Makemytrip.
- SuperCoins can be earned on all Flipkart transactions and partner services hosted on the Flipkart App and can be redeemed for exciting rewards from an ever-increasing rewards portfolio, making every single transaction a rewarding experience for customers. Flipkart Plus members will get double SuperCoins than non-Plus members.

DCC approves penalties on Airtel and Voda Idea

- The highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecom (DoT), Digital Communications Commission (DCC) approved to levy penalties on Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd when it had entered market in 2016.
- Telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI) had fined Airtel and Vodafone with Rs. 1,050 crore each (Rs. 50 cr per circle for 21 circles) and for Idea (Rs. 50 crore per circle for 19 circles) it was Rs. 950 crore. But as Vodafone and Idea merged (August 2018) to form Vodafone-Idea, the new entity had to bear the combined burden of Rs. 2000.
- Reliance Jio had complained that its subscribers were unable to call other networks as its rivals did not release sufficient number of Points of Interconnect (PoI). The inter-ministerial panel of DCC has asked TRAI to review penalty amount worth ₹3,050 crore considering the financial stress in telecom sector.

Facebook to Launch Libra, Its New Digital Currency, in 2020

- Facebook revealed its long-awaited cryptocurrency plans, announcing "Project Libra," a new type of digital money designed for the billions of people using its apps and social network.
- If the plan is successful, users will soon be able to shop with and send the currency—known as Libra—on Messenger and Instagram, as well as use it with a wide variety of other merchants like Uber, Spotify, and MasterCard.
- Facebook did not provide specifics about exactly when and how consumers will get ahold of the currency, but executives suggest it will first be distributed on Messenger and WhatsApp in mid-2020.
- The company also announced a new digital wallet called Calibra, which will be operated by Facebook as a separate subsidiary and provide users with a way to store and spend Libra.

Tata Mutual Fund launches India's first mutual fund side pocket

- Tata Mutual Fund has announced plans to introduce segregated portfolios (side pockets) in three schemes hit by the DHFL debt crisis – Tata Corporate Bond Fund, Tata Medium Term Fund and Tata Treasury Advantage Fund. It has also suspended fresh inflows into these schemes.
- This instance is India's first formal use of the side pocketing provisions introduced by SEBI in December 2018.
- Other AMCs have made amendments to SIDs to allow side pocketing but this is the first time an AMC is actually proposing to carry out the procedure.
- Side pocketing requires an amendment of the Scheme Information Document (SID). Since this amendment constitutes a 'fundamental change of attribute,' investors have to be given a 30 day exit load free window to leave the fund.

ICAT Releases India's 1st BS – VI Certificate in Two Wheeler Segment

- International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) released India's first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage - VI (BS – VI) norms for the two wheeler segment in New Delhi.
- The certificate was released and handed over by Director ICAT, Dinesh Tyagi to top officials of the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers).
- ICAT has taken many steps in providing assistance and support to the automotive industry for the development, optimization and calibration of engines and vehicles for complying with these upcoming emission norms.

ONGC overtakes IOC as most profitable PSU after profits jump by 34% in FY19

- ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer, has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company. Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) reported a 34 per cent jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to Rs 26,716 crore. In comparison, IOC registered a net profit of Rs 17,274 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.

China, India lead charts for fintech adoption growth

- Fintech adoption rate has risen to an average of 64 percent this year, with emerging markets like China and India leading the way, according to a report by Ernst & Young (EY).
- In its report titled 'Global FinTech Adoption Index 2019', EY said emerging markets like China and India (87 percent adoption rate) led the charts, followed by Russia and South Africa (82 percent).

Nilekani panel suggests 24x7 RTGS, NEFT, elimination of all charges

- To encourage digital payments, the Nandan Nilekani committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round the clock RTGS and NEFT facility and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.
- The committee, which was appointed by the RBI, had submitted its suggestions on promoting digital payments to Governor Shaktikanta Das

- The committee had recommended that the Interchange on card payments be reduced by 15 basis points (0.15 per cent) as this will increase the incentive for acquirers to sign up merchants. Current import duty of POS machine was 18 per cent. The Committee recommends large scale usage of common and interoperable mobility cards by public across different transit options

Dell emerges as India's most trusted brand

- Dell has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019, according to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research. Dell climbed five ranks over the previous year to grab the top spot and also introduced the laptop category in the report.
- The mother-brand Dell has grown its India revenues from US\$ 600 million in 2008 to nearly US\$ 20 billion in 2018 and US and India are the only two countries that have all Dell's business functions and provide support globally.
- LIC and Amazon are ranked on the third and fourth spots and Apple iPhone emerged as India's fifth most trusted brand, rising 116 ranks from 2018.

UDIN mention now mandatory for audit reports

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has mandated the mention of the Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) in audit reports starting July 1.
- The UDIN would help to verify online whether a certificate or audit report that has been submitted has actually been signed by a chartered accountant.
- DIN is a unique number, which will be generated for every document certified/attested by Practising Chartered Accountants and registered with the UDIN portal. The portal is available at <https://udin.icai.org/>.

Razorpay launches digital payment support for 100 currencies

- Razorpay, a converged payments solution company, announced that it now supports 100 currencies for international digital payments - including all popular currencies such as U.S. Dollar (USD), European Dollar (EUR), British Pound (GBP), Arab Emirates Dirham (AED) and Singapore Dollar (SGD).
- With this offering, the company aims to open new growth avenues for the MSME segment, by enabling them to accept payments from other countries.
- Razorpay's International payments is integrated across the entire range of its product offering including Payment Gateway, Payment Links, Payment Pages, Subscriptions and Invoices.

Important State Wise National News

Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor – Jagtresh Muki

Assam government hikes parental income limit under fee waiver scheme

- Assam government has waived admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year. All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.
- Assam Education Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya said that the quality of the government schools is improved following the Gunotsav.

Assam government to provide subsidy of Rs 1.7 lakh for admission in North East Skill Centre

- Assam government to provide a subsidy of 1.7 lakh rupees for the admission in the North East Skill Centre.
- Total 400 students will get admission in first batch. The total course fees for the first batch students would be around Rs 2.2 lakh for which the state government has planned to provide a subsidy of Rs 1.7 lakh.
- NESC has been set up by the Assam government in collaboration with ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore and was inaugurated in March 2019. It will provide International Standard, quality skill training facility in Food & Beverage Service, Housekeeping, Retail Service and Beauty & Wellness

Centre approves setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam

- The Centre has approved setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam.
- The CEO of e-FT Mission Anand Prakash Tiwari said that the proposed integrated e-FT IT system will be implemented across the state for effective monitoring and resolution of cases registered with Foreigner Tribunal.
- The main objective of the project is to maintain a statewide bio-metric and biographic data, to capture the illegal migrants' data to computerize data flow for all the stakeholders.
- It will also help in the legalization of eligible beneficiaries for welfare schemes.

Assam Transport Minister launches State Transport Corporation's Chalo app

- Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched the State Transport Corporation's Chalo app for Guwahati.
- The app will help commuters to know about the live arrival time of their bus so they can plan their travel accordingly.
- People can also track the live GPS position of their bus on a map. It will also ensure safe travel with features such as Emergency SOS.
- The project includes the introduction of electronic ticketing in State Transport buses with the latest generation of cutting-edge Electronic Ticket Issuing Machines which can accept all modes of payment, including cards, mobile payments, QR code payments and other forms of digital payments.

Assam government to set up Skill University at Darrang district

- Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district.
- This will be perhaps the first skill University of the Country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats.
- International Yoga Day will be observed at 459 centres of the Skill Development Mission.

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Hyderabad (Amravati); CM – YS Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor - ESL Narasimhan

Jagan's 'YSR Rythu Bharosa' to Replace Naidu's 'Annadata Sukhibhava in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy scrapped the previous Naidu government's 'Annadata Sukhibhava' scheme to replace it with the Rs 13,000 crore 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme to give direct benefits to farmers.
- Jagan Reddy has given the nod to implement the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, one of the key promises in the YSR Congress manifesto. The project has been estimated at Rs 13, 125 crore. The scheme will come into force on October 15 itself although it was due to be implemented from May next year.
- It will offer investment support of Rs. 12,500 per annum per farmer. It will also free crop insurance and interest-free loans to farmers. In total Rs. 50,000 will be given to a farmer in four installments of Rs 12,500. Eligibility: Farmers with land area less than 5 acres.
- It must be noted that the financial assistance of Rs. 15,000 per annum per farmer was provided under the Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme.

Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani; Governor: Om Prakash Kohli

Gujarat launches India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution on World Environment Day 2019, which has air pollution as its theme.
- The programme is a market-based system where the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap.

India's first Dinosaur Museum and Fossil Park opens in Gujarat

- A Dinosaur Museum and Fossil Park has opened in Gujarat's Mahisagar district's Raiyoli village, the first such facility in our country and third in the world.
- Spread across 72 acres, the park showcases fossilised remains of dinosaurs in the natural form.
- The museum has 10 galleries showcasing the Earth's inception, world dinosaurs, Indian dinosaurs and it also screens 3D movies.

Man on a mission to turn Udhana railway station into India's first Green Railway Station

- To propagate Mahatma Gandhi's mantra 'Cleanliness is Godliness' and achieve the objective of a 'Clean India-Green India', a young entrepreneur from Surat has launched a mission to turn railway station in Udhana town of Gujarat's Surat district into India's first green railway station.
- Viral Sudhirbhai Desai is attempting to turn Udhana Railway Station into a green and pollution free one like Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.
- Desai has installed oxygen bomber and over 1700 air purifying plants at the rail stations to make Udhana Railway Station clean and green. Along with it, to promote the message of nurturing and protecting the

environment, the walls of the station has been painted with a special type of "environment protection graffiti."

Haryana

Capital – Chandigarh; CM - Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Satyadev Narayan Arya

High Court declares all animals in Haryana to be 'legal persons'

- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has accorded the status of "legal person or entity" to all animals in Haryana, granting them the "corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person".
- The verdict comes nearly a year after Uttarakhand High Court passed a similar order "to protect and promote greater welfare of animals".

Jammu & Kashmir

Capital – Jammu (winter) Srinagar (summer); CM - Vacant; Governor - Satya Pal Malik

Kheer Bhawani Mela 2019

- Kheer Bhawani Mela is celebrated at Tula Mula village of Jammu and Kashmir
- The devotees of the Goddess fast and gather here on the eighth day of the full moon in the month of May/ June (The Annual Festival, held here, is a public holiday in Kashmir) when, according to belief, the Goddess changes the colour of the spring's waters, which are ascribed to different manifestations of the Goddess.
- The Kheer Bhawan temple is dedicated to the Goddess Rajnya Devi, popularly known as Kheer Bhawani. The name 'Kheer Bhawani' is derived from the fact that thousands of devotees offer milk and "Kheer" or pudding to the sacred spring, as they believe the pudding turns black to warn of impending disaster.

Jammu and Kashmir admin approves 2nd phase of comprehensive plan for flood management work on Jhelum river

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved the second phase of a comprehensive plan for flood management work on the Jhelum river at a cost of over 5,400 crore rupees.
- The State Administrative Council, which met in Srinagar under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik last evening, accorded in-principle approval to the Comprehensive Plan.
- The project is proposed to be implemented part-wise with Part A amounting to 1,684 crore rupees approved under Prime Minister's Development Package and the Part B for which source of funding is to be identified.
- The project has been formulated to achieve short-term goal of mitigating the flood threat at Sangam in Anantnag district.

Centre approves State Cancer Institute at GMC Jammu

- To strengthen the tertiary level cancer care services in the Jammu and Kashmir State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has formally approved Rs. 120 crore State Cancer Institute at Government Medical College Jammu.
- Earlier, one State Cancer Institute was approved for SKIMS, Soura in Srinagar for which first grant-in-aid of Rs. 47.25 crore has already been released.

J-K govt launches outreach programme, bureaucrats to spend time in villages

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched its ambitious outreach programme, 'Back to the Village', as part of which bureaucrats will spend the next 36 hours in different panchayats, gathering feedback from people on development of their areas. The eight-day programme, from June 20-27, is being organised across all Panchayats of the state.
- During their stay, they will hold meetings with elected 'panches' and 'sarpanches', hold 'gram' (village) and 'mahila sabhas' (women assemblies) in addition to other grassroots level interactions.
- The basic objective of this programme is to move governance from its seat of operation to the doorsteps of the people in villages.

Sindhu Darshan Festival's 23rd edition underway in Leh

- The 23rd edition of the Sindhu Darshan Festival kicked off at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh.
- Skyabje Choskyong Palga Rinpoche inaugurated the 4-day event organised by Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti (SDYS) in collaboration with Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa.

Jharkhand

Capital – Ranchi; CM - Raghubar Das; Governor – Draupadi Murmu

Jharkhand CM inaugurates Haj House

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das inaugurated the Haj House on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.
- Inaugurating the Rs-50 crore Haj House, which can accommodate about 1,000 people for offering Namaaz.
- This is the reason that the state government has fulfilled an old demand of members of the Muslim community - constructing a modern and grand Haj House.

Main event of International Yoga Day celebrations to be held in Ranchi

- Main event of International Day of Yoga 2019 to be held in Jharkhand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main event of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 celebrations to be held at Prabhat Tara, Ranchi, Jharkhand on June 21, 2019.
- Approximately 30,000 people are expected to participate in the main event.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; CM – Kumarasamy; Governor - Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

B'gluru CM Kumaraswamy launches 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles

- Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy flagged off the 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) under the 'Nirbhaya' scheme.
- The corporation had received ₹56.07 crore from the Union government under the scheme and had taken up various measures for the safety of women passengers, including the launch of Pink Sarathi vehicles.
- The Chief Minister also launched the student bus pass scheme for the current academic year by unveiling smart cards. In the previous academic year, the corporation had issued 3.5 lakh student passes

Madhya Pradesh

Capital – Bhopal; CM – Kamal Nath; Governor – Anandiben Patel

MP Cabinet passes resolution to increase reservation for OBCs to 27 %

- Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from existing 14 per cent to 27 per cent. Madhya Pradesh will become the only state in the country to have a 27 per cent quota for OBCs.
- The move will lead to reservation in the state breaching the Supreme Court-mandated 50 per cent cap to reach 63 per cent.

Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

Police station in Satara tops SMART survey

- Rahimatpur police station in Satara district in western Maharashtra has emerged as the State topper in a survey based on the 'SMART' policing concept
- 'SMART' — strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno-savvy and trained
- The Quality Council of India (QCI), which executed the survey, assessed 87 shortlisted police stations across the country on a number of parameters like performance in controlling crime, infrastructure of the police building, mess and optimal use of technology, and citizen feedback.

Manipur

Capital – Imphal; CM - Nongthombam Biren Singh; Governor – PB Acharya

Japan Gifts Museum of Peace to Manipur in Memory of Second World War

- Former adversaries Britain and Japan came together at the inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal that saw some of the fiercest fighting of World War II at Maibam Lokpa Ching popularly known as Red Hill.
- The Battle of Imphal is regarded as one of the fiercest battles of World War II in which about 70,000 Japanese soldiers along with the Indian National Army, died in battles with the British-led Allied forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March to June 1944

New Delhi

Capital – New Delhi; CM - Arvind Kejriwal; Governor – Anil Bajjal

Delhi Metro becomes India's first project to receive power from waste-to-energy

- To establish an environment-friendly network, the Delhi Metro has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant.
- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.
- DMRC will take approximately 17.5 million units per annum from this plant. However, the energy offtake will depend upon the actual generation of the plant.
- The waste-to-energy plant set up by East Delhi Waste Processing Company Limited (EDWPCL) is based on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) involving the Delhi government and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), besides the EDWPCL.

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Ashok Gehlot; Governor - Kalyan Singh

Rajasthan govt increases financial aid given to girls under 'Aapki Beti' scheme

- The Rajasthan government increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme and ex-gratia payment to the families of polling personnel who die during election duty.
- Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died get annual financial assistance in the state.
- The amount has been increased to 2,100 from Rs. 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs. 2,500 from Rs. 1,500.
- Similarly, the government has also increased ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of an official killed on election duty to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 15 lakh.

Unemployed graduates to get up to Rs 3,500 in Rajasthan

- Unemployed youth having graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance up to Rs 3,500 by the Rajasthan government.
- They will get the benefit of the Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana from February this year.
- Under the scheme, male applicants will get Rs 3,000 per month whereas women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500 per month. The amount will be given for two years or until they get employed.

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; CM – Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor – ESL Narashiman.

Telangana celebrates State formation day

- In Telangana, people celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Formation Day on June 2nd with enthusiasm and fervour. Telangana state as the youngest state in the country has completed five years of its existence.
- The state had overcome the electricity crisis and on its way to overcome the crisis for drinking water as the mission Bhagiratha programme is on the verge of its completion.

Telangana Government issues guidelines to enhance 'Rythu Bandhu' amount

- Telangana Government issued guidelines to enhance Agriculture Investment Support Scheme - Rythu Bandhu from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 per acre per season. The Scheme was implemented in the year 2018-19 with the objective of relieving the farmers from debt burden and not allowing them to fall in the debt trap.
- This scheme was proposed for providing Initial investment support to Agriculture and Horticulture crops by way of a grant @ Rs. 4000/- per acre per farmer each season towards purchase of inputs like Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides, towards Labor and other investments in the field operations of farmers' choice for the crop season.

Hyderabad to Host International Quran Exhibition

- The cultural capital of South India, Hyderabad city is hosting an International Quran Exhibition from June 22 to 24, 2019. The exhibition will be open daily from 10 AM till 5 PM at Salar Jung Museum.
- In this 'International The Quran Exhibition' famous and leading museums, institutions and centers in Iran and India will be displaying the facsimile copies of the rare and illuminated copies of the holy Quran, the books published in Iran and India related to all the Quranic Sciences in particular the Tafsir (exegesis) and the software products related to the Hifz (memorization), Qiraat (recitation) and the terminology of the Quranic terms.
- Those participating in the exhibition include, Quran and Etrat Division, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran; Jamia Nizamia, Hyderabad, India

Telangana CM dedicates Kaleshwaram irrigation project to nation

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandra Sekhara Reddy has dedicated to the nation the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.
- The ₹ 80,500 crore multi-purpose project is designed to provide water to 45 lakh acres agriculture land, covering a stretch of about 1,832 km apart from meeting drinking water requirements, including for Hyderabad and Secunderabad and various industries in the state.

32nd ISTA Congress begins in Hyderabad

- International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) set to hold its 32nd Congress in Hyderabad beginning June 26
- Telangana State enjoys 60 per cent share in seed supply market in the country and has been exploring ways to expand its presence in India as well as export seeds to other nations.

- The 32nd ISTA Congress to be held from June 26 to July 3, is expected to help the State to implement its plans into actions.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Telangana government are jointly hosting the eight-day conference

Tripura

Capital – Agartala; CM – Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor – Kaptan Singh Solanki.

Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020

- In an effort to raise awareness about science and environment through films, the 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
- The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional knowledge in a simple way that would bring science closer to common people through simple ways of explanation.
- The film festival would include films produced by UNICEF, UNESCO and filmmakers from different countries. It will also include entries from Tripura and other states.
- Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb will make an appeal to filmmakers and producers to participate in this film-making initiative in July this year.

Uttar Pradesh

Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik

Uttar Pradesh cabinet gives nod to 6 proposals

- The cabinet has also gave its assent to a proposal regarding the formation of Gorakhpur Zoological Park with the cost of Rs 181.82 crore. The Umbrella Act has also been approved through which 27 universities across the state will come under one Act.
- The state cabinet approved the formation of education tribunal. A total of Rs 6.15 crores will be spent on this and it will help in resolving disputes in the education sector.
- The Cabinet has sanctioned Rs 30.34 crore for building a college named after Mahant Avaidyanath in Gorakhpur.

The Government has also set a target to plant 22 crore saplings by August 15,2019, for which saplings will be provided across the state free of cost.

Other National News

Power Min forms dispute resolution committee for clean energy projects

- Union Power Minister R K Singh approved setting up a three-member resolution committee to resolve unforeseen disputes in clean energy projects.
- The three members are M F Farooqui (former DoT secretary/heavy industry secretary), Anil Swarup (former coal secretary/school education secretary) and A K Dubey (former sports secretary).

- The committee will address disputes between the solar/wind power developers and the Solar Energy Corporation of India/NTPC.

Vaishno Devi shrine to have own disaster response force by Sept 2020

- The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, a religious pilgrimage atop a hilltop that attracts lakhs of devotees from across the world every year, will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September next year.
- They are planning to train 180 employees by September next year to prepare a dedicated disaster response force for the shrine.
- The shrine board and the NDRF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) early this year keeping in mind the hilly terrain and need to impart advanced disaster management training to the shrine board staff in batches to keep them in a state of readiness for effectively and promptly responding to any disaster situation.

Self Defence Training for Girls in Schools under Samagra Shiksha

- Ministry of Human Resource Development launched Samagra Shiksha initiative in 2018-19. As part of this integrated scheme of school education, self-defence training is imparted to girls from class VI to XII.
- The ministry provides Rs. 3,000 per month for a period of three months per government-run school for the self-defence training and inculcating life skills among girls

Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates central command centre for air traffic flow management

- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM).
- As major airports are facing capacity constraints, the central ATFM system is primarily meant to balance the "capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization" of "airport, airspace and aircraft".
- This is a world class system where on one large screen you can see all the civil aviation infrastructure in the country. The planes on the ground, the planes which are in the air, those planes you are in touch with - all of it is integrated with the ATC (air traffic control).

India's first specialised hospital for elephants opens in Mathura

- India's first specialised hydrotherapy treatment centre for elephants has been established on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura, near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC).
- The new 11-foot-deep hydrotherapy jumbo pool will provide treatment to elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments using 21 high pressure jet sprays to create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation.
- ECCC currently houses 20 rescued elephants and is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS.

NITI Aayog Proposes To Convert Two-Wheelers Below 150 cc To Electric By 2025

- Government think tank Niti Aayog has asked conventional two- and three-wheeler makers to suggest within two weeks concrete steps towards transition to electric mobility keeping in mind 2025 deadline.
- Now, OEMs in India have been given a flat timeline of two weeks to come out with a roadmap to enable e-three-wheeler sales by 2023, e-two-wheeler sales by 2025, and e-four-wheeler sales by 2030 respectively.
- The conventional manufacturers such as Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, HMTI and TVS claimed that adoption of EVs by 2025 would be “unrealistic” and “ill-timed” and it would derail auto manufacturing in the country and start-ups like Revolt Intellicorp, Ather Energy, Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions and Tork Motors wanted the adoption of EVs to happen faster.

Group constituted for ensuring inter-ministerial coordination on resolving e-commerce issues

- A group has been constituted under the secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for ensuring inter-ministerial coordination on resolving issues related to e-commerce.
- The group will look to ensure inter-ministerial/inter-departmental coordination on resolving issues, cutting across Ministries and Departments of Government of India, related to e-Commerce.

Popular ethnic footwear brand Kolhapuri chappal gets GI tag

- Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear brand Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad.
- The GI tag for the popular footwear brand has been jointly granted to four districts of Karnataka and Maharashtra each for making these chappals.
- The GI tag approvals mean that the artisans producing Kolhapuris in Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara districts of Maharashtra and Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur districts of Karnataka will now be able to make and market their product in domestic and international markets.

India to host UN meet on land degradation in September

- India for the first time will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September.
- It will see participation from at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries and will be held between September 2 and 14 in Delhi.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994. It is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.

Engineers Use Plastic Waste to Build Durable Roads in Lucknow

- The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has begun construction of a road using plastic waste in the state capital city under a pilot project in a bid to be environmental-friendly.
- The road construction with plastic waste will be spread from Gomti Nagar Police Station area to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow.

This is the first time Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) is constructing a road using plastic waste

I&B Ministry issues advisory to TV channels over portrayal of children in reality shows

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an advisory to private satellite television channels, asking them to avoid indecent, suggestive and inappropriate representation of children in dance reality shows or other such programmes.
- According to the rules, no programme should be carried on TV which denigrates children, and programmes meant for children should not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence
- Private satellite TV channels are expected to abide by the provisions contained in the Programme & Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

Rajnath forms committee to work on modalities of revising pension under OROP

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has constituted a committee to work out the modalities and methodology of the implementation of next revision of pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the working of DESW including the welfare schemes being extended to the ex-servicemen, widows and dependents.
- The committee will be headed by Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) and will have representatives of all three armed forces.
- Equalisation of pensions means the pension of defence personnel who retire now will be passed to all the past pensioners of the same class (same rank with same length of service).

India to host Kimberley Process inter-sessional meeting

- India will be hosting Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) from 17th to 21st June, 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Besides the meetings of different Working Groups and Committees of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), two special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes will also held.
- India is the founding member of KPCS and is the chair of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for the year 2019 with the Russian Federation as Vice Chair.

NITI Aayog reconstituted List of members

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of government thinktank NITI Aayog.
- While Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar continues in his post along with members VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul. The ex-officio members now include Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
- However, the name of Bibek Debroy, a former permanent member, is missing from the new list.
- Special invitees to NITI Aayog include Minister of Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari; Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot; Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal; and Minister of Statistics (Independent) Rao Inderjit Singh

Elephanta festival of art and culture begins in Mumbai

- The two-day Elephanta Festival organised by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) began with a concert by folk and classical singer Kailash Kher at the Gateway of India.
- The MTDC organises the festival every year to promote tourism and the culture of Mumbai. The festival is held on Gharapuri Island, which was christened Elephanta by the Portuguese after they found a statue of an elephant on the island.

Government extends Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sammaan Yojana to all farmers

- The Cabinet has approved extension of Prime Minister Kisan Sammaan yojana to all farmers. Earlier the benefit of this scheme was applicable to farmers having two hectare land.
- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar stated that nearly 14 crore 50 lakh farmers will benefit from the scheme. Under the PM-Kisan scheme six thousand rupees per year is being given in three installments to the farmers.
- The beneficiaries should be in the age group of 18 to 40 years. Under this scheme, the farmers will get a minimum fixed pension of 3 thousand rupees on attaining the age of 60.
- All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders with GST turnover of 1.5 crore rupees in the age group of 18 to 40 years will be eligible to enroll for the scheme through the designated centres across the country. Altogether 3 crore retail traders and shopkeepers will be benefited under this scheme.

Cabinet extends scholarship to wards of martyred state police officials

- PM Modi announced major changes to the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme under the National Defence Fund.
- Major changes approved in PM's Scholarship Scheme under the National Defence Fund including enhanced scholarships for wards of police personnel martyred in terror or Maoist attacks.
- The government has also changed the rates of scholarship. The rates are now Rs 2,500 per month for boys and Rs 3,000 for girls. It was Rs 2,000 for boys and Rs 2,250 for girls earlier.
- The Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme, which is under the NDF, is implemented to encourage technical and post-graduate education of widows and wards of armed forces personnel. Around 5,500 wards are awarded the PMSS every year.

India's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in FY18

- India's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in FY18, official data showed, highlighting the challenge that confronts the Narendra Modi-led government. They showed the unemployment rate was at a 45-year high.
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) showed the unemployment rate in the country in FY18 was at 5.3% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India, resulting in overall unemployment rate of 6.1%.

New Initiative to Control Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis to Support Livestock Rearing Farmers

- During the Union Cabinet Meeting Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 31st May 2019, the first since the outcome of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, a novel initiative was cleared that will benefit crores of farmers and improve the health of animals. This initiative pertains to controlling Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers.
- The decision indicates the spirit of compassion towards those animals who are a valued part of our planet but are not able to speak. It must be noted that these diseases are very common amongst the livestock like cow, bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc. The Cabinet has cleared a total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next 5 years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.

Kasturirangan committee submits new draft education policy to HRD Ministry

- Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
- The policy draft recommends incorporation of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum, constituting a National Education Commission and curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.

PM Modi forms two Cabinet panels under his chairmanship to boost growth, jobs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on constituted two new Cabinet committees under his chairmanship to spur economic growth and investment and employment.
- The five-member Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth includes Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road Transport and Highways and of MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Another 10-member Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development has been formed which includes Shah, Sitharaman, Goyal, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Narendra Singh Tomar, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister Skill and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey and Ministers of State Santosh Kumar Gangwar (Labour) and Hardeep Singh Puri (Housing and Urban Affairs).

Tree bank inaugurated on World Environment Day

- A tree bank was inaugurated and around 3,000 saplings were planted at different locations of the Jamshedpur steel city on the occasion of the World Environment Day.
- Divisional Forest Officer (Dalbhum) Dr Abhisekh Kumar inaugurated the tree bank set up by the Jamshedpur Utility and Services Company (Jusco), a 100 per cent subsidiary of the Tata Steel. The tree bank will help to increase the green cover in and around the steel city.

Culture Minister to inaugurate exhibition-'Unknown masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art'

- Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel will inaugurate the exhibition titled Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art at National Museum in New Delhi.

- The Exhibition is being jointly organised by the National Museum and Home of Folk Art, Gurugram in which more than 240 artefacts will be on display.
- The aim of the exhibition is to highlight the Folk art tradition of Himachal Pradesh. It will remain open for public till 31st of next month.

Hardeep S Puri launches Swachh Survekshan 2020 League

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 League in New Delhi.
- The league will be a quarterly cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India and will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted between January - February 2020.
- The objective of the Swachh Survekshan survey, which is conducted by an independent third party, is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

India's First Dinosaur Museum Park Inaugurated In Gujarat

- India's first Dinosaur Museum cum Park was inaugurated in Gujarat's Mahisagar district and is set to give visitors the true Jurassic Park feel. The museum, which was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Raiyoli near Balasinor, will exhibit remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records.
- It has been claimed that it was the country's first such museum and the world's third park.
- Raiyoli is known to be the third largest dinosaur fossil site in the world, and also the second largest dinosaur hatchery in the world, where thousands of eggs had been found.
- This dinosaur museum was equipped with modern technology like 3D projection, virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks and life-size dinosaur replicas.

Delhi Metro becomes India's first project to receive power from waste-to-energy

- Delhi Metro has become the first ever metro project in India to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant
- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has started receiving 2 megawatt (MW) power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur in East Delhi. DMRC will take approximately 17.5 million units per annum from this plant
- "The state-of-the-art facility is set up to process above 1,500 tonnes per day (TPD) of waste and generate 12 MW of green power. The plant is India's first Euro norms compliant waste-to-energy facility,"

All States can now constitute Foreigners Tribunals

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid out specific guidelines to detect, detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally across the country.

- The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

I&B Ministry Institutes Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS)

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has instituted the first edition of Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS), from 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.
- A total of 33 awards will be conferred grouped into 3 categories namely Newspaper (11), Television (11) and Radio (11). The duration for the coverage for AYDMS would be from 10 June to 25 June, 2019 and awards will be distributed in July 2019.

India to be guest country at Guadalajara International Book Fair in Mexico

- The National Book Trust announced that India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Guadalajara International Book Fair), in Mexico.
- The book fair, to be organised from November 30 - December 8, will be the largest book fair in the Spanish speaking world.
- The dedicated India pavilion at the fair will showcase over 35 Indian authors and artists, along with 15 publishing houses.
- India's participation at the fair will also include a film festival showing movies like "Dangal", "Chennai Express" and "Omkaara".

Government sets target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024

- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said the Central government has decided to increase coverage of piped water to households from current 18 per cent to 100 per cent by 2024.
- Sikkim had 99 per cent coverage of piped water to households, while some states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand had below five per cent.

Centre sets up committee headed by Kirit Parikh to review LPG marketing

- The Centre has set up a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is now looking to review the existing structure of LPG marketing in India — a move seen as an effort to bring in more private players.
- The new committee, set up will look into issues related to definition or quality standards of LPG being marketed.

Japan to invest Rs. 13,000 crore in northeast in infrastructure projects

- The government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion yen, equivalent to approximately Rs 13,000 crore, in several ongoing as well as new projects in different states of northeastern region

- Some of the important projects in which Japan will collaborate include the Guwahati water supply project, Guwahati sewage project, the northeast road network connectivity improvement project spread over Assam and Meghalaya and northeast network connectivity improvement project in Meghalaya.
- Other schemes include biodiversity conservation and forest management project in Sikkim, sustainable forest management project in Tripura, technical cooperation project for sustainable agriculture and irrigation in Mizoram and forest management project in Nagaland

Arjun Munda Launches 'E-Governance Initiatives for ST Welfare Schemes'

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the "e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes" at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- A power point presentation on these new e-governance initiatives was made on the occasion.
- Munda applauded the teamwork efforts of the Ministry of Tribal affairs for these e-governance initiatives for Scheduled Tribes Welfare schemes and said that as per the "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas and SabkaVishwas", these e-governance initiatives will serve their purpose of the betterment of tribal communities across the nation.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed online portals namely DBT Tribal (<https://dbttribal.gov.in/>) and NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System (<https://ngograntsmota.gov.in/>) for bringing in greater e-Governance in implementation of welfare schemes for STs.

Banks asked to issue KCC to eligible farmers within 2 weeks of submitting application

- The Centre has directed the concerned banks to issue Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to eligible ones within two weeks of the submission of completed application.
- Currently, there are 6.95 crore active KCCs, under which crop loans are given at subsidised interest rate. KCC has been extended to farmers involved in animal husbandry and fishery activities as well
- Normally, farm loans attract an interest rate of 9 per cent. But the government is providing 2 per cent interest subsidy to ensure farmers get short-term farm loan of up to Rs. 3 lakh at an effective rate of 7 per cent per annum.
- An additional incentive of 3 per cent is being given to farmers for prompt repayment of loans within due date, making the effective interest rate 4 per cent.

Culture Minister, Shri Prahalad Singh Patel, inaugurates the exhibition-'Astitva'

- Shri Prahalad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/c) of Culture & Tourism, Government of India will inaugurate the exhibition titled "Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe", at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi,
- 'Astitva : The essence of Prabhakar Barwe', is the first of its kind to be held in New Delhi that will present his artistic oeuvre in four distinct phases.

India allows 1 lakh tonnes of corn imports at lower duty

- India has allowed two state-run trading companies, MMTC and NAFED, to import 1 lakh tonnes of corn for poultry farms in 2019-20 at a concessional 15% import tax.

- This comes after prices of the animal feed jumped in the country because of drought.
- The government otherwise imposes a 60% import tax on the grain.

PM Kisan Pension Scheme: Farmers' contribution to be Rs 100 per month

- Farmers will have to contribute 100 rupees per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide a minimum fixed monthly pension of 3,000 rupees on the attainment of 60 years.
- The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund to be managed by the LIC, which will be responsible for the pension payout.
- The government in its first cabinet meeting had approved a separate pension scheme for farmers with an aim to cover 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years.

DGT, Cisco and Accenture sign MoU to skill youth for digital economy through ITIs

- Directorate General of Training under the aegis of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry has joined hands with Cisco and Accenture to skill the youth for the digital economy through its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- Nearly 15 lakh students across all the ITIs in India can access the digital learning module via the Bharat Skills portal.
- This programme will equip students enrolled in ITIs across India with skills for the digital economy over the next two years.
- The programme includes tailor-made curriculum with modules for digital literacy, career readiness, employability skills and advanced technology skills such as data analytics and a blended learning model enabled by a combination of on-line self-learning via the Bharat Skills portal and in-classroom modules.
- The initial phase of the in-classroom training programme is being rolled out across 227 ITIs in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Bihar and Assam, targeting more than one lakh youth.

India accounts for 6.3% of global fish production: Fisheries dept

- India is the second largest fish producing country in the world as it accounts for 6.3 per cent of the global fish production, a release by the Fisheries Department. It also said the fisheries sector in the country is growing at the rate of 7 per cent, sustaining 14.5 million fishermen.
- Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, as saying that there is a huge potential in harnessing tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- 30 per cent of the Indian EEZ is spread across the Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, but only 1 per cent comprises production of tuna fish.

Around 2.22 crore villagers given Digital Education under PMGDISHA

- Electronics and Information Technology Minister Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that around 2.22 crore villagers are given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).
- After the training, 1.34 crore have been duly certified by authorized 3rd party certifying agencies.

- The Government has taken up several steps for proper implementation of the digital literacy scheme particularly in remote rural areas in the country, to make the rural India digitally empowered.

Important International News

Pakistan gets \$3 billion bailout from Qatar

- Pakistan has secured a bailout package of USD 3 billion from oil-rich Qatar, a day after Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad concluded his visit to Islamabad and agreed to cooperate in the fields of trade, anti-money laundering and curbing terror financing.
- The Gulf state is the fourth nation that has come forward to rescue Pakistan
- Earlier, China gave USD 4.6 billion in shape of deposits and commercial loans and Saudi Arabia provided USD 3 billion cash deposit and USD 3.2 billion oil facility on deferred payments. The United Arab Emirates also provided USD 2 billion cash deposit.

Saudi Arabia Becomes First Arab Nation to Get FATF Membership

- Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following the group's annual general meeting in the US.
- Saudi Arabia which had received an invitation from the FATF at the beginning of 2015 to join as an "observer member", was admitted into the organization after the group's meeting in Orlando, Florida.
- The group is responsible for issuing international standards, policies and best practices to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation.
- With the kingdom becoming a FATF member, the number of permanent members in the group is now 39.

UAE launches UN-developed anti-money laundering platform

- The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, to curb organised crimes.
- The UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit, FIU, launched the new anti-money laundering platform 'goAML' , which has been open for registration.
- More than 900 entities including, banks, insurance companies and money exchange centres, are required to register on the platform and 50 percent of them have already registered.
- The platform will help the FIU prevent money laundering, financing of terrorism and other illicit financial activities.

India provides USD 15 million assistance to Niger for holding AU summit

- India has extended USD 15 million grant to Niger in support of organising the African Union summit scheduled in July in Niamey.
- The grant assistance of USD 15 million was symbolically handed over to Niger's Deputy Foreign Minister Lamido Ousseini Bala Goga Salamatou in the presence of Minister and Special Advisor to the Niger President Mohammed Saidil Moctar, by Indian Ambassador to that country Rajesh Agarwal at a ceremony.

- Niger is hosting the AU Summit for the first time. The AU Summit, from July 7-8 in Niamey, is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- India has provided Lines of Credit worth USD 96.54 million to Niger for projects in transport, electrification, solar energy and potable drinking water.
- India is also establishing in Niamey, Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) under a grant assistance.

WHO launches new tool to handle AMR

- WHO has launched a global campaign urging governments to adopt a tool to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs.
- The AWaRe tool was developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List to contain rising resistance and make antibiotic use safer and more effective. It classifies antibiotics into three groups – Access, Watch and Reserve – and specifies which antibiotics to use for the most common and serious infections, which ones should be available at all times in the healthcare system, and those that must be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort.

World's highest operating weather stations installed on Everest

- The National Geographic Society has announced the successful installation of the world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest to provide researchers, climbers, and the public with near real-time information about mountain conditions.
- The other stations were placed at Phortse (3,810 m), Everest Base Camp (5,315 m) and Camp II (6,464 m), each weather station will record data on temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction. The Balcony weather station is the first weather station installed at an elevation above 8,000 metres.

Puerto Williams, Chile becomes world's southernmost city

- Puerto Williams, a growing hamlet draped in snow-covered peaks on the remote southern tip of the South American continent, has been upgraded to the category of "city" by Chilean authorities, making it the world's southernmost city.
- Puerto Williams has nudged out Ushuaia, a neighbor in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego, for the title.

Russia launches first Arctic train service

- The first tourist train traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from Saint Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.
- The train, named "Zarengold" ("The Tsar's gold" in German) complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through Petrozavodsk, the historic town of Kem and Murmansk.
- For the inaugural "test journey" the 91 tourists came from seven countries including the US, Germany, Norway and Russia. The whole trip will take 11 days and allow passengers to discover areas difficult to access by other means

Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Vietnam elected UNSC non-permanent members

- Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two year term beginning January 1, 2020. In the African and Asia Pacific category, Vietnam got 192 out of 193 votes, followed by Niger and Tunisia (191 votes each).
- The Security Council is the most powerful organ of the UN and consists of 15 members including five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States), and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
- Currently, Belgium, Cte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa. are the non-permanent members. The two-year terms of Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru and Poland will end in 2019 and the newly elected members will take on their seats

Canada to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced, Canada will ban "harmful" single-use plastics as early as 2021 in a bid to reduce ocean waste. This initiative is modelled on similar legislation passed last year by the European Union and other nations
- Canada will also establish "targets" for companies that manufacture or sell plastics to be responsible for their plastic waste. Currently less than 10% of plastic used in Canada gets recycled.

Bangladesh elected as UNWTO Vice-President

- Bangladesh has been elected Vice-President of the United Nations World Tourism Organization as well as member of the organization's credential committee.
- This election was made in the 57th conference of World Tourism Organization's Commission for South Asia held at Bhutan's capital of Thimphu presided over by the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mahbub Ali.
- Iran competed against Bangladesh in the vice-presidential position of the World Tourism Organization, but Bangladesh won all the vote of the members of the Commission for South Asia. Bangladesh is currently the Chairman of the United Nations World Tourism Organization's Commission for South Asia.

UAE Cabinet adopts "National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031"

- The UAE Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.
- One of the most important initiatives is the development of the first 'National Wellbeing Observatory' to support the policymaking process.
- Chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 aims to make the UAE a world leader in quality of life through a number of strategic objectives and initiatives.

Bahrain to ban plastic products from next month

- Bahrain will start phasing out the use of plastic products from next month.

- A Ministerial order with respect to the technical regulations for plastic products will come into effect on the 21st of next month. The order will regulate and phase out the use of plastic bags.
- The first phase will focus on single-use plastic bags as well as banning the import of non-biodegradable plastic bags.
- Later phases will witness a permanent ban on the use of plastic bags at certain malls and supermarkets.

Important Appointments

National Appointments

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Namrata Menonas	Brand ambassador to promote yoga in Goa
2.	Satish Chandra Verma	New Advocate General of Chhattisgarh
3.	MN Sarma	Secretary General of General Insurance Council
4.	Ajit Doval	National Security Adviser 2 nd term
5.	Sachin Bansal	Independent director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
6.	Mrutyunjay Mohapatra	Chief of Indian Meteorological Department
7.	Rakesh Makhija	Chairman of Axis Bank
8.	P Jayadevan	IOCL executive director for TN, Pondy
9.	Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel	Chief Justice of Delhi HC
10.	R K Chibber	Interim chief of J&K Bank
11.	N Gopalaswami	BCCI's electoral officer
12.	Tapan Ray	MD of Gift City
13.	Sharad Kumar	Interim central vigilance commissioner
14.	Subba Rao	Secretary to Vice President
15.	Nripendra Misra	Principal Secretary
16.	PK Mishra	Additional Principal Secretary
17.	Thawarchand Gehlot	Leader of Rajya Sabha
18.	Piyush Goyal	Deputy Leader for the Upper House
19.	Laxman Narasimhan	New CEO of Reckitt Benckiser
20.	Rabi N Mishra	Executive Director of RBI
21.	Ravinder Singh Dhillon	Director (projects) in Power Finance Corporation
22.	Om Birla	Lok Sabha Speaker
23.	Yerry Mina (Colombian footballer)	Brand Ambassador of Hero MotoCorp
24.	Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi	Extended three months as Director General of Foreign Trade

		(DGFT)
25.	Prithviraj Kothari	President of Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd
26.	Krishnaswamy Natarajan	Next Director General of Indian Coast Guard
27.	Amit Agarwal	Chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)
28.	Narinder Batra	Member of the International Olympic Committee
29.	Amitabh Kant	Two year extension as NITI Aayog CEO
30.	Surendra Ahuja	MD of Boeing Defence India
31.	Samant Kumar Goel	RAW head
32.	Arvind Kumar	IB chief
33.	Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya (Nagaland governor)	Governor of Manipur
34.	Sarada Kumar Hota	Managing Director of the National Housing Bank (NHB)
35.	Sharad Kumar Saraf	President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)

Reckitt Benckiser names PepsiCo executive Laxman Narasimhan its new CEO

- British consumer goods giant Reckitt Benckiser named PepsiCo executive Laxman Narasimhan as its Chief Executive Officer
- Narasimhan was serving as PepsiCo's global Chief Commercial Officer. He will be join the company as CEO-deignate and will be appointed to the board on July 16
- He will become group CEO on September 1, He will succeed Rakesh Kapoor

International Appointments

Sl. No	Person	Designation
1.	Anita Bhatia	Deputy Executive Director of UN
2.	Ajay Singh (SpiceJet chief)	International Air Transportation Association (IATA) board
3.	Nayib Bukele	President of El Salvador
4.	Anton Aditya Subowo	Re-elected as President of Badminton Asia
5.	Rajiv Mehrishi	External Auditor for WHO
6.	Gianni Infantino	FIFA president
7.	Tijjani Muhammad-Bande	UNGA President
8.	Prayuth Chan-ocha	Thailand PM
9.	PramilaJayapal	first South Asian American woman to chair US house
10.	Kumar Iyer	Chief Economist of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)of UK government

11.	Kassym-Jomart Tokayev	Kazakhstan's president
12.	Zuzana Caputova	Slovakia's first female President
13.	Padmaja	India's High Commissioner to Tuvalu
14.	Inger Andersen	Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
15.	Lt General Faiz Hameed	Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)
16.	Shefali Juneja	India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)
17.	Author Amish Tripathi	Director of London's Nehru Centre
18.	Mohamed Ould Ghazouani	Presidential Election of Mauritania
19.	Qu Dongyu	Head of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Resignation

Sl.No	Person	Designation
1.	Azim Premji	Executive Chairman of Wipro

Important Awards and Honours

Sl.No	Winners	Awards
1.	Pratibha Patil (Former Indian President)	"Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle) Mexico's highest civilian honour
2.	Sheela	J C Daniel Award (Kerala government's highest honour for outstanding contribution to Malayalam cinema)
3.	SundarPichai and Nasdaq president Adena Friedman	Global Leadership Awards 2019
4.	Tayari Jones	£30,000 Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel An American Marriage
5.	Greta Thunberg (Sweden)	Amnesty International prize
6.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Maldives' highest honour 'Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen'
7.	Mahindra automobile (India)	Gold Award in South Africa
8.	Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)'s 'Distinguished Alumni Award'
9.	Priyanka Chopra	UNICEF's Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award
10.	Akshay Patra's school meals project	BBC World Service Global Champion Award
11.	Suman Rao (Rajasthan)	Femina Miss India World 2019

12.	Shivani Jadhav (Chhattisgarh)	Femina Miss Grand India 2019
13.	Shreya Shanker (Bihar)	Miss India United Continents 2019
14.	Akshay Patra's school meals project	BBC World Service Global Champion Award
15.	Suman Rao (Rajasthan)	Femina Miss India World 2019
16.	Social activist Makarand Tiloo	'Save Water Hero Award'
17.	Dr Gaurav Nigam	'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit
18.	Rachna Khaira	Redink 'Journalist Of The Year' Award For 'Aadhar' Expose
19.	'Veyil Marangal' (directed by Bijukumar Damodaran)	'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' at the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival

Indian woman crowned Miss Universe Australia

- India born Priya Serrao, whose family migrated to Australia from Middle East, has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019.
- A law graduate who currently works in Department of Jobs, Precincts and regions in Melbourne, Serrao was born in India. Her family later moved to Oman and Dubai before finally settling in Australia.

IIT Kanpur honours Gopichand with honorary doctorate

- India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
- The received the honour from former ISRO chairman and Chairman of board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan.
- Former President APJ Abdul Kalam and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are past recipients of the honour.

Nirmala Sitharaman on list of 100 most powerful women influencing India-UK relations

- Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India, is among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward alongside one of Britain's senior-most Cabinet ministers Penny Mordaunt.
- The '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list was launched by UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid to mark India Day in the Houses of Parliament in London.

Ex-champion, Sameer Gulati claims TechGig Code Gladiators 2019

- In the 6th Edition of TechGig Code Gladiators 2019, an annual coding competition, Ex-champion, Sameer Gulati won the title as 'world's best coder' and took home prize money of Rs 3,00,000, a trophy and a certificate. The event was held at Reliance Corporate Park, Navi Mumbai.
- The event also hosted a total of 10 exciting technology themes include Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Chatbots, Robotic Process Automation, Fintech, Software Testing, Location Services, Amazon Alexa Skills, Internet of Things, and New Commerce.

Indian engineer wins Innovation Award in UK for neonatal breathing device

- An Indian engineer whose low-cost neonatal breathing device has saved the lives of new-born babies across small towns of India, has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London.
- Nitesh Kumar Jangir, who created Saans as a breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from respiratory distress syndrome due to a lack of immediate access to complex medical equipment, received his award in the "People" category alongside 14 other innovators from across the 53 member-countries of the Commonwealth.

44th Matri Shree Awards

- Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism
- Apart from media personalities, a social activist has also presented the Bharat Mata shield at the 44th Matri Shree media award ceremony organized.
- Bollywood film 'Badhai Ho' was also presented the Bharat Mata shield.
- The Matri Shree Media Awards was constituted during the Emergency. The first award was presented to journalist Lala Jagat Narayan.

Amitav Ghosh conferred with Jnanpith award

- Renowned author Amitav Ghosh was awarded the 54th Jnanpith Award for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature in English at a ceremony here on Wednesday.
- He was conferred the award by former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi.
- Amitav Ghosh is the first English writer to get this prestigious award.
- The Jnanpith award is the highest literary award in India and can only be conferred upon an Indian citizen. English language was added to the list of languages for consideration after the 49th Jnanpith Award.
- The award consisted of a shawl, citation, statue of goddess Saraswati and Rs. 11 lakh
- His recent novel "Gun Island" is set for its official launch

Former President Jimmy Carter receives statesmanship award

- Former President Jimmy Carter is being recognized for his contributions to relations between the U.S. and China.
- The George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S. China Relations has conferred its inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations to former President of United States of America, Jimmy Carter.
- The 94-year-old will receive the award on June 12 at the Carter Center in Atlanta.
- The award goes to people who have made "profound contributions to the development of constructive and mutually beneficial relations" between the U.S and the People's Republic of China.

Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh becomes first woman pilot to fly Hawk fighter jet

- Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.
- She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal. Her training involved flying both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions.
- She has undertaken many practice missions, which involved firing of rockets, guns and dropping high calibre bombs and also participated in various Air Force Level flying exercises. Earlier, Flight Lt Bhawana Kanth became the first daytime woman fighter pilot to fly a MiG-21 Bison.

WHO award for Rajasthan Health Department

- The World Health Organization has selected the Rajasthan government's Medical & Health Department for its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.
- The department's Additional Chief Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh, will receive the award at a function to mark World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi. The Health Department of the State is the only government body in the country which will be awarded for its tobacco-free initiatives.

Indian billionaire M.A. Yusuffali gets first UAE Permanent Residency 'Golden Card'

- The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, ICA, issued the first "Golden Residence Permit" in Abu Dhabi, as part of the "Investors Permanent Residence System" implemented under the UAE Cabinet's Resolution No. 56 for 2018, which aims to help investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.
- UAE-based businessman, LuLu Group chairman M.A. Yusuffali has become the first expat to get the exclusive Permanent Residency 'Golden Card'.
- The first batch of 6,800 investors with Dh100 billion worth of investments will be granted the "Golden Card."

Jay-Z named world's first billionaire rapper by Forbes magazine

- Jay-Z has been named the world's first billionaire rapper in a new Forbes cover story.
- The 49-year-old Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Corey Carter, is the husband of American singer Beyonce.
- His superstar wife is reported to have a net worth of about \$ 335 mn.

Important MOU's

Ahmedabad, Kobe exchange Lol for sister city partnership

- Authorities from the Japanese city of Kobe exchanged a Letter of Intent (LoI) with their counterparts in Ahmedabad for a sister city partnership, which will pave the way for an enhanced economic relationship between the two vibrant cities as well as the two countries.
- The MoU will pave the way for an enhanced economic relationship between the two vibrant cities as well as the two countries.

Ministry of Shipping and IIT Kharagpur signed an MoU to set up CICMT

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between Ministry of Shipping and IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Kharagpur to set up Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur. CICMT is the first of its kind centre in India with the focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing.
- The MoA was signed by IIT Kharagpur Director, Professor Partha P Chakraborty, and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping, Kailash Kumar Aggarwal in the presence of Shipping Minister Mansukh L Mandaviya in New Delhi.
- The cost of the project is Rs.69.20 crore and it is funded under Sagarmala programme. The funding for the project is for 5 years after which revenues generated from the end users will be used.
- At present, 4 European countries namely Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and Belgium have model testing facilities for ships.

Max Bupa partners with MobiKwik to sell bite-sized health insurance products

- Max Bupa, a standalone health insurer, has entered into a strategic partnership with MobiKwik, a fintech platform, to promote affordable and convenient bite sized group health insurance products for MobiKwik's 107 Million customers across the country.
- Under this tie-up, Max Bupa will come up with slew of innovative offerings, including a Cancer cover at nominal premium and a HospiCash product for MobiKwik's vast customer base.
- Priced at an annual premium of Rs. 135, HospiCash will offer Rs. 500 per day hospital allowance for upto 30 days in a year.

India to have a National Electricity Discom, NTPC-Power Grid sign MoU

- An agreement has been signed between NTPC Limited and POWERGRID for setting up National Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (NEDCL) - a pan-India power distribution firm in an equal joint venture through JVC on 50:50 equity basis.
- The main aim is to undertake the business for distribution of electricity in distribution circles of India & related activities.
- According to the MoU signed in New Delhi, the new public sector unit will focus on aggregating electricity demand in the country and cater to it and may also take over weak electricity distribution utilities.
- It will comprise of cadre on deputation from other public sector units and is being set up at a time when the state-owned distribution companies (discoms) are struggling with their finances on account of losses and borrowings.
- In such a situation, a national electricity distribution company can procure electricity at competitive rates and help address the issue of stressed assets in power generation.

IIT Guwahati signs MoU with ISRO to set up first-of-its-kind space technology centre in the Northeast

- IIT Guwahati has signed an MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC) at the institute where Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi inaugurated a new academic complex and research and development building.

- IITG-ISRO STC would be first of its kind in the North-east region to augment research and capacity building processes in the field of space technology.

HMSI partners with IDFC FIRST Bank to offer financing solutions

- Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank to provide financing solutions across the country.
- The two partners have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under which facilities like loans up to 100 per cent of vehicle cost, zero processing fee, down payment of ₹999, and extended loan tenure of 48 months, among others will be offered to the two-wheeler maker's customers

Ashok Leyland ties up with Suryoday Small Finance Bank for vehicle loans

- Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland has partnered with Suryoday Small Finance Bank for vehicle loans.
- The two partners have signed an initial agreement to enter a strategic financing partnership for three years.
- Under the pact, the bank will provide end-to-end financial solutions to Ashok Leyland's customers for auto loans across India.
- The partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank will benefit our stakeholders and customers with financial products, which are specifically tailored for hassle-free experience.

Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL to form Joint Venture for Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG pipeline project

- State-owned oil marketing companies Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd have inked a pact to form a joint venture company for the country's largest LPG pipeline project from Kandla in Gujarat to Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- The 2,757 km long LPG pipeline, which is expected to provide reliability in the supply chain of LPG, would cover an overall distance of 1,063 km in Gujarat, 611 km in Madhya Pradesh, and 1,083 km in Uttar Pradesh.
- As per the exchange filing, Indian Oil would own 50 per cent equity holding in the joint venture company, while BPCL and HPCL would have 25 per cent each.

MCA, SEBI sign MoU for data exchange

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for data exchange between the two regulatory organisations.
- The agreement was signed by K.V.R. Murty, Joint Secretary, MCA, and Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI in the presence of senior officers from both the organisations.
- The MoU will facilitate the exchange of data and information between SEBI and MCA on an automatic and regular basis.

- It will enable sharing of specific information such as details of suspended companies, delisted companies, shareholding pattern from SEBI and financial statements filed with the registrar by corporates, returns of allotment of shares, audit reports relating to corporates.
- SEBI and MCA will also exchange with each other, on request, any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation, and prosecution

V.O.C Port inks MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation

- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) to facilitate direct port entry (DPE) of cargo, which would help cut down on dwell time and costs.
- Chairman of V.O.C Port Trust T.K. Ramachandran and Managing Director of CWC Arun Kumar Shrivastava signed the MoU that would allow the CWC to operate and manage the truck terminal located opposite to the Fisheries College and Research Institute on an annual lease rental basis for 30 years. The terminal has an area of 18,357 sqm.

Indian Railways joins hands with French National Railways to develop world-class stations

- Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) has entered a tripartite agreement with French Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French Agency.
- Under this agreement, French Railways will provide up to 7 lakh euros for development of railway stations in India.
- Indian Railways is involved with redeveloping and beautifying various other stations, and has set a target to redevelop scores of railway stations in this financial year.

HCL Technologies signs multi-year contract with Cricket Australia

- HCL Technologies has signed a multi-year contract with Cricket Australia, the governing body of Australian cricket.
- This is India's third-largest information technology services firm's third biggest sports deal, after Volvo Ocean Race and Manchester United (ManU).
- Before HCL, Accenture had been working with Cricket Australia for a five-year deal from November 2013. Under the deal, HCL will provide digital experience to cricket fans, players, partners, employees, and volunteers across the country and around the world.
- HCL will work on a digital core ecosystem for Cricket Australia, including properties such as the Cricket Australia Live App, cricket.com.au, bigbash.com.au, and community cricket applications such as MyCricket and community.cricket.com.au.

Tech Mahindra signs contract with Airbussports

- Tech Mahindra has announced signing of a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering
- The contract aims to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in the growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.

NPCI ties up with Telangana for MeeSeva services

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has entered into an agreement with the Government of Telangana to offer MeeSeva portal users the option to pay using UPI Collect Request, RuPay Debit and Credit Cards for the services on the portal.
- The MeeSeva portal of the State government offers over 150 government services and surpassed 100 million transactions last year.
- The partnership with MeeSeva will help people reap the benefits of our first-of-its kind domestic debit and credit card payment network in India and will be a true Make in India collaboration.
- NPCI is in the process of enabling QR code-enabled payment as an additional feature on the portal. This feature would be available online as well as offline.

ICANN partners NASSCOM to develop tech, standards for IoT devices

- Global internet body ICANN and Indian IT industry body Nasscom announced collaboration to develop identifier technology that can be used for managing devices and infrastructure using internet.
- Under the collaboration, both the bodies will first focus on updating Internet of Things (IoT) devices using domain name system (DNS) even in situation when the manufacturer or supplier has closed down the business.
- ICANN - Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

NHA, ICICI Foundation to skill 15,000 personnel to implement Ayushman Bharat scheme

- The National Health Authority and ICICI Foundation have signed an agreement to train 15,000 state and district personnel and Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras to streamline delivery of health services under the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- The MoU between NHA and ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth is aimed at capacity building of health personnel at state and district levels.
- The state personnel are responsible for implementing the scheme in their respective states and Arogya Mitras are frontline health service professionals present at each empanelled hospital.
- Arogya Mitras serve as the first-point contact for beneficiaries and help them in availing the services.
- This partnership with ICICI Foundation aims to skill more than 15,000 state personnel and Arogya Mitras over a period of one year.

Important Summit & Conference

World Youth Conference on kindness held in New Delhi

- P Jindal Global University (JGU) and Delhi-based UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development) will jointly organise the first World Youth Conference on kindness from August 20-23 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

- JGU will host 100 youth leaders from across the world for the three-day conference on its campus in Sonipat while a part of the conference will also be held in Delhi. The university will also organise lectures by experts on the sidelines of the conference during that period.
- The World Youth Congress 2019 is being organised on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.'
- The conference will culminate at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan with panels comprising Nobel laureates, international experts and policy makers and also representatives of youth leaders.

Conclave on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' beings in Meghalaya

- In Meghalaya, a two-day North East Conclave 2019 on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' began today at Shillong. It has been organised by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD).
- The initiative of the IBSD for organizing this conclave where leading experts and policymakers from different parts of the country along with local stakeholders come together to discuss on transforming North East India through Science and Technology.

G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in Japan

- G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth for the year 2019 was held at Karuizawa ,Japan.
- The Indian delegation at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth was represented by Shri RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Guests were invited from Finland, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, The Netherlands and Vietnam.

The 10th Regional GRIHA Summit

- The 10th Regional Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) summit ,2019 was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari addressed this meeting.
- The theme of this year's 2019 summit was "Transformation Strategies for Built Environment".
- This theme was adopted to focus on impact of incorporating sustainability initiatives into functioning public buildings. The summit was organized with help of the Public Works Department (PwD) of the state Government.

World Food India to be held from Nov 1-4 in New Delhi

- Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal stated that The World Food India 2019 event will be held during November 1-4 in New Delhi as part of the government's effort to boost investment into this growing sector
- This will be the second edition of World Food India, with first one held in 2017 that saw the participation of 61 countries and signing of MoUs worth \$14 billion.
- The tagline of the event will be "Forging Partnerships for Growth".

Cambodia to Host the 16th Asia Media Summit 2019

- Cambodia will host the 16th Asia Media Summit 2019 (16th AMS) in Siem Reap province from 11-14 June 2019, presided over by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen
- The 16th AMS, co-organized Cambodia's Ministry of Information and Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, looks into the progresses and challenges as well as mutual sharing across the continent.
- The conference provides a unique opportunity for broadcasters in the region to share their thoughts on Broadcasting and Information.
- The 16th AMS will touch on important topics as how can we adopt digital revolution; envisioning the media in the 4 Industrial Revolution; disinformation and new media; monetization in traditional media new media; technologies for distribution of media contents; preserving our times through archives, and more.

14th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit held in Mecca

- The OIC foreign ministers meeting, preparatory to the 14th ordinary session of the Islamic Summit conference convened in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ibrahim Ibn Abdulaziz Al Assaf, Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Yousef Aldobeay of Saudi Arabia, an assistant secretary general of OIC, was among four special envoys for Jammu and Kashmir appointed at the grouping's summit meeting in Makkah

Global Entrepreneurship Summit Kicks Off In The Hague

- Prime Minister Mark Rutte and the American Foreign Minister Mike Pompeo opened the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in The Hague.
- Some 2 thousand entrepreneurs, investors and representatives of government organizations from 134 countries will meet and make deals at the business summit.
- The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2019 is an initiative of the government of United States of America to bring together global leaders in entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and policy to support deals that matters to everyone.

Thaawarchand Gehlot leaves for Buenos Aires to participate in 2nd Global Disability Summit

- The 2nd edition of the Global Disability Summit will be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 6-8 June 2019.
- Social Justice and Empowerment minister Thaawarchand Gehlot has left for Buenos Aires in Argentina to participate in 2nd Global Disability Summit.
- The objective of the three-day summit is to deliberate on issues across the world concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and to work out a mechanism for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life. The 1st Global Disability Summit was held in London in July 2018.

16th Asia media summit kicks off in Cambodia

- The 16th Asia media summit that kicked-off in Cambodia

- The two-day summit, held under the topic of Media Digitalization Focusing on Developing Markets, was organized by the Cambodian Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD),

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit 2019 Begins in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit begins in Bishkek
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the plenary session of the SCO Summit, and will present his vision for the regional cooperation and development.
- Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will also be attending the summit. This will be the first time two leaders will come face to face after months of tensions between the two countries
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with Presidents of China and Russia at Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek
- India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO in 2017
- SCO Founded in 2001, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are the founding members of the organisation

G-20 summit begins in Osaka, Japan

- The two days G-20 Summit is underway at Osaka in Japan.
- The theme of the summit is Human-centred future society.
- 19 countries, the European Union and several special invitees are participating at the Osaka Summit
- The trilateral meeting between the US, Japan and India has commenced in Osaka, Japan, on the sidelines of G 20 Summit

Important Mobile App and Web Portal

BYPL to launch energy saving app, to begin project from Mayur Vihar

- Power distribution company BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) has tied up with several private organisations to launch a slew of initiatives including a 'behavioural energy saving app' to reduce electricity consumption.
- The app -- Susthome -- developed by BYPL and TERI to bring about a behavioural change in how consumers use electricity, will track energy consumption patterns.
- The app will guide enlisted consumers in reducing their energy consumption, carbon footprint and electricity bills by influencing their behavioural patterns. It will also provide customized solutions to make all such units energy-efficient.

AYUSH Ministry launches App to locate yoga centres, instructors

- AYUSH Ministry has launched a mobile application to enable people to locate yoga events and centres providing training and instructors. The mobile app was launched ahead of International Yoga Day on June 21.

- Yoga locator app will help people to locate yoga centres as well as yoga instructors within the preferred radius of their vicinity. It will be a permanent app which will give information to people about yoga activities happening in their vicinity throughout the year. The theme for IDY 2019 will be 'Yoga for Heart'.

US embassy launches app for students who wish to study in US

- The US embassy has launched a mobile application that gives comprehensive and latest information about studying in the United States
- The app -- EducationUSA -- was launched in collaboration with the United States India Educational Foundation and is available on both Android and iOS platforms for free
- The app will act as the first point of information for students, parents, school counsellors and other interested users who want to know about the US higher education but don't know where to begin

Important Defence News

Indian Navy executes 'Operation Sankalp' for Gulf region

- Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Gulf of Oman to re-assure Indian Flagged Vessels operating/ transiting through Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime security incidents in the region.
- INS Chennai & INS Sunayna have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf to undertake Maritime Security operations.

The first Indian Naval Air Squadron celebrates its Diamond Jubilee

- Indian Navy's oldest Naval Air Squadron (NAS) completes its 60 years of service to the nation. NAS 550 celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 17 Jun 19 at naval base Kochi.
- The squadron has flown 14 different types of aircraft starting with the Sea land Aircraft to the Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft being presently flown.
- The squadron has been part of several operations, from the 1971 Indo-Pak war to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations during the December 2004 Tsunami, Cyclone Okhi in 2017 and the 2018 Kerala floods

Army's training exercise "KhargaPrahar" in Punjab ends

- The exercise "KhargaPrahar", which began on May 27, was undertaken in the plains of Punjab by various units and formations of Army's Kharga Corps.
- A major training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Punjab ended.
- The components of the Indian Air Force also participated in the exercise.
- The exercise setting also incorporated aspects of joint training wherein para drops from Indian Air Force aircraft were carried out and simulated battlefield air strikes were conducted in support of ground forces

India-France to Hold Mega Air Exercise "Garuda VI" in July

- The Air Forces of India and France will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise “Garuda VI” beginning July 1, 2019 at an air base in France to further boost to military-to-military ties between the two countries.
- From Indian side, a fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets will engage in dogfights with France’s Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the exercise.

India tests hypersonic demonstrator vehicle launched from Agni I platform

- India was conducted a successful first test flight of the indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from a base off the Odisha coast.
- The only other countries that possess this technology are the US, Russia and China
- The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet (allowing supersonic combustion) demonstration vehicle that can cruise up to a speed of mach 6 (or six times the speed of sound) and rise up to an altitude of 32. km in 20 seconds
- It is being developed by DRDO with assistance from Israel and the UK and Russia.

OPERATION SUNRISE – 2 carried out by India and Myanmar Armies

- The Indian and Myanmar armies carried out “Operation Sunrise -2” from May 16th in their respective borders in mutual military action moves. The operation targeted on several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam
- The first phase of “Operation Sunrise” was conducted three months ago along the Indo-Myanmar border, during which a number of camps of north-east-based militant groups were busted

ICG co-hosts 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop in capital

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will be co-hosting 12th Capacity Building workshop with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) The
- ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
- Presently 20 countries are members of ReCAAP. India played an active role in the setting up and functioning of ReCAAPISC along with Japan and Singapore. India has hosted this workshop earlier in November 2011 at Goa and December 2017 at New Delhi.

Air forces of India, France to participate Garuda-VI in joint drill from July 1-12

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in a bilateral exercise with the French Air Force called exercise, Garuda-VI, from July 1-12.
- This is the sixth edition of exercise Garuda and is being planned at French Air Force Base, Mont-de-Marsan in France. The last exercise, Garuda V, was held at Air Force Station Jodhpur in June 2014.
- IAF contingent comprises of 120 air-warriors and four Su-30 MKI along with an IL-78 Flight Refueling aircraft, which shall participate during the exercise.

Important Science and Technology

China tests latest submarine-launched ballistic missile

- China has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile, the JL-3.
- The SLBM might have a range of up to 14,000 kms and be equipped with 10 independent guided nuclear warheads

NASA's Astrobee cube robot flies in space for the first time

- A cube-shaped free-flying robot named 'Bumble' has become the first Astrobee robot to fly under its own power in space.
- NASA dispatched two of the three Astrobee robots to the International Space Station in April 2019. Bumble is the first one to take the flight. Other Astrobee robot dispatched is named 'Honey' while the third robot 'Queen' will be dispatched in July 2019.
- These Astrobee are free-flying robot system to help researchers in testing new technologies in zero gravity and perform routine work alongside astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

India Test Fires Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile from Chandipur Test Range

- Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.
- The anti-ship version of the missile was launched around noon from the launch complex-3 of the ITR, Defence Research and Development (DRDO). BrahMos is a joint venture between the DRDO and the NPOM of Russia.
- The highly versatile BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

China gains new flexible launch capabilities with first sea launch

- China successfully launched a Long March 11 solid rocket from a sea launch platform, bringing its burgeoning space program new, flexible launch capabilities. The Long March 11 solid propellant light launch vehicle lifted off from a mobile launch platform in the Yellow Sea.
- The satellites included Bufeng-1A and B, designed by the China Academy of Space Technology to monitor ocean wind fields and improve typhoon monitoring, Xiaoxiang-1-04, a small satellite developed by Changsha-based private firm Spacety, an experimental communications satellite, Tianqi-3, developed by GuodianGaoke, and two 'Tianxiang' Ka-band communications test satellites for the China Electronic Technology Group.

Chandrayaan-2 to be launched on July 15: ISRO

- Isro officially announced that the Chandrayaan-2 will be launched at 2.51 am on July 15 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- Chandrayaan-2 will have three modules, Orbiter, Lander (Vikram), and Rover (Pragyan). These are designed to carry out various experiments, including mapping of the surface, minerals, chemical composition, detection sparse water molecules above the lunar surface and rock formations.

- The cost of the mission-including foreign service for navigation-is Rs. 603 crore, an additional Rs. 375 crore will be the launch cost
- The total weight of the spacecraft will be 3.8 tonne
- The lunar landing is expected to take place on 6 or 7 September on the unexplored south polar region of the moon.
- Chandrayaan-1, which was launched on 22 October 2008, orbited the moon more than 3,400 times and played a crucial part in the discovery of water molecules on the lunar surface

HCL to roll out "Tech Bee" programme

- HCL Technologies is all set to roll out "Tech Bee", a company initiative under which it trains and hires students who have completed Plus Two, across several states
- Tech Bee, HCL's early career programme provides students an opportunity to start early, become financially independent and trendsetters. Enrolled students are paid stipend of ₹10,000 per month, she explained.

India to launch first solar mission Aditya-L1 in 2020

- Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that India will launch its first mission to study the sun named Aditya-L1 in the year 2020.
- Aditya-L1 is meant to observe the solar corona and the aim of the mission is to keep a permanent eye on the sun without any disturbance
- Aditya-L1 mission is expected to be inserted in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) - which is 1.5 million km from the earth

Indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II test fired successfully

- India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range off the Odisha coast
- The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range, ITR at Chandipur.
- The missile is capable of carrying 500 to 1000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines

Important Ranking and Indexes

Mumbai among top 20 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates

- Mumbai is India's most expensive city and among the top 20 costliest cities surveyed in Asia for expatriates, with residential housing prices among the highest in the world, according to a survey by global consulting leader Mercer.
- According to Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked at the 67th position out of the 209 cities surveyed.

- Other Indian cities in the list include New Delhi at 118th place, Chennai (154), Bengaluru (179) and Kolkata (189). All four have dropped in ranking from last year.

Maharashtra ranks on top with 3,661 startups, Karnataka follows

- Maharashtra ranks on top with 3,661 startups recognised by the government followed by Karnataka with 2,847, New Delhi with 2,552 and Uttar Pradesh by 1,566.
- A total of 19,351 startups across the country have been recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Kalu in Rajasthan is India's best police station

- The Kalu police station in Bikaner district of Rajasthan has been ranked as number 1 police station of India in **2018**, as per the internal survey conducted by the Union Home Ministry.
- The Campbell Bay in Nicobar district has been ranked second while Farakka police station in Murshidabad district of West Bengal is ranked third.
- The home ministry had started to rank police stations since 2016 following directions from PM Modi at the DGP conference in Kutch, Gujarat, in 2015.
- The 2018 ranking covered 15,666 police stations based on its performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, crime detection, community policing and maintenance of law and order, infrastructure as well as citizens feedback

Kerala tops health rankings; UP, Bihar worst performers

- Kerala took the top spot among larger states for overall performance on health indicators in a NITI Aayog report, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, while Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha languish at the bottom.
- The index analyses overall performance and incremental improvement in the States and the Union Territories for the period with 2015-16 as the base year and 2017-18 as the reference year.
- The “Healthy States, Progressive India” report is an annual systematic performance tool to measure the performance of the States and UTs on their year on year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were the top two states in terms of incremental performance. Sikkim and Arunchal Pradesh had the biggest decrease in overall health index scores.
- Among the UTs, Chandigarh ranked first in overall performance, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli improved the most.
- Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are the top three ranking states in terms of annual incremental performance
- The report has been prepared by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical assistance from the World Bank.
- The Index ranks the States and Union Territories based on 23 health-related indicators

India is cheapest solar energy producer; beats China, UK, US among others

- India is now the forerunner in producing solar power at lowest cost globally and is far ahead of other nations in low average production costs.
- Beating countries like China, which usually is the cheapest manufacturer of everything, India has also left behind the US, UK, Canada and France among others.
- India was estimated to have the lowest total installed costs for new utility-scale solar PV projects that were commissioned in 2018 at USD 793/kW, 27% lower than for projects commissioned in 2017.

US topples China as India's largest merchandise trade partner

- The US overtook China to once again become India's top goods trading partner in 2018-19. Also, India's trade surplus with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion a year ago.
- India's exports are playing in a stronger position with its trade deficit with China dropping to \$53 billion in 2018-19, down from \$63 billion a year ago.
- Data showed that India's dependency on Chinese imports also declined to \$70 billion from \$76 billion a year ago, with over a fourth increase in exports to \$16.7 billion in 2018-19.

Bangladesh has emerged as fastest growing economy among 45 countries of Asia-Pacific region

- Bangladesh has emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region according to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- In the financial year 2018-19 Bangladesh attained growth rate of 7.9 % which is its fastest rate since 1974.
- The bank predicted that the growth will be 8% in the next financial year.

India to be most populous by 2027: UN World Population Prospects 2019

- India is set to overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050
- As per a United Nations report India is expected to add nearly 273 million people between 2019 and 2050 and remain the most populated country through the end of the current century
- While the population of Nigeria is projected to grow by 200 million. Together, these two countries could account for 23 per cent of the global population increase to 2050
- China, on the other hand, is expected to become smaller, dropping from its current 1.43 billion people to approximately 1.4 billion by 2050.
- The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime
- Globally, it's the post-working-age group that is growing the fastest. By 2050, one in six people will be above 65, compared with one in 11 people in 2019
- By 2050, the number of people over 80 is expected to triple to 426 million.
- Growing at a slower pace, world population is expected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050 and could peak at nearly 11 billion around 2100

23 Indian Institutions ranked among best global universities in QS World University ranking

- Twenty-three Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in QS World University ranking
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), has emerged as India's best institution securing 152nd rank in the 2020 QS World University Ranking.
- World-class MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has made a history by topping the QS World University Rankings for the eighth consecutive year
- IIT-Bombay has been securing the top position among Indian institutes for the past three years by making it to the prestigious world ranking
- IIT-Delhi has fallen 10 places from 172 in 2019 to 182 in the 2020 QS ranking
- Among the 23 institutes, only IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (184) are ranked in the global top 200
- IISc-Bangalore has achieved the world's second-best score for research impact, securing full 100 marks for citations per faculty metric.
- Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) -- all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world, respectively

Agartala airport to be 3rd international airport in northeast

- After Guwahati and Imphal, the Agartala airport is set to become the third international airport in the northeastern region by the end of this year or by early 2020.
- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has informed us that their ongoing works to make Agartala's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport as an international one would be completed by this year end.
- The AAI had undertaken a Rs. 438 crore project to upgrade the Agartala airport to international standards by providing world-class facilities.
- The airport in Agartala is the second busiest in the northeast after Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. The Imphal airport was declared as an international one two years ago.

Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand

- E-commerce giant Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand, according to the findings of the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019.
- Amazon scored high on financial health, utilisation of latest technologies and a strong reputation.
- Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India. Others in the top 10 are Mercedes-Benz (4th), IBM (5th), Larsen & Toubro (6th), Nestlé (7th), Infosys (8th), Samsung (9th), and Dell (10th).

RIL, HDFC among 57 Indian companies on Forbes magazine's Global 2000 list

- As many as 57 Indian companies figure in Forbes magazine's list of the world's 2000 largest public companies, HDFC Ltd being named among the top ten consumer finance firms.
- Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) topped the list for the seventh year in a row. Reliance Industries was the top-ranked Indian company (ranked 71st globally).

- In the oil and gas sector, Royal Dutch Shell is ranked first and Reliance Industries is ranked 11th.
- In the consumer financial sector, American Express has topped the chart while HDFC Ltd is ranked 7th.
- On the overall Global 2000 list, HDFC is ranked 332nd.
- Out of the 61 countries represented on the list, the US accounts for the largest number of 575 companies, followed by China and Hong Kong (309) and Japan (223).
- In the overall top-ten, ICBC is followed by JP Morgan, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of America, Apple, Ping An Insurance Group, Bank of China, Royal Dutch Shell and Wells Fargo.
- From India, Reliance Industries is the only one in the overall top-200 list. The company is followed by HDFC Bank at 209th, ONGC at 220th, Indian Oil at 288th and HDFC Ltd at 332nd place.

India ranks 95 among 129 countries in global gender equality index

- India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
- Denmark was ranked at the first place and Chad at 129th place. China ranked at 74 position, Pakistan at 113 while Nepal and Bangladesh at 102 and 110 respectively.

SriLankan Airlines named world's most punctual

- SriLankan Airlines, the flag carrier of the island nation, has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time with over 90 per cent of its flights in May being "on time" by the portal flightstats.com.
- It also achieved the world's number one ranking in September 2018 with a punctuality rating of 91.37 percent.
- Chile's LATAM Airlines was placed second and All Nippon Airways of Japan stood third.

Mumbai's traffic flow worst in world, Delhi at fourth spot

- Traffic flow in Mumbai is the worst in the world while Delhi is close behind at fourth position, according to a new report detailing the traffic situation in 56 countries.
- Mumbai takes the top spot this year with drivers in the Indian city expecting to spend an average of 65 per cent extra travel time stuck in traffic.
- Next in the global rankings are Bogota (63 per cent), Lima (58 per cent), New Delhi (58 per cent) and Moscow (56 per cent), making up the top five most congested cities in the world.

Amazon beats Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand

- Amazon has overtaken Google and Apple to become the world's most valuable brand at \$315.5 billion, according to a ranking of global companies, up 52% on last year.
- Apple comes second, valued at \$309.5 billion, with Google in third place, at \$309 billion, according to the BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brand ranking 2019, compiled by WPP research agency Kantar
- Google and Apple had spent a combined 12 years at the top of the list, with Google taking the top spot in 2018.

India ranks 141 in annual Global Peace Index

- India's rank has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019
- Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness based on three thematic domains -- the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation in 163 countries and territories by taking into account 23 indicators.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008
- Afghanistan is now the least peaceful country in the world, replacing Syria, which is now the second least peaceful. South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq comprise the remaining five least peaceful countries.
- In South Asia, Bhutan topped the index with 15th rank, followed by Sri Lanka 72, Nepal 76 and Bangladesh 101. The neighbouring country Pakistan has been ranked 153rd on the index.
- "India's rank has moved down to 141 from in GPI 2019 (from its previous position at 136), among 163 countries, and it stands at fifth in the (South Asian) region,"

Important Books and Authors

Books	Authors
Anupam Kher	'Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly'
Baba Ramdev co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar	"My Life, My Mission",
Arundhati Roy	'My Seditious Heart'
Vinit Goenka	"Data Sovereignty – The Pursuit of Supremacy"
BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi	'The New Delhi Conspiracy

Important Sports News

Cricket

Yuvraj Singh announces retirement from international cricket

- Yuvraj Singh has announced retirement from international cricket, ending a "rollercoaster" career during which he became the hero of India's 2011 World Cup triumph
- Yuvraj Singh debuted for India in 2000 and went on to play 40 Test, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is
- He put together 1900 runs in the longest format, and 8701 in the one-dayers

Chris Gayle to retire from international cricket

- West Indies batsman Chris Gayle has announced that he will retire from international cricket after the home Test series against India in August-September.
- He was the captain of the team in the past and has won 2 T20 World Cup titles with the Windies.

Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to score 20,000 runs

- Virat Kohli became the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs. The India captain reached the milestone when he reached the score of 37 against West Indies at Old Trafford.
- Kohli reached the milestone in only his 417th international innings while Tendulkar and Lara each took 453 innings
- Kohli became the 12th batsman and third Indian after Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs

Football

Former Liverpool and Chelsea striker Fernando Torres announces retirement

- Former Liverpool and Chelsea striker Fernando Torres has announced his retirement from football.
- The 35-year-old Spaniard scored 81 goals across four seasons with Liverpool and won the Champions League, Europa League and FA Cup with Chelsea.

Sunil Chhetri becomes India's most capped international player

- Former India skipper Bhaichung Bhutia congratulated Sunil Chhetri after the latter overtook his record and became India's most capped international player with 108 appearances.
- Chhetri overtook his mentor Bhutia's record of 107 matches when he captained India in the King's Cup opener against Curacao.

Messi is world's highest paid athlete, Kohli only Indian on the list

- Lionel Messi was the world's highest-paid athlete over the past year, Forbes reported on in its annual sporting rich list, and India cricket captain Virat Kohli was the sole Indian to feature on the list, ranked 100th on the table.
- According to the Forbes 2019 list, Virat Kohli is estimated to earn \$21m from endorsements and \$4m from salary and winnings, taking his total tally to \$25m for the last 12 months.
- Notably, Virat Kohli was ranked 83rd on last year's list and has moved down to the 100th spot despite an increase of \$1m in endorsements.
- Messi has dethroned retired boxer Floyd Mayweather as the sports world's highest earner, raking in \$127 million via salary and endorsement deals.
- Athletes from across 25 countries made it to the list this year, an increase from 22 in 2018.

FIFA Rankings: India remains at 101, Belgium on top

- India remains unmoved at 101 position, after FIFA, the apex body of football, released the latest team rankings.
- India was not able to improve their rank as they remained at the same spot and their points too were unchanged from the previous standings of 1219 points.

- Interestingly, the top four teams were unmoved, FIFA World Cup 2018 winner France stayed in the second position.
- While Brazil and England were also able to hold their third and fourth position respectively.

Others

Marcus Trescothick announces retirement from professional cricket

- Marcus Trescothick, the prolific England and Somerset opener, has announced that he will retire from professional cricket at the end of the current English domestic season. He amassed 5825 Test and 4335 ODI runs.

Milan-Cortina to host 2026 Winter Olympics

- Milan-Cortina has won the right to host the 2026 Winter Olympics after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach announced the decision.
- The announcement marks the Winter Olympics' return to Europe, with the event having been hosted by Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018 and the Chinese city of Beijing staging the Games in 2022.
- Italy has twice hosted Winter Olympics in the past -- Cortina in 1956 and Turin in 2006 -- but it will be the first held in Milan.

Provisional ban on India hosting Olympic-related sporting events lifted by IOC

- The IOC had decided to "suspend all discussions" with India regarding hosting of global sporting events after Pakistani shooters were not issued visas for the World Cup held in Delhi in February this year.
- Indian government gave a written guarantee to the Indian Olympic Association, that all eligible athletes will be allowed to participate in events held in the country following which the restrictions were lifted

Annu Rani Cliches Bronze at 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics Meet

- Asian silver medallist Annu Rani, who has been steady in the 60m range this season, won the women's javelin bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, an IAAF World Challenge event.
- Croatia's Sara Kolak, the Olympic champion who has a personal best of 68.43m, took the gold while Slovenia's Martina Ratej bagged the silver.

India's Pranati Nayak clinches bronze at Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships

- Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak clinched a bronze medal in vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- China's Yu Linmin (14.350) and Japan's Ayaka Sakaguchi (13.584) won the gold and silver medal at the event.

Gold for Chitra and Sreeshankar, Johnson wins silver in Folksam Grand Prix

- Asian champion P.U. Chitra beat former Commonwealth Games champion Kenya's Mercy Cherono and won the women's 1500m gold at the Folksam Grand Prix in Sollentuna, Sweden.
- Asian Games gold medallist Jinson Johnson won the silver in the men's 1500m as he finished behind Sweden's Andreas Almgren.

Sarin wins blitz event at Asian Continental Chess Championship

- India's 14-year old Grand Master Nihal Sarin won the blitz event in the Asian Continental Chess Championship at Xingtai, China. Sarin scored eight points from nine rounds and finished a point ahead of the field.

Liverpool beat Tottenham Hotspur to win Champions League trophy

- In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time.
- This has been evident in the Champions League over the past decade. Eight of the past 10 titles have been won by either Spain's FC Barcelona and Real Madrid or Germany's Bayern Munich.

Sidharth Rawat wins maiden ITF men's Futures singles title

- Third seed Sidharth Rawat outplayed Rio Noguchi of Japan 7-5, 6-0 to clinch his maiden title in the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament
- With the ATP points being restored for events of this level, the 26-year-old Delhi lad will be able to improve his current rank of 510. He had a career-best rank of 430

Andy Ruiz Jr. becomes the heavyweight world champion

- Andy Ruiz Jr. became the first Mexican-American heavyweight world champion after a stunning upset victory over British boxer Anthony Joshua.
- Ruiz, 29, won via a seventh round technical knockout at Madison Square Garden in New York. Ruiz knocked Joshua down twice in the third round and two more times in the seventh round

Rakesh Kumar Patra finishes seventh in Parellel Bars final at FIG World Cup

- Indian gymnast Rakesh Kumar Patra finished seventh in the finals of Parallel Bars at the FIG World Cup in Koper, Slovenia. In the final field of eight gymnasts, Patra finished second last with a score of 13.650.
- Frank Baines of Great Britain clinched the top spot, while Kazakhstan's Milad Karimi settled for the second place and Ilias Georgiou of Cyprus was third.

Danilo Petrucci Wins Stunning Italian Moto GP

- Ducati's Danilo Petrucci fought off a stiff challenge from Marc Marquez to win the Italian Grand Prix, his first ever MotoGP victory. Petrucci's win comes a day after he recorded the highest speed in MotoGP history. Petrucci, an Italian riding for local team Ducati.
- Five-time MotoGP champion Marquez on a Honda briefly took the lead in the last lap but Petrucci recaptured first place and won.

French Open 2019

- In French Open 2019, Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem to claim the singles title at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France on June 9, 2019.
- With this victory, he has become the first tennis player to win the French Open single event record 12 times.

- In women's single, Australia's Ashleigh Barty claimed her maiden grand slam title and also became the first Australian woman to win the French Open in 46 years, after Margaret Court (1973).

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal	Dominic Thiem
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty	Markéta Vondroušová
Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies	Fabrice Martin and Jeremy Chardy
Women's Doubles	Duan Yingying and Zheng Saisai	Tímea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic
Mixed Doubles	Latisha Chan and Ivan Dodig	Gabriela Dabrowski and Mate Pavić

Hamilton wins 7th Canadian GP

- Lewis Hamilton secured a record-breaking seventh win at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix after Sebastian Vettel was penalised for dangerous driving.
- During the race, both Vettel and Hamilton were engaged in a head-to-head battle when the former ran across the grass accidentally. Ferrari will appeal against the decision over the five-second penalty given to Vettel which costed him the race.

Portugal wins UEFA Nations League

- Portugal claimed their second trophy in three years by beating the Netherlands to win the inaugural Nations League.
- Portugal are the first European nation to host and win a final of a major competition since France beat Brazil 3-0 in the final of the 1998 World Cup.
- Goncalo Guedes has been directly involved in five goals in his last eight appearances for Portugal (three goals and two assists).
- England finished third in the tournament after a victory on penalties over Switzerland in Guimaraes.

Sourav Kothari wins Pacific International Snooker C'ship

- World billiards champion Sourav Kothari lifted the 2019 Pacific International Snooker Championship - The Reventon Classic, in Melbourne.
- In a best of nine frames, Kothari got the better of Tyson Crinis of Australia to bag the crown.

IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics

- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) has rebranded itself as World Athletics and revealed a new logo to reflect its name change.
- The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was initially founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation
- The new brand identity will begin its rollout in October after the world championships in Doha and following congress' approval of the change to the federation's legal name.
- The new logo features the 'W' of 'world', which is meant to represent the symbol of an athlete's arms raised in victory. The logo also incorporates the 'A' of 'athletics', which seeks to represent an athlete's

focus as they prepare for the road; and an arc over the 'W' and 'A' to represent the athletics community coming together.

NBA Finals: Toronto Raptors beat Golden State Warriors to win first title

- The Toronto Raptors beat defending champions the Golden State Warriors 114-110 to win their first NBA title.
- Kawhi Leonard was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, averaging 28.5 points, as the Raptors won the best-of-seven series 4-2.

Australia and Qatar to participate in Copa America 2020

- The South American Football Federation, CONMEBOL has invited Australia and Qatar to participate as guest teams in 2020 Copa America. Qatar and Australia will join 10 South American nations in the 2020 tournament.
- For the first time, the event will be held jointly in two countries, Colombia and Argentina.
- The 2019 Copa America football championship is being held in Brazil.

Peter Gilchrist lifted Pacific International Billiards Championship title

- Peter Gilchrist of Singapore defeated India's Sourav Kothari (Kolkata) to win the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia.
- Sourav Kothari defeated Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 1134-944 in 2018 WBL World Billiards Championship title.

Indian men's recurve team bags Silver Medal in Archery World Championships

- The Indian men's recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in The Netherlands.
- Indian trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin lost to Chinese team of Ding Yiliang, Wei Shaoxuan and Feng Hao 6-2 in the summit clash.
- India thus ended their campaign with one silver and two bronze medals won in the women's compound team and individual events. This was India's sixth silver at the World Championships where the country is yet to win a gold medal.

Senior National Squash Championship: Joshna Chinappa wins record 17th title, Mahesh Mangaoker clinches men's crown

- Joshna Chinappa won the national squash title for a record 17th time after she outplayed her Tamil Nadu rival Sunayna Kuruvilla in the 76th Senior National Squash Championship in Pune.
- Chinappa set a new standard by winning the national squash title for the 17th time to the break a long-standing milestone set by Bhuvneshwari Kumari, the 16-time national champion, whose record stood for 27 years.
- In the men's category, top seed Mahesh Mangaonkar lived up to his billing to emerge as the winner. In the final, Mangaonkar outplayed second-seeded Abhishek Pradhan in an all Maharashtra battle.

World Archery Championships

- The 50th edition of World Archery Championships, 2019 also known as Hyundai World Archery Championships held from June 10,2019 to June 16,2019 in 'S-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.
- Raj Kaur ,Muskan Kirar Jyothi Surekha Vennam won Bronze medal in Women's Compound mixed team event.
- Jyothi Surekha Vennam won Bronze medal in Women's Compound individual event
- Atanu Das ,Pravin Ramesh Jadhav,Tarundeep Rai won silver medal in Recurve men's team.
- South Korea topped the medal tally with 3 gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze. Chinese Taipei came second with 3Gold,1 Bronze.
- India won three medals,1 silver and 2 bronze.

Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic continue as World No. 1 in latest WTA, ATP rankings

- Japan's Naomi Osaka and Novak Djokovic of Serbia continue as World Number ones in the latest WTA and ATP rankings
- The rankings were announced ahead of Wimbledon which is just two weeks away. Naomi Osaka is just 252 points ahead of world No.2 Ashleigh Barty of Australia in unchanged top 20 WTA rankings
- Novak Djokovic leads the men's ATP tennis rankings

India beat South Africa 5-1 to win FIH Series Finals

- India defeated South Africa 5-1 in the summit clash to win the FIH Series Finals hockey tournament at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar
- Earlier a match was held between Japan and USA for the third and fourth positions. Japan defeated USA by a margin of 4-2 goals.
- The top two finishers of this tournament make it to the final round of the Olympic qualifiers to be held later this year

Gary Woodland wins 119th US Open, his first major title

- American Gary Woodland won the 2019 United States Open Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links in California
- This is Woodland's fourth PGA Tour victory and his first major.

Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins FIH Series Finals, Beats Japan

- An impressive Indian women's hockey team won the FIH Women's Series Finals Hiroshima 2019 after defeating hosts Japan 3-1 in the Final held at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium.
- The World No.9 Indian team had already qualified for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers 2019 after securing a place in the final of the competition.

Federer Win 10th Halle Title

- Roger Federer made history in Halle, defeating David Goffin to win a record 10th NOVENTI OPEN title.
- It is the first time that Federer has earned 10 crowns at one tournament, joining Rafael Nadal as the only men in the Open Era to accomplish the feat.

Lewis Hamilton wins French Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton stretched his F1 World Championship lead with a dominant and masterful victory over Valtteri Bottas at the French GP for his fourth win in a row, while Daniel Ricciardo was stripped of points after finishing in seventh. Charles Leclerc was at the third position in the Grand Prix

Lopez Beats Simon For Queen's Club Title

- Feliciano Lopez became the first wildcard to win the Queen's singles title since Pete Sampras in 1999 by beating fellow veteran Gilles Simon. Lopez won the 2017 title

Indian women's hockey team defeats Japan in FIH Seriesfinal

- Indian women's hockey team won the FIH Women's Series Finals after defeating hosts Japan 3-1 in the Final held at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium
- The Indian women's team has already secured its place in the final round of the 2020 Olympics qualifiers after entering the final of this tournament

Australia's Ashleigh Barty becomes world's number one female tennis player

- Australian tennis player Ashleigh Barty has clinched the top spot in the world tennis rankings after beating Germany's Julia Gorges 6-3, 7-5, in the final of the Nature Valley Classic in Birmingham.
- She becomes the second Australian woman to achieve No. 1 following Evonne Goolagong Cawley on April 26, 1976 and the 27th woman overall

International Olympic Committee opens new headquarters in Switzerland

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.
- The new headquarters costs 145 million US Dollars
- IOC President Thomas Bach has inaugurated the building

IOC strips world boxing body AIBA of Olympic status

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped Olympic status from the troubled world boxing body AIBA.
- IOC will now organize qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games.
- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) is the first federation to have been stripped of its right to organise its own sport at an Olympics.

Sofia Kenin beats Belinda Bencic to claim Mallorca Open title

- American 20-year-old Sofia Kenin saved three match points on her way to beating third seed Belinda Bencic in the Mallorca Open grass court final.
- This was her second WTA (Women's Tennis Association) singles title of the season.
- She claimed her first WTA singles title in the Australian Open 2019 held at Hobart, Australia in January, 2019.

Girish Koushik becomes India's 63rd Grandmaster

- Girish A. Koushik, the 22-year-old from Mysuru became India's 63rd Grandmaster at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.
- Girish had completed his second GM norm in Mallorca late in May, and the third in Budapest the following week. Only 11 Elo rating points separated him from the figure of 2500 (live), and he duly crossed the line in Balatonlelle.

Important Obituaries

Person	Field
B.M. Khaitan	Veteran industrialist
Jose Antonio Reyes	Spanish footballer
Ruma Guha Thakurta	Actor-singer
Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra (Jiggs Kalra)	Celebrated chef and culinary revivalist ('Czar of Indian Cuisine')
Dinyar Contractor	Veteran Bollywood actor
Lennart Johansson	Former UEFA president
Prakash Pant	Uttarakhand finance minister
Malcolm John Rebennack Jr	Grammy award winning singer and songwriter
Girish Karnad	Noted actor and dramatist
R.V. Janakiraman	Former Puducherry Chief Minister
Crazy Mohan	Actor Comedian
Pazhavila Ramesan	Poet and lyricist
Lee Hee-ho	Former S. Korean first lady and feminist
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Franco Zeffirelli	Legendary Italian filmmaker
Mohamed Morsi	Egypt's former President
N. Lingappa	Veteran athletics coach and Dronacharya awardee
Lalrinchhana	Former Mizoram minister and MNF leader
Madan Lal Saini	Rajasthan BJP Chief
Mohan Ranade	Goa Freedom fighter
Swami Satyamitranand Giri Maharaj	head of Bharat Mata Mandir
Vijaya Nirmala	Veteran actor - director
Jharna Dhara Chowdhury	Eminent social activist
Shyam Sundar Mitra	Former Bengal's Ranji Cricket Captain
Mohammed Baji	Eminent freedom fighter