

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Landmark US-Russia arms control treaty is dead**

The United States and Russia both have walked away from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty putting an end to a landmark arms control treaty that President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed three decades ago.

**India tells US, any discussion on Kashmir has to be only bilateral with Pakistan**

India has told the U.S. in clear terms that any discussion on Kashmir, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made this clear to his American counterpart Mike Pompeo in Bangkok.

**Sudan's military, protest leaders sign constitutional declaration**

Sudan's ruling generals and protest leaders have signed a constitutional declaration that paves the way for a transition to civilian rule.

**China objects to Ladakh's formation as UT; India says do not comment on 'internal affairs'**

China objected to the formation of Ladakh as Union Territory by India, saying it undermined its territorial sovereignty, evoking a sharp reaction from India, which asked China to refrain from commenting on its "internal affairs".

**Pakistan expels Indian envoy, suspends bilateral trade**

Pakistan expelled the Indian High Commissioner and suspended bilateral trade in response to New Delhi's decision to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Ajay Bisaria is India's High Commissioner in Islamabad.

**Afghan President rejects foreign interference as peace talks underway**

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has rejected foreign interference as the United States and the Taliban appear to be closing in on a peace deal without the Afghan government at the table.

**Trump tightens migration rules for those on public aid**

The Trump administration issued a rule that would disqualify legal immigrants from permanent residency if they use certain public-assistance programs including food stamps, Medicaid and housing vouchers..

**US-Taliban talks end without deal, both sides to consult**

The latest round of talks between the Taliban and the United States has ended without any signs of reaching a peace deal for Afghanistan, as both sides said they would consult their leaderships on the next steps.

**Sudan protest leaders, military sign transitional government deal**

Sudan's main opposition coalition and the ruling military council have formally signed a final power-sharing deal, paving the way for a transition to a civilian-led government.

**U.K. to end EU free movement after Brexit**

Britain said that it will immediately end freedom of movement for people from the European Union after Brexit on October 31, 2019 in a policy shift under Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

**Italian PM Giuseppe Conte resigns**

Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has announced his resignation after his own Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, a rising force from Europe's insurgent far-right, withdrew his support to the government.

**Kosovo lawmakers vote to dissolve parliament, paving way for parliamentary election**

Kosovo lawmakers voted to dissolve parliament, paving the way for a parliamentary election after Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj resigned last month.

**No Rohingyas in Bangladesh turn up for return to Myanmar**

The process of return of Rohingyas to Myanmar remained stalled for the second time as no Rohingya refugee turned up for repatriation at Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district.

**Hong Kong students announce two-week boycott of new session to continue protests**

Hong Kong student leaders have announced a two-week boycott of lectures from the upcoming start of the new session as they seek to keep protesters on the streets and pressure on the government.

**Sri Lanka ends 4-month long state of emergency**

Sri Lanka has ended the four-month-long state of emergency imposed in the country following the Easter Sunday attacks that claimed 258 lives.

**UNSC criticises China, Pakistan for persecution of religious minorities**

A UN Security Council meet has criticized China and Pakistan for persecution of their religious minorities. Western powers such as the US, Canada, France and UK criticized China and Pakistan for the oppression faced by Christians, Ahmadis, Uighurs and other ethnic minorities.

**Pakistan blacklisted by Asia-Pacific Group of FATF for its failure to comply with terror funding standards**

The Asia-Pacific Group of the global watchdog for terror financing and money laundering has put Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to meet its standards.

**DR Congo announces new govt**

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has announced a new coalition government, seven months after the inauguration of President Felix Tshisekedi.

**G7 to finance fire-fighting aircraft for Amazon**

G7 nations has agreed to spend 22 million US Dollars to tackle the huge forest fires engulfing the world's biggest Amazon rain-forest. This was stated by Presidents of France and Chile at the G7 summit in French town of Biarritz.

**PM Modi reiterates, any discussion with Pakistan will be bilateral**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir, saying the two countries can discuss and resolve all issues bilaterally.

**Sudan urges UNSC to withdraw all peacekeepers by June 2020**

Sudan urged United Nations Security Council(UNSC) to lift its suspension of troop withdrawals and ensure all peace keepers leave Darfur by June 2020.

### **Brazil rejects aid from G-7 countries to fight Amazon forest fires**

Brazil's government has said it will reject an offer of aid worth millions of dollars from G7 countries to help fight raging fires in the Amazon rainforest, claiming it has the blazes under control.

### **Britain's Queen Elizabeth approves PM's plan to suspend parliament**

Britain's Queen Elizabeth has approved Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan to suspend parliament. Earlier in the day, the British Government proposed the Queen to suspend Parliament just days after it returns from summer recess next week and only weeks before the Brexit deadline.

### **Italy's M5S seals deal with PD for new coalition**

Italy's anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the centre-left Democratic Party clinched a deal to form a new government and stave off elections in the eurozone's third largest economy.

Five Star (M5S) said the coalition would be led by outgoing prime minister Giuseppe Conte, who had resigned following the collapse of the populist government earlier this month.

### **US to keep 8,600 troops in Afghanistan after deal with Taliban: Prez Trump**

US President Donald Trump has said that the America will keep a permanent presence in Afghanistan, with 8,600 troops initially, even after a deal is reached with the Taliban. As there are currently around 14,000 US troops in the country.

## **NATIONAL**

### **OBC sub-categorisation panel gets extension for 6 more months**

A commission appointed in 2017 with the task of examining the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) was given yet another extension of six months by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **Bill against triple talaq becomes law**

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Triple Talaq Bill that makes giving instant oral triple talaq or talaq-e-biddat a criminal offense with provisions of jail term up to three years.

The triple talaq law or the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights On Marriage) Act, 2019, has come into effect retrospectively from September 19, 2018.

### **Lok Sabha passes bill seeking death for rape of minors**

The Lok Sabha has unanimously passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children.

### **One Nation-one Ration Card scheme implemented on pilot basis in four States**

In a major boost to national food security government, the One Nation-One Ration Card scheme was launched on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

### **IPS Officer Rakesh Asthana Takes Charge as DG of Narcotics Control Bureau**

IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been given the additional charge of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). He is already serving as the DG of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

### **India's large cities staring at water crisis: Water Stress Index**

The sub-national Water Stress Index, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, lists India as the 46th highest risk country in the world.

It also added that 11 of India's 20 largest cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress and seven are in the 'high risk' category.

### **SC orders day-to-day hearing of Ayodhya land dispute case from August 6**

The Supreme Court of India has ordered day-to-day hearing of the long-standing land dispute at Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya from August 6 after all the four attempts to amicably settle the issue failed to yield the result.

### **UGC issues list of institutions recommended for status of IoE by govt**

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a list of 20 institutes - 10 public and 10 private for the grant of the status of Institutions of Eminence (IoE). These institutions which are given IoE status from public category includes, Delhi University, BHU, Hyderabad University and IIT Madras and Kharagpur.

### **Parliament passes Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, (Amendment) Bill - 2019**

Parliament has passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, AERA (Amendment) Bill- 2019. The bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over 35 lakh passengers.

### **NIA (Amendment) Act comes into force with issuance of notification**

National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019 has come into force after the notification issued by the Union Home Ministry in this regard.

The act aims at enhancing the jurisdiction of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India targeting Indians as well as Indian assets abroad.

### **Giving voice sample to police does not violate privacy, rules top court**

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court of India held that a judicial magistrate is empowered to order a person to give a sample of his voice for the purpose of investigation.

### **ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) laid foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka to protect Indian satellites from space debris.

### **Elephant population in country estimated at 29,964 as per 2017 census**

Elephant population in the country is estimated at 29,964 as per the census conducted in 2017. The South Region accounted for 14,612 followed by North East with 10,139 elephants.

The tiger population across the country is estimated at 2,967 as per the 2018 census.

### **India test-fires Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile**

The Defence Research Development Organisation successfully test-fired the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur.

### **J&K loses its special status, divided into two UTs**

The Union government has announced the repealing of Article 370 which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolutions in this regard were adopted by the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill seeks to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with the legislature and Ladakh Union Territory without legislature.

### **Gogoi-led Bench to hear Ayodhya case**

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will commence hearing on Ayodhya appeals from August 6 on a day-to-day basis.

### **Bill to increase number of SC judges passed in Lok Sabha**

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha that proposes an increase in the number of judges in Supreme Court from 30 to 33 excluding the Chief Justice of India.

### **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill passed in Lok Sabha**

Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. This Bill prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare, access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.

### **Lok Sabha passes bill to ban commercial surrogacy**

Lok Sabha has passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 that prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy. The purpose of the Bill is to ensure effective regulation of surrogacy and to prevent exploitation of surrogate mothers and children born out of surrogacy.

### **Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day**

National Academy of Art, Lalit Kala Akademi, celebrated its 65th Foundation Day in New Delhi.

### **Parliament passes Consumer Protection Bill**

Parliament has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019. The bill aims at protecting the interests of consumers by establishing authorities for timely and effective administration and settlement of consumers' dispute.

### **Parliament passes Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill**

Parliament has adopted the resolution revoking the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution, with Lok Sabha approving it.

### **Chandrayaan-2 successfully completes its final earth-bound orbit-raising manoeuvre**

India's lunar probe Chandrayaan-2 has successfully completed its fifth and final earth-bound orbit-raising manoeuvre.

### **President declares abrogation of provisions of Article 370**

President Ram Nath Kovind has declared abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Nation observes 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quit India movement**

The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on August 8.

### **India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources**

India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.

### **Manipur tops in Breastfeeding, Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices**

According to the report Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.

### **Centre starts registration for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana**

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare initiated the process of registration for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY).

Under the scheme a monthly pension of 3,000 rupees will be provided to the eligible farmers with up to two acres of land-holding on attaining the age of 60 years.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave held in Manesar**

The Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Arjun Ram Meghwal, inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Gurugram,

### **Chandrima Shaha first woman set to head science academy INSA**

Chandrima Shaha is set to be the 1st woman president of the Indian National Science Academy.

### **Govt approves extension of CCL benefits to single male service personnel**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the extension of Child Care Leave (CCL) benefits to single male service personnel and certain relaxations of it in case of women officers in defence forces.

### **President gives assent to Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act**

President has approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The act aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system.

### **'One Nation, One Ration Card': Inter-state portability across India by June 2020**

"One Nation One Ration Card" scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020.

### **UP plants more than 22 crore saplings; creates world record**

Uttar Pradesh's "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh" drive has created world record after planting more than 22 crore saplings.

### **ROTAVAC Vaccine to be expand to entire country**

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to expand Rotavirus vaccine to the entire country by September 2019. It will provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states/UTs by September 2019.

### **India cancels Samjhauta Express train after Pakistan suspends operations on its side**

Indian Railways has cancelled Samjhauta Express train after Pakistan suspended operations on its side. According to Northern Railway, Pakistan has cancelled the Samjhauta Express running between Lahore and Attari.

### **BCI imposes 3-year moratorium on opening of new law colleges**

The Bar Council of India has imposed a three-year moratorium on the opening of new institutions barring national law universities if proposed by a state.

### **Amit Shah releases book on Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office**

Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading" chronicling the two years in office by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.

### **Reliance Jio Fiber to be commercially launched next month, plans start ₹700/mn**

Reliance Industries has unveiled its much awaited wired broadband service Jio GigaFiber starting at ₹700 a month going up to ₹10,000 a month depending on the usage plans.

### **Penguin Random House India announces a book on the life of cinema legend Sridevi, titled "Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar"**

On cinema legend Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary, Penguin Random House India have announced a book on the life of the actor. The book, titled "Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar", is written by author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak and approved by the actor's producer husband Boney Kapoor.

### **V.G Somani appointed as new DCGI of CDSCO**

The Union government has appointed VG Somani as Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

### **India celebrates 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day on August 15, 2019**

India celebrated its 73rd Independence Day on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

### **PM Modi announces post of Chief of Defence Staff, to be above three service chiefs**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a new post of Chief of Defence Staff(CDS), who would be above the three service chiefs, namely Chief of the Army, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chief of the Air Staff.

### **Inter-State Council reconstituted with PM Modi as chairman**

The Inter-State Council, which is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.

### **National tribal festival begins in Leh-Ladakh**

In a bid to give a fillip to the tribal economy in Leh-Ladakh, the national tribal festival "Aadi Mahotsav" was inaugurated.

The nine-day Aadi Mahotsav, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

### **India gets its first national essential diagnostics list**

India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD).

The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices.

### **Chhattisgarh increases SC, OBC quota in state jobs and education**

The Congress-led Chhattisgarh government has announced that it will increase reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other backward Classes (OBC) in education and jobs.

### **Kerala's Tirur betel and Mizoram's Puanchei, Tawhlohpuan get GI tag**

Tawhlohpuan & Mizo Puanchei from Mizoram, and Tirur betel vine from Kerala has received the Geographical Indication tag.

### **Govt directs all CAPFs to adopt uniform retirement age of 60 years**

All personnel working in the Central Armed Police Forces, CAPFs will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years.

### **Railways directed all its units to enforce ban on single use plastic from October 2**

Ministry of Railways has directed all its units to enforce ban on single use plastic material, with less than 50 micron thickness from October 2nd this year.

### **Govt to make FASTag mandatory for all vehicles from Dec 2019**

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December this year.

### **Government launches programme to train teachers**

The Human Resource Development Ministry kicked off the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTA), calling it the world's largest teacher training programme.

### **India-U.S. 2+2 meeting being held in California**

Indian and U.S. officials have gathered in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California, for the 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue.

### **SC refers Oxytocin ban to larger bench**

The Supreme Court of India has referred to a larger Bench the issue of banning manufacture of life-saving drug Oxytocin by private companies. The drug is used to induce labour in pregnant women and stall postpartum bleeding, a leading cause of maternal deaths.

### **Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as the new home secretary**

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, currently serving as an officer on special duty in the home ministry, was appointed as the new Union home secretary.

### **13 States, UTs improve their water management practices**

According to the second-edition of Niti Aayog's Comprehensive Water Management Index (CWMI) 2019, of the 25 states and two union territories, assessed in the CWMI, 80 per cent have improved their water management scores, with an average improvement of more than 5.2 points.

But, 16 states still score less than 50 points on the index (out of 100) and fall in the low-performing category.

The low-performing states, which include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Delhi, Rajasthan, Nagaland and Meghalaya, collectively account for around 48 per cent of the population.

Gujarat topped the rankings for the second year in a row.

### **U.S. Coast Guard ship holds drill off Chennai**

The Indian Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard cutter ship *Stratton* held a joint exercise at the Chennai coast, during the latter's maiden visit to India.

### **Book: "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story" by Mihir Dalal**

A new book recounting the story of how Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal (both-former founders of Flipkart) built e-commerce giant Flipkart. This book is written by Mihir Dalal. The book is titled as "Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story".

### **Government and IIT-Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies**

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has partnered with Denmark-based firm to start DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste-to-Wealth at IIT-Delhi

### **President of India inaugurates first ever World Youth Conference for Kindness**

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first-ever World Youth Conference on Kindness organized by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi.

### **No new engines for Jaguars, phase-out starts in 2023**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has called off the long-pending plan to give new engines to the Jaguar fighter fleet because of time and cost concerns.

The phase-out plan will start in 2023 for the earliest variants and will be spread over 15 years till 2038.

### **India registers over 80% decline in new HIV cases**

The Union government has said that there has been more than 80 per cent decline in new HIV infection cases in the country since its peak in 1995. The global average of decline in new infection is estimated at 47 per cent.

### **PM Modi announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition.

### **IET's IoT India Congress Concludes its 4th Edition**

The fourth edition of India's largest confluence of digital-technology stakeholders, the IoT India Congress 2019 concluded its two-day event in Bangalore.

This year's theme was 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.

### **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal top India's child well-being index**

As per a report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry have topped the charts in the child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and tracks children's well-being comprehensively.

### **SC refers all petitions on Article 370 to 5-judge Constitution Bench**

The Supreme Court of India has referred to a five-judge Bench petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

### **Govt notifies 63 provisions of Motor Vehicles Act; implementation from Sep 1**

The Union government has notified 63 provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 including the ones dealing with enhanced penalties for various traffic offences. The new clauses will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> of next month. The 63 clauses deal with penalties, licences, registration and National Transport Policy among others.

### **India Launches World's First Ever Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document**

India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers.

### **Govt to set up 75 new medical colleges in next three years**

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of 75 new Medical Colleges by 2021-22. The move will add 15,700 more MBBS seats in the country.

### **Centre releases ₹47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation**

The Union Environment Ministry has transferred ₹47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation. These are long-pending dues part of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF), a ₹54,000 crore tranche that has been collected for nearly a decade as environmental compensation from industry, which has razed forest land for its business plans.

### **Collegium nod for four new judges in SC**

The Supreme Court Collegium have recommended four high court judges for appointment to the apex court.

The Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has recommended the Chief Justices of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala High Courts, V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, respectively, as apex court judges.

### **Dindigul lock, Kandangi saree get GI tag**

The Dindigul lock and the Kandangi saree were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.

The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, so much so that even the city is called Lock City.

The Kandangi saree, which is manufactured in Karaikudi taluk in Sivaganga district is manually made using a winding machine, loom, shuttle and bobbin.

### **Air India to ban single-use plastic**

Air India announced that the usage of single-use plastic on the flights of its subsidiaries Air India Express and Alliance Air will stop from October 2, on the day of Gandhi Jayanti.

### **Rajiv Gauba appointed new Cabinet Secretary**

Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba will be the new Cabinet Secretary.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr Gauba as the Cabinet Secretary with a tenure of two years from 30<sup>th</sup> of this month.

### **Ajay Kumar appointed as Defence Secretary**

The Union government has appointed Ajay Kumar as Defence Secretary.

### **17 August: Parsi New Year Navroz celebrated**

Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz, is celebrated every year on August 17 to mark the beginning of the new Iranian calendar.

### **Amazon opens its largest office building globally in Hyderabad**

E-commerce giant Amazon formally opened its largest campus building anywhere globally in Hyderabad, a facility spread over 9.5 acres and comprising three million square feet of built up area.

### **Gujarat's Statue of Unity, Soho House in Mumbai feature in Time's list of world's greatest places**

The Statue of Unity in Gujarat and Soho House in Mumbai were featured in Time magazine's second annual list of the world's greatest places this year.

### **In Bahrain, PM Modi Launches \$4.2 Million Project At 200-Year-Old Temple**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the USD 4.2 million redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Lord Sri Krishna temple in the Bahraini capital. PM Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the key Gulf nation.

## BANKING & ECONOMY

### Cabinet nod for revised Chit Funds Bill

The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019, in Parliament, to reduce the compliance burden of the registered chit funds in the country while also protecting the interest of the subscribers.

### US Federal Reserve cuts benchmark lending rate

The US Federal Reserve cut interest rates for the first time since 2008, citing concerns about the global economy and muted U.S. inflation, and signaled a readiness to lower borrowing costs further if needed.

### Postal dept decides to convert India Post Payments Bank to a SFB

The postal department said it has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers. Besides, the department looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

### Fiscal deficit touches 61.4% of estimate

As per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the Union government's fiscal deficit touched ₹4.32 lakh crore for the June quarter, which is 61.4% of the Budget Estimate for 2019-20 fiscal.

### Eight core sectors growth drops to 0.2% in June

Growth of eight core industries dropped to 0.2 per cent in June mainly due to a contraction in oil-related sectors as well as in cement production. The eight core sectors- had expanded by 7.8 per cent in June last year.

### Oppenheimer buys 11% stake in ZEEL

Media baron Subhash Chandra's Essel Group has sealed a deal with private equity fund Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund, which will pick up 11% stake in Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) for ₹4,224 crore.

### Trump slaps 10 percent tariff on \$300B more in Chinese goods

The U.S. will impose an additional 10 percent tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese imports starting next month.

### Crisil cuts FY20 GDP growth forecast to 6.9% from 7.1%

Ratings agency Crisil has cut its forecast for India's GDP growth in 2019-20 to 6.9% from its earlier forecast of 7.1%, citing weak monsoon, slow global growth and poor high-frequency data for the first quarter of the financial year.

### Nifty below 11,000 first time since Mar.

A day after the U.S. Federal Reserve reduced interest rate for the first time since 2008, global equity markets, including India, lost heavy ground.

The Indian benchmarks lost more than 1% with the 50-share Nifty falling below the psychological 11,000-mark for the first time since March.

### GST revenue touches ₹1.02 lakh crore in July

GST revenue crossed the one-lakh crore mark once again in July, coming in at ₹1,02,083 crore. The total gross GST revenue collected in the month of July 2019 is ₹1,02,083 crore, of which CGST is ₹17,912 crore, SGST is ₹25,008 crore, IGST is ₹50,612 crore and cess is ₹8,551 crore.

### Bharti Airtel logs first quarterly loss in 14 years

Bharti Airtel Ltd has posted its first quarterly loss in 14 years amid a brutal price war unleashed by Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd that has ravaged its rivals and reshaped India's telecom market.

Bharti Airtel swung to a ₹2,866 crore loss in the quarter ended 30 June from a net profit of ₹97 crore in the year earlier as finance costs rose and it incurred a one-time loss of ₹1,445 crore.

### KABIL Set up to Ensure Supply of Critical Minerals

A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) is to be set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL) to ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian domestic market.

### Elected directors in PSBs will be appointed by board: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that the elected directors of public sector banks (PSBs) are to be appointed by the nomination and remuneration committee of the board of the respective banks.

The RBI has come out with guidelines on 'fit and proper' criteria of elected directors in PSBs.

### RBI penalises eight banks for violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty ranging between Rs 1-2 crore on eight public sector banks for violating norms on fraud classification, bill discounting and monitoring of end use of funds.

### China is no longer the top trading partner of US, reveals official data

As a result of their ongoing trade tussle, China is no longer the top trading partner of the United States and has been replaced by America's neighbours Mexico and Canada.

### European Union picks World Bank's Kristalina Georgieva to lead IMF

European Union governments picked Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva as the bloc's candidate to lead the International Monetary Fund.

### RBI tightens fit-and-proper criteria for directors on PSB boards

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened fit-and-proper criteria for directors on boards of state-run Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

Purpose of directions is to determine 'fit and proper' status of person to be eligible to be elected as a director on PSBs. It has for the first time, laid down exhaustive list for the disqualification of directors. The revised norms are applicable only to PSBs and RBI in future may issue separate guidelines for private banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFcs).

### Mindtree appoints Cognizant's Debashis Chatterjee as new CEO

IT company Mindtree Ltd appointed Debashis Chatterjee as its new chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD).

### United States designates China a "currency manipulator"

The United States has designated China a "currency manipulator", a move that could escalate the tense trade relations between the two nations.

### Government unveils draft e-com norms

To protect the interest of online shoppers, the Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce.

The draft 'e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019,' also adds that e-commerce firms need to ensure that personally identifiable information of customers is protected.

These guidelines will apply to business-to-consumer e-commerce, including goods and services.

### **Bank Retail loan growth slips to 5-year low in the first half of 2019 at 7.3 %: RBI**

According to the RBI's latest data, banks have disbursed retail loans at the slowest rate in five years in the first half of 2019.

As per RBI's monthly sectoral deployment of credit data, the retail personal credit disbursement growth in the first half of 2019 between January and June was 7.3%.

### **Australian, Canadian pension funds pledge \$2 billion in NIIF**

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIF) has received commitments of about \$2 billion from Australian Super, Australia's largest superannuation and pension fund, and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (Ontario Teachers'), one of Canada's largest single-profession pension plans.

### **Mukesh Ambani's RIL, BP form new retail joint venture to set up 5,500 petrol pump outlets in 5 years**

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has entered into an agreement with British energy giant BP plc to form a new joint venture that will include a retail service station network and aviation fuels business across India.

### **Proposed NSE IFSC-SGX Connect gets regulatory nod**

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Singapore Exchange (SGX) have received a set of approved regulatory dispensations from their statutory regulators, obtaining their support to a joint proposal NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)-SGX Connect that the two exchanges had submitted earlier this year.

### **Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of RBI 2019-20**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2019-20 in Mumbai.

The Reserve Bank of India cut repo rate by 35 basis points to 5.40 per cent.

Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility stands revised to 5.15 per cent, and the marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to 5.65 per cent.

RBI revised the growth forecast to 6.9% for FY20, from 7%

### **RBI announces NEFT facility will be available round-the-clock for customers**

The Reserve Bank of India announced that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) facility will be available round-the-clock for the customers.

### **RBI policy: Lending norms, exposure limits eased for NBFCs**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced two key measures to help stressed non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) raise funds from banks. First, the central bank increased the ceiling for a bank's exposure to a single NBFC to 20% of its Tier I capital from 15% earlier.

Second, it allowed bank lending to NBFCs excluding microfinance institutions for on-lending to certain sectors to be classified as priority sector loans.

### **Income Tax dept relaxes assessment and scrutiny norms for start-ups**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a clarification and directed its officers not to raise additional tax demands for start-ups recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Further, even unregistered companies have been given relief, with the assessing officer being allowed to scrutinize them only after getting permission from his superior officer.

### **No jail for CSR violation: FM Nirmala Sitharaman to business leaders**

The central government has given an assurance that it will not initiate punitive action against companies not following the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms as mentioned in the recent amendments to the Companies Act.

### **Usha Thorat panel suggests liberal currency market for offshore users**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a task force under the former deputy governor Usha Thorat to examine issues related to offshore rupee market and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.

### **President gives his nod to Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2019**

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his nod to the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2019. The bill provides for a time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.

### **Industrial production growth drops to 2% in June**

Industrial production growth dropped to two per cent in June this year, mainly on account of poor show by mining and manufacturing sectors.

### **RBL Bank launches India's first health-focused credit card**

Private sector RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo have partnered to launch an industry first co-branded health credit card.

### **Supreme Court upholds amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), giving the status of financial creditors to home buyers.**

The Supreme Court upheld the validity of an amendment to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), giving home buyers the right to take legal recourse against developers under three key laws.

### **EnKash launches corporate credit card for SMEs**

Business-to-business payments start up EnKash launched the country's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

### **US overtakes Germany to become UK's biggest source of imports**

The United States overtook Germany as the biggest supplier of imports into Britain for the first time since the early 2000s in the last financial year.

### **Flipkart partners with NSDC to train 20,000 delivery executives**

Walmart-owned Flipkart has partnered with National Skill Development Corporation's (NSDC) Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC) to train 20,000 of its delivery executives (wishmasters) across the country.

### **Godrej Consumer's Vivek Gambhir highest paid FMCG executive in FY19**

Godrej Consumer Products MD and CEO Vivek Gambhir was the highest paid FMCG executive in the previous fiscal with a total remuneration of Rs 20.09 crore, followed by HUL's Sanjiv Mehta at Rs 18.88 crore.

### **India's corporate profits one of the lowest among major economies**

India's corporate profit to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is one of the lowest among major emerging and developed economies.

The combined net profit of BSE500 companies at \$63 billion is equivalent to 2.31 per cent of the country's GDP against 6.1 cent in the US.

#### **Reliance Jio, Microsoft announce alliance to accelerate digital transformation in India**

Reliance Jio, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, and Microsoft Corp have announced long-term strategic relationship to accelerate digital transformation of the Indian economy and society.

#### **Saudi Aramco to buy 20% stake in India's Reliance Industries**

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has announced a deal with Saudi Aramco.

As per the deal, Saudi Aramco will acquire a 20 per cent stake in Reliance's oil-to-chemicals (OTC) business at an enterprise value of \$75 billion.

#### **J&K govt to host Global Investors Summit in Srinagar from October 12**

Jammu and Kashmir government will host a three-day Global Investors Summit from 12th October this year in Srinagar.

#### **RBI issues final norms for regulatory sandbox**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the final framework for regulatory sandbox in order to enable innovations in the financial technology space.

RBI said the objective of the sandbox was to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers.

#### **Auto sales fall 19% in July, worst in 19 years**

Hit by poor consumer sentiment, the Indian automobile industry saw its monthly sales decline 18.71% last month, the worst ever in nearly 19 years, forcing the industry to resort to job cuts.

#### **Retail inflation falls to 3.15% in July; breaks 5-month rising trend**

According to the union government data, retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), has slipped to 3.15 per cent in the month of July despite higher food prices, breaking a 5-month-long rising streak.

#### **CSR expenditure may be made tax deductible, says committee**

The High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has recommended making CSR expenditure tax deductible and that compliance violations be treated as a civil offence that attracts penalties.

Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas has presented the report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

#### **Fairfax India gets 15 years to lower stake in CSB Bank to 15%**

Prem Watsa's Fairfax India Holdings Corporation, which has 51% stake in CSB Bank (erstwhile Catholic Syrian Bank), will get 15 years to reduce its stake to 15%.

#### **Government Issues Guidelines for Rs 1 Lakh Crore Partial Guarantee Scheme for NBFCs**

India has operationalised a partial guarantee scheme announced in the budget for non-banking and housing finance companies (NBFCs and HFCs), which will allow state-run banks (PSBs) to purchase their assets.

#### **RBI asks banks not to count failed transactions, balance enquiry as 'free ATM transactions'**

The Reserve Bank of India has asked banks not to count failed transactions at ATMs due to technical reasons as part of "free ATM transactions" permitted every month.

#### **July trade deficit narrows to \$13.43 bn**

According to union government data, India's trade deficit narrowed to \$13.43 billion in July 2019, from \$15.28 billion in the previous month.

#### **Govt. asks PSBs to find out reasons for rise in NPAs in last 5 years**

The Union Finance Ministry has initiated a comprehensive consultative process with public sector banks (PSBs) to find out the reasons for the sharp rise in bad loans in the previous five years, apart from outlining national priorities with which these banks have to align themselves.

#### **Denmark's Jyske Bank unveiled world's first negative interest rate home loan**

Jyske Bank, Denmark's third largest, has launched the world's first negative interest rate mortgage – handing out loans to homeowners where the charge is minus 0.5% a year.

#### **ONGC investing Rs 83,000 crore in 25 projects**

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is investing around 83,000 crore rupees on 25 major projects, ONGC Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Mr Shashi Shanker said.

#### **Forex reserves at a new high of \$430.57 bn**

According to the latest RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$1.620 billion to \$430.572 billion in the week to 9 August on rise in foreign currency assets.

#### **Aramco may pay ₹50,000 crore upfront for Reliance unit stake**

Saudi Aramco may pay about ₹50,000 crore (\$7 billion) upfront for buying a 20% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd.'s (RIL's) oil-to-chemicals (O2C) division during closure of the deal.

#### **Recession fears highest since 2011, says BofAML survey**

As per the latest Global Fund Manager Survey by Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML), the quantum of global fund managers who think that there is a likelihood of a recession in the next 12 months, is the highest since 2011.

#### **Government relaxes norms for shares with differential voting rights**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the provisions relating to the issue of shares with Differential Voting Rights (DVRs) provisions under the Companies Act.

The key change brings in an enhancement in the previously existing cap of 26 per cent of the total post-issue paid-up equity share capital to a revised cap of 74 per cent of the total voting power.

#### **Centre plans debt waiver for 'small distressed borrowers' under insolvency law**

The Union government plans to give debt waiver for small distressed borrowers under the insolvency law framework. The proposed waiver would be offered as part of 'Fresh Start' provisions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

#### **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das rules out asset quality review of NBFCs**

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has ruled out ordering an asset quality review of the large NBFCs but he reiterated the regulatory resolve to not let any large NBFC fail.

#### **FM Sitharaman says corporate tax for cos to be cut gradually**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the corporate tax rate for companies with over ₹400 crore turnover will be gradually cut to 25 per cent and the government will support wealth creators.



### **DTC panel submits report**

The Union government-appointed task force set up to formulate a new direct tax code to replace the existing Income Tax Act submitted its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Nirmala Sitharaman received the report submitted by Akhilesh Ranjan, Convenor of the Task force constituted by the Government to draft New Direct Tax Law.

### **Paytm rejigs its top deck, CFO Madhur Deora named President**

Paytm has elevated its CFO and senior vice-president Madhur Deora as president in a newly created role.

### **Gold imports rise 15% during April-July**

According to the Union commerce ministry data, the country's gold imports which have a bearing on the current account deficit (CAD), increased by 15.4 per cent to USD 13.16 billion (about Rs 92,000 crore) during April-July period of the current fiscal.

### **SEBI simplifies norms for foreign investors**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has simplified the compliance and operational requirements for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), to make the regulatory framework more investor friendly.

SEBI decided to do away with the requirement that every FPI should have at least 20 investors — known as broad-based in regulatory parlance.

### **RBI allows e-mandate for cards**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions with additional factor authentication (AFA) during registration.

This will be applicable for transactions done using all types of cards — debit and credit cards and Prepaid Payment Instruments, including wallets. The maximum limit for such a transaction will be ₹2,000.

### **EPFO to restore commutation of pension**

Providing relief to 6.3 lakh pensioners, retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved a proposal to restore commutation of pension, or advance part-withdrawal, under the Employees' Pension Scheme.

### **Only small start-ups with turnover up to ₹25 crore to get tax holiday: CBDT**

The CBDT has clarified that small start-ups with turnover up to ₹25 crore will continue to get the promised tax holiday as specified in Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which provides deduction for 100 per cent of income of an eligible start-up for 3 years out of 7 years from the year of its incorporation.

### **Tax resolution, amnesty scheme announced**

The Union government has announced a new scheme aimed at eliminating the bulk of pending tax dispute cases besides providing partial amnesty to those having tax dues.

The two main components of the scheme are dispute resolution and amnesty.

The amnesty component of the scheme offers taxpayers the opportunity to pay any outstanding tax and be free of any other consequence under the law.

### **IRCTC files draft with SEBI for IPO**

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has filed draft papers with the SEBI for its initial public offering (IPO). As many as two crore equity shares of face value of ₹10 each would be offloaded through an offer for sale by the government.

### **Finance Minister announces measures to revive economic growth**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a slew of measures, including the rollback of enhanced super-rich tax on foreign and domestic equity investors, exemption of start-ups from 'angel tax', a package to address distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of Rs 70,000 crore to public sector banks, in efforts to boost economic growth from a five-year low.

### **IMF report flags several delays in India's data reporting**

According to the IMF's "Annual Observance Report of the Special Data Dissemination Standard for 2018", India failed to comply with multiple requirements prescribed in the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) — a practice mandatory for all IMF members.

### **RBI to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh cr as dividend, surplus reserve to govt**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to transfer 1.76 lakh crore rupees as dividend and surplus reserve to the union government.

### **Google brings Nest Hub to India**

Technology giant Google has launched its first smart display device 'Google Nest Hub' in India with a price tag of ₹9,999.

### **Review capital framework every 5 years**

The Bimal Jalan Committee, set up to review the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) economic capital framework, has suggested that the framework may be periodically reviewed after every five years.

### **Govt permits 100% FDI in coal mining, associated infrastructure**

The Union Cabinet has relaxed Foreign Direct Investment rule for foreign single-brand retailers and also permitted foreign investment in contract manufacturing and coal mining.

Now 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in coal mining and associated infrastructure has been approved.

26 per cent FDI has also been allowed under government route for uploading and streaming of News and Current Affairs through Digital Media.

On FDI in single-brand retailing, the Cabinet has expanded the definition of mandatory 30 per cent domestic sourcing norm.

### **Forex gains, OMOs aid RBI's record surplus**

Large scale open market operations (OMO) conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and higher earnings from foreign exchange operations helped boost the central bank's surplus to record levels in 2018-19.

The RBI posted a surplus of ₹1.23 lakh crore in 2018-19 compared to ₹50,004 crore in 2017-18 and ₹30,663 crore in 2016-17.

### **Irdai sets up single point of contact for regulatory sandbox**

Insurance regulator Irdai has set up a single point contact for its regulatory sandbox (RS) initiative, wherein financial technology firms can seek permission to experiment with innovative approaches for the growth of the sector.

### **Lakshmi Vilas Bank managing director tenders resignation**

Parathasarathi Mukherjee, the MD and CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB), tendered his resignation owing to personal reasons.

**IOCL plans investments of ₹2 lakh crore**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), India's largest refiner, plans to invest ₹2 lakh crore in the next 5-7 years to expand its refining, marketing, petrochemicals and natural gas business.

**Centre defers investor summit**

The Centre has decided to postpone by a month its planned maiden investor summit in Jammu and Kashmir. The meet, originally scheduled for October, had been postponed as arrangements, including those for security for the delegates, could not be made in time.

**Bank frauds rise 74% to ₹71,543 cr**

According to the RBI's latest annual report, the amount involved in bank fraud jumped 73.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to ₹71,543 crore in 2018-19, against ₹41,167 crore in 2017-18.

**₹2,000 notes in circulation fall**

The ₹2,000 currency notes introduced during the demonetisation exercise of 2016 have dropped in circulation in the last one year ended in March 2019.

**Gross NPA ratio of banks declined following early resolution of stressed assets: RBI**

Early recognition and resolution of stressed assets have helped banks contain their gross non-performing loans ratio at 9.1 percent in FY19 down from 11.2 percent a year before, says the monetary authority RBI.

**10 public sector banks to be merged**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced consolidation of public sector banks. Under the scheme of amalgamation, 10 public sector banks are to be merged into four banks.

After the amalgamation, the total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks in 2017.

**Moody's Indian arm ICRA terminates MD and Group CEO Naresh Takkar**

Rating agency Moody's Indian arm ICRA terminated its Managing Director (MD) and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Naresh Takkar's employment.

**AWARDS****Ravish Kumar wins 'Asia's Nobel' Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019**

NDTV journalist Ravish Kumar has won the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award 2019. Ravish Kumar has won the honour for his news show, Prime Time, which "deals with real-life, under-reported problems of ordinary people."

The four other winners of the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award are Ko Swe Win from Myanmar, Angkhana Neelapaijit from Thailand, Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab from Philippines and Kim Jong-Ki from South Korea

**President Kovind honoured with National order of Merit, highest award of Republic of Guinea**

President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National order of Merit by the President of Guinea for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea.

**Pranab Mukherjee receives Bharat Ratna; Bhupen Hazarika, Nanaji Deshmukh honoured posthumously**

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, singer

Bhupen Hazarika and Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Nanaji Deshmukh have been conferred Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India.

**BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award**

Actor Steve Coogan will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch.

**66th National Film Awards announced**

Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal have jointly bagged the National Film Award for best actor for their roles in Andhadhun and Uri.

Gujarati movie Hellaro has been awarded the best feature film.

Actor Keerthy Suresh won the best actress award for her portrayal of yesteryear star Savitri in Telugu film Mahanati.

**Priyam Chatterjee Becomes First Indian Chef To Receive French Honour**

Priyam Chatterjee has become the first Indian chef to be awarded the "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricole" by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.

**Wing Commander Abhinandan to be awarded Vir Chakra**

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was caught by Pakistan after his MiG-21 Bison fighter jet went down across the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27 and was returned three days later, has been awarded Vir Chakra (VrC), the country's third-highest gallantry award.

**Rajasthan gets award at World Education Summit**

Rajasthan has bagged the "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.

**ISRO chairman K.Sivan conferred with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award**

In recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K Sivan was awarded the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by the Tamil Nadu government.

**CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship**

Dr K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) was awarded JC Bose Fellowship. He was given the fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.

**PM holds receives UAE's highest Civilian Honour**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also conferred with the highest civilian award of the United Arab Emirates, the "Order of Zayed".

**SKOCH Governance Gold Award for DAY-NULM**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award.

**PERSONS IN NEWS****Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha found dead**

V. G. Siddhartha, the man who founded India's biggest coffee chain more than a decade before Starbucks Corp. entered Asia's third-largest economy, has died.

**Former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Vithal Gokarn passes away**

Former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Dr Subir Vithal Gokarn (60) passed away after a brief illness. He was the RBI Deputy Governor from 2009-12 and oversaw Monetary Policy Research and Financial Markets department.

**Indian-American appointed to key counterterrorism position in White House**

Prominent Indian-American lawyer Kashyap Pramod Patel, an ardent supporter of US President Donald Trump, has been appointed to a key counterterrorism position in the White House.

**Veteran BJP Leader, Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passes away**

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away in New Delhi last night after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.

**Hrithik Roshan's grandfather, filmmaker J Om Prakash, dies in Mumbai**

Veteran director and actor Hritik Roshan's maternal grandfather, J Om Prakash, passed away in Mumbai.

**Indian envoy to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria returns**

Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria has returned to India, days after Pakistan expelled him following its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties over the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

**PM Modi to featured in Discovery channel's show 'Man Vs Wild'**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has featured in a special episode of the iconic survival television series 'Man Vs Wild' on Discovery channel tonight.

**Alejandro Giammattei wins Guatemala's presidential race**

Guatemalans have voted in Alejandro Giammattei of the Vamos party as the country's next president.

**Justice Madan B Lokur Sworn In As Judge Of Supreme Court Of Fiji**

Former Supreme Court judge of India Justice Madan B Lokur was sworn in as the judge of the non-resident panel of the Supreme Court of Fiji. This is the first time an Indian judge is getting appointed as the judge of the apex court of another country.

**Veteran actor Vidya Sinha passes away at 71**

Veteran Bollywood actress Vidya Sinha, known for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film "Rajnigandha" (1974), passed away after a brief lung-cum-heart ailment. A major figure in Bollywood in the 1970s-1980s era.

**Renowned Bangladeshi novelist Rizia Rahman passes away**

Renowned Bangladeshi novelist and the Ekushey Padak winning author Rizia Rahman passed away in Dhaka at the age of 79.

**Padma Shri Awardee Damodar Ganesh Bapat Dies At 84**

Damodar Ganesh Bapat from Chhattisgarh, a noted social worker and Padma Shri award winner, passed away.

**Doordarshan Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner Neelum Sharma passes away**

Doordarshan Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner Neelum Sharma passed away.

**Pak Army chief General Bajwa gets a three-years extension**

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has extended the term of the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for another three years.

**Veteran music director-composer Khayyam passes away**

Veteran music director-composer Khayyam, best known for his music in classic films such as 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Kabhi', passed away.

**Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passes away at 82**

Former Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Jagannath Mishra passed away following a prolonged illness. Jagannath Mishra was a three-time chief minister.

**Indian Muslim preacher Zakir Naik banned from public speaking in Malaysia**

Indian Muslim preacher, who is wanted in India for alleged money laundering and hate speech, has been banned from public activities after racial slurs in his recent speeches sparked outrage in Malaysia.

**Babulal Gaur, Former Madhya Pradesh CM and Veteran BJP Leader, Dies After Cardiac Arrest**

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away. The veteran BJP leader served as Madhya Pradesh chief minister from 2004-2005.

**IMF executive board recommends scrapping age limit for Georgieva**

The International Monetary Fund said that its executive board recommended the removal of the age limit for its managing director, a move needed for European nominee Kristalina Georgieva to be approved for the job.

**Sheikh Hasina, Sania Mirza to co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and tennis star Sania Mirza will be among co-chairs for India Economic Summit to be held in India in October by the World Economic Forum, where hundreds of Indian and global leaders would discuss India's role in South Asia and on the world stage.

**Billionaire David Koch, Who Used His Wealth to Reshape U.S. Politics, Dies at 79**

David Koch, the billionaire industrialist and philanthropist whose support for conservative causes and candidates helped reshape U.S. politics in recent decades, died at the age of 79.

**Akshay Kumar takes 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list**

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the fourth position on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list. According to the list on forbes.com Akshay has raked in \$65 million.

Hollywood star Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors, collecting \$89.4 million between June 1, 2018, and June 1, 2019.

**Former FM Arun Jaitley, passes away**

Arun Jaitley, former finance minister and a key troubleshooter for the Narendra Modi government, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital.

**India's First Woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya Dies**

The first woman Director General of Police (DGP), Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya, died in Mumbai following an illness.

## SPORTS

### Vidit Gujrathi wins Biel tournament

Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi has won the Biel International Chess tournament with a round to spare.

### Malcolm Nash passes away

Malcolm Nash, the Glamorgan bowler who entered cricket folklore when Garfield Sobers struck him for six sixes in an over, has died at the age of 74.

### Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi nominated for FIFA Best Men's Player award

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have been nominated in the FIFA Best Men's Footballer of the Year category.

### IAAF World Race Walking Cup: Indian men's team wins bronze after seven years through upgrade

Seven years after India missed a podium place at the IAAF World Race Walking Cup in Russia, the country was handed a bronze medal upgrade following disqualification of a member of the second-placed Ukrainian team for dope violation.

### Vinesh Phogat wins third successive gold in 53kg

India grappler Vinesh Phogat has bagged gold in women's 53kg category of the Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw.

### Thailand Open: Satwiksairaj, Chirag 1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have become the first Indian pair to win a BWF Super 500 badminton tournament.

### Dortmund wins German Supercup

Borussia Dortmund stunned Bayern Munich 2-0 in the German Supercup final on the strength of goals by Paco Alcacer and Jadon Sancho.

### Lewis Hamilton wins F1's Hungarian GP

Lewis Hamilton staged a thrilling fightback to catch and pass Max Verstappen for victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix.

### Cricket commentator Anant Setalvad passes away

Yesteryear cricket commentator Anant Setalvad has died in Mumbai last night.

### Australia beat England by 251 runs to win first Ashes Cricket Test

Australia beat England by 251 runs to win the first Ashes Cricket Test at Edgbaston.

### Hinako Shibuno wins Women's British Open on debut

Japan's Hinako Shibuno hit a gutsy 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win a thrilling women's British Open.

### South African pacer Steyn quits Tests

South African Dale Steyn, one of the great fast bowlers of the modern era, has announced his retirement from Test cricket in a bid to extend his longevity in the shorter forms of the game.

### McCullum calls time on career

Former New Zealand international Brendon McCullum has announced he will retire from all forms of cricket upon the completion of the Global T20 Canada tournament.

### India whitewash West Indies in three match T-20 series

India completed a 3-0 clean sweep over the West Indies after winning the third and final Twenty20 International by seven wickets in Guyana last night.

### Sally Pearson announces retirement

Australia's reigning world-champion hurdler Sally Pearson announced her surprise retirement, as persistent injuries sank her dream of regaining the Olympic title in Tokyo next year.

### Mary Kom, Lovlina Borgohain selected for world boxing C'ships

Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom and Lovlina Borgohain have been selected for the upcoming women's world boxing championships based on their recent performances.

### Uruguay footballer Forlan retires

Uruguay forward Diego Forlan has announced his retirement from professional football.

### Amla retires from international cricket

South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all international cricket with immediate effect.

### World Archery suspends AAI for defying guidelines

The World Archery (WA) suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI) for defying its guidelines by electing two parallel bodies.

### BCCI agrees to come under the ambit of NADA

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

### Indian junior shuttlers win 6 medals at Bulgarian Open

Indian junior shuttlers won six medals at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships which concluded in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria.

### Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open title

Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, finished runners up in women's doubles.

### Aishwarya Pissay becomes first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports

Aishwarya Pissay has become the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, annexing the FIM World Cup (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) in the women's category after the final round of the championship at Varpalota in Hungary.

### UTT 2019: Chennai Lions destroys Dabang Delhi 8-1, roars to title

Chennai Lions handed Dabang Delhi a 8-1 drubbing in the final to lift the 2019 Ultimate Table Tennis Champions trophy.

### Women's T20 Cricket To Be Included In 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has announced that women's T20 Cricket has been confirmed for inclusion at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Besides Women's cricket beach volleyball and Para-table tennis have also been included.

### Usha becomes Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission member

Legendary Indian sprinter PT Usha has been made a member of the Athletes Commission of the Asian Athletics Association in recognition of her stellar achievements at the continental stage.

### Dutch Hero Wesley Sneijder Announces Retirement from Football

The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder has announced his retirement from football.

**Chennai duo wins BWF World Senior Badminton title**  
The Indian duo of Ajith Haridas and Vijay Lancy have won the men's doubles 40-plus title in the Yonex BWF World Senior Badminton Championship held at Katowice, Poland.

**Wrestler Deepak Punia wins gold, becomes first Indian junior world champion**

Wrestler Deepak Punia has become India's first junior World Champion in 18 years after he claimed a gold medal at the Junior Worlds with a win over Russia's Alik Shebzukhov at Tallinn, Estonia.

**India wins Physical Disability T20 World Cricket Series 2019 by defeating England by 36 runs**

India lifted the inaugural T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series after defeating hosts England by 36 runs in the finals.

**Argentina World Cup winner José Luis Brown dies at 62**

Football player José Luis Brown, who scored Argentina's opening goal in their win against West Germany in the 1986 World Cup final, has died at 62.

**Uttarakhand gets full member status in the BCCI by CoA**

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) has handed the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) full BCCI membership.

**Former India and Tamil Nadu cricketer VB Chandrasekhar dies at 57**

Former India and Tamil Nadu opener VB Chandrasekhar passed away in Chennai.

**India clinches three-match ODI series 2-0**

India clinched the three-match ODI series against the West Indies 2-0 with a six-wicket win in the rain-curtailed final match in Port of Spain.

**Liverpool wins 2019 UEFA Super Cup**

Liverpool have won the UEFA Super Cup on penalties after stand-in goalkeeper Adrian saved Tammy Abraham's spot-kick in the shootout.

**Wrestler Bajrang Punia nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**

Asian and Commonwealth Games gold-medalist wrestler Bajrang Punia has been nominated for the country's highest sporting honour - the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.

**Ravi Shastri re-appointed as head coach of Indian men's team**

Ravi Shastri has been re-appointed head coach of the Indian men's team by the Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which unanimously felt that the incumbent's communication skills and understanding of team issues stood out.

**India win historic gold in Junior Track Cycling World Championships**

The Indian junior men's team comprising Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh, James Singh and Rojit Singh created history as they won the gold medal in the Team Sprint event at the ongoing Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Frankfurt, Germany.

**Deepa Malik nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**

Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik was nominated for the country's highest sporting honour the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.

**Hima Das, Mohammad Anas win gold at Athletický Mitink Reiter event**

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold each in 300m races at the Athletický Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic.

**Sri Lanka win 1st test by 6 wickets against New Zealand**

A ninth test century from captain Dimuth Karunaratne propelled Sri Lanka to a six-wicket win over New Zealand in the first cricket test.

**World Skills International Competition: Indian contestants given grand send-off in New Delhi**

A team of 48 Indian contestants who will take part in World Skills International Competition at Kazan in Russia was given a grand send-off in New Delhi.

**India's junior women boxers win 4 gold medals at Serbian tourney**

India's junior women boxers clinched 12 medals at the third Nation's Cup in Vrbas, Serbia. The team won four gold, four silver and four bronze medals and claimed the runners-up trophy.

**Sreesanth's ban ends in August 2020**

The Ombudsman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has ordered that Indian pacer S Sreesanth's ban for alleged spot-fixing will end in August next year.

**Indian men's and women's hockey teams win Olympic Test event at Tokyo**

Both the Indian Women's and Men's hockey teams have won the Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

**Madhya Pradesh para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia crosses America's Catalina Channel**

Divyang Satendra Singh Lohia from Madhya Pradesh has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel.

**Paytm retains BCCI title sponsorship rights till 2023 for Rs 326.8 crore**

Paytm, the e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, will continue as the title sponsor of the Indian cricket board's domestic and international matches for the next five years.

**Vikram Rathour to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach**

Former opener Vikram Rathour will replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches.

**Constable Monali Jadhav wins 3 medals at World Police Games**

Constable Monali Jadhav from Maharashtra won three medals, including two golds, at the recently concluded World Police and Fire Games International Championship held in Chengdu, China

**Archery: In World Youth Championships, India won bronze medal**

The Indian team of Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare clinched a bronze medal in the junior compound men's team event in the World Youth Championships in Madrid.

**BWF World Championship 2019: B. Sai Praneeth wins bronze in men's singles**

India's B. Sai Praneeth settled for bronze after losing (13-21, 8-21) to Kento Momota of Japan in men's singles semifinal in BWF World Championships 2019.

### **Gokulam Kerala FC wins Durand Cup**

In football, Gokulam Kerala FC won the 129th Durand Cup, defeating heavyweights Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

### **P.V. Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Badminton World Championships gold**

P.V. Sindhu has become the first Indian to win a Badminton World Championships gold by beating familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided final.

### **India win first test against West Indies by huge margin of 318 runs**

India beat West Indies by a massive 318-run margin in the first cricket Test at North Sound in Antigua. With this win, India have taken 1-0 lead in the 2-match series.

### **Ben Stokes single-handedly wins the third Ashes Test for England**

England has won the third Ashes Test thanks to a stunning Ben Stokes century. The home side chased down 359 with one wicket in hand as it created history by achieving its highest ever fourth innings run chase.

### **Komalika Bari becomes recurve cadet world champion; India wins 2 gold, 1 bronze**

India's Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain. Komalika is now India's second recurve cadet world champion (under-18) after Deepika Kumari who won the title in 2009.

### **Sports Minister gives Rs 1.82 cr to medallists of Para-Badminton World Championship**

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has handed over 1.82 crore rupees to the medallists of the Para-Badminton World Championship, amending the policy for para-athletes to make them eligible for more cash awards.

### **India bags four medals in WorldSkills Kazan competition**

The Indian team created history by winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the 45th WorldSkills Kazan 2019 competition, in Russia. It has been the country's best performance since it first participated at the event in 2007.

### **Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Ground in Delhi is set to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium**

The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) has decided to rechristen Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium in the memory of its former president who passed away recently.

### **ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup Highlights: Elavenil bags gold, her first senior WC medal**

Elavenil Valarivan has become only the third Indian shooter after Apurvi Chandela and Anjali Bhagwat to win the gold medal at the senior ISSF World Cup in the 10m Air Rifle category.

### **India bags gold in 10-meter air pistol event in Shooting World Cup**

Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary the bronze, in a dominant display by Indian shooters in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro.

### **Ajantha Mendis retires from all forms of cricket**

Sri Lankan cricketer Ajantha Mendis has announced his retirement from all forms of the game.

### **Uefa Player of the Year: Lucy Bronze and Virgil van Dijk win awards**

Liverpool Football player Virgil van Dijk has won UEFA's Player of the Year award, while England footballer Lucy Bronze took the Women's Player of the Year award.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Foreign Ministers from South East Asia attend 52nd ASEAN summit**

The 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM-52) and related meetings officially opened in Bangkok on July 31 under the chair of Thai Foreign Minister.

### **Indian tourists exempted from visa fees by Sri Lankan govt**

India is among 48 countries whose citizens have been exempted from visa fees for tourism purposes by Sri Lankan government.

### **Dutch ban on burqas and niqabs takes effect**

The Netherlands has banned face-covering clothing, such as a burqa or niqab, in public buildings and on transport, as a contentious law on the garment worn by some Muslim women came into force.

### **Saudi women can now travel without male guardian's approval**

Saudi Arabia will allow women to obtain passports and travel abroad without approval from a male guardian ending a longstanding restriction. This regulation will be applicable to women over the age of 21.

### **UN calls for boycott of Myanmar companies with military links**

A UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission has urged foreign businesses and governments to sever ties with more than 140 companies owned or controlled by the Myanmar military Tatmadaw.

### **US formalizes ban on govt contracts to China's Huawei**

The United States unveiled rules formally banning technology giant Huawei and other Chinese firms from government contracts.

### **A quarter of the world's population faces extreme water crisis, study warns**

New data from the World Resources Institute (WRI) Aqueduct tools reveals that 17 countries – home to one-quarter of the world's population face "extremely high" levels of baseline water stress.

Twelve out of the 17 most water-stressed countries are in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Qatar is the most water-stressed country, followed by Israel and Lebanon.

India ranks 13<sup>th</sup> for overall water stress.

### **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: 9 August**

The United Nations observes 9th August every year as International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

### **Facebook listened to users' private conversations: report**

According to a report, Facebook has paid hundreds of contractors to listen to and transcribe snippets of users' conversations. Facebook acknowledged the transcriptions, but stated that they were made with users' permission.

**July Was the Hottest Month Ever Recorded on Earth**

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that July was the Earth's hottest month in the 140-year record.

The average global temperature in July was 16.74 Celsius Degrees, about 0.96 degrees above the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average of 15.78 degrees, according to NOAA.

**Iceland's Okjokull glacier commemorated with plaque**

In Iceland, people gathered to commemorate the loss of the glacier Okjokull, which was officially declared dead in 2014 at the age of 700.

**India is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the world: Greenpeace**

According to a new report by Greenpeace, India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions.

**World Photography Day is observed annually on August 19**

World Photography Day is observed annually on August 19. It is a worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science and history of photography.

**US approves possible 8 billion Dollar sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan**

The U.S. State Department has approved a possible 8 billion Dollar sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan. The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the potential deal is for 66 aircraft, 75 General Electric Co engines, as well as other systems.

**Meet Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine, the world's largest processor**

Cerebras Systems, a startup dedicated to accelerating Artificial intelligence (AI) compute, has unveiled the largest chip ever built, Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine (WSE).

**Russia launches floating nuclear power plant Akademik Lomonosov**

Russia has launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor. Akademik Lomonosov.

**The Highest-Paid Actresses 2019: Scarlett Johansson Leads With \$56 Million**

For the second consecutive year, Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has topped the Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors in the world.

**In Landmark Decision, Bangladesh Top Court Asks to Remove 'Virgin' Word from Muslim Marriage Docs**

Bangladesh's top court has said that the word "virgin" must be removed from Muslim marriage certificates, the landmark verdict after campaigners challenged the "humiliating and discriminatory" term.

**Kazi Nazrul Islam's 43rd death anniversary observed in Bangladesh**

The 43rd death anniversary of the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

His poems were a source of inspiration during the liberation war of Bangladesh.

**Russian spacecraft carrying first humanoid robot docks at ISS**

Russia's unmanned spacecraft carrying the first humanoid robot named Fedor, into orbit, has docked at the International Space Station (ISS) following a failed attempt over the weekend.

**Amazon fires: Brazil bans land clearance blazes for 60 days**

Brazil has banned setting fires to clear land for 60 days in response to a massive increase in the number of fires in the Amazon rainforest. The fires devastating parts of the Amazon rainforest have led to global scrutiny of Brazil's commitment to environmental conservation

**Draft UN report warns of rising seas, storm surges**

According to the special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), humanity should brace itself for serious blowback over the next few centuries from oceans and Earth's frozen zones.

The report stated that the longtime habit of loading the atmosphere with planet-warming CO<sub>2</sub> has spawned a host of consequences, starting with irreversible sea-level rise.

**Book on former US President titled "Obama: The Call of History"**

A new book titled "Obama: The Call of History" written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times has been released.

**World Biofuel Day: 10<sup>th</sup> August**

World Biofuel day is observed on 10<sup>th</sup> August every year to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.