

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

Persons in News

1. Sushil Chandra appointed as new election commissioner under clause (2) of article 324 by the president. The Election Commission of India has Sunil Arora as CEC, Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra as the two election commissioners.
2. Ashwani Lohani returned to the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Air India about 19 months after he demitted office. Lohani, who recently retired as Chairman, Railway Board, has been appointed as CMD of Air India for a period of one year or until further orders. He replaced PS Kharola, who has taken over as Secretary Civil Aviation.
3. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj (IFS: 1987), presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of South Africa has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, in February 2019. She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
4. Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra has taken charge as new Director General of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in New Delhi. Commissioned in the Madras Regiment in December 1980, Lt Gen Chopra is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. The NCC is an Indian military cadet corps with its headquarters at New Delhi, It is the world's largest uniformed youth organization. Its motto is 'Unity and Discipline'.
5. Rishi Kumar Shukla, 1983 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, was on February 2, 2019 appointed as the new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He will be serving for a fixed term of two years. He has been appointed in the place of former CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma, who was removed from the post on January 10.
6. Nilambar Acharya, Nepal's former law minister, has been appointed as the country's ambassador to India. The position of the Nepalese ambassador to India was vacant for more than a year after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned to join politics in October 2017. President Bidya Devi Bhandari has recently administered oath of office to Acharya at Rastrapati Bhawan at Sheetal Niwas. Acharya is the first Nepalese ambassador to take oath of office and secrecy from the president under a new provision. Earlier, ambassadors were administered oath of office by Supreme Court chief justice.
7. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Chandramouli Ramanathan of India as Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget, and Finance in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance. He succeeds Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas of Uruguay.
8. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on February 10, 2019 took over as the chair of the African Union (AU) following a meeting by heads of state from the continent in Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa.
9. The media-savvy former mayor of San Salvador, Nayib Bukele of the Grand Alliance for National Unity (GANU) has won a landslide victory in 2019 El Salvador presidential election by winning over 53% of the total vote. With this, he brought an end to a two-party system that has held sway over the violence-plagued Central American country for three decades. Bukele will succeed Salvador Sánchez Cerén, after whom the leadership chair was vacant for a period of time. He will assume office on 1 June 2019.
10. On 8th of February 2019, the Red Cross called for a total ban on nuclear weapons & also gave warning of the growing risk that such arms could again be used with devastating effect. For this burning issue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a global campaign to raise awareness about the rising nuclear threat facing the world.
11. In United States, William Barr was sworn for second time as the nation's Attorney General, taking the helm of the Justice Department as special counsel Robert Mueller investigates Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. The Senate voted 54-45 to confirm his appointment. Barr succeeds Jeff Sessions.
12. Indian batsman Suresh Raina became the first Indian to score 8000 runs in T20 cricket after scoring just 12 runs in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match in New Delhi against Puducherry. He was playing for Uttar Pradesh.
13. Elise Mertens, world number 21 from Belgium beat world number 3, Simona Halep to win the Qatar Open held in Doha, Qatar.

14. Father Francois Laborde, a 92-year-old Bengal priest, has been conferred the Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France in recognition of his work for specially-abled children. Father Laborde is of French-origin but he has been given Indian citizenship. He is the third person from the state to have been awarded the Legion of Honor after film maestro Satyajit Ray and actor Soumitra Chatterjee.
15. Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal from Chandigarh has scripted history by becoming the first woman to be inducted as a flight engineer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Bengaluru. In a field dominated by men, Flt Lt Hina successfully completed the course at the 112 Helicopter Unit, Air Force Station, Yelahanka. She will now be posted to a helicopter squadron where she will monitor and operate IAF's complex aircraft in various conditions, right from Siachen Glacier to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
16. Wallace Smith Brooker, popular as 'Grandfather of Climate Science' died at the age of 87 at New York. He popularised the term 'global warming'. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, United States. He was the first scientist to recognize the Ocean Conveyor Belt.

Places in News

1. The Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2019 organized by Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism was held in Haryana in February 2019. Maharashtra is the theme State and Thailand is the Partner Nation Country for 2019 edition.
2. Punjab Govt. approved declaring endangered Indus River dolphin, found only in Beas River in the country, as state aquatic animal.
3. On January 30, ISRO launched the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at its headquarters in Bengaluru for the human spaceflight programme. The centre is the hub of ISRO's future manned missions. HSFC shall be responsible for the implementation of Gaganyaan project — which involves mission planning, development of engineering systems for crew survival in space, crew selection and training and also pursue activities for sustained human space flight missions. HSFC will take the support of ISRO centres to implement the first developmental [crewed] flight. Under the Gaganyaan project, a 3-member crew will be sent to space for at least 7 days by 2022, the 75th year of Independence. Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair is the founder director of HSFC, while R Hutton is the project director of Gaganyaan.
4. Macedonia on February 6, 2019 signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance. The Macedonia-NATO accord follows a deal with Greece ending a 27-year-old dispute over Macedonia's name. The accord must now be ratified by allied governments.
5. Thailand has officially declared the Siamese fighting fish as its national aquatic animal to boost conservation efforts and commercial breeding in the country. Known in the West as a betta fish, the underwater brawler is popular in home aquariums for its iridescent body and many-hued tail.
6. The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department has added Hindi as the third official language to be used in the city's courts, along with Arabic and English. The move is aimed at helping foreigners to learn about litigation procedures, their rights and duties without a language barrier.
7. The 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit 2019 was held in Guwahati, Assam on the theme "Connectivity is the pathway to shared prosperity" from 03-06 February 2019. It is organized by India Foundation in collaboration with Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Government of Assam. The purpose of the summit was to strengthen the mutual cooperation among the youth leaders from India and the ASEAN countries. Hence, the 2019 summit is a step to facilitate Socio-cultural exchanges between the countries to further strengthen the values of tolerance, pluralism and diversity.
8. India on February 15, 2019 withdrew the 'Most-Favoured Nation' status accorded to Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that led to the killing of 37 CRPF personnel and injuring of many others.
9. India's first 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma at the Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal. The new system is capable of screening high resolution, full dome, and digital 2D/3D content by utilising six, high-end projectors in a 23-meter diameter dome using Ulteria Seam technology. The Science City is operated by the National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture.
10. The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) annual flagship event. The 2019 edition of WSDS was held in New Delhi with theme 'Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on Our Promise' on 11th-13th February. It was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Events of Significance

1. A dedicated Asiatic Lion Conservation Project with contribution of INR 98 crores (for 3 years) has been launched by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Asiatic Lion, endemic to Gir landscape of Gujarat, is one of the 21 critically endangered species identified by Ministry for taking up recovery programmes.
2. Government approved establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog, for conservation, protection and development of cattle population in country including development and conservation of indigenous breeds. It is in pursuance of the announcement of setting up of the Aayog in the Union Budget 2019-20.
3. Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu launched two schemes - Hirkani Maharashtrachi and District Business Plan Competition. Under Hirkani Maharashtrachi, women's Self-help group (SHGs) will display their business plan at taluka level. 10 groups will be selected from each taluka and INR 50,000 will be given to each SHG to implement their idea. 5 SHGs at district level will be selected and 2 lakh will be given to each SHG to take idea forward.
4. Government approved Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman, after alternative complaint redressal mechanisms chosen by public and institution of Ombudsman could not prove to be more effective than regular existing parallel channels of grievance redressal. Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman was created in 2003 to deal with grievances of public related to settlement of complaints relating to Income Tax. However, it failed to achieve its objectives. Tax payers started preferring alternate methods of grievance redressal like CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), AaykarSevaKendras etc.
5. Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has been launched. It aims to extend outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the most vulnerable. Highlights : National Exhibition cum sale of SHG products and National Street Food Festival being organized in New Delhi.
6. India's first Institute of Advanced Virology, affiliated to Global Virus Network, has been inaugurated in Kerala. It was announced after outbreak of Nipah virus in Kerala in May 2018.
7. Kala Ghoda festival, India's largest multi-cultural street festival began in Mumbai to celebrate its 20 years of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature, and sculpture.
8. Madras High Court ruled against negative marking in competitive examinations, while hearing a petition. HC said that negative marking is not prevailing anywhere else in world. It acts only as "a bolt in the brain development" of students and prevents them from making intelligent guesses.
9. Kerala became first State to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
10. PM Narendra Modi launched DD Arunprabha, a dedicated 24x7 Doordarshan satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh and laid the foundation stone of a permanent campus of Film and Television Institute (FTI) at Arunachal Pradesh. DD Arunprabha is 24th satellite channel operated by Doordarshan. Channel will showcase the rich tradition and diversity of local culture.
11. Social Network Focussing launched a digital skilling and mentorship initiative across five states in India that would encourage tribal girls to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities, Named GOAL (Going Online As Leaders), it will train young girls from West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh in digital literacy, life skills, leadership and entrepreneurship for an year.
12. Vidarbha won their second successive Ranji Trophy Domestic Cricket title, defeating Saurashtra in Final.
13. Qatar defeated Japan to win their first ever Asian Cup Football Tournament. It was hosted by United Arab Emirates (UAE).
14. Manipur Filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma returned his 2006 Padma Shri award, in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016. The bill has become controversial as it aims to amend Citizenship Act of 1955, allowing Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan to apply for Indian citizenship. The bill is criticised for being communal as it grants citizenship on the basis of religion. Heat

against the bill is more in North East states as lakhs of illegal immigrants have crossed over to India from Bangladesh and are majorly concentrated in northeastern states.

15. The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under UN Environment Programme, will be hosted by India during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat, with Great Indian Bustard (GIB) as mascot for the event. India has been a Party to CMS since 1983. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention. In order to protect migratory species throughout their range countries, a Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), has been in force, under UNEP. Also referred to as Bonn Convention, it provides a global platform for conservation of migratory animals and their habitats and brings together.
16. A book titled Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice PN Bhagwati's Approach, written by Mool Chand Sharma has been released.
17. Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO organised the second edition of India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF) 2019. It is also supported by the National Mineral Development Corporation.
18. A book titled Ramayana Retold With Scientific Evidences, written by Saroj Bala has been released. It depicts exact dates for events in Hindu Mythological Novel The Ramayana.
19. West Indies batsman Chris Gayle announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs) after the forthcoming World Cup in England and Wales. Chris Gayle, a Jamaican cricketer who plays International cricket for the West Indies was born in September 21, 1979. His ODI debut was in 1999 against India.
20. On 19th February 2019, pan India number 112 was launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi in New Delhi. Projects are funded under Nirbhaya Fund scheme. Emergency Response Support System, ERSS has been introduced for women safety in 16 states.
21. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Ashwini Kumar Choubey in the presence of Amitabh Bachchan, the goodwill ambassador for hepatitis, WHO South-East Asia Region, launched the "National Action Plan – Viral Hepatitis" in Mumbai.
22. A life-size portrait of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was unveiled by the President in the Parliament House. Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the PM for the first time in 1996.
23. German Nobel Prize winning chemist, Manfred Eigen, passed away at the age of 91 in February 2019.
24. New Zealand won the T20I series beating India by 2-1. New Zealand's wicket keeper-batsman, Tim Seifert, won the player of the series award. The India Women's Cricket Team toured to New Zealand to play three Women's One Day Internationals (WODI) and three Women's Twenty20 International (WT20I) matches. Mithali Raj captained the Indian team in ODIs and Harmanpreet Kaur captained the WT20Is. New Zealand Women's Cricket Team was captained by Amy Satterthwaite.
25. 'Clouded Leopard' to be the Mascot for National Games 2022, to be hosted in Meghalaya. Sports Authority of India Won the 9th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship (B Division) held in Hisar, Haryana. Railways win Senior National Men's Hockey Title by defeating Punjab. Prajnesh Gunneswaran becomes the third Indian to reach Top-100 in ATP rankings. Russia's Medvedev clinched Sofia Open Title.
26. The semi-high-speed Train 18 or Vande Bharat Express was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th February 2019, from the New Delhi railway station.
27. Finance minister has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana which is a pension scheme for the labours, associated in the unorganized sector.
28. Former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee released the book Selected Speeches: Volume-1, which is a compilation of 92 selected speeches of Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu, in New Delhi.
29. A census carried out by the Odisha's forest and environment department on January 19, 2019 revealed that the population of dolphins in its waters has drastically declined from 469 in 2018 to 259 this year.
30. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019 have been passed in the Rajasthan Assembly in order to do away with the currently existing minimum education criterion for panchayat and civic poll candidates.

31. The 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals was held at Guwahati, Assam. Saina Nehwal retained her women's singles crown after defeating PV Sindhu. Sorabh Verma defeated Lakshya Sen to win the men's singles crown for the third time.
32. Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill to make Sanskrit as the second official language of the state. Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences Amendment Bill, 2019 to rename Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences as Atal Medical and Research University, Himachal Pradesh.
Himachal Pradesh Bovine Breeding Bill, 2019 to promote indigenous species of cows in the state by setting up sperm stations and using frozen semen in artificial insemination.
33. A small brown rat of bramble cay melomys species lived on a tiny island off northern Australia and becomes the world's first mammal to have become extinct due to "human-induced climate change". It was found only on a small sand island near the coast of Papua New Guinea.
34. The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars) ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films of 2018, and took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California. The ceremony was held on February 24, 2019. The Academy planned to hold the ceremony without a host, and instead have selected presenters introduce segments and awards. No replacement host was announced, and it became the first ceremony without a designated host since the 61st Academy Awards in 1989
Oscars 2019 winners list (in select categories):
BEST PICTURE – Green Book
ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE – Rami Malek, Bohemian Rhapsody
ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE – Olivia Colman, The Favourite
DIRECTING – Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE – Mahershala Ali, Green Book
ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE – Regina King, If Beale Street Could Talk
DOCUMENTARY (FEATURE) – Free Solo
DOCUMENTARY (SHORT SUBJECT) – Period. End Of Sentence.
35. India improved its ranking on the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) by three points and moved to 78th position with a score of 41. India ranked at 81st place on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017. In the list of 180 countries, China and Pakistan lagged far behind India at 87th and 117th position, respectively.
36. On January 29, UNESCO official launched the International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT-2019) at its headquarters in Paris to raise awareness of chemistry and its applications for sustainable development. The year 2019 also marks the 150th anniversary of its creation by Russian scientist Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev. The aim of the year-long celebration is to recognize the importance of the periodic table as one of the most importance of the periodic table as one of the most important and influential achievements in modern science, reflecting the essence not only of chemistry, but also of physics, biology and other basic sciences disciplines.
37. The 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition 'PETROTECH-2019' is being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in Greater Noida from 10th to 12th February, 2019. India's flagship hydrocarbon international conference is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister of India. Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries have been invited by the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to participate in the Conference. The 3-day mega event will showcase the recent market and investor friendly developments that have taken place in the India's oil and gas sector. It is expected to see participation of over 86 eminent speakers and 7000 delegates from around 70 countries, including technologists, scientists planners, policy-makers, management experts, entrepreneurs, service-providers and vendors.
38. A team from INS Dronacharya has won the Regetta trophy (also called The Cock) in the Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019 of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in the Ernakulam Channel on January 31. The Boat Pulling regatta is one of the most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities conducted in the Navy. The boats used in the regatta are 27-foot-long 'whalers' — a type of seaboat — each having a crew of five 'pullers' (rowers) and one coxswain (helm). The boats are named as 'whalers' as they were used in ancient times for hunting whales at sea.
39. The 12th edition of the India's premier air show - Aero India 2019 was held at the Air Force Station at Yelahanka in Bengaluru from February 20 to 24. The Ministry of Defence has lined up programmes for Start-Ups Day, Women's

Day, Daily Students' Day, Drone Olympics and photography contests as sideshows to make it an interactive affair. More than 350 exhibitors will be accommodated in five hangers at the Air Force Station. This year, the aero show is themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', to communicate India's value proposition in addressing the immense opportunities in the aerospace and aviation sectors in the country today. The logo for Aero India 2019 is inspired by the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

40. US President Donald Trump announced on February 1, 2019 that the United States will pull out of the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, which it had signed with Russia during the Cold War.
41. President Donald Trump announced on February 5, 2019 that he will hold the second summit with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un in Vietnam on February 27-28, 2019 as part of his administration's endeavours to denuclearise North Korea.
42. The Maharashtra government on February 6, 2019 announced that it will soon make forcing a woman to undergo virginity test a punishable offence. The demeaning custom is allegedly followed in the Kanjarbhat community among others, whereby a newly-wed woman has to prove that she was virgin prior to the marriage. Some youths from the community have launched an online campaign against it.
43. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri. It will have jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar.
44. India climbed eight places to rank 36th in the 2019 International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released by the US Chambers of Commerce. In 2018, India was ranked 44 out of 50 countries.
45. The United States tops the list of 50 global economies with 42.66 points out of 45 in the 2019 International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, followed by the United Kingdom (42.22), Sweden (41.03) and Germany (41.00).
46. INS Trikand (F51), a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy, participated in the 8th edition of multinational maritime exercise 'Cutlass Express 2019'. INS Trikand is commanded by Captain Srinivas Maddula and is equipped with a versatile range of sensors and weapons enabling her to address threats in all the three dimensions – air, surface and sub-surface. The exercise was held near Djibouti, Mozambique and the Seychelles from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19. The aim of the exercise was to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.
47. The first-ever World Pulses Day (WPD) is observed on 10th February to raise awareness about the multiple benefits of eating pulses. In 2018, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) designated 10 February as World Pulses Day (WPD) to keep alive the positive momentum surrounding these healthy, nutritious, protein-rich, nitrogen-fixing legumes after FAO's successful 2016 International Year of Pulses (IYP) Campaign.
48. The Parliament has passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018 that seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce. Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.
49. The researchers from the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) have developed the first ant-like walking robot 'AntBot' that can explore its environment and find its way home without Global Positioning System (GPS). The scientists took inspiration from desert ants, which are extraordinary solitary navigators, to design the AntBot. AntBot copies the desert ants' exceptional navigation capacities, allowing it to explore without using GPS. The six-legged robot has an optical compass that uses polarised light to determine its direction, and an optical movement sensor directed to the sun to measure covered distance.
50. India's second-largest IT services firm, Infosys has launched a digital platform 'InfyTQ' to offer learning and engagement experiences to engineering students in the country. InfyTQ is a free platform open to all engineering students in their 3rd and 4th years across India. The platform encourages holistic development by imparting technical as well as professional skills, helping them become industry-ready.
51. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has recently launched a new micro insurance plan 'Micro Bachat'. It is a regular premium, non-linked, participating endowment micro insurance plan, which offers a combination of protection and savings. For the first time, a micro insurance plan has been launched providing coverage up to Rs 2 lakh. This plan provides financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the policyholder during the policy term and a lumpsum amount at the time of maturity for the surviving policyholders. This plan is

- available for standard healthy lives only in the age group of 18-55 years without undergoing any medical examination. The policyholder need not undergo any medical examination.
52. US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to establish its Space Force as a new armed service within the Department of Air Force. As per the memorandum signed by Trump, the Space Force will include both combat and combat support functions to enable prompt and sustained offensive and defensive space operations in all domains.
 53. Landmark day for India's defence sector, India's first self-made fighter jet, Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK I (LCA Tejas) on February 20, 2019 received the Final Operational Clearance for induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a fully-weaponised fighter jet.
 54. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019 dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation in a solemn ceremonial function in New Delhi. The National War Memorial complex includes a central obelisk (pillar), an eternal flame, and six bronze murals depicting famous battles fought by Indian Army, Air Force and Navy.
 55. A Supreme Court Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi on February 26, 2019 started hearing the politically sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case. The new five-judge bench, also comprising justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer, is expected to fix a date to begin the hearings and prepare a schedule for them.
 56. India and Bangladesh will be conducting a joint military exercise, 'Exercise Sampriti 2019' at Tangail, Bangladesh from March 2 to March 15, 2019. This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
 57. Southern Coast Railway will be a new zone of the Indian Railways. This new 18th railway zone of the country will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway.
 58. On 14 February 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora in the Pulwama district, Jammu and Kashmir, India. The attack resulted in the deaths of 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and the attacker. The responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed. It is the deadliest terror attack on India's state security personnel in Kashmir since 1989. "In retaliation, on 26 February, twelve Mirage 2000 jets of the Indian Air Force crossed the Line of Control and dropped bombs into Balakot, Pakistan. India claimed that it attacked a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp and killed a large number of terrorists, reported to be between 300 and 350.
 59. Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, was arrested by the Pakistani rangers on 27 February 2019. IAF pilot Abhinandan's MiG 21 had shot down Pakistan's F-16 fighter jet before falling into an ambush which led to the crash of the fighter jet he was flying. Abhinandan landed on Pakistani soil after ejecting from his jet and was arrested by the Pakistani forces. Later, Imran Khan announced that Abhinandan would be set free as 'peace gesture'. India has meanwhile maintained that Pakistan is obliged to release the pilot under the Geneva Conventions.
 60. Union Science & Technology Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the 2-day long One Health India Conference 2019 in New Delhi. The main objective of the conference was to formulate a roadmap for the response, preparedness, and management of current regional, national and global health challenges using a One Health collaborative approach.

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