

# Abhyaas Newsboard...

*For the quintessential test prep student*

## Persons in News

1. According to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India, Rajiv Kumar (a 1984 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre) has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary. He succeeds Subhash Chandra Garg, who took charge as Power Secretary.
2. Rajya Sabha member Anusuiya Uikey has been appointed as Governor of Chhattisgarh and Senior Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Biswa Bhushan Harichandan appointed as Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Anusuiya Uikey is a sitting member of Rajya Sabha.
3. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Former Minister of State for Human Resource Development (HRD) Satya Pal Singh & Former Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha have been unanimously elected as members of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) from Lok Sabha. Totally 15 members were unanimously elected by the Lok Sabha. The remaining 7 members of the panel will be elected from the Rajya Sabha members.
4. Vikas Swarup was appointed as Secretary (Overseas Indian affairs) in the Union External Affairs Ministry. His appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2019.
5. On July 3, 2019 International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed American economist David Lipton as its interim leader. He replaces Christine Lagarde who was nominated to head the European Central Bank. Prior to this, Lipton was Special Assistant to the President and served as Senior Director for International Economic Affairs at the National Economic Council and National Security Council at the White House.
6. On July 8, 2019, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, aged 51, of New Democratic Party was sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Greece. He received 39.85% of the votes against 31.53% for Syriza, led by outgoing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. The New Democracy party won 158 seats in the 300-member Greek parliament.
7. Priti Patel has been appointed as UK's first Indian-origin home secretary. Patel was appointed by Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson. She succeeds Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid, who has been appointed as the first ethnic minority Chancellor of the Exchequer.
8. Ursula von der Leyen, German Defence Minister, has been elected as the first female president of the European Commission. Leyen was nominated by a narrow margin of 383 votes, just nine votes over the required 374. There were 327 votes against her and 22 abstentions.
9. Ambassador of India to the Republic of Argentina Shri Dinesh Bhatia has been concurrently accredited as the next ambassador of India to the Republic of Paraguay. Dinesh Bhatia, the Indian Forest Service (IFS)-1992 batch officer will have his residence based in Buenos Aires.
10. Accenture Inc, a consulting and outsourcing services provider, appointed Julie Sweet as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) succeeding David Rowland. She is currently the CEO of Accenture's business in North America.
11. Anshula Kant, managing director of the State Bank of India, has been appointed as managing director and chief financial officer of the World Bank. Kant is a graduate in Economic Honours from Lady Shri Ram College for Women and a Post-Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.
12. The Bank of England has chosen Alan Turing to feature him on new £50 note of Britain. Turing is regarded as the code-breaker during World War II and is also known as Father of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
13. Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane, the Commander of Eastern Army, was appointed as the Vice Chief of Indian Army. Naravane will succeed Lt Gen D Anbu, who will retire on August 31, 2019.
14. On July 21, 2019, Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri created history by becoming the first pilot to perform a wingsuit skydive jump. He jumped 8500 feet from the Mi-17 V5 helicopter at Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan during the Kargil Diwas day celebrations.

15. The Director-General (DG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) S.S Deswal was given the additional charge to act as the Director-General of the counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG). He succeeds Sudeep Lakhtakia, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Telangana cadre. S.S Deswal is a 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Haryana cadre.
16. India's Hima Das from Assam won her second international gold in women's 200m race with a time of 23.97 seconds, Muhammed Anas won the gold in men's 200m race and MP Jabir won the gold in men's 400m hurdles in 50.21 seconds.
17. Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won record sixth British Grand Prix at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom. Mercedes, Valtteri Bottas attained the second position and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc attained third position in the Grand Prix.
18. Ambati Rayudu announced his retirement from International Cricket. Rayudu made the announcement after the Indian cricket team management repeatedly ignored him in during the 2019 ICC World Cup. Ambati Rayudu was named as one of the five stand-bys for the Indian world cup squad but he was snubbed twice, after the Indian selectors preferred Rishabh Pant and Mayank Agarwal over him.
19. Indian weightlifter Ajay Singh registered a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category on his way to a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships in Apia Samoa. The 22-year-old, Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships bronze medallist, lifted 190kg while competing in the 81kg category at the event.
20. BCCI announced that former Indian captain Rahul Dravid was appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). Rahul Dravid was supposed to take over as NCA head from July 1 but his job at the India Cements caused the delay. The Committee of Administrators (CoA) asked Dravid to relinquish his post as vice-president of India Cements or be on leave until he completes his tenure. India Cements then sent him on leave to avoid conflict of interest.
21. Dutee Chand has created a history by winning first position in 100 meter race at the Universiade, the World University Games in Naples. She has become first Indian sprinter to win 100m Gold in this race. Dutee Chand clocked 11.32 seconds to win this gold. Dutee Chand was running in the fourth lane but reached at the finish mark ahead of all eight athletes.
22. Sachin Tendulkar has become sixth Indian cricketer to be included in the ICC Hall of Fame. The ICC selected India's Sachin Tendulkar, South Africa's Allan Donald and Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick for the hall of fame honour at a ceremony in London
23. Pakistan left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Amir (27) announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect citing his desire to concentrate on white-ball cricket. He is the only player to have bowled in a five-wicket (1 caught, 2 bowled, 2 run-outs) maiden over in T20 cricket, doing so against Australia in 2010.
24. India's first and only Sports Gaming self-regulatory industry body, Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) has appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge, Justice A. K. Sikri, as its ombudsman and Ethics Officer.

### Places in News

1. 'Pink City' Jaipur made an official entry in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage sites and leaders across the political spectrum welcomed the signal honour to the historical city. UNESCO shared the announcement on Twitter. The decision was taken at the 43rd session of the Unesco World Heritage Committee.
2. Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana has invited Nepal to be the partner country for 2019 International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra, Haryana from December 3 to 8, 2019. Khattar made this offer to Nilamber Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal to India. For the last 3 years, Haryana had been celebrating Gita Jayanti Mahotsav and every year a country is invited to become a partner country for this Mahotsav.
3. A three-member research team led by Assam forest officer Jatindra Sarma has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam. This is the first time that a dragon tree species, whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air has been reported from India.
4. The Rajya Sabha passed Jammu and Kashmir reservation bill on July 1, 2019, and also extended President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir. This bill provides 3% reservation for people in the State living near the international border (LOC).

5. Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country's five best performing states under the National Programme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.
6. Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure water conservation with its State Water Policy. The draft water policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. It will be implemented through active participation of the community by constituting a Water Sanitation Village Council at the village level.
7. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (T.N), Edappadi K. Palaniswami stated that two new districts Tenkasi and Chengalpattu will be created for administrative convenience by bifurcating Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram districts respectively. With this, the total number of districts in the state will go up to 35. Sivagiri, Ambasamudram, Kadayanallur, and Sengottai regions are likely to fall under Tenkasi district, which had a population of 70,545 as per 2011 census. Chengalpattu is located about 55 km away from the Chennai, state capital.
8. The municipal officials of Chhattisgarh have launched a unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers. The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.
9. The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) of Himachal Pradesh issued notification under Section 62 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 to declare monkeys (Rhesus Macaque) as 'vermin' in the areas of Shimla Municipal Corporation, mainly the urban town, for 1 year to relieve farmers from the serious problems caused by monkeys, destroying their crops.
10. The United States has declared the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a global terrorist organization, a move decried as unjustified by the separatist group fighting Pakistani rule in the resource-rich Balochistan province. Pakistan banned the outfit in 2006 and have been urging the US to do the same.
11. As per the Henley Passport Index 2019 Japan and Singapore have the world's most powerful passports. Both the countries secured top position out of 199 countries, as their passports allow visa-free or visa-on-arrival travel to 189 places.
12. India is ranked at the 86th position in the Henley Passport Index 2019 with a mobility score of 58. India shares the position with Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe. In 2018, India was ranked at the 79th position.
13. Bhutan can now transport goods to Bangladesh through India. The transportation that will save 30 % cost and eight-ten days of time is a first of many to come as Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) will facilitate trade between Bhutan and Bangladesh via the country's waterways.
14. Zimbabwe cricket has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC) with immediate effect after it breached the ICC Constitution by failing to provide free and democratic elections and ensuring that there is no government interference in its administration. The decision was taken by the ICC board during the ICC Annual Conference in London.
15. On July 10, 2019, Ukraine and its European partners have inaugurated the world's largest new metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power station. The New Safe Confinement seals the remains of the fourth reactor worth 1.5 billion euro ( \$1.7 billion, partly funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and sponsored by 45 countries).

### *Events of Significance*

1. In an attempt to avoid train accidents, Indian Railways has initiated a process to launch the Terrain Imaging for Diesel Drivers- Infrared Enhanced Optical and Radar Assisted (Tri-NETRA) system. Indian Railways is one of the world's largest railway network comprises of about 115,000 km (71,000 mi) of track over a route of around 67,312 km (41,826 mi) and 7,112 stations.
2. Reliance Jio tied-up with Facebook to launch a countrywide digital literacy drive 'Digital Udaan' for its growing base of Jio Phone users.
3. State Bank of India recently announced to do away with charges on NEFT and RTGS transactions through internet and mobile banking from July 1. The move came after the RBI decided announced the same decision to boost digital payments.

4. National Insurance Company Limited, United India Assurance Company Limited and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited soon to be merged into a single insurance entity. The move was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her maiden Budget 2019 speech.
5. Reliance completed the 100 percent stake acquisition of the British toy retailer Hamleys Global Holdings Ltd (HGHL) for 67.96 million pounds.
6. On July 15, 2019, A medium-sized public sector bank in India, Andhra Bank launched its AI (Artificial Intelligence) interactive assistant called "ABHi" at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana. ABHi: It uses new-age technologies include to understand the customer query and fetch the relevant information from the possible knowledge base in a matter of milliseconds. Creation: ABHi is powered by AI startup Floatbot.ai (Bangalore) in partnership with IT(Information Technology) company Netxcell Limited(Hyderabad).
7. According to the London-based consultancy Brand Finance annual report , "Brand Finance India 100 2019", "Tata" has become India's most valuable brand for the second straight year in 2019 with the brand value of \$19.6 billion followed by LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) (2nd )with \$7.3 billion and Infosys (3rd )\$6.5 billion.
8. India was ranked 52nd in 2019 with the score 36.58 out of 100 from 57th position in 2018. It was ranked 81st in 2015, 66th in 2016 and 60th in 2017. Switzerland topped the 12th Edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) for the year 2019.
9. On July 23, 2019, According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s latest update on World Economic Outlook (WEO) report 2019, India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth expected to grow by 7% in 2019 (FY-Fiscal Year 2020) and 7.2% in 2020 (FY21). It cuts its forecast for FY20 to 7% from 7.3%, that had predicted in April 2019 & for FY21 to 7.2% from the previous estimate of 7.5%. It scales down its outlook for both the years due to a broad-based slowdown in consumption and investment demand in India.
10. Walmart (US) topped the "Fortune Global 500 list 2019" followed by Sinopec Group of China at the second place. The next 3 rankings were Royal Dutch Shell, British-Dutch; China National Petroleum, China; State Grid, China
11. On July 25, 2019, Apple and Intel signed an agreement where Apple will acquire the majority of Intel's smartphone modem business for \$1 billion. 2,200 Intel employees will join Apple, along with intellectual property, equipment and leases. The deal is expected to close in the fourth quarter (December) of 2019.
12. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has become the top-ranked Indian company to feature in the latest "Fortune Global 500 list 2019" with a jump of 42 places. It ranked 106th in the list. Reliance Industries (RIL) overtakes state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), which had been the top-ranked Indian company on the list and was first on the Fortune India 500 list which was started in 2010.
13. The central government's ambitious project of 'One Nation One Ration Card', under which beneficiaries can buy subsidized foodgrains from any ration shop in the country will begin on 1 July 2020. The Centre has given states and Union Territories time till June 30, 2020, to use point of sale (PoS) machines in the ration shops and roll out the scheme.
14. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized its first "Aadhaar Seva Kendra" (ASKs) in Delhi and Vijayawada on a pilot basis. UIDAI has a plan to set up 114 such centres by the end of 2019 covering 53 Indian cities. The estimated cost of the project is between Rs 300-400 crore. These centers are similar to the concept of Passport Seva Kendras.
15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed a high powered 9 member committee of chief ministers headed by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income. It will suggest policy measures, attract investments and raise growth in food processing. The panel will be serviced by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog. It will submit its report in two months.
16. The State Government of Goa cleared amendments to Factories Act, 1948 allowing women to work legally during night hours (between 7 pm to 6 am) in factories of the state. Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 prohibit women to work during night hours.
17. Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express, one of the most-awaited trains on the route announced in 2016, is set to be the first train to be operated by private players. At present, it is parked at the Anandnagar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh. It will be handed over to private players after an open bidding process for operationalization.



18. The Union Cabinet banned the US-based Pro-Khalistani group The Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967. SFJ openly supported the cause of Khalistan, a Sikh separatist movement. It challenged the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. It is a campaign to liberate Punjab, currently occupied by India.
19. The Supreme Court has decided to make its judgments available in regional languages on its official website by month-end, in a move that will satisfy a long-standing demand of non-English speakers. Under the existing practice, judgements are written in English and subsequently uploaded on the SC website. The point of making them available in regional languages is to enable litigants to check out the status of their cases without having to depend on lawyers. Judgements will be translated into six vernacular languages: Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia and Telugu.
20. Supreme Court has allowed mediation process in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case to continue till July 31. The mediation panel will now submit its report on August 1, after which the court will decide whether a hearing is required in the case. The five-judge SC Constitution bench, headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi, had earlier on July 11 sought a report on the mediation process from the mediation panel.
21. Using the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), out of the 18,02,646 service electors, 10,84,266 e-postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout in Lok Sabha elections 2019. Only 4% was registered in 2014.
22. Internet Saathi initiative, a collaborative programme of Google India and Tata Trusts, will be expanded to villages in Punjab and Odisha. Launched in July 2015, the initiative aims to facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India. The programme has contributed towards bridging the digital gender divide in rural India. Initially, in 2015, female to male ratio was 1 in 10 and in 2018, it was increased to 4 in 10. It has trained 70,000 'Internet Saathis'.
23. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) has released a UGC (University Grants Commission) Guide to Student Induction Programme called "Deeksharambh" in New Delhi. It helps new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment at higher education institutions & inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution.
24. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2019 in the Lok Sabha on July 5, 2019. The Budget provides impetus to PM Narendra Modi's dream to make India a USD 5 trillion economy by 2020. Termed as "Green Budget" by PM Modi, the annual document announces no change in Income Tax slabs and announces increase in custom duty on Gold and other precious metals from 10 percent to 12.5 percent. It eases tax compliance and offers taxation relief for individuals buying affordable houses and electric-vehicles. The Budget prioritises transformation of 'Gaon', 'Garib' and 'Kisan'. She broke away from the tradition when she replaced the conventional leather briefcase with a bright red cloth bag to carry the Budget papers to the Parliament House.
25. The Lok Sabha has passed the National Investigative Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Three important amendments have been done to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act of 2008. Special powers have been given to the officers of NIA through this amendment bill. This bill mandates the setting up of Special Courts for NIA. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha after detailed discussion by Home Minister Amit Shah in the house.
26. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill - 2019 seeks to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act- 2012 which will make punishment stricter for committing sexual crimes against kids including death penalty.
  - Recent amendments also provide for levy of fines and imprisonment to curb child pornography.
  - To protect children and to ensure their safety and dignity bill is need of hour. The Bill was introduced by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.
27. Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which provides for death penalty to the culprits in the cases of sexual assault and stringent punishments for other crimes against children. It provides for the levy of fines and imprisonment up to 5 years to curb child pornography. In the event of a second or subsequent conviction, the punishment would be up to seven years and fine. Union government has sanctioned 1023 fast track courts for speedy dispensation of pending cases under POCSO and sexual assault.

28. Lok Sabha passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill was passed through a voice vote with 218 votes in favour and 79 against in the lower house of the Parliament, despite protest by the opposition. Further, the bill was tabled in the Rajya Sabha.
29. The amendment in RTI Act, which gives power to the government to decide the salary and service terms of statutory body head and its members, is approved by the government after Rajya Sabha passed the RTI Amendment Bill, 2019 by a voice vote. It was negated by 117 members voting against the motion and 75 members voting in favour. It will amend Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005.
30. Lok Sabha passed protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019. According to the bill, besides a Chief justice of India, a former Supreme Court judge can also be made the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The bill amends the protection of Human Rights Act 1993. The bill also proposes to enable any person to be the chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) who has been a judge of a high court.
31. Parliament passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 after the Rajya Sabha approved it unanimously on July 22, 2019. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier on July 19 through a voice vote. It aims to accelerate the process of appointment of chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
32. Parliament passed Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for users to open bank accounts and get a mobile phone connection. The Bill provides the use of Aadhaar number for KYC (Know Your Customer) authentication on voluntary basis under the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
33. The Parliament passed The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which became the first legislation to be passed by the newly constituted 17th Lok Sabha. It will replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, which was promulgated in March 2019 and amends Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act 2005. The new bill amends the definition of "person" under Section 2(v) of the SEZ Act 2005 to include 'trusts'.
34. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It will replace the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019. The bill will safeguard transparency, accountability, and quality in the governance of medical education in the country. The Bill supersedes the Medical Council of India (MCI) for a period of 2 years with effect from September 26, 2018.
35. Parliament has passed the Finance Bill 2019 and Appropriation Bill 2019.  
**Finance Bill 2019:** It gives effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2019-20.  
**Appropriation Bill 2019:** It seeks to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2019-20.
36. Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019. It was passed with 99 votes in favour and 84 opposed against it. The bill criminalizes instant triple talaq among Muslims and attracts a jail term of three years for the husband.
37. On July 29, 2019, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar on defence co-operation in New Delhi after the 2 sides (Minister of State for Defence, Shripad Yesso Naik and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing) held talks on issues including reviewing joint exercises and training provided to Myanmar Defence Services in India, strengthening maritime security through joint surveillance and developing new infrastructure.
38. On July 12, 2019, IHS Markit, a global information provider, in its report mentioned that India will surpass Japan to be the world's third largest economy in 2025 and it will overtake the United Kingdom (UK) to become the fifth biggest economy in 2019. Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is predicted to reach \$5.9 trillion in 2025 surpassing Japanese GDP.
39. FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 or 8th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup was held in France in 9 cities. United States (US), the defending champion won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 by defeating the Netherlands. 24 teams participated in the tournament.

- Megan Rapinoe of United States won the Best Player of the tournament award (Golden Boot Award).
  - Sari van Veenendaal of Netherland won the Best goalkeeper of the tournament award (Golden Glove).
40. International Olympic Committee (IOC) has removed a ban on the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) and permitted to compete in the 2020 Olympics. Kuwait was suspended in October 2015 following "undue government interference after a sports law that was not compatible with the basic principles that govern the Olympic Movement was passed in the country
41. The 2019 Wimbledon Championships was the 133rd edition, a grass court major Championship was the 3rd Grand Slam tournament of the year after the "Australian open" and "French open". It consists of men's (singles and doubles), women's (singles and doubles), mixed doubles. The tournament took place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom from 1st July 2019 to 14 July 2019.
- Men's Singles Novak Djokovic(Serbia)
  - Women's Singles Simona Halep(Romania)
  - Men's Doubles Juan Sebastián Cabal (Colombia) & Robert Farah (Colombia)
  - Women's Doubles Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) & Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)
  - Mixed Doubles Ivan Dodig (Croatia) & Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei)
42. The ICC Men's World Cup 2019 was the 12th Cricket World Cup held in England and Wales from 30 May to 14 July 2019. It was administered by International Cricket Council (ICC). The cricket format was One Day Internationals (ODIs). 10 teams participated in the cricket tournament with a total of 48 matches played between the teams. England lifted the first World Cup title beating New Zealand on boundary count after both the match and the subsequent Super Over finished as ties.
43. India's silver medal in the mixed relay event at the Asian Games 2018 is expected to be upgraded to gold after Bahrain's Kemi Adekoya was given a 4-year ban for failing a dope test by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). India's mixed relay team comprising Hima Das, Mohammad Anas, Arokia Rajiv and M R Poovamma had won silver at Jakarta Asian Games 2018.
44. International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages. ISSF World Cup in rifle/pistol/shotgun events to be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020. It will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, from March 4 to 13, 2020.
45. A high-level 10-member Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Kiren Rijiju, Sports Minister to coordinate and strategize the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics. The objective of the high-level committee is ensured that the performance of the Indian athletes is to optimize in the Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.
46. An e-learning platform, Byju's will be the official Team India sponsor for a period of three years from 5th September 2019 until 31st March 2022. In March 2017, oppo had won the sponsorship rights for Rs 1,079 crore for a period of five years (till March 2022). Now it took the decision to quit as it finds the value at which it acquired the rights in the year 2017 to be extremely high.
47. For the first time in the Olympic Games' history, Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event added in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games. Manika Batra to pair with Sharath Kamal for mixed doubles spot in Tokyo Olympics.
48. The German icebreaker RV Polarstern, a hulking ship will set out for the Arctic mission. It will trap scientists for a year in ice in the Arctic Ocean to study the impact of climate change. Researchers from 17 nations will participate in the mission. They will allow the water to freeze around them. The mission will be led by Markus Rex of Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany. The outlay of this expedition is \$158 million.
49. Indian Scientists from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai have developed a new material called 'black gold'. They rearranged size and gaps of gold nanoparticles to develop the new material, It can absorb light and carbon dioxide. It can be used for applications that range from harvesting solar energy to desalinating seawater.

50. Thousand of devotees gathered at the Chamliyal border shrine along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir for an annual fair at the shrine of Baba Dalip Singh Manhas, a saint popularly known as Baba Chamliyal, in Samba district. But there was no traditional exchange of 'shakkar (soil) and sharbat (water)' with Pakistan for the second successive year.
51. India signed a Rs.1500 crore contract with Russia for the acquisition of R-27 air-to-air missile which gives the additional capability to target enemy aircraft at long Ranges. These missiles are to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) R-27 missile It is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MIG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
52. The operation, code named 'Sudarshan' was launched by the Border Security Force (BSF) to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu. The massive exercise commenced on July 1, 2019. Name: The exercise is named 'Sudarshan' drawing from the legendary and mythological cutting wheel or the 'sudarshan chakra' on Lord Krishna's finger. Coverage: It will cover over 1,000-kms length of the India-Pakistan International Border. Jammu shares about 485-kms of the International border with Pakistan, about 553-kms of the front is in Punjab and on India's western flank with Rajasthan and Gujarat.
53. India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant will be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2021 for advanced trials. IAC Vikrant is in advanced stage of construction and is being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
54. The upgraded version of the homegrown BrahMos missile with an enhanced range of up to 500 km is ready. BrahMos missile, which cruises at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on the Su-30 fighters.
55. The 8th edition of Hand-in-Hand (HiH) Military exercise 2019 between India, China will be held on December 2019 at Umroi near Shillong in Meghalaya.
56. On July 23, 2019, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will launch its first solar mission Aditya-L1 in the first half of 2020. It will be the first dedicated scientific mission to study Sun's corona. Aim: It aims to put Aditya-L1 satellite (800-kg) into a halo orbit around Lagrangian point L1 of Sun and Earth system. The L1 point is situated at a distance of about 1.5 million km from earth. Aditya L1: It will be India's 1st solar probe to study the magnetic field of the sun's corona. The satellite will carry 7 payloads including the main payload Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VLEC). It will study the dynamic nature of the sun's outer most layers, corona, and chromosphere and collect data about Coronal Mass Ejections (CME).
57. The three armed forces of India (Army, Navy, and Air Force) conducted 1st ever simulated space warfare exercise called "IndSpaceEx" on July 25, 26, 2019. The 2-day exercise aims to assess requisite space and counter-space capabilities that are needed by India. It will also help India to better grasp strategic challenges in space that need to be handled.
58. Gharial is critically endangered species of crocodile, native to sandy freshwater river banks in the plains of the northern part of the Indian subcontinent. Also known as Gavial, the renewed efforts to protect these crocodiles were taken by the Odisha government by releasing five reptiles (3 females and 2 male) into the Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi – the southernmost limit of gharials' home range. They have individually marked and fitted with a transmitter before releasing them.
59. Bonn Challenge: It is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of worlds degraded and deforested land under restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. In India, 3.5 years maiden phase will be implemented in the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, and Karnataka.
60. World Nature Conservation Day was observed on July 28, 2019. It is celebrated with an objective to increase awareness about natural resources and protecting them. The day recognizes that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and productive society and to ensure the well-being of present and future generations. A report from the World Wildlife Foundation mentioned that since 1970, the pressure that people exerted on the planet was doubled and the resources upon which people depend declined by 33%.
61. In order to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and promotion and protection of their rights, the UN General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day Against Trafficking In Persons. The



- theme for 2019 is “Human Trafficking: call your government to action”. People trafficked in own country has doubled to 58% according to the United Nations office on drugs and crime (UNODC) Global report 2018.
62. United Nations International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July and this year it was observed on July 6, 2019. Its aim is to create awareness on cooperatives and promote international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace. The theme for 2019 is “Coops 4 decent work”. It is the 25th United Nations International Day of Cooperatives and the 96th International Cooperative day. It was celebrated for the first time in July 1923 by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA).
63. World Population Day was observed on July 11, 2019. It creates awareness on the growing population issues. Population issue may be family planning, gender equality, child marriage, human rights, right to health, baby’s health etc. It was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989. It was inspired by public interest in Five Billion Day celebrated on July 11, 1987. It was on this date, the world’s population reached five billion people. 2019 World Population Day calls for global attention of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).
64. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed every year on 18 July in recognition of the former South African President Nelson Mandela’s contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. Year 2019 marks 100 years of the birth of Nelson Mandela.
65. On July 26, 2019, the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated throughout India to commemorate India’s victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War. This day marks the victory of Indian armed forces in Operation Vijay in 1999 & honors the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for India in the Kargil War. Theme – “Remember, Rejoice and Renew”

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