

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

Persons in News

1. India's senior executive editor of NDTV, Ravish Kumar was awarded 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. He was awarded for "harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless". Four other individuals were declared winners of this award along with Ravish Kumar.
2. President of Fiji Major.General(Retd) Jioji Konrote has appointed Justice Madan Lokur from India as the new Supreme Court (SC) judge of Fiji. He will serve as the judge of the non-resident panel of the Supreme Court of Fiji. This is the first time ever an Indian has been appointed to the Supreme Court of another country.
3. On August 26, 2019, India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra after an illness. She was born in Himachal Pradesh and lived in Amritsar, Punjab and Delhi. She was the second woman IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of India after Kiran Bedi.
4. RN Ravi (A 1976-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Kerala cadre,,), a former Intelligence Bureau(IB) officer was sworn in as the 20th governor of Nagaland. Arup Kumar Goswami, Chief Justice (Acting) of Gauhati High Court(HC) administered the oath of office to Ravi at the Raj Bhavan in Kohima, Nagaland. Ravi succeeds Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya, whose tenure ended on July 19, 2019.
5. The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party, selected Sonia Gandhi, aged 72, as the interim president of the Congress party. She had held the post of Congress President between 1998 and 2017. She succeeds Rahul Gandhi.
6. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI and ED officials on August 21, 2019 after a 55 - minute drama at his Jor Bagh residence in New Delhi. The high drama unfolded after the Delhi High Court rejected Chidambaram's bail plea in the INX Media case. Before his arrest, Chidambaram, who had been untraceable for almost 27 hours since Monday afternoon, appeared briefly at the AICC headquarters to address the media on the charges leveled against him.
7. Former Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar(PK) Sinha ,a 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Prime Minister's Office(PMO) after Nripendra Misra's request to be relieved as Principal Secretary was accepted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
8. Arun Jaitley, an Indian politician and attorney, passed away in August 2019. He was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and served as the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India from 2014 to 2019.
9. Sushma Swaraj, a veteran leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former Minister of External Affairs in the Narendra Modi government in its first term, died on August 6, 2019, following a heart attack. Besides being external affairs minister for the entire first term of the Modi government, she was also the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs from May 26, 2014, to January 7, 2016. She represented Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha constituency in the 16th Lok Sabha.
10. In the recently released women's singles ranking by Badminton World Federation, India's star players PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal have retained 5th spot and 8th spot respectively. The ranking is topped by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi. In BWF men's ranking Japan's Kento Momota is ranked first whereas India's Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma are ranked 10th and 13th respectively.
11. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton overtook red bull's Max Verstappen in the final moments of the Formula 1 Hungarian grand prix to win the title. He outpaced max verstappen to the second spot. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc took third and fourth spot respectively.
12. Vinesh Phogat won her 3rd consecutive gold in women's 53kg category in the Poland Open Wrestling Tournament in Warsaw, the capital of Poland. She defeated wrestler Roksana of Poland by 3-2. She had won gold at the Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey in July 2019.

13. Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, aged 37, has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He will retire after the conclusion of the ongoing Global T20 Canada, which will be played against Montreal Tigers on August 11, 2019. He plays for Toronto Nationals. He has played 101 Tests, 260 One Day Internationals-ODIs (6,083 runs with 5 hundred) and 71 Twenty20 (T20) Internationals.
14. "South Africa's Wicket taker Dale Steyn who made his test debut in 2004 announced "retirement from test cricket, and has so far taken 439 wickets in 93 tests. The reason for his "retirement is to prolong his playing career. Currently, Dale Steyn is in 8th position in the all-time test bowling list and took 26 five-wicket hauls."
15. American Artistic gymnast Simone Arianne Biles became the first woman in the world to make a "triple-double" floor exercise landing which is a finale featuring two flips and three twists at the 2019 US (United States) Gymnastics Championships held at Kansas City, Missouri, US.
16. Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by Kapil Dev, former Indian cricketer, unanimously re- appointed Ravi Shastri as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team for 2 years, ending with the 2021 T20 (Twenty 20) World Cup in India. It will be Shastri's fourth stint with the national team, earlier, having served as the Cricket Manager (2007 tour of Bangladesh), Team Director (2014-2016) and head coach (2017-2019).
17. BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain has ordered for the reduction in the ban of Indian cricketer Shanthakumaran Sreesanth (S. Sreesanth), who was alleged in a match-fixing scandal in 2013. His ban period is now lowered to 7 years by the Supreme Court (SC) which will end by September 2020 setting aside the BCCI disciplinary committee's order banning him for a lifetime.
18. P.V Sindhu became the first Indian player to win the historic Badminton World Championship (BWF) gold by crushing Nozomi Okuhara in a dominating one-sided final on Sunday. In the titan clash, she won the gold with 21-7, 21-7 that lasted only 38 minutes.

Places in News

1. The Supreme Court bench comprising of Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman and Surya Kant has cleared the Chardham highway project, which will connect 4 holy places of Uttarakhand (Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri) through 900 km all-weather roads by modifying an NGT (National Green Tribunal) order to form a committee to look into environmental concerns.
2. Government announced to repeal Article 370 [except the first clause 370 (1)] and Article 35A which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced to bifurcate the state into 2 Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, which will have a legislature like Delhi and Puducherry, and Ladakh, which will be without a legislature like Chandigarh.
3. Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India's first underwater train project is set to launch in Kolkata, West Bengal under the Hooghly river. It is a 16-kilometer long Kolkata Metro project. It will connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan.
4. The Indian Army has launched a "Mission Reach Out" post revocation of Article 370 in Jammu Division to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region including providing water in locations where supply is disrupted and mobile medical care units with essential medicines, giving essentials including rations, assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, etc.
5. On August 28, 2019, The first ever India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. T.S Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) while the Ghanaian delegation was led by Mr. Charles Owiredu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. They agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, development partnership, defence & security, health & pharmaceutical sector, capacity building & training and people to people contacts.
6. On August 26, 2019, The President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo stated that the government has chosen sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on forested Borneo island, known for orangutans for its new capital. The current capital of Jakarta, overcrowded (home to more than 10 million people), sits on watery land. Parts of the city are sinking by as much as 25cm a year and almost half now sits below sea level.

7. The 52th ASEAN Foreign Minister's meeting is being organized in Bangkok between July 29 and August 3. The ASEAN Group is trying to establish itself as a global entity. This is an inter-governmental organization of 10 Southeast Asian countries. It was established on August 6, 1967. Its headquarters is in Jakarta, Indonesia.
8. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Benin, The Gambia and Guinea from 28 July to 3 August, 2019. It was the first ever visit of the Head of State/Head of Government of India to all 3 countries.
9. For the first time in 25 years, the United States (US) has labeled China as a currency manipulator. The US Treasury department defines currency manipulation as when countries deliberately influence the exchange rate between their currency and the US dollar to gain "unfair competitive advantage in international trade".
10. On August 6, 2019, Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of "Ghaem" in Tehran. The air-to-air missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence of Iran and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries. Yasin is a smart, guided-missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres (30 miles) of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.
11. India has slipped down to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings of 2018, according to data compiled by the World Bank. India recorded a GDP of \$2.73 trillion in 2018, which is less than that of the UK (\$2.82 trillion) and France (\$2.78 trillion).
12. The 9 day long National tribal festival named "Aadi Mahotsav" commenced at the Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of tribal affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The theme of this year's festival is "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft,Culture and Commerce".
13. Remains of the World's largest parrot, *Heracles inexpectatus* that lived 19 million years ago have been discovered in New Zealand which is well known for giant birds. It is nicknamed as "Squawkzilla". The report on this bird has been published in the latest edition of Biology Letters.
14. Singapore announced on World elephant day that ivory sales will be banned from the country from 2021.This comes as an initiative launched by the Singapore govt. to tighten its campaign against illegal wildlife trade.The announcement followed two years of consultation with non Government groups, ivory retailers and public.
15. Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake (measuring 88 hectares) in Katihar district of Bihar has been declared as state's 1st 'Community Reserve'. Gogabeel, which is the 15th Protected Area (PA) in Bihar, is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.
16. According to Ethnologue, a directory of languages which lists 7,111 living languages (languages that are still being used and spoken by people) worldwide, Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Country in Oceania tops the list with 840 living languages. India ranks 4th position with 453.The other nations in top 5 position include, Indonesia (2nd) with 710 living languages and Nigeria(3rd with 524) and US (United States) came 5th with 335.

Events of Significance

1. On August 15, 2019, Air India hoisted its Boeing 777 aircraft (Delhi-San Francisco flight AI-173) over the zero degree North Pole and became the first Indian airline to operate commercial flights overflying polar region. It usually overflies the Atlantic or the Pacific ocean. Flying over the North Pole saved fuel and time.
2. Amazon will acquire a 49% stake in Kishore Biyani-led Future Coupons Ltd for an undisclosed amount. Amazon has agreed to make an equity investment in Future Coupons Ltd. It will have both voting and non-voting shares. With this, amazon acquired around a 3.6 percent stake in the Future group.
3. On August 19, 2019, Indian largest digital wallet company, Paytm has promoted its CFO (chief financial officer) Madhu Deora as President of the company. On May 3, 2019, Bhushan Patil quits as a president of Paytm.
4. Urkund is an anti-plagiarism (anti-piracy, anti-theft) Swedish software. It has been chosen to be accessed for free by Indian Universities through global tender process. On August 2, 2019 trial access to the Urkund software was provided. The previously used software was Turnitin but it was found to be 10 times more expensive without a proportionate increase in features or reliability.

5. PNB(Punjab National bank) merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce(OBC) and United Bank of India to become the 2nd largest bank in India.After merging the Business size of the bank is 17.94Crore.
6. 7-year-old Mumbai startup Fynd, which is a Google-backed firm that connects retailers with online stores and consumers, is now acquired by Reliance industries. The acquisition announcement was made by Fynd's co-founder Harsh Shah.Reliance industries will now own 87.6% stake in Fynd.The acquisition has been made at a cost of 295 crore Indian rupees(\$42.33 million).
7. On August 6, 2019, The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) received permission from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to operate jointly in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City under the proposed programme 'Connect'. Nifty index, which is trading on SGX in Singapore, will be traded on a joint platform between the NSE and SGX in GIFT City.
8. On August 9, 2019, Huawei Technologies launched its own Operating System (OS) named HongMengOS in Chinese/ HarmonyOS in English. The first version of the OS will be launched later in 2019 in its smart screen products. It is a part of Huawei's play in the Internet of Things (IoT). It can be used across different devices from smartphones to smart speakers and even sensors.Over the next three years, the OS will be used in other devices, including wearables and car head units.
9. On August 12, 2019, Budget hotel chain Oyo Hotels and Homes has partnered with ACKO General Insurance to provide a complimentary insurance cover as part of the booking price for guests at its hotels across India. The visitors will get insurance protection against accidental death, baggage damage, accidental medical expenses amongst other benefits like OPD (Outpatient Department)treatment, etc during their stay.
10. On August 13, 2019, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) stated that, for regulatory purposes, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) will be treated as one of the categories of NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) & it will come under RBI's supervision.This comes after the Finance (No 2) Act, 2019 (23 of 2019) amended the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, granting certain powers to RBI for the regulation of HFCs.
11. President of India, Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019. With this, the Bill became an Act. It criminalizes instant 'triple talaq' among Muslims and attracts a jail term of 3 years for the husband.
12. The 30th Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. On his 30th interaction, many issues were reviewed. This was the first meeting of PRAGATI chaired by the Prime Minister in his second term in office. Grievances under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) was reviewed and the Prime Minister directed all the officers to achieve the target of 'housing for all by 2022'.
13. Lok Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill 2019 by a voice vote which seeks to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court (SC) from the present 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI). It amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.
14. India celebrated its 73rd Independence Day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the national flag at the Red Fort, New Delhi. He received a Guard of Honour from a contingent of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police. Flying Officer Preetam Sangwan assisted PM Modi in the unfurling of the national flag, Flight Lieutenant Jyoti Yadav and Flight Lieutenant Mansi Geda were positioned on either side of the saluting dais for the Prime Minister.
15. Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. It is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world with an aim to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
16. India launched the world's first-ever Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) which captures the facial biometric data of seafarers. It was launched by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers in New Delhi. He handed over the new BSID cards to 5 Indian seafarers.

17. 'Angikaar campaign' was launched by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (MoS- independent) of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in order to bring the PMAY(U) (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban) beneficiaries into the fold of other schemes like the Ujjawala (free gas connections) and Ayushman Bharat (health protection scheme). The campaign will be rolled out on October 2 till December 10, 2019 in all the cities with PMAY(U).
18. The UGC has set up a five-member committee to look into the allegations of sale of fake degrees by certain universities. The UGC Committee is required to complete its investigation in three weeks and identify institutions and individuals that have resorted to such illegal practices so that strict action can be taken against everyone involved.
19. The Union Government has constituted a 5-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into issues concerning the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The GoM will look into the development, economic and social issues of the two UTs and suggest ways to improve the situation. The two UTs will come into existence on October 31.
20. The Madras High Court ruled recently that religious organizations have no power to dissolve a marriage or even allow a marriage. The court stated that utilization of such power by a religious organization is condemnable and the matter should be dealt with some severity.
 - The Madras High Court also condemned the religious organizations for encouraging second marriages before the dissolution of the first marriage. The court stated that a woman, regardless of the religion she belongs to, is referred to as destitute when she is deserted by her husband.
 - The court's ruling came in response to a petition filed by a Muslim CISF constable, who had filed an appeal against his sacking from the job, after his second marriage.
21. The Union government has granted Minister of State (MoS) status to the mayors of Srinagar and Jammu civic bodies. Additional secretary of the state Subash Chhibber said that the hospitality and protocol department shall make necessary insertion in the J&K State Warrant of Precedence with the approval of the competent authority.
22. In order to boost the National Food Security, the One Nation One Ration Card scheme was launched by the government, on pilot basis, in four states namely Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Families holding this card can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these four states.
23. Union Home Minister & BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) President, Amit Shah will now head a 4-member panel of ministers, which was created in 2018 to propose action against mob lynching. The panel was headed by then Home minister Rajnath Singh when it was formed. The Group of Ministers (GoM) will have the members including S. Jaishankar, Nitin Gadkari, Ravi Shankar Prasad, and Thawar Chand Gehlot.
24. "Speaker of Lok Sabha, Om Birla announced that the Lower House (Lok Sabha) will become "paperless from the next session. It will save crores of rupees to the exchequer/ national treasury."
25. Mobile Library Buses procured under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) assistance from Airport Authority of India (AAI) by Delhi Public Library (DPL), was launched by the Union Minister of state for culture and tourism-Shri Prahlaad Singh Patel in New Delhi. It was launched under the "Ghar-Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak" scheme of DPL that provide books to citizens of Delhi especially residents of slums, resettlement colonies, and rural areas.
26. The 2-day long 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 was launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh. This is the first-ever e-Conference in the northeast region in Shillong, Meghalaya. The theme of this Conference was "Digital India: Success to Excellence". The chief guest for this conference was Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Konrad Sangma.
27. "President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind approved the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA) Bill, 2019 under which individuals can be declared as terrorists, their "properties can be seized and travel ban can be imposed once they are declared as terrorists. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar are likely to be the first 2 individuals to be designated as terrorists."
28. The Supreme Court has referred cases challenging the scrapping of Article 370 to a five-judge constitution bench. Article 370 petitions will now be heard in the first week of October. The Supreme Court also issued notices to the centre on all petitions related to the scrapping of Article 370 and the restrictions imposed on the media in the state and has sought reply within 7 days.

29. The 45th G7 Summit for the year 2019 was held in Biarritz, France from 24 to 26 August, 2019. The next G7 Summit (46th) for the year 2020 will be held in the United States.
30. Pakistan is considering a complete closure of Air Space to India for some days in protest against arbitrary abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35-A in Jammu & Kashmir. India already faced a similar situation in February 2019 for four months right after India attacked and destroyed the terrorist camp in Balakot. Pakistan had completely closed its air space then not only for India but for other countries too. The nation had later opened up its air space to all civilian aircraft on July 16.
31. On August 28, 2019, the Pakistan army successfully test-fired its 290km range surface to surface ballistic missile (SSM) name "Ghaznavi" during its night training launch.
32. India and Pakistan will be participating in the upcoming major military exercise "Tsentr (centre) 2019" under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), to be held from tentatively scheduled period of September 10-21. All the members of SCO will be participating in the exercise. The decision to hold the exercise was announced at the 34th SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure council held earlier this year in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. SCO members – China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.
33. On August 12, 2019, The founder of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and is known as the Father of the Indian Space Program, Vikram Sarabhai's 100th birth anniversary observed on 12 August, 2019 across the country. On August 12, 2019, To commemorate the birth centenary of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, ISRO has launched a year-long programmes and functions (include science and space exhibitions, competitions for school children, journalism awards and speeches by eminent personalities) will end on 12th August, 2020
34. On August 10, 2019, The Indian Army has launched a "Mission Reach Out" post revocation of Article 370 in Jammu Division to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region. Mission Reach Out: Under this mission, Army has undertaken many initiatives which includes, providing water in locations where supply is disrupted and mobile medical care units with essential medicines, giving essentials including rations, assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, facilitating people to speak to their near and dear ones through Army exchange and creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function.
35. Japanese Ship, JS Sazanami, the fourth vessel of the Takanami class destroyers of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) commanded by Commander Shoji Ishkawa visited Kochi on a 2-day goodwill visit from 13th to 14th August, 2019.
36. 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK). It exercised with the Royal Navy's Daring Class Destroyer, HMS Defender with integral helicopter Wildcat. KONKAN-19 involved Gunnery Shoots, Manoeuvres, Cross Deck Flying, ASW Screening and Air Defence exercise.
37. On August 17, 2019, A new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1 (SD-1) with 3 satellites, developed by the China Rocket Company affiliated to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALVT) was launched successfully from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. 3 satellites were developed by 3 separate Beijing-based companies. They will be used for remote sensing services, communication and Internet of Things (IoT).
38. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) space agency, has confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission, an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa, with the target to launch by 2023. It will be conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon Europa and investigate whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.
39. On August 23, 2019, United States Coast Guard (USCG) ship Stratton on the maiden visit to India arrived at Chennai port as a part of a goodwill visit. Deputy Inspector General Sanjeev Dewan, TM Commander Coast Guard along with officials from Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and USCG graced the occasion.
40. The air forces of China and Pakistan began joint exercise Labelled 'Shaheen-VIII' in the Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border of around 300 km north of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). This is the 8th such exercise undertaken by two countries with the participation of Chinese J10 & J-11 and Pakistani JF-17s planes.

41. The world's first floating nuclear reactor Akademik Lomonosov was launched on August 23, 2019, and had set up on a 5000 km journey to northeastern Siberia from Arctic port of Murmansk (north Arctic region), and the trip is expected to last between 4-6 weeks depending on the ice amounts and weather. Despite warnings by environmentalists the journey was started as the reactor is vulnerable to storms and could also produce radioactive wastes.
42. Indian Air Force's (IAF) Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa who is also Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee(COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff(CAS), paid a 3-day visit to Thailand from August 26-29, 2019 to attend the 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.
43. On August 28, 2019, the Pakistan army successfully test-fired its 290km range missile name "Ghaznavi" during its night training launch.
44. On July 26 2019, the first space museum of India opening new attraction to space enthusiasts, was set up at Hyderabad in association with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The museum is housed in the Birla Science Museum. It gave Space of 9000 square feet to set up the space museum. It was inaugurated on the celebration on golden jubilee year of the Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute (BACRI).
45. On August 22, 2019, Russia launched its first unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named 'Fedor' (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research) in Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS).
46. Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA, have developed the biggest-ever computer chip using carbon nanotubes (CNT)- RV16XNano. This was published in the journal Nature. RV16X-Nano is a 16-bit processor that contains 14,000 transistors — electronic switches. These switches are made up of CNT — tiny cylinders made of rolled-up, atom-thick sheets of graphene.
47. Scientists from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom (UK), claim to have created the world's thinnest gold (periodic table representation of gold is Au) which is one million times thinner than fingernail of human. As it appears to be green in the water, researchers named it gold "nanoseaweed". This paperwork was published in the journal Advanced Science. The lead author of the study is author Sunjie Ye.
48. Former director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII), Delhi, Ms Chandrima Shaha (66) is all set to become the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) from January 1, 2020. She will succeed Ajay K. Sood. She was the vice-captain of West Bengal's first women's cricket team and also the first woman cricket commentator for All India Radio (AIR).
49. The World Archery (WA) has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI) due to the internal factionalism (dispute and disagreements within the body). This factionalism rose between Union Tribal Affairs minister Arjun Munda and BVP Rao (former AAI president), when Archery Association of India unanimously elected both of them in separate elections in New Delhi and Chandigarh respectively. This led to a confusion of not knowing who the actual elected body is.
50. Cricket Australia took a revolutionary move announcing new guidelines with the International Cricket Council's (ICC) gender recognition policy to include transgender players to play cricket. The transgender players willing to play for the state and national women's team will have to undergo a test to verify the testosterone level limit set out in the policy.
51. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Rahul Johri announced that Paytm will continue as the title sponsor of the Indian cricket board's domestic and international matches for the next five years i.e till 2023. The bid from One 97 Communications, holding company of Paytm, was the winning bid for Rs 326.80 crore.
52. The National governing body for cricket, BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mumbai) has stated that Sporta Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Dream11), LafargeHolcim (ACC Cement and Ambuja Cement) and Hyundai Motor India Ltd. have acquired the official partners' rights for its international and domestic matches set to take place from 1st September 2019 - 31st March 2023.

53. Gokulam Kerala Football club (FC) defeated Mohun Bagan team of West Bengal at the finals of the 2019 Durand cup (129th edition) match held at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Kerala lifted the title for the second time in the 131 year history of the oldest football tournament in Asia by defeating Mohun bagan team with a 2-1 score. Read full details here: [Gokulam Kerala FC wins 129th edition of Durand Cup \(2019\) defeating Mohun Bagan to win the title](#)
54. United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25) meet scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from 2 – 13 December 2019.
55. The journal 'Zootaxa' has published about 7 new species of insects that can walk or run on the surface of the water. This was discovered by scientists of the 'Zoological Survey of India'. The species belongs to the genus Mesovelgia ranging from 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm equipped with hydrophobic setae (bristles) on their legs and are pale green in colour with silver-white wings and black veins.
56. In order to save the natural resources, the Union environment ministry unveiled a draft 'Nation Resource Efficiency Policy' which suggests the institutional mechanism and a three-year action plan through the principle of 6R and 'green public procurement'. The 6R stands for Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redesign, Re-manufacture and Refurbish.
57. In an eco-friendly initiative, the Ministry of Railways has directed all railway units to strictly enforce a ban on single-use plastic, with less than 50-micron thickness, from October 2, 2019, in its premises and trains with the aim to achieve "Plastic Free Railway". The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Development Corporation (IRCTC) will implement the return of plastic drinking water bottles and 1,853 plastic bottle crushing machines will be installed at 360 major railway stations in the 1st phase of this initiative.
58. Discovery India and World Wide Fund (WWF) India have tied up with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans. It is done as a move to protect the Sundarbans- the mangrove forest, habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict and also as part of a global movement "Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers".
59. At the global meeting on endangered species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland, CITES member nations have agreed to protect giraffes for the 1st time, which draws the praise from conservationists.
60. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) committee headed by former high court judge Justice S P Garg suggested that all water bodies in Delhi must be provided with Unique Identification Numbers (UID) after properly demarcating them and mapping them on GPS (Global Positioning System) platforms in order to conserve them.
61. The United Nations (UN) jointly with the Amnesty International observes the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance every year on August 30. The day aims to increase awareness about the number of enforced disappearances around the world.
62. International Day of the World's Indigenous People was observed on August 9, 2019. It is celebrated to raise awareness about the protection of the rights of the world's indigenous population. The theme of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2019 is "Indigenous Languages".
63. The International Youth Day was observed on August 12, 2019 to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of the society. The 2019 theme is "Transforming education".
64. In a bid to make the city cleaner & greener, the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah has flagged off the first fleet of eco-friendly e-buses (electric buses) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which will be operated on major junctions in the city. He also inaugurated the India's 1st automated battery charging & changing station for e-buses in the city. Under the Faster Adaption and Manufacture of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, Gujarat will get 550 electric buses. Ahmedabad alone will get 300 e- buses.

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