

Important Days

February 19 - Birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- The birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is celebrated all over Maharashtra. With his valour and great administrative skills, Shivaji carved out an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur. Shivaji is well-known for his innovative military tactics that centred around non-conventional methods leveraging strategic factors like geography, speed, and surprise to defeat his more powerful enemies.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji is remembered as a torchbearer of good governance and as an accomplished administrator.

February 19 - Guru Ravidas Jayanti

- Guru Ravidas Jayanti is being celebrated on February 19. Saint Ravidas was a 14th-century saint and reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India.

February 20 - World Day of Social Justice

- Social Equality Justice day is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. Many organizations, including the UN, American Library Association, and the International Labour Office, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. **2019 theme: If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice.**

February 21 - International Mother Language Day

- International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- The theme of this year's International Mother Language Day will be indigenous languages as a factor in development, peace and reconciliation.

Rankings / Indexes

ICC Test Batsmen rankings

- 1) Virat Kohli
- 2) Kane Williamson
- 3) Cheteshwar Pujara

ICC Test Bowlers rankings

- 1) Pat Cummins
- 2) Kagiso Rabada

ICC Test All rounders rankings

- 1) Jason Holder
- 2) Shakib-Al Hasan
- 3) Ravindra Jadeja

Second edition of States' ranking on Startup initiatives

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released second edition of Startup Ranking for 2019.

All India Citizens Survey of Police Services

- Ministry of Home Affairs has commissioned the Bureau of Police Research and Development to conduct a pan-India survey called, All India Citizens Survey of Police Services. The survey will be conducted through the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
- The aim is to understand public perceptions about Police, gauge the level of non-reporting of crimes or incidents to Police, timeliness and quality of police response and action, assess citizens' perception and experience about women and children's safety.

Summits / Conferences

Board of Trade Meeting

- Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, chaired a meeting of the Board of Trade (BOT) at Vigyan Bhawan. On this occasion, Commerce & Industry Minister launched a new online "Anytime-Anywhere" export awareness course to train, mentor and hand-hold potential exporters so as to help them to tap international trade opportunities. This Online Course has been funded under the 'Niryat Bandhu' scheme of DGFT and is in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.

4th Agri Leadership Summit

- President Ram Nath Kovind has praised the farmers of Haryana for adopting new methods to manage stubble and crop residue. He was addressing the closing ceremony of the 4th Agri Leadership Summit organised by the Haryana government.

Regional Maritime Safety Conference

- Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari will launch the revised guidelines for chartering of ships by providing Right of First Refusal to ships built in India in Mumbai at the Regional Maritime Safety Conference.
- The measure will not incentivize ship building activity in the country but also help in raising the demand for such vessels and provide them with additional market access and business support.
- The maiden edition of this conference is being organised by National Maritime Foundation in association with the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The two-day conference is being organised to discuss issues related to maritime security in the India-ASEAN subregion and to promote trade along sea routes.

International Conference on Energy and Environment

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Conference and Exhibition on Energy and Environment: Challenges and Opportunities (ENCO 2019) in New Delhi. This Conference is being organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

14th Agricultural Science Congress

- Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh addressed the 14th Agricultural Science Congress and said that the Agricultural Science Congress marks the confluence of researchers, intellectuals, creativity and the custodians of global food security.

National Workshop on “Promoting Healthy Diets Through Local Food Systems”

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Diets (NCEAR-D), UNICEF India and Lady Irwin College, organised a National Workshop on “Promoting Healthy Diets Through Local Food Systems” in New Delhi.

4th India-Asean Expo and Summit

- Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, inaugurated the 4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit 2019 in New Delhi.

Joint seminar in Seoul

- The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ICCK) and India Forum organized a joint seminar in Seoul to strengthen the economic relationship between India – Korea.
- It is the first time that South Korea has clearly designed a foreign policy initiative for India and officially documented it.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Yonsei University in Seoul.

India-Russia Forum on SMEs

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu addressed Interactive Forum between Small and Medium Enterprises of India and Russia in Bengaluru.

2nd Meeting of National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC)

- Shri K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism chaired the 2nd meeting of the reconstituted National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) at ‘Statue of Unity’, Kevadia, Gujarat.
- The NTAC acts as think tank of the Ministry of Tourism and advises the Government on various tourism related policy matters.

Appointments

International

- William Barr - **US Attorney General**
- Professor Faizel Ismail - **Director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance**

National

- Shri Sushil Chandra - **New Election Commissioner**
- **Chandramouli Ramanathan** - UN Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the management strategy, policy and compliance department
- Anuj Sharma - **Kolkata Police Commissioner**
- Shri Tarun Shridhar - **Additional charge of the post of Secretary in the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

Science and Technology

Discovery

Wayanad sanctuary yields a new spider

- A new species of spider has been discovered from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, a major biodiversity hotspot in the State.
- The new species, Cocalus lacinia, spotted in the Kurichiad forest range of the sanctuary, is taxonomically related to an Australian species, described by arachnologist Fred Wanless in 1981.

Scientists discover massive mountains under Earth's crust

- Scientists have discovered massive mountains in the Earth's mantle. They found the topography on a layer located 660 km below the surface.

Space Science

Israel to launch its first moon mission

- Israelis to launch its first moon mission this week, sending an unmanned spacecraft to collect data to be shared with NASA. 585-kilogram Beresheet (Genesis) spacecraft is to lift off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- So far only Russia, the United States and China have sent their spacecraft to the moon. The Chinese spacecraft made the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon on January.

App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India launches a new portal **LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System** for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways.
- The information will help better planning for movement of vessels.

Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal

- The Home Minister also launched two portals - Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal. A separate Women Safety Division has been established in the Home Ministry and many existing laws have been amended.

Tele Law Dashboard & Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) Mobile Application

- The Tele Law Dashboard is an online platform to connect beneficiary with the panel lawyer through video conference, telephone and chat, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) Mobile Application will facilitate registration of a lawyer volunteering to provide pro bono legal services.

Schemes**NICRA**

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched a mega project called NICRA to address the issues of climate change through the Krishi Vigyan Kendras [KVKs].

Celebration of Swachhta Pakhwada

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan administered the Swachhta pledge to all the officials and employees of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in New Delhi marking the celebration of Swachhta Pakhwada scheduled from 16th to 28th February 2019.

Operation Digital Board

- The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched Operation Digital Board to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country.
- Under the initiative, seven lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and two lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be equipped with digital boards in the next three years.

Scheme for Adolescent girls

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched Scheme for Adolescent girls. The scheme focuses on girls aged between 11 to 14 years who have left studies and will take steps for proper nutrition and special care for them.
- The state government also decided to observe Adolescent girls day on 8th of every month at Anganwadi centres across the state. State Government will also launch Nutrition Campaign for the adolescent girls on 8th March.

Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG)

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled its new product, the Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide, at Aero India 2019.

Economic Affairs

Employment of Indian seafarers grows by 35 percent this year

- The shipping sector has witnessed an unprecedented growth of 35 per cent in the number of Indian seafarers employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels this year.

Centre increases MSP of Sugar by 2 Rs/Kg

- The Centre has increased the minimum selling price of sugar by two rupees per kilogram to 31 rupees a kilogram for the year 2018-19.

India raises customs duty to 200 pc on all goods imported from Pakistan

- India has raised the basic customs duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from Pakistan with immediate effect following withdrawal the Most Favoured Nation, MFN status in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack.
- The main items which Pakistan exports to India include fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products, bulk minerals and ores and finished leather.

About 16 crore people consuming alcohol in country

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot has said that about 16 crore people are consuming alcohol in the country by a survey which was conducted by his Ministry in collaboration with the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of AIIMS.
- The states with high prevalence of dependent pattern of alcohol use disorders are Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh.

EPFO hikes interest rate on provident fund

- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has decided to provide 8.65 per cent interest on Provident Fund deposits for 2018-19 against 8.55 per cent in the last year.
- The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) headed by Labour Minister is the apex decision making body of the EPFO which finalises rate of interest on PF deposits for a financial year.

Banking Affairs

RBI to give Rs 28,000 cr to Centre as dividend

- The Reserve Bank has announced that it will transfer an interim surplus of 28,000 crore rupees to the central government for the half-year ended 31st December 2018.

Government to infuse Rs 48,239 crore in 12 public sector banks

- The government has approved recapitalisation of Rs 48,239 crore in 12 public sector banks in this fiscal to help them maintain regulatory capital requirements and finance growth plans.
- The government will infuse over nine thousand crore rupees in Corporation Bank and six thousand 896 crore rupees in Allahabad Bank.

FPIs pour Rs 5,300 cr into equities

- Foreign investors have put in over 5,300 crore rupees into the Indian equity market in the first half of this month.

MOU/Agreement

GeM and GS1 India Sign MoU

- GS1 India, a standards organization set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- This will enable GeM's buyers and vendors to access rich, accurate and standardized information on attributes of thousands of products across categories, empowering them to make more informed decisions.

India signs Legal Agreements with the World Bank

- The Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) and the World Bank signed a \$40 Million Loan Agreement to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area, who have been facing severe water shortages and water-borne epidemics over the last few years.

Government liberalizes the e-Visa regime

- The e-Tourist Visa which was introduced in September 2014 with 46 countries has now been made applicable for 166 countries.
- Recently, government has made series of amendments in e-visa regime, liberalizing it further and making it more tourists friendly.

Sushma Swaraj leaves on 4-day visit to Bulgaria, Morocco and Spain

- Mrs.Swaraj will visit to Bulgaria on the first leg of the tour, she will meet with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the country.

MoU between India and Argentina

- India and Argentina signed ten MoUs in several areas, including Defence, Civil nuclear, Tourism, pharmaceuticals and agriculture. An MOU on Cooperation and Collaboration between Prasara Bharti and the Federal System of Media and Public Contents of Argentina were also inked.

MoU between India and Morocco

- India and Morocco signed four MoUs for setting up of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Cooperation in Housing and Human Settlement, Reciprocal facilitation of procedures for issue of Business Visa and Cooperation in Youth Matters.

MoU between Environment Ministry and University of British Columbia

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada for next 10 years in New Delhi.
- The MoU will help in exchange of students, researchers and faculty, developing research projects, livelihood opportunities and augment income of the forest based communities and also assist the industries to optimize the utilization of forest based resources with access of technology to different stakeholders by the respective organizations.

President Ram Nath Kovind approves changes in Stamp Act

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the amendments in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, which will rationalise and harmonise the system of levying stamp duty and help curb tax evasion.
- The Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, were introduced as part of the Finance Act 2019, and was approved by Parliament.

MoU between India, Sri Lanka

- India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a business centre for ICT incubators in Jaffna through grant of 25 crore Sri Lankan rupees from India.

Defence

Indian Air Force to display firepower in Pokharan, Rajasthan

- Indian Air Force is set to demonstrate its full combat and fire capabilities during 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019' in the Pokharan firing range close to Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.
- Akash missile firing, gun firing from Advanced Light Helicopter and MiG 29's air-to-ground role will be demonstrated in the exercise.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to attend the event.
- Ability to detect targets, multi-spectrum capability, swift identification and neutralising targets with precision will also be displayed.

Aero India 2019

- Unmanned aerial vehicles or drones, unmanned aircraft systems and balloons have been banned in Bengaluru for security reasons during the five-day Aero India show.
- Defence Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the 12th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition Aero India 2019 at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

CRPF to add more security features to its convoy movement

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has decided to add new security features to its convoy movement in Jammu and Kashmir making its passage more safe and secured.

Final Operational Clearance of LCA Tejas MK I

- The formal declaration of Final Operational Clearance (FOC) for Indian Air Force (IAF) Light Combat Aircraft Tejas MK I was made by Secretary Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy.

Maiden Drone Olympics Competition

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) made a spectacular entry at the Aero-India 2019 with the first ever 'Drone Olympics' competition for UAV's held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.
- **Theme - 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities'.**

Awards and Achievement

Sportstar Aces Awards Winners



Sportstar Aces Awards winners

POPULAR AWARDS	
Sportsman of the Year (Cricket)	Virat Kohli & Jasprit Bumrah
Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket)	Smriti Mandhana
Sportsman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	A. Sharath Kamal
Sportswoman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	P. V. Sindhu & Manika Batra
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	Neeraj Chopra
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	Hima Das
Sportsman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	Sunil Chhetri
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	Gurjit Kaur
Sportsman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	Bajrang Punia
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	M.C. Mary Kom & Vinesh Phogat
Sportsperson of the Year (Motorsport)	K.P. Aravind

JURY AWARDS	
Team of the Year	Vidarbha Ranji Team
Coach of the Year	Massimo Costantini
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prakash Padukone
Best Young Athlete (Male)	Saurabh Chaudhary
Best Young Athlete (Female)	Manu Bhaker
Parathlete Sportsman of the Year	Suyash Yadav & Manoj Sarkar
Parathlete Sportswoman of the Year	Deepa Malik
Best State for Promotion of Sports	Odisha

NOMINATED AWARDS	
Best University for the Promotion of Sports	Army School
Best PSU / Corporate House for the Promotion of Sports	Railways

Virat Kohli **Chairman's Choice Award: Cheteshwar Pujara** P. V. Sindhu

President of India to present Tagore Award

- The President of India will present the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh); and Shri Ram Sutar Vanji for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively on 18.02.2019 at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.

National Affairs

First Mega Food Park in the state

- Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala. This is the first Mega Food Park in the state of Tripura.

All India Radio FM Station at Nellore

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated an All India Radio FM Station at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

Union Minister inaugurates, lays foundations of various schemes in Haridwar

- Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundations of various schemes amounting to 5894 crore rupees in Haridwar. He also inaugurated snan ghat in Chandi ghat and pumping station to stop the drainage system from polluting the Ganga.

State Wise Affairs

Bihar

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Patna	Nitish Kumar	Lalji Tandon

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of sewerage infrastructure in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of sewerage infrastructure in four towns of Bihar as part of Nirmal Ganga Programme. These include Karmalichak (Patna), Barh, Sultanganj and Nauguchia.

SAIL's steel processing unit inaugurated

- In Bihar, Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh inaugurated SAIL's steel processing unit at Bettia in West Champaran district. At present, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) manufactures steel pipes at the unit. One tube mill became operational on January 31, 2019, the second will become operational by February 28, 2019.

Himachal Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Acharya Dev Vrat

Sanskrit as the second official language of the state

- The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill to make Sanskrit the second official language of the state.

CM lay foundation stone of Central University in Kangra district

- Union Human Resource Minister Prakash Javadekar and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur laid foundation stone of Central University at Dehra in Kangra district.

Kerala

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	P. Sathasivam

Attukal Pongala, world's largest religious congregation of women

- In Kerala, the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram is all prepared to host the Attukal Pongala festival which is considered as one of the world's largest religious gathering of women on a single day. Lakhs of women will prepare 'Pongala'- the offering in makeshift brick stoves to worship the presiding deity of Attukal Bhagavathy temple.

Maharashtra

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

Western Railway announces launch of two new express trains

- The Western Railway (WR) announced the launch of two new express trains, one from Mumbai's suburb of Bandra to Bhusaval in North Maharashtra and the other linking Madhya Pradesh's commercial hub of Indore to the temple town of Khajuraho.

PM inaugurates several development projects in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister inaugurated various development projects in Pandharkawda in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra. Speaking on the Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Nidhi which was announced in this year's Union Budget, the Prime Minister said that as many as 1.5 crore farmers will be benefitted with the scheme in Maharashtra
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Eklavya Model Residential School of Nanded for tribal students. He also handed over the keys of houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to the beneficiaries.
- The Prime Minister then flagged-off 'Humsafar Express' connecting Ajni (Nagpur)-Pune Train service through video link. He also distributed certificates and cheques under the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission to women Self-Help Groups.

Election commission launches voter awareness campaign

- Maharashtra's state election commission has launched a voter awareness campaign to ensure maximum participation of all eligible voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

New Delhi

Chief Minister	Lieutenant Governor
Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Baijal

India withdraws Most Favoured Nation status from Pakistan

- India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status granted to Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- A decision in this regard was taken during the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, CCS in New Delhi.

Emergency Response Support System to be launched for women safety

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will launch Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 states and Union territories for women safety from New Delhi.
- The states include Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Persons in distress can dial a pan-India number : 112.
- Under this system, all the states have to set up a dedicated Emergency Response Centre (ERC). A citizen may Press power button on a smart phone thrice quickly to activate a panic call to ERC.
- The service has already been launched in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

15th Foundation Day Celebrations of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the Foundation Day Lecture 'Constitution and Tribes', on the occasion of 15th Foundation Day Celebrations of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, in New Delhi.

President Ram Nath Kovind promulgates four Ordinance

- President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated four Ordinances. Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, the Companies (Amendment) Second Ordinance and the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Ordinance, 2019.

Digital Bharat, Saksham Bharat

- A Digital India Compendium on Digital Bharat, Saksham Bharat was released by Hon'ble Minister for Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

“Waste to Wonder” Park

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said that waste disposal should be done properly for which the Municipal corporations will have to play a lead role. He was speaking at the inauguration of the “Waste to Wonder” Park under the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

Tamil Nadu

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit

A drainage-cleaning robot introduced

- In Chennai, a drainage-cleaning robot has been introduced for the first time at the city corporation as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging. The robot named Bandicoot has been introduced at a cost of 18 lakh rupees. Drainage cleaning could be detected by viewing the blockages on the screen. The robot could be taken to any place in the corporation area.

NHRC issues notice to TN government

- The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, has issued notice to the government of Tamil Nadu over reported denial of basic amenities to garment industry workers in the state.

President Ram Nath Kovind unveils 15.2 feet tall statue of Gandhi Ji in Chennai

- President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a 15.2 feet tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the premises of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in Chennai. The event was organized in view of 150th year of Gandhiji and centenary year of the Sabha. The Sabha has been established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1918 in Madras, which is now Chennai.

Uttar Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik

Foundation stone of Defence Corridor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of Defence Corridor in Jhansi. Jhansi is one of the six nodal points of the Uttar Pradesh defence corridor. He also laid the foundation stone of doubling of 425-kilometre long Jhansi-Manikpur and Bhimsen-Khairar railway lines. He also inaugurated the electrification of 297-kilometre long section of Jhansi - Khairar section. He also inaugurated Pahari Dam Modernization Project.

World's first diesel to electric converted locomotive

- Prime Minister flagged off an 1st ever indigenously developed electric locomotive converted from a diesel engine at the Diesel Locomotives Works (DLW).

Foundation stones for 510 km length of NH

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for 510 km length of National Highway works amounting to 5094 crore in Moradabad, Meerut and Baghpat districts of Uttar Pradesh.

International Affairs

Nigeria orders closure of all land borders

- In Nigeria, the government has ordered the closure of all land borders to ensure a smooth presidential election to be held.

US, Russia and France condemn Pulwama attack

- Countries from across the globe have condemned the terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, with US, Russia and France asserting that they stand with India in combating the menace of terrorism.

Iran launches new locally-made submarine

- Iran has launched a new locally-made submarine capable of firing cruise missiles. Fateh, Persian for 'conqueror', is Iran's first in the semi-heavy category.

Yemen's government, Houthi rebels agree on mutual pullback of forces

- Yemen's government and Houthi rebels have agreed on phase one of a mutual pullback of forces from the key city of Hodeidah. UN officials said, the deal on the first phase has been finalised and they have agreed in principle for the second phase.

Afghanistan lodges strong complaint with UNSC against Pakistan

- Afghanistan has lodged a strong complaint with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) against Pakistan for its engagement with the Taliban.

UAE funded US military hospital to be built in Abu Dhabi

- A US military hospital funded by the United Arab Emirates will be built in Abu Dhabi to treat Emirati soldiers and regionally based American troops. The US has a number of military bases across the Gulf - the largest in Qatar with about ten thousand troops.

- The UAE is a key regional ally of the United States and maintains close ties with the administration of President Donald Trump.

Coordination to facilitate peace settlement in Syria

- Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron have agreed to continue coordination of the two countries in order to facilitate the peace settlement in Syria.

Myanmar sets up committee to discuss reforming constitution

- Myanmar set up a committee to discuss reforming the country's military-drafted constitution. Myanmar parliament voted to form a cross-party committee to debate reforms of the charter.

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships

- Sri Lanka's 150 students from all 25 districts were awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi scholarships for study in India. This is the twelfth year in continuum that India has provided Mahatma Gandhi scholarships to bright students across Sri Lanka.

Australia announces two-year ban on entry of its citizens

- In Australia, Government has announced a two-year ban on the entry of its citizens who fought for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and now want to return following the fall of the terror group there. The Australian government has introduced a bill to amend the law in the Federal parliament in this regard.

'Festival of India'

- In Nepal, a month-long 'Festival of India' began in Kathmandu to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries. Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri jointly inaugurated the event.

Trump signs order to establish US space force

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to establish its Space Force as a new armed service within the Department of Air Force. The Space Force will include both combat and combat support functions to enable prompt and sustained offensive and defensive space operations in all domains.

Saudi Arabia to invest 100 billion dollars

- Saudi Arabia will invest 100 billion dollars in India in range of areas including energy, refining, petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture and manufacturing.

India Korea startup hub in Seoul

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India Korea startup hub in Seoul. PM said, his government has introduced flagship program Start-up India with 1.4 billion dollars fund for four years to create a startup eco-system in India.

Sports

Senior National Badminton Championship

- Saina Nehwal won her fourth title at the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior Nationals, defeating P.V.Sindhu convincingly 21-18, 21-15 in Guwahati.
- Sourabh Verma completed a hat-trick of titles, claiming the men's singles crown after defeating young Lakshya Sen in straight games of 21-18, 21-13.
- Earlier, the pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty outclassed top seed duo Arjun M.R and Shlok Ramachandran in straight games of 21-13, 22-20 to clinch the Men's Doubles title.

Simona Halep to face Belgian Elise Mertens in finals of Qatar Total Open at Doha

- Top seed and world number three Simona Halep will face Belgian Elise Mertens in the finals of the Qatar Total Open at Doha. Halep is bidding to become the fourth two-time champion in Doha following Anastasia Myskina, Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka. The Romanian would secure her 200th career main draw win by lifting the title.

Chris Gayle announces retirement from One-day Internationals

- West Indian batsman Chris Gayle has announced that he will retire from One-day Internationals after the forthcoming World Cup.

Irani Cup Cricket

- Ranji champions Vidarbha beat Rest of India in Nagpur to retain the Irani Cup. Vidarbha has now become the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.

Qatar Open Tennis

- Belgium's Elise Mertens has claimed the biggest title of her career by beating top seed Simona Halep 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to win the Qatar Open.

New Zealand Vs Bangladesh ODI Series

- New Zealand has clinched the 3-match ODI series against Bangladesh 3-0.

Strandja Memorial Tournament

- Nikhat Zareen (51kg category) and Meena Kumari Devi (54kg category) became the first Indian women boxers to win gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. Manju Rani won silver medal in the (48kg). Pwilao Basumatari (64kg), Neeraj (60kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) had settled for bronze medals.

ISSF Shooting World Cup

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore will inaugurate the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup in New Delhi. Various events in the world cup will start from February 23rd and end on the 27th.