

### Important Days

#### February 22 - World Thinking Day

- World Thinking Day 2019 is dedicated to the group of girls who took the lead in 1909 and demanded Lord Baden-Powell creates 'something for the girls'.
- Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 146 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. (That's one big celebration!)

#### February 26 - Foundation day of Department of Biotechnology

- Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in New Delhi with the **theme as "Celebrating Biotechnology: Building Indian as an Innovation Nation"**.

#### February 28 - National Science Day

- February 28 is observed as National Science Day to mark the discovery of Raman effect by Physicist C V Raman on 28th February, 1928. The objective is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people. **Theme - 'Science for the People and the People for Science'.**

### Summits / Conferences

#### 4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit

- ASEAN has emerged as the second largest trade partner of India in 2017-18 with a share of 10.57 per cent in India's overall trade.

#### Kumbh Global Participation Event

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations organized a special event at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in Delhi, to felicitate delegates from 188 countries, who participated in the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj.

#### Economic Times Global Business Summit

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the Economic Times Global Business Summit.

#### Conference on The Future of Indian Banking

- NITI Aayog co-hosted a conference on "The Future of Indian Banking" on February 22, 2019, with the Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (EGROW Foundation). Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, inaugurated the event.

- The conference aimed to increase and elevate the discourse on the banking sector in India, and help develop insights to inform the continued evolution of the Indian banking sector for optimally supporting the growing credit needs of the Indian economy.

### **46th Session of Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC**

- The 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be held in Abu Dhabi on the 1st and 2nd of next month. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will be the Guest of Honour and address the inaugural plenary.

### **Medical Fair India 2019**

- Over 12 lakh people have been treated free of cost under Ayushman Bharat scheme, the world's largest health care programme, the CEO of Ayushman Bharat Dr Indu Bhushan said at the Medical Fair India 2019 in Delhi.

### **43rd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee**

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has approved the construction of 560695 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). The approval was given in the 43rd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in New Delhi. The cumulative number of houses sanctioned under the scheme is now over 79 lakh.

### **'Rising India Summit 2019'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address at the Rising India Summit 2019 in New Delhi. **Theme "Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities"**.

### **First Conclave on Empowering Marginalised Sections' Women Entrepreneurs**

- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME, will organise a Conclave "Empowering Women Entrepreneurs 2019, Financing & Enabling Women from Marginalised Sections" in Mumbai.
- The conclave is being organized under National SC-ST Hub initiative of the MSME ministry which is targeted towards developing a supportive ecosystem towards SC/ST entrepreneurs.

### **20th Session of India-Italy Joint Commission**

- The meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) began in New Delhi. The JCEC is an institutional mechanism for bilateral trade engagement held at the level of Minister of Commerce and Industry of the two countries.

- The two-day session is being co-chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu, from the Indian side. The 19th Session of India-Italy JCEC was held in Rome on 11th -12th May, 2017.

### **4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**

- Health Minister JP Nadda inaugurated the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit in New Delhi. The scheme is primarily dependent on maximising the use of digital tools for effective implementation and monitoring.

### **Skill Saathi Youth Conclave**

- Union Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said Odisha has the potential to soon emerge as skill capital of the country.
- Inaugurating a "Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in Bhubaneswar, he said the youth of Odisha has intellect, skill and courage and with these qualities, they can meet any challenges and work together to create a New Odisha.

### **‘Aviation Conclave 2019’**

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with Airports Authority of India, AAICLAS and Confederation of Indian Industry, is organizing the Aviation Conclave 2019 with an overarching theme of **“Flying for All”** in New Delhi.
- Over 30 industry leaders will discuss and deliberate across 5-key sessions covering the Drone-Ecosystem Policy Roadmap, Roadmap for Manufacturing Aircraft and associated equipment, including Regional Transport Aircraft, in India, the Project Rupee Raftaar- Aircraft Financing and Leasing from India, the National Air Cargo Policy, and the Mission to transform Indian Airports into Next-Gen Aviation Hubs.

### **National workshop on heat wave risk reduction**

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is conducting a two-day national workshop on heat wave risk reduction on 27-28 February, 2019.
- The workshop, to be held at Nagpur, has been organised in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government.

### **Second summit of US President & North Korean leader**

- US President Donald Trump has landed in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam ahead of his second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.
- The talks come eight months after their historic summit in Singapore in June last year.

### High level security meeting

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a high level security meeting in New Delhi.

### 16th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC)

- In a joint communique of the 16th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC), the three nations strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

### Diplomats of India-Latin America and Caribbean Strategic (LAC) Economic Cooperation

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, interacted with diplomats of India-Latin America and Caribbean Strategic (LAC) Economic Cooperation in New Delhi.

### TECH-SOP 2019

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) organized a programme on Technology Support and Outreach (TECH-SOP 2019) in New Delhi. It is an initiative to bridge the gap between the technological innovations and MSMEs so that they can harness the technologies and grow in the global value chain.

## Appointments

### International

- **Nigeria president** - Muhammadu Buhari

### National

- Justice DK Jain - **Ombudsman for BCCI**
- Justice Uma Nath Singh - **To take oath as First Lokayukta of Nagaland**

## Science and Technology

### Salivary protein biomarkers of breast, ovarian cancer metastasis identified

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have taken the first step to identify certain proteins found in saliva that can be used as potential biomarkers indicative of breast and ovarian cancer metastasis.
- The composition and expression of salivary gland-derived proteins are altered in people with breast and ovarian cancer.

### **SIGNALCHIP**

- India's first Indigenous Semiconductor Chips by Bengaluru based semiconductor company "SIGNALCHIP" for 4G/LTE and 5G NR MODEMs unveiled in New Delhi.

### **Alternative pathway for removing the greenhouse gas from our atmosphere**

- Scientists have turned carbon dioxide back into coal in a world-first breakthrough which could lead to cleaner air.
- The research team, led by RMIT University in Australia, developed the new technique which they say offers an "alternative pathway" for safely and permanently removing the greenhouse gas from our atmosphere.
- Current technology for carbon capture and storage focuses on compressing CO<sub>2</sub> into a liquid form, transporting it to a suitable site and injecting it underground.

### **Discovery**

#### **World's largest bee refound**

- The world's largest bee, a giant insect roughly the size of a human thumb, has been rediscovered in a remote part of Indonesia in its first sighting in nearly 40 years. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists the bee as "vulnerable".

### **App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**

#### **Rail Drishti Dashboard**

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti Dashboard in New Delhi. The Dashboard has been launched to keep people informed about the work going on in the Railways across the country.

#### **Online Platform for Display and Booking of vacant berths**

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Online Platform for Display and Booking of vacant berths after chart preparation in New Delhi. Railway passengers can now get complete information about vacant berths online after preparation of the chart. The user-friendly interface will give a graphical representation of the train coaches and berth-wise accommodation status.

### **Schemes**

#### **Integrated Large Scale Eri Farming**

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani launched the Integrated Large Scale Eri Silk Farming in Arunachal Pradesh under North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) in Itanagar.

### **National programme to eliminate viral hepatitis**

- Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched a national programme aimed at eliminating viral hepatitis, recognized as an important public health problem. The aim of the programme is to combat hepatitis and achieve countrywide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030.
- The minister of state for health launched the National Action Plan - Viral Hepatitis at Mumbai in presence of Amitabh Bachchan, the goodwill ambassador for hepatitis, WHO South-East Asia Region.

### **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) from Gorakhpur. The first instalment of Rs 2,000 will be directly credited to the bank accounts of selected beneficiary farmers.

### **‘2nd Edition of ISL Dictionary’**

- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched the “2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary” for Hearing Impaired Persons.
- ISL Dictionary Includes 6000 Words Under Categories of Academic, Legal, Medical, Technical & Everyday Terms.

### **SHREYAS**

- Union HRD Minister launches the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities.

### **Scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector**

- Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, launched a comprehensive scheme for Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi.

## **Economic Affairs**

### **India to have own DNS for safe browsing**

- The government will soon roll out a public Domain Name Server, or DNS, for India aimed at providing a faster and more secure browsing experience for Internet users in the country, while ensuring that citizens’ data is stored locally.
- A DNS is a like a directory for the Internet. It helps to convert domain names that are easy for people to remember into IP addresses, which are used by computers/machines to communicate. If the DNS is either slow or fails to work, users will not be able to locate web addresses.

### **Country's goods, services exports to cross 500 billion dollars during current fiscal**

- The country's goods and services exports will cross 500 billion dollars during the current fiscal despite challenges being faced on the global trade front. This was stated by the Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu while speaking at the Rising India Summit 2019 in New Delhi.

### **Relief for start-ups with tax notice**

- About 300 start-ups which had received tax payment orders due to issues related to 'angel tax' may soon get relief, as the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has asked industry representatives to submit the names and PAN details of all the affected start-ups.

### **Afghanistan begins export to India via Chabahar port**

- Afghanistan has begun exports to India through Iran's Chabahar port, as the landlocked country turns to overseas markets to improve its economy. Afghanistan's exports will increase to two billion dollar from the current one billion dollar in the next year.

### **US firmly asks Pakistan to take meaningful action against terrorist groups**

- United States firmly asked Pakistan to take meaningful action against terrorist groups operating on its soil and underscored the importance of avoiding escalation at any cost after India targeted terrorist camp in Pakistan.

## **Banking Affairs**

### **RBI, Bank of Japan sign Bilateral Swap Arrangement**

- Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA). The BSA provides for India to access 75 billion US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for 50 billion dollars.
- India can access the agreed amount of 75 billion dollars for its domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

## **MOU/Agreement**

### **Government approves air travel entitlement to CAPF personnel**

- The Home Ministry has approved entitlement of air travel to all personnel of Central Armed Police Forces, CAPFs.
- The Ministry approved the entitlement of air travel on Delhi-Srinagar, Srinagar-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Jammu sectors to all the personnel of CAPFs.

### **India decides to stop its share of river waters which flow into Pakistan**

- The Government has decided to stop the share of river waters which flow into Pakistan. Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari said, Government of India will divert water from Eastern Rivers and supply it to the people in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.
- The construction of dam has started at Shahpur-Kandi on the Ravi river and the Ujh project will store India's share of water for use in Jammu and Kashmir and the balance water will flow from second Ravi-Beas Link to provide water to other basin states.

### **MoU between Inland Waterways authority of India and Indian Oil**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.

### **Agreement between India and Brunei Darussalam**

- The Government of Republic of India and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed an Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes (TIEA) here in New Delhi. The Agreement enables exchange of information, including banking and ownership information between the two countries for tax purposes.

### **Centre releases over Rs 1600 cr to 4 States**

- The Centre has released over 1600 crore rupees to Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jharkhand and Rajasthan from the National Disaster Response Fund. Over 1200 crore rupees have been sanctioned to Rajasthan and over 272 crore rupees to Jharkhand as drought relief assistance.
- Cyclone-hit Andhra Pradesh has been given around 83 crore rupees while flood-hit Manipur will get over 42 crore rupees.

## **Defence**

### **IAF conducts airstrikes**

- The Indian Air Force conducted airstrikes at the biggest terror camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Balakot at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan.

### **India successfully test fires QRSAM missiles**



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously developed Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) from ITR Chandipur, off the Odisha Coast. The two missiles were tested for different altitude and conditions.

### 'Sampriti 2019'

- A joint military exercise Sampriti 2019 between India and Bangladesh will be conducted at Tangail in Bangladesh. It will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.

### DAC approves acquisition of defence equipment worth Rs 2700 cr

- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved the acquisition of defence equipment for about 2700 Crores rupees.
- The approval include acquisition of three Cadet Training ships for the Navy, which will provide basic sea training to officer cadets including women officer under trainees.

### Awards and Achievement

#### Oscar Awards 2019

S.No.	Category	Winner
1	<b>Documentary (Feature)</b>	Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Free Solo
2	<b>Actress in a Supporting Role</b>	Regina King, If Beale Street Could Talk
3	<b>Makeup and Hairstyling</b>	Greg Cannom, Kate Biscoe, and Patricia Dehaney, Vice
4	<b>Costume Design</b>	Ruth E. Carter, Black Panther
5	<b>Production Design</b>	Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart, Black Panther
6	<b>Cinematography</b>	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
7	<b>Sound Editing</b>	John Warhurst, Bohemian Rhapsody
8	<b>Sound Mixing</b>	Paul Massey, Tim Cavagin, and John Casali, Bohemian Rhapsody
9	<b>Foreign Language Film</b>	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
10	<b>Film Editing</b>	John Ottman, Bohemian Rhapsody
11	<b>Actor in a Supporting Role</b>	Mahershala Ali, Green Book

12	<b>Animated Feature Film</b>	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, Rodney Rothman
13	<b>Animated Short Film</b>	Domee Shi, Bao
14	<b>Visual Effects</b>	Paul Lambert, Ian Hunter, Tristan Myles and J.D. Schwalm, First Man
15	<b>Documentary Short Subject</b>	Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton, Period. End of Sentence.
16	<b>Live Action Short Film</b>	Guy Nattiv and Jamie Ray Newman, Skin
17	<b>Best Original Screenplay</b>	Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie, Peter Farrelly, Green Book
18	<b>Best Adapted Screenplay</b>	Spike Lee, Sean McKittrick, Jason Blum, Raymond Mansfield, Jordan Peele, BlacKkKlansman
19	<b>Original Score</b>	Ludwig Goransson, Black Panther
20	<b>Original Song</b>	Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando, and Andrew Wyatt, "Shallow," A Star Is Born
21	<b>Best Actor in a Leading Role</b>	Rami Malek, Bohemian Rhapsody
22	<b>Best Actress in a Leading Role</b>	Olivia Colman, The Favourite
23	<b>Best Director</b>	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
24	<b>Best Picture</b>	Green Book

- **2018 Player of the Year award** - Manpreet Singh
- **Rising Player of The Year prize** - Women team's striker Lalremsiami

**Gandhi Peace Prize**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Winner</b>
2015	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari
2016	Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International
2017	Ekal Abhiyan Trust
2018	Sh Yohei Sasakawa

### National Affairs

#### **Rs. 1.32 lakh crore tax free budget for 2019-20**

- Haryana Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu presented the 1,32,165.99 crore rupees tax free budget for 2019-20 in the State Assembly. It is 14.73 percent over Budget Estimates and 9.79 percent over revised estimates of 2018-19.
- Over Rs. 46, 000 crore have been allocated to 15 Sustainable Development Goals being implemented in the state.

#### **Government increases Risk & Hardship allowance for CAPF personnel**

- Union Home Ministry has announced the hike in Risk and Hardship allowance for Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed in Left Wing Extremism states and Jammu and Kashmir. Troop's upto the rank of Inspector will now get Rs. 17,300 as against the existing Rs. 9,700, while the officers will get Rs. 25,000 as against the existing Rs. 17,300 per month.

#### **Plan to install CCTVs to curb crimes**

- The Kolkata Police has decided to install CCTVs at important places to curb various types of crimes and monitor traffic rules. Around 1 thousand CCTVs will be installed at strategic locations of the city. The fund for the purpose will be available under the Smart city schemes.

#### **29 infra projects of CAPF inauguration**

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 29 infrastructure projects both residential and non-residential buildings of Central Armed Police Forces in New Delhi. These projects have been constructed at various locations across the country at a total cost of Rs. 1,714.97 crore.

#### **NID at Bhopal and Jorhat Inaugurated**

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi on 22nd February 2019. Both institutes are autonomous institutions under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

#### **Oil Marketing Companies to engage 10,000 women as grassroots energy ambassadors**

- In Odisha, Oil Marketing Companies will engage more than 10,000 rural women as 'Ujjwala Didis' to act as grassroots energy ambassadors across the state to ensure sustainability of LPG use.
- Ujjwala Didis will act as a bridge between existing and prospective LPG consumers and the distributors in the state.

### **Inter-state police meeting**

- Top police officials of southern states held an inter-state coordination meeting at Ooty in Tamil Nadu.
- The officials discussed measures to check inter-state smuggling of liquor and monitor the movement of illegal arms, explosives and suspects.

### **Telangana govt announces exgratia of Rs 25 lakh each to families of Pulwama CRPF martyrs**

- Telangana Government announced an exgratia of 25 lakh rupees each to the families of the Pulwama CRPF martyrs.

### **Foundation stones for two road projects**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stones for two road projects worth Rs. 746 crore in Punjab.

### **PM Modi receives Seoul Peace Prize**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize - 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. The award was presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a grand ceremony in Seoul.
- The award committee recognised his contribution to the growth of Indian and global economies, crediting 'Modinomics' for reducing social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor.

### **Governement releases passenger charter specifying rights of air travellers**

- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu released the passenger charter which specifies rights of air travellers, at an event in New Delhi. The charter states that if a domestic flight is expected to be delayed by more than six hours, then the airline will offer an option of alternate flight to the passenger within that time, or it will refund the full price of the ticket.

### **‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ – 2018**

- The ‘Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation’ for the year 2018 have been awarded to 101 Police personnel belonging to 25 States/UT/ Central Investigating Agencies.

### **Rs 34 cr of IOC for clean Ganga movement**

- Petroleum Minister Dhramendra Pradhan gave 34 crore rupees of Indian Oil Corporation for clean Ganga movement. The government is committed to clean Ganga fully in next 13 months.

### National Conference of Energy Ministers

- In Madhya Pradesh, the Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal and West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore have been awarded the Saubhagya award under Pradhanmantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana at the National Conference of Energy Ministers. The award included 100 crore rupees each.
- The Central Zone Power Distribution Company, Bhopal is the first power distribution company in the country which has illuminated more than 7 lakh 85 thousand houses while around Four lakh houses have been electrified by the West Zone Power Distribution Company, Indore under Pradhanmantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya.

### National e-Governance Awards 2019

- Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh presented National e-Governance Awards, 2019 in New Delhi. The awards are given every year to recognise and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

### MSP for Minor Forest Produce

- Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram will launch Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce and Value Addition Component of Van Dhan scheme in New Delhi. The Ministry also expanded the coverage of the Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce Scheme to 50 Minor Forest Produce.
- The MSP has also been raised between 30 per cent and 40 per cent in case of each of the Commodities.

### Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes

- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is the most coveted national recognition bestowed upon young scientists and engineers to honour their research and developmental work in India. It was first instituted in 1957 to honour the eminent scientist Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar who was also the founder Director and the chief architect of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR.

### State Wise Affairs

#### Andhra Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Amaravati/Hyderabad	N. Chandrababu Naidu	E. S. L. Narasimhan

### 18th anniversary Celebrations of SBT

- President Ramnath Kovind will attend the 18th anniversary Celebrations of the Swarna Bharat Trust (SBT) at Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh. Swarna Bharat Trust is focussing on rural development and training unemployed youth to make them self reliant.

**New Railway zone**

- Southern Coast Railway will be a new zone of the Indian Railways. This new 18th railway zone of the country will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway.
- The Indian Railways' operations are currently divided into 17 zones, which are further sub-divided into divisions, each having a divisional headquarter. There are a total of 73 divisions at present.
- In 2002-2003, seven new zones and eight new divisions were created.

**Assam**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

**PRANAM Commission to protect parents of government employees**

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had launched the Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Commission, a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill, for protection of parents of state government employees.
- The Assam government would ensure that no state government employee can ignore their elderly parents and unmarried differently abled siblings.

**Bihar**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Patna	Nitish Kumar	Lalji Tandon

**Foundation stone for projects worth Rs 9,726 cr**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth 9,726 crore rupees in Bihar. These include highway projects worth 6,900 crore rupees.

**Himachal Pradesh**

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Acharya Dev Vrat

**Foundation stone for seven National Highway projects**

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for seven National Highway projects worth over Rs. 4,400 crore in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district. The projects are likely to benefit the local people by way of increased tourism, safe journey, reduced travel time, beautification of highways, enhanced economic activity and employment, and all-weather roads.

### Maharashtra

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

### State Election Commission to provide pick-up, drop facility to disabled voters in Lok Sabha polls

- In Maharashtra, the state Election Commission has said that it will provide pick-up and drop facility to disabled voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections facilitating persons with disability (PwD).

### New Delhi

Chief Minister	Lieutenant Governor
Arvind Kejriwal	Anil Baijal

### PM Modi dedicates National War Memorial to the nation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the National War Memorial near India Gate in New Delhi. The memorial honours about 26 thousand soldiers, who have laid down their lives in the service of the nation since Independence.
- The National War Memorial commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions and Counter Insurgency Operations.

### Delhi government presents Rs 60,000 cr rupee budget for 2019-20

- The Delhi government presented a 60,000 crore rupee budget for 2019-20 in the Assembly. 26 per cent of total budget have been earmarked for education.

### National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2019

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the closing ceremony of National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2019, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

### Uttar Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Ram Naik

### Increase in wages of Anganwadi workers

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced phenomenal increase in the wages of Anganwadi workers (1500 rupees/monthly), Mini Anganwadi workers (1250 rupees/monthly), Sahayikas (750 rupees/monthly) and Prantiya Raksha Dal (125 rupees/daily) members. The salary increase will benefit around 4 lakh Anganwadi and helper workers.

### **Apollomedics Super Speciality Hospital**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Apollomedics Super Speciality Hospital in Lucknow. The President emphasised the importance of quality and affordable healthcare in the country, and particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

### **Foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine**

- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik will lay foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine, NIUM at Ghaziabad. Once established, the 200-bedded hospital will be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in North India.

### **International Affairs**

#### **Russia warns US against deploying new missiles in Europe**

- Russia has warned the US against deploying new missiles in Europe, threatening to retaliate in kind by targeting Western capitals with his own new weaponry.

#### **Earthquake of 5.8 magnitude strikes Japan's northern island of Hokkaido**

- An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

#### **UNSC urges international community to actively co-operate with India in dealing with terrorism**

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has urged the international community to co-operate actively with India in bringing the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism to justice.

#### **Sri Lanka launches economic development framework for war-affected Northern Province**

- Sri Lankan government launched an economic development framework for war-affected Northern Province to ensure its long-term growth and development. The framework accepts that the outcomes of post-war development programmes have been inadequate, particularly lack of viable employment and incomes for local population.

#### **Pakistan has taken over control of headquarters of terror outfit JeM**

- Pakistan government says it has taken over the administrative control of terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) headquarters in Bahawalpur. The JeM claimed the responsibility for Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The move came after the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned February 14 terror attack.



**Sudanese President declares year-long state of emergency**

- Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country.

**EU stands firm beside India in fighting terrorism**

- European Union (EU) has affirmed that it is strongly beside India on combating terrorism and there were no differences between them on the issue.

**FATF keeps Pakistan on grey list**

- International terror financing watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan on its grey list at the end of its week-long plenary meeting in Paris.
- The FATF has asked Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan that includes showing sanctions were being applied in cases of money laundering and terrorism financing.

**FATF extends deadline for Iran**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has extended the deadline for Iran to fix its anti-money laundering and terrorism financing rules till June 2019.

**EU urges nations to avoid any military intervention in Venezuela**

- The European Union (EU) urged nations to avoid any military intervention in Venezuela.

**US President extends China tariff deadline**

- US President Donald Trump has said he will extend a deadline to escalate tariffs on Chinese imports that were scheduled to go into effect from March 1.

**Cuba votes on new constitution**

- In Cuba, voters took part in a referendum on a new constitution that expands recognition of private property. The referendum contained only two options: yes or no to the new constitution.
- The new constitution, replacing the 1976 version, recognises a limited role for the free market and private investment, but only under the control of the Communist Party.
- It enshrines socialism as the country's only ideology.

**US House of Representatives votes to remove wall emergency declaration**

- The US House of Representatives has voted to revoke President Donald Trump's emergency declaration over building the US-Mexico border wall.

### **30 years of Emperor Akihito's reign in Japan**

- In Japan, a ceremony was held in Tokyo to celebrate 30 years of Emperor Akihito's reign, with the attendance of the Imperial couple. Emperor Akihito is scheduled to abdicate on April 30.
- Crown Prince Naruhito's accession is set on May 1.

### **US, UK and France moved fresh proposal in UNSC**

- The US, the UK and France have moved a fresh proposal in the UN Security Council (UNSC) to designate Pakistan-based terror group JeM's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. The listing will subject him to global travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo.

### **Sports**

#### **SC appoints former judge Justice DK Jain as ombudsman for BCCI**

- The role of the ombudsman would be to resolve the disputes relating to the players within the state cricket associations as also financial issues.

#### **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup**

- India's Apurvi Chandela qualified for the Finals of the Women's 10 metres Air Rifle event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in New Delhi.

#### **No IPL opening ceremony this year**

- The IPL will not have an opening ceremony this year after the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running Indian cricket decided to allocate the money to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack.

#### **First team from Asia to win a Test series in South Africa**

- Sri Lanka beat South Africa in the second and final test and won the series 2-0. Sri Lanka becomes the first team from Asia to win a Test series in South Africa.

#### **Indian women's team beat England by 7 wickets in 2nd ODI**

- Indian women's team defeated England by seven wickets in the second ODI at Mumbai to take an unassailable 2-nil lead in the three-match series.

#### **Cannes International Open trophy**

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta lifted the Cannes International Open trophy.

### **Makran Cup Boxing**

- At the Makran Cup underway at Chabahar in Iran, Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (60 kg), former national champion Duryodhan Singh Negi (69 kg) and Rohit Tokas (64 kg) made their way into the semi-finals.

### **ISSF World Cup**

- In shooting, Hungary's Veronika Major won a gold medal in 10-metre air pistol event at the ongoing ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

### **Apurvi Chandela wins gold in women's 10m air rifle**

- Apurvi Chandela has won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air rifle event at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. This is India's first medal of the ISSF World Cup 2019. She set a new world record by registering a score of 252.9 points in the final.

### **Sanath Jayasuriya banned from cricket**

- Former Sri Lanka Cricket captain Sanath Jayasuriya has been banned from cricket for two years. The charges include refusal to cooperate with an Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) investigation, obstructing or delaying the investigation, including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other relevant information.

### **India Vs Australia T20 Series**

- India lose T-20 series against Australia 2-0 after losing the second T20 match by seven wickets.

### **Women's Cup football**

- India lost to Uzbekistan 0-1 in their opening match of the Turkish Women's Cup football in Alanya, Turkey.

### **ISSF World Cup**

- Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker claimed a gold medal for India in 10-metre air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

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