

Important Days

National Productivity Week

- National Productivity Council (NPC) is celebrating its 61st Foundation Day on 12th February with the theme “Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability”. NPC observes foundation day as Productivity Day and the National Productivity Week from February 12-18, 2019.

February 13 - World Radio Day

- World Radio Day is an observance day held annually on 13 February to celebrate radio as a medium. It was proclaimed on 3 November 2011 by UNESCO's 36th General Conference after originally being proposed by the Kingdom of Spain. **2019 Theme: Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.**

Rankings / Indexes

ICC T20 Bowler rankings

- 2) India 1) Pakistan

ICC T20 Team rankings

- 2) Kuldeep Yadav

ICC Batswomen T20 rankings

- 2) Jemimah Rodrigues 6) Smriti Mandhana

Summits / Conferences

13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the CMS

- The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, is going to be hosted by India during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting

- The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi. The last Joint Consultative Committee Meeting between the two countries was held in October 2017 at Dhaka.

National Workshop on Street Vendors

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the National Workshop on Street Vendors in New Delhi. The workshop has been organised as a part of the Shehri Samridhi Utsav.

Bengal Global Business Summit

- The West Bengal has received more than two Lakhs 84 thousands 288 crore rupees investment proposals in the Bengal Global Business Summit. The two day long summit ended in Kolkata.

8th round of National Deworming Day (NDD) campaign

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducted its eighth round of National Deworming Day (NDD). This key program initiative is implemented with an objective to reduce the prevalence of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) or parasitic intestinal worms so that they are no longer a public health problem.

69th Berlin International Film Festival

- India Pavilion inaugurated at 69th Berlin International Film Festival.

PETROTECH-2019

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 13th International Oil and Gas Conference – PETROTECH-2019 in Greater Noida. He said there is a need to move towards responsible pricing of Oil and Gas to balance the interests of both the producer and the consumer.

International Symposium on “Advances in Agro meteorology for managing climatic risks of farmers”,

- The Association of Agro meteorologists (AAM) has organized a 3 day International Symposium on “Advances in Agro meteorology for Managing Climatic Risks of Farmers” (INAGMET-2019) at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (India).
- The symposium is jointly organized with India Meteorological Department, Indian Centre of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Two day Conference on Unani Medicine for Public Health

- Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur, inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) as a part of 3rd Unani Day celebration here in New Delhi.

Swachh Shakti-2019

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will participate in Swachh Shakti 2019, a convention of Women Sarpanches and distribute the Swachh Shakti-2019 awards. Swachh Shakti-2019 is a national event which aims to bring in to focus the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission. Women Sarpanches and Panches from all over the country will be attending the event.

Mega silk event

- To highlight the growth of silk industry in the country over the last four years, Textiles Ministry is organizing a mega silk event in New Delhi.

First Annual Conference of Media Units

- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is organizing the First Annual Conference of Media Units under the Ministry on 13th february, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The opening session of the Conference will be chaired by Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports.

National Conclave on Food Safety

- With the objective of promoting food safety and capacity building, Spices Board organized a National Conclave on Food Safety in New Delhi.

National Standards Conclave

- A Special National Standards Conclave was organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India on February 8-9 in Mumbai.

Third Indo-German Environment Forum

- Third Indo-German Environment Forum with the theme "**Cleaner Air, Greener Economy:**" is being held in New Delhi. The one-day event through panel discussions and parallel sessions focuses on challenges, solutions and necessary framework conditions of air pollution control, waste management and circular economy as well as implementation of NDCs and SDGs based on Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 of UN respectively.

First Annual Conference of Media Units

- The First Annual Conference of Media Units working under I&B Ministry was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore chaired the Conference.

National Conclave on creating Synergy for MSMEs in Textiles sector

- Ministry of Textiles honoured 12 weavers and artisans from different parts of the country for their outstanding work in handloom and handicrafts sector at a function in New Delhi.

World Government Summit WGS 2019

- World Government Summit WGS 2019 held in Dubai. In the shakeup between humans and machines, there is a likelihood of creation of over 133 million new jobs by 2022. However, at the same time, 75 million jobs, may be displaced.

CREDAI YouthCon-19

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India, CREDAI YouthCon -19 at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

Appointments

International

- Egypt's President El-Sissi – **Chairman of African Union**

National

- Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, AVSM, NM - **Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command**

Science and Technology

IIT Madras identifies unique pathways of eye cancer

- Based on computational modelling, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have identified the biochemical pathways that eye cancer (retinoblastoma) preferentially chooses for growth and survival.
- The pathways chosen are very different from the ones that normal, healthy cells choose.

Use of Space Technology for Border Management

- Union Government has formed a Task Force for identifying areas for use of space technology in improving border management headed by Joint Secretary (Border Management) with members from Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The Task Force consulted all stake holders including BGFs, ISRO, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) before finalising the report.

Publication on various initiatives taken towards combating and adapting to climate change

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released a publication today in New Delhi on climate actions in India titled “India – Spearheading Climate Solutions”.
- This publication “India – Spearheading Climate Solutions” mentions the key actions India has taken under various sectors towards combating and adapting to climate change.

App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free

DD Arunprabha

- PM launches DD Arunprabha – a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh. PM lays foundation stone of Film and Television Institute(FTI) and several other projects at Arunachal Pradesh.

‘PwD App’

- To enable Divyangs for new registration, change in address and others details for the upcoming General Elections launched.

e-AUSHADHI portal

- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.

Schemes

“Asiatic Lion Conservation Project”

- A dedicated project for conservation of Asiatic Lion with a contribution of Rs 97.85 Cr from Centre to be spent over 3 years launched. The Asiatic Lion, endemic to Gir landscape of Gujarat, is one of the 21 critically endangered species identified by the Ministry for taking up recovery programmes.

Voter Verification and Information Programme

- The Election Commission has launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for verifications of voters' names, new registrations, changes or corrections in the Voter Id Cards for the upcoming General Elections.

District Business Plan Competition

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched two ambitious schemes, the Hirkani Maharashtra and District Business Plan Competition in Mumbai.

Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP)

- Union Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the bid round –III under Open Acreages Licensing Policy (OALP) at Greater Noida, the venue of PETROTECH-2019.

New Ports under Sagarmala Project

- The Minister of State for Road Transport, Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers informed that 14 number of CEZs in 8 states have been identified under the Sagarmala Programme. In the state of Kerala, one CEZ namely “Development of CEZ in Kerala –Malabar” has been identified under the Sagarmala Programme.

“Light House Projects challenge” launched

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has instituted a challenge for States/ UTs to select six sites across the country for constructing the Lighthouse projects under GHTC-India. MoHUA encourages all States/ UTs to participate in this challenge proactively.

Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes

- The Government is implementing a Scheme namely “Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes”. The objective of the Scheme is to improve financial and socio-economic status of the old aged artistes and scholars who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc.

Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP)

- The scheme for Cultural Heritage Youth Leadership Programme (CHYLP) envisaged enriching awareness of Indian culture and heritage amongst the youth in order to promote, understand and develop fondness for India’s rich cultural heritage, with a view to develop appropriate leadership qualities amongst youth.

‘Green Good Deeds’

- Launched by the Environment Ministry last year, the ‘Green Good Deeds’ campaign — aimed at protecting the environment and promoting healthy living — mentions a list of 500 activities for protecting the environment.

KUSUM Scheme

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated a Scheme ‘Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)’. The Scheme is currently under the process of seeking approval.

Outreach Programme for Stakeholders

- Ministry of Textiles is organizing an outreach programme for Textiles Sector MSMEs on 13th February, 2019 in New Delhi to hold interactions with the stakeholders to help them avail the support and outreach for 100 days programme announced by the Prime Minister.

Workshop on National Intergrated Logistics Plan

- A workshop was organized by the Logistics Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi to discuss with logistics stakeholders the challenges and opportunities of this sector in India. Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu, delivered the keynote address.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM- SYM)

- Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- Family Pension:** During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

Banking Affairs

RBI penalises banks for violating various norms

- Reserve Bank has imposed monetary penalty of two million rupees each on HDFC Bank, IDBI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of various Know Your Customer/ Anti-Money Laundering norms. RBI informed that it has imposed monetary penalty of 1.5 Crore rupees each on Allahabad Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Indian Overseas Bank for non-compliance of norms related to monitoring end use of funds, exchange of information, classification and reporting of frauds and on restructuring of accounts.

MOU/Agreement

MoU between India and Bangladesh

- India and Bangladesh have signed an MOU for training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) an institute under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Govt. of India, over the next 6 years.

GeM and CCI Sign MoU

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 6th February 2019 to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.

Punjab approves proposal to make it mandatory for MLAs to declare their immovable properties

- The Punjab government approved a proposal to make it mandatory for all the 117 MLAs to declare their immovable properties.

MOU signed between EIL and Mongolia

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Engineers India Ltd, a PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Government of Mongolia through Mongol Refinery State Owned LLC was signed, on the sidelines of PETROTECH-2019 event at Greater Noida, UP. The MoU is for Project Management Consultancy services for construction of an oil refinery plant in Mongolia by EIL.

Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019 introduced in Rajya Sabha

- The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to amend provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 in order to tackle film piracy by including penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.

Unregulated Deposit Scheme Bill 2018

- The Lok Sabha passed the Unregulated Deposit Scheme Bill 2018 amid sloganeering by opposition TMC and SP members.

Parliament passes Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019

- Parliament has passed the Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 with Rajya Sabha approving it without discussion. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill in the last session.

Cabinet approves continuation of Centre's tribal welfare schemes

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the continuation of sub-schemes under Umbrella programme for the development of Scheduled Tribes from the period till March 2020.

Cabinet approves Patna Metro Rail project

- Cabinet approved the Patna Metro Rail Project.

Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute hiked

- Cabinet has also hiked the Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute by 250 Rs to 3950 Rs per quintal for 2019 -20 season.

Cabinet approves proposal for Extension of tenure of NCSK

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for Extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis(NCSK) beyond 31st of March,2019 for three years.

MoU between India and Saudi Arabia

- The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, MoU between India and Saudi Arabia on cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters. It also approved the signing of MoU between the two countries in the field of tourism and establishing a mechanism for Investment Infrastructure in India.

CCEA approves CLCS-TUS

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs,CCEA has approved the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS) with a total outlay of 2900 crore rupees. The scheme aims at improving the competitiveness of MSMEs by integrating various ongoing schematic interventions aimed at up-grading technology through Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS).

Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Bill, 2019

- The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Bill, 2019. The Bill provides for amendment of the legal framework to act as a deterrent to the erring NRI spouses and creating more accountability and offer protection against exploitation of Indian Citizens married to NRIs.

Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Bill

- The Lok Sabha passed The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Defence**Aero India**

- The 12th edition of the biennial Aero India is scheduled between February 20 and 24. The French defence industry is gearing up for a major presence at the premier air show Aero India 2019 to be held later this month in Bengaluru.

Exercise Cutlass Express 2019

- INS Trikand, a front-line warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multinational training exercise 'CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19' held from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19. The aim of the exercise was to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.

'Exercise Rahat' in Jaipur

- In Rajasthan, Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army is conducting a two- day Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise "Exercise Rahat".

Parallel Taxi Track

- In a first for the IAF, the "OTTERS" squadron of Western Air Command has undertaken Parallel Taxi Track (PTT) Operations with a full women crew in the Dornier 228 aircraft. The pilots, **Sqn Ldr Kamaljeet Kaur and her co-pilot Sqn Ldr Rakhi Bhandari** carried out successful parallel taxi track landing and take-off operations at Sirsa.

Awards and Achievement

Sena medals

- In Udhampur, 92 army men were awarded Sena medals at an investiture ceremony for their gallantry and distinguished services.

National Affairs

Haryana

PM inaugurates National Cancer Institute in Haryana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for six projects in Haryana, including a National Cancer Institute (NIC) at Badhsa in Jhajjar district and Shri Krishna Ayush University at Kurukshetra, in Haryana.

Basant Panchmi festival

- The festival of Basant Panchmi is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety. It is celebrated as Saraswati Puja on Panchmi of Shukla Paksha in Magh Maas. West Bengal celebrates Saraswati Puja with traditional fervour.

5% quota bill for Gujjars, four other communities

- Rajasthan government passed a bill to provide five per cent quota in jobs and educational institutions to Gujjars and four other communities.
- The government introduced the Rajasthan Backward Classes Amendment Bill, 2019, which was passed by the assembly.
- The government has also decided to increase the ceiling of creamy layer from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. The bill seeks to increase the backward classes' reservation from present 21 per cent to 26 per cent.

Report on Determining Methodology for Fixing National Minimum Wage

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment had constituted an expert committee on 2017, under the Chairmanship Dr. Anoop Satpathy to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage (NMW).
- The Expert Committee has submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government of India.

Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid

- Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released a communication material comprising First Aid Module for Community, Handbook on Prevention of Accidents and Awareness of First Aid, and a documentary film on the occasion of ‘30th Road Safety Week’ at a function.

State Wise Affairs**Arunachal Pradesh**

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Itanagar | Pema Khandu | B. D. Mishra |

Foundation stone for 7 Extra High Voltage (EHV) Sub-stations and 24 Low Tension (LT) Sub-stations

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 7 Extra High Voltage (EHV) Sub-stations and 24 Low Tension (LT) Sub-stations in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. The project is being implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) a ‘Navratna’ Company under Ministry of Power, Government of India. These projects will promote socio-economic and environmental welfare of the people by reducing reliance on Diesel Generating plants in Arunachal Pradesh.

Bihar

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Patna | Nitish Kumar | Lalji Tandon |

Krishi Kumbh

- In Bihar, Governor Lalji Tandon and Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh jointly inaugurated the three -day Krishi Kumbh in Motihari.

Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojana

- Bihar government has announced a universal old age pension scheme - Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna- MVPY for all people above 60 years of age.
- Except those senior citizens who have retired from government service, all will be eligible for 400 rupees monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community.

Bihar Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY)

- People in the field of media and not getting any other pension will be eligible for Bihar Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY) - a pension of 6,000 rupees for journalists above 60 years of age.

Himachal Pradesh

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|---------|----------------|------------------|
| Shimla | Jai Ram Thakur | Acharya Dev Vrat |

CM Jai Ram Thakur presents budget of over Rs 44,000 crore for 2019-20

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presented a budget of over 44,000 crore rupees for financial year 2019-20 at the State Assembly in Shimla.
- The budget is an increase of 7 per cent which is around 3,000 crores more of current financial budget.

Cremica Food Park, the 1st Mega Food Park of Himachal Pradesh

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal today inaugurated Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd. The Park is located at Village Singhain Una District of Himachal Pradesh.
- This is the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Low-intensity earthquake

- In Himachal Pradesh, a low-intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.5 struck Kangra district.

Jammu & Kashmir

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jammu (Winter) Srinagar (Summer) | - | Satya Pal Malik |

High-level avalanche Warning

- A high-level avalanche warning was issued by Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment, Chandigarh in Jammu & Kashmir.

Kerala

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Thiruvananthapuram | Pinarayi Vijayan | P. Sathasivam |

The Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV)

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Thiruvananthapuram. A first of its kind research institute that is linked to the Global Virus Network (GVN), it will operate from the Bio 360 Life Sciences Park at Thonnakkal in the capital city.

Maharashtra

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mumbai | Devendra Fadnavis | Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao |

80% percent of the state's farmers eligible for PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme

- Maharashtra Government has informed that about eighty percent of the state's farmers will be eligible for the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.

Integrated water plan to make recycling

- Maharashtra became the first State to have an Integrated State Water Plan (ISWP), with an aim to ensure equitable distribution by diverting water from overfed areas to drought-prone regions. Maharashtra first State to draw up such a policy to ensure equitable distribution of water.

New Delhi

| Chief Minister | Lieutenant Governor |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Arvind Kejriwal | Anil Baijal |

“Vande Bharat Express”

- The ‘Make in India’ effort of Indian Railways has culminated into India's first Semi High Speed Train, "Vande Bharat Express". Vande Bharat Express can run up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph and has travel classes like Shatabdi Train but with better facilities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the maiden run of the train on New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route train from the New Delhi Railway Station.

Odisha

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Bhubaneswar | Naveen Patnaik | Ganeshi Lal |

Odisha CM unveils statue of Guru Padmasambhava

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a 19-foot-high statue of Guru Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism, at Jirang in Gajapati district.

‘Expedite implementation of Forest Rights Act’

- The Odisha State Food Commission has again asked the State government to expedite implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, that would help ensure food and nutritional security to the vulnerable section of society.

Tamil Nadu

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chennai | Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Banwarilal Purohit |

Government promotes M-sand for construction works

- Tamil Nadu Government is promoting M-sand for construction works as an alternative to river sand.

Uttar Pradesh

| Capital | Chief Minister | Governor |
|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Lucknow | Yogi Adityanath | Ram Naik |

Mega Food Park at Uttar Pradesh

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal laid foundation stone for M/s Nandvan Mega Food Park Private Limited located in Badawal, Chhata-Barsana road in Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.

International Affairs**US urges Nigeria to hold election free of 'intimidation'**

- The United States has called on all sides in Nigeria including the military to ensure that next week's election is "free from outside pressure and intimidation."

US: Bills introduced in House and Senate to remove per-country green card limits

- Powerful lawmakers in the US House of Representatives and the Senate have introduced identical legislations, which if passed would end per-country green card limit and benefit Indian professionals waiting to gain permanent legal residency in the country.
- The Act alters the per-country limits for employment-based immigrants so that all are treated equally regardless of their country of birth.

Red Cross calls for total ban on nuclear weapons

- The Red Cross called for a total ban on nuclear weapons, warning of the growing risk that such arms could again be used with devastating effect. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched a global campaign to raise awareness about the rising nuclear threat facing the world.
- The campaign aims to encourage people to lobby their governments to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has so far been signed by 70 nations and ratified by 21.

Democrat Amy Klobuchar to contest for US president in 2020 election

- In the United States, Minnesota Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar has announced that she will contest for president in the forthcoming Presidential election in 2020.

Poland to buy mobile rocket launchers from US

- Poland will buy mobile rocket launchers worth 414 million US Dollar from the United States, as Warsaw seeks closer ties with Washington amid concerns over a resurgent Russia.

US President signs executive order to prioritize research & development in Artificial Intelligence

- US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order directing federal agencies to prioritize research and development in Artificial Intelligence (AI). The plan, called the American AI Initiative, follows big investment pledges from China and other countries intended to advance and apply AI technology in fields ranging from warfighting to health care.

EU members of UNSC ask for humanitarian access to eastern Ukraine'

- European Union members of the UN Security Council have asked for humanitarian access to eastern Ukraine's areas held by separatists.

Australia government loses bill blocking sick asylum seekers

- Australian legislators have passed a landmark bill making it easier for asylum seekers, being held on remote Pacific islands, to get medical treatment in the country.

Egypt's Parliament to vote on extending president's term

- Egypt's Parliament has begun deliberations over constitutional amendments that could allow President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to stay in office till 2034. The amendments will provide 12 more years after his current, second term expires in 2022.

Afghan government fired its election commission

- The Afghan government has fired its election commission.

Afghan Taliban announce talks with US

- The Taliban has said it will meet top US and Pakistani officials including Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad as part of the ongoing Afghan peace talks.

US aimed at withdrawing all US military support in Yemen

- The US House has passed a measure aimed at withdrawing all US military support for the Saudi Arabia-backed war in Yemen.

Sports

Leading run-scorer in T20 Format

- Rohit with 2,288 runs, overtook Martin Guptill, who has 2,272 runs, to become the leading run-scorer in the shortest format of the game. Rohit Sharma now also holds the record for most fifty-plus scores in T20s. His fifty in the second T20 helped him go past Virat Kohli, who has 19.

ATP Chennai Open Challenger tournament

- In Tennis, the Indian campaign at the ATP Chennai Open Challenger tournament came to an end after Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Sasikumar Mukund losing their respective Singles semi-final matches.

IPC lifts Russia's doping ban

- The International Paralympics Committee (IPC) said that it will conditionally readmit Russia by next month, lifting a suspension imposed over a doping scandal.

EGAT's Cup

- Jeremy Lalrinnunga clinched silver in men's 67-kilogram category, fetching India's second medal in the EGAT's Cup International Weightlifting Championships in Thailand.

“Statesman Challenger” trophy

- John Morris Ajax Fire Engine on Belsize Chassis (1914) of Pre-world war-I vintage has participated in the Statesman 53rd edition Vintage car rally and has been awarded with Statesman Challenger Trophy.

Chennai Open ATP Challenger title

- In Tennis, France's Corentin Moutet has clinched the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament title after beating Andrew Harris of Australia 6-3, 6-3 in the singles final.

Tennis: Prajnesh Gunneswaran breaks into men's singles top 100

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran has made it to the top-100 of Men's Singles Tennis rankings with a jump of six places that took him to 97.

Sofia Open Tennis

- India's top doubles pair Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan entered the semi-finals of Sofia Open Tennis in Bulgaria. Sofia Open is a men's ATP World Tour 250 series tournament played on indoor hard courts in Bulgaria.

Senior National Badminton C'ships begin in Guwahati

- The Senior National Badminton Championship has begun in Guwahati. The event which is being held in Guwahati after 9 years will see the participation of some of the top players including Saina Nehwal, P V Sindhu, Sameer Verma and P Kashyap among others.

Gold Cup 2019

- Myanmar and Nepal will meet in the summit clash of the Women's Hero Gold Cup 2019 Football tournament at Bhubaneswar. This became evident after Myanmar defeated India 2-0 in the last Round Robin match and Nepal beat Iran 3-0 in the other match to enter the finals.

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| Uttarakhand | https://goo.gl/QUyZK5 |
| Uttar Pradesh | https://goo.gl/Poa9P2 |
| West Bengal | http://bit.ly/2sZwDmg |
| North East | https://goo.gl/3dQUqD |
| North East (Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura) | https://goo.gl/3dQUqD |

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