



**World
Cancer Day**
4 February

I AM
AND
I WILL



Monthly Current Affairs February 2019



PETROTECH-2019

13th International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition
New Delhi-NCR, India

10th - 12th FEB'2019

India Expo Centre, Greater Noida (Delhi-NCR), India

Theme: Shaping the New Energy World through Innovation and Collaboration



**XIV AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCE CONGRESS**

FEBRUARY 20-23, 2019

**INDIA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES
COMMUNICATION SATELLITE**

GSAT-31



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1. Important Days

Date	Day	Details
4-February	World Cancer Day	World Cancer Day is being observed on February 02. The Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year through education, raising awareness and by pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the deadly disease. This year, Union for International Cancer Control, which organizes World Cancer Day, is launching a new 3-year campaign with the theme: “I Am and I Will.”
6-February	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003.
13-February	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.
19-February	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.
19-February	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.
20-February	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.

21-February	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 .
22-February	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!)
26-February	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 th February 2019 in New Delhi with the theme as " Celebrating Biotechnology: Building Indian as an Innovation Nation ".
28 - February	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' .

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2. Rankings

Reports	India's Rank/State's Rank	Top rank/Other ranks
Latest FIFA rankings	103) India	1) Belgium
		2) France
ICC ODI rankings	2) India	1) England
		3) South Africa
ICC women's Batting ODI rankings	1) Smriti Mandhana	
	5) Mithali Raj	
ICC T20 Team rankings	2) India	1) Pakistan
ICC T20 Bowler rankings	4) Kuldeep Yadav	1) Rashid Khan
ICC Batswomen T20 rankings	2) Jemimah Rodrigues	1) Suzie Bates
	6) Smriti Mandhana	
ICC Test Batsmen rankings	1) Virat Kohli	2) Kane Williamson
	3) Cheteshwar Pujara	
ICC Test Bowlers rankings	5) Ravindra Jadeja	1) Pat Cummins
		2) Kagiso Rabada
ICC Test All rounders rankings	3) Ravindra Jadeja	1) Jason Holder
		2) Shakib-Al Hasan

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3. Summit / Conference**International Summit & Conference:**

Summit/Conference	Details
India-Monaco Business Forum	Addressing the Indo-Monaco Business Forum in New Delhi, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, said that there is vast scope for cooperation between India and Monaco in several sectors including tourism.
43rd International Book Fair	At the 43rd International Book Fair in Kolkata, the stall of the National Digital Library of India is attracting people seeking to download books for free. The NDLI was sponsored by the Union Human Resources Development Ministry and developed by IIT Kharagpur.
Indo-Africa Strategic Economic Co-operation	Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu addressed the interactive session on Indo-Africa Strategic Economic Co-operation in New Delhi.
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.
69th Berlin International Film Festival	India Pavilion inaugurated at 69th Berlin International Film Festival.
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.
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.
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.

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.
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. 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.
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.
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.
20th Session of India-Italy Joint Commission	The meeting of 20 th 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.

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.
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.

National Summit / Conference

6th meeting of Mission Steering Group of NHM

- Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare chaired the 6th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM).

12th Regional Standards Conclave

- The BIS Act 2016 lays down the framework for Standards development and delivery in India. 12th Regional Standards Conclave held in Odisha organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

State Level Awareness Programme on Agri Export Policy

- Commerce Minister, Suresh Prabhu addressed the first state level awareness programme on agriculture export policy said that in order to achieve the purpose of the policy clusters have been identified across the country for development of agriculture exports.

67th Annual Armed Forces Medical Conference

- Armed Forces Medical College, Pune is organising the 67th Annual Armed Forces Medical Conference. The conference was inaugurated by Lt Gen Bipin Puri, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services.

20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav

- The 20th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM), the international theatre festival of India, is organized by National School of Drama (NSD), one of the prominent training institutions in the world.
- The Minister of State for Culture (I/C), Govt. of India, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, inaugurated the 21-day-long nationwide theatre spectacle in New Delhi.

‘Parmanu Tech 2019’

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh delivered the keynote address at the ‘Parmanu Tech 2019’ conference, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The conference discussed issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Economic Times Global Business Summit

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

High level security meeting

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

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4. Appointments**National Appointments:**

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Gupteshwar Pandey	Bihar's New Director General of Police (DGP)
2	Shri Rishi Kumar Shukla	CBI Director
3	Shri Sailesh	Assumed Charge as Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs
4	Dinkar Gupta	Punjab DGP
5	Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, AVSM, NM	Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command
6	Shri Sushil Chandra	New Election Commissioner
7	Chandramouli Ramanathan	UN Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the management strategy, policy and compliance department
8	Anuj Sharma	Kolkata Police Commissioner
9	Shri Tarun Shridhar	Additional charge of the post of Secretary in the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
10	Justice DK Jain	Ombudsman for BCCI
11	Justice Uma Nath Singh	First Lokayukta of Nagaland

International Appointments:

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Nayib Bukele	El Salvador's President
2	Nilambar Acharya	Nepal's ambassador to India
3	David Bernhardt	US Interior Secretary

4	Egypt's President El-Sissi	Chairman of African Union
5	William Barr	US Attorney General
6	Professor Faizel Ismail	Director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance
7	Muhammadu Buhari	Nigeria president

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5. Science and Technology

Strong 6.1-magnitude earthquake

- In Indonesia, a strong 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Mentawai, meanwhile no tsunami warning was issued.

Earthquake strikes Afghanistan, Pakistan, parts of North India

- A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan, Pakistan and parts of North India.
- The Indian Meteorological Department said the epicentre of the quake was Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan.

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.

5.1 Inventions / Discovery

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.

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.

5.2 Space Science**GSAT-31 successfully launched**

- India's communication satellite GSAT-31 has been launched successfully from French Guiana. The Ariane-5 rocket lifted off with it from Kourou Launch and placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- It is to replace the ageing INSAT-4CR satellite. GSAT-31 is India's fortieth communication satellite.

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.

5.3 App/ Web Portal/ Toll Free**'NTA Students App'**

- National Testing Agency (NTA) has launched a 'mobile app' through which students can practice or take mock tests on their own computers or smart phones.

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.

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.

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.

‘PwD App’

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

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.

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5. Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- To provide an assured income support to small and marginal farmers Govt. is launching Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The Government announced Rs 6,000 per year cash support to small and marginal farmers that will cost the exchequer Rs 75,000 crore annually, in a bid to provide relief to distressed farm sector.

Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme

- In order to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness, the Central Government has been implementing a Scheme called the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy.

Shehri Samridhi Utsav

- Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), to the most vulnerable, showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.

“Know India Programme”

- The 53rd edition of Know India Programme for Young Indian Diaspora involves 40 participants (24 female and 16 males) from Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Portugal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. The partner states of this edition are Maharashtra and Daman & Diu.
- The Know India Programme is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with the objective of familiarizing the India Diaspora Youth, in the age group of 18-30 years, with developments and achievements made by the country and bringing them closer to the land of their ancestors.

Atal Bhujal Yojana

- The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 Crore scheme, for sustainable management of ground water with community participation.
- The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.

e-NAM platform

- Nearly 35 thousand farmers in the country received payments of three hundred crore rupees through e-payment facility of e-NAM platform till the 30th of last month.

Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana

- Altogether 14 thousand hospitals have been empanelled under the Pradhan Mantri Arogya Yojana so far.
- The highest number of 2677 such hospitals is in Gujarat followed by Tamil Nadu with 1709 hospitals.

UNDP Small Grants Programme(SGP)

- A Workshop on MoEFCC-Global Environment Facility, UNDP Small Grants Programme(SGP) was inaugurated in New Delhi by Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change(MoEFCC).

'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign

- The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign which focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country.
- The campaign, produced by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, was launched in Mumbai.

“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.

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.

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].

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.

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.

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.

SHREYAS

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

‘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.

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6. Economic Affairs

GST collections cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark

- The GST collections in January this year has crossed one lakh crore rupees mark. In January last year the GST collection was 89 thousand crore rupees.

Department of post to soon set up its own insurance company

- Department of post will soon set up its own insurance company which will deal with its business of two products Postal life insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance.

FPIs pull out Rs 5,300 crore from capital markets in January

- Foreign Portfolio Investors, FPIs, withdrew over 5,300 rupees crore from the Indian capital markets in January, indicating their 'wait and watch' approach ahead of the general elections.

India's tourism sector registers 19% growth in 2018

- Union Minister KJ Alphons has said that the country's tourism sector fetched 234 billion US Dollar revenue last year, registering a growth of over 19%. At the inaugural speech of the 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Guwahati, he said the country is ranked third in the tourism sector, according to the 2018 report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

Interim Budget 2019-20

- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal presented Interim Budget 2019-20 in Parliament.

Overall health allocations to be increased to 2.5% of GDP

- India stands committed to increase its overall health allocations to 2.5 per cent of GDP.

Interim Budget 2019-20 Highlights

- 6,000 rupees yearly direct support to farmers through PM-KISAN Programme.
- 3,000 rupees pension for unorganised sector workers earning upto 15,000 rupees through a mega Pension Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Shram- Yogi Maandhan.
- Present Income Tax rates to continue; Full tax rebate upto income of 5 lakh rupees for individual tax payers; Standard deduction raised to 50,000, a hike of 10,000 for salaried class.
- Direct tax system simplified; Returns to be processed in 24 hours with immediate refunds.
- 90 percent GST payers can file quarterly returns; Small and Medium Enterprises to get two percent interest rebate on incremental loan of one crore rupees; A Group of Ministers to examine GST burden on home buyers.
- Customs to go for digitalization of export and import transactions.

- Allocations to Health care, MGNREGA, SC/ST welfare programmes, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Development of infrastructure in North-East hiked substantially.
- A programme for genetic upgradation of cow - Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog.
- A separate Department of Fisheries.
- Electricity connection to all willing families by next month.
- Allocations to Defence budget crosses three lakh crore rupees for the first time.
- Over three lakh 38 thousand shell companies deregistered after demonetization.
- 10 point vision for 2030 to realize India's social economic potential; 10 trillion dollars economy in 13 years.
- Government e-Market place - GeM to be extended to all Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- A container cargo movement to the North-East through Brahmaputra river; Allocation for infrastructure development in the region hiked by 21 percent.
- An All India Institute of Medical Sciences - AIIMS for Haryana.
- One lakh more villages to get digital connectivity; A National Centre on Artificial Intelligence Centre;
- Cinematograph Act to be tightened to check piracy.
- Single window clearance for shooting films to be made available to Indian film makers.
- Indigenous development of semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express train
- The fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4 percent of GDP is the highlight of the Interim Budget for 2019-20.

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.

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 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.

6.1 Banking Affairs

RBI announces bi-monthly monetary policy

- The Monetary Policy Committee headed by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, announced a reduction in policy repo rate by 25 basis points from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.

RBI raises collateral-free farm loan limit to Rs 1.6 lakh

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the limit of collateral free agricultural loans has been increased from one lakh to 1.6 lakh.

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.

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.

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.

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7. Mou /Agreement

International MoUs and Agreements:

S.No.	MoU Between India (India - _____)	Fields	Country Details
1	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.	President - Abdul Hamid Prime Minister - Sheikh Hasina Capital - Dhaka Currency - Bangladeshi taka
2	India 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.	President - Khaltmaagiin Battulga Prime Minister - Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh Capital - Ulaanbaatar Currency - Mongolian tögrög
3	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.	Prime Minister - Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Crown Prince - Mohammed bin Salman Capital - Riyadh Currency - Saudi riyal
4	India and 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.	President - Kristalina Georgieva Headquarters - Washington, D.C., United States Established on 1944 Members - 189 Countries
5	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 Prasar Bharti and the Federal System of Media and Public Contents of Argentina were also inked.	President - Mauricio Macri Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers - Marcos Pena Capital - Buenos Aires Currency - Argentine Peso

6	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.	King - Mohammed VI
			Prime Minister - Saadeddine Othmani
			Capital - Rabat
			Currency - Moroccan dirham
7	India and Canada	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.	Head of state - Queen Elizabeth II
			Prime Minister - Justin Trudeau
			Capital - Ottawa
			Currency - Canadian Dollar
8	India and 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.	President - Maithripala Sirisena
			Prime Minister - Ranil Wickremesinghe
			Capital - Colombo
			Currency - Sri Lankan Rupee
9	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.	Sultan of Brunei - Hassanal Bolkiah
			Crown Prince - Al-Muhtadee Billah
			Capital - Bandar Seri Begawan
			Currency - Brunei dollar

Other MOU / Agreements:

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.

Government to launch campaign to saturate farmers

- Government decided to launch a campaign to saturate farmers for financial inclusion under Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).

Government to conduct survey of all agricultural households

- The government has decided to conduct a survey of all agricultural households in the country covering the period from July 2018 to June this year. National Sample Survey Office is the nodal agency.
- It will focus on their income, expenditure and indebtedness.

New Centres for Artificial Intelligence

- In view of increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology across the world, IIT Kharagpur, IIT-Madras, IIT-Kancheepuram, NIT Silchar, and NIT Bhopal have set up centres for Artificial Intelligence.

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.

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.

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.

Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Bill

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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8. Indian Forces (Defence)

DAC approves indigenous construction of 6 submarines

- The Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees.
- It is the second project under the Ministry's ambitious strategic partnership model aiming to boost the government's 'Make in India' program.

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.

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'.**

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.

9. Awards and Achievement**International:****Oscar Awards 2019**

S.No.	Category	Winner
1	Documentary (Feature)	Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Free Solo
2	Actress in a Supporting Role	Regina King, If Beale Street Could Talk
3	Makeup and Hairstyling	Greg Cannom, Kate Biscoe, and Patricia Dehaney, Vice
4	Costume Design	Ruth E. Carter, Black Panther
5	Production Design	Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart, Black Panther
6	Cinematography	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
7	Sound Editing	John Warhurst, Bohemian Rhapsody
8	Sound Mixing	Paul Massey, Tim Cavagin, and John Casali, Bohemian Rhapsody
9	Foreign Language Film	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
10	Film Editing	John Ottman, Bohemian Rhapsody
11	Actor in a Supporting Role	Mahershala Ali, Green Book
12	Animated Feature Film	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, Rodney Rothman
13	Animated Short Film	Domee Shi, Bao
14	Visual Effects	Paul Lambert, Ian Hunter, Tristan Myles and J.D. Schwalm, First Man
15	Documentary Short Subject	Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton, Period. End of Sentence.
16	Live Action Short Film	Guy Nattiv and Jamie Ray Newman, Skin
17	Best Original Screenplay	Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie, Peter Farrelly, Green Book
18	Best Adapted Screenplay	Spike Lee, Sean McKittrick, Jason Blum, Raymond Mansfield, Jordan Peele, BlacKkKlansman
19	Original Score	Ludwig Goransson, Black Panther

20	Original Song	Lady Gaga, Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando, and Andrew Wyatt, "Shallow," A Star Is Born
21	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Rami Malek, Bohemian Rhapsody
22	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Olivia Colman, The Favourite
23	Best Director	Alfonso Cuarón, Roma
24	Best Picture	Green Book

National Awards:

S.No	Award	Award Winner/Winners
1	2018 Player of the Year award (Hockey)	Manpreet Singh
2	Rising Player of The Year prize (Hockey)	Women team's striker Lalremsiami

Sportstar Aces Awards Winners

S.No.	Award	Award Winner/Winners
1	Sportsman of the Year(Cricket)	Virat Kohli & Jasprit Bumrah
2	Sportswoman of the Year(Cricket)	Smriti Mandhana
3	Sportsman of the Year(Racquet Sport)	A. Sharath Kamal
4	Sportswoman of the Year(Racquet Sport)	P.V.Sindhu & Manika Batra
5	Sportsman of the Year(Track and Field)	Neeraj Chopra
6	Sportswoman of the Year(Track and Field)	Hima Das
7	Sportsman of the Year(Other Team Sport)	Sunil Chhetri
8	Sportswoman of the Year(Other Team Sport)	Gurjit Kaur
9	Sportsman of the Year(Other Individual Sport)	Bajrang Punia
10	Sportswoman of the Year(Other Individual Sport)	M.C.Mary Kom & Vinesh Phogat
11	Sportsman of the Year(Motorsport)	K.P.Aravind
12	Team of the Year	Vidarbha Ranji Team
13	Coach of the Year	Table tennis coach Massimo Costantini
14	Lifetime Achievement Award	Prakash Padukone
15	Best Young Athlete(Male)	Saurabh Chaudhary
16	Best Young Athlete(Female)	Manu Bhaker
17	Parathlete Sportsman of the Year	Suyash Yadav & Manoj Sarkar
18	Parathlete Sportswoman of the Year	Deepa Malik

19	Best State for Promotion of Sports	Odisha
20	Best University for the Promotion of Sports	Army School
21	Best PSU/Corporate House for the Promotion of Sports	Railways
22	Chairman's Choice Award	Cheteshwar Pujara

Tagore Award

S.No.	Year	Winner
1	2014	Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh
2	2015	Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh)
3	2016	Shri Ram Sutar Vanji

Gandhi Peace Prize

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

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10.National Affairs

Indian embassy in US opens 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students

- The Indian embassy in the US has opened a 24/7 hotline to assist Indian students arrested by the American authorities for alleged immigration rules violation. As many as 129 Indians are among the 130 foreign students arrested for allegedly enrolling at a fake university to remain in the US.

NFDC declared winner under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME

- National Film Development Corporation of India has been selected as Winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). This has been done as part of endeavour by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select CPSEs to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.

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.

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.

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.

Government 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.

Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- Forty-two artists from the fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional, Folk, and Tribal music were awarded.

Sena medals

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

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11. State Wise Affairs

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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.

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.

CM Pema Khandu flags off Arunachal leg of Startup India Yatra

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off the Arunachal leg of the Startup India Yatra from civil secretariat in Itanagar.

Assam

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	Jagdish Mukhi

Skill development training to 75,000 youths

- Assam government has given skill development training to 75 thousand youths last year.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Gujarat

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Gandhinagar	<u>Vijay Rupani</u>	<u>Om Prakash Kohli</u>

Gujarat government increases DA of over 9.61 lakh employees

- Gujarat government has announced an increase in Dearness allowance of more than 9.61 lakh employees and pensioners by 2 per cent.

Himachal Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Acharya Dev Vrat

Government to amend PG policy for doctors

- Himachal Pradesh government has decided to amend PG policy on bond money for MBBS doctors who pursue higher courses.

Centre sanctions Rs173 cr for 58 NH projects

- Centre has sanctioned 173 crore rupees for 58 national highway projects in Himachal Pradesh.

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.

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.

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.

Jammu and 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.

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.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Bhopal	Kamal Nath	Anandiben Patel

Mandatory for industries to hire 70% locals

- Madhya Pradesh government has made it mandatory for all industries to provide seventy percent of the jobs to locals. The new industrial policy has been made effective.

Maharashtra

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

- The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival - KGAF, India's largest multi-cultural street festival, is all set to begin from February 02. Commemorating 20 years of its inception, KGAF 2019 will celebrate two glorious decades of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture through various spots on Mumbai's map.
- The festival will also host exhibition at the historic Jehangir Art Gallery to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and some rich history of Mumbai.

Government sets up panel to review welfare schemes for tribals

- The Maharashtra government has set up a committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.

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.

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.

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

President inaugurates annual Udyanotsav of Mughal Gardens

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the annual Udyanotsav of the Mughal Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

NGT imposes penalty of Rs 25 lakh on UP govt

- The National Green Tribunal has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on the Uttar Pradesh government for its failure to stop discharge of dirty water into Upper Ganga canal.

“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.

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.

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).

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.

Odisha

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal

Gadkari to lay foundation of highway projects

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone for three highway projects worth over two thousand 300 crore rupees in Odisha.

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.

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

Special Postage Stamp on Kumbh Mela

- Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication Mr Manoj Sinha released a special postage stamp of the Indian Postal Department on Kumbh Mela. A special first day cover was also released on the occasion. Its cost is five rupees.

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.

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.

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.

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.

West Bengal

Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Keshari Nath Tripathi

Railway electrification of 294-km long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Railway electrification of 294- km-long Andal- Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and Khana- Sainthia Sections in West Bengal.

12. International Affairs

US imposed visa restrictions on Ghana

- Washington has imposed visa restrictions on Ghana following a row over the deportation of Ghanaians staying illegally in the United States. Some 7,000 Ghanaians are living illegally in the United States.

Celebrations for 40th anniversary of Iranian revolution

- Thousands of Iranians gathered at the mausoleum of the Islamic republic's founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran to launch celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Iranian revolution.

UNSC adopts resolution to extend sanctions against CAR for another year

- The United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution to extend sanctions against the Central African Republic (CAR) for another year.

Sri Lanka brings resolution in parliament for formation of national government

- In Sri Lanka, the United National party (UNP) led by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has brought a resolution in parliament for formation of a national government.

Germany, France and UK set up transactions channel with Iran

- Germany, France and the UK have set up a payment channel with Iran called INSTEX, to help continue trade and circumvent US sanctions.
- While, the new institution, called INSTEX is a project of the three governments, it will receive the formal endorsement of all 28 EU members.

China agrees to make key concessions to expand American imports

- China has agreed to make key concessions to expand American imports in agriculture, energy, manufacturing and services, the main demands of US President Donald Trump.

China to provide USD 2.5 bn loan to Pak to boost foreign cash reserves

- China will provide 2.5 billion dollars (USD) loans to Pakistan to boost the foreign exchange reserves of its "all-weather ally". Pakistan is currently seeing depleted foreign cash reserves and mounting external debt. The country's USD 8.12 billion reserves are below the minimum level that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) prescribe.

EU Countries endorse Venezuelan opposition leader

- Nearly 20 European Union countries have endorsed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the country's interim President.

US announces withdrawal from key Cold War nuclear arms treaty with Russia

- US President Donald Trump announced that the US will withdraw from the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty with Russia, alleging that Kremlin violated the Cold War-era pact.
- The INF treaty, signed in 1987 by then US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, prohibited the development and deployment of ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges of 500-5,500 kilometers.

Sri Lanka celebrating its 71st Independence day

- Sri Lanka celebrated its 71st Independence day with usual fanfare and enthusiasm. Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was the guest of honour at the main function held in Colombo.

1st pontiff to visit Arabian peninsula

- Pope Francis landed in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on a historic visit, becoming the first pontiff to visit the Arabian peninsula.

Israel says it has begun construction of massive new Gaza border barrier

- Israel said it has begun construction of a massive new Gaza border barrier.

Russia to abandon nuclear arms treaty

- Russia to abandon nuclear arms treaty in retaliation to US withdrawal from treaty.

“Church of Saint Francis” & ‘Mosque of Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb’ in Abu Dhabi

- UAE leaders announced the construction of the “Church of Saint Francis” and ‘Mosque of Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb’ in Abu Dhabi in honour of the two religious leaders.

Iran to pardon 50,000 convicts

- The Iranian Judiciary Chief Amoli Larijani said 50,000 convicts will receive pardons from Leader Ayatollah Khamenei on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Taliban demands new Afghan Constitution

- The Taliban demanded a new Constitution for Afghanistan and promised an “inclusive Islamic system” to govern the war-torn country at a rare gathering with senior Afghan politicians in Russia that excluded the Kabul government.

Trump nominates US treasury diplomat David Malpass to head World Bank

- President Donald Trump has nominated senior Treasury official David Malpass as the next chief of the World Bank.

Macedonia signs accord to join NATO

- Macedonia signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance. The Macedonia-NATO accord follows a deal with Greece ending a 27-year-old dispute over Macedonia's name. The accord must now be ratified by allied governments.

Philippines to tighten entry of foreign workers

- The Philippines has said it will soon impose stricter requirements and procedures in issuing work permits to foreign nationals who intend to work in the country.

Sri Lankan parliament to debate and vote to form national government

- Sri Lankan parliament will take up for debate the proposal to form a national government followed by voting.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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CRICKET

1st female cricketer to play 200 ODIs

- India captain Mithali Raj became the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs, adding another achievement to her illustrious career.

India Vs New Zealand ODI Series

- India beat New Zealand by 35 runs in the fifth and the final ODI to win five-match series 4-1.

Ranji Trophy

- Vidharbha lifted the Ranji Trophy for the second time in a row, defeating Saurashtra by 78 runs at Nagpur.

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.

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.

New Zealand Vs Bangladesh ODI Series

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

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.

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.

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 lost the T-20 series against Australia 2-0.

CHESS**Cannes International Open trophy**

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

TENNIS**Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament**

- Prajnesh Gunneswaran to lead India's challenge in Chennai open.
- 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.
- 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.

Federation Cup Tennis tournament

- India defeated Thailand 2 - 1 in the world play off Asia Oceania group one of Federation Cup Tennis tournament in Astana.

Italy beat India to make Davis Cup World finals

- Italy beat India 3-1 to storm into the first-ever Davis Cup World finals.

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.

Qatar Open Tennis

- 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. 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.

BADMINTON**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.
- The pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty clinched the Men's Doubles title.

ISSF SHOOTING WORLD CUP

International Shooting Sport Federation (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.
- 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 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.
- 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.

Other Sports

Government increases sports budget by over Rs 214 cr

- The government increased the sports budget by over 214 crore rupees for the next financial year, including a hike in funds for the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and incentives for sportspersons.
- The overall sports budget for 2019-2020 was increased from 2002 crore rupees to 2216.

EGAT Cup

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu notched up a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand.
- Chanu won the 49kg category gold with an effort of 192 kg in the silver level Olympic qualifying event. 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.

Women's Cup football

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

9th Senior Women's Hockey National Championship

- 9th Senior Women's Hockey National Championship will kick off in Hisar, Haryana.

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.

“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.

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.

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.

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.

Kolkata Marathon

- Anjali Saraogi retained her title in the IDBI Federal Life Insurance Kolkata Marathon with career-best timing. Tlanding Wahlang won the men's full marathon.

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