



Presents

Weekly Current Affairs July 2019

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Weekly Current Affairs September (15 to 21) 2019

Important Dates

September 15 – International Day of Democracy

- The International Day of Democracy is celebrated around the world on 15 September each year. It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy. The International Day is an opportunity to review the state of democracy around the world.
- 2019 Theme: Participation

September 15 – National Engineers day

- **National Engineers day** is celebrated in India from 1968 to remember the birthday of one of the best engineers in India so far and an extraordinary person Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- Visvesvaraya was responsible for the construction of Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore. He was the chief engineer in the project. He was also the chief designer of the flood protection system of Hyderabad.
- **The theme of 52nd Engineers' Day was "Engineering for change".**

September 16 – International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

- The United Nations' International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated on the 16th September every year. Commemorating the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the day advocates activities that create awareness on topics related to climate change and ozone depletion.

September 18 – World Bamboo Day

- World Bamboo Day was officially established on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009 and declared by the Thai Royal Forest Department. World Bamboo Day is a day of celebration to increase the awareness of bamboo globally.

September 18 – World Water Monitoring Day

- Every year, the World Water Monitoring Day is celebrated on September 18. The day was first instituted in the year 2003 to build public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world.
- The day aims to empower the citizens to conduct basic checking of their local water bodies

September 21 - International Day of Peace

- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- **2019 Theme: "Climate Action for Peace"**

September 21 - World Alzheimer's Day

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21st September every year to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia. This day is celebrated for generating awareness and due to seriousness of this disease it is celebrated for the whole month in some countries.

Summit / Conference

Sixteenth round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Iran

- The sixteenth round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Iran was held in Tehran.
- The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, ongoing connectivity and infrastructure development projects, including the development of Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar and full operationalization of the Chabahar Agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan.

National Seminar on “Emerging Trends in Public Architecture” – Year of Construction Technology

- As a part of Nationwide Awareness Campaign during ongoing ‘Construction Technology Year’, Central Public Works Department is organizing a National Seminar on “Emerging Trends in Public Architecture on September 18, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister had announced that April 2019 – March 2020 as the ‘Year of Construction Technology’ in a bid to increase the use of modern technologies in the construction sector.

BSM Organised In USA, Canada and Greece by APEDA

- A buyer-seller meet (BSM) was organized in the Indian Consulate on 20th August, 2019 with the support of the Indian Embassy. Twenty-three exporters of agri products including processed food and tea met with potential importers from USA.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized a multi-product road show in association with the Embassy of India in Jakarta on 16th September, 2019.

The exhibition ‘Shashwat Maharathi : The Eternal Seeker’ on Chitracharya Upendra Maharath

- Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Governor of Delhi Shri Anil Baijal jointly inaugurated the exhibition ‘Shashwat Maharathi : The Eternal Seeker’ on Chitracharya Upendra Maharath at newly renovated Jaipur House in National Gallery of Modern art New Delhi.
- The Exhibition showcases more than 1000 works of art, design, and woven objects of art by Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi.

Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019)

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ launched several initiatives of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in New Delhi.
- The Minister informed that the WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019. It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.

International Workshop for National Water Museum

- DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti is organizing an International Workshop on 19th – 20th September 2019, at Central Water Commission Auditorium, New Library Building, R K Puram, New Delhi.
- To enhance awareness among general public at large, about dwindling water resources and need for conservation, and about sustainable and judicious use of water resources, DoWR, RD&GR, under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India has taken an initiative to develop National Water Museum.

63rd General Conference of IAEA

- The 63rd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is going on at Vienna from September 16 -20, 2019. K N Vyas, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Head of the Indian delegation to the conference

3rd Meeting of Central Advisory Board on Disability

- The Third Meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Disability was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment.
- The Central Advisory Board deliberated on certain major issues in the disability sector namely, implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016, Accessible India Campaign, Unique Disability ID Project.

16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union

- The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was convened in New Delhi on 17th September, 2019.
- JEC Sessions are convened based on an agreement signed in 1990 in New Delhi. This biennial event is organized in capital cities of the three countries alternatively, and is a main vehicle for discussing economic and commercial issues between India and BLEU.

7th India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI)

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal will visit UAE from 21st to 22nd September 2019 for the meeting of the 7th India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI). The meeting will see wide-ranging discussions on priority sectors of engagement for channelling investments between the two countries.
- The HLTFI was established in May 2012 to address issues associated with existing investments between India and UAE

National Conference on Agriculture- Rabi Campaign 2019

- The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2019 was organized on 20.09.2019 at NASC, Pusa, New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by Sh. Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Minister highlighted the record production achieved for food grains (285 million tonnes) and also complimented state governments for effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Appointments & Resignation**New Indian Air Force Chief**

- The Government has appointed Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria as the next Chief of Air Staff (CAS). He will take over on September 30 and will have a two-year tenure. He had played a key role in the negotiations for the deal with France for 36 Rafale jets.

Ranking & Index**The International Migrant Stock 2019**

- India has emerged as the leading country of origin for immigrants across the world, with 17.5 million international migrants in 2019 coming from India, up from 15.9 million in 2015, according to The International Migrant Stock Report 2019 released by the Union Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York.
- Bangladesh was the leading country of origin for migrants in India, the report stated.

India slips to 104th spot in FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team slipped a place to 104th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

Science & Technology

Keeladi findings traceable to 6th century BCE

- In a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age, the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.
- This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD. The recent scientific dates obtained for Keeladi findings push back the date of Tamil-Brahmi script to another century, i.e., 6th century BCE.

Economic Affairs

New Reduction in corporate tax

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced reduction in corporate tax rate to 25.17 per cent from the current 30 per cent, to bring them on par with Asian rivals such as China and South Korea, hoping to boost demand and investments.
- Finance Minister said to attract fresh investment in manufacturing and to give a boost to 'Make-in-India initiative, another new provision has been added in the Income-tax Act with effect from current fiscal. It allows any new domestic company incorporated on or after 1st of October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing, an option to pay income-tax at the rate of 15 per cent.

Schemes

Union HRD Minister launches LEAP – 2019 and ARPIT – 2019

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) – 2019 and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) – 2019 under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT) in New Delhi.

- ARPIT is a great platform for teachers to learn about latest developments in their field and develop their teaching qualities.
- “Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP)” was launched to design and deliver a structured scheme of leadership development for Higher Educational Institutions.

Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) NIRVIK

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.
- The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to boost exports on 14th September 2019 in New Delhi.

National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme. The scheme shall be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD.

MoU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS

MoU between India and Switzerland

- India and Switzerland signed and exchanged agreements/MOUs for cooperation in the field of Climate Change; Letter of Intent to create an India-Switzerland Science and Innovation Alliance; and for renewal of the Hindi Chair at the University of Lausanne.

- The two sides also discussed the sharing of information on tax matters under the Automatic Exchange of Information framework. The sharing of information is scheduled to commence later this month.

India, Slovenia sign seven agreements and MoUs in various fields

- President Ram Nath Kovind and his Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor have agreed to strengthen multilateralism and promote multi-polar world.
- India and Slovenia signed and exchanged seven MoUs of cooperation in the field of investment, sports, culture, River rejuvenation, Science & Technology and standards.

ISRO and DRDO signed MoUs

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has joined hands with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for development of human centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate its human space flight capabilities.
- A delegation of ISRO scientists, led by Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair, signed a set of MoUs with various DRDO labs to provide technologies for human centric systems and technologies specific to the Human Space Mission.

Agreement between Skill India and IBM

- The Directorate General of Training (DGT) division of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, has signed an agreement with Global IT major IBM where the latter will carry out a nationwide Train-the-Trainer in Basic Artificial Intelligence Skills.
- As part of the program, ITI trainers will be trained on basic Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills towards using the technology in their day-to-day training activities.

India and Mongolia signed MoUs

India and Mongolia have exchanged documents in areas including space, disaster management and culture. Two MoUs were signed in the fields of disaster management and space cooperation in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind and Mongolian President Battulga Khaltma in New Delhi.

Defence Affairs

Wargaming software handed over to Indian Navy

- Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) Delhi, a premier DRDO laboratory, has designed and developed a new generation Wargaming Software in collaboration with Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam to meet the contemporary operational and tactical level wargaming requirement for the Indian Navy.
- The key focus has been to create a wargaming environment which enables Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using the latest technological and computing tools.

Maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral Exercise

- A maiden trilateral exercise, involving Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN) has commenced at Port Blair on 16 Sep 19.
- The five-day-long exercise is aimed at bolstering the maritime inter-relationships amongst Singapore Thailand and India, and contribute significantly to enhancing the overall maritime security in the region.
- This would also strengthen the mutual confidence amongst three navies in terms of interoperability and development of a common understanding of procedures.

Air-to-Air missile Astra successfully flight tested from Su-30 MKI

- Air-to-Air missile, ASTRA, has been successfully flight tested on 16 September 2019 off the coast of Odisha.
- The missile was launched from Su-30 MKI as a part of User trials. The live aerial target was engaged accurately demonstrating the capability of first indigenous air-to-air missile.

First woman officer to be posted as a military diplomat at an Indian mission abroad

- Anjali Singh becomes the country's first woman officer to be posted as a military diplomat at an Indian mission abroad. This woman Navy officer will take over as the Deputy Naval Attache at Moscow in Russia

Second Scorpene submarine "KHANDERI"

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) called 'Ship Builder to the Nation' delivered the second Scorpene submarine 'KHANDERI' to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai.
- The submarine 'KHANDERI' is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean. The first Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 06th December 1968 and decommissioned on 18th October 1989 after more than 20 years of yeoman service to the nation

Shri Rajnath Singh becomes first Defence Minister to fly 'LCA Tejas'

- Shri Rajnath Singh has scripted history by becoming the first Defence Minister to fly the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas'.
- He congratulated HAL, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for building the multi-role fighter aircraft.

NDRF set to induct women personnel

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is all set to induct women personnel in its new battalions within the next one year. The Union Government had, in 2018, made a proposal to attach women contingents to NDRF battalions in the country.

National Affairs

Doordarshan completes 60 years of existence

- The public broadcaster started its journey on September 15 in 1959 from Delhi. Over 90 percent of Indian population receive DD programmes. Over the years, Doordarshan has grown into a network operating 34 satellite channels, besides providing free-to-air DTH service having 104 in its bookings.

National Centre for Clean Coal Research & Development inaugurated at Bengaluru

- Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, today inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.
- Government of India through Department of Science & Technology, has set up the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) as a national level consortium on clean coal R&D, led by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.

Commerce and Industry Minister Launches Steel Import Monitoring System

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri launched Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) in New Delhi.
- The system has been developed in consultation with Ministry of Steel on the pattern of US Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.
- The SIMS will provide advance information about steel imports to Government and stake holders including, steel industry (producers), steel consumers(importers) to have effective policy interventions.

Steel Ministry to organize a “Chintan Shivar”

- The Ministry of Steel is organizing a day long ‘Chintan Shivar’ on September 23, 2019 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- The Chintan Shivar aims to hold deliberations among key stakeholders to further the growth of Indian Steel industry by arriving at a strategy to make the Indian Steel sector vibrant, efficient, environment friendly and globally competitive.

Ministry of Railways decides to adopt HOG (Head on Generation technology) system

- The way ACs run and power supply is done in railway coaches is to transform. Such new technological transformation is also to bring in foreign exchange saving of about 1400 Crore Rupees per year.
- In the new technology called – Head on Generation technology, the power will be drawn from the Overhead Electric supply. The power generator cars which used to make huge noise and emit fumes will no more be there. In place of two such generator cars there will be one standby silent generator car to be used for emergency.

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman hands over antique Bronze Idol of Buddha to Minister of State of Culture & Tourism (IC)

- Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman handed over a antique Bronze Idol of Buddha to Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (IC) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in New Delhi. This Buddha statue is documented as “Seated Buddha in Bhumisparsha Mudra” Ht. 6.5” Circa 12th Century AD.
- The Bronze Idol of ‘Buddha seated in the Bhumisparsha Mudra’ was stolen on 22nd August, 1961 from Nalanda Museum of ASI and had resurfaced at an auction in Masstricht (organized by a London based dealer Rossi & Rossi in Feb 2018)

Supreme Court gets four new judges

- The Centre on September 18 cleared the appointments of Justices V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy as Supreme Court judges. The Supreme Court vacancies had increased its judicial strength from 31 to 34 following the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019 into law.

Government notifies 8.65% interest rate for EPFO members

- Government has approved 8.65 per cent interest rate on deposits in Employees Provident Fund for 2018-19.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified 8.65 per cent rate of interest on EPF deposits for its over six crore subscribers.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS- Dial 112)

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh.
- ERSS provides a single emergency number (112) has been designed to play a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime, especially against women and children.
- Citizens can send their emergency information through call, sms, email and through the 112 India mobile app. ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund.

State Wise Affairs

ANDHRA PRADESH

NIOT's Seafront Research Facility in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has advised the Union Minister for Science and Technology, Shri Harsh Vardhan to expedite the setting up of a new research facility of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) at Thupilipallam village in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.
- The proposed facility envisages real time prototype testing, calibration, trials and demonstration of ocean technological activities at sea, development of prototype systems, validation of indigenously developed marine systems in the ocean, including establishment of laboratory and testing facilities on the seashore.

TAMILNADU

Ooty to host 2nd flower festival

- Udhamandalam – Ooty – in Tamilnadu will be hosting the second flower festival of the year during the North East Monsoon in October and November. Preparatory works for the elaborate exhibition of colourful and fragrant flowers have started in the famous Botanical Gardens in Udhamandalam.

Tamil Nadu officials to participate in safety workshop in Australia

- The Tamil Nadu government has sent a team of senior bureaucrats to Australia for studying highway safety using Safe System Solution and emulate the best practices back home. They were to participate in a six-day workshop which is set to begin on September 16.
- The programme is part of the memorandum of understanding signed by the State government with VicRoads and Highways Department, Australia.

US company TI to set up research lab at NIT in Trichy

- Texas Instruments (TI), a US company, engaged in the design and development of semiconductors and software will set up a hi-tech, cutting edge research lab at National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Trichy, Tamilnadu.

Rehabilitating deer population begin in Kodiakkarai Wild Life sanctuary

- A unique exercise of rehabilitating deer population has been started in the Kodiakkarai Wild Life sanctuary in Tamilnadu. This follows upgradation works being undertaken at the cost of eight crores rupees in the Sivagangai Gardens of Thanjavoor under the smart city scheme of the Central government.

ARUNACHAL PRDAESH**Resurfaced runway inaugurated at Vijaynagar Advanced Landing Ground**

- In Arunachal Pradesh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Air Command Air Marshal R D Mathur and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command jointly inaugurated the resurfaced runway at Vijaynagar Advanced Landing Ground in Changlang District.
- The ALG will assist in effective management of borders with Myanmar and facilitate launch of joint operations by Indian Army and Air Force for the defence of the Vijaynagar salient.

Dikshi Hydroelectric Project

- In Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state.
- The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District.
- Government of Arunachal Pradesh is the sole beneficiary of the power generation from this project. The State Govt will be getting 10% as free power from the 2nd year of its operation.

TRIPURA**Neermahal Jal Utsav**

- In Tripura, the three day long traditional Neermahal Jal Utsav concluded with eye catching boat race and swimming competitions at Rudrasagar lake.
- Neermahal is a water palace built at the middle of Rudrasagar lake by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya in 1930 as his summer resort being inspired by Mughal style of architecture.

International Affairs**President of India Unveils Statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Switzerland**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Villeneuve, Switzerland on September 14, 2019 in the presence of Mayor and President of Canton Vaud and other dignitaries.
- Switzerland is the largest exporter to India from Europe. Our bilateral trade volume stands at around US\$ 19 billion

Special Training Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants

- The Special Training Program for Maldivian Civil Servants under the India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission (CSC) will be conducted from September 16-28, 2019 at Mussoorie and Delhi. A 32 member Maldives delegation arrived at the NCGG, campus in Mussoorie.

Hurricane Humberto

- The U.S. National Hurricane Center says it expects Hurricane Humberto to lash Bermuda with high winds and heavy rain later this week. Humberto was about 670 miles west of Bermuda on September 16 with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph.

Bangladesh government proposes to set up monument in Tripura

- Bangladesh government has proposed to set up a monument in Tripura in memory of the martyrs of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. The delegation, headed by Bangladesh Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, also discussed various issues including Agartala- Akhuara rail connectivity, waterways and border haats.

Documentary film based on life of Uttarakhand farmer nominated for Oscars

- A documentary film based on life of a Uttarakhand farmer has been nominated for Oscars. The documentary film named Moti Bagh is based on the life of Vidyadutt, a farmer living in Pauri Garhwal region of the state.

International Speed Post to New Countries

- The Department of Posts has announced commencing of International Speed Post (EMS) Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia.
- EMS or Express Mail Service is a premium service that enables its users to send documents and merchandise faster and with the added facility of being able to track the movement of the item on the internet. The EMS service to these countries will henceforth be available at major Post offices across India.

38th Sharjah International Book Fair

- The 38th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) will be organized from 30th of October to 9th of November this year, where authors, publishers, intellectuals and artists worldwide will bring their experiences and expertise to this prominent event and partake in a vibrant cultural programme.

PM Modi & Mongolian President to unveil Lord Buddha's statue at Gandan Monastery

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga will jointly unveil the Lord Buddha's statue at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar through video-conferencing.
- The Mongolian President arrived in New Delhi is on a five-day state visit to India. India and Mongolia had established a Strategic Partnership in 2015. The partnership between the countries which is based on the ideals of freedom and democracy and on a strong foundation of shared Buddhist heritage, has seen considerable progress during the last few years.

55th ITEC Day celebrated in Dhaka

- The 55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day was celebrated at the High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 19.
- ITEC offers opportunities to participants to avail of short and medium term courses in premier institutions like IITs and IISCs in India. It was instituted in 1964 as part of India's Development Assistance offering for developing countries.

Hurricane Imelda in Texas

- Texas is facing the wrath of Hurricane Imelda which has led to heavy rains & flash floods in its southern parts on September 19. Jefferson County received a maximum rainfall of 43.15 inches.

App & Web Portal**E-Saral Hindi Vakya Kosh and E-Maha Shabda Kosh Mobile App**

- Shri Amit Shah launched the E-Saral Hindi Vakya Kosh and E-Maha Shabda Kosh Mobile App, both initiatives of the Department of Official Language that aim to harness information technology for the growth of Hindi.
- He also awarded Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar and Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar to government departments and public sector units respectively for their contribution to Hindi.

Common Digital Platform for Issuance of Electronic Certificates of Origin

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched Common Digital Platform for Issuance of electronic Certificates of Origin (CoO) in New Delhi .
- Digital Platform is to Give Single Point Access to Exporters. Certificate of Origin will be issued electronically which can be in paperless format if agreed to by the partner countries.

MIS Portal Under Accessible India Campaign

- The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has developed a Management Information System (MIS) for stakeholders of Accessible India Campaign (AIC).
- MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries, and States/UTs on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of AIC and the portal will be useful in maintaining all the function on digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis.

E-Beat Book' System and 'E-Saathi' App

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched E-Beat Book' System and 'E-Saathi' App of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh.

The 'E-Beat Book' is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time.

The 'E-Saathi' App would help the general public, including senior citizens, to remain in touch with the police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing('Your Police at Your Doorstep' initiative).

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram App

In Uttar Pradesh, Mobile App of Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram has made screening and referral of malnourished children easy. It is an initiative of Ministry of Health and Family welfare.

App has made easy the identification of 38 different congenital diseases. All the information of disease is uploaded in the App with the picture and details of child which can be checked by doctors and administration and can be tracked.

Books & Authors**“Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018**

- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Giriraj Singh released the “Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018”, published by the Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018 is the 13th edition which presents useful statistical information for various aspects of Fisheries sector. The last (12th edition of) Handbook was published in 2014.

Awards**Bangladesh PM Hasina receives Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh was conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka. The award has been instituted in the memory of former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- The award citation lauded Prime Minister Hasina for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, free of tension, conflicts and terrorism. It acknowledged her contribution to fostering cooperation between India and Bangladesh.

Naturals Homepreneur Awards 2019

- Fourteen women entrepreneurs emerged winners in the Naturals Homepreneur Awards 2019 in 12 different categories. The various categories including agriculture, arts and culture, education, healthcare and social welfare.
- These women were chosen for the awards based on the uniqueness of their business idea, the challenges, scalability, progress and revenue.

Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar and National Safety Awards for the year 2017

- Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar gave away Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP) and National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2017 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has been operating the “Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)” (Previously known as ShramVir National Awards) and “National Safety Awards (NSA)” since 1965
- These Award schemes are operated by the technical wing of the Ministry, namely the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai – an attached office of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

National Geoscience Awards

- The National Geoscience Awards for the year 2018 for outstanding contributions in the field of geosciences, mining and allied areas were presented to twenty-two scientists from across the country
- Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), received the Award for Excellence for his significant global contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research.
- Sohini Ganguly, of Goa University was conferred with the Young Scientist Award-2018 for her significant work in the fields of petrology, volcanology and geochemistry.

Sports

U-19 Asia Cup title

- India clinched the Under-19 Asia Cup title, with a thrilling five-run win over Bangladesh in a low-scoring final at Colombo.

IBSF Billiards C'ship

- Pankaj Advani, has clinched a record 22nd world titles by winning a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Myanmar. Advani defeated Nay Thway of Myanmar.

Men's singles title of Belgian International Challenge

- In Badminton, rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge.

Vietnam Open Men's Singles title,

- In Badminton, Sourabh Verma clinched the Vietnam Open Super 100 title, defeating China's Sun Fei Xiang in a thrilling Men's Singles summit clash at the Ho Chi Minh City.
- This victory marks Verma's second Super 100 win in the ongoing calendar year. He had won the Hyderabad Open earlier in August.

Myanmar International Series Men's Singles title

- Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the Myanmar International Series with a come-from-behind win over Indonesia's Karon Karono in a thrilling men's singles final in Yangon.

12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shotgun championship

- Prithviraj Tondaiman had a resounding 48-43 victory over former World champion and six-time Asian champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu in trap in the recently concluded 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Masters shotgun championship in Bhopal.

U-17 Junior Boys Subroto Cup – 2019

- In the final of U-17 Junior Boys Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, Hopewel Elias Higher Secondary School, Meghalaya defeated Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) by a score line of 1-0 at Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi.

China Open Badminton

- In China Open Badminton, world champion P V Sindhu and World No.8 Saina Nehwal will start the Indian campaign at Changzhou in China. Among male shuttlers, B Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap are also in the fray.

Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- India's star wrestler Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 2020 Olympics after beating fancied American Sarah Hildebrandt in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan. She scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist to secure her place at the Tokyo Games.

India assured of two medals at AIBA World Men's Boxing C'ships

- India were assured of an unprecedented two medals at the AIBA World Men's Boxing Championships after Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik entered the semifinals of the marquee event at Ekaterinburg in Russia.

Tamil Nadu became the first team' to enter semifinal of 25th Senior Women's National Football C'ship

- Tamil Nadu has become the first team to enter the semi final of the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship being held in Arunachal Pradesh. In the first quarter final match in Pasighat, Tamil Nadu beat Madhya Pradesh comfortably by 4-2.

Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics winning their respective quarterfinal matches in World Wrestling Championships at Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan

Amit Panghal becomes first Indian to enter World Men's C'ship finals

- In Boxing, Asian Champion Amit Panghal became the first Indian to make the finals of the World Men's Championship while Manish Kaushik signed off with a bronze medal after going down in the semifinals in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya win bronze at World Championships

- In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia(65Kg) and Ravi Dahiya(57Kg) have won bronze at the World Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. This is Bajrang's second consecutive medal at the Worlds and third overall while Dahiya has managed to win bronze in his very first appearance at the senior championships.
- Vinesh Phogat had also won a bronze in women's 53 kg event.

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