

Current Affairs (17th August – 28th August)

Geographical Indication (GI) tag awarded to Tirur betel leaf from Kerala, Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.

Aadi Mahotsav or National Tribal Festival will be organised at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh (17 August till 25 August 2019). The event will be inaugurated by Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik. Until 2018 Ladakh did not figure on list of places where Aadi Mahotsav is held every year.

Supreme Court has cleared decks for Chardham highway project, which will connect four holy places of Uttarakhand through 900 km all-weather roads. The apex court had also directed Union Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) to form high-powered committee by 22 August 2019 so as to look into environmental concerns.

United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved new drug-Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant strain of Tuberculosis (TB). Pretomanid is novel compound developed by New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance. It is used alongside two other antibiotics (bedaquiline and linezolid) to treat extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis. This three-drug regimen is collectively known as BPaL regimen and it can cure highly drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis by drastically shortening treatment period.

India suspended weekly Jodhpur-Munabao Thar Link Express amid the ongoing tension with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. This move comes days after India cancelled Samjhauta Express from its side after Pakistan had announced suspension of all train services to India.

Ravi Shastri has been re-appointed head coach of Indian men's cricket team till 2021 by Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

40 Indian Origin youth have taken part in 54th Edition of Know India (KIP) Programme. This edition is scheduled from 1st August to 25th August, 2019. Punjab and Harayana are partner states for this edition.

Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended provisions relating to issue of shares with Differential Voting Rights (DVRs) provisions under Companies Act.

The Indian Navy would be hosting 'MILAN', a multi-lateral naval exercise, in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh in March 2020. In 2020, it is being conducted for the first time on the mainland at the eastern naval command (ENC).

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the world's first museum in Kolkata dedicated to the life and teachings of 16th century saint and social reformer Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. The museum is the dream project of Gaudiya Mission.

'BRICS Minister of Environment meeting 2019' held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is preceded by the 2-day meeting of BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment.

The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) slashed its forecast for India's economic growth to 6.2 percent in the financial year 2019-20 from a previous estimate of 6.5 percent.

Air India, a national carrier, hoisted its 'Boeing 777' aircraft over the North Pole to become the first Indian airline to operate commercial flights overflying the polar region.

Former Axis Bank chief Dharmesh Mehta along with a clutch of investors have acquired 100 percent stake in IDFC Securities Ltd.

The 2nd meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed a High Powered Committee (HPC) of chief ministers headed by Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers' income, under NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the formation of 12-member high-level committee, headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions) to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.

The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Tarkash, participated in the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK).

India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The objective of the list is to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that does not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). With this, India became the first country to compile such a list.

A new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1 (SD-1) with 3 satellites, developed by the China Rocket Company affiliated to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALVT) was launched successfully from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

FIFA's (Federation Internationale de Football Association) banned former Nigeria coach, Samson Siasia, for a lifetime as he was found guilty of a violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

Noted Bangladeshi novelist, Rizia Rahman passed away due to cancer & kidney ailments in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She was 79.

Former Indian diplomat, Television commentator, writer, and artist Rajiv Dogra wrote his latest (third) novel “Second Night” published by Rupa. This novel describes and focuses on friendship, love, and loss in the life of a woman.

The Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the state’s first-ever Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel station at Chowkidingee, Dibrugarh, Assam. It was installed by Assam Gas Company Ltd (AGCL).

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un refused the pledge of the South Korean President Moon Jae-in's to unify the North and South Korea by 2045. North Korea leader Kim Jong-un cited the reason for the loss of dialogue momentum was entirely the responsibility of South Korea.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the roadmap for the welfare of farmers. The NDA government, in its second term, aims to double the income of the farmers.

The Book titled ‘Kashmir’s untold story: Declassification’ written by Iqbal Chandra Malhotra, published by Bloomsbury publishers on August 14, 2019.

Bajrang Punia awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019. It is the highest sports award in India.

Harshad Pandurang Thakur appointed as the director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.

Senior Doordarshan news anchor Neelum Sharma passed away on 17 August 2019. She was a recipient of Nari Shakti Puruskar (award) 2018.

Eminent social worker and Padma Shri awardee Damodar Ganesh Bapat died in Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh. Bapat had dedicated his life to the treatment and service of leprosy patients at an ashram run by Bharatiya Kushta Nivarak Sangh (BKNS) in Sothi village in Janjgir-Champa district.

Indian men's team won the Team Sprint gold medal at the World Junior Track Cycling Championships in Frankfurt, Germany. A team of Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh, James Singh, and Rohit Singh created the history by winning India's first-ever gold in a world level cycling competition.

India contributed \$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System.

Central Board of Secondary Education conducts the 13th edition of the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) .The exam will be conducted on 08-12-2019. The test will be conducted in 20 languages in 110 cities all over the country.

President awards Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badryan Vyas Samman 2019 to scholars in the field of Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic, Persian, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Malayalam and Classical Odia.

Maharshi Badryan Vyas Samman is conferred annually on Independence Day since 2002 when HRD Ministry started this award. It is awarded to young scholars between 30 to 45 years of age in the field of aforesaid 9 languages. 1 Lakh cash Prize.

Certificate of Honour was introduced in 1958. Awarded to scholars above 60 years of age and a cash prize of 5 lakh rupees, it is given to scholars in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic and Persian languages.

The workshop is being organized as part of the year-long celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Indian Army team comprehensively won the 5th Army International Scout Masters Competition. It was held at Jaisalmer Military Station from 06 to 14 August 2019. It was a fiercely fought competition with teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The Indian Army team was selected and trained under the aegis of Southern Command.

A Two day International Conference titled "Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' in New Delhi. It was organized by the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as a part of the silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995 (August 17).

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) constituted a committee to rationalise additional taxes that airlines have to pay while uplifting Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) at airports across India. It is formed to develop a direct billing mechanism between airline companies and airport operators so that the multiple taxes can be removed.

Famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his first death anniversary, from August 16, 2019. He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built on his name.

A team of researchers led by Asokan Thondiyath at IIT Madras have developed a new class of Robotic System called "GraspMan", which has a human hand like grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities.

Ashish Kapoor, an Assistant Inspector General (AIG) in Vigilance Bureau of Punjab has clinched 2 gold medals for India in both singles and doubles Tennis events during the 18th edition of World Police and Fire Games (WPFNG) 2019, held at Chengdu in China from August 11-17,2019.

New Zealand's fast bowler Tim Southee now equaled former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's record tally of sixes in Test cricket, on the first day of the Test match between Sri Lanka and New-Zealand that was held at Galle, Sri Lanka.

Triple Oscar-winning and triple BAFTA-winning animator who was best known for creating Roger Rabbit, Richard Williams, aged 86, passed away in Bristol, United Kingdom (UK). He was born in Toronto, Canada on March 19, 1933.

The Chief Minister of Chattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel in his Independence Day speech in Raipur announced the formation of 'Lemru Elephant Reserve' (LER) in the state, over an area of 450 square kilometres.

Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh has launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme with the aim to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.

India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry.

Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz, is celebrated every year on August 17 to mark the beginning of the new Iranian calendar.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated underground 'Bunker Museum' at the Raj Bhavan (official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra) in state capital Mumbai. The 15,000 square feet museum has virtual reality (VR) booths in which visitors can time travel to 19th century.

Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized a one day National Workshop Cum Exhibition on Sustainable Sanitation at Vigyan Bhawan on 19 August 2019. The Chief Guest of event was Thawar Chand Gehlot, Union Minister, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E). It is being organized as part of year long celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Former Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Johnson has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game's laws.

Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, defeated David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

In a bid to promote research in cutting edge areas of science, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) plans to launch a new scheme called "Supra" (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) to fund scientists.

20-year-old Chinmay Prabhu from Mumbai has created a world record for the 2nd time under his name of solving 176 pyraminx (pyramid-shaped rubik's cube) puzzles while riding a bicycle in 1 hour and 7 minutes.

The biopic “100 years of Chrysostom” on emeritus Metropolitan of Philipose Mar Chrysostom of Kerala, enters Guinness world book of records as longest documentary.

K Thangaraj, chief scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology(CCMB), Hyderabad, Telangana, bagged this year’s J C Bose Fellowship for his outstanding contribution in the field of population and medical genomics.

Indian largest digital wallet company, Paytm has promoted its CFO (chief financial officer) Madhu Deora as President of the company.

Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden have discovered a new mesh-like organ in the skin that senses pain and able to detect painful mechanical damage such as pricks and pressure. This could pave the way for painkilling medication effectively.

Australia’s Marnus Labuschagne born in South Africa became the first person to replace as a concussion substitute. He replaced Steve Smith who suffered a delayed concussion caused by a blow on the back of the neck by England’s Jofra Archer’s bowling.

In the 300m races held at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter Event 2019 in Czech Republic, Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold in the women’s and men’s category respectively.

Former Chelsea, Arsenal and England football player Ashley Cole aged 38, announced his retirement from football, ending his 20year playing career.

Senior journalist & editor of Odia daily Sambad, Ranjit Guru passed away following a brief illness in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was 61.

August 19, 2019 is celebrated across the world as World photography day. The aim of this day is to encourage people to express their feelings, emotions and social thinking through their photography skills.

The world humanitarian day 2019 was observed on August 19, 2019. The day was observed to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives for humanitarian services. WHD 2019 theme campaign: #WomenHumanitarians.

Mumbai Kreishh Gurbaxani is currently at the no. 2 spots in the India junior snooker rankings. He won the 2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title.

India won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship. The event held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the score 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title.

The 48-member Indian Team representing the country at World Skills Kazan 2019 given a grand send-off at a ceremony in the capital.

Leaders of Ladakh have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a tribal-area status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The government launched Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme on 19 August. The pension scheme for small traders functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

As per a recent order issued by Union Home Ministry, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.

Iceland held funeral for Okjokull glacier, country's 1st glacier lost to climate change. Nation commemorated the once huge Okjokull glacier with plaque. The commemoration ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister of Iceland Katrin Jakobsdottir.

Indian Railways' 2nd UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to busy route in East Coast Railway zone (ECoR), one of 18 railway zones of Indian Railways. The 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018. Another Uday Express is proposed between Bangalore City and Chennai Central.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) beat Army XI with 5-0 to win Dolo-650 Bangalore Cup All India Hockey Tournament 2019 held at the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Hockey Arena, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) recently released Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019.

According to recently released report by Greenpeace India, India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world. The findings of report were based on data obtained from NASA's Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) satellite.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants became operational.

NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission took first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock. These shocks are made of particles and electromagnetic waves launched by Sun. These interplanetary shocks provide ideal test beds for learning about larger universal phenomena.

Navneeth Murali, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest by correctly spelling "flipe" to earn the annual title and USD 3,000 grand prize.

A group of experts panel headed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) legislative member Akhilesh Ranjan who was appointed as the convener of the task force in November 2018 by the

finance ministry, submitted a report to Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance Minister), to replace the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code (DTC).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited and reviewed the functioning of Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurgaon, Haryana.

An autonomous Institution of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) to work jointly to accelerate, expand and achieve the objective of National Solar Mission through training programmes.

In order to improve military to military cooperation, India and China reviewed the situation on the border and agreed on more port calls by each side's Navies at a meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Defence Ministries in Beijing, China.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the Companies (Share Capital & Debentures) Rules by removing Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) requirement for Listed Companies, NBFCs (Non Banking Financial Company) and HFCs (Housing Finance Companies).

The Board of Vodafone Idea has appointed Ravinder Takkar as the new MD and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) with immediate effect.

The Government of Karnataka amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison" in order to strengthen the enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes. The new rules are called the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules, 2019.

The researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, Assam invented two distinct and special membranes that can separate oil and water, even under harsh conditions.

Astronomers at the Institute for Planetary sciences and Astrophysics, Grenoble, France (IPAG) have discovered a 2nd planet called 'B Pictoris c'. It is roughly around 3,000 times more massive than Earth. It orbits Beta Pictoris star, which is about nearly twice the mass of Sun and lies about 63 light years away from Earth.

The latest test batsmen rankings were released by the ICC (International Cricket Council). The list was topped by India's Virat Kohli followed by Australia's Steve Smith at the second spot overtaking New Zealand captain Kane Williamson.

The Cincinnati Masters/ Western & Southern Open 2019 was held from August 12-18, 2019 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, a northern suburb of Cincinnati, in the United States. It was the 118th men's edition and the 91st women's edition.

BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain has ordered for the reduction in the ban of Indian cricketer (S. Sreesanth), who was alleged in a match-fixing scandal in 2013. His ban period is now lowered to 7 years by the Supreme Court (SC) which will end by September 2020 setting aside the BCCI disciplinary committee's order banning him for a lifetime.

Veteran composer Mohammed Zahur 'Khayyam' Hashmi passed away aged 92. Suffering from lung infection he was admitted at a hospital in Mumbai where he died of cardiac arrest.

Every year on August 20, Sadbhavana Diwas (harmony day) is celebrated commemorating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi. Senior leaders paid tribute to him at a prayer meeting organized at "Veer Bhumi", a memorial of Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August 2019 to raise awareness about the diseases caused by the female mosquitoes.

The Punjab State Government has announced to bring around 4500 journalists into the ambit of its recently launched flagship universal health insurance scheme "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" (SSBY).

Pakistan Prime Minister Office got a 3-year extension of General Qamar Javed Bajwa's tenure as Chief of Army Staff. Bajwa's original term to end in November 2019.

Sri Lankan field commander appointed the new Army Commander, the President's office announced. Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, 55 take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service.

The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Assam and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong, at Dwarka, Gujarat.

Indian's first-ever mission aimed for a soft landing on the Moon's south polar region, Chandrayaan-2, was inserted into Moon's orbit on 20 August. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22 and had left the Earth's orbit on August 14.

Debenture Redemption Reserve for unlisted companies reduced to 10% of outstanding debentures from the present level of 25%.

The Indian railways enabled free Wi-Fi at its 3000th station. The facility went live at Rajasthan's Ellenabad on Monday with 1,000 stations connected. Ellenabad railway station in Bikaner Division of North Western Railway situated north of the Ghaggar-Hakra river .

The 5th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission is took place from August 21 to 22, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Centre is planning to set up India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) in Gujarat. The aim is to boost the chemical industry in India.

DRDO transferred the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army. The designs were handed over by Chairman of DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Devraj Anbu at an event held at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi.

The one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers organized by Union Ministry of Tourism was concluded successfully in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel and was attended by State Tourism Ministers of 19 States, Secretaries of Tourism and senior officials from States and Union Territories (UTs).

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) held a High-Level Meeting (HLM) with Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi to discuss issues of mutual safety and security. The Indian side was led by K Natarajan, Director General, Coast Guard while Sri Lankan delegation was headed by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge. A four member delegation of Sri Lanka Coast Guard is on an official visit to India from 19–23 August 2019.

India will introduce a flexible e-tourist visa regime for more than 160 countries based on tourist footfall. As per this the e-tourist visa fee would be higher for peak season of July to March and a considerably lower fee during lean period of April to June. The objective behind the move is to encourage foreign tourists to visit India.

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) announced successful testing of a medium-range ground-launched cruise missile, just weeks after withdrawing from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a Cold War-era pact with Russia eliminating that class of nuclear-capable weapons.

A fisheries and aquatic ecology research team from zoology department of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) discovered 5 species of fish from various districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The team was led by RGU Professor DN Das.

India's economic growth is set to slow further in the April-June quarter of this year to 5.7 percent amid contraction in consumption, weak investments and an under-performing service sector, says a Nomura report.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur will steer a multi-crore European Union (EU)-funded Saraswati 2.0 project to evolve technologies for reusing wastewater after treating it.

Satendra Singh Lohia, Para-swimmer from Madhya Pradesh, has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America.

R. K. Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index “SARAL”. The State of Karnataka has been placed at the first rank in the Index that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

Dr Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has banned the use of non-reusable plastic water bottles and other plastic items within the Parliament complex.

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away on 21 August.

An IIT-Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins that are made from composite banana fiber. These napkins can last up to 2 years and can be reused around 120 times.

Nepal plans to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in September 2019. The aim is to prove the country's role in creating an environment for the commencement of the regional summit.

India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryaprakash introduces 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' The award in memory of Doordarshan (DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma.

The Former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

The two day organised 9th session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 19th – 20th August 2019 in New Delhi. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation, whereas the Kenyan delegation was led by Peter Munya, Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of the Republic of Kenya.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri stated that the central Government is committed to achieve its target of providing 'Housing for all' under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in two years before the deadline by 2020. He made this announcement during 15th National Real Estate Development Council's (NAREDCO) convention in New Delhi.

The World Economic Forum(WEF) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize 2-day India Economic Summit 2019 scheduled to be held in New Delhi from October 3 – 4, 2019 with the aim of promoting strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations. The theme of the event will be 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.

Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision which is an Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) incubated startup, won the 2019 NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award.

New artificial intelligence(AI) company Cerebras Systems based on United States(US) has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor, the Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine(WSE) with 1.2 trillion transistors, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips.

Russell Domingo appointed as the head coach of Bangladesh, replacing Steve Rhodes(English cricket coach and former cricketer) by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The World Senior Citizen Day was observed on August 21, 2019 across the world. The day is recognized to create awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through senescence.

The local Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that Himachal Pradesh recorded highest ever rainfall (102 mm) in 24 hours by breaking the last 70 years' record.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved appointment of Rajiv Gauba, as India's new Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years. His term will start from 30 August 2019 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

On 22 August 2019 for the first time the world is observing 'International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief' with aim to honour victims and survivors of heinous acts who often remain forgotten. The international Day comes right after International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which is observed on 21 August.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) sports personnel won 10 medals, at recently-concluded World Police and Fire Games 2019 (WPF-2019) held at Chengdu, China's southwestern Sichuan province.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has extended Paytm's association as title sponsor for Indian cricket team for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for 5 more years.

Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia visited India on a State Visit from 20-22 August 2019. Six MoUs exchanged between the Republic of Zambia and India during this visit.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) stated that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019, during the launch of the new website that gives data about highways construction, land acquisition, FASTags, etc.

Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu went on a visit to 3 Baltic nations Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia from August 17-21, 2019 to enhance India's bilateral ties with each of the three countries

Nepal's foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali announced for the SAARC(South Asian Association for Regional Corporation) foreign ministers informal meeting which is to be held in Nepal in September 2019. This meet is based on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

An online forex marketplace, BookMyForex has partnered with YES Bank and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad.

E-commerce company Amazon, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana. The campus was inaugurated by Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, government of Telangana.

Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2019 of London based consultancy Knight Frank has ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin(Germany).

The Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, an independent, announced his resignation on August 20 to the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella.

NASA has confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission, an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa, with the target to launch by 2023 to investigate whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.

According to the World Bank report- "Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis", one-third of the potential economic growth will be affected in heavily water polluted areas leading to invisible crisis of water quality.

Discovery India and World Wide Fund for Nature or World Wide Fund (WWF) India have tied up with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans.

Op-Blue Freedom' a first of its kind in Asia, a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as for able-bodied persons. It was launched by sports minister (independent charge) Kiren Rijiju and former Indian football team captain Baichung Bhutia at Talkatora garden, New Delhi.

JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred the 'Pushkin Medal – 2019'. It is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.

NASA scientists are crossing Greenland on a mission to track melting ice. Greenland melting faster in the last decade and this summer it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.

Wipro, a global information technology, consulting and business process service company, announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). India's premier public establishment for research and higher education in science and engineering, to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel will launch the book "Diary of Manu Gandhi" (1943-44) The function at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The Reserve Bank of India has been decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with AFA (additional factor of authentication) during e-mandate registration, modification and revocation, as also for the first transaction.

Russia launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor and sent it on an epic journey across the Arctic on 23 August 2019. Loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov will leave the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometre voyage to northeastern Siberia.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ajay Kumar Bhalla as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

China has launched an unmanned warship, which is combat-ready. It is capable of conducting air defence, anti-ship and anti-submarine missions as it is equipped with phased array radar system, vertical-launched missiles and torpedoes.

In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Finance Minister announced the Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019. The Scheme has now been notified and will be operationalized from 1st September 2019. The Scheme would continue till 31st December 2019.

In a move to curb use of plastics, Union Ministry of Railways has directed all regional offices to ensure complete removal of single-use plastics from all railways stations effective from 2 October 2019.

In a landmark reform, Saudi Arabia has allowed women above 21 years of age to receive passports (issue or renew) and travel abroad without permission from a male guardian.

In order to provide quality housing to army personnel, a historic milestone was reached with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Indian Army and Tata Realty & Housing.

Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defence system called Bavar-373 during a ceremony held on Iran's 'National Defence Industry Day'. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has ordered to add Bavar-373 to country's missile defence network.

The 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council held was held in Panaji, capital of Goa. It was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Goa being host state, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was its vice-chairman.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is planning to launch Bharatcraft portal, a desi version e-commerce marketing platform. It will be based on the lines of e-commerce behemoths such as Alibaba and Amazon.

Russia has sent a humanoid robot called Fedor to the International Space Station (ISS) on a 10-day mission to support the astronauts on board. The Skybot F-850 became the first humanoid robot to be sent to space by Russia Launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) recent excavation at Maharashtra Phuggaon has revealed evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region.

The Indian Government has opened 137 mountain peaks for foreigners desirous of obtaining Mountaineering Visa for mountaineering and trekking. These peaks are located in the States of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim.

Former opener Vikram Rathour replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar retained as bowling and fielding coaches. Ntnl. Selection team head: MSK Prasad.

US and the Taliban have resumed negotiations on 24th August in Qatar to end America's longest war. U.S. troops been in Afghanistan for almost 18 years.

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on kindness at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The president addressed the event celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World'.

National Conference on Varmam Science which is a part of the Siddha system of medicine was inaugurated by Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Australia the Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force(FATF), has blacklisted Pakistan for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.

Bharti AXA Life Insurance on its 13th Foundation Day, has partnered with a non-profit organization in India, Akshaya Patra Foundation to support and contribute to the mid-day meal drive for govt.-run school children across India.

The Time magazine published its second annual list of the “World’s Greatest Places” with total of 100 places in the list. India’s Statue of Unity in Gujarat and ‘Soho House‘ in Mumbai featured in this year’s list.

Forbes magazine’s Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list was released on August 23, 2019. The list was topped by American actor, producer and former wrestler Dwayne Johnson (also known as The Rock) with worth \$89.4 million. Chris Hemsworth(2nd) and Robert Downey Jr (3rd), Akshay Kumar (4th \$65mil).

Smriti Irani, Women, and Child Development (WCD) Minister stated that the government has set a target to connect 44 crore people through Poshan Abhiyaan to tackle malnutrition, at a function in New Delhi.

Economist Abdalla Hamdok, the new prime minister(15th) of Sudan embarking three year transition to civilian rule after military authoritarian Omar al-Bashir forced to step down. Succeeded Mohamed Tahir Ayala.

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on August 23. Theme: “Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice“.

NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has prepared the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0). Gujarat hold on to its rank one in the reference year (2017-18), followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the first ever state-of-the-art National Food Laboratory-Delhi, NCR of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad.

Former finance minister Arun Jaitley has died on 24 August 2019. He was 66. Arun Jaitley was an Indian politician and attorney, who was the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India from 2014 to 2019.

The first phase of the 7th Economic Census was launched in a few district headquarters of Manipur. The Economic Census will last three months.

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh took oath as Rajya Sabha member at the Parliament House. Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Upper House from Rajasthan on 19 August.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the highest civil decoration of the UAE, “Order of Zayed”.

The first World Youth Conference for Kindness was recently held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. It was organised by UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched Project SURE, a move towards sustainable fashion at Lakmé Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) suspended accreditation of National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) for six months. This suspension was imposed due to non-conformities with International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) by NDTL as identified during WADA site visit.

Henley Passport Index for the year 2019 released. Report ranks India at 86th, slipping by 5 from 79th with a mobility score of 58. Topped by Japan and Singapore as the “world’s most powerful passport” in 2019.

On August 23, 2019, Serbia officially becomes the 73rd non-regional member of the AIIB.

English-language monthly magazine ‘Euromoney’ has named DBS bank as the ‘World’s Best Bank’. DBS as of now is the only bank in the world to concurrently hold three global best bank awards.

Amazon will acquire 49% stake in Kishore Biyani-led Future Coupons Ltd . It will have both voting and non-voting shares.

At the global meeting on endangered species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland, CITES member nations have agreed to protect giraffes for the 1st time, which draws the praise from conservationists and angry expression from some sub-Saharan African nations.

A new book recounting the story of how Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal (both-former founders of flipkart) built e-commerce giant Flipkart written by Mihir Dalal is launched on August 21, 2019. The book is titled as “Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story” and is published by “Pan Macmillan India”.

In a bid to provide social security to families, the state Government of Haryana has launched ‘Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna’ and under this scheme Rs 6,000 per year will be given to each eligible family of the state.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the number of Microplastics in drinking water does not pose a health risk at current levels. This is the WHO's first report into the consequences of microplastics on human health.

Rajasthan's free medicine scheme secured the highest position with first ranking issued by the National Health Mission (NHM) among the sixteen states of the country.

The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC) and Residential complex building of ALIMCO headquarters at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 22 August.

Centre has organized San-Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August. It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for Divyangjan accessible toilets.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry, a total of 1,159 parks have been developed so far across the country under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

North Korea tested the firing of a new "super-large multiple rocket launcher" on 25 August 2019.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the USD 4.2 million redevelopment project of the 200-year-old Lord Sri Krishna temple in Manama, Bahrain.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the RuPay card in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE). This move making the UAE the first country in the Middle East to launch the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.

G7 Summit 2019 held in France. The 45th G7 summit is being held during 24 August to 26 August 2019 in Biarritz, France.

The Indian junior (U-21) mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh won a gold medal in the World Archery Youth Championships 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

Gokulam Kerala FC won Durand Cup 2019 football tournament by beating Mohun Bagan in final held at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Gokulam Kerala FC beat Mohun Bagan with 2-1 as captain Marcus Joseph scored a goal in each half to lead his side to Durand Cup glory.

India's B. Sai Praneeth settled for bronze after losing (13-21, 8-21) to Kento Momota of Japan in men's singles semifinal in BWF World Championships 2019 held at St. Jakobshalle in Basel in Switzerland.

United States Coast Guard ship Stratton on the maiden visit to India arrived at Chennai port as a goodwill visit.

Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) has introduced heritage postal stamp of Bandra station in Mumbai on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.

Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the 4th Edition of annual ANUBHAV awards 2019 in New Delhi to 7 awardees.

Jitendra Singh presented 35 Smart Policing Awards, instituted by FICCI(Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) at Homeland Security 2019 Conference, in New Delhi. Released a compendium on 'Best Practices in Policing'

Forbes magazine's world's Highest-Paid actresses of 2019 list, Scarlett Johansson (US) topped for the 2nd consecutive year with the earning of \$56 million.

Short video creation platform, Likee entered 2019 Guinness World Records for the largest online video album of people waving the Indian flag during its 'No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN' campaign.

Ms. Padmaja is the next High Commissioner of India to the Cook Islands, with residence in Suva. Currently, the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji. She succeeds Vishvas Vidu Sapkal.

The team behind NASA's InSight lander has named a Martian rock after the band, The Rolling Stones: 'Rolling Stones Rock.' InSight mission is led by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Assistant-Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Haryana, Manjit, won a gold medal in wrestling (86kg category) at the 2019 World Police and Fire Games (WPFNG) held in Chengdu, China.

World's 11th richest person (As on June 2019)(net worth \$42 bil), an American philanthropist & co-owner of Koch Industries, David Hamilton Koch, passed away at 79 in Southampton, US.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special package of Rs 500 crore to develop Puri as a World Heritage City

Interim CEO Suparna Singh resigned from her role with immediate effect as the head of NDTV Convergence, named as its CEO in December 2017.

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Kiren Rijiju and former Indian footballer Bhaichung Bhutia made the flag-off dive for Delhi-NCT leg for the Op-Blue Freedom at SPM Swimming Pool Complex.'

Survey by NASA's Orbital Debris Program Office reported that more than 40 pieces of debris created by India's anti-satellite test.

P. V. Sindhu became the first Indian to win gold at BWF World Championships. She beat Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in Women's singles final at BWF World Championships 2019 in Basel (Switzerland).

The Tamil Nadu government launched its exclusive education TV channel, aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII. An initiative of the School Education Department, "Kalvi Tholaikkatchi" (Education TV) was launched by Chief Minister K Palaniswami in Chennai.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its advanced cartography satellite “Cartosat-3” towards the end of October or early November. Cartosat-3 will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bahrain. India and Bahrain released a joint statement on 25 August 2019 during his visit to Bahrain. There are 3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) was signed between India and Bahrain, during this visit.

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal launched 'QR Code Scheme' (Himmat Plus) for women's safety in national Capital Delhi. The aim of this scheme is to enhance the women safety and security.

Indonesia's capital city is to be relocated to the province of East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo. The current capital, Jakarta, sits on swampy land. The Indonesian capital of Jakarta is home to 10 million people but it is also one of the fastest-sinking cities in the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to celebrate September 2019 as a month of nutrition. The announcement was made in his latest Mann Ki Baat programe in which he laid emphasis on creating awareness to fight malnutrition among children, particularly girl child.

Prabhakar Singh, Director General, Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been chosen for elite and prestigious Eminent Engineer Award for Year 2019 by Institution of Engineers (India). He is chosen for his distinguished and exemplary Service in field of Engineering and Technology. The award shall be conferred to him on Engineers Day observed on 15 September 2019 in New Delhi.

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been conferred King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain’s King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in Manama, capital of Bahrain.

Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered seven new species of water treaders belonging to genus Mesovelgia.

The 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference will be held in Thailand’s capital city Bangkok. In this conference, India will be represented by Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of the Air Staff- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure. The Government has decided to confer Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards for 2018 upon the following: Land Adventure - Aparna Kumar, Late Shri Dipankar Ghosh, Manikandan K.; Water Adventure - Prabhat Raju Koli; Air Adventure - Rameshwer Jangra; Life Time Achievement - Wangchuk Sherpa.

The Seventh ‘Community Radio Sammelan’ is being held in New Delhi from 27th to 29th August, 2019. The theme of this year’s Sammelan is ‘Community Radio for SDGs’.

Amazon India announced the launch of a Military Veterans Employment program. Program will create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's Fulfilment Centres, Sort Centres and Delivery Centres across the country.

Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has launched National Digital Library of India project under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT).

Department of Social Justice (DSJE), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced outreach On HIV/AIDS Prevention.

The 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was recently held in Geneva, Switzerland.

India and Nepal have launched Nepal's capital Kathmandu and Siliguri in West Bengal. The first bus service on this route was flagged off by Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transportation Raghbir Mahaseth and Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri from Kathmandu.

Pakistan and China are conducting joint bilateral aerial exercise Shaheen VIII (Eagle VIII) in Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border near Ladakh. It was eight edition of this aerial exercise, which is conducted annually by India's two neighbours since 2011.

The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) decided to rename Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium as Arun Jaitley Stadium in memory of its former president. Arun Jaitley passed away on 24 August 2019.

Chhattisgarh state government approved a proposal to introduce 10 percent reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) of the general category in jobs and education. The state cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, approved the proposal.

Ministry of Health, Government of India has released the 'Child Well-Being Index'. Kerala bagged the top spot due to its exceptional performance in health, nutrition and education facilities. Among states, Kerala (0.76), Tamil Nadu (0.67) and Himachal Pradesh (0.67) bagged the top three slots in the index.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched the school education "Shagun" portal in New Delhi. It links over 15 lakh schools across the country to provide all the information on school education.

Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Shalija Dhama has scripted history by becoming the first female officer to be appointed as flight commander of a flying unit.

India's Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships 2019 held in Madrid (Spain) on 25th August 2019.

Union Ministry of Tourism launched the integrated NOC (No Objection Certificate) Online Application Processing System for National Monuments Authority (NMA) to seek approval for construction around protected monuments in 6 states.

Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) has set up a waste plastic to diesel plant in Dehradun (capital of Uttarakhand) as a step towards ensuring freedom from plastic. It was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science and Technology and Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

Shashi Shanker, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was honoured with Distinguished Fellowship of Institute of Directors (IOD), 2019 during 29th Institute of Directors (IOD) Annual Day Ceremony held in New Delhi.

Five Girls from Amity International School in Noida, Uttar Pradesh developed a mobile application called 'Maitri' that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes. The innovation by this all-girls team called "Tech Witches" fetched them a bronze medal at global tech competition called 'Technovation Challenge' held in San Francisco, United States.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that India has set target to restore 50 lakh hectare of its degraded land by 2030.

The first woman Director General of Police (DGP) Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away following illness in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Researchers have sighted critically endangered species of tarantula- Peacock Parachute Spider for first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats. Its known habitat is in degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh.