

August 16th

Tamil Nadu honours ISRO Chief with Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Award

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Kailasavadivoo Sivan, was awarded Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award by Tamil Nadu government. He was awarded in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology.

He is known popularly known as 'Rocket Man'.

PM announces Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme for households

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households. The announcement was made during his 6th Independence Day (August 15) address from Red Fort.

The Indian Navy is to host naval exercise MILAN in March 2020 in Vizag

The Indian Navy is to host the multilateral naval exercise named 'MILAN' at Visakhapatnam for the year 2020 in the month of March.

MILAN is a biennial exercise which was first started in 1995. Until last year the exercise was held at Andaman and Nicobar Command(ANC).

For the first time, this exercise is to be conducted in the mainland of ENC, Vishakhapatnam.

Air India is the first Indian Airline to fly over Zero Degree North Pole

On August 15, 2019, Air India hoisted its Boeing 777 aircraft (Delhi-San Francisco flight AI-173) over the zero degree North Pole and became the first Indian airline to operate commercial flights overflying polar region. It usually overflies the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean.

Earth has lost 53% of its wildlife since 1970: WWF report

According to the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity, "Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations" by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the number of forest wildlife populations have declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.

Book on the History of Jammu & Kashmir from 1889 to 2019 titled 'Kashmir's untold story: Declassified' to be released

Book titled 'Kashmir's untold story: Declassification' by Bloomsbury publishers was announced on August 14, 2019. The book portrays the time of political and geographical consolidations of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), beginning from the era of Maharaja Gulab Singh till the present day.

The book is authored by Delhi- based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defence analyst Maroof Raza.

August 17th

BCCI retains Ravi Shastri as team India's head coach till 2021

Ravi Shastri has been re-appointed head coach of Indian men's cricket team till 2021 by Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC unanimously felt that incumbent's communication skills and understanding of team issues stood out.

Cricket Advisory Committee: The 3-member CAC headed by Kapil Dev comprised of former India coach Anshuman Gaekwad and ex women's captain Shantha Rangaswamy.

India suspends Thar Link Express

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.

GI Tag accorded to three new products

Geographical Indications Registry under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Tirur betel leaf from Kerala, Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.

INS Tarkash participates in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain

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).

Neelam Sharma- Former DD news anchor passed away

Neelam Sharma, one among the founding anchors of Doordarshan News (Former anchor) for more than 2 decades, passed away after battling with cancer on August 17,2019.

Former diplomat Rajiv Dogra pens latest novel "Second Night"

Former Indian diplomat, Television commentator,writer and artist Rajiv Dogra wrote his latest (third) novel "Second Night" published by Rupa.

Odisha CM to launch "Mo Sarkar" initiative for transparency in governance

On august 15, 2019 during the independence day celebration in the state, the Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik announced the "Mo Sarkar" initiative. It is an initiative to ensure transparency in governance focusing fully on the common public and will be commenced from October 2,2019 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi.

August 18th

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announces formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve

On August 15, 2019, 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. It will minimize human-elephant conflict and destruction of property, with the provision of a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.

August 19th

Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passes away at 82

Jagannath Mishra, former Bihar chief minister and JD(U) i.e., Janata Dal (United) leader passed away after battling cancer on August 19, 2019. He was undergoing treatment in New Delhi and breathed his last there.

World photography day celebrated on August 19, 2019

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

The Parsi New Year 'Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz' celebrated on August 17, 2019

On August 17, 2019, Parsis residing in India celebrated their new year 'Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz'. It marks the Iranian and Persian New year. The day is dedicated to the beginning of spring. Navroz means a "new day" and the Parsi New Year is popularly referred as Pateti.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit To Bhutan

PM inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW (Megawatt) hydropower by 2020 with the Indian government's support.

PM launched RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong which functions as a monastic and administrative centre and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.

Bhutan is the second country to launch RuPay Card after Singapore.

19 August: World Humanitarian Day

The World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on August 19 across the world to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service.

August 20th

NASA takes first high-resolution measurements of Interplanetary Shock

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.

About Interplanetary shocks

They are type of collisionless shock — ones where particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another. These collisionless shocks are found throughout the universe, including in supernovae, black holes and distant stars. These shocks are made of particles and electromagnetic waves launched by the Sun, which continually releases streams of charged particles called solar wind.

India biggest emitter of sulphur dioxide: Report

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.

2nd UDAY Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada

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.

Iceland holds funeral for Okjokull: 1st glacier lost to climate change

As the world recently marked warmest July ever on record, 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.

All CAPF personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years: Govt

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. All these forces come under ambit of Union Home Ministry and are deployed across India to render a variety of internal security duties including border guarding, counterterrorism, anti-Naxal operations, and maintenance of law and order.]

Prasar Bharati will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in honor of Neelum Sharma

On August 20, 2019, India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryapakash stated that the agency will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in memory of Doordarshan(DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma who passed away due to cancer on August 17, 2019.

Karnataka Government categorised Nicotine as "class A poison"

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.

Veteran music director-composer Khayyam passed away aged 92

On August 19, 2019, 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.

Sadbhavna Diwas: Birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi celebrated

Every year 20 August is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Communal Harmony Day to commemorate birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

August 21st

US test-fires Medium-Range Cruise Missile after exiting INF treaty

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.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina & Tennis Legend Sania Mirza will co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit 2019 to be held 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'.

Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh), Sania Mirza (Sportsperson and UN –United Nations Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia), Heng Swee Keat (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore), Shobana Kamineni (Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise), and Shailendra Singh (Managing Director, Sequoia Capital India) will be the co-chairs for the Summit.

US startup Cerebras Systems unveils World's largest processor with 1.2 trillion transistors called Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine

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.

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Babulal Gaur passed away

Former Chief Minister (CM)of Madhya Pradesh & and BJP(Bharatiya Janata Party) leader Babulal Gaur passed away in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh after a prolonged illness.

August 22nd

BCCI awards title sponsorship rights to Paytm for 5 more years

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. Paytm bagged the title sponsorship rights by signing the deal for Rs.326.80 crores which it will pay to BCCI over a period ranging between 2019 and 2023, starting October 2019.

CISF win 10 medals 'World Police and Fire Games' 2019 in China

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.

'SARAL'- State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index launched by Power Minister

RK Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) launched SARAL-State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index during Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities, held in New Delhi. SARAL evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Karnataka has been placed at 1st rank in Index followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh which got 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank respectively.

Ajay Kumar appointed new Defence Secretary

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved appointment of Ajay Kumar as Secretary, Union Ministry of Defence.

Rajiv Gauba appointed next Cabinet Secretary for two years

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.

He will take over charge of country's top bureaucratic from incumbent Pradeep Kumar Sinha, a 1977 batch Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer.

Amazon inaugurates its world's largest campus in Hyderabad

On August 21, 2019, e-commerce company Amazon, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the 10th fastest growing market globally

Prime Global Cities Index of London based consultancy Knight Frank has ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin(Germany) whereas Istanbul(Turkey) and Vancouver(Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively.

Giuseppe Conte Italian PM steps down from post

The Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, an independent, announced his resignation on August 20 to the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella. The resignation was done after the Deputy PM (Prime Minister) Luigi Di Maio and the leader of the far-right League and Matteo Salvini (also Deputy PM), announced a motion of no confidence against Conte.

NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) space agency, 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.

World bank reports economic growth to be affected by water pollution

On August 20, 2019 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.

August 23rd

Ocean Energy gets renewable energy Status

Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has approved proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy. It has clarified to all stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) will be considered as Renewable Energy. The decision will give boost to ocean energy in the country.

Bharatcraft portal: Government to launch e-commerce marketing platform

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. It will provide platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the overall sector. It has potential to achieve revenues of around Rs 10 lakh crore in the 2-3 years.

Environment Ministry to relax lease rent on wind power projects

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change (MoEFCC) has decided to waive off or relax mandatory charging of lease rent of Rs.30,000 per Mega Watt (MW) for wind power projects.

Bavar-373: Iran's new home-grown air defence system unveiled

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 unveiling takes place against a backdrop of rising tensions between and Iran and United States (US) since US President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdrew US from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also known Iran nuclear deal (2015) and reimposing sanctions on Iran.

'The Diary of Manu Gandhi' Book launched in New Delhi

The book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44), edited and translated by Tridip Suhrud, was launched by Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi.

Saudi Arabia: Travel abroad restriction on women lifted

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. Saudi Arabian Women have for long required permission from their male guardians (which includes husband, father and other male relatives) for these tasks.

Indian Railways directs all units to ban single-use plastic from October 2, 2019

In an eco-friendly initiative, the Ministry of Railways has directed all railway units to strictly enforce a ban on single-use plastic, with less than 50-micron thickness, from October 2, 2019, in its premises and trains with the aim to achieve “Plastic Free Railway”.

FATF blacklisted Pakistan against terror financing and money laundering

On August 16, 2019, 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. The action was taken in the FATF APG meeting held in Canberra, Australia.

Time magazine features Statue of Unity, Mumbai's Soho House among its 100 greatest places in the world

On August 22, 2019, 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. The list is a compilation of 100 new and “newly noteworthy destinations to experience right now”.

Forbes ranks Akshay Kumar in the 4th spot in 2019 highest paid actors list

Forbes magazine’s Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list was released on August 23, 2019. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar ranked in the 4th position on the list with worth \$65 million. The list was topped by American actor, producer and former wrestler Dwayne Johnson (also known as The Rock) with worth \$89.4 million followed by Chris Hemsworth and Robert Downey Jr in the second and third spot respectively.

Abdalla Hamdok becomes the new prime minister of Sudan

On August 20, 2019 economist Abdalla Hamdok took charge as the new prime minister (15th) of Sudan embarking three year transition to civilian rule after military authoritarian Omar al-Bashir was forced to step down from president post by rage protests.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as the new home secretary

As per the Appointments Committee of the cabinet, Government of India (GoI), Ajay Kumar Bhalla (1984-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer) has been appointed as the new Union home secretary with fixed two-year tenure till August 2021. He succeeds Rajiv Gauba, who was appointed as the new cabinet secretary.

Russia successfully sent its First Humanoid Robot into space ‘Fedor’

On August 22, 2019, Russia launched its first unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named ‘Fedor’ (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research) in Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft from Russia’s Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

August 24th

WADA suspends accreditation of India's National Dope Testing Laboratory for 6 months

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.

Gujarat tops 'Composite Water Management Index 2019 (CWMI 2.0)'

According to the recently released report, "Composite Water Management Index 2019" (CWMI 2.0) for the year 2017-2018 by Government's think tank NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) in association with Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Rural Development

About Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)

It was launched by NITI Aayog in 2018 as an important tool to assess and improve the performance of States/ UTs in efficient management of water resources.

Balkan country Serbia becomes 73rd non-regional member of AIIB

On August 23, 2019, The Minister of Finance Sinisa Mali of Serbia, announced membership with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). By this membership, Serbia officially becomes the 73rd non-regional member of the AIIB.

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Passed Away

Lawyer by profession, Arun Jaitley, who was born on 28 December 1952, was a member of the political Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and held various portfolios during the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Narendra Modi government's first term.

He introduced many key reforms and initiatives like establishment of monetary policy committee and demonetising high value notes in November 2016, liberalisation of foreign direct investment framework and abolition of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) which is now replaced as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST).

August 25th

Celebrate September as Month of Nutrition: PM Modi

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 programme in which he laid emphasis on creating awareness to fight malnutrition among children, particularly girl child.

PM Modi Honoured with UAEs Highest Civilian Award ‘Order Of Zayed’

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was honoured with prestigious ‘Order of Zayed’, United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) highest civilian award at a ceremony held in Abu Dhabi (UAE Capital) for PM’s contribution in strengthening relations between India and UAE.

About Order of Zayed

The award in name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of UAE.

This award acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister Modi in year of birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed.

2019 Durand Cup: Gokulam Kerala FC beats Mohun Bagan

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. This was Gokulam Kerala FC’s debut season.

Likee platform creates Guinness World Record for I-Day campaign

On August 23, 2019, short video creation platform, Likee entered the 2019 Guinness World Records (formerly The Guinness Book of Records) for creating the largest online video album of people waving the Indian flag during its ‘No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN’ campaign.

August 26th

Akademik Lomonosov: Russia launches world's first floating nuclear reactor

Russia launched world's first floating nuclear reactor called Akademik Lomonosov, sending it on epic journey across the Arctic. It was launched and loaded with nuclear fuel from Arctic port of Murmansk for its 5,000 kilometre voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia. On arriving in Pevek, it will replace local nuclear plant and closed coal plant. It will go in full operations by end 2019 and it will mainly serve region's oil platforms in Arctic. One of its targets is also to power Chaun-Bilibin mining complex in Chukotka region, which also includes gold mine.

About Akademik Lomonosov

It was constructed by Russian state nuclear power firm Rosatom. It has been named after Russian Academician and scientist Mikhail Lomonosov.

BWF World Championships 2019: PV Sindhu became 1st Indian to win gold

PV Sindhu became 1st Indian to win a Badminton World Championships gold by beating familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan. Sindhu crushed **Okuhara** with 21-7, 21-7 in just 38 minutes in a one-sided final held at St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland. Sindhu's gold is second medal that India won at BWF World Championships in 2019 edition with **Sai Praneeth** winning a bronze in men's singles category.

PM Modi conferred King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain

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. He was conferred this prestigious honour in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain, the key Gulf nation. As of now, it is overall the 7th international award conferred on PM Modi since he assumed office in 2014 (List Below).

Key Highlights

PM Modi is the 1st Indian prime minister to visit Bahrain.

The King of Bahrain bestowed Bahrain Order, the First Class on PM Modi in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Kingdom of Bahrain.

PM Modi launches \$4.2 million redevelopment project of temple in Bahrain

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched \$4.2 million redevelopment project of 200-year-old Shreenathji or Lord Sri Krishna temple in Manama, capital of Bahrain, during his two-day visit to Gulf nation. This is 1st ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Bahrain.

Under Digital India, Banjari village of Katni district in MP to become an integral part of the digital map of the country

Under the Prime Minister's ambitious project of Digital India, the Banjari village of Katni district becomes the 1st village in Madhya Pradesh(MP) to become an integral part of the digital map of the country.

Intel launched its first artificial intelligence chip 'Spring Hill'

Intel Corp launched its latest processor named 'Spring Hill' or Nervana NNP (neural network processor) -I 1000, at the HotChips 2019 symposium for high-performance chips at Stanford University in California, United States. It is Intel's first artificial intelligence (AI) chip.

Lt Gen Anil Puri becomes 1st serving general to complete France's oldest Marathon cycling event

Lieutenant General Anil Puri(56) has become the first serving Lieutenant General-rank officer of the Indian Army to complete 1200 km of France's oldest and toughest cycle competition.

August 27th

Kalvi Tholaikkatchi: Tamil Nadu Govt launches education TV channel for school students

Tamil Nadu Government launched its exclusive education TV channel named Kalvi Tholaikkatchi (Education TV). It is an initiative of the School Education Department aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII.

Amazon India launches Military Veterans Employment programme

Amazon India has launched a Military Veterans Employment programme in country. This initiative of e-commerce giant will create employment opportunities for military veterans as well as their spouses across company's sort centres, delivery centres and fulfilment centres in India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to France, UAE and Bahrain and G7 Summit

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi was on a 3 nation visit to France, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain from 22-26 August 2019. He also attended the 45th G7 Summit for the year 2019 in Biarritz, France.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the RuPay card in Abu Dhabi, making it the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. He made a special purchase which he offered as 'prasad' at the Shreenathji Temple in Bahrain during his visit.

The 45th G7 Summit for the year 2019 was held in Biarritz, France from 24 to 26 August, 2019. The next G7 Summit (46th) for the year 2020 will be held in the United States.

Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Ground in Delhi is set to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

The governing body of Cricket activities in the Delhi state, the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) has decided to rename the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi as Arun Jaitley Stadium in the memory of the cricket body's former president who passed away on August 24, 2019.

India's first woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away in Mumbai

On August 26, 2019, India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra after an illness. She hailed from Himachal Pradesh and she was the second woman IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of India after Kiran Bedi.

August 28th

India to restore 50 lakh hectare of degraded land by 2030: Environment Minister

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that India has set target to restore 50 lakh hectare of its degraded land by 2030. He made this announcement at curtain raiser event for **14th meeting of Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP14) to be held in India for first time from September 2-13, 2019**. India will take President of COP14 for two years from China.

IAF's Shalija Dhami becomes India's 1st female flight commander

Indian Air Force's (IAF) Wing Commander Shalija Dhami scripted history by becoming country's 1st female officer to be appointed as flight commander of a flying unit. She took over as flight commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

A Flight Commander post is 2nd in command of flight commander unit which means that Dhami is 2nd in unit after commanding officer.

Maitri mobile app: to connect old-age homes and orphanages, win tech prize in US

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.

The developers of app include Arefa, Vanshika Yadav, Ananya Grover, Vasudha Sudhinder and Anushka Sharma all Class 12 students of Amity International School in Noida.

Objective: It is aimed at bringing together individuals suffering from loneliness and depression and those lacking nurturing love of elderly role models.

Indian Institute of Petroleum sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel

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.

India unveiled world's first ever facial BSID

On August 28, 2019, India launched the world's first-ever Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID) which captures the facial biometric data of seafarers.

August 29th

CCEA approves 75 new Government Medical Colleges by 2021-22

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved establishment of 75 additional Government Medical Colleges by 2021-22.

Kerala, TN, Himachal & Py tops the 2019 India child well-being index

On August 27, 2019 “Child well-being index” was launched to assess and track children’s well-being. Prepared by NGOs(Non-Governmental Organisation) World Vision India and Institute for Financial Management and Research-Leveraging Evidence for Access and Development (IFMR LEAD), the index was topped by Kerala (0.76), followed by Tamil Nadu (0.67) and Himachal Pradesh (0.67) bagging the top three slots in the index. Among Union Territories(UT), Puducherry topped the spot.

Citizens of Indore (Madhya Pradesh) take big steps to become No. 1 in Jal Shakti Abhiyan

The citizens of Indore (Madhya Pradesh) have taken a rapid step to become number one in Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a campaign for water conservation and water security after they got the top spot in Swachhata Abhiyan continuously since the last 3 years.

In Indore Municipal Corporation area, a record has also been created by installing 1500 water harvesting systems in a day.

About Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

- i. It is a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign, launched in two phases, the first phase is from July 1, 2019 -September 15, 2019, for all participating States and the 2nd phase, will be from October 1 – November 30, 2019, for States with a retreating monsoon.
- ii. The five key areas under the campaign include water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse, bore well recharge structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation.

Tamil Nadu’s 150-year-old Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees secure GI tag

On August 27, 2019, The Geographical Indication Registry of India has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the state of Tamil Nadu for Dindigul lock and Karaikudi Kandangi sarees.

Rare Peacock Parachute Spider spotted in Pakkamalai Reserve in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu

A team of researchers at the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) have discovered Peacock Parachute Spider, a deeply endangered species of tarantula for the 1st time beyond its natural habitat in the Eastern Ghats. It was found resting in a cave in Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu(TN).

V K Vismaya wins gold in women's 400m held at MJS athletics, Czech Republic

Indian sprinter VK Vismaya, aged 22, clinched gold in women's 400m race which was held at the International Athletic Meeting – Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic. She finished the race in 52.12s which was her personal best.

“Obama: The Call of History” written by Peter Baker reveals Barack Obama's years in office

A book on Barack Obama, former United States (US) President, titled “Obama: The Call of History” has been written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times. It gives an in-depth account of Obama's years in office. It has been published by Penguin India.

National Sports Day observed on 29th August, 2019

On August 29, 2019, National Sports Day was observed across the country to

create awareness about sports in public. August 29 marks the birth anniversary of India's hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand.

August 30th

PM Modi launches Fit India Movement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nation-wide Fit India Movement from event held in Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi. It was launched on the occasion of National Sports Day (observed on 29 August) observed to commemorate birth anniversary of hockey doyen Major Dhyan Chand.

Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile Ghaznavi

Pakistan successfully conducted night training launch of hypersonic surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hatf-III Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range in Balochistan.

ADB President Mr. Takehiko Nakao pledges over \$12 Billion to India in support of New Flagship Initiatives

On August 29, 2019, Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Takehiko Nakao met India's Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi in New Delhi and committed over \$12 billion in lending to India over the next 3 years (2020-22) in support of new flagship initiatives, averaging annually over \$3 billion for sovereign operations and \$1 billion for non sovereign operations.

Mumbai ranks 45th & Delhi 52nd in 2019 world's Safe Cities Index

On August 29, 2019, According to a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit sponsored by NEC corporation's (formerly Nippon Electric Company), World's Safe city index(SCI) for the year 2019, Mumbai was ranked 45th safest city whereas Delhi stood at the 52nd position. The overall list was topped by Tokyo(Japan) followed by Singapore and Osaka in 2nd and 3rd spots respectively.

August 31st

Indonesia chooses East Borneo Island for its new capital

On August 26, 2019, The President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo stated that the government has chosen sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on forested Borneo island, known for orangutans for its new capital. The current capital of Jakarta, overcrowded (home to more than 10 million people), sits on watery land. Parts of the city are sinking by as much as 25cm a year and almost half now sits below sea level.

HPCL wins the Best navratna award in manufacturing category at Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2019

On August 22, 2019, The Indian oil and natural gas company, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited(HPCL) has won the award for the ‘ Best Navratna ‘ in the ‘ Manufacturing Sector ‘ for the 2nd time at the 6th edition of Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2019 ceremony held in New Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2019

On August 30, 2019, The Himachal Pradesh assembly passed a bill named Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2019 which repeals the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006. The new bill is against conversion by force, inducement or through marriages solemnised for the sole purpose of adopting a new religion.