State Career Guidance Centre
Current Affairs – 2019
(Sep’16 – Sep’30)
The Ministry of Railways plans to allow private players to operate certain trains, and as part of its 100 – day agenda. The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been asked to run two trains.

- The Delhi – Lucknow Tejas Express will be the first train operated by Private players.

Concerned that there isn’t sufficient representation of scientific topics on Wikipedia in Indian Languages other than English, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is planning to translate via a combination of AI based software, translators and Scientists.

The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project wants to link social media accounts to the huge Database of records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details among others.

Water found in atmosphere of habitable Exo-planet K2-18b. It is 8 times the mass of earth and twice as big as earth.

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), the government agency charged with the military’s research and development, successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in ranges of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- It is an Indian 3rd-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile. The missile is derived from Nag ATGM of India.
- Operational range- 2.5 km

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Artificial Insemination Program at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. He also launched a country wide workshop in all Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKS) in all 687 Districts of the country on Vaccination,Disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity.

- The National Artificial Insemination Program was launched on sidelines with ‘Swachhta Hi Seva’ Program, 2019 and National Animal Disease Control Program (NADCP) at Mathura.
• The 24th World Energy Congress was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 9-12 September 2019. It was held under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE.

  - **Theme** of this year’s 4-day World Energy Congress: ‘**Energy for Prosperity**’. This theme also represents ambitious and dynamic energy transition of UAE.

  - **Objective**: To bring together international energy stakeholders including governments, academia and media, private and state corporations.

• **Union Minister for Human Resource Development** of the state Sanjay Dhotre launched the Curriculum for Life Skills or Jeevan Kaushal designed by University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.

  - Curriculum for Life Skills (**Jeevan Kaushal**) encourages development of life skills in every individual as an essential part of wholesome learning.

  - Importance of this new curriculum initiative of UGC on life skills is that this will lead to improvement in collective efficiency of country’s young population.

  - It addresses the problem of prevalent obsession with earning marks in different examinations. This current examination-driven education encourages narrow and selective reading and rote learning, which ultimately leads to deficit in actual learning.

  - In real life, one also needs to be skilled for coping with diverse situations that one may encounter in life.

• At the ongoing 14th Conference of Parties (**COP14**) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**) at India Expo Centre & Mart, **Greater Noida a Drought Toolbox** was launched on the 10th day of conference (on 11 September 2019) which was dedicated to the theme of Drought. India is hosting.

  - **About Drought Toolbox**:
    - It is a one-stop shop for all actions on drought.
• It is a kind of knowledge bank that may be used by vulnerable countries, such as India, to reduce drought risk and be better prepared and effectively respond to it.

• It is a web page that provides involved stakeholders easy access to case studies and other resources to support action on drought preparedness with aim to boost resilience of people and ecosystems to drought.

• Addressing the COP14 to the UNCCD, PM mentioned that India was “focusing on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)”. The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) however, criticized the “unproven” technology of ZBNF citing no incremental value gain to either farmers or consumers.
  - ZBNF is a farming technique that seeks to bring down input costs for farmers by encouraging them to rely upon “natural products”, rather than spending money on pesticides and fertilizers.
  - The concept behind ZBNF is that over 98 per cent of the nutrients required by crops for photosynthesis — carbon dioxide, nitrogen, water, and solar energy — are already available “free” from the air, rain, and Sun.
  - Only the remaining 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent nutrients need to be taken from the soil, and converted from “non-available” to “available” form (for intake by the roots) through the action of microorganisms.
  - The idea is that since these too, need not be purchased, farming remains practically “zero-budget”.

• Over the last two weeks, the “Bombay blood group”, a rare blood type, has been at the centre of attention in Mumbai’s healthcare scene.
  - Demand for the blood type has coincidentally spiked at hospitals, but supply has been scarce.
  - Bombay blood group
  - The four most common blood groups are A, B, AB and O.
  - The rare, Bombay blood group was first discovered in Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1952.
• Each red blood cell has antigen over its surface, which helps determine which group it belongs to.
• The Bombay blood group, also called hh, is deficient in expressing antigen H, meaning the RBC has no antigen H.
• For instance, in the AB blood group, both antigens A and B are found. A will have A antigens; B will have B antigens. In hh, there are no A or B antigens.
• Globally, the hh blood type has an incidence of one in four million.
• It has a higher incidence in South Asia; in India, one in 7,600 to 10,000 are born with this type.
• This blood type is more common in South Asia than anywhere else because of inbreeding and close community marriages.

• Starting with an open data platform for the 100 cities of the Smart Cities Mission by 2020, the government is planning to make a wide range of data — from health, education to finances, public by 2024.
  • India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)
  • IUDX is a research project under smart cities mission being implemented by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
  • The India Urban Data Exchange set up by the MoHUA for its Smart Cities would be expanded, eventually leading to a “marketplace”.
  • IUDX will be an open source software platform for cities, industry and researchers to share Smart City data with each other that could be monetized in the future, similar to the UPI for bank accounts and digital payments.
• Scientists unveiled a new species of pterosaur, the plane-sized reptiles that lorded over primeval skies above T-rex, Triceratops and other dinosaurs of the late Cretaceous.
In an attempt to give a boost to the manufacture and use of electric vehicles in the state, TN released **TN Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019** which provides for various concessions to manufactures and users of e-vehicles.

- The policy called for 100% road tax exemption till December 30, 2022, besides a waiver of registration charges for electric two wheelers.

**The Indian Navy** and **Malaysian Navy** had recently participated in the bilateral exercise ‘**Samudra Laksamana**’.

- The exercise includes two phases: A Harbour phase wherein professional interactions social engagements, visits by the local populace and various sports events would be conducted.
- The Sea Phase of the exercise would enable the two navies to further sharpen their skills in order to enhance interoperability between the navies to ensure peaceful and secure seas for all.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020 so as to check malpractices in GST. Aadhaar authentication was earlier optional.

- This decision was taken after noticing in last two years that there are a good number of fly-by-night operators, who make fake invoices.
- For those who do not want Aadhaar authentication, physical verification will be carried out, which will be completed in 3 days.

In the **PM- Kisan Pension scheme**, 38000 farmers have been included from Tamil Nadu. The event for the start of this pension scheme took place in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.

- The aim of this PM- Kisan Scheme is to provide pension of Rs-3000 every month for the farmers above the age of 60 years.

The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over a New-Generation Wargaming Software developed by New Delhi-based **Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA)** to the Indian Navy. ISSA is a premier DRDO laboratory.
• New-Gen Wargaming Software is aimed at creating an environment that would enable Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using latest technological and computing tools.

• The Food and Cultural Festival, titled Madrasapattinam Feast, is being held in Chennai on (13-9-19) with the Tamil Nadu Food Security Department and the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Movement.
  • The food festival, which takes place on the Theevu thidal until the 15 September.

• China launched a 3 new remote sensing satellite using a Long March 4B launch vehicle from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center on Thursday.

• The Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur in Chennai has been accepted as a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).
  • In an official release, the zoo said the membership would provide a special global platform to the zoo to attract talent and expertise on wildlife from all around the world.

• Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Sanjay Dhotre launched the Curriculum for Life Skills or Jeevan Kaushal designed by University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.

• At the ongoing 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida a Drought Toolbox was launched on the 10th day of conference (on 11 September 2019) which was dedicated to the theme of Drought. India is hosting the ongoing UNCCD COP14 that started from 2 September and will culminate on 13 September 2019.
  • It is a kind of knowledge bank that may be used by vulnerable countries, such as India, to reduce drought risk and be better prepared and effectively respond to it.

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s second Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (built at Sahibganj) online from Ranchi, Jharkhand.
• This is the 2nd of three Multi Modal Terminals (MMTs) being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). In November 2018, PM Modi inaugurated first MMT at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

• India has joined Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Research and Development (R&D) hub as a new member. The announcement in this regard was made by Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi on 12 September 2019.
  • Global AMR R&D Secretariat: It is established in Berlin, Germany. Its secretariat supports the hub’s operations and is currently financed through grants from German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).

• Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development has prepared a module to introduce study of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the school level. The announcement for the initiative was made by Union Human Resource and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishak while addressing Central Board of Secondary Education’s Teachers Awards 2018-19. During the event, 34 teachers were felicitated for their outstanding and innovative contribution in field of teaching.
  • Other three initiatives announced by HRD Ministry-
  • CBSE’s Calendar of Activity
  • Ten manuals for schools, teachers and students
  • Vidya Daan: It is a unique initiative in which a repository of content is prepared by teachers by uploading study materials for students of class 6th-10th on an on-line platform called Diksha App.

• Hindi Divas (or Hindi day) is an annual day which is observed every year on 14 September all over India since 1953, to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India. Although the Hindi Day is mostly observed by Government of India, but many private organizations and voluntary groups also celebrate the day.
• The 2019 Edition of Maitree, the joint military exercise between India and Thailand will be conducted from 16-29 September at Foreign Training Node, Umroi, in Meghalaya.

• The state government of Rajasthan launched ‘Jan Soochna Portal’, a portal for quick access to information on government departments. The portal was launched by Rajasthan’s Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and is a step of state government towards making Rajasthan a model state for good governance and accountability in administration.
  - The portal has been launched under Rajasthan Innovation Vision (RAJIV) campaign.

• The exercise codenamed as ‘HimVijay’ is scheduled to be carried out by Indian Armed Forces in October 2019 in Arunachal Pradesh, close to borders with China. In these upcoming war games, the Indian Armed Forces plan to deploy their latest American weapons systems such as M777 ultra-light howitzers and Chinook heavy-lift helicopters.

• United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has decided to translate and publish an anthology of writings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism (and also 1st of 10 Sikh Guru) in world languages to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
  - Also, National Book Trust (NBT) will publish Gurbani (various compositions by Sikh Gurus and other writers of Guru Granth Sahib) in different Indian Languages.

• Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court was sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh. His oath to office was administered by Governor Biswabhusan Hairchandan at a function held in Vijayawada. Chief Minister of state Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, judges of High Court and senior state government officials presided over the event.
  - Lokayukta is an anti-corruption ombudsman organization in states. A Lokayukta investigates allegations of corruption and irregularities against officials and is tasked with speedy redressal of public grievances.
• The renovated Jayakar Bungalow, a classic heritage site situated inside the premises of National Film Archives of India (NFAI) in Pune, Maharashtra was inaugurated by Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting. During the inauguration a special booklet ‘Parampara: An ode to Jayakar Bungalow’ that chronicles the history of bungalow along with the story of its restoration was also released. A special feature of booklet is the experiences shared by some of renowned film artists including.
  • The historical building is classified as a Grade I Heritage structure, which was built in 1945. It has a distinct Tudor style of architecture.

• Spain captured its second FIBA basketball World Cup title after defeating Argentina with 95-75 in the gold medal game held at Wukesong Arena in Beijing, China. The Spaniards won their 1st basketball World Cup title in 2006 in Japan.

• Survey of India (SoI), the oldest scientific department of country will for the first time rely on drones to map the country. SoI which is India’s National Survey and Mapping Organization is in charge of mapping and surveying entire country. SoI is affiliated to the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
  • To provide good high-resolution foundation maps. Also, High-resolution maps will facilitate digitisation of land titles in villages.
  • To map 75% of India’s geography (about 2.4 million sq km of 3.2 million sq km) within next two years.
• The odd-even scheme will make a comeback in Delhi four years after it was first implemented.

• Fighting pollution

• Delhi Chief Minister announced that the road rationing scheme will be a part of a seven-point programme to combat pollution.
• The scheme will be implemented when Delhi’s air is at its worst
• post-festival pollution combines with
• smog from stubble burning in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh
• particulate matter from tailpipes of vehicles
• In the last three years, the government resorted to knee-jerk reactions which did very little to improve the city’s air quality.

• To enhance the loan availability of exporters, and the MSME sector the Export Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has launched a new scheme called ‘Nirvik’.

• To revive the export sector, Commerce Ministry also launched the common digital platform for the issuance of certificates of origin
• If there is any loss, then ECGC provided credit guarantee of up to 60% loss approximately.
• Now under new scheme Nirvik consumers and exporters will covered up to 90% and if there is any loss then in that case ECGC will refund 90% to the banks including principal and interest.
• Both pre and post shipment credit will also be covered under the new scheme.
• Banks will get up to 50 % within 30 days of complain lodge.
• Enhanced cover will ensure that Foreign and Rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4% and 8% respectively for exporters.
• The scheme envisages simplified procedure for settlement of claim and for provisional payment up to 50% within 30 days on production of proof of end-use of the advances in default by the Insured Bank
• ISRO’S attempts to figure out what happened to Chandrayaan-2’s Vikram will get a boost when NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) flies over the lander’s landing site on the Moon.
  - NASA will share any before and after flyover imagery of the area around the targeted Chandrayaan-2 Vikram lander landing site.

• India’s Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) has been appreciated internationally by the UN on World Ozone Day.

• The India Cooling Action seeks to
  - Reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
  - Reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
  - Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
  - Recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme,
  - Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.

• There is a 30% increase in measles cases worldwide in 2018 and the WHO included ‘vaccine hesitancy’ as one of the 10 threats to global health this year.

• The drone attacks on major Saudi hydrocarbon facilities have led to a spike in world oil prices.

• World Patient Safety Day - September 17th
  - First time by World Health Organization

• Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced to set up world-class National Police University (NPU) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
  - The proposed multi-disciplinary university will provide dynamic, state-of-the-art learning and working environment for advancement and dissemination of education and research in policing science and related areas.
Nasscom’s Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has collaborated with Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Google India to launch nationwide awareness campaign ‘Digital Payment Abhiyan’ by Union Communications and Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at Google-organised event ‘Google for India’ in New Delhi.

- Increasing awareness about cashless payment, educate end-users on the benefits of making digital payments, online financial security and urge them to adopt security and safety best practices.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) ‘Astra’ from Su-30 MKI platform off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha.

- It is a state-of-the-art BVRAAM. It has range of more than 100 kms.
- It also has modern guidance and navigation techniques.
- The missile has midcourse guidance and Radio Frequency (RF) seeker based terminal guidance to achieve target destruction with pin point accuracy.

Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria appointed as the next Chief of Indian Air Force.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Mongolia H.E. Mr Khaltmaagiin Battulga, jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha and his two disciples, installed at historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia’s Capital) via videoconferencing from Delhi.


- ERSS is one of the key projects of Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under Nirbhaya Fund.Single emergency number ‘112’: Citizens can send their emergency information via call, SMS, email as well as through 112 India mobile app.
• E Beat Book is a web and mobile based application which will ease collection, updation and analysis of information related to crime and criminals in real time basis. E-Beat Book would be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), which would help in a real time updation of crime/criminal data

• E Saathi would help general public, including senior citizens, to remain in touch with police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing: ‘Your Police at Your Doorstep’ initiative.

• Popular Bollywood playback singer Sonu Nigam has been honoured with ‘Magnificent Performing Arts Award’ at the 21st Century Icon Awards in London, United Kingdom (UK).

• Daughter’s Day, a designated day to celebrate the importance of the girl child, is celebrated in India and worldwide on the 4th Sunday of September every year.

• National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2019 was organized on 20 September 2019 at NASC, Pusa in New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

• NATGRID is a robust intelligence gathering mechanism related to banking, immigration, individual tax payers, air and train travels, to be ready by Jan 2020.
  • 10 agencies which will be able to access NATGRID data on real time basis are:
    • Intelligence Bureau (IB)
    • Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)
    • Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
    • Enforcement Directorate (ED)
    • Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
    • Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
    • Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
    • Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
- Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI)
- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
- At the World Wrestling Championships held in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), India’s Rahul Aware bagged a bronze medal in men’s 61kg category bout while Deepak Punia won silver in men’s 86 kg freestyle.
- September 22: World Rhino Day celebrated
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi played host to United States President Donald Trump at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, for an Indian-American rally dubbed the ‘Howdy Modi: Shared Dreams, Bright Futures’.
- The event is being organised by Texas India Forum (TIF), Inc, which is a non-profit organisation that brings together Indian-American institutions and organisations in order to promote collaboration within region and develop opportunities for engagement with India.
- Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched two initiatives to tackle the menace of genetic diseases in newborns. These are:
  - The Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) initiative
  - National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN)
    - Both of these initiatives of Health Ministry are supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.
    - The objective of UMMID initiative is to make treatment of expensive genetic diseases in newborns within reach of all people. The NIDAN kendras are to be established under the UMMID initiative. These centres will provide counselling, prenatal testing / diagnosis and management in government hospitals of the country.
- Gully Boy selected as India’s official entry to Oscars 2020
- Ladakhi Shondol dance enters Guinness book of world record - ‘royal dance of Ladakh’
- 21 September: International Coastal Clean-up Day Celebrated.
• PM Modi on Monday said India would increase its non fossil fuel target to 450 GW by 2022, more than double its 175 GW pledge as part of the commitment to the Paris climate deal.

• At 49% Tamil Nadu is Number 3 in Higher Education gross enrolment ratio, according to report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19 (AISHE)

• Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Janganana Bhawan or Census Building in New Delhi. It is the office of the census authority.

• India and the United States are set to hold their first tri-services exercise code-named as ‘Tiger Triumph’ at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

• Senior journalist Ravish Kumar was awarded the inaugural Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award in Bengaluru.
  - The award has been founded in memory of the journalist. It has been set up by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust.

• The railways announced the introduction of IRCTC’s Tejas Express train from Delhi to Lucknow which will run six days a week except Tuesdays starting October 5.

• Non-resident Indians (NRI) with valid Indian passport can apply for Aadhaar on arrival, without the 182-day waiting period, with the government issuing a notification in this regard.

• The National Conclave on Enhancing Energy Efficiency in MSME sector is being organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in New Delhi on September 23-24. Knowledge Management Portal SIDHIEE was launched under the BEE’s MSME Programme. Energy Conservation Guidelines for MSMEs were also released.

• UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. The Summit aims to boost action to implement the Paris Agreement, which was signed in 2015. Target of Paris deal is to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters and Gandhi Peace Garden in New York.
• **International Day of Sign Languages** was observed on **September 23** with its theme as ‘**Sign Language Rights for All**’.

• **International Day of Peace** was observed on **September 21** with its theme as ‘**Climate Action for Peace**’.

• **21 September: International Coastal Clean-up Day** Celebrated

• On September 24, 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the **6th India water week** at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The Theme of the week: ‘**Water Cooperation – Coping with 21st Century Challenges**’. The event is organized by Ministry of Jal Shakti.

• Ponung Doming is the first lady officer from Arunachal Pradesh in the Indian army to be elevated to the rank of Lieutenant colonel.

• Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with India’s highest award in cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2018. He will be conferred the prestigious film honour for his ‘outstanding contribution for the growth and development of Indian cinema’

• The fifth edition of India International Science Festival (**IISF**) will be held in Kolkata from November 5-8, Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan announced in New Delhi.

• India’s Mars Orbiter Mission (**MOM**), also known as **Mangalyaan**, which was initially meant to last six months, completed five years of orbiting Mars on September 24 and is likely to continue for some more time, ISRO chief K Sivan said.

• A comic book series with ‘**Professor Ayushman**’ as the central character has been unveiled by AYUSH Ministry to make children aware of the importance of medicinal plants and their use for home remedies.

• The government launched mobile app ‘**Krishi Kisan**’ to help farmers take benefit of field demonstration of new farm technologies, seed hubs and weather advisories. The app was launched by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi.
• Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred with the ‘Vaccine Hero’ award of the Geneva-based Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisations (GAVI) in UNGA at New York.

• Kerala and Tamil Nadu have agreed to review the Parambikumal – Aliyar Project agreement. Both States will form five member secretary – level teams to hold further discussions on reviewing the inner state water sharing agreement signed in 1970.

• Anna University has courted controversy by including chapter on Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads in the curriculum for B Tech Informed Technology courses.
  • It was clarified that it would be an optional subject.

• The proliferation of the jellyfish could lead to what some observers are calling, “The Jellyfication” of the ocean.
  • When vast number of Jellyfish mass together it is known as a “Bloom”.
  • Jellyfish are made of 95-98% of water and they float and swim with the ocean current. The invertebrates have no brains.
  • Ocean acidification doesn’t seem to affect these creatures.
  • Jellyfish love plastic, which serve as a breeding colony for them.
  • Overfishing has eliminated some of their natural predators.
  • Turritopsis (a type of jellyfish)– Only official Immortal living being.

• On 23rd September, 2019, Facebook announced that it will acquire CTRL – Labs, a tech company that makes wrist bands capable of reading minds. The band can transmit electrical signals from brain into computers as digital input. The deal is worth approximately, from 500 million USD to 1 billion USD. This is the most substantial acquisition of Facebook after its acquisition of virtual reality company Oculus on a deal of 2 billion USD in 2014
  • CTRL – Labs was founded by Patrick Kaifosh, a neuro scientist and Internet Explorer creator Thomas Reardon.
  • CTRL – labs is a start up looking to guide computers with the help of brain signals without using hands. The lab is working on brain science, machine learning and intends to create interfaces for people to control and manipulate the digital gadgets just by thinking.
• The European Union’s top court on 24th September, 2019, ruled that Google does not have to apply “Right to be forgotten law” globally. This means that the US based Tech giant has to remove data links to personal information only in its European version of search results and not elsewhere in the world.
  • The right to be forgotten is the concept that individuals have the civil right to request that personal information be removed from the Internet. In the European Union, the right to be forgotten is also referred to as the right to erasure.
• Emphasising the need to increase the number of licensed private security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the ‘Private Security Agency Licensing Portal’ in New Delhi. It is a web portal to help private security agencies get licenses.
  • The move attempts to streamline licensing regime with Home ministry becoming the dashboard for regulating industry under The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
• The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is being held in Kampala, the capital of Uganda from 22 to 29 September. An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.
• Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on September 25, 2019 launched the new ‘TB Harega Desh Jeetega’ Campaign, along with the National TB Prevalence Survey in New Delhi.
• Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on September 25, 2019 formally commissioned the Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel ‘Varaha’ at the Chennai Port Trust. It has been built by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd.
• Army Chief General Bipin Rawat presented the ceremonial ‘President’s Colours’ to 29th and 30th battalions of the Punjab regiment on September 25, 2019. The awards were given during Colour Presentation Parade held at the Punjab Regimental Centre, Ramgarh in Jharkhand.
Delhi government on September 25, 2019 announced the launch of ‘Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Bijli Meter Yojana’. People staying on rent in Delhi will now get free electricity up to 200 units. The Yojana will allow them to install prepaid meters.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on September 25, 2019 sharply lowered India’s growth forecast from 7.2% to 6.5% for 2019-20 in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Update for 2019.

Union minister Jitendra Singh on September 25, 2019 launched CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System) reforms in the Department of Posts to reduce the time taken for grievance redressal.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on September 25, 2019 launched a Preventive Vigilance portal to facilitate its staff members to check procedural lapses and promote good practices.

The 9th India-China Financial dialogue was held in New Delhi on September 25, 2019.

PM Modi gets ‘Global Goalkeeper’ award from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Indian girl Payal Jangid received the “Changemaker” award here by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the UN in New York on September 24, 2019 for her fight against child marriage in her village in Rajasthan.

The 23rd edition of trilateral maritime exercise ‘Malabar’ between navies of India, Japan and the US is being organised off the coast of Japan from September 26 to October 4.

The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta defeated Thailand in final to emerge world champions in the IBSF World Snooker Team event, in Mandalay, Myanmar on September 25, 2019.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla was re-elected as the member of the IAAF Council for a second four-year term during the 52nd Congress of the sport’s world governing body in Doha on September 25, 2019. Britain’s Sebastian Coe was re-elected unopposed as president of the IAAF for a second term.
• **First India-Caribbean Summit** – 2019. Prime Minister Modi met the leaders of the Caribbean Community on 25th September, 2019, in New York.

• World Maritime Day (**WMD**) is observed on the last Thursday of September. This year, it is being observed on September 26, 2019. This day marks date of adaptation of International Maritime Organization (**IMO**) Convention in 1958.
  - The theme of World Maritime Day, 2019 is “Empowering Women in the Maritime Community”

• The Bulgarian Economist Christina Georgieva was appointed as the new head of the International Monetary Fund (headquartered at Washington DC).
  - Georgieva was named “European of the year” in 2010. She was also awarded “EU Commissioner of the year” for her handling of humanitarian crisis in Pakistan and Haiti (**Country in the Caribbean**).

• The **United Nations World Tourism Day** is celebrated on **September 27**. The day aims at creating awareness on social, political, cultural and economic values among international community.
  - Tourism and SDG
  - Tourism is a major contributor of SDG – Sustainable Development Goals – 8, 12 and 14. They are as follows
  - SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic
  - SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production
  - SDG 14 – Life below water
  - SDG
    - GOAL 1: No Poverty
    - GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
    - GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
    - GOAL 4: Quality Education
    - GOAL 5: Gender Equality
    - GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
    - GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
    - GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
    - GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
- GOAL 15: Life on Land
- GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes 2019 in New Delhi on the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on September 26, 2019.
- Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) to be set up at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ)
- With an aim to spread awareness about nutrition of children and women, Odisha government’s Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Department in collaboration with the UNICEF unveiled a mascot named ‘Tikki Mausi’ (Second Mother) in Bhubaneswar on September 26, 2019.
- In a major relief to the hapless customers of crippled Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, the Reserve Bank on September 26, 2019 increased cash withdrawal limit to Rs 10,000 per account-holder from Rs 1,000 set earlier over the next six months.
- IT major Infosys on September 26, 2019 said it has received the United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the ‘Climate Neutral Now’ category.
- International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was observed on September 26.
- United States has topped the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 (WDCR). India was ranked 44th (48th in 2018). The Ranking measures the capacity and readiness of 63 nations to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.
• Indian Army contingent returned after participating in multilateral Exercise TSENTR 2019 in Russia. The exercise was organised from September 9 to 23 and was conducted by Central Military Commission of Russia where nine nations participated.

• Google celebrated its 21st birthday on September 27, 2019. Google was founded by PhD students Larry Page and Sergey Brin at Stanford University. (10 raised to the power of 100.)

• The SAARC Council of Ministers meeting is to be held on New York on 26th September 2019. The meeting is being chaired by Nepal.

• The winners of Right Livelihood Award 2019 were announced in Stockholm, Sweden. The year 2019 was celebrated as the 40th anniversary of Right Livelihood Award, widely known as ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’.

• 2019 Right Livelihood Award Laureates
  - Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg– for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts
  - Sahrawi human rights activist Aminatou Haidar- for her steadfast nonviolent action, despite imprisonment and torture, in pursuit of justice and self-determination for people of Western Sahara
  - Chinese women’s rights lawyer Guo Jianmei– for her pioneering and persistent work in securing women’s rights in China.
  - Hutukara Yanomami Association (Brazil) and its indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa– for their courageous determination to protect the forests and biodiversity of Amazon, and the lands and culture of its indigenous peoples
  - A joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan named KAZIND-2019 is scheduled to be held in Pithoragarh district, Uttarkhand from 3-15 October 2019. (counter terrorism)
India was selected as the host country by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for celebration of World Tourism Day 2019 on September 27. National Tourism Awards for 2017-18 were presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on 27 September 2019 on occasion of World Tourism Day. This year a total of 76 awards were given under various categories.

**2017-18 National Tourism Awards Winners**

- **Andhra Pradesh**: The state won the first prize for Best State for Comprehensive Development of Tourism. Andhra is known for its beaches and temples, and won the award for overall growth in tourism category.
- **Goa and Madhya Pradesh**: Both states were announced as joint winners in Adventure Tourism category.
- **Uttarakhand**: The Himalayan state won the best film promotion friendly state.
- **Telangana**: It won the best state in innovative use of IT category.
- The Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada UDAY Express AC Double Decker Train was flagged off from Visakhapatnam on September 26, 2019. The UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) service would cover a distance of 351 kilometers between the cities within five hours.

- The **sixth Edition of MASCRADE 2019** (Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade) was organised by the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry), in New Delhi on September 26, 2019.

- Information Technology (IT) major Infosys has won the United Nations Global Climate Action Award (UNGCAA) in the ‘Climate Neutral Now’ category for “Infosys’ Journey to Carbon Neutrality”.

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind launched the first Indigenous High-Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under ‘New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)’. The launched was made at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on the occasion of 78th Foundation Day CSIR.
• Suresh Chitturi, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of India’s leading poultry firm Srinivasa Farms, has been appointed as chairman of the International Egg Commission (IEC).

• The World Rabies Day is marked by the Global Alliance World Rabies Control. It is a non–profit organization. The headquarters of the organization are located in United States.

• Stealth frigate INS Nilgiri launched for sea trials at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai

• International Day for Universal Access to Information celebrated by UNESCO on September 28 with theme as ‘Leaving No One Behind’.

• A minor planet, between Mars and Jupiter, named after classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj

• Bathukamma, the nine-day festival of flowers, organised in Warangal district of Telangana from September 29 to October 6

• Govt bans onion exports as prices remain high due to seasonal shortage

• Where the fear of Lord Yama did not work, the fear of law has. Many people fall in line.

  • India has the second largest road network in the world and accounts for 10% of worldwide road fatalities.

• Water meter are to be installed to measure the rate of usage of individual households. So that people can pay only for the water they use. This could be a game changer as it would potentially force people to use the water efficiently.

• **Annual Brahmotsavam festival** beings today (30.09.2019) and goes on until October 8 at Tirumala.
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