State Career Guidance Centre
Current Affairs – 2019
(Nov’01 – Nov’15)
1. Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States (US) have developed a new technology to capture carbon dioxide (CO2) from a stream of air, virtually at any concentration level. This is a new advance that may pave a way for new strategies to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) levels. Related Keys Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Established - April 10, 1861 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Located at Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

2. Senior IPS officer Anup Kumar Singh has taken charge as the new Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG). The NSG is a counter-terrorism unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was raised in 1984.

3. The state government of Nagaland has launched an ex-gratia scheme for students studying outside Nagaland, called ‘Nagaland Government Ex-gratia Scheme for Students Studying outside Nagaland’ (NGESSO). The scheme is the initiative of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. NGESSO scheme would benefit Naga students belonging to any recognized scheduled tribes (ST) and indigenous inhabitants of state. It is targeted for students who die outside state while pursuing secular, technical, professional, diploma as well as theology courses. The nominee can claim ex-gratia amount within a period of 2 (two) months after the death of the students by furnishing the required documents.

4. The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released the 14th National Health Profile (NHP) 2019 on October 30, 2019. The NHP is prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI). It was first published in 2005.
   Significance
   • The Data is important in understanding the needs and issues of the population
   • Also, it helps in understanding the goals, their strengths and weaknesses
   • The NHP highlights major indicators as follows
     • The Socio-Economic Indicators-Education, Employment, Housing, Amenities, sanitation and drinking water
     • Demographic indicator-Population and vital statistics
     • Health Status Indicators-Prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases

5. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India has signed an agreement with the Saudi Arabia to launch the RuPay card in the country. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between the two countries for the purpose. The step will benefit not only 2.6 million Indians in Gulf Kingdom but also pilgrims visiting Haj and Umrah. India has already launched RuPay card in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Bhutan and Singapore.

6. The Syrian government and Opposition delegates met for the first time in the United Nations
office in Geneva, Switzerland to draft a new constitution and to chart a political settlement to end eight-and-a-half-year civil war. A total of 150 Syrian constitutional committee delegates representing the Syrian government, opposition and civil society met under UN auspices. The new constitution would act as a prelude to U.N. supervised elections for their war-torn country. The objective of meeting was to agree on a new constitution for Syria, however it still remains unclear that if this will mean redrafting existing constitution, written in 2012, or starting from beginning.

7. The All India Institute of Ayurveda under Ministry of AYUSH and FiZ-Frankfurter Innovationzentrum Biotechnologie Gmbh signed MoU in the event “German/Indian knowledge exchange regarding current developments in the health care sector”

8. PM Modi inaugurated the Technology Demonstration Site at Kevadia, Gujarat on October 31, 2019. The inauguration was a part of the National Unity Day celebrations that commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The security personnel showcased different technologies being used by them in the event.

Centre government has instituted ‘Sardar Patel National Unity Award’, the highest civilian award in field of contribution to unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, most popularly known as Iron Man of India or the founding father of the Republic of India.

9. Researchers at International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H), Hyderabad, have created the first-ever Indian Brain Atlas referred to as IBA 100. The research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal– Neurology India.

The Indian human brain atlas construction was undertaken by team of IIITH researchers was led by Jayanthi Sivaswamy from Centre for Visual Information Technology (CVIT) in collaboration with Department of Imaging Sciences and Interventional Radiology (DISIR), Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

10. India’s core infrastructure industries contracted 5.2% in September, with key sectors showcasing their worst performance since 2005. Seven out of eight core industries contracted last month, government data released on Thursday showed. This means India’s slowdown woes are far from over.

1. In a unique gesture to mark 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, Air India has depicted Sikh religious symbol 'Ek Onkar' on the tail of one of its aircraft. The flight is set to fly from Amritsar to Stansted in the United Kingdom.
Air India will fly its aircraft thrice a week on the Mumbai-Amritsar-Stansted route.

2. PM Modi will embark a three-day visit to Thailand to participate in the ASEAN, East Asia and RCEP summits. In 2018, India had hosted the Indo-ASEAN summit commemorating its 25th anniversary, where all the 10 ASEAN leaders participated.

- Thailand Capital – Bangkok
- Thailand Currency- Baht

3. Researchers at the International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad said that the first-ever Indian Brain Atlas (IBA) has been created. They stated that the next step is to prepare atlases for different age groups to study age-related effects on brain anatomy.

The average brain size of an Indian was smaller in height, width and volume in comparison to people of the Caucasian and eastern races.

- International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad Founded – 1998
- International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad Director - P. J. Narayanan

4. Tamil Nadu has become the first state in the country to enact the law on contract farming with President Ram Nath Kovind giving assent to the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Act.

- The law would safeguard the interests of farmers when there is a bumper crop or during major fluctuation in market prices.

5. For the first time, Arunachal Pradesh will host the Multilingual Writers’ Meet at its oldest town Pasighat in East Siang District.

- The two-day event will be held at the auditorium of the College of Horticulture and Forestry.

6. India will conduct its first ever military exercise with Uzbekistan in a 10-day session on counter terrorism tactics. The exercise will be held at Chirchiq Training Area, Uzbekistan between November 4 and November 13, 2019.

7. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar flagged off the electric vehicles procured by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi.

- The minister announced that all the 5 lakh government vehicles are to be converted into electric vehicles.

8. The city of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh held the title for the world’s most polluted city in the latest edition of Guinness World Records.

The book, ‘Guinness World Records 2020’, lists thousands of new record titles and holders that will educate curious readers of all age groups. It is released annually by publisher Penguin Random House. This year, about 80 record breaking achievements by Indians that have made it to latest edition of
A report by World Health Organization (WHO) analyzed that the most polluted city in the world is Kanpur in northern India, with an average PM2.5 level of 173 micrograms/m3 for the year 2016. This PM2.5 level is more than 17 times higher than WHO recommended maximum of 10 micrograms/m3. NOTE: Out of the world’s 20 most PM2.5-polluted cities, 14 are in India.

9. Employees’ Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), the retirement fund body has launched a facility for formal sector workers to themselves obtain the Universal Provident Fund Account Number on-line. Now the workers in formal sector can themselves generate Universal Account Number from the EPFO’s portal directly. Till now the workers used to apply through their employers to get Universal Account Number

10. The New Colombo Plan Mobility Program is a signature initiative of Government of Australia, which will provide Australian University students the opportunities to gain cross-cultural awareness and experiences that are vital to today’s globally connected workforce.

11. The Robotic Surgery Facility was opened in the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. It is one of the biggest tertiary care referral centre of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It caters to all poor patients of uro-oncological cancers like bladder cancer, kidney failure, kidney cancers from different parts of the country.

12. The eighth Indo-German Energy Forum was conducted in Delhi to enhance cooperation in the energy sector. Both the countries signed eight agreements in the following sectors

- Thermal Power Plants
- Demand-side energy
- renewable energies
- low carbon growth strategies
- green energy corridors

13. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue- ‘SCOJtEx-2019’ in New Delhi. The four day exercise will be held from 4-7 November 2019. The joint exercise is being hosted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

To rehearse the disaster response mechanism, share knowledge, experience and technology for mutual coordination.

14. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi will set up a Space Technology Cell in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the space agency of country at the IIT campus.
With the move, IIT Delhi have joined the league of other premier institutions where the Space Technology Cells (STCs) have been set up, such as Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc) Bangalore, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati and IIT Roorkee. The Space Technology Cells (STCs) here play a major role in taking up space technology research and applications to the newer heights.

15. The Spanish capital city of Madrid will be hosting the world’s annual climate conference, called COP-25 (Conference of the Parties) from 2 to 13 December 2019. This decision was taken following Chile’s stepping down as host for the COP-25 event due to the ongoing street protests in South American country.

16. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development released its report in Economic Outlook for South East Asia. The report was presented at the ASEAN summit, 2019. This year the title of the report is “Reponding to Environmental Hazards in Cities”

17. PM Modi attended the 16th India-ASEAN summit held at Bangkok. The current ASEAN summit is being held in Bangkok, Thailand and the next ASEAN summit is to be conducted in Vietnam in 2020.

India has allocated 1 billion USD as line of credit to improve physical and digital connectivity.

18. Vigyanika is the International Science Literature Festival that is organised as a part of fifth India International Science Festival (IISF) at Kolkata. It also features a Science Book Fair where more than 30 publishers are to display their scientific publications.

Vigyanika is an annual event organised by Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences

19. Delhi Smog : 37 flights diverted, Pollution level at 3 year high in Delhi.

20. Vice President launched early coastal flood warning system for Chennai at the silver jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) on Sunday.

NIOT is engaged in data collection for Tsunami warning and beach restoration which is of immense benefit to the society.

21. Pakistan on Sunday rejected the latest political maps issued by India, which showed the entire Kashmir region as its part calling them, “Incorrect and legally untenable”.

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stepping down as host for the COP-25 event due to the ongoing street protests in South American country.

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). All States that are Parties to Convention are represented at COP which meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

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**Highlights of the event**

- Vigyanika is an annual event organised by Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences
- It is coordinated by the CSIR-NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources), Vigyan Bharati and Vigyan Prasar
- The event will host panel discussions, paper presentations and invited talks on themes related to public engagement with science, science communication.
- It will also feature innovative formats of science communication such as poetry, drama and magic.
- The Science Book Fair is the most attractive feature of the event. Several Scientific institutes will also display their scientific publications that includes journals, encyclopedias, science magazines and other knowledge products. The fair is also organizing competitions like debates, cartoon, etc on scientific topics

3. On November 3, 2019, the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for AYUSH inaugurated the National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders. The institute was upgraded from Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine.

4. The new maps depicting the new UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, as created on 31 October 2019, along with the map of India, are prepared by *Survey General of India.*
The newly created UT of Ladakh consists of two districts of Kargil and Leh while the rest of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is in UT of J&K. The Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is the part of UT of J&K, while Gilgit-Baltistan is in UT of Ladakh.

5. Around 17 agreements were signed between India and Germany in the fields of agriculture, ayurveda, yoga, maritime technology and others. German Chancellor Angela Merkel along with her team, signed the agreements with PM Modi and his cabinet. The German team led by the Chancellor is on a two-day visit to India.

6. A Supreme Court-mandated panel EPCA has declared a public health emergency in the Delhi-NCR region and banned all the construction activity till 5th November.

7. The city of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh held the title for the world’s most polluted city in the latest edition of Guinness World Records. The book, ‘Guinness World Records 2020’, lists thousands of new record titles and holders that will educate curious readers of all age groups.

Uttar Pradesh Literacy (2011) - 67.68%. Uttar Pradesh Governor - Anandiben Patel

8. The Robotic Surgery Facility was opened in the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. It is one of the biggest tertiary care referral centre of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It caters to all poor patients for cancers like bladder cancer, kidney failure, kidney cancers from different parts of the country.

9. India’s first-ever Arts Exposition for talents with intellectual challenges called ‘eCAPA 2019 – Art from the Heart’ was inaugurated in New Delhi. This exposition will continue till 14 November 2019 at STIR Gallery, Chattarpur Farms.

The exposition seeks to create an exclusive platform for showcasing the visual and performing art talents of young adults with intellectual challenges.

10. The biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers’ Conference is being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 4-7 November 2019. India will be represented at the conference by Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad.

**Theme** for 2019 CLM Conference is- ‘Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law’

**Objective**: The Conference seeks to address challenges faced by millions of people seeking to resolve legal disputes.

11. On November 5th, every year the World Tsunami Day is marked by the United Nations. UN designated the day in 2015. The day will promote Target (d) of the Sendai Seven Campaign that focuses in reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.

12. Supreme Court on Monday summoned Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana to explain why they had failed to curb stubble burning, whose fumes have made the capital a gas chamber. Stubble burning has been banned in these areas and serious punishments have been declared for those who break the ban.
13. Yellow alert to Chennai as city wakes up to smoggy morning. Chennai Air Quality on Monday has deteriorated dramatically under smoggy weather condition. At 8 pm the AQI peaked 270, enough to cause breathing discomfort.

1. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched a new IT initiatives called ICEDASH for improved monitoring and pace of Customs clearance of imported goods. ICEDASH would be key drivers for further improvement in Customs especially as it would reduce interface and increase transparency of Customs functioning.

- Related Keys:
  - ICEDASH and ATITHI are expected to be key drivers for further improvement.
  - It will also reduce interface and increase the transparency of Customs functioning.
  - ATITHI would create a tech-savvy image of India Customs. It also aims to encourage tourism and business travel to India.

2. India and Uzbekistan signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU), for enhancing bilateral cooperation in fields of Military Medicine and Military Education between the Armed Forces of the two countries.

- The MoUs were signed during the three-day visit by Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh to Tashkent (Uzbekistan capital) from 1-3 November 2019. This was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Uzbekistan in nearly 15 years.

3. The Ministry of Science & Technology is organizing a Science and Technology Media Conclave. The fest will be held at India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 in Kolkata on 6-7 November 2019.

- The media conclave will be inaugurated by the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, Shri A. Surya Prakash and Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, President, Vigyan Bharati.

- Related Keys:
  - The conference is aimed to bring together science and environment journalists from India and abroad.
  - Discussion regarding issues like science communication in the age of convergence, creating a science niche in the media, the art of science storytelling, research papers, and popular content, social media influencers, regional media, among others.

4. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman launched ‘ATITHI’ app, an IT initiative to facilitate electronic filing of customs baggage and currency declarations by arriving international passengers.

ATITHI app is an easy to use mobile application for international travelers to file Customs declaration in advance. Passengers can use this app to file declaration of dutiable items as well as currency with Indian Customs even before boarding the flight to India.
5. The biggest US-Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as ‘Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) – 2019’ is being held in Chattogram (or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh. The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal. The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.

6. An Indian parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is taking part in the 6th Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit of the G20 countries, being held in Tokyo, Japan from 3-5 November 2019.

First Session was based on theme- ‘Promotion of Free, Open and Fair Trade and Investment’.

Second Session was based on theme- ‘Utilization of Innovative Technology towards a human-centred Future Society’

Third Session was based on theme- ‘Efforts towards Resolution of Global Challenges and Achievement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs: Financing for Development, Need for Transparent and Effective Government, etc.)’.

7. The Asian Development Bank will provide a $451 million (appx. Rs.3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
1. The 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation starting in Moscow, which will be co-chaired by Defence minister Rajnath Singh. During his visit, Defence minister is expected to hold discussions with Defence Minister of Russian Federation General Sergei Shoigu.
   - Russia ranks first in the field of military-technical cooperation between India and foreign countries.
   - Military-technical cooperation between India and Russia as the successor of the USSR has been going on since 1960

2. A Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) Igniter Complex was inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune. The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.

3. For the eighth time in his career Rafael Nadal is back to the world No. 1 position in the ATP rankings. The Spaniard goes up one place to overtake Novak Djokovic. Since Novak Djokovic loses the points that he won a year ago in London when Nadal was absent, he slips down in the rankings.
   - The ATP began as the men's trade union in 1972
   - The ATP first rankings for singles were published on 23 August 1973 while the doubles players were ranked for the first time on 1 March 1976

4. The 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) is being held in Kolkata, West Bengal from 5-8 November 2019. The four-day festival was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conference.
   IISF Objective: To instill scientific temper among people, showcase India’s contribution in field of Science and Technology as well as encourage translation of its benefits to people. It also aims to build a strategy for inclusive advancement of Science and Technology.

5. The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was successfully achieved by Kolkata students at Science City, Kolkata. The record was attempted on the first day of 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 in which over 1,598 students participated. The session was dedicated to Meghnad Saha and Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.

6. On November 4, 2019, India decided against joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal as India did not receive any credible assurance on market access and non-tariff barriers. This paved way for the other 15-members to go ahead and sign the deal
keeping the door open for India to join at later date.

**Trade Deficit**

India has trade deficit with at least 11 of 15 RCEP countries. It has doubled in the last five years from 54 billion USD in 2013-14 to 105 billion USD in 2018-19. Of this China alone accounts to 53 billion USD. Signing the RCEP will widen trade deficit and will empty foreign exchange reserve of India at a faster rate.

**Domestic market**

Australia and New Zealand are now in search of free access to market their diary products. Similarly Indonesia and Vietnam are looking for places to dump their less quality rubber. India being the largest market in the world, dumping such less expensive goods will affect domestic goods of India.

**The China Factor**

The RCEP deal is in favor of China. China is now looking for greater access (as an alternate) to Indian market with the trade war with the US. A failure to find an alternate will have a cascading effect on Chinese economy and its global ambitions. India by not signing the RCEP deal has refused to be a willing dumping ground of China’s trade imperialism.

7. In a paper published in the journal BioScience, 11,258 signatories (69 from India) declared Global Climate Emergency. They presented climate change trends and methods to mitigate the threat. The report was titled “World Scientists”

It is based on the scientific analysis of more than 40 years of publicly available data. It illustrates several key climate change indicators since the scientists from 50 nations met at the First World Climate Conference in Geneva in 1979.

The scientists present a list of measures called “Vital Signs” that better represent climate change. It includes measures of human activities that can change climate like air travel, meat production and fertility rate. These activities have been termed as backward steps that are worsening climate change further. In 20 years, the world fertility rate has reduced greatly claims the report.


India obtained an overall score of 55 and was reported to be “partly free”

Pakistan, with a score of 26, for the ninth consecutive year was declared as “not free” in terms of freedom status

China obtained a score of 10 and was adjudged “not free”. Also, China was termed the worst abuser of internet freedom for the fourth consecutive year.
Iceland ranked the highest with an overall score of 95. It was recorded as the world’s best protector of internet freedom. The country had no civil or criminal cases registered against the users for online expression.

9. SC asked chief secretaries of Punjab, Haryana and UP to incentivise small and marginalized farmers by offering Rs 100 per quintal to those who have not burnt their stubble yet. The court also asked the state to bear cost of hiring machines for handling the farm residue.

The Freedom of Net report 2019 titled “The Crisis of Social Media” was released by the The Freedom House, an international watchdog. The report recorded an overall decline in global internet freedom status between July 2018 to Mat 2019. In this report India obtained an overall score of 55 and was reported to be “partly free”. Iceland ranked the highest with an overall score of 95.

1. Italy will next year become the world’s first country to make it compulsory for schoolchildren to study climate change and sustainable development. All state schools would dedicate 33 hours per year, almost one hour per school week, to climate change issues from the start of the next academic year in September. Many traditional subjects, such as geography, mathematics and physics, would also be studied from the perspective of sustainable development.

2. P.S Sreedharan Pillai has assumed the office of Governor of Mizoram. Mr Pillai took the oath of office in a swearing-in ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl. The Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajay Lamba administered the oath.

3. National School of Drama, NSD, to organise the the Eleventh edition of Bal Sangam, which will begin from the 9th of this month at New Delhi. It is a confluence of folk and traditional art forms which will be performed by children. It is a four Day festival that will show case enthralling folk and traditional arts performance.

4. The Indian Coast Guard conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019). This exercise was conducted to check the preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner. The two-day event was organised by Coast Guard District Headquarters-11 (Goa) to test efficiency and preparedness of ICG.

5. The Nasscom report on Indian Tech Start-Up Ecosystem said that India continues to the third largest start-up ecosystem after China and US. India has added more than 1300 tech start-ups in 2019 according to the report. Between January to September in 2019, there were 8900 to 9300 startups as compared to 7700-8200 last year.

6. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton, He was conferred with the prestigious Deming Distinguished Service Award For Dissemination and Promotion Overseas. The Deming Prize is the highest award for TQM in the world.
7. The ‘International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture and Global Food and Livelihood Security’ is being held at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex in New Delhi. The five day-long conference will be held from 5-9 November 2019.

**Objective:** To deliberate upon various issues and challenges of soil and water conservation.

**Organiser:** The conference was jointly organized by Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI) in association with World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC), China and International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO), U.S.A.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Brazil from the 13th of this month to attend the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia.
  - The theme of the this year Summit is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future”.
- BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
  - Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC", before the induction of South Africa in 2010.
- The National Steel Policy that was released on November 8, 2019 aims at developing globally competitive steel industry. It aims at creating 300 million tons of steel per annum by 2030.
  - The policy was released by Ministry of Steel.
- The Georgetown University’s Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) has released its second report on Women, Peace, and Security Index. The new 2019 report ranks 167 countries for women based on three indicators - inclusion, justice and security.
  - India, on the whole, is ranked at 133 out of 167 countries with an index score of 0.625.
- Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that the Government will set up one lakh digital villages in the country in the coming years. He said, around 800 such villages are already operational on pilot basis.
  - Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Headquarters: New Delhi
  - Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Founded: 19 July 2016
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meeting was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The Minister
of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan led the Indian delegation to attend the 19th IORA Council of Ministers meeting.

- The theme is “Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean

- Shanta Gokhale, writer, translator and film critic was conferred with the The Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019.

- World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated every year on November 10. World Science Day for Peace and Development works towards keeping people informed about the developments in science.

  - World Science Day theme this year is "Open science, leaving no one behind"

- Indian Railways has launched three applications to strengthen its Information Technology (IT)-enabled services which will help ensure proper monitoring of projects being undertaken by Railways. The applications has been launched for all-India roll out and seeks to ensure proper monitoring of projects and boost vision of Digital India.

**CRS Sanction Management System**: It is an important aspect in construction, maintenance and up-gradation of railway assets in which all works pertains to level crossings (closure, manning, shifting etc.) and minor bridges.

**Rail-road crossing GAD approval system**: It will expedite preparation, processing and approval of General Agreement Drawings (GADs) related to the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROB) and Road Under Bridges (RUB). This project for online e-Governance platform was developed by Union Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and has been running successfully since 2014. Now, a module has been developed to cover cases of construction of ROBs or RUBs for States & Union Territories also.

**TMS (Track Management System) for construction**: This Application has been developed for new assets being constructed by construction organization. The assets master data can now be regularly filled during stage of construction and completion of assets, by construction/project officials before itself final scrutiny and test check by open line officials.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched the multiplayer version of its interactive mobile game named ‘Indian Air Force – A Cut Above’. The game lets users experience the thrill of flying a combat aircraft.

- The Eleventh edition of Bal Sangam festival is being organised by National School of Drama (NSD) in its premises in New Delhi. The four-day festival will be held from 9 to 12 November 2019.
The National Crime Records Bureau released the “Accidental and Suicidal Deaths in India report” on November 8, 2019. According to the report, the suicides in the cities were 10.6 in 2015 and it reduced to 10.3 in 2016. The data was released for 36 states and Union Territories and 53 metropolitan cities.

Ministry of Defence (MoD) is organizing the “Def Connect” event on November 11, 2019. The main objective of the event is to showcase the accomplishments of iDEX- Innovations for Defence Exellence.

The event will bring together several stakeholders such as MoD selected startups, nodal agencies of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, Industrial Associations, DRDO, Defense PSUs, etc.

Supreme Court recently pronounced its judgement on disputed land in Ayodhya in the Ram Janma Boomi-Babri Masjid case. In 5-0 verdict of the 5-bench judgement, SC said that the land should be handed over to the Hindu trust to build a Hindu temple. It also ordered the GoI to allocate 5 acres of land to the Muslim community to build a Mosque

SC’s judgement was based on ASI’s finding. The case was the longest in the history of Supreme Court after Keshvanand Bharti case.

The first ever Sanskrit Bharati Vishwa Sammelan or Sanskrit World Conference was organised in New Delhi from 9 to 11 November 2019. In this first-of-its-kind global conference, thousands of delegates and Sanskrit lovers from across the world participated.

The United States space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, named as X-57 “Maxwell” at its aeronautics lab in the California desert, US.

Every year on November 11, India celebrates National Education Day on November 11 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abdul Azad, the first Education Minister of India.

Nov 11 – World Pneumonia day is being marked every year since 2009. The day was hosted by the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia for the first time in 2009.

Indian chamber of food and agriculture has conferred ‘global agriculture award’ on Tamil Nadu for its excellence in agriculture sector. Food grain production in the state surpassed 100 lakh metric sixth time in a row for the past eight years.

State Bank of India, the country’s largest lender, has cut its marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points, which will reduce interest rates on loans. SBI has reduced the MCLR to 8 percent from 8.05 percent, effective from November 10
- Mauritius' ruling Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) has won more than half of parliamentary seats, securing incumbent Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth a five-year term. MSM won 35 of the 62 seats up for grabs while its rivals.
- National Institute of Health (NIH) of $2.3 million helps a University of Michigan researcher to collaborate with India’s premier health-education institutes, AIIMS and Kasturba Medical College (KMC)Manipal to expand genetic testing in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Integrated Check Post of the Kartarpur Corridor at Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur in Punjab. Prime Minister shall participate in public programme at Dera Baba Nanak.
- The Union Minister for Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah addressed the 10th Meeting of the Heads of Departments of SCO Member States dealing with the prevention and elimination of emergency situations in New Delhi.
- Indian Railways launched three applications for all-India rollout to strengthen the IT enablement of railways will help ensure proper monitoring of projects being undertaken by Indian Railways and will boost the vision of Digital India.
- Khadi India’s Flagship Store at Connaught Place, New Delhi belongs to Khadi and Village Industries Commission, recorded a higher sale of Rs. 3.44 Crores.
- INS Kamorta, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, is exercising with Indonesian Warship KRI Usman Harun, a multi-role Corvette in the Bay of Bengal as part of the ongoing Indian Navy Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti from 06 Nov to 07 Nov 19.
- Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi, announced a 300 percent hike in ex-gratia amount from Rs 5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs, for fatal coal mines accidents. The coal miners at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in Odisha.
- Rohit Sharma became the first Indian man and second in world cricket to complete 100 T-20 Internationals.
- A four-day joint exercise on the urban earthquake of the member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation by NDRF concluded in New Delhi.
- Nepal formally protested over the inclusion of the region of Kalapani in the new political map of India. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Kathmandu is committed to protecting Nepal’s territorial integrity.
- The ninth edition of the Dhaka Lit-fest started book lovers thronging the venue ground at the Bangla Academy. The three days of the festival, 200 speakers, performers, and thinkers take part in discussions on diverse topics.
- USA announced the increase of the H-1B work visa application fee by 10 US Dollars as part of its revised selection process. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched
three books on Guru Nanak Dev Ji at the Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College University of Delhi on behalf of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed MoU with the Central Bank of India.
- Central Bank of India The Central Bank of India will be able to offer an array of services includes the transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA) to the registered users on the portal.
  - Manu Bhaker won gold in women’s 10m air pistol event Vivaan Kapoor, and Manisha Keer won the yellow metal in junior trap mixed event at the Asian Shooting Championships. Deepak Kumar won bronze in men’s 10m air rifle event.
  - Kumar Mangalam Birla who is the chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, conferred the ABLF Global Asian Award, for powerful individuals whose business footprint and commitment to excellence have engaged international interest and attention.
  - NASA, most prominent for its many Florida-launched exploits into space, showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft, the X-57 Maxwell in the aeronautics lab in the California desert.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for peace and Harmony on the Ayodhya verdict. PM speech on Ayodhya issue The Honourable Supreme Court has given its verdict on the Ayodhya issue.
  - International Day of Radiology event is organized by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT). The theme of International Radiology Day 2019 is Sports Imaging.
  - Export-Import (Exim) Bank provided a $30 million line of credit to Ghana for the potable water projects in the country.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid obeisance at Gurudwara Ber Sahib in Sultanpur Lodhi.

- The main premises of the Gurudwara offered his prayers and was presented with a shawl by the priests.
  - Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) inaugurated Meet at Agra 2019, an annual exhibition-cum-fair organized by Agra Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Chamber (AFMEC) at Agra Trade Centre, Uttar Pradesh.
  - The 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) of Marghe and Her Mother, directed by Iranian filmmaker, Mohsen Makhmalbaf will be the Closing Film of the festival. Marghe and Her Mother.
  - Mid Planning Conference (MPC) for MILAN exercise concluded at HQENC Visakhapatnam 08 Nov 19. Conference The three-day conference was
attended by 29 delegates from 17 friendly Foreign Navies. The broad programme of MILAN 2020 scheduled to be conducted at Visakhapatnam in Mar 2020.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for upholding the teachings and values of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The individual event organized at Dera Baba Nanak on the occasion of the inauguration of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) and the Kartarpur Corridor.
- Commerce and Industry and Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal, will be on tour to Brazil and the United States from 9th – 14th November 2019.
- Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar mega fairs like the India International Science Festival (IISF) to help generate scientific temper in the country.
- Legal Services Day is celebrated every year on the 9th of November in all the state Authorities. Legal literacy camps and functions are organized in many places in the capital city of the country.
- Indian Bank signed a memorandum of understanding with Muthoot Microfinance to serve micro, small, and medium enterprises. The memorandum of knowledge, the bank, and the non-banking finance company will jointly lend to the MSME borrowers.

- An Israeli developed prototype solar-power generator will be sent by the US space agency NASA to the International Space Station, Ben Gurion University (BGU) in southern Israel announced on Monday.
  - The new generator offers a major step forward for private commercial space missions, as the private space market is a rapidly growing billion dollar industry with dozens of corporate players, according to the university.
- The Indo-Pacific Initiative was proposed by PM Modi for a safe and secure maritime at the East Asia Summit. This indicates that India is ready to play a bigger role in the region where China has been pushing its military assertiveness.

**Facts of Indo-Pacific Initiative**

- The idea of the initiative was mooted by the PM when he addressed the East Asia Summit in Thailand.
- The main objective of the initiative is to achieve safe, secure and a stable maritime domain.
- The initiative aims to achieve this by creating partnerships among interested states by sustainably using marine resources.
- To take the initiative forward, India will organize a Indo-Pacific Conclave in Chennai early next year.
• GoI has been reforming the oil and gas sector lately. Steps are being taken to free up pricing of oil and gas sector to scale up oil and gas production and to increase investment in the sector. To achieve this, GoI on November 11, 2019 removed price restriction on locally produced oil and natural gas.

• Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is undertaking a mass cleanliness-cum-awareness drive in 50 identified beaches under the programme called ‘Swachh- Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan’, from 11 -17 November 2019.
  - **Objective:** To strive to make coastal areas across country clean, and to create awareness amongst citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems so as to save marine creatures from plastic waste, industrial effluents and other harmful substances.

• Every year 12 November is celebrated as Public Service Broadcasting Day to commemorate the visit of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

• India will be hosting the 19th Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2020. This will be for the first time that India will host the high level meeting of the China-led eight-member economic and security bloc.

• Due to a stalemate over government formation after assembly polls in the state of Maharashtra, President’s rule was imposed. The rule was imposed according to Article 356(1)

• India attended the eighth session of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) at Rome, Italy.

  **Objectives**
  The International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is based on the following principles
  • Countries depend on plant genetic resources to produce food
  • To provide a broad integrated global system that will provide easy access of genetic materials to scientists, farmers and plant breeders
  • To help farmers on crop selection that adapts to unpredictable environmental changes and human needs.

  The treaty provides a list of 64 crop species and their facilitated access.

  • In India, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is the nodal agency that fulfills the objective of the treaty. However, the ministry responsible to fulfil the treaty is Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the guidelines of the treaty are completely based on environment resilience.
• Chennai Air Quality returns to 62. It is an impressive showing considering it was 270 just a few days ago. North East monsoon winds is one of the significant reason for this sudden change.

• The second edition of annual Paris Peace Forum is being held at la Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris, France from 11 to 13 November 2019. It included a two-day event of debate sessions aimed at finding global solutions for global issues
  • The flagship themes of the 2019 selected projects directly inspire a series of dynamic debate sessions aiming to discuss, evaluate and facilitate the impact of these global governance initiatives. Each program session gives experts an opportunity to lean in and share their knowledge with multi-stakeholder interlocutors in detailed debates covering the precise challenges in the themes of focus:
    • Governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
    • Protection of biodiversity
    • The role of cultural industries in development
    • Rethinking drug policy worldwide
    • Cyber security
    • Private sector and the sustainable development goals
    • Humanitarian law enforcement

• The 39th India International Trade Fair is to begin in New Delhi on November 14, 2019. Around 25,000 people are expected to visit the fair.
  • Theme: “Ease of Doing Business”
  • The Fair is to serve as a convergence point for the government agencies, non-government institutions and private sector enterprises

• The four-day-long International Lavi fair is being organised in Rampur district of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh from 11 to 14 November 2019. It was inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya. The governor also inaugurated ‘Kinnauri market’ and an exhibition organised by various government departments.

• The state government Haryana has decided to bring more crops under its ‘Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY)’ scheme. The decision was taken at a BBY’s review meeting which was presided by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
  • For getting the scheme benefits, the state’s farmers have to register themselves on ‘Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB)’ portal and if they get a price lower than price fixed by government for their crop on its sale in the mandis, the difference will be paid as incentive to the farmers directly into their bank
• Amazon has introduced ‘Project Zero’ in India, in a bid to ensure that customers receive authentic goods when shopping on Amazon.

• It introduces additional proactive mechanisms and powerful tools to identify, block and remove counterfeits. More than 7,000 brands have already enrolled in Project Zero across United States, Europe and Japan. A number of Indian brands participated in a pilot to help Amazon test the experience in India.

• The World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance (WCRAF) began in New Delhi on November 12, 2019. It aims at bringing together stakeholders of rural and agricultural finance all over the world. The Congress is an opportunity to strengthen business relations and to promote products and services.
  • Theme: “Rural and Agricultural Finance: Critical Input to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Development”

• As many as 66 brands of 33 companies, including Aavin and Hatsun, have been refrained from using the ‘Agmarg’ quality certification mark, while selling their food products in the State.
  • **AGMARK** (Agriculture Mark) is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Government of India. Once every five years.

• TN CM opens project executed under Smart City Mission – Smart Makeover : T Nagar pedestrian plaza.
Several countries, including Australia, Iran, UK and Vietnam, will participate in the 14-day India International Trade Fair 2019 beginning in New Delhi. The theme for the 39th edition of the fair (November 14-27, 2019) is 'Ease of Doing Business' inspired by India's unique achievement of rising to 63rd rank on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index from 142nd rank in 2014.

With the help pf 43 million USD from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India has begun the project that will positively impact over 10 million people living on the coastline. The funds are to be obtained from the Green Climate Fund that was established under United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The objective of the fund is to assist developing countries.

- The 6-year project will help to build climate resilient livelihoods of 1.7 million people
- The coastal states that are to benefit from the fund are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- Under the project, the plan is to sequester minimum of 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide in the next 30 years.
- The project will also restore 15,000 hectares of coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes and sea marshes

The first edition of Dhaka Global Dialogue was held from 11-13 November 2019 in Bangladesh. The three day long programme was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

World Diabetics day is observed on November 14 every year. Theme of 2019 - Family and diabetics.

According to the data released by the Central electricity Authority (CEA), the electricity demand of the country fell by 13% in October 2019 as compared to October 2018. This is the lowest in 12 years.

- Sharp reduction in the industrialized states like Maharashtra and Gujarat indicating an economic slowdown is the major reason for the decline in demand.
- Electricity demand of the country was 98 billion units in October 2019 as against 112 billion units in October 2018.

India’s Ravi Prakash has won the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize at 4th BRICS -Young Scientist Forum’s Conclave held during 6-8 November 2019 in Brazil. He won the first first prize carrying $25,000. Affordable indigenous milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers. It can be used for chilling milk from point of production by bringing down the temperature of raw milk from 37°C to 7°C within half an hour (30 minutes) using nano-fluid based phase change materials.
• On the occasion of Children’s Day on 14 November 2019, the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR) launched a mobile app called ‘Sishu Suraksha’, an e-complaint box for child right violations.
  • **Objective of App:** To empower citizens to take moral responsibility of protecting future generations.
• On November 13, 2019, the Lancet journal published report on “Health and Climate Change, 2019.” The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change is a comprehensive yearly analysis that tracks the progress across 41 indicators. The project is a collaboration of 120 experts from premier institutions all over the world including WHO and World Bank.
• The Nine day maiden tri service India-US humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) amphibious exercise, “Tiger Triumph” kick started on Wednesday, was inaugurated on INS Jalashwa.
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