

Monthly One- Liner GK Digest



September 2019



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MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST:
SEPTEMBER 2019

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

President Visit to Switzerland

- President Kovind unveiled the **bust of Mahatma Gandhi**, marking the 150th anniversary of the Father of the Nation at **Villeneuve, Switzerland**.
- Mahatma Gandhi had a special connection, as he visited Villeneuve in 1931 at the invitation of **Noble laureate Romain Rolland**.

NATIONAL NEWS

Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019

- A penalty of Rs 500 would be imposed for **traffic violations** in place of Rs 100 earlier.
- Rs 2000 in place of Rs 500 (earlier) would be imposed on the **disobedience of orders of authorities**.

Meity tied up with Google to “Build for Digital India”

- The programme is launched to give a platform to the **engineering students** to develop technology-based solutions to solve **social problems**.
- Engineering Students would be called to apply and join the programme and they can take part in both **online and offline learning**.

KVIC Launches ‘Terracotta Grinder’

- The ‘**Terracotta Grinder**’ is the **first-ever machine** launched to grind the wasted pottery items for reusing them in pottery making.
- It requires mixing of only **20%** of the terracotta powder with the clay to make a saving of Rs 520.

India announced \$22 million to GFTAM

- This is the **6th replenishment cycle (2020-22)** of the GFTAM, and India has increased its contribution by 10% over its 5th cycle contribution.
- The Global Fund has allocated **\$500 million to India** in the current funding cycle (2018-21).

“Eat Right India Movement”

- The ‘Eat Right India Movement’ of **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** was launched with a new logo and tagline ‘**Sahi Bhojan, Behtar Jeevan**’.
- To avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil, FSSAI has prescribed a limit for **Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil**.

Govt urged CPSEs to boost Capital Expenditure

- Finance Ministry has urged **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** to boost their capital expenditure during the current FY 2019-20.
- The Centre has budgeted **Rs 3.38-lakh crore** for capital expenditure for the FY 2019-20.

Annual Kaushalacharya Awards launched by MSDE

- The “**Kaushalacharya award**” is launched under the **Skill India Mission**, would be given to 53 trainers from various fields including trainers from National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS), WorldSkills Competition winners etc.
- The award will recognize the trainer’s contribution and make them join a training career as it is estimated that **by 2022 India will need about 2.5 lakh trainers** across the skilling ecosystem.

Task Force for Infra Projects by Finmin

- The Finance Minister has constituted a task force to draw up a National Infrastructure Pipeline worth **\$1.4 trillion**.
- The Task Force will **submit its report** on the pipeline for **FY 2019-20 by 31st October 2019** and by 31st December 2019 on the indicative pipeline for FY 2021-25.

1st Mega Food Park in Telangana

- The initiative will aid the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme** by reducing post-harvest losses and hedging the farmer's risk, by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain.
- The government provides **financial assistance up to Rs50 crore per Mega Food Park project.**

New Animal Facility established by University of Hyderabad

- The facility is one of the largest in the country and will cater to the needs of **research investigators** working with small animal models like rodents and rabbits.
- It will provide the researchers to perform **cutting edge research** and publish them with facts and accuracy in high impact journals.

India's second Multi Modal Terminal

- The MMTs are built as part of the **Jal Marg Vikas Project** which aims to develop navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight, on river Ganga between **Varanasi to Haldia.**
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is the Implementing Agency of the MMT project.

Motihari-Amlekhganj Petroleum products Pipeline

- This is a **69 km pipeline** with a capacity of **2 million metric ton per annum**, will provide petroleum products to Nepal at a cheap price.
- The project is led by the **Indian Oil Corporation** and the **Nepal Oil Corporation.**

PM Modi to launch National Animal Disease Control Programme

- The programme is launched for eradicating the **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis** in the livestock.
- If a cow/buffalo gets infected with FMD, the **milk loss is up to 100% for 4 to 6 months** and with infection of Brucellosis, the **milk output reduces by 30%, for the entire life cycle.**

NCST demanded inclusion of Ladakh in the 6th Schedule

- The commission observed that the territory of Ladakh created recently is predominantly a tribal region, **accounting for more than 97% tribal people.**
- The **Scheduled Tribe population** represent 66.8 per cent in Leh, 83.49 per cent in Kargil, 89.96 per cent in Sanku and 99.16 per cent in Zaskar, 73.35 per cent in Nubra, 97.05 per cent in Khalsti areas of the Ladakh region.

Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai

- The institute is launched to provide skills to students who want to pursue **technical education** after completing **Class X and Class XII.**
- It will operate on PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model and **Tata Education Development Trust (TEDT)** was selected through a competitive bidding process as the **private partner** for setting up IIS at NSTI campus in Mumbai.

Rajasthan launched the “ Jan Soochna Portal”

- The portal has promised to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the **Right To Information Act, 2005**.
- Rajasthan, where the RTI movement had started in 1990s has become the **1st state in the country to launch a public portal** for providing governmental information to the public.

Government puts Minimum Export Price for Onion

- The notification has been issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** to export all varieties of onions only on Letter of Credit subject to the MEP of \$850 FOB per tonne.
- **Reasons for the price rise** of onion is said to be due to fall in supply of onions from Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, rains in parts of Maharashtra hampering onion markets followed by droughts.

‘JALDOOT’ Travelling Exhibition Launched

- The Regional Outreach Bureau, ROB, is the office under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, with its headquarter at Pune for Maharashtra and Goa region.
- The Jaldoot Campaign has been launched by the ROB in association with **MSRTC (Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation)**.

Relief to Indian Railways Passengers

- The Ministry of Railways has announced to rationalize the fare structure and composition of **Humsafar class of trains**.
- The existing variable fare system of the **Humsafar class of trains has been done away with**, which means these trains will now have only ‘fixed’ fare system.

Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

- The bill will facilitate smooth and speedy **eviction of unauthorized occupants** from Government residential accommodations.
- The step would increase the availability of **government residential accommodations** and reduce the waiting period for eligible persons.

Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance

- The Union Cabinet chaired has approved the Promulgation of the **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes** (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) **Ordinance, 2019**.
- As per the ordinance, **the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement** of e-cigarettes shall be a punishable offence.

Mongolian president visit to India

- President Battulga and Indian PM Modi jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at **Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar** through video-conferencing in New Delhi.

- India announced an additional **236 million dollars Line of Credit** for the ongoing **Petrochemical Refinery Project in Mongolia**.

Rashtriya Puraskar and National Safety Awards for the Performance Year 2017

- The "**National Safety Awards (NSA)**" and "**Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)**".(Previously known as ShramVir National Awards) are operated since 1965 under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- NSA is awarded for the **outstanding safety performance** of construction sites, ports, industrial establishments, and installations under the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in management of accident prevention programs.

LEAP-2019 & ARPIT-2019 launched

- LEAP has been launched for leadership development for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) which is a **3-week leadership development training programme** for second-level academic functionaries.
- ARPIT was launched by the HRD Ministry in **November 2018** as a unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty through **SWAYAM**.

3 Citizen Centric Services of the Chandigarh Police launched

- The '**E-Beat Book**' is a web and mobile application to facilitate police a real-time updation of crime/criminal data by linking it to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS).
- **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112)**: is an emergency response service which is operationalized to strengthen proactive community policing by providing computer-aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

New Standard Operating Procedure by Transport Ministry

- **Central Motor Vehicles Rules** are amended to let the person produce the documents in electronic form.
- Under the rule, the hard copy of relevant documents is not necessary but the documents must be available on **DigiLocker** or **mParivahan app**.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched two Mobile Apps

- The **CHC Farm Machinery App** will help the farmers to get the **machinery** required at the rates feasible for them from the **Custom Hiring Centres (CHC)** located in the radius of **50 Kms**.
- The **Krishi Kisan App** will provide information about the best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds in the nearby area of the farmers.

'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign

- The ministry also released the **TB India Report (2019)** and an **all-oral regimen kit** (which does not include painful injections) for multi-drug resistant TB patients.
- A partnership with the **World Bank** was announced which is **providing a \$400 million credit for accelerating TB response in 9 states** through private sector engagement and other critical interventions.

First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched

- President Ram Nath Kovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System on the occasion of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Foundation Day**.
- The cell amounts to greater than **70% efficiency**, which may not be possible by other energy sources.

Aadi Mahotsav Inaugurated in Noida

- The event will provide a platform to the tribal artisans from different states to **feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal** handicrafts, art, paintings fabric, jewellery.
- It is jointly organized by the Ministry of **Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.

'Sardar Patel National Unity Award'

- The government has constituted 'Sardar Patel National Unity Award' as the **highest civilian award**, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The award consists of a **medal and a citation and without any monetary grant or cash**. And only **3 awards would be given in a year**.

Central Government Banned Export of Onions

- Imposed **stock limits on onion traders** (limit of **100 quintals on retail traders** and **500 quintals on wholesale traders**) to facilitate the release of stocks in the market.
- **Banned export of onions** with immediate effect till further orders (on 13th September 2019, the Minimum Export Price of US\$ 850 F.O.B. per metric ton was imposed).

Delhi-Meerut Package-3 inaugurated

- The **Delhi-Meerut Expressway (82 kilometre-long)** connects Delhi with Meerut in western Uttar Pradesh.
- The project will help in **decongesting National Capital Region** and a considerable reduction in pollution level.

Capacity Development Programme for Women Entrepreneurs launched

- The initiative is for capacity development of women entrepreneurs in the country and was **launched under Startup India, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and Lets Venture** have been given the responsibility to run this programme across the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

BANKING

Fintech Committee Final Report

- The committee was constituted as per the announcement made by Arun Jaitley, then Finance Minister in his **Budget speech 2018-19**.
- The committee gave some recommendations on **Fintech space globally and in India**.

Capital infusion by Government in IDBI Bank

- The IDBI bank has **reduced its net NPA** from peak of 18.8% in June 2018 to 8% in June 2019.
- **The government** continues to be a promoter and holds **46.46% stakes** of the IDBI Bank and LIC acquired **51% stakes**.

RBI mandated to link Retail Loans to External Benchmark

- The directive is applicable to **all Public Sector Banks** voluntarily, while the private banks are yet to.
- Recently, some state-run banks have introduced home and auto loans having repo-linked products but the RBI wants them to add loans to **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** to an external benchmark.

ADB to provide \$200 million to Maharashtra

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$ 200 million to Maharashtra to **improve road safety** by upgrading rural roads to all-weather standards.
- The state of Maharashtra accounts for **8% of the total road incidents** in India.
- The states' agriculture accounts for about **47% of employment** and contributes **11% to the state gross domestic product**.

IPPB rolled out AePS Services

- IPPB with the launch of AePS services has now become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of **any bank**.
- IPPB's **100% equity** is owned by the **Government of India**.

Aadhaar Authentication made Mandatory for New Dealers by GSTN

- Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar **Sushil Kumar Modi**, head of the Group of Ministers of GST Network has announced the decision.
- For those dealers who do not want Aadhaar authentication, **physical verification** will be carried out for them.

Govt incentive to Boost Exports and Housing Sector

- To provide a 10,000 crore rupees **special window** to help complete the ongoing affordable and middle-income housing projects.
- The housing projects under the special window include **non-NPA (Non-Performing Assets) and non-NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) projects**.

RBI allowed Payment Banks to apply for Small finance banks

- The **minimum paid-up capital requirement for SFBs** is also revised by the RBI from **Rs 100 crore to now Rs 200 crore**.
- Promoter's shareholding should be a **maximum of 40% by the end of 5 years**, and within **10 years it should be down to 30%** and within **15 years it should be down to 15%** shareholding.

RBI suggest Federal body like GST council for Farming Sector

- An RBI panel has suggested to set up a federal body like a GST council for providing credit flows to the agriculture sector.
- RBI had set up the '**Internal Working Group**' in February 2019 to understand the reasons for the regional disparity in agricultural credit and suggest measures.

Government Slashed the Corporate Tax Rates

- The tax rates are slashed by following an amendment in the **Income-tax Act 1961 and the Finance (No. 2) Act 2019**.
- The **new domestic companies** are those companies that are incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 and will commence production on or before 31st March 2023.

Scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) Expanded

- BBPS is an interoperable medium to **facilitate customers to pay bills** such as direct-to-home (DTH), telephone, water, gas and electricity **at a single location** either physical or electronic.
- After the expansion of the payment facility, municipal taxes, insurance premiums, school fees and other **recurring payments** can also be paid via BBPS.

Government amended CSR Spending Norms

- The government has amended the **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** spending norms to allow the corporates to spend on research and development (R&D) activities.
- The Companies Act requires firms with 1) net worth of Rs 500 crore 2) turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of **Rs 5 crore or more to set aside 2%** of their average net profit over the **last 3 years towards 'approved' CSR activities**.

SEBI tighten Mutual Fund Norms

- SEBI has tightened the norms for mutual funds by making it mandatory to hold **at least 20% liquid assets in liquid schemes**.
- The parking of funds in **short term deposits of scheduled commercial banks** won't be charged **investment management and advisory fees** by the **asset management company (AMC)**.

RBI has placed PMC Bank under Directions

- As per the Directions, the depositors of the **Mumbai based PMC Bank** are not allowed to withdraw amount **exceeding Rs 1,000** of the total balance in a savings account/current account or deposit account.
- The directions are to remain in force for **6 months** from the close of business of the bank.

RBI modified directions to PMC Bank

- The modifications of rules are done after police complaints were filed against the top officials of the PMC bank and **Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL)** for allegedly looting 3,000 crore rupees of the depositors.
- A written complaint was filed alleging that money of **at least 9.12 lakh PMC Bank** depositors was looted by its top management and real estate firm HDIL.

RBI Put Lakshmi Vilas Bank under PCA Norms

- Due to high bad loans and insufficient capital, RBI has put the **Tamil Nadu based Lakshmi Vilas Bank** under **prompt corrective action framework**.
- RBI helps the bank by taking a corrective course of action when the bank has a weak financial performance for a sustained period on parameters of **capital ratios, asset quality and profitability**.

REPORTS

“Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018”

- “**Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018**” has been released by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Giriraj Singh.
- This is the **13th edition** of the Handbook published by the **Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**.

INDEX AND RANKING

India 9th on Happiness Index

- **Australia and Canada** occupied the top spot in the Index and Argentina, Spain and Russia emerged at the Bottom.
- The “**Global happiness index**” revealed that Indians consider good financial conditions and physical well-being as a priority criteria to remain joyous.

Index of Core Industries

- The Eight Core Industries **comprise 40.27 %** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.
- The **combined Index** of Eight Core Industries **declined by 0.5%** as compared to the index of August 2018 and stood at 128.2 in August 2019.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Bhagat Singh Koshyariwas	Governor of Maharashtra
Tamilisai Soundararajan	Governor of Telangana
Arif Mohammed Khan	Governor of Kerala
Bandaru Dattatreya	Governor of Himachal Pradesh
Kalraj Mishra	Governor of Rajasthan
Sunil Arora	Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB)
Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian	Himachal Pradesh High Court
Chief Justice Krishna Murari	Punjab and Haryana High Court
Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat	Rajasthan High Court
Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy	Kerala High Court
Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria	Chief of the Indian Air Force

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Award
Prof. Sibnath Deb	Visitor's Award for Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Prof. Sanjay Puri	Visitor's Award for Research in Physical Sciences
Prof. Asad Ullah Khan	Visitor's Award for Research in Biological Sciences
Dr Shaon Ray Chaudhuri	Visitor's Award for Technology Development
IPS officer Chhaya Sharma	2019 Asia Society Game Changers Award
Best State Award for overall growth in the tourism category	Andhra Pradesh
Adventure Tourism category	Goa and Madhya Pradesh
Best Film Promotion Friendly State	Uttarakhand
Best State in the Innovative use of IT category	Telangana

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
15 th September 2019	60th Foundation Day of Doordarshan	--

MOUS SIGNED**6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue**

- **India will host** the 3-day Economic Dialogue which will discuss various issues, including infrastructure, energy and pharmaceuticals and others.
- The dialogue would be held between the **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** (Indian Side) and the Chairman of **National Development and Reforms Commission** (Chinese side).

GeM and Punjab Government sign MoU for Setting up PMU

- GeM under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** and Government of Punjab, signed MoU to set up **GeM Organizational Transformation Team- Project Management Unit (GOTT PMU)**.
- It is projected that through the initiatives of GOTT PMU, the Punjab government will be able to transact about **Rs 1700 crore on GeM platform in the first year**, in terms of annual Gross Merchandise Value (GMV).

Ministry of Railways signs MOU with CII

- **Ministry of Railways** has signed an MoU with the **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** to facilitate green initiatives in Indian Railways.
- The MoU has been signed as part of **Indian Railways' green initiative** to mitigate the cause of global warming and its effects that are causing climate change.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'Rashtriya Poshan Maah'

- The 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' would begin from 1st September and the **theme** for the year is **"Complementary Feeding"**.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan is a Scheme for Holistic Nourishment with a vision to address **malnutrition by 2022**.

National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons

- NPSTSEP is a voluntary and **contributory pension scheme**, with the provision for minimum assured pension of **Rs 3,000/- monthly once the subscriber attains the age of 60 years**.
- The beneficiary should be within the **age group of 18 to 40 years**.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana is an age-old pension scheme for all **small and marginal farmers** between the **age group of 18 to 40 years**.
- Under the scheme, the farmers would receive a **monthly pension of Rs 3000**, once they attain the **age of 60 years**.

NIRVIK Launched Scheme

- The **Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC)** under the ministry has introduced the scheme with the aim to **ease the lending process and enhance loan availability** for exporters.
- The scheme will ensure guaranteed insurance cover **up to 90%** of the principal and interest including the pre and post-shipment loss.

National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)

- The Neat platform has been created to bring all the startups providing one-stop access to these technological solutions on a **single platform** and use their expertise to help **disadvantaged communities**.
- Under the scheme, companies using artificial intelligence must **offer 25% free coupons** for students from disadvantaged communities.

PM Matru Vandana Yojana has Crossed 1 Crore Beneficiaries

- The scheme is implemented under the **Women and Child Development Ministry**.
- They eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under **Janani Suraksha Yojana**, through which a women gets **Rs 6000 on an average**.

Margadarshan and Margdarshak Scheme

- These institutions are also provided funding up to Rs. 50 lakhs per institution **over a period of 3 years in instalments** for carrying out various activities like training, workshops, conferences and travel.
- Under the Margdarshak Scheme, mentors/teachers (Margdarshaks) who are serving or superannuated and willing to devote **adequate time to make required visits to these Institutions are identified**.

'UMMID' initiative Launched by the Government

- Genetic disorders are the **third most common cause of mortality** in new-borns among the urban areas of India and due to high birth rate, large population and consanguineous marriage in many communities, these diseases are very common among them.
- **NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendra** has also been inaugurated by the ministry to provide help related to genetic diseases at one place.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan 2 has gone Incommunicado

- The communication from the **Vikram Lander** to the ground was lost at a distance of just **2.1km from the moon**.
- Chandrayaan-2 arrived near the moon after **30 days in earth orbit** from its launch on 15th July 2019 from Sriharikota.

Water found on an Exoplanet

- Researchers have found **both water and temperatures** on K2-18b, being the **only exoplanet** having such components.
- The team used the **Hubble Space Telescope** and developed open-source algorithms to analyse the starlight filtered through K2-18b's atmosphere.

DEFENCE

IAF inducted 8 AH-64E Apache

- India is the **16th nation** to add Apache and the **AH-64E** is the **most advanced variant**, Boeing.
- Contracts for a total of **22 Apache helicopters** were made from the **U.S. government** and Boeing in September **2015** and the entire package will be given to the **IAF by 2022**.

Indo-US Yudh Abhyas 2019

- The Exercise of Yudh Abhyas is the **largest joint exercise** for defence cooperation between the militaries of the USA and India and will **focus** on anti-terror operations, counter-insurgency etc.
- The exercise is **hosted alternately between the two countries** and will be the **15th edition** of the exercise that is going to be conducted from 5th September 2019.

1st US-ASEAN maritime drills

- The **Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) nations** will undergo exercise activities such as boarding of target vessels to simulate search and seizure, drilling etc.
- The drill has been conducted after a **Chinese survey vessel had extended its activities** to an area closer to Vietnam's coastline.

India to take part in TSENTR 2019

- TSENTR 2019 is a part of the annual series of exercises that forms a part of the **Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle**.
- The exercise is held every year at one of the four Russia's military Commands namely, **Kavkas (South), Zapad (West), Vostok (East) and TSENTR (Centre)**.

Indo-Lanka Maritime Fleet Exercise-SLINEX 2019

- SLINEX 2019 is an **annual joint Indo-Lanka maritime** fleet exercise that will be held from 7th September to 13th September 2019.
- Both countries will work on improving their capabilities and operational effectiveness to maintain maritime security in the **Indian Ocean region**.

28th edition of CORPAT

- The exercise is held between the **Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN)**.
- **Since 2003**, the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) and the Andaman and Nicobar Command have been participating in the exercise.

INS Khanderi to be commissioned into Indian Navy

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** has manufactured the submarine in Mumbai and designed by the **French naval Defence and Energy Company DCNS**.
- It is named after its predecessor INS Khanderi (S22), which was named after **Chhatrapati Shivaji's island fort of Khanderi**.

Indo-Thai Maitree – 2019

- 50 soldiers from each the **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Royal Thailand Army (RTA)** would participate in the event.
- MAITREE is an **annual** training exercise which is conducted since **2006** alternatively in India and Thailand.

Air-to-Air missile ASTRA

- The missile was launched from a **Sukhoi Su-30 MKI combat aircraft**, off the coast of **Odisha**.
- ASTRA has a range of **over 70 km** and can fly with a speed of **over 5,555 kilometres per hour**.

Kargil to Kohima (K2K) “Glory Run”

- Kohima and Kargil are the two forward most outposts of India in the East and in the North where two of the fiercest battles were fought in **1944 and 1999 respectively**.
- A team of 25 IAF members will **cover a distance of 4500 Km in 45 days** by running an average of 100 Km per day.

Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Varaha’

- The ICGS Varaha is the **4th in the series** of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- The ship has been **designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at its Katupalli shipbuilding yard in North Chennai.

23rd Edition of MALABAR Exercise 2019

- Indigenously designed and built ships of Indian Navy, multipurpose guided-missile **frigate Sahyadri** and **ASW Corvette Kiltan** will participate in the exercise.
- The MALABAR exercise began originally in **1992 between India and the United States**, and Japan joined the exercise in **2015**.

INS Khanderi Commissioned into Indian Navy

- INS Khanderi is built under the ‘Make in India’ initiative at state-run Mazgaon Dock Limited and was under sea-trials for over two and a half years.
- The submarine is built under the **project 75**, which is being carried out at Mazagon Docks Ltd in collaboration with the **French submarine builder Naval Group (formerly DCNS)**.

INS ‘Nilgiri’: Navy's 1st New Stealth Frigate Launched

- **70% of India’s trade by value and 95% by volume is taking place through the sea route** and the strategic effort to safeguard the route is been made through INS Nilgiri.
- **Project 17A frigates** has much more advanced stealth features from its design derivative of the Shivalik class stealth frigates.

SPORTS

US open Tennis 2019

- **Rafel Nadal** won beating Daniil Medvedev and **Bianca Andreescu** won beating Serena Williams.
- Bianca Andreescu is the **1st Canadian** to win the Grand Slam singles title.

Vinesh Phogat won bronze at the World Wrestling Championship

- Vinesh is the **5th Indian female wrestler** to win the World Wrestling Championship after Alka Tomar (2006), Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012) and Pooja Dhanda (2018).
- She has also assured the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** qualification along with winning the WWC after a medal-less run in three World Championships before.

Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya won bronze at World Wrestling Championships

- Dahiya **beat** Iran's reigning Asian champion **Reza Ahmadali Atrinagharchi**.
- Both sealed a spot at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** in 65 kg category (Bajrang) and 57 kg (Ravi) category by qualifying for the bronze medal round.

Deepak Punia Named World No.1 Wrestler in 86kg Category

- Wrestler Deepak Punia has been named number one in 86 kilogram category in the **latest ranking issued by the International Wrestling Federation**.
- **Bajrang Punia** was earlier ranked number one but dropped to number two spot after managing a bronze in the World Championship.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

India will host COP14 of UNCCD

- **'Reversing land degradation and its outcomes'** is the main agenda of the COP14, as it is estimated that about one-third of the world's land is degraded and India accounts for 29%.
- UNCCD was established in **1994** and works towards sustainable land management for linking issues of environmental & development to land agenda.

72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

- The **committee works for** discussing experts opinions to deliberate on public health issues and achieve the elimination of diseases faced by the countries in the South-East region.
- The Regional Committee is the **highest decision making and governing body of the WHO** in the **South-East region**.

20th India-Russia Summit

- Russia proposed to set up more than **20 nuclear power units** in India over the **next 20 years** in the meeting.

- Moscow has decided to confer PM Modi with the **highest civilian award of the country**- the Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First.

5th EEF 2019 in Russia

- The EEF is **aimed** to expand international cooperation in the **Asia-Pacific region** and to develop the Russian economy far east.
- India will have its own pavilion called the **India Lounge** with the support of the Roscongress Foundation at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum.

7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting

- **The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 16 countries including 10 ASEAN countries and its 6 FTA partners (India, Japan, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and China).
- The RCEP negotiation was **launched** at the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia in November **2012**.

68th Plenary Session of NEC

- **Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad Sangma** proposed the **8-laning** of Guwahati- Shillong-Dawki-Sylhet-Chittagong Highway.
- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** suggested the council to start hosting a festival in each country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote the northeastern states of India as "hub of opportunities".

Conference on Energy Efficiency 'ANGAN' began

- The Conference is being organised by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power** in collaboration with the Indo German Technical Cooperation.
- In the 3-day conference, experts will discuss the technologies/designs for making energy-efficient **Commercial as well as Residential Buildings**.

22nd Session of UN Committee on CRPD

- India ratified the UNCRPD Convention on **1st October 2007** and submitted its **First Country Report on Status of Disability in India** on November 2015.
- The UN Committee appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government of India like **RPwD Act, 2016**, the launch of **Accessible India Campaign**, the establishment of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** for persons with disability.

42nd UN Human Rights Council Meeting

- Pakistan demanded to set up a **commission of inquiry**, which is UN's highest-level probes for major crisis, to look into **the issue of Kashmir**.
- Pakistan has termed the abrogation of **Article 370 in Kashmir** by India as "Indian brutality" in the region.

55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

- ITEC was instituted as part of **India's Development Assistance offering** for developing countries in **1964**.
- ITEC offers the participants of its member developing countries to avail of **short and medium-term courses in premier institutions like IITs and IISCs** in India.

37th GST Council meeting

- The council has decided to link **Aadhaar with the registration of taxpayers under GST** and is in the process to make Aadhaar number mandatory for claiming refunds.
- **No GST** will be charged for **hotel rooms** having tariffs of up to **1,000 Rupees per night**.

WAVE Summit 2019

- The WAVE summit is an initiative **to promote women entrepreneurs to work towards waste management** and providing alternatives to single-use plastic carry bags.
- It will be jointly organized by the **Institute of Waste Management (IIWM)** and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at Jaipur.

2nd Edition of India Tourism Mart (ITM) 2019 Inaugurated

- The mart has been jointly organized by the **Ministry of Tourism** and the **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH)**.
- FAITH is the **apex organization of important trade and hospitality associations** of India and has the objective of positioning the products of the country and tourism destinations in international markets.

7th High Level Joint Task Force on Investments Meeting

- The 7th High Level Joint Task Force on Investments meeting between **UAE-India** took place on 22nd September 2019 in **Abu Dhabi**.
- Both the countries reviewed the functioning of **'UAE PLUS' special desk and the 'Fast Track Mechanism'** established at the 6th HLTFI for facilitating UAE investment into India.

16th Global SME Business Summit 2019

- The Summit is organized **every year** by the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)**.
- It focuses on measures to be taken by the government to increase **MSME's present share of 29% of GDP to 50% in the next 5 years** and raise its export contribution from 49 % to 60 %.

6th India Water Week - 2019

- The campaign is to take place at **Vigyan Bhawan** with various rounds of Brainstorming Sessions (4 nos.), Panel Discussions (12 nos.), Seminars (15 nos.), and Special Session (6 nos.).
- The **theme** of this year's IWW is **"Water cooperation: Coping with 21st Century Challenges"**.

Singapore India Hackathon 2019

- The Singapore India Hackathon 2019 is an initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and is the **1st joint International hackathon** between India and any other country.
- All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**), MHRD's Innovation Cell (**MIC**) along with Nanyang Technological University (**NTU**), Singapore and NTU active Pte Ltd are co-organizing the Hackathon.

IPCC Meet on Climate Change

- The IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting of **Working Group III Sixth Assessment Report** has begun from 30th September 2019 in New Delhi.
- The Working Group III meeting will produce a report that will emphasize what can be done in the near term to **mitigate climate change and strategies** for its implementation.

