

SINGAPORE IN 2019

Here's a guide to what to look out for in the local calendar in 2019, from changes to the law to various festivals.

JANUARY

1

The minimum age for smoking will be raised to 19, up from 18 now. A smoking ban in Orchard Road will also kick in that day, with lighting up allowed in only about 40 designated smoking areas.

2

E-scooters will have to be registered and must display a number plate similar to those for motor vehicles. Also from January, shared bicycles will have to be parked in designated areas.

19-27

Singapore Art Week is an annual celebration of visual arts, with more than 100 events. New this year is an art fair which focuses on South-east Asian art.



28

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will officially launch the Singapore Bicentennial



Opening of Design Orchard, a 2½-storey development in Orchard Road which aims to boost local brands.

FEBRUARY

FEB 28 - MARCH 3

The world's top female golfers do battle in the US\$1.5 million (S\$2 million) HSBC Women's World Championship at Sentosa Golf Club.



Details of the Merdeka Generation Package are expected to be announced in this year's Budget.

MARCH

4-17

The sixth edition of the annual Singapore Design Week organised by DesignSingapore Council celebrates all things design, with fairs, exhibitions and conferences.



Jewel Changi Airport is slated to open by the end of March. The much-anticipated facility will house more than 280 shops and food and beverage outlets, as well as a 40m-high indoor waterfall and a five-storey garden.

APRIL

13-14

The world's top rugby sevens teams will do battle at the National Stadium in the HSBC Singapore Rugby 7s.



26

Ed Sheeran will hold his first concert at the National Stadium. It will be his biggest show here yet, having played sold-out shows at The Star Theatre in 2015 and Singapore Indoor Stadium in 2017.



MAY

MAY 16 TO JUNE 2

The annual Singapore International Festival of Arts supports the creation and presentation of Singaporean and international works.



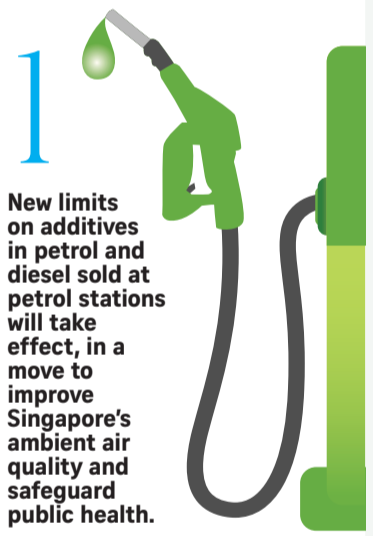
JUNE

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER

The Bicentennial Experience @ Fort Canning will provide an immersive and cinematic experience through five galleries, showcasing iconic moments in Singapore's 700-year history. There will also be installations at the Fort Gate area for visitors to explore.



JULY



1 New limits on additives in petrol and diesel sold at petrol stations will take effect, in a move to improve Singapore's ambient air quality and safeguard public health.

AUGUST

9 Singapore's annual birthday celebration will return to the Padang as the country commemorates its bicentennial. The recreational field near City Hall was chosen as it has been witness to many key events in Singapore's history.



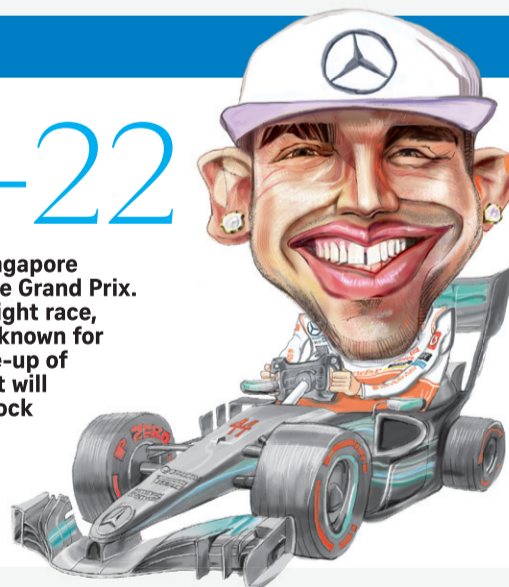
SEPTEMBER

1

Stricter rules that govern NRIC data collection will kick in. NRIC details can be collected only when the law requires it, or when it is vital to verify someone's identity "to a high degree of fidelity".

20-22

The Formula 1 Singapore Airlines Singapore Grand Prix. Apart from the night race, the event is also known for its top-notch line-up of entertainers, that will include English rock band Muse and dance music veteran Fatboy Slim in 2019.



OCTOBER



Sales charges for insurance and investment products on the Central Provident Fund Investment Scheme will be removed, in a move to reduce the cost of investing and take out the incentive for financial advisers to push products to clients.

NOVEMBER

1-10

Singapore Writers Festival, Singapore's annual literary festival organised by the National Arts Council.



DECEMBER

The first stage of the Thomson-East Coast Line - a three-station stretch in Woodlands - and Canberra station along the North-South Line are slated to open by this year.



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE

- The Urban Redevelopment Authority will release its updated Master Plan. Of interest will be the first subterranean masterplan, mapping out underground spaces and their potential uses.
- The trial of a National Digital Identity Facial Biometric System will begin in the second half of 2019. It will allow banks and healthcare institutions, among others, to verify the identity of users by scanning their faces and checking against the national biometric database.
- Singapore's first Zero Waste Masterplan will be published, to raise awareness of waste issues and detail the Government's key policies and strategies for this issue.

• Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will announce a Cabinet reshuffle to put younger ministers in key posts some time after the Budget debate in March, and has hinted that the changes could be made in April or May. Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat is expected to be named deputy prime minister.

