

# PCS Exams

## Monthly Current Affairs

### December 2019



## Monthly Current Affairs December -2019

**Dear readers,**

This **Monthly Current Affairs** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of **December 2019**. This file is important for upcoming **State PCS** exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Rating Agency **S&P** (Standard & Poor's) has reaffirmed the **Sovereign Credit Rating** of India at BBB with outlook as **stable**.  
**Note:** India's economy continues to achieve impressive long-term growth rates despite a recent deceleration. India will maintain its sound net external position and fiscal deficit will remain elevated but broadly in line with their forecast. In the report, S&P has maintained a stable outlook for India on the basis of their expectation that over the next two years the growth will remain strong.
2. Neo-banking platform successfully added three more accolades to its bouquet at the India FinTech Awards (IFTA) 2019 --- **Razorpay**.  
**Note:** The company won awards for the 'Most Innovative Payment Start-up' and 'Most Innovative Fintech Product' for its neo-banking product, RazorpayX. The CEO and Co-founder, Harshil Mathur was also honoured at the event as the 'Fintech Leader of the Year'.
3. **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** has launched the 'my: health Woman Suraksha' policy.  
**Note:** My: health Woman Suraksha policy is specially designed to cover women against numerous illnesses and contingencies they may face during their lifetime thereby providing financial aid in case of medical contingencies. This policy will cover various types of cancers and related surgeries, pregnancy and neonatal (newborn baby) complications and assaults and burns.
4. **Walmart** launched a credit card in partnership with HDFC Bank exclusively for members of its Best Price Modern Wholesale "B2B Cash & Carry" stores.  
**Note:** The card is being supported by Diners Club International which has acceptance of its own membership card in 185 countries. Simultaneously, the card was launched at 26 other Best Price Modern Wholesale Store locations across the country.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) is mulling to **amend regulatory guidelines** for primary **Urban Co-operative Banks**  
**Note:** According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the guidelines would primarily relate to exposure norms for single and group/interconnected borrowers, promotion of financial inclusion and priority sector lending. These measures are expected to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of UCBs and protect the interest of depositors. RBI has also decided to bring UCBs with assets of 500 crore rupees and above under the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits - CRILC reporting framework.
6. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) released guidelines for Licensing of **Small Finance Banks** in the Private Sector '**on tap**'.  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector. Now payments banks willing to convert themselves into small finance banks (SFBs) can apply for such a licence only after 5 years of operations. The licensing window will be open on-tap. In the guideline, the RBI has double the minimum capital for setting up an SFB to Rs. 200 crores.
7. India's foreign exchange reserves have crossed the **USD 450 billion**.  
**Note:** The foreign exchange reserves have increased due to strong inflows which enabled the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to buy dollars from the market. The country's foreign exchange reserves were at \$451.7 billion on December 3, 2019, which is an increase of \$38.8 billion over end-March 2019.
8. Online trucking platform has partnered with private lenders IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to provide FASTags to truck owners free of cost -- **BlackBuck**.  
**Note:** Truck owners can order FASTags on BlackBuck's Boss App, a digital services platform exclusively for truck fleet owners, and it will be delivered at their doorstep free of cost until December 31, 2019. The FASTags on BlackBuck Boss app are provided in partnership with

- IDFC Bank and Yes Bank. The initiative is expected to help over 3 million trucks in India become FASTag compliant.
9. The Reserve Bank of India has announced that all bank customers will be able to transfer funds through NEFT around the clock on all days from **16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**.  
**Note:** The RBI had in August announced that all NEFT transfer facility would be made available 24x7 for customers by December. The first settlement would take place after 00:30 hours on December 16, 2019.
  10. **Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** has signed a MoU with Bank of Baroda for the purpose of creating awareness among investors and other stakeholders.  
**Note:** The two entities are to collaborate for educating the masses about the dangers of fraudulent investment offers and Ponzi schemes.
  11. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced the reduction in its **marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR)** by 10 basis points across all one-year products.  
**Note:** This is the eighth consecutive cut in MCLR by the lender this fiscal. The new one-year MCLR has been cut to 7.90 per cent from 8 per cent.
  12. **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has launched interest rate options on ten-year **Government bonds**.  
**Note:** The exchange recorded a turnover of 5,926 contracts on the first day of its launch. Interest rate options will provide institutional investors with the ability to manage risk through a non-linear product. Interest rate options are based on the underlying ten-year government bonds, which are 7.26% 2029 bond and 6.45% 2029 bond.
  13. India is providing **USD 500 million line** of credit (LoC) to **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** Purpose of financing defence-related procurement in Bangladesh. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division for Government of India-supported line of credit (LoC). The agreement under the LoC is effective for a period of 10 years from the date of signing of the agreement.
  14. **V Viswanathan** has been appointed as an **Additional Director** on the Board of Dhanlaxmi Bank.  
**Note:** Viswanathan retired as Chief General Manager of State Bank of Hyderabad in 2017. Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd is an old private sector bank headquartered in Thrissur City, Kerala, India.
  15. India's retail inflation in November rose to 5.54%.  
**Note:** Food price inflation (Rural and urban) climbed 10.01% in November. During the month, inflation in vegetables shot up to 35.99 per cent, as against 26.10 per cent in October. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.62 per cent in October (2.33% in November 2018)
  16. Global rating agency Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has lowered its 2019 GDP growth forecast for India -- **5.6%**.  
**Note:** GDP is the final value of the goods and services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country during a specified period of time (normally a year).
    - 'GDP growth rate is an important indicator of the economic performance of a country.
    - GDP For 2019-20 – 5.6%
    - GDP For 2020-21 – 6.6%
    - GDP For 2021-22 – 6.7%
  17. **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has signed a term loan agreement for Rs. 5,000 crore with State Bank of India (SBI).  
**Note:** The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3-Month MCLR of the bank and has a door to door tenure of 15 years. The loan will be utilized to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.
  18. The US and China have announced phase one trade agreement to roil the **global economy**.  
**Note:** The phase one of the deal requires structural reforms and other changes to China's economic and trade regime in the areas of intellectual property, technology transfer, agriculture, financial services, and currency and foreign exchange. The deal says if China breaks any part of the agreement, the Trump administration has the ability to re-implement tariffs. US negotiators are offering to significantly reduce existing tariffs on Chinese imports worth about 360 billion dollars.
  19. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will waive NEFT, RTGS transfer charges for savings account holders.  
**Note:** In an order, RBI instructed banks to make all online payments done through RTGS and NEFT free of cost for savings account holders. The new rule will be effective from 1st January 2020.
  20. The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** Council headed by finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** fixed a uniform tax rate on both state-run and private lottery -- **28%**.  
**Note:** It also decided to rationalize the GST rate on woven and non-woven bags to 18%. It was for the first time that the GST Council resorted to voting to decide on an issue as it fixed a uniform tax rate on both state and private lotteries. The GST Council also decided to exempt upfront amount payable for long term lease of industrial and



financial infrastructure plots by an entity having 20% or more ownership of Central or State Government.

21. Union government has signed a USD 490 million loan agreement for **public-private partnership (PPP)** project -- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

**Note:** This agreement is to upgrade about 1,600 km of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) from single-lane to two-lane widths in Madhya Pradesh. An additional \$286 million investment will be mobilized through private sector participation under the PPP modality. This agreement will open a new partnership by introducing PPP through the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), thereby leveraging government financing and improving the sustainability of capital investments.

22. **Reserve Bank of India** will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore under a special Open Market Operation (OMO).

**Note:** Such exercises are done by the central bank when the proceeds from the sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term government securities.

23. State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement worth of USD 277 million with German development bank for establishing an energy-efficient housing programme in India -- **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau**.

**Note:** Under the programme, both builders and homebuyers shall be financed for developing/purchasing energy-efficient residential projects that achieve at least 25 per cent energy savings in comparison to standard reference buildings. The programme shall be part of the Indo-German Development Co-operation, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore under a special -- **Open Market Operation (OMO)**.

**Note:** The purchase will be for government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore for the instrument '6.45% GS 2029'.

25. **Bank of Baroda** has signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to facilitate the flow of credit to the MSME sector.

**Note:** As per the MoU, the financial aid will be provided for greenfield projects, startups, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from backward areas. To avail the credit, the BoB customers should register their request on the link available single-window portal of the Gujarat government. BoB will take a further step, after the lead generated on the portal submitted to it.

26. **Federal Bank** has partnered with online real estate platform for listing and e-auctioning of immovable

properties repossessed by the bank in recovery proceedings -- **Magicbricks**.

**Note:** The move is aimed at speedy recovery of the bank's impaired assets while helping customers get the best rate in the market for their properties. The bank has got into a pan-India arrangement with the housing portal in order to recover dues in 30 major accounts amounting to Rs 50 crore in the fourth quarter of this year. Under the deal, Federal Bank will leverage on Magicbrick's reach across demographic profiles and consumer categories, removing any geographical restrictions for buyers.

27. **Pine Labs** partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank to enable EMIs on Kotak debit cards.

**Note:** Pine Labs, a merchant platform company and Kotak Mahindra Bank have tied-up to enable Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI) payments on Kotak Debit Cards. This arrangement enables over 10 million eligible Kotak debit card customers to pay for their purchases in easy installments through the Pine Labs POS terminals. Pine Labs has a network of over 150,000 merchants across India. It will be a win-win proposition for both consumers and merchants as EMIs extend the power of affordability to consumers.

28. In order to the **digital transaction in India**, **Reserve Bank (RBI)** has introduced a new semi-closed **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)**.

**Note:** The new PPI can be used for the transaction of goods and services up to a limit of Rs 10,000. This direction was made under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. These PPIs will enhance the digitization of daily payments at local shops and retail outlets for the purchase of daily household goods and services.

29. **Nirmala Sitharaman** has released a **postage stamp** to commemorate distinguished service and glorious contribution of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in protecting the nation.

**Note:** The DRI continues to play an immense role in countering smuggling as well as in preserving the cultural heritage and environment of the country.

30. Pakistan on received USD 452.4 million as a second tranche of the USD 6 billion loans from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

**Note:** The release of the second tranche amounting to over USD 452 million showed the IMF's confidence over the government's economic policies. The IMF had approved the second tranche of the loan for Pakistan under the USD 6 billion Extended Fund Facility in a meeting of its executive board in Washington on



December 20. Pakistan had received the first tranche from IMF under its loan program in July.

- 31. IT giant Wipro** has partnered with **industry body NASSCOM** to start a training platform on emerging technologies  
**Note:** The Platform will train students on **artificial intelligence**, data science, the internet of things, cybersecurity etc. Through this platform, Wipro will train 10,000 students from more than 20 engineering colleges in India. This is a part of Wipro's corporate social responsibility programme, TalentNext, which aims to enhance the quality of engineering education by preparing faculty and academic leaders to train students.
- 32. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** in its latest report has retained India's economic growth forecast for FY20 -- **6.1%**.  
**Note:** IMF's projection is much higher than those by most agencies for FY20. Reserve Bank of India (RBI): 5%. Standard & Poor's: 5.1%.

**33. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. as the UTLBC (Union Territory Lead Bank Convenor) for the newly carved out -- **Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory)**.

**Note:** State Bank of India (SBI) will be the lead convenor bank for Union Territory of Ladakh.

**34. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review of the current financial year --2019-20.

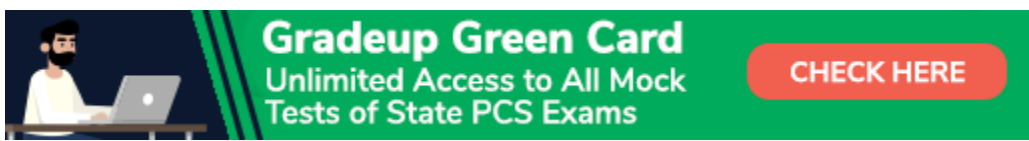
**Note:** The RBI keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.15%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 4.90%.The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 5.40%.

#### Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	4.90 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.40%
Bank Rate	5.40%

### Obituaries

- Former **Hollywood actress Shelley Morrison** passed away at **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center** in Los Angeles.  
**Note:** Morrison played Rosario Salazar, a maid from El Salvador, in the original run of 'Will & Grace' from 1999 to 2006, becoming part of a cast that won a Screen Actors Guild award for best ensemble in a comedy series.
- Former England **fast bowler Bob Willis** passed away after a short illness.  
**Note:** Bob Willis took 325 wickets in 90 Tests and 80 wickets in 64 ODIs in his career. He also captained England in 18 Tests and 29 ODIs.
- The first female writer for 'Star Trek' passed away -- **DC Fontana**.  
**Note:** The writer penned numerous stories for the original Star Trek' TV series and developed one of its signature characters, Spock. She wrote 1967's 'Journey to Babel', which introduced Spock's father Sarek and mother, Amanda.
- George J. Laurer** passed away at his home in Wendell, **North Carolina** in the US.  
**Note:** Mr. Laurer was an electrical engineer with IBM in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park in the early 1970s when he spearheaded the development of the UPC (Universal Product Code), or bar code. The now-ubiquitous marking, composed of unique black bars and a
- 12-digit number, allowed retailers to identify products and their prices as they are scanned, usually at checkout.
- Former **Odisha Minister Bhagabat Prasad Mohanty** passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar.  
**Note:** Mohanty was elected to the state Assembly in 1971 as Praja Socialist Party (PSP) candidate and in 1985 and 1995 as a Congress nominee, said sources. He had served as the Higher Education Minister of the state.
- The Chairman of **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Braj Bihari Kumar** passed away.  
**Note:** Mr' Kumar was appointed as the chairman of the ICSSR in May 2017. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in the year 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.
- The former chairman of the **US Federal Reserve Paul Volcker** passed away in New York.  
**Note:** Paul Volcker is popularly known for his battles against inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s.He was appointed as the chief of the US Federal Reserve in 1979.
- Renowned Telugu actor & writer **Gollapudi Maruti Rao** passed away in Chennai.  
**Note:** Mr. Maruti Rao was a multi-faceted personality as he was a journalist, playwright, writer, actor and television personality. Some of his memorable films as an actor include 'Intlo Ramayya, Veedhilo Krishnayya',



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- 'Challenge', 'Samsaram oka Chadarangam', 'Aditya 369' and 'Leader'. Mr. Rao was born in 1939 in Vizianagaram in Madras Presidency, in present-day Andhra Pradesh.
9. New Zealand's **greatest athlete Peter Snell** passed away at his Texas home.  
**Note:** **Peter Snell** took the 800 meters at the 1960 Rome Games and won both the 800 and 1,500 metres at the 1964 Tokyo Games. He also won 2 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 1962 in the 880 yards and one mile run in Perth.
  10. Veteran film actor passed away -- **Danny Aiello**.  
**Note:** He was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as pizzeria owner Sal in Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing. He also played Madonna's father in the 1986 video for Papa Don't Preach.
  11. The **legendary Bollywood actress** and a social worker passed away -- **Gita Siddharth**.  
**Note:** The actress was best known for her role as Amina in MS Sathy 's 1973 classic 'Garm Hava'. Gita made her debut in Gulzar's 1972 film, Parichay. Sholay, Trishul, Disco Dancer, are some of the major films done by Gita.
  12. Veteran actor **Dr Shriram Lagoo** passed away at his Pune residence.  
**Note:** Mr. Lagoo acted in more than 100 Hindi and Marathi films in his career and directed twenty plays in Marathi. His roles in Marathi plays such as "Natsamrat" and "Himalayachi Saoli", and films such as "Pinjra" made him popular. Dr Lagoo also wrote a book, an autobiography titled 'Lamaan' (means 'the carrier of goods').
  13. Former Union Minister & Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader passed away in Faridabad -- **I D Swami**.  
**Note:** He served as the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs in 1999 in former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government. He was also two times Lok Sabha member from Karnal (Haryana) in 1966 and 1999.
  14. Renowned Hindustani **Classical vocalist** passed away -- **Vidushi Savita Devi**.  
**Note:** Savita Devi was considered a doyen in the field of classical music field for her mastery on various semi-classical vocal forms, such as thumri, dadra, chaiti, kajri and tappa of the Banaras Gharana (Purabang). She authored a biographical work on her mother, titled "Maa... Siddheshwari" and was the head of the Music Department at Delhi University's Daulat Ram College for many years.
  15. England football World Cup winner passed away -- **Martin Peters**.  
**Note:** Peters was part of the 1966 World Cup-winning side and scored in the final against West Germany. Peters is the fifth member of England's World Cup final team to have died, after captain Bobby Moore, Alan Ball, Ray Wilson and Gordon Banks.
  16. American Song writer **Allee Willis** passed away due to cardiac arrest.  
**Note:** She was best known for composing the "I'll Be There For You", the theme song of the popular sitcom Friends. She has several other hits under her name like Earth, Wind, and Fire, which was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018. She won a Grammy in 1985 for her work on the soundtrack for "Beverly Hills Cop"
  17. The brilliant storyteller of China **Da Chen** passed away.  
**Note:** In his critically acclaimed, best-selling Colours of the Mountain, he recounted the abuses he and his family suffered during the latter years of the country's Cultural Revolution. His book "Colours of the mountain was published in seven languages. His most recent book, Girl Under a Red Moon, was published just three months ago.
  18. Renowned Hindi author **Ganga Prasad Vimal** passed away in a road accident in southern Sri Lanka.  
**Note:** Mr. Vimal wrote more than one dozen poetry collections, short story collections and novels. His last novel, Manushkhor, was published in 2013. He received several Hindi literary awards.
  19. Vishweshwara Theertha Swami of Pejawar mutt passed away in the coastal town of Udupi in **Karnataka**.  
**Note:** Swamiji is the 32nd in the lineage of Pejawar Mutt following Vishvamanya Tirtha. He had established Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha in Bangalore which has completed over 63 years. The Pejavara mutt is one among the 'Ashta' Mutts of Udupi.
  20. Veteran Political cartoonist **Vikas Sabnis** passed away in Mumbai.  
**Note:** Inspired by Bal Thackeray and RK Laxman, he had started his career in 1968. Since then, for over 50 years, Sabnis has worked as a staff cartoonist at various newspapers, including The Times of India and the Mid-day. He made caricatures and political cartoons on various subjects and issues.

### Important Days



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1. World Aids Day is being celebrated every year on -- **1st December**.  
**Note:** The day raise public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This year, the theme is "Communities Make the Difference". The Union Government has developed a seven-year National Strategic Plan from 2017 to 2024 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
2. The **Border Security Force (BSF)** celebrated its **55th formation day on 1st December 2019**.  
**Note:** The ceremony was attended by Union Minister of State Affairs Nityanand Rai at BSF headquarters in New Delhi. India's Border Security Force (First Line of Defence of Indian Territories) was formed on 1st December 1965, after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars. With 186 battalions and over 2.57 lakhs military personnel, the BSF is the largest border security unit in the world.
3. Nagaland state celebrated its 57th formation day on **1st December 2019**.  
**Note:** On 1st December 1963, Nagaland became the 16th state of India. The Hornbill Festival (Festival of Festivals) is a celebration held every year from 1 to 10 December, in Nagaland, Northeast India.
4. The **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** organized every year on --- **2nd December**.  
**Note:** The Day was first celebrated in 1986. International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce the achievements of humanity.
5. **National Pollution Control Day (NPCD)** is observed every year on --- **2nd December (India)**.  
**Note:** The main objective is to make people aware, spread awareness in the industries that cause various pollution like water, air, soil, noise and affect the environment and obviously health.
6. **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** is observed every year on --- **3rd of December**.  
**Note:** The theme for this year is 'Promoting the Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their leadership: Taking Action on the 2030 Development Agenda. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an international observance promoted by the United Nations (UN) since 1992.
7. The **Indian Navy day** is being observed every year on -- 4th December  
**Note:** Admiral Karambir Singh is the current Chief of the Naval Staff. The Navy day is celebrated to honour the courageous attack on the Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pakistan war (on 4th December 1971) by the Indian Naval Missile boats as well as to reverence all the martyrs of that war.
8. World Soil Day is being observed every year on --- **5th December**.  
**Note:** The theme for 2019 World Soil Day is 'Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future'.
9. The **International Volunteer Day (IVD)** being observed every year on -- **5th December**.  
**Note:** The theme of IVD 2019 is 'Volunteer for an inclusive future'. Volunteering provides opportunities for people, particularly those often excluded, to concretely impact their own lives and play a constructive role in their communities by volunteering their time and skills.
10. The **Armed Forces Flag Day (Flag Day of India)** is being observed annually in India on -- **7th December**.  
**Note:** The objective of the day honours the martyrs as well as men and women in uniform, who valiantly fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.
11. International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is being observed annually on -- **9th December**.  
**Note:** This year International Anti-Corruption Day theme is "United Against Corruption". Every year USD 1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated USD 2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) had designated 9th December as International Anti-Corruption Day by passing resolution 58/4 of October 31, 2003.
12. The **United Nations General Assembly** established as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime -- **9th December**.  
**Note:** This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Convention. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in combating and preventing the crime of genocide, as defined in the Convention, and to commemorate and honour its victims
13. The **World Human Rights Day** is celebrated annually across the world on **10 December**.  
**Note:** The theme for 2019 Human Rights Day is 'Youth Standing Up for Human Rights'. This year "Stand Up for Human rights," aim to celebrate the potential of youth as constructive agents of change, amplify their voices, and engage a broad range of global audiences in the promotion and protection of rights.
14. **International Mountain Day** is being observed every year on **11th December**.  
**Note:** The theme for IMD-2019 is "Mountains Matter for Youth". As per the United Nations, mountains are home to 15% of the world's population and a quarter of the world's animals and plants.
15. International **Universal Health Coverage Day** is being celebrated globally on **12th December**.  
**Note:** The Objective of the day is to raise awareness of the need for strong & resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners. The theme for the 2019 UHC Day is "Keep the promise".
16. International Day of Neutrality is a **United Nations** observance held every year on **12th December**.  
**Note:** In international law, a neutral country is a sovereign state that abstains from all participation in a



war between other states and maintains an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents. It was officially declared by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in February 2017 and first observed on December 12 of the same year.

17. **Nation pays tributes** to martyrs of 2001 Parliament terror attacks -- **13th December**.  
**Note:** On this day (13 December 2001), two persons from the Parliament Security Service of the Rajya Sabha, five Delhi Police Personnel and a woman constable of the
19. The International Tea Day is observed annually on **15th December**.  
**Note:** India is the second-largest producer of tea in the World after China. The day has been celebrated since 2005 in tea producing countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda and Tanzania.
20. Vijay Diwas is commemorated every in India on **16th December**.  
**Note:** On 16th December 1971, Lieutenant General AAK Niazi (chief of Pakistani forces), along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered to the allied forces, comprising the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini. Bangladesh is also celebrating its Victory Day.
21. The UN's **International Migration Day (IMD)** is being observed every year on **18th December**.  
**Note:** The International Organization for Migration salutes migrants and the communities they join, the communities they remake through their mutual effort. In Dec 2000, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 18 Dec as International Migrants Day after considering the large and increasing number of migrants in the world
22. Goa celebrated its 58th Liberation Day on **19th December**.  
**Note:** The state was liberated on this day (19th December) in 1961 from Portuguese control after almost 450 years of colonial rule. Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the Konkan in Western India,

Central Reserve Police Force, laid down their lives while preventing the entry of terrorists inside the Parliament House Building.

18. The **National energy conservation day** is celebrated every year on -- **14th December**.  
**Note:** The objective of the day to aware people about the importance of energy as well as saving or conserving more energy by using less energy. The Energy Conservation Act in India was executed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in the year 2001. bounded by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its Western coast.
23. The UN's International Human Solidarity Day is annually held on **20th December**.  
**Note:** The Day aims to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity and encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication. The United Nations General Assembly established the World Solidarity Fund on 20th December 2002 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.
24. The **National Mathematics Day** is being observed every year on **22nd December**.  
**Note:** Ramanujan Prime and Ramanujan theta discoveries have inspired further research on this mathematical subject. He passed away on 6th April 1920.
25. Good Governance Day is being observed in India annually on **25th December**.  
**Note:** The day mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honour former Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government. The Index was launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, and the Centre for Good Governance.

### New Appointments

1. **Soma Roy Burman** took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).  
**Note:** Soma Roy Burman (1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service officer) is the 24th CGA and the 7th woman to hold this coveted position. She took over from J P S Chawla. CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
2. **H R Khan** has been appointed as the **first chairman** of the **steering committee** of the **Code for Responsible Lending (CRL)** in micro-credit.  
**Note:** The CRL is a self-regulatory step for the micro-credit industry making diverse entities like banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFCs adhere to standards of customer protection. CRL was launched in September by MFIN and Sa-Dhan (RBI-recognised association of MFIs) along with Finance Industry Development Council, an association of NBFCs.
3. Congress leader **Nana Patole** has been elected as the Speaker of **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly**.  
**Note:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate **Kisan Kathore** withdrew his nomination. Maharashtra BJP legislature party leader Devendra Fadnavis was named Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly.
4. **Ursula von der Leyen** took charge as the **first female President** of the European Commission (EC).



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- Note:** Von der Leyen served in the federal government of Germany (from 2005 to 2019) as the longest-serving member of Angela Merkel's cabinet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Ursula von der Leyen. Ms Leyen invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Brussels for the next India-EU Summit.
5. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has unanimously elected new President -- **Masatsugu Asakawa**.  
**Note:** Currently, he is the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Masatsugu Asakawa will succeed Takehiko Nakao. Mr. Asakawa will assume office as ADB's 10th President on 17th January 2020.
  6. **India's Sub Lieutenant** has created history to become the first woman pilot of the Indian Navy -- **Shivangi**.  
**Note:** Shivangi was inducted into the Indian Navy under the Short Service Commission Pilot entry scheme. She was commissioned into the Navy in June 2018.
  7. **Shri Hari Mohan** has been appointed as the **Director-General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and chairman of the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**.  
**Note:** He has made significant contributions in improving the production of Armoured Fighting Vehicles like Ajeya Tanks, MBT Arjun, Bridge Layer and Trawls Tanks. He has also made a significant contribution to the modernisation of steel plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during his tenure in Ministry of Steel & Mines.
  8. Indian American business executive promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO (chief executive officer) -- **Sundar Pichai**.  
**Note:** Sundar Pichai will replace Larry Page. Earlier, Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet. Alphabet and Google no longer need two CEOs and a President and Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.
  9. **Pritivirajsing Roopun** has been elected as **new President** of Mauritius by parliament.  
**Note:** He was the former arts and culture minister of Mauritius. The motion for his election as new President was presented by Prime Minister, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity.
  10. **Senior diplomat** has been concurrently accredited as the next **Ambassador of India** to the Republic of Costa Rica - **Upender Singh Rawat**.  
**Note:** Presently Mr Rawat is Ambassador of India to the Republic of Panama. Shri Anjani Kumar (IFS:2003) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.
  11. **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**.  
**Note:** The appointment comes within weeks of him joining the NSE board as a public interest director. Mr. Girish also serves as non-executive chairman of ICICI Bank. The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) (established in 1992) is the leading stock exchange of India, located in Mumbai.
  12. Finland's ruling Social Democrats elected as the prime minister (youngest head of govt in the country's history) - **Sanna Marin (34-years)**.  
**Note:** Marin will become the world's youngest sitting prime minister. The prime minister is Finland's head of government and is formally appointed by the president.
  13. The **News Broadcasters Federation (NBF)** has elected President of its governing board -- **Arnab Goswami**.  
**Note:** The NBF is the body of over 78 news channels (14 languages) of India, representing broadcasters from 25 states. The new self-regulatory organization in order to bring in transparent self-regulation on content will be announced by the end of January 2020.
  14. **C. Sugandh Rajaram** has been appointed as the next **High Commissioner of India** to the Republic of Ghana.  
**Note:** He will replace Birender Singh Yadav. Presently, Sugandh Rajaram is the Consul General, Consulate General of India to Southern Germany.
  15. **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya** has been appointed as the chairman of the country's largest commercial enterprise **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**.  
**Note:** Mr. Vaidya will replace Sanjiv Singh who retires as Chairman of the company at the end of June next year. Mr. Vaidya is at present the director of Refineries at the IOCL. Mr. Vaidya will be first screened by anti-corruption bodies CVC and CBI before his candidature is put before the Cabinet Committee on Appointments headed by Prime Minister for approval.
  16. **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** elected as the President of Algeria.  
**Note:** Mr. Tebboune succeeded Abdelkader Bensalah. He served as the Prime Minister from May 2017 to August 2017, under the governance of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.
  17. **Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane** will be the next Chief of Army Staff (28th) of the Indian Army.  
**Note:** Lt Gen Naravane will succeed Gen Bipin Rawat, who will retire on the 31st December this year. Naravane was commissioned into the 7th battalion, the Sikh Light



Infantry Regiment in June 1980. During his career, he has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (2019), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2017), Sena Medal and Vishist Seva Medal (2015) for his service and the CoAS commendation card. The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is the professional head, commander, and usually the highest-ranking military officer of the Indian Army.

**18. Sridhar Patra** has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of NALCO.

**Note:** Currently, Mr Patra is posted as Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Navratna group 'A' CPSE having integrated and diversified operations in mining, metal and power under Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

**19.** The Telangana government has appointed former High Court judge as Lokayukta -- **Justice C V Ramulu.**

**Note:** Governor Tamilisai Sounderarajan has issued the orders to this effect. The governor also appointed another former judge Justice G Chandraiah as Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission. This is the first time that the state government has constituted the Lokayukta and Human Rights Commission since the state was formed in 2014

**20. Devesh Srivastava** has been appointed Chairman and MD of national reinsurer General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re).

**Note:** Srivastava succeeds Alice Vaidyan, who retired in July 2019, since then the GIC Re was functioning without a full-time chief. Until his appointment, Srivastava handled the departments of HR, worldwide reinsurance, health and innovation center at GIC Re. The government has also appointed Malay Kumar Poddar as Chairman and MD of Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India.

**21. Atul Karwal** has been appointed as the Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad

**Note:**

**Note:** The proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for his appointment has been approved by the cabinet committee of appointment

**22.** Indian American computer scientist to lead the prestigious National Science Foundation -- **Sethuraman Panchanathan**

**Note:** The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is a US government agency that supports fundamental research and education in all the non-medical fields of science and engineering. Its medical counterpart is the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan brings to this position a wealth of experience in research,

innovation, academic administration, and policy as exemplified by his long and distinguished career.

**23. Manuel Marrero Cruz** was named the first prime minister of Cuba in more than 40 years.

**Note:** In Cuba, the post of PM was abolished in 1976 when Fidel Castro became president. It was reinstated under the rules of a new constitution for the communist-run island passed earlier this year. Marrero, who has served as tourism minister for 16 years and is an architect by trade, helped boost Cuba's economy by making tourism one of the

**24. Harsh Vardhan Shringla** has been appointed as new **foreign secretary** of India.

**Note:** At present, he is an ambassador to the United States and will become the 33rd Foreign Secretary of the country. He will replace Vijay Gokhale whose term will be completed on January 28, 2020.

**25. Dr. Sangita Reddy** has taken over as the President of the industry chamber FICCI for 2019-20.

**Note:** She replaced Sandip Somany, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, HSIL. The Walt Disney Company APAC President and Star & Disney India Chairman Uday Shankar has been elevated as Senior Vice-President of the chamber.

**26. Dr. Monisha Ghosh** has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the US government's powerful Federal Communications Commission.

**Note:** She will advise Indian American Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues and work closely with the Office of Engineering and Technology. Ghosh will take charge on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and replace Dr. Eric Burger.

**27.** Boeing CEO has stepped down as the company is facing tough period following two fatal crashes -- **Dennis Muilenburg.**

**Note:** Muilenburg will be replaced by **Chairman David Calhoun** (from 13th January 2020). Muilenburg became the CEO of the **world's largest aerospace company** in July 2015. The company's best-selling commercial jet was grounded worldwide in March 2019 after two fatal crashes killed 346 people. The Boeing Company is an American multinational corporation that designs, manufactures, and sells airplanes, rotorcraft, rockets, satellites, telecommunications equipment, and missiles worldwide.

**28.** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader took oath as the 11th Chief Minister of the state -- **Hemant Soren.**



**Note:** Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Mr Soren at Morhabadi grounds in Ranchi. Earlier, Hemant Soren had served as the 5th Chief Minister of Jharkhand (13 July 2013 – 28

December 2014). In the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, JMM-Congress-RJD alliance has won 47 seats in the recently concluded Assembly elections and BJP - 25 seats.

### Important News – India

1. The **Union Government** has launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0** across the country. **Note:** The government's flagship scheme is aimed at immunizing children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women against eight vaccine-preventable diseases. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) covers vaccines for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B. Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and Hemophilus influenzae are also being provided in selected areas. The IMI 2.0 aims to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts spread over 27 States between December 2019 and March 2020.
2. **India** has become the **first country** to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital. **Note:** This came after the minister signed the bilateral agreement for the pilgrimage with the Saudi Haj Minister in Jeddah. The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims.
3. India-Sri Lanka joint exercise "MITRA SHAKTI" (7th edition) begins at Aundh Military Station **Pune**. **Note:** It aims to build and promote positive relations between armies of both the countries focusing subunit level training on counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in the urban and rural environment. It is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of two nations.
4. English author Tony Joseph has won the 12th 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize' for his book, --- **Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From**. **Note:** The book tells the tale of the **people of South Asia** through research in six disciplines, including path-breaking new DNA evidence. The award was instituted in 2008 and it carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh along with a trophy. Last year, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla for her *Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family And The Making Of Modern India*.
5. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has revamped mobile number portability (MNP) rules, making the entire process faster and simpler. **Note:** The TRAI has prescribed three working days timeline for port out requests within a service area. Similarly, the timeline of five working days has been prescribed for requests for port out from one circle to another. The validity of the Unique Porting Code (UPC) has also been brought down to four days instead of a fortnight earlier.
6. The Union Government has launched the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme --- **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)**. **Note:** The focus in this round will be North East Region, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Islands. The Civil Aviation Ministry aims to operationalize one thousand routes and more than 100 airports in the next five years.
7. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the -- **Bharatiya Poshan Anthem**. **Note:** The anthem has been conceptualised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It has been written by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.
8. India and Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in --- **New Delhi**. **Note:** The objective of the innovation Centre is to develop an ecosystem of open innovation to which start-ups and the healthcare delivery stakeholders can use to collaborate and address current and future challenges in the healthcare sector. 22 new AIIMS soon to become fully operational, and 157 new Medical Colleges are at the development stage.
9. The **Mumbai Central station of Railways** was conferred with the '**Eat Right Station**' certification with **four stars** rating by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**. **Note:** The Mumbai Central Railway Station is the country's first "Eat Right Station." The focus of the movement is on improving the health and well-being of people by ensuring they eat healthily. 'Eat Right India' movement is built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.
10. India's **first maritime museum** coming up at **Lothal, Gujarat**. **Note:** Government of India (GoI) & Portugal has decided to cooperate in the setting up of an India's 1st National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal in Gujarat. The objective of the museum to boost the underwater or marine archaeology.
11. India gifted a '**Made in India**' Patrol Vessel to the **Maldive National Defence Force (MNDF)** -- **KAAMIYAAB**. **Note:** It will be net security provider in the region amid China's increasing forays in the Indian Ocean Region. Meanwhile, 2500 LED streetlights donated by India were installed in Male recently. These streetlights save 80%



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- energy and will result in cost savings of approx. 8.35 lakh MVR per year for Male city.
12. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set-up a **Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)** at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) -- **Tiruchirappalli**.  
**Note:** The centre will work with ISRO on the technical problems at hand related to the future Space programmes and shall provide solutions. This S-TIC will cater to the southern region of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana, the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
  13. A 3-day annual **national conference** of DGPs and IGPs held in -- **Pune**.  
**Note:** The conference is to be held at two venues - Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research in Baner and the Centre for Police Research in Pashan.
  14. The Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the **3<sup>rd</sup> edition of National Public Procurement Conclave** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The two-day conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry. GeM rests on the three pillars of openness, fairness and inclusiveness and is a symbol of a truly transparent e-marketplace.
  15. India's first Ganga centralized aqua lab at **Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** The aqua labs will be set up under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Tributaries of river Ganga such as Gomti, Betwa, Kosi will be scientifically studied and their biological components will be preserved in the lab.
  16. **India-China joint training exercise** has begun at Umroi, Meghalaya ---**HAND-IN-HAND 2019**.  
**Note:** The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain. The theme of the exercise is 'counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate'. It is a 14-day-long training exercise and will see the participation of around 260 military personals
  17. Election Commission Set to implement '**Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System**' from -- **January 2020**.  
**Note:** The Election Commission of India has decided to implement the "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS) to help the applicants, applying for party registration, to track the progress of his /her application. The new guidelines will be effective from 1 January 2020.
  18. Human Library event held in **Mysuru**.  
**Note:** In Karnataka, Human Library, a concept which seeks to replace books with humans, will be held in the City of Palaces, Mysuru. The notion of Human Library was initially launched in the year 2000 and currently exists in more than 85 countries, known as The Human Library Organization.
  19. The ISRO has launched its radar imaging earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR1 and nine foreign satellites through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C48) from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:** PSLV-C48 (50th mission of PSLV) carried nine customer satellites of Israel (1), Italy(1), Japan (1) and USA(6) as co-passengers. RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 628 kg, mission life of 5 years.
  20. These international satellites launched under a commercial arrangement with New Space India Limited. **Union Government** has allowed girls' education in all **Sainik School (phased manner)**.  
**Note:** These 5 schools are Kalikiri (Andhra Pradesh), Kodagu (Karnataka), Ghorakhal (Uttarakhand), Chandrapur (Maharashtra) and Bijapur (Karnataka). The co-educational policy adopted on a pilot-basis at Sainik School in Mizoram and now is being implemented across the country.
  21. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) passed by the **Rajya Sabha**.  
**Note:** As many as 125 lawmakers voted in the favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and 99 against it. Now, The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will go to the President for his assent. Earlier, the citizenship bill passed by the Lok Sabha with a majority of 311 votes against 80.
  22. 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue, Delhi Dialogue XI started in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** External Affairs Ministry is hosting the 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue and Delhi Dialogue XI at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi. For the first time, these two dialogues held consecutively and on similar Indo-Pacific themes. The theme of 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue is "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography".
  23. **Saudi Aramco** has secured its position as the **most valuable listed** company in history.  
**Note:** The world's biggest contributor to the climate crisis had been valued at more than Apple and Facebook – previously the world's most valuable and fifth-most valuable companies respectively – combined. It is also twice the size of Amazon and Google's parent company, and bigger than the next five listed oil companies put together.
  24. The **Archeological Survey of India (ASI)** has identified **138 monuments** in the country as **must-see**.  
**Note:** Those interested can see the complete list on the "must-see" portal, 'asimustsee.nic.in' of the ASI. The "Must See" list features a number of outstanding Indian monuments and archaeological sites, under the protection of the ASI, including some UNESCO World Heritage Sites as well. There are 38 World Heritage Sites in India (out of which 22 cultural sites) including monuments and caves are under ASI protection.



- 25. Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation** Chairman Ehsan Elahi has inaugurated the trial run on **Dhaka-Gangtok & Dhaka-Darjeeling bus routes**.  
**Note:** Two buses with about 35 passengers including officials of the Road Transport department left Dhaka in the evening. Darjeeling via Siliguri is around 450km and Gangtok about 500km away from Dhaka. Currently, buses operate on five cross-border routes between Bangladesh and India -- Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka, Dhaka-Agartala-Dhaka, Dhaka-Sylhet-Shillong-Guwahati-Dhaka, Agartala-Dhaka-Kolkata-Agartala and Dhaka-Khulna-Kolkata-Dhaka.
- 26. The bilateral military** exercise between **India and Russia** held in Pune and Goa '**INDRA 2019**'.  
**Note:** This military exercise is being held under the aegis of the United Nations (UN) aimed at combating terrorism and insurgency. The objective of this exercise is to enhance the coordination of the two armies in maintaining peace and security under the aegis of the United Nations.
- 27. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** works for setting up a **third rocket launchpad** in the small coastal hamlet of Kulashekhrapattinam in **Thuthukudi, Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** The District Administration has appointed a Special Tehsildar along with eight more Tahsildars to speed up the process of land acquisition for the centre. At present, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has two launch pads at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- 28. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and Nasscom Foundation** have signed an MoU to develop a technology platform to prevent food wastage and encouraging food donation by developing an app for the purpose.  
**Note:** They will develop a common 24×7 helpline number and a mobile application 'Food Donation in India' to donate food to the needy. It will help in facilitating the registration of surplus food distribution organisations.
- 29. Maldives government** has signed a contract with a joint venture of **Indian companies** for preparation of project report and development of **Addu**.  
**Note:** The contract was signed by L&T engineering limited & Lea associates south Asia for the Addu Road and Reclamation Project. The scope of the project includes land reclamation, construction of roads and stormwater drainage system in Addu.
- 30. India** will host the **36th International Geological Congress** in March 2020.  
**Note:** The theme of this conference is 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for Sustainable Development'. The IGCs are prestigious global geoscientific events held once every four years and participated by around 5,000-6,000 geoscientists from across the world. India is the only Asian country to host the event twice.
- 31. The World Design Organization (WDO)** will launch its new global programme World Design Protopolis in **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** It aims at implementing holistic progress in megacities across the world and making them sustainable. The project aims to measure the progress of the city, attract investments and solve problems so that the city becomes a better place for the citizens.
- 32. Ministry of Coal** has decided to establish a **Sustainable Development Cell (SDC)** in order to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in the country.  
**Note:** It will also address the environmental concerns during the decommissioning or closure of mines. The SDC will advise, mentor, plan and monitor the mitigation measures taken by the coal companies for maximising the utilisation of available resources in a sustainable way.
- 33. The Union Government** has extended the deadline of its flagship scheme **AMRUT** by two more years.  
**Note:** In 2015, PM Modi has launched AMRUT mission, promising 139 lakh water connections and 145 lakh sewer connections by March 2020. In the last five years, 2,316 projects have been completed so far at an expense of Rs 7,195 crore. The expenditure of the mission was estimated as Rs 77,640 crores. With the help of the AMRUT scheme, the centre formulates city level estimation of budget required to avail water supply, draining system, sewerages, digital and internet facilities, industrial and transport facilities, etc
- 34. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** has started laser fencing along the Indo-Nepal border.  
**Note:** The objective of the laser fencing is to prevent third-party nationals from entering without permission. The SSB is deployed to guard the 2450-km-long border with Nepal and Bhutan. According to K Rajesh Chandra (SSB Director General), cases of unauthorized entry of Third-Party Nationals have increased this year as compared to previous years.
- 35. Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched Phase-III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Phase-III of PMGSY aims at consolidation of 1 lakh 25 thousand Kilometers through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals with an estimated cost of 80 thousand 250 crore rupees for the period 2019-20 to 2024-25. The Central Share will be 53 thousand 800 crore rupees.
- 36. The National Conference** on 'Uniformed Women in Prisons Administration' (second edition) has been organized in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The conference is being held in collaboration of **Madhya Pradesh Jail Department** and BPR& D, New Delhi. The uniformed women police and employees from the post of Jail Warden to Inspector General Level of various states, members of non-government organisations, representatives of academic institutions and officers of other government departments are



- participating in the conference. The first conference was held in Delhi in 2017
37. An upgraded version of India's indigenously developed Pinaka guided rocket system was successfully test-fired from a base on **Odisha coast**.  
**Note:** The multi-barrel rocket launch system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will boost the Army's artillery power. The weapon system, mounted on a Tatra truck, is equipped with a state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising an advanced navigation and control system. The sophisticated system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for the Mark-II variant and can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds
38. Ministry of Defence hold the ARTECH seminar in **New Delhi**  
**Note:** ARTEC is Army Technology Seminar that is being held since 2016. The fifth edition of ARTEC is to be organized by the Indian Army under the Ministry of Defence on "Technologies for Non-contact Warfare". The seminar was launched as a part of the "Make in India" campaign. It is a flagship event of the Indian Army that focuses on harvesting indigenous
39. Indian chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has launched his autobiography -- **Mind Master**.  
**Note:** Autobiography 'Mind Master' is co-authored by sports journalist Susan Ninann and published by THG Publishing Private Limited. The book covers wonderful memories of Viswanathan Anand's journey.
40. **Government e-commerce portal (GeM)** has launched a national outreach programme '**GeM Samvaad**' to bring on-board more **local sellers**.  
**Note:** The outreach programme will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace. The programme will take place from tomorrow to 17th February next year and will cover all the States and Union Territories of the country. GeM has more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services, more than 3 lakh registered sellers and service providers and more than 40 thousand government buyer organizations
41. The **Govt. of India** has constructed Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School -- **Kirtipur**.  
**Note:** The hostel was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar at Kirtipur in Kathmandu district. **Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School** is an academic institution created under the APF Welfare Service Centre of Nepal Armed Police Force. The school was established in 2005 and it has over 21 percent of girls' students.
42. The Vice President of India **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** has released the book -- **Turbulence and Triumph – The Modi Years**.
- Note:** The book was written by Rahul Agarwal and Bharti S Pradhan and is published by Om Books International. It is a pictorial book which traces the journey of Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy from Vadnagar in Gujarat to New Delhi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg as the 14th prime minister of India.
43. India and Iran chaired the 19th **Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Tehran**.  
**Note:** They were agreed to accelerate work on the Chabahar project while reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations. During the visit, the External Affairs Minister is expected to meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. In 2018, Iran and India had signed an agreement worth \$85 million to develop the Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran.
44. President **Ram Nath Kovind** has released the mobile app of the **Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** He has inaugurated the mobile app formally at a dinner hosted by Telangana governor Tamilsai Sounderarajan at Rajbhavan in his honour. Developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance in less than three months, the mobile app is accessible in all languages.
45. K VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India has launched an EChO Network.  
**Note:** It is a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment. EChO Network would develop a national network to catalyze a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology.
46. India successfully test-fired its Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from a base off **of Odisha coast**.  
**Note:** The missile system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is likely to be inducted into the armed forces by 2021. The QRSAM weapon system, which operates on the move, comprises a fully automated command and control, active array battery surveillance radar, active array battery multifunction radar and launcher. With this mission, the developmental trials of the weapon system have been successfully completed and it is expected to be ready for induction by 2021.
47. The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** conducted a two-day regional level **pollution response exercise** at sea off Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch -- **Swachhh Samundra NW-2019**.  
**Note:** The exercise was conducted to validate and reinforce the **response mechanism** for oil pollution incidents and enable the Indian Coast Guard to fine-tune the actions required in such eventualities. The exercise was conducted in two phases. During phase one a tabletop exercise simulating oil spill from a tanker was



- conducted While a real-time demonstration of the oil spill scenario was conducted during the second phase of the exercise.
48. As per the report compiled by the US National Science Foundation (NSF), Who has emerged as the world's third-largest publisher of science and engineering articles -- **India**.  
**Note:** China, which accounts for 20.67 percent of all global publications in scientific articles, is at the top position, followed by the US at 16.54 percent. As per the report in 2008, India published 48,998 science and engineering articles. This increased to 1,35,788 articles in 2018 and the country now accounts for 5.31 percent of the total world publications in science and engineering.
49. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched Atal Bhujal Yojana in an event held in New Delhi.  
**Note:** ATAL JAL scheme has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioural changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in seven States (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh). ATAL JAL will promote panchayat led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these States
50. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** named **Rohtang passageway** in Himachal Pradesh as -- **Atal Tunnel**.  
**Note:** The strategic Atal tunnel will change the fortunes of this region and will help in promoting tourism in the region. The 8.8-kilometre-long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres. After completion of the tunnel, it will provide all-weather connectivity to remote areas of Lahaul and Spiti Valley and reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 Kilometres.
51. Railway station in Mumbai has been conferred with 'Eat Right Station' certification with the five-star rating by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for food safety and hygiene -- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)**  
**Note:** The CSMT is the first station on the Central Railway to get this certification. The CSMT has been judged on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, availability of healthy diet, food handling at preparation, food waste management, promotion of local and seasonal food and creating awareness on food safety and healthy diet. 'Eat Right Station' initiative is a part of the 'Eat Right India' movement launched by FSSAI and an FMCG major which is aimed at promoting food safety and hygiene at the static catering units at railway stations.
52. India's first long-distance Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) bus fitted with CNG cylinders at a function in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It can travel around one thousand kilometers in a single fill. The first long-range interstate CNG bus will play from Delhi to Dehradun. Mahindra & Mahindra along with Agility Fuel Solutions of USA have partnered with IGL for introducing the new concept of lightweight Type IV composite cylinders in buses.
53. Indian Railways has unveiled 'Him Darshan Express' comprising all-new Vistadome coaches from **Kalka railway station to Shimla**.  
**Note:** This special train will commute between the **Kalka and Shimla station** for the next year till December 24, 2020. Modified in carriage and wagon depot at Kalka, this is a **first-of-its-kind train** on the Kalka-Shimla route. The train will have seven coaches including one first-class sitting cum **luggage room coach** (FCZLR) and six first-class AC Vistadome coaches. **Him Darshan Express** will be the first-ever train with Vistadome coaches by the Indian Railways that will run on a regular basis.
54. The **Human Resource Development** Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched the five documents developed by **University Grants Commission**.  
**Note:** These five documents cover evaluation reforms, eco-friendly and sustainable university campuses, human values and professional ethics, faculty induction and academic research integrity. On the occasion, the HRD Minister also mentioned SATAT and MulyaPravah, both frameworks of the UGC.
55. The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the second edition of the 'Eat Right Mela' in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The 'Eat Right Mela' is an effort to encourage citizens on having a healthy diet and reduce the disease burden in the country. The theme of the event is 'Healthier Diets'. Organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and National Association of Street Vendors of India, the Eat Right Mela is a commendable effort and outreach activity for citizens to nudge them towards eating right. The first 'Eat Right Mela' was launched in New Delhi in December 2018.
56. The book titled "Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games" is written by **Boria Majumdar & Nalin Mehta**.  
**Note:** This book will describe India's journey in the global sports arena of Olympics – the wins, the misses, the star sportspersons, their stories, and the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead of India to make its mark at the mega sporting event in Tokyo in 2020.
57. India's **ophthalmologist** has conferred with American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) highest award Life Achievement -- **Dr Santosh G Honavar**.  
**Note:** American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is the world's largest association of eye specialists.
58. Noted Economist and Political Analyst has released a book titled Politics of Opportunism -- **S Gurumurthy**.  
**Note:** The book was written by R P N Singh which throws light on the subject related to the rise of regional parties and Centre -States relation. On the occasion, Mr



Gurumurthy shared his views on the politics of opportunism. Citizenship Amendment Act grants citizenship to the minority communities who have faced

religious persecution in three neighbouring countries and came to India.

### Important News – State

1. Nagaland Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** has inaugurated the **Multi-Media Exhibition** at World War II museum --- **Kisama**.  
**Note:** For the first time in the history of Hornbill festival, Bureau of Outreach & Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is organising a Multi-Media Exhibition commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. A three-day Bharatnatyam dance festival with live Carnatic music ensemble held at Chhayanaut auditorium **Rongarpon**.  
**Note:** It has been Organized by Kolpotoru, artistes Shudha Srimoyee Das, Shammy Akter and Zuairiyah Mouli will be presenting their solo recitals respectively on December 2, 3 and 4. Musicians are coming all the way from Bangalore, India for this festival. These dancers have performed in various dance festivals in Bangladesh, India and abroad.
3. The **Union government and Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed the **206-million-dollar** loan agreement to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of --- **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** The project will target four cities namely Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Vellore, and Madurai for developing sewage collection and treatment and drainage systems. It will also strengthen the capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery. The project will improve the lives of the urban people in the State by providing universal access to water supply and sanitation.
4. Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has inaugurated the first-ever **North East Food Show** at **Polo Grounds, Shillong**.  
**Note:** The food show will provide a strong platform and network to different stakeholders. There are different technologies and products relating to the food industry which people are not aware of, and the show will serve as the bridge to connect with one another. It will also be an opportunity for these majors to source products not available anywhere else and to introduce their products to the region
5. Union Minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** has inaugurated **Avantee mega Food Park** in **Dewas, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** This first food park of central India is spread over 51 acres and has been constructed at a cost of about 150 crore rupees. About 5 thousand local people will get employment from this Mega Food Park. Processing of soyabean, gram, wheat and other grains and vegetables will be done in the park. Warehouses will also be opened in Indore, Ujjain, Dhar and Agar in the next phases.
6. Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** has launched **e-learning mobile app** for school students '**Madhu**'.  
**Note:** It is an e-learning mobile phone application which will help school students to understand their subjects in a better and most efficient way. Through this app, the students will be able to access the video explanation of the topics they were taught in their classroom. The app is named after 'Utkal Gourab' Madhusudan Das, developed by Ganjam district administration.
7. The Startup **India Global Venture Capital Summit-2019** (2nd edition) held in **Goa**.  
**Note:** The theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 'India Opportunity: Investing in tomorrow together'. The event will be organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in partnership with Government of Goa. The key objectives of the Summit are to show India's opportunity in the sectors of E-Mobility, FinTech, MedTech, Enterprise Software, EdTech, Genomics and Lifesciences.
8. President **Ram Nath Kovind** laid the foundation stone to the memorial being built in memory of the **Paika rebellion**.  
**Note:** Paika rebellion is a 200-year-old armed revolt in 1817 against the British East India Company in Odisha. The memorial is seen as an epitome of Odisha's valour and will serve as an inspiration for the youth. The Paika Rebellion memorial which will come up in 10 acres of land will be a source of inspiration for the youths and generations to come
9. **Assam** has formed a squad to **tackle human-wildlife conflicts** in the state.  
**Note:** The squad would be stationed at 15 major human-wildlife conflict districts in order to mitigate the problem and to ensure the safety of both humans and wildlife. Currently, The squads will be equipped with 150 numbers of 12 bore pump action guns, 15,000 rounds of rubber bullets and other essential items.
10. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched a scheme at his camp office at Tadepalli -- **YSR Law Nestham Scheme**.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, a stipend of Rs 5,000 has been credited in the accounts of beneficiary junior lawyers with the click of a button. Lawyers thanked the Chief Minister for granting Rs 100 crore to Lawyers' Welfare Fund and for giving a stipend of Rs 5,000 to junior lawyers.
11. The Punjab Cabinet headed by Captain **Amarinder Singh** gave in-principle approval to amend the **Punjab Village Common Land (Regulation) Rules, 1964**,





- Note:** It will create land banks in rural areas to boost industrial development in the city. The Cabinet cleared the proposal to provide special provision for transfer of Shamlat Lands for development of industrial infrastructure projects, to be implemented by Industry Department and Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation.
12. Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has inaugurated Gurgaon's ambitious **Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)**.  
**Note:** The ICCC has been designed to serve as the nodal point for all online data related to the Smart City applications, including CCTV-based public safety and adaptive traffic management system, smart parking system, water supply management system, pollution monitoring, property tax management system and asset management system. It has been developed as the nerve centre to provide multifaceted online smart services to people.
  13. Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** has inaugurated **Imphal to Dimapur** direct flight service at **Imphal Airport**.  
**Note:** The flight service which is being operated by **Alliance Air** would be operational **thrice a week**. This better connectivity would **build deeper connections** among the people of the two states.
  14. Union Minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** has inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** This first food park of central India is spread over **51 acres** and has been constructed at a cost of about **150 crore rupees**. Around **5 thousand local people** will get employment from this Mega Food Park. Processing of soyabean, gram, wheat and other grains and vegetables will be done in the park.
  15. **Kamal Nath** has inaugurated 2nd **Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) All India Sports Competition** at TT Nagar Stadium, Bhopal.  
**Note:** **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** scheme is one of the flagship interventions of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs introduced in 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas. Tribal Folk artists from Madhya Pradesh and other states will perform cultural programmes during the event. As many as 4500 players of 284 Eklavya Schools of 20 states will exhibit their skills in 16 sports disciplines during the competition.
  16. **Anthony Joshua** reclaimed his world heavyweight crown.  
**Note:** Joshua produced a **masterclass performance** to regain his IBF, WBA and WBO titles in emphatic fashion at Ad Diriyah in Saudi Arabia. Dominating from the outset, Joshua won by margins of 118-110 on two scorecards with the third judge making it 119-109.
  17. A three-day National Tribal Dance Festival will be held in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.  
**Note:** Nearly 1,400 artists belonging to 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from six countries including Sri Lanka, Belarus, Uganda and Bangladesh will participate in this tribal folk cultural programme.
  18. The **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** regime has been extended to **Manipur**.  
**Note:** Manipur is the fourth state after Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram where the ILP regime has been made applicable. To visit the ILP-regime states, outsiders, including people from other states of the country, need to take permission. Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
  19. The Puducherry government unveiled a **start-up policy**.  
**Note:** The objective of the policy to create a corpus fund of Rs. 10 crores to support the setting up of start-up incubators and to develop co-working spaces. A startup (or startup) is a company or project initiated by an entrepreneur to seek, effectively develop, and validate a scalable business model.
  20. **Andhra Pradesh** Government has approved the creation of fast-track courts in the state to curb crimes against women and children.  
**Note:** It is proposed to complete the case along with the punishment within 21 days of the registration of the FIR. This decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held on under the chairmanship of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.
  21. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has inaugurated the Virtual Police Station at **Andhra University**.  
**Note:** The Virtual Police Station (as a pilot project) has been set up on the suggestion of Andhra University's Vice-Chancellor to make it easy for students to report their grievances. The initiative is expected to help bridge the gap between students and the police department.
  22. **West Bengal** has been selected for the 1st prize in 100-Day Work Programme for Promoting Livelihoods.  
**Note:** The **Rural Development Ministry** has selected Bankura and Cooch Behar Districts of the state for 1st and 2nd positions among districts in the country in implementation of rural job scheme. The Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also informed that Baburmahal Gram Panchayat of Kulpi in South 24 Parganas District has also bagged the best performance award from the Centre.
  23. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the barcoding system of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) -- **TRAKEA**.  
**Note:** According to Haryana police, it helps to automate the entire procedure, right from the moment when forensic experts collect vital samples from the scene of the crime to conducting an analysis of the samples. Now, Haryana became the first state in the country to introduce this unique barcoding system. The 'TRAKEA' software has been developed by Amit Mishra, a software engineer who was in Bhondsi jail for 13 months imprisoned on the charge of killing his wife



24. Popular classical music festival held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh -- **Tansen Samaroh**.  
**Note:** The five-day festival is celebrated every year in the memory of one of the most eminent singers of Indian history, 'Mian Tansen'. Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas will be honoured with this year's prestigious Tansen Samman. On this occasion, the music-driven platform is used by the musicians and instrumentalists from all over the world to showcase their talent.
25. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has inaugurated the International Film Festival in Shilpkala village of **Khajuraho**.  
**Note:** Films from the country and abroad including Bundelkhandi will be screened at the Tapra Talkies made for the festival. The International Khajuraho Film Festival is being organized by the Prayas Sanstha in collaboration with the State Government. Events like interaction with film stars, film making workshop, mobile film making workshop, plays, programmes for promoting local art and culture, herbal forest fair, animal fair etc. are also organized during the Film Festival.
26. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the three days State-level Orange festival at **Tamenglong (Manipur)**.  
**Note:** The state government under the sponsorship of North Eastern Council organise the festival annually to promote the fruit and encourage its growers. As part of the festival, cultural show, traditional games, orange queen completion, a seminar for growers will be held. Tamenglong district is the largest producer of orange fruit in Manipur.
27. **Odisha Govt. has** launched 'Jalsathi' programme .  
**Note:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Jalsathi' programme and 'JalSathi' App to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state. The Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the women federations in Bhubaneswar for the implementation of the programme.
28. Union Minister Shri **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has released the Braille Edition of the book -- **Exam Warriors**.  
**Note:** The book has been authored by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The braille version (English and Hindi) has been printed by Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh in Jaipur. The book contains a detailed design of the animated picture and various yoga asanas which will let students imagine the pictorial graphics with ease. It will boost the confidence level of these students and help them get success in various competitive exams.
29. The security cover of Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been strengthened with the induction of **OCTOPUS**.  
**Note:** The Organisation for Counter-Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS) is an elite force for counter-terror in the state. A team of 32 members divided into five teams would be part of the security.
30. The 40-day harshest winter period in Kashmir has begun with the upper reaches of the valley -- **Chillai-Kalan**.  
**Note:** These 40 days are when the chances of snowfall are the highest and the maximum temperature drops considerably.
31. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the first **Janta Clinic** in **Malviya Nagar, Jaipur**.  
**Note:** In its first phase, 12 Janta Clinics will be opened in Jaipur where people would get free medicines and free medical examinations in some cases. Later, in the second and third phases of this scheme, Janta Clinics will be opened in other areas.
32. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scheme for handloom weavers -- **YSR Nethanna Nestham**.  
**Note:** This scheme as per his promise made to the handloom weavers during his 3,648 km Praja Sankalpa Yatra. The scheme will benefit 85,000 handloom weaver families in the State. "Under the scheme, Rs 24,000 will be credited directly into the bank accounts of the weavers having own looms every year. The amount will not be adjusted to the old dues of the beneficiary to the bank.
33. **Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express** depicting Odisha's Art and culture flagged off by **Dharmendra Pradhan**.  
**Note:** The train has been draped in high-quality designs on vinyl wrapping showcasing dance forms, archaeological monuments, traditional Pattachitra, and flora and fauna of Odisha. East Coast Railway (ECOR) and National Aluminium Limited Company (NALCO) had signed an agreement in this regard. Mr. Pradhan also launched unreserved train tickets in Odia language, which will be available at 317 stations across the state.
34. The country's first university for the transgender community will be opened in Uttar Pradesh's **Kushinagar district**.  
**Note:** It will facilitate its members to study right from class one to PG and even do research and get a PhD degree. The university is being built by the Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust (All-India transgender education service trust).
35. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has inaugurated the National Tribal Dance Festival in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.  
**Note:** The National Tribal Dance Festival is being organized in Chhattisgarh for the first time. More than 1300 participants from 25 states & UTs of the country and six countries are participating in this three-day dance fest. Nearly 1,400 artists belonging to 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from six countries including Sri Lanka, Belarus, Uganda and Bangladesh will participate in this tribal folk cultural programme
36. Union Territory (UT) is celebrating Losar Festival -- **Ladakh**.  
**Note:** People of various parts of Ladakh region, celebrate Losar on the 1st Day of the Eleventh Month of Tibetan Calendar correlating to a date in the Gregorian calendar. The celebrations continue for three to nine days in different parts of Ladakh. Losar Festival celebrations include making symbolic meals and offerings to God and



- Goddess. This year, it will be joyous Losar festival celebrations in the newly born Union Territory Ladakh.
37. 76th Anniversary of First Flag Hoisting by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at **Port Blair**.  
**Note:** Lt Governor Admiral DK Joshi and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey hoisted the National Flag at Flag Point, Port Blair. Subhash Mela Committee Swarajdweep organised a bike rally and a cultural programme.
38. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to observe the year 2020 as **Susashan Sankalp Varsh**.

- Note:** As a part of this, suggestions and reforms in the field of governance would be invited from people of the State. He dedicated a website would also be prepared on which the people could upload their suggestions.
39. Five-day event 'Mandu Festival' (1st- edition) kicked-off at **Mandu (Madhya Pradesh)**  
**Note:** Mandu Festival' has been organised by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board to dive deep into the rich history of the city. Based on the idea of Khojne Me Kho Jao, the Mandu festival is offering an eclectic mix of performing arts, workshops, nature trails, food, architecture and music to the visitors.

### Important News - World

1. Minister of State for **Human Resource Development Mr Sanjay Dhotre** has inaugurated the **India Pavilion** at International Book Fair in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.  
**Note:** This fair is the biggest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world. India is the 'Guest of Honour Country' in this book fair and it becomes the first Asian country to participate as 'Guest of Honour' in the Fair.
2. **UN Climate Change Conference** (known as COP25) held in the Spanish capital **Madrid**.  
**Note:** COP 25 is an important conference as countries prepare to move from the pre-2020 period under the Kyoto Protocol to the post-2020 period under the Paris Agreement. India's approach will be guided by principles and provisions of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement particularly the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capability (CBDR-RC). India has been leading the world in its pursuit of enhanced solar energy capacity through International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. The leaders of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** mark the **70th birthday** of the organization in **London**.  
**Note:** The summit includes receptions at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street plus a working session at a golf resort in outer London. The twenty -nine members alliance is the world's biggest military alliance.
4. Saudi Arabia has taken over the G20 Presidency from **Japan**.  
**Note:** It is the first Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency. The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continuing the work from Osaka and promoting multilateral consensus." The G20 presidency (Saudi Arabia has taken over from Japan) will host world leaders for a global summit in its capital on 21-22 November in 2020.
5. The **Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF)** was organized in -- **Dhaka**.  
**Note:** The day-long festival screened 15 films on the theme of migration and its various aspects. The short films and documentaries shown during the festival were selected through a global competition for which 600 entries were received. The GMFF started in 2016 and this year it is being organized across many cities in the world between 28 November to 18 December.
6. **Abu Dhabi** has been selected as the **world's leading Sports tourism Destination** at the 26th edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) held in Muscat.  
**Note:** This is the seventh time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award. Abu Dhabi shined as a premium destination once again for **sports tourism in 2019** after hosting some of the world's top sporting events, such as the **FIFA Club World Cup 2017** and **2018**, the first edition of the UAE Tour, the **Special Olympics World Games 2019**, the AFC Asian Cup 2019, the **UFC 242 showdown** and the Brazil vs South Korea international friendly match.
7. A **joint military exercise** between the ground forces of the **UAE and the United States** commenced in **al-Hamra region (UAE) -- Iron Union 12**.  
**Note:** Spanning a few weeks, 'Iron Union 12' will see the two sides take part in joint military cooperation to enhance combat and tactical capabilities. The joint military exercises of the UAE Armed Forces with fraternal and friendly countries takes place in a manner consistent with latest developments and reflects the UAE Armed Forces' determination to stand firmly against all threats and challenges facing the region
8. The Incredible India Road Show held in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** The roadshow by Indian delegation will provide a platform to the stakeholders of India's tourism industry to interact with their Singaporean counterparts. Indian delegation comprises 25 tour operators and destination management companies along with representations from the state governments of Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.
9. **Driverless vehicles** are being tested on 5G technology in the **United Arab Emirates**.  
**Note:** The Director-General of the UAE's TRA (Telecommunications Regulatory Authority) said they will expand 5G network to important sectors such as transport, health and education. According to industry reports, 5G-enabled driverless vehicles will be able to have more efficient and quick communication with each



other and traffic infrastructure, which will help to minimize traffic jams and bottlenecks. 5G technology can also enable these vehicles to identify traffic conditions and potential dangers quickly.

- 10.** The 2019 **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** has been presented at the ongoing COP25 climate summit in **Madrid, Spain**.

**Note:** For the first time, India has emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance. India has been ranked at 9th spot in the index for its Climate Policy performance among 57 countries and the European Union. However, the first three places of the ranking remain unoccupied, Sweden (4th) and Denmark (5th).

- 11.** World's **1st fully electric commercial** aircraft takes an inaugural test flight in **Canada**.

**Note:** The world's first fully **electric commercial aircraft** took its inaugural test flight, in Vancouver, Canada. The technology would mean significant cost savings for airlines, not to mention zero emissions. The range is enough to start the revolution, adding that batteries and electric motors will eventually be developed to power longer flights.

- 12.** The fourth edition of **International Seminar cum Exhibition** on Naval Weapon Systems 'NAVARMS-19' started in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** The two-day event will provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, create awareness and identify emerging prospects for Indian/International defence industry in the domain of Naval Weapon Systems. The theme of this day is to "Make in India - Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives".

- 13.** **Boris Johnson** won the General Elections in the UK.

**Note:** The ruling Conservative party led by **Prime Minister** Boris Johnson is all set to win an overall majority in the snap elections. Conservative Party gets 365 out of 650 seats in the lower House of Commons. In the United Kingdom, 15 Indian-origin politicians have entered the House of Commons in the historic general election.

- 14.** **Switzerland** will be the country partner at the **17th edition of BioAsia2020** scheduled to be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**Note:** The theme of the summit will be "Today For Tomorrow". Switzerland is making innovations in the world of medical healthcare and that many pharmaceutical companies have emerged as the centre of Switzerland.

- 15.** **Amazon** launched 'Audible Suno app' in India with 60 ad-free shows in Hindi and English.

**Note:** Audible Suno is a world-first for Audible and reflects our commitment to creating exceptional entertainment for our Indian customers. On Apple's App Store, these shows are available in the company's existing Audible app. The Audible app comes with a 30-day free trial period after which users will have to pay a monthly subscription fee of Rs 199.

- 16.** **Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC)** has launched India's first corporate bond **exchange-traded fund (ETF)**, called the Bharat Bond ETF.

**Note:** **Bharat Bond ETF** is also the country's largest new fund offer (NFO) ever. Edelweiss AMC will invest in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies and aims to raise up to Rs 15,000 crore through this initiative. **ETF is an initiative** of the Government of India, from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management while Edelweiss AMC is given the mandate to design and manage the product.

- 17.** **Sri Lanka** formally released its new **National policy Framework** meant to guide the government ministries and departments in implementing their policies.

**Note:** The framework titled 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' is aimed at achieving the fourfold outcome of being a productive citizen, a contented family, a virtuous, disciplined and just society and a prosperous nation. The main objective of the National Policy Framework to maintain a 6.5% or higher GDP growth rate under the macroeconomic programme, achieving a per capita income exceeding 6,500 US dollar from 2020 to 2025. The policy mandates to implement a national and international partnership based on principles of priority to national security, friendly and non-aligned foreign policy.

- 18.** **Indian peace keepers** has been recognized for their strong contribution to building peace in conflict-affected South Sudan as well as for going above and beyond their duties to support local communities.

**Note:** Around 850 Indian troops received the United Nations Medal for their dedication and sacrifice serving so far away from home to protect civilians and build durable peace in South Sudan. Currently, 2,342 Indian troops & 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

- 19.** The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** will launch rover 'Mars 2020' in **2020**.

**Note:** The rover builds and managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "Mars 2020" will explore a landscape shaped by water which is the 'Jezero Crater', the site of an ancient delta. 'Mars 2020's arm has the same reach as 'Curiosity's arm. 'Mars 2020's' turret weighs 99 pounds (45 kilograms) more than Curiosity's because it carries larger instruments and a larger drill for coring and has many other changes in the physical design.

- 20.** **Kawasaki Heavy Industries** has launched world's first marine carrier 'Suiso Frontier' transports liquefied hydrogen, in a bid to establish green energy supply chain.

**Note:** By liquefying hydrogen at minus 253 degrees Celsius, the cargo can be compressed to one-800th of its gaseous volume. The carrier will transport to Japan hydrogen produced in Australia from cheap coal, with trial shipments due to begin before March 2021.

- 21.** **Donald Trump** has become the third US President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives.



- Note:** The House voted the President on two charges: one that he abused his power and other that he had obstructed Congress. The issue will now pass to the US Senate, which will hold a trial on whether to convict and remove Mr Trump from the office next month. Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were other two former Presidents who had been impeached.
- 22. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** has become the first country to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) pursuant to the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.  
**Note:** It has been recognized formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health Afghanistan. It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopoeia in the laboratory of medicines and health product quality. With this, a new beginning has been made and Afghanistan has become the first country to recognize IP pursuant to the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- 23. Ecuador** has declared an emergency to contain the **environmental impact** of a fuel spill in the Galapagos Islands.  
**Note:** The Islands are located 1,000 kilometers east of mainland Ecuador. The accident occurred when a crane collapsed while loading a container onto the barge. The falling container destabilized the ship, causing it to sink. Latin American Galapagos archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to one of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet.
- 24. The eight West African countries** have agreed to change the name of their common currency from 'CFA franc' to **Eco**.  
**Note:** The announcement was made during a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to Ivory Coast, who hailed the decision as a historic reform. Even though the deal took six months in making, common currency Eco will see the light of day in 2020. These countries currently use 'CFA franc' as their currency.
- 25. China, Russia, and Iran** hold trilateral naval exercises in the **Gulf of Oman**.  
**Note:** This will be the first such move by the three countries in the volatile Middle East. The Chinese Navy has sent a guided-missile destroyer to participate in the drills. The exercise aims to deepen the exchanges and cooperation between the navies of the three countries and demonstrating the goodwill and ability of the three parties to jointly maintain world peace and maritime security.
- 26. China** has **successfully launched** the largest carrier rocket of the country -- '**Long March-5**'.  
**Note:** The rocket (also known as CZ-5) blasted off with more than 1,000 tonnes of thrust. The Chinese space authorities declared the mission a "complete success" just over half an hour after the lift-off when the Shijian-20 satellite it carried entered its designated orbit. It is the country's third attempt (first and second failed) to launch the rocket

### Honor & Awards

- Former Finance Minister of India **Arun Jaitley** was bestowed with the Economic Times (ET) Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service 2019.  
**Note:** The award was received by Arun Jaitley's spouse Sangeeta Jaitley.
- Bollywood actress **Priyanka Chopra** has been awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award from UNICEF at the Snowflake Ball in New York.  
**Note:** Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg (UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador) handed over the award to the actor. Priyanka Chopra has been associated with UNICEF for the past 15 years as a Goodwill Ambassador.
- Bollywood actor fitness and wellness application has been awarded Google Play's Best Apps of 2019 in the 'Personal Growth' category -- **Shilpa Shetty App**.  
**Note:** Google has announced the winners of Google Play's Best of 2019 awards selecting the best across apps, games, ebooks, movies, and audiobooks of the year.
  - Best App of 2019 - Ablo
  - Best Game of 2019 - Call of Duty: Mobile
  - Google Play User's Choice 2019 Awards
  - App: Video Editor - Glitch Video Effects
- Game: Call of Duty: Mobile
- Movie: Marvel Studios' Avengers Endgame
- Ebook: Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
- Tennis legend **Roger Federer** set to become the first living person in Switzerland to have a coin minted in his honour.  
**Note:** Swiss mint has announced that it would honour Roger Federer by releasing 20 Swiss francs (USD 20.06) silver commemorative coin in January 2020. This would be for the first time in its history of Swiss mint that it is dedicating a Swiss commemorative coin to a living person. This year's commemorative Swiss coins included the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, the Furka Pass and the roe deer.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands police station ranks first in the best police station in Country -- **Aberdeen Police station**.  
**Note:** Balasinor police station in Gujarat secured the second rank while and Ajk Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh got the 3rd position. The ranking of police stations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the DGPs conference in 2015 in Kutch of Gujarat, had directed that parameters should be laid



- down for grading police stations and assessing their performance based on feedback.
6. **Ripu Daman Bevli** will be the Plogging Ambassador of India on 50th Fit India Plogging Run.  
**Note:** The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region. Fit India Plogging Run was launched on October 2 which is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging and was added to the Fit India Movement as a unique way of combining cleanliness and fitness.
  7. **Zozibini Tunzi** has been crowned **Miss Universe 2019** in a glitzy ceremony held in Atlanta.  
**Note:** Madison Anderson (Miss Universe Puerto Rico) was the runner-up in this contest. Sofía Aragón (Miss Universe Mexico) is the second runner up. Miss Universe is an annual international beauty pageant that is run by the Miss Universe Organization
  8. **Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari** has been selected for the **Moortidevi Award** for the year 2019 for his work 'Asti Aur Bhavati'.  
**Note:** 'ASTI AUR BHAVTI' is an autobiographical journey of Dr Tiwari which captures the historical, philosophical and cultural aspects at different temporal settings thus igniting life in subjects like changing values and changes in societal and cultural landscapes. Dr. Tiwari has published over eight poetry collections, three travelogues, one diary and several critical essays. The award consists of a Saraswati Statue, a Citation Plaque and Cash Award of Rupees Four lacs.
  9. **Gulu Mirchandani** has been conferred with "**Lifetime Achievement Award**" by the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association.  
**Note:** He has been awarded for his extensive contribution to the consumer electronics industry. Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) is an all-India organisation in the consumer electronics and durables sector.
  10. **Swedish climate** crisis activist **Greta Thunberg** has been named **Time Magazine's youngest** ever Person of the Year.  
**Note:** **Greta Thunberg** is known for her blunt addresses to world leaders. She is the youngest individual ever named **Time Person of the Year**. Earlier this year, **Thunberg** had been nominated for a **Nobel peace prize 2019**, recognized for her mobilization of students in her "**Fridays for Future**" weekly school strikes.
  11. Climate activist has won the Time Person of the Year 2019 -- **Greta Thunberg**.  
**Note:** Swedish climate crisis activist Greta Thunberg has been named Time Magazine's youngest ever Person of the Year. Greta Thunberg is known for her blunt addresses to world leaders. She is the youngest individual ever named Time Person of the Year. Times Person of the Year (called Man of the Year or Woman of the Year until 1999) is an annual issue of the United States news magazine Time.
  12. Odisha won award of Jaga Mission (Odisha Livable Habitat Mission (OLHM) executed for the benefit of millions of urban-poor people living in slums -- **World Habitat Award**  
**Note:** The Jaga is a society under Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Government of Odisha. The OLHM-JAGA aims at transforming the slums into livable habitats and under which 52,682 urban poor families living in the slums have been granted land rights certificate.
  13. **Sunil Chhetri** has been appointed as its new brand ambassador of PUMA for three years.  
**Note:** With this deal, Chhetri has joined the brand's roster of global players like Antoine Griezmann, Romelu Lukaku, Luis Suarez and Sergio Aguero among others. Sunil Chhetri is the captain of the Indian national football team and Bengaluru Football Club. Sunil Chhetri was also conferred with the Arjuna award in 2011 and Padma Shri in 2019.
  14. **Salman Khan** has been appointed as brand ambassador for its flagship Pepsi brand in India.  
**Note:** The commercial will be launched in 2020 and will take up the "SWAG" themed campaign which was launched in the summer of 2019. Previously Salman Khan was the brand ambassador of Pepsico's rival company Coca-Cola's popular ThumsUp and also as the brand ambassador of Parle Agro-backed soft drink Appy Fizz. Previously, He also endorsed PepsiCo's Mountain Dew drink.
  15. Bollywood actor **Suniel Shetty** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).  
**Note:** The appointment took place in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (MoS) for Youth Affairs and Sports. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.
  16. An **application developed** by **Blue Sky Analytics** won the **Copernicus Masters award**, under the **social entrepreneurship** category -- **Zuri app**.  
**Note:** The award has been given by the Earth observation program managed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA). The startup is working in utilizing satellite data to solve environmental problems and using its AI (artificial intelligence)- based tool to measure and monitor farm fires and stubble burning across India.
  17. **Nirmala Sitharaman** has been ranked **34th** by **Forbes** in 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'.  
**Note:** Roshni Nadar Malhotra (HCL Corporation CEO and Executive Director) and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Biocon Founder) are two other Indians who also featured in the top 100 list.



- 18. Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma** has been named as the **Brand Ambassador of La Liga** in India.  
**Note:** With this, star cricketer Rohit Sharma has become the first non-footballer in the world to be named one of La Liga's global ambassadors. La Liga is the top professional football division of the Spanish football league system. A brand ambassador is a person who is hired by an organization or company to represent a brand in a positive light and by doing so help to increase brand awareness and sales.
- 19. Tony-Ann Singh** has won the coveted Miss World 2019 (69th edition) crown in United Kingdom (UK).  
**Note:** Toni-Ann Singh is a women's studies and psychology student at US' Florida State University. It's the first time in history that black women hold the titles for Miss USA, Miss Teen USA, Miss America, Miss Universe and Miss World.
- 20. Deepika Padukone** has won the Crystal award for spreading mental health awareness.  
**Note:** Deepika Padukone has won the 26th Annual Crystal Award for spreading awareness about the importance of mental health. She is the only Indian actress to appear in the list of winners of Davos 2020. Deepika will receive the award in January 2020 at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.
- 21. B P Raju** has been awarded the 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019'.  
**Note:** He won the award for investigating and cracking a fraud case in an online entrance exam conducted by an engineering college in Rajasthan. Raju arrested nine accused persons and collected incriminating evidence from digital devices, which revealed the modus operandi adopted by the accuse. The award was conferred by NASSCOM-DSCI (Data Security Council of India).
- 22. Aalst Carnival of Belgium** has been removed from UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity.  
**Note:** Heritage list, after the annual festival, depicted afloat with caricatures of Orthodox Jews with hooked noses and sitting atop bags of money. The body has termed the parade as racist and antisemitic representations and mockery towards some communities.
- 23. Amitabha Bagchi** has won the 2019 DSC Prize.  
**Note:** The DSC Prize, instituted in 2010, awards fiction from the South Asian region, which includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as from the diaspora.
- 24. Sahitya Akademi** has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019 in **23 languages**.  
**Note:** Seven books of poetry, four of novel, six of short stories, three of essays and one each of non-fiction, autobiography and biography have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019.
- Seven books of poetry were awarded to Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Sri Nilba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Sri Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), Sri V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Smt. Anuradha Patil (Marathi) and Prof. Penna Madhusudan (Sanskrit).
  - Four novels were awarded to Dr. Joysree Goswami Mahanta (Assamese), Sri L. Birmangol Singh (Beryl Thanga) (Manipuri), Sri Cho. Dharman (Tamil) and Sri Bandi Narayana Swamy (Telugu).
  - Six books of short stories were awarded to Sri Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Sri Tarun Kanti Mishra (Odia), Sri Kirpal Kazak (Punjabi), Sri Ram sawroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Sri Kali Charan Hembram (Santali) and Sri Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi).
- 25. Portugal** will launch a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize.  
**Note:** Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa has announced that in order to help perpetuate Mahatma Gandhi's ideals. The first edition of this prize will be dedicated to animal welfare as Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
- 26. Former Miss World** has been voted the Sexiest Vegetarian Personality by American animal rights organization PETA -- **Manushi Chhillar**.  
**Note:** Manushi is a strong advocate for vegetarianism and has expressed her views on the subject even on global platforms. Manushi has been roped in for Yash Raj Films' biggest historical drama 'Prithviraj' where she will be seen in the lead role opposite Akshay Kumar.
- 27. Major Anoop Mishra** has received the Army Design Bureau (ADB) Excellence Award by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat for Developing bulletproof jacket -- **Sarvatra**.  
**Note:** Bulletproof jacket 'Sarvatra' that can effectively provide protection to troops from lethal sniper rifle bullets. The ADB was set up to work together with industry and academia and develop indigenous solutions for the Indian Army. Currently, Maj. Anoop posted as Instructor at College of Military Engineering, Pune.
- 28. Aayushi Dholakia** has won the 2019 Miss Teen International.  
**Note:** She was crowned by the previous year winner Odalys Duarte of Mexico. With this, she became the first Indian as well as Asian to win the title in the 27 years history of the beauty pageant. Yessenia Garcia (Paraguay) came as the First Runners-Up and Anicia Gaothusi from Botswana came as the Second Runners-Up.
- 29. Former India captain** has been named as the recipient of the prestigious CK Nayudu Lifetime Award for the year 2019 -- **Krishnamachari Srikkanth**



**Note:** The 60-year-old Srikanth played 43 Tests, scoring 2062 runs with two hundred and 12 half-centuries.

30. Former India women's captain **Anjum Chopra** is the co-recipient of the lifetime achievement award for the year 2019.

**Note:** They will receive the award during the BCCI Annual Award function in Mumbai on 12th January 2020.

### Sports News

1. **Gurpreet Singh & Sunil Kumar** clinched gold medals at the senior national wrestling championships in Jalandhar.

**Note:** Gurpreet defeated Sajan Bhanwal by a 3-1 margin, in the 77-kilogram category. Sunil also managed an easy win over Punjab's Prabhal. The Railway's grappler used all his experience to crush the Punjab wrestler 5-1 in the 87 kg final.

2. Star wrestlers **Vinesh Phogat & Sakshi Malik** registered convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals at the Senior Wrestling National Championships in Jalandhar.

**Note:** Phogat beat Haryana's Anju 7-3 in the 55kg category. Olympic bronze medallist Malik defeated Radhika (Haryana) 4-2 in the 62kg category. In the 68kg category, Haryana wrestler Anita Sheoran stunned Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Divya Kakran.

3. **Priyam Garg** will lead defending champions India in next year's **Under-19 ICC Cricket World Cup** (13th edition) to be held in South Africa.

**Note:** India (defending champions) are placed in Group 'A' with first-time qualifier Japan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Sixteen teams will be taking part in the tournament, split into four groups of four. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super League stage, with the bottom two teams in each group progressing to the Plate League.

4. President of Nepal **Bidya Devi Bhandari** declared **13th South Asian Games open** in a glittering ceremony at in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

**Note:** Over 2700 athletes from seven South Asian Countries participated in the march past. For 10 days biggest sporting event of South Asia, 2715 athletes (India - 487 athletes) compete for 1119 medals including 319 Gold in 26 game categories. The closing ceremony will be held on 10th December.

5. **Karnataka** won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019-20. **Note:** Karnataka lifted the Syed Mushtaq Trophy 2019-20 (Cricket) after a thrilling one-run win over Tamil Nadu in the final. This is the second consecutive title win for Karnataka. Karnataka rode on skipper Manish Pandey's 60 runs (45-ball) to post a total of 180/5 in 20 overs.

6. **Steve Smith** has become the **fastest cricketer** to score 7,000 Test runs.

**Note:** Australian Steve Smith had gone past legendary Don Bradman's 73-year-old record to become the fastest batsman to score 7000 runs in just 126 innings. He has a

31. **Malala Yousafzai** has been named as "the most famous teenager in the world" by the United Nations (UN) in its 'decade in review' report.

**Note:** Malala Yousafzai is the Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize (2014) laureate. The report covers a decade of major events happened between 2010 and the end of 2013, celebrities and agreements that have become most famous.

mountain to climb to reach Ricky Ponting, who amassed 13,378 runs in his 168 Tests. India's Virender Sehwag is the third fastest in 134 innings.

7. British racing driver **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix held in Abu Dhabi UAE.

**Note:** He has claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races of this year. Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished 2nd in the race while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished 3rd in the race. The 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (formally known as the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019) was a Formula One motor race held at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

8. **New Zealand** cricket team has been awarded the **Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit** of Cricket award.

**Note:** The team has been awarded for its exemplary show of sportsmanship during the final match of the ICC World Cup at Lord's in July 2019, which it lost under controversial circumstances. Martin-Jenkins was the former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator.

9. **Virat Kohli** regained the top spot in the **International Cricket Council's (ICC)** Test rankings in batting.

**Note:** Kohli, who had struck a fine 136 in the day-night Kolkata Test against Bangladesh last week, reached 928 points. Australian Steve Smith (923 points) slipped a rung in the latest list issued in Dubai. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highest-placed Indian at the fifth position. West Indies captain Jason Holder has consolidated his position at the top of the all-rounders' list.

10. **Danish player** announced her retirement **from tennis** after Australian Open 2020 -- **Caroline Wozniacki**.

**Note:** The Dane (29-years) won her only Grand Slam singles title in Melbourne last year in her third major final.

11. Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** has inaugurated a **Premier League at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium -- Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League**.

**Note:** This is a special edition of Bangladesh Premier League **Twenty20 cricket tournament (BBPL)** named after Bangabandhu **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** to celebrate his 100th birth anniversary. A total of 7 teams are participating in the BBPL event, play 46 matches including the 4 playoff matches. This is the first time that





- the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is organizing the Premier League matches without involving any franchise.
12. Russia has been handed a **four-year ban from all major sporting events** by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada)**.  
**Note:** Wada's executive committee made the unanimous decision to impose the ban on Russia in a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. It comes after Russia's Anti-Doping Agency (Rusada) was declared non-compliant for manipulating laboratory data handed over to investigators in January 2019.
  13. Veteran opener **Wasim Jaffer** has become the **first player in Indian cricket** to feature in 150 Ranji matches.  
**Note:** Overall, Jaffer has played 253 first-class games, scoring 19,147 runs at an average of 51.19. He has scored 57 hundred and 88 fifties with 314 being his highest score. Jaffer is followed by batsman Devendra Bundela (145 matches) and Amol Muzumdar (136 matches).
  14. The **2019 South Asian Games**, (officially, XIII South Asian Games) was held in **Nepal**.  
**Note:** Thousands of sports lovers witnessed gala closing ceremony held at historic Dasaratha Rangshala in Kathmandu. India finished the 13th edition of the tournament way ahead of other teams in the tally with 312 medals (174 Gold, 93 Silver, 45 Bronze). Seven countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) competed in the competition having 27 games.
  15. **R. Praggnanandhaa** has won the **FIDE Open category** of the London Chess Classic held in London.  
**Note:** He won the tournament with a tally of 7.5 points out of nine rounds. R. Praggnanandhaa finished joint first with Anton Smirnov of Australia both scoring 7.5 points. The London Chess Classic is a chess festival held at the Olympia Conference Centre, West Kensington, London.
  16. Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced a cash reward for the 174 gold medalists of the South Asian Games held in **Nepal**
    - 174 gold medalists - 1.5 lakh rupees each
    - 93 Silver medalist – 1.0 lakh rupees each.
    - 45 bronze medalist -- 50,000 rupees each.**Note:**
    - The Union government will have a structured cash reward policy for medallists in South Asian Games, like other multi-sporting events like the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
  17. Former **Indian Cricketer Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi** has become the **first woman referee** in the Men's ODI in Sharjah Cricket Stadium.  
**Note:** The match is between the UAE and the United States of America (USA). Lakshmi was appointed as the first woman in the ICC (International Cricket Council) International Panel of Match Referees in May 2019.
  - Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi has overseen three women's ODI matches, 16 men's T20 Internationals and seven women's T20 Internationals.
  18. India's women's **hockey team captain Rani Rampal** has been awarded the Sportsperson of the Year Award 2019.  
**Note:** In the male category, Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won the Sportsperson of the Year Award 2019. The awards ceremony was held at the FICCI Federation House, in New Delhi.
  19. **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** unveiled a new **world ranking system for 2020** in Lausanne, Switzerland.  
**International Hockey Federation (FIH)** It will come into effect from the first of next month. For a better reflection of current performances, the new ranking will be match-based instead of tournament-based calculation. The new model removes much of the subjectivity surrounding continental weighing by creating a system which is fair to all.
  20. **Ashleigh Barty (Australia)** has won the WTA Player of the Year 2019.  
**Note:** The WTA Awards are given by the Women's Tennis Association to players for outstanding achievements during the season or their career.
  21. **Ben Stokes** has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year **2019**.  
**Note:** He became the first cricketer to win the prize after Andrew Flintoff (in 2005). In a public vote, Lewis Hamilton came second with Dina Asher-Smith third. The BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019 took place at the P&J Live in Aberdeen, United Kingdom.
  22. **Deepak Punia** has been named **United World Wrestling's (UWW) Junior Freestyle Wrestler** of the Year.  
**Note:** Punia became the first Indian wrestler in 18 years to win a junior world title since 2001. Japan's Yui SUSAKI has been named United World Wrestling's Junior Women's Wrestler of the Year. Currently, Punia is number-1 in the UWW rankings of 86kg category.
  23. England off-spinner has announced her retirement after a 13-year career -- **Laura Marsh**.  
**Note:** She has represented England in 103 ODI's, 67 T20's and 9 Tests and has taken 217 wickets in her career. She is also England's 3rd highest wicket-taker in ODI cricket. Laura Marsh was awarded a full central contract by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in February 2019.
  24. **Kuldeep Yadav** has become India's first bowler to claim two international hat-tricks.  
**Note:** **Kuldeep Yadav** sent back Shai Hope (78-runs), Jason Holder (11-runs) and Alzarri Joseph (0) on the final three deliveries of his eighth over in Visakhapatnam against West Indies. He claimed his first against Australia at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 2017. Lasith Malinga (Sri

- Lanka), Wasim Akram (Pakistan), Chaminda Vaas (Sri Lanka), Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan) and Trent Boult (New Zealand) to pick up more than one hat-trick in ODIs. The only bowler to have taken three ODI hat-tricks is Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga.
- 25. Zeena Khitta** has become the national champion in the women's 10m Air Rifle event in Bhopal.  
**Note:** Among the teams, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and West Bengal won two gold medals each
- 26. Pat Cummins (Australia)** has become the most expensive overseas player signing in IPL history.  
**Note:** Kolkata Knight Riders pick up the top-ranked Test bowler for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore. Glenn Maxwell earned himself a big payday as well, the hard-hitting batsmen signed by Kings XI Punjab for Rs. 10.75 crore after a tussle with Delhi Capitals. Chris Morris hit the 10-crore rupee mark with Royal Challengers Bangalore outlasting both Punjab and Mumbai Indians to secure the services of the South African all-rounder.
- 27. The Indian men's football team** remained static in the year-ending FIFA rankings -- **108th spot**.  
**Note:** Belgium ended on top for the second successive year and France remained in second place ahead of Brazil. In the Asian rankings, Japan (28th) is followed by Iran (33), Korea (40), Australia (42) and continental champions Qatar (55).
- 28. Belgium** has been crowned FIFA's Team of the Year.  
**Note:** Roberto Martinez's side will end 2019 at the top of the standings after winning all 10 of their international 'A' matches this year to secure qualification for Euro 2020. World champions France conclude the year in second place, with Brazil third, England fourth and Uruguay fifth. World Cup runner-up Croatia and Nations League Finals winner Portugal join Spain, Argentina, and Colombia in the top 10.
- 29. Former world champion weightlifter** has won the women's 49kg category gold medal at the 6th Qatar International Cup -- **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu**  
**Note:** Chanu won gold with an effort of 194kg in the Olympic qualifying silver level event, the points from which will come in handy when the final rankings for 2020 Tokyo Olympics cut are done. Chanu's performance was way below her personal best of 201kg which she lifted during this year's World Championships in Thailand. In the men's 67kg category, India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the silver medal with a total lift of 306kg (140kg in snatch and 166kg in clean and jerk)
- 30. International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Champions for 2019 -- Ashleigh Barty and Rafael Nadal.**  
**Note:** They will be rewarded for stellar seasons in which they finished at the top of women's and men's rankings respectively. Barty, who quit tennis to play cricket in 2014 before returning to the game in 2016, became the first Australian to win the French Open since Margaret Court in 1973 when she beat Czech Marketa Vondrousova in June. Nadal claimed the season-ending ITF world title for the fourth time after sealing a historic 12th French Open and a fourth U.S. Open, as well as helping Spain to their sixth Davis Cup title.
- 31. India's shuttler Maisnam Meiraba Luwang** has won the Men's singles Bangladesh Junior International Badminton Series 2019 in Dhaka.  
**Note:** Top-seeded Meiraba beat Ken Yong Ong 21 - 14, 21-18 in the final.
- 32. Doha** will host the **African Super Cup** for the next three years.  
**Note:** The African Super Cup in Doha with the next edition will be held on February 14, 2020. At the beginning of this year, Qatar hosted the African Super Cup for the first time when the Moroccan "Confederation" champion of the Confederation succeeded in beating the Tunisian "champions" Esperance 2-1.
- 33. Former Indian captain MS Dhoni** has been named captain of **Cricket Australia's** (CA) ODI team of the decade.  
**Note:** Cricket Australia's ODI team of the decade: Rohit Sharma, Hashim Amla, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Shakib Al Hasan, Jos Buttler, MS Dhoni (c), Mitchell Starc, Trent Boult, Lasith Malinga, Rashid Khan.
- 34. Indian weightlifter Rakhi Halder** clinched a bronze medal in the women's 64kg weight category at the Qatar International Cup in Doha.  
**Note:** She superseded the senior national record in both snatch and total lift with her personal best effort of 218kg (95kg in snatch + 123 kg in clean and jerk). India ended the Olympic qualifying silver level event with three medals.
- 35. Indian skipper Virat Kohli** is one of the five players named in the Wisden Cricketers of the Decade.  
**Note:** Virat Kohli joins Australian batsman Steve Smith, and South Africans, Dale Steyn, and AB de Villiers. Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry is the only female cricketer in the list. In 2019, Kohli scored 2,370 across formats at an average of 64.05.
- 36. Former Asian Games silver medalist boxer** has been banned for one year by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) -- **Sumit Sangwan.**  
**Note:** Sangwan's sample was collected by the body on October 10 during the Elite Men Boxing Championship. The governing body for the anti-doping in sports announced its decision. The boxer who was set to appear for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 and was named in the Olympics Qualifiers list will surely miss the event
- 37. Abhinav Lohan** has won the Bengaluru Open Golf Championship on December 26, 2019, and lifts PGTI title.  
**Note:** It was Lohan's first title on the TATA Steel PGTI and his second win of the year emerged victorious at the PGTI Feeder Tour event in Lucknow. Lohan became the fourth Indian golfer to register his maiden title on the TATA



Steel PGTI this season following the likes of Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Priyanshu Singh, and Veer Ahlawat.

38. Leander Paes has announced that 2020 will be his last year as a professional tennis player.

**Note:** Leander (made his Olympic debut in 1992) will look for one final flourish at Tokyo Olympics next year. He has won eight doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles. Paes received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award (in 1996–97), the Arjuna Award (in 1990), the Padma Shri award (in 2001) and the Padma Bhushan prize (in January 2014) for his outstanding contribution to tennis in India. He won a bronze medal for India in singles in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games

39. South African all-rounder **Vernon Philander** announced retirement from all forms of cricket after the conclusion of the upcoming Test series against England.

**Note:** Philander has played 97 matches across all three formats, taking a combined 261 wickets with 1784 runs in his international career. He also took 51 wickets in his first seven Test matches which earned him the 2012 SA Cricketer of the Year award.

40. Indian grandmaster **Koneru Humpy** has become the 2019 Women's World Rapid Champion.

**Note:** She defeated China's Lei Tingjie in a dramatic final in Moscow, Russia. After losing the opening game, Humpy made an impressive comeback and collected nine points each in 12 rounds to be tied with Tingjie. Tingjie finished with a silver, while Turkey's Ekaterina Atalik won bronze. Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed the men's title.

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