

# RBI Assistant Mains 2020

## GK Tornado PDF



## **GK Tornado for RBI Assist Main Exam -2020**

**Dear Aspirants,**

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last **4.5 months (1st Oct 2019 – 15th February 2020)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like **Banking, Insurance, SSC** and UPSC Exams.

### **News related to RBI**

#### **February**

**1. Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Banking Regulation Act to regulate co-operative banks**

**Note:**

- The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Banking Regulation Act to empower India’s Central Bank (Reserve Bank of India) to have better control over urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.
- These amendments will apply to the urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.

**2. RBI cancels Certificate of Authorisation of Vodafone m-pesa:**

**Note:**

- This cancellation is done after its voluntary surrender of authorization.
- Now Vodafone m-Pesa cannot continue to transact the business of issuance & will no longer have the right to provide payment facility as a prepaid instrument (PPI).
- Vodafone Idea in 2019 has decided to close m-pesa vertical after the closure of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited (ABIPBL), with which it was being merged.

**3. RBI conducts “Financial Literacy Week 2020”:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conducted the “Financial Literacy Week 2020” from February 10 to February 14, 2020.
- The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is “Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)”.
- This year India’s central bank is focusing on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The Financial Literacy Week 2020 will aim to aware people about the formalisation, collateral free loan, discounting of receivables, rehabilitation of stressed units and timely repayment.

**4. RBI hikes Insurance cover on bank deposits to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Insurance cover on bank deposits to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh effective from February 4, 2020.
- The cover is provided by a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- The DICGC does not directly charge any premium from the depositor on this insurance.
- So Now Banks will pay a premium of 12 paise against 10 paise per Rs 100 deposit.

**5. RBI released sixth bi-monthly Monetary Policy review:**

The Reserve Bank of India on February 6th, 2020. In this RBI decided to keep key policy rate unchanged.

**Key rates are as below:**

**Note:** The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) left unchanged to 5.15%. The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands same i.e. 4.90%.

**Current Policy Rates:**

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

**6. RBI grants 5-year CRR relief to banks for lending to auto, housing and MSMEs:**

**Note:**

- In order to boost the credit growth in the country, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement of commercial banks for 5- years.
- Now, the banks would not be required to maintain the cash reserve ratio (CRR) for 5- years on their deposits for the amount equivalent to loans lent to automobiles, residential housing, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) between 31 Jan-31 July, 2020 from their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) for maintenance of the CRR.

January

**1. RBI allows “Video based Customer Identification Process”:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India has revised the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for banks and other lending institutions.
- New amendments in KYC norms by RBI allows banks and other lending institutions to use “Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)”.
- The V-CIP is a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer’s identity and for customer onboarding from remote areas while leveraging the digital technology.
- V-CIP will also provide comfortability to banks and other regulated entities while holding to the RBI’s Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- The video files recorded as V-CIP are required to be stored bearing the date and time stamp while ensuring the safety and security of the video files.

**2. RBI releases “National Strategy for Financial Inclusion” report:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India has released a report “National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI): 2019-2024”.
- The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion for the period 2019-2024 has been formulated by RBI under the aegis of Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC). The report has been ratified by the Financial Stability Development Council (FSDC).
- The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-2024 sets forth the vision and key objectives of the financial inclusion policies in India to help expand and sustain the financial inclusion process at the national level through a broad convergence of action involving all the stakeholders in the financial sector.
- The strategy aims to provide access to formal financial services in an affordable manner, broadening & deepening financial inclusion and promoting financial literacy & consumer protection.”

**3. RBI permits UPI transactions for recurring payments:**

**Note:**

- To promote digital payments in India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted processing of e-mandate for recurring payments through UPI (Unified Payments Interface).

- Under this facility, an agreement is formed between the consumer and the merchant bodies and the payment of the outstanding dues is done automatically on the fixed date of the month.
- However, the maximum permissible limit under this payment system shall be Rs 2,000 per transaction.

**4. RBI curbs functions of Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has curbed Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank in Bengaluru, Karnataka from doing business with immediate effect.
- This has been done after finding alleged irregularities in transactions.
- The bank’s savings and current account customers and depositors can however withdraw cash up to ₹35,000 only till further notice.

**5. RBI tightens norms for debit, credit card issuance & usage to improve security:**

**Note:**

- In view of the increasing cases of cyber fraud the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has framed new rules under “Enhancing Security of Card Transactions” to further protect debit, credit card transactions.
- These directions are issued under Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007) & will come into effect from 16 March,2020.
- Also, now transactions at ATMs and PoS will be done through domestic cards.
- In addition, RBI directed banks and other card issuing companies to allow their customers to switch on and off their debit and credit cards.

**6. RBI ranked 6th among central banks in buying gold abroad:**

**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been ranked 6th largest buyer of sovereign gold abroad after it purchased 25.2 tonnes in the first 10 months of 2019 according to World Gold Council (WGC) report titled “Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold”.
- The central banks of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Poland have purchased more gold than India in 2019.

**7. RBI hikes short-term debt investments limit for FPI to 30% from 20%:**

**Note:**

- In order to boost the foreign inflows, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the short-term investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to 30 % from 20 % of the total FPI investment in Central government securities including Treasury Bills(T-bills) / state development loans. This rule also applies in corporate bonds.
- These directions are issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999).

#### 8. RBI increased Investment Limits Under Voluntary Retention Route:

##### Note:

- Based on the feedback received from the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) scheme introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2009, the RBI in consultation with the govt. made certain amendments in the scheme to increase its operational flexibility.

- As per the amendments, the investment limit under VRR has now been increased to Rs 1,50,000 crores (1.5lakh crores) from earlier Rs.75,000 crores.
- For fresh allotment, the investment limit will be Rs. 90,630 crores and will be allotted under VRR-combined category.
- The limits of investment will also be available 'on tap' and allotted on 'first come, first served' basis.
- Until the limits are fully allotted, the tap will remain opened.

#### 9. UCBs hit by around 972 cases of fraud worth Rs 221 crore in past 5 fiscals: RBI

##### Note:

- According to the India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there have been about 1000 cases of fraud in the urban cooperative banks (UCBs) of the country in the last 5 fiscal years (FY), in which banks have incurred losses of 221 crores.

### December

#### 1. RBI revised the supervisory framework for Urban Co-operative Banks:

##### Note:

- To prevent PMC Bank-like scams the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the supervisory action framework for urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- As per the guidelines, UCBs, with deposits of Rs 100 crore and above, will constitute the BoM, which will be a mandatory requirement for opening new branches.
- A UCB may be placed under supervisory action framework when its net non-performing assets (NPAs) exceed 6% of its net advances.
- As soon as this threshold is breached, the regulator may initiate multiple actions, depending on severity of stress.
- The central bank can ask UCB to submit a board-approved action plan for reducing its net NPAs below 6%.

#### 2. RBI granted in principle approval to Shivalik Mercantile to become SFB:

##### Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted in-principle approval to Uttar Pradesh-based Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd to convert to a small finance bank (SFB).
- Thus, it becomes the first urban cooperative bank (UCB) to make the transition since the guidelines came out nearly two years ago.
- Approval granted will be valid for 18 months to enable the applicant to comply with the

requirements under the scheme on voluntary transition of urban co-operative bank into a small finance bank.

#### 3. 'MANI' App launched by RBI for visually challenged to Identify currency Denomination:

##### Note:

- RBI has launched the 'MANI' app for visually impaired people to identify denomination of the new currency notes. The full form of 'MANI' is "Mobile Aided Note Identifier". The MANI App also works offline once installed.
- MANI application scans currency notes using camera and gives audio output in Hindi and English.
- There were challenges faced by visually challenged in identifying these notes. Hence, the application has been launched to help visually aided in easily identifying the notes. However, the application does not detect genuine or counterfeit notes.

#### 4. RBI directs large UCBs to report exposures above Rs 5 cr to CRILC:

##### Note:

- In order to detect the financial distress at earliest the RBI has directed large cooperative banks to report all exposures of Rs 5 crore and more to the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC).
- The aggregate exposure will include all fund-based and non-fund based exposures like partial credit enhancement, including investment exposure on the borrower.

- As per the new rules, Urban Cooperatives Banks are required to submit CRILC report on quarterly basis with effect from December 31, 2019.
- 5. RBI launches new prepaid payment instrument (PPI) for small digital transactions**
- Note:**
- In order to the digital transaction in India the Reserve Bank (RBI) has introduced a new semi-closed prepaid payment instrument (PPI).
  - The new PPI can be used for 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.
- 6. RBI sets ₹50-lakh lending cap on NBFC-P2P platforms**
- Note:**
- In order to protect the consumers interest, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set a ₹50-lakh cap on the aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers across all Non-Banking Financial Company – Peer to Peer (NBFC-P2P) lending platforms at any point of time.
  - Further, the RBI has specified that the investments of the lenders on P2P platforms have to be consistent with their net-worth.
  - A NBFC-P2P is an intermediary providing the services of loan facilitation via online medium or otherwise to the participants, who enter into an arrangement with the intermediary to lend on it or to get the loan facilitation services provided by it.
- 7. RBI to buy, sell government bonds worth Rs 10,000 crore on Monday**
- Note:**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 23, 2019 will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore under a special Open Market Operation (OMO).
  - Such exercises are done by the central bank when the proceeds from sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term government securities or bonds in a bid to bring down interest rates on long-term securities.
  - The purchase will be for government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore for the instrument '6.45 per cent GS 2029'.
- 8. RBI waives NEFT, RTGS transfer charges for savings account holders:**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has waived NEFT, RTGS transfer charges for savings account holders.
  - 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 January 1, 2020.
- 9. RBI Unveils Guidelines on Small Finance Banks:**
- Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released 'Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks (SFB) in the Private Sector'. The on-tap facility allows RBI to accept applications and grant licence for banks throughout the year. Minimum paid-up voting equity capital/ net worth requirement shall be Rs.200 crore. For Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), aspiring to voluntarily transit into SFBs, initial requirement of net worth shall be at Rs.100 crores that will have to be increased to Rs.200 crores within 5 years from date of commencement of business. Payments Banks like Paytm an IndiaPost and Fino can apply for conversion into SFB after 5 years of operations, if they are otherwise eligible as per these guidelines. As of now, the RBI has issued licences to 10 SFBs.
- 10. NEFT transactions to be made 24x7 from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019:**
- Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that all bank customers will be able to transfer funds through NEFT around the clock on all days including weekends and holidays from December 16, 2019. These transactions after the usual banking hours are set to be automated initiated using 'Straight Through Processing (STP)' modes by the banks. The existing discipline for crediting the beneficiary's account or returning the transaction **within 2 hours of settlement** to the originating bank will also continue.
- 11. RBI Imposes Rs 1.50 crore penalty on Corporation Bank:**
- Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 1.50 crore on Corporation Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions. The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.
- 12. Reserve Bank expressed concern over rising bad assets from Mudra loans:**
- 13. Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expressed concern over rising bad loans **from Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**. This scheme was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015**, which offers faster credit, with

ticket sizes starting from ₹50,000 and going up to ₹10 lakh, to small businesses. According to RBI, the percentage of **MUDRA loans were at 2.52% in 2017-18**, It has now raised to 2.89% in 2018-19. It also says that the number of loans being sanctioned under the scheme has increased greatly.

**14. RBI Enhances Scope of Non-Resident Rupee Accounts:**

**Note:** The RBI expanded the scope of Special Non-Resident Rupee Accounts (SNRR account) by permitting non-residents to open such accounts for rupee-denominated overseas borrowings, trade credit and trade invoicing for popularising cross-border transactions in the domestic currency. Any person resident outside India, having a business interest in India, can open a non-interest bearing Special Non-Resident Rupee Account (SNRR account) with a bank for bona fide transactions in rupees. The restriction on the tenure of SNRR account, which is currently 7 years, has also been removed. RBI has also modified norms regarding re-export of unsold rough diamonds from the special notified zone of Customs without export declaration form (EDF) formality.

**15. RBI excluded Vijaya Bank, Dena bank from 2nd schedule of RBI Act, 1934:**

**Note:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has excluded Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank from the second schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 with effect from April 1, 2019, as they have ceased to carry on banking business. Because, these public sector banks (PSBs) were merged into Bank of Baroda on April 1, 2019, hence, they were ceased to operate as banking companies separately. It should be noted that those banks included in this schedule are known as scheduled banks in India while banks not under this schedule are called non-scheduled banks.

**16. RBI raises P2P lending limit five-fold:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a big step to promote the peer-2-peer (P2P) sector by increasing the total loan limit among such lenders from 10 lakh to Rs. 50 lakhs. Presently, the aggregate limit is 10 lakh rupees for all borrowers and lenders on all P2P platforms. Apart from this, a single borrower can only take up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 from a lender on all NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company)-P2P platforms.

**17. RBI revises framework on SAARC currency swap arrangement:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) currency swap arrangement framework for a period of November 14, 2019, to November 13, 2022. As per the new framework, RBI continues to offer a swap arrangement within the overall

corpus of USD 2 billion. The drawal can be made in US Dollars, Euro or Indian Rupee. There are certain concessions for swap drawal in Indian Rupee.

**18. RBI disclosed major wilful defaulter details under RTI act 2005:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed list of 30 major wilful defaulters of India. The list was disclosed by RBI in response to Right to Information (RTI) application of the RTI act 2005, filed by Indian news website 'The Wire' in May 2019. 3 companies of fugitive diamond manufacturer & businessman Mehul Choksi, were among the 30 major wilful defaulters. These 30 companies added up to over Rs 50,000 crores of total outstanding advances. Some of the companies that has been added to the list include Gitanjali Gems, Rotomac Global, Zoom Developers, Deccan Chronicle Holdings, Winsome Diamonds, REI Agro, Siddhi Vinayak Logistics and Kudos Chemie.

**19. RBI constitutes a three-member advisory committee for DHFL:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has set up a 3-member committee consisting of IDFC First Bank non-executive chairman Rajiv Lall, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance chief executive NS Kannan and the mutual funds body AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India) chief executive NS Venkatesh, before formally sending the case of the troubled deposit-taking housing finance company- Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) for bankruptcy proceedings. This committee will serve as advisor to the DHFL administrator.

**20. RBI supersedes DHFL board to initiate insolvency proceedings:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India superseded the board of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) as it intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the insolvency and bankruptcy rules. The company is all set to become India's first financier to land up in bankruptcy courts. The central bank superseded the board "owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations. R Subramaniakumar, ex-MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank has been appointed as the administrator.

**21. RBI tightens norms for acquisition of financial assets by ARCs from sponsors and lenders**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) by barring them to bilaterally buy assets from banks /financial institutions (FIs) which is its sponsor, lender or has subscribed to the fund raised by the ARC for its operations or an entity in the group

to which the ARC belongs. However, RBI allowed ARCs to participate in auctions of the financial assets, that should be

conducted in a transparent manner, on arm's length basis and the prices are set by market forces only.

## November

### 1. RBI Enhances Scope of Non-Resident Rupee Accounts:

#### Note:

- To popularise cross-border transactions in Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India has enhanced the scope of 'Special Non-resident Rupee' (SNRR) account.
- It allows the persons residing outside India to open such accounts for purposes like external commercial borrowing and trade credit in Indian rupee.
- Any person resident outside India, having a business interest in India, can open a non-interest-bearing Special Non-Resident Rupee Account (SNRR account) with a bank for bona fide transactions in rupees.
- The restriction on the tenure of SNRR account, which is currently 7 years, has also been removed.
- RBI has also modified norms regarding re-export of unsold rough diamonds from the special notified zone of Customs without export declaration form (EDF) formality.

### 2. Banks cannot charge on NEFT transactions from January 2020:

#### Note:

- On the third anniversary of demonetisation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report titled "Furthering Digital Payments".
- In the report with a view to promoting 5digital transactions RBI proposed that from January 2020, banks can no longer charge savings bank account holders for online transactions in the NEFT system.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now mandated banks to do this.

### 3. RBI supersedes DHFL board to initiate insolvency proceedings:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the board of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) as it "intends to shortly" initiate the process of insolvency.
- In January, a web portal accused the DHFL promoters of committing financial frauds by creating shell companies.
- A total of 32 Indian and foreign banks lent Rs 97,000 crore to DHFL Group companies with many borrower companies having the same addresses, directors, and auditors.
- DHFL is the fourth-largest Indian housing finance company based on loans outstanding as of March.

### 4. RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on Oxigen Services:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on prepaid payment instrument Oxigen Services.
- The move was taken in exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
- The fine comes through a speaking order dated September 17, 2019.
- Oxigen Services facilitates payment processing and money transfer services.

## October

### 1. Rs 35 lakh penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank:

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 35 lakh on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for violating norms on fraud classification and notification.
- The bank has been penalized for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on fraud classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016.

### 2. NBFC licence for Vreedhi Financial Services:

- The RBI has given a non-banking finance company licence to Vreedhi Financial Services (VFS).

- Vreedhi Financial Services objective is to provide credit and other services to micro-enterprises operating in tier two-three cities and small towns.
- It will address the gap between the addressable and viable credit in the micro-enterprises space which is \$123 billion as per the study conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

### 3. RBI approves merger of DCBs to form 'Kerala Bank':

- The Reserve Bank of India approved the amalgamation of 13 district cooperative banks (DCBs) with the Kerala State Cooperative Bank to form the proposed "Kerala Bank".

- Except the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank, all district banks had approved the scheme of amalgamation proposed by the State government at their respective general body meetings.
- RBI also insisted that the State government would have to consistently infuse additional capital and also put in place a well-defined governance structure by amending the KSCS Act.

#### 4. RBI released Consumer Confidence Survey (September 2019):

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the data of the September 2019 round of its Consumer Confidence Survey.
- The survey was conducted in 13 major cities: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

##### Key Highlights:

- Consumer confidence weakened in September with both the current situation index and the future expectations index recording declines.
- Households' sentiments on the general economic situation and the employment scenario declined. They were less optimistic on their income over the year ahead than in July 2019.

- Respondents perceived an increase in the price level over the last 1 year and a majority of them expect prices to rise further in the coming year.

#### 5. Indiabulls Housing & Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger rejected by RBI:

- The Reserve Bank of India has rejected the merger proposal of Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.
- RBI has rejected the application for voluntary amalgamation of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. and Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd. with the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
- The merger was crucial for Lakshmi Vilas Bank as it is now under the prompt corrective action framework of the RBI due to a high level of bad loans and insufficient capital.

#### 6. RBI Consumer Confidence Survey, 2019 – According to RBI Consumer Confidence Survey, the consumer confidence dipped to a six-year low.

- The federal bank says that this is mainly due to decline in employment, income and discretionary spending.
- The CSI – Current Situation Index fell to 89.4 whereas it was recorded as 95.7 in July. Previously the index hit its low in 2013, when it reached 88.

### Ranking/Indexes

#### 1. World Defence spending biggest in 10 years:

##### Note:

- The International Institute of Strategic Studies released its report on Defence Spending all over the world. The report was titled "Military Balance".
- According to the report, the global spending rose by 4% in 2019, largest growth in 10 years.
- The report also says that the Defence race between China and US has increasing alarmingly.
- The Military Modernization Programme in China has led to developing new hard to detect Hypersonic missiles.
- This has kindled US to spend alarmingly towards its Defence Programmes.
- In 2018-19 the United States has spent 53.4 billion USD towards its Defence Programmes.

#### 2. Public Enterprises Survey 2020:

- The Department of Public Enterprises operating under Ministry of Heavy Industries tabled the "Public Enterprises Survey" on the parliament.
- The report says that the net profit from the PSUs has increased by 15.5% as compared to the previous year.

- The survey said that Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC and ONGC were the top three profitable PSUs in 2018-19.
- On the other hand, MTNL, BSNL and Air India were the highest loss-making PSU.

#### 3. National Crime Records Bureau report on women and child trafficking:

- The report says that the common causes of trafficking are sexual exploitation, child labour and domestic help. Mumbai and Kolkata reported maximum number of trafficking.
- Maharashtra reported the maximum number of missing women and Madhya Pradesh reported maximum number of cases of missing children.
- Of all the states, Odisha reported maximum rise in missing women cases.
- The percentage of increase in Odisha was around 143% in 2018 as compared to the previous year.

#### 4. Intellectual Property Index 2020:

- The Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chamber of Commerce released the International IP (Intellectual Property) Index.



- According to the ranking, India was at position 40 of the 53 economies.
  - This year India scored 16.22 in Intellectual Property Index. India's score has shown improvement by 7% as compared to the previous year reporting of GIPC.
  - However, based on relative performance, India was pushed four ranks backwards.
  - In 2019, India was at 36th rank improving from 44th position in 2018. It was the highest gain for any country in 2019.
  - With a score of 42.66 US ranked first followed by UK, Sweden, France, Germany and Ireland.
5. **WHO report: Cancer Cases to increase by 81% in 2040:**
- On the occasion of World Cancer Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) released its report on Cancer.
  - According to the report, the cancer cases will increase by 81% by 2040. This is mainly due to lack of investment. The report says that it is essential to invest 25 billion USD in the next decade to save millions of lives.
  - The treatment for cancer in developed countries has brought down the mortality rate due to cancer by 20%. However, in poorer countries the reduction was merely 5%.
  - The report also says that 25% of cancer deaths were due to tobacco consumption.
6. **India's Steel Demand to increase carbon emissions by 600 MT: TERI**
- The TERI has realised its report titled, "Towards a Low Carbon Steel Sector: Overview of the Changing Market, Technology and Policy Context for Indian Steel" at the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi.
  - According to the report, if the steel demand of the country continues to grow, the carbon-dioxide emissions from the steel sector will reach 600 million tonnes by 2050.
  - According to the report, the current carbon-dioxide emissions from steel sector is 242 Million Tonnes.
  - This is 35% of total carbon dioxide emissions of the country. It is to quadruple in three to four decades.
7. **Assam tops in budget formulation: Transparency International**
- According to the survey conducted by Transparency International, Assam tops in terms of budget formulation followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
  - The states that were ranked lower in terms of budget formulation are Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab.
  - The survey was conducted by the organization based on four parameters such as budgetary process, public disclosure, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget citizen friendly.
8. **Telangana tops sustainable growth goals performer list: UNDP**
- According to the United National Development Programme (UNDP), Telangana has emerged the best performing states in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
  - The state of Telangana scored 82. It was followed by states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka together with a score of 72. However, Kerala followed by Himachal Pradesh lead the list.
  - The states have been scored based on Sustainable Development Index.
9. **ILO's Labour Report, 2020:**
- The International Labour Organization released its "The World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2020" (WESO) report.
  - The report stated that the global unemployment has been stable for the last nine years.
  - However, slowing economic growth means that for the increasing labour force, no new jobs are created.
  - The report has projected that the unemployment is to increase around 2.5 million in 2020. Currently there are 188 million people unemployed in the world.
  - This means one in five of the workers worldwide are living in poverty.
10. **Democracy Index released by Economic Intelligence Unit:**
- The Economic Intelligence Unit released Democracy Index for the year 2019. The index was topped by Norway.
  - Norway was followed by Iceland and Sweden at second and third positions respectively.
  - India was pushed to 51st rank slipping 10 positions as compared to its previous ranking.
  - The slippage of India's ranking was mainly due to the protests of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC) and abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
11. **Global Social Mobility Index 2020:**
- The World Economic Forum released the Social Mobility Index. The index measures social mobility of the population worldwide.
  - According to the report, Denmark ranks the first followed by Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. India ranked 76th out of 82 countries.
  - According to the report, India has improved in the areas of fair wage distribution and social protection. Also, India performed better in terms of life-long learning and working conditions.
12. **UNCTAD releases Global investment Trend report:**

- The United Nation Conference on Trade and Development released its report on Global Investment Trend Monitor Report for the year 2019.
- The Global FDI of the year 2019 was 1.39 trillion USD. This has declined by 1% as compared to 2018.
- According to the report, FDI in South Asia increased by 10% as compared to 2018.
- China remained the topmost FDI recipient in the world as it was in 2018 followed by the United States. The United States in 2019 attracted 251 billion USD FDI and the inflows of China was 140 billion USD.
- In 2019, the India's FDI was 49 billion USD. The report says that FDI in 2019 has increased by 16% as compared to 2018. The majority of the input in India went into Information Technology.

### 13. Henley Passport Index 2020:

- Recently, Henley Passport Index was launched. The index was launched based on the data collected from International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Around 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations were considered to launch the index.
- According to the index, Japan has the world's strongest passport. Japan has been holding top rank position for the past 3 years.
- Japan was followed by Singapore, Germany, South Korea at second, third and fourth places respectively. US and UK have been falling places for two year are now in eighth position.
- India ranked closer to the bottom at rank 84.

### 14. Annual Status of Education Report 2019:

- The Non-Profit Organization Pratham released its annual report, Annual Status of Education Report, 2019.
- The report is based on the survey conducted in 26 districts that covers 36,000 children in the age group of 4 to 8 years.
- Number of girls enrolled in government schools is higher than number of boys. On the other hand, number of boys enrolled in private institutions is higher than that of girls
- The report says that around 56.8% of girls and 50.4% of boys are enrolled in government schools.

### 15. UIDAI's 10-year success-The State of Aadhaar Report:

- According to the State of Aadhaar report, 2019, Aadhaar has been the first identity document for around 65-70 million individuals. This benefitted them in opening bank accounts, accessing food rations, mobile phone services, etc.
- The report also stated that 80% of participants felt that Aadhaar improved the reach of government schemes and services faster. Only 34% of Indians are

yet to link their Aadhaar in the fear of losing the services.

- State of Aadhaar report surveyed 1,70,000 individuals. The initiative was started 3 years ago by IDinsight and Omidyar Network of India.

### 16. Effect of Automation on FDI flows: World Bank

- World Bank released its study on how FDI flows are affected in the world due to automation. The study concluded that automation will certainly disrupt the flow of capital from rich countries to poor countries. On the other hand, the poor countries can gain from automation if adopted at the right time.
- The study has used data of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and industrial robot usages between 2004 and 2015. It reports that during this period, High Income Countries (HIC) saw the highest FDI outflows.

### 17. ICMR releases report on Sugar Intake of India:

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released first of its kind report on sugar intake of India. The intake was measured in grams per day.
- The report was released based on a joint survey conducted by ICMR, NIN (National Institute of Nutrition), Hyderabad and ILSI (International Life Science Institute of India). The study is the first of its kind in the country.
- The study says that intake of added sugar in metro cities was 19.5 grams per day. This is lower than the level recommended by ICMR which is 30 gram per day.
- Though the levels of all the cities were within the threshold, they were so close to the upper limit in certain cities.
- According to the study, sugar intake was the highest in Mumbai. Mumbai reported 26.3 g/day followed by Ahmedabad at 25.9 g/day.

### 18. Violence against Children surpassed to 1,70,000: UNICEF

#### Report

- The annual report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on December 31, 2019, stated that since 1989, the number of countries experiencing conflicts has increased and the attacks on children has increased as well.
- The UNICEF has named the last decade as "Deadly Decade" because as per the report, the number of attacks on children since 2010 has increased to three-fold.
- The world agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world says that in 2018, around 24,000 grave violations were recorded against children and the number has gone up highly to 1,70,000 in 2019.
- This includes abductions, killing, sexual violence, maiming, child recruitment, denial to humanitarian access and attacks in schools and hospitals.

### 19. 'World Economic League Table 2020': India become fourth-largest economy by 2026

- The report titled 'World Economic League Table 2020' was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- According to the report, India is expected to become the fourth largest economy by 2026 and the third largest by 2034.
- The CEBR report states that India would surpass Germany to become fourth largest economy by 2026 and further topple Japan in 2034 to become the third largest economy.
- Today, India is the fifth largest economy in the World after US (20.49 trillion USD), China (13.41 trillion USD), Japan (4.97 trillion USD) and Germany (4 trillion USD).
- India has decisively overtaken both France and the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy in 2019.

### 20. Swachh Survekshan League 2020: Indore tops again

- Swachh Survekshan League 2020 was released by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Around 4,372 cities participated in the league.
- Among 10 Lakh plus population category, Indore secured first place in both the quarters. Bhopal got the second and Surat in Gujarat third spot in first Quarter. In the second quarter, Rajkot in Gujarat was at the 2nd spot while Navi Mumbai at third.
- In one Lakh to 10 Lakh population category, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand got the 1st spot in both quarters.
- New Delhi Municipal Council and Khargone in Madhya Pradesh got the second and third spot in the first quarter in this category. Chandrapur in Maharashtra and Khargone got the second and third spot in Quarter 2 in one to ten lakh population categories.

### 21. Report of Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline released

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a report of task force on National Infrastructure on Pipeline (NIP) 2019-2025. The task force was set up in order to draw up National Infrastructure Pipeline from fiscal year 2019-20 to 2024-25.
- The report says that between 2020 and 2025 GoI has planned investment in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, urban, energy.
- These sectors account to 70% of infrastructure investments planned. The plan is to invest 102 lakh crores of rupees by 2025 and make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy.

### 22. Sustainable Development Goal Index Released:

- NITI Aayog released Sustainable Development Goals Index 2019-20. According to the report, the overall composite score of India improved from 60 in 2018 to 57 in 2019. India succeeded in the areas of power and industry, water and sanitation, nutrition and gender equality.
- Kerala ranked first in composite SDG index with score of 70. Kerala was followed by Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The biggest improvement was seen in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim.

### 23. Government launched Good Governance Index:

- Government of India launched Good Governance Index in which Tamil Nadu topped in the "Big States" category. It was followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.
- The report also said that among the big states the poor performers were Odisha, Bihar, Goa and Uttar Pradesh. Jharkhand was ranked the last in good governance index.
- The States and Union Territories were divided into 3 groups namely Big states, North East and hill states and union territories.

### 24. India is world's third largest producer of scientific articles: US Report

- According to a latest report by US National Science Foundation (NSF), India has emerged as the world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles. As per the statistics compiled in report, China has topped the list followed by US.

### 25. India slips to rank 112 in Gender Gap: WEF

- The World Economic Forum released its report according to which India ranked 112th in terms of gender gap. The report said that the India was ranked in bottom-five in terms of survival and economic participation. India was in 108th position in 2018.

### 26. India Skills Report 2019:

- India Skills Report was released jointly by the CII, AICTE, UNDP and AIU. The report provides employability of citizens in the country across the states and. The report also ranked the cities based on the availability of employment.
- The report was prepared based on a survey that assessed 300,000 candidates from 35 educational institutes across 28 states and 9 Union Territories.
- According to the report, Maharashtra topped the list with the highest employable talent. Following Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh ranked second and third respectively.

### 27. UNDP Human Development Index Report 2019:

- The United Nations Development Programme released the Human Development Index for 189 countries on December 9, 2019.

- The rankings were listed by the report titled “Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: Inequalities in Human Development in 21st century”.
- India ranked 129 among them, which is one rank ahead of its previous positions. In 2018, India ranked 130. The rankings were listed based on the assessment of poverty, education, life expectancy and access to health care.

### 28. Global prosperity index 2019:

- The first-ever Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index, released in the Basque Country capital of Bilbao in northern Spain.
- Bangalore emerged as India’s highest-ranked city at No. 83 in a new index of the world’s 113 cities in terms of economic and social inclusivity.
- Delhi at 101 and Mumbai at 107 are the other Indian cities to make at the index,
- with the top 20 awarded a PICSA Seal as the world’s highest-ranked cities building inclusive prosperity.
- Zurich in Switzerland topped the list while Austrian capital, Vienna in second place. Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Helsinki complete the top five.

### 29. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella tops Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list

- India-born Satya Nadella (Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft) has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list.
- The list also includes Ajay Banga (Mastercard CEO) and Jayshree Ullal (Arista head).
- Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".
- Top five Fortune’s Businessperson of the Year 2019 are here:
  1. Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft);
  2. Elizabeth Gaines (CEO, Fortescue Metals Group);
  3. Brian Niccol (CEO, Chipotle Mexican Grill)
  4. Margaret Keane (CEO, Synchrony Financial)
  5. Bjorn Gulden (CEO, Puma)

### 30. India ranks 59th on IMD World Talent Ranking Report

- The International Institute of Management Development’s (IMD) World Talent Ranking (WTR) report for the year 2019 was released.
- In the released report, India was ranked at 59th position, a slip by 6 places on a global annual list of 63 countries. The list was topped by Switzerland.
- The top 10 countries that followed Switzerland were Denmark(2nd), Sweden(3rd), Austria(4th), Luxembourg (5th), Norway(6th), Iceland(7th), Finland (8th), Netherlands (9th) and Singapore(10th).

### 31. Bangladesh tops business bribery risk in South Asia

- According to the latest Global Bribery Risk Index, Bangladesh has been identified as the “country with the highest risk” in terms of bribery threats in South Asia.
- India has been ranked at 78th in the Global Bribery Risk Index out of 178 countries.
- In South Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the bribery risk is “high”.
- Except for Bhutan, which has a “low” risk of bribery demands, the risk level of other countries in the region is “medium”. Bhutan, which has the lowest risk score of 41, was placed ranked 52nd.
- The five countries with the lowest bribery risk in the world are New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.
- The countries with the highest risk are Venezuela, Yemen, North Korea, South Sudan and Somalia.

### 32. India Justice Report 2019: Maharashtra holds top, UP ranks bottom

- According to ‘India Justice Report 2019’, Maharashtra is the top state in delivering justice to its citizens followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana in the first-ever ranking of states on their capacity to deliver justice to citizens.
- The list of seven small states (population less than one crore each) was topped by Goa, followed by Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. In this classification, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom.
- The ranking is part of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2019, an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS- Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

### 33. Singapore is the world's smartest city: IMD Smart City Index

- According to the IMD Smart City Index, Singapore is the smartest city in the world.
- The first edition of the IMD Smart City Index 2019 ranks 102 cities worldwide.
- Zurich ranked second and Oslo is the third smartest city in the world.

#### Indian cities in the index

- Indian city Hyderabad ranked 67 in the list, while the capital of India, New Delhi is the 68th smart city in the world.
- On the other hand, Mumbai is the 78th and Bengaluru is the 79th smart city in the world.
- The index is released by the IMD World Competitiveness Center’s Smart City Observatory in

partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

**34. World Digital Competitiveness Rankings** – India was ranked **44th** in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking.

- In 2018, India was ranked at the 48th position.
- Top 3 countries – (1) United States (2) Singapore (3) Sweden
- The report is published by the Swiss based International Institute for Management Development.

**The Index ranks the countries based on the following three factors:**

- Knowledge: The capacity to understand and learn new technologies.
- Technology: The competence to develop new digital innovations.
- Future readiness: The preparedness for the coming developments.

**35. NITI Aayog’s School Education Quality Index** – Kerala has topped the “School Education Quality Index” launched by NITI Aayog.

- The School Education Quality Index assesses States on the basis of learning outcomes, access, equity and infrastructure and facilities, using survey data, self-reported data from States and third-party verification.

**Key points of the report**

- **Uttar Pradesh** was ranked at the bottom of the list.
- **Chandigarh** has topped the list of Union Territories.
- Tamil Nadu was the top performer in access and equity outcomes, while Karnataka led in learning outcomes. Haryana had the best infrastructure and facilities.
- Among smaller States, Manipur emerged as the best performer.

**36. Times Higher Education released “World University Rankings 2020”** – World University Rankings 2020, published by the United Kingdom (UK) based Times Higher Education (THE).

- The **University of Oxford** is the number one university in the world for the fourth time in a row.
- **The California Institute of Technology** stands at the second place and the **University of Cambridge** fell to the third rank this year.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** were ranked number 1 among the 56 Indian institutes on the list of the best universities of the world.

**37. Global Firepower Index: Indian military strongest in South Asia**

- In the Global Firepower's 2019 Military Strength Ranking, the Indian military has been ranked as the strongest military power in South Asia.
- While Pakistan has been ranked the second and Bangladesh is ranked the third most powerful military power in South Asia.
- In the world ranking, the United States has topped the list, followed by Russia, and China.
- India has been ranked at 4th position in the world ranking.

**38. India ranked at 34th position on world travel and tourism competitiveness index**

- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report, **India has jumped 6 places to claim 34th** spot on world Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019.
- The WEF report shows, over 1.5 crore international tourists arrived in India while the share of travel and tourism industry was 3.6 per cent and that of industry employment was 5.1 per cent.
- **Spain tops the ranking index followed by France and Germany.**
- Other countries in the top 10 include Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Switzerland.

**39. India among top 10 nations in gold reserves –**

- India has surpassed the Netherlands to move into the list of top10 countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands’ reserves of 612.5 tonnes.
- According to the World Gold Council, the U.S. leads the country list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.
- In terms of individual countries, India actually ranks 9th since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) occupies the third position after the U.S. and Germany.

**40. ‘Statue of Unity’, Mumbai’s Soho House among Time’s 100 greatest places in the world**

- The 597-ft tall ‘Statue of Unity’ in Gujarat and Mumbai’s Soho House have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World’s greatest places, in a compilation of 100 new and newly “noteworthy destinations.

- The 'Statue of Unity', the world's tallest statue, is a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first home minister as well as deputy prime minister.
- Soho House Mumbai is Asia's first Soho House that puts a local spin on the "formula that has allowed Nick Jones' members--only clubs to blossom across the US and Europe".

#### 41. India ranks 9th on "Global Happiness Survey" by Ipsos

- According to a "Global Happiness Survey" by Ipsos, Indian has been ranked 9th on the happiness index among 28 global markets.
- For India, there has been a six per cent drop (from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019).
- Australia and Canada at the top spot (at 86 per cent) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world, While Russia (47 per cent) emerged at the bottom of the heap, among the 28 markets.

#### 42. Delhi, Mumbai fall in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019

- Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2019, released with both Delhi and Mumbai sliding down ranks.
- New Delhi dropped 6 places to 118, from 112 last year and Mumbai also fell in this year's index, by two places to 119, from 117 last year.
- **Vienna in Austria, Melbourne** and Sydney in Australia make the top three cities.
- The survey ranks countries across indicators including stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, culture and environment.

#### 43. Mumbai at 45th spot and Delhi at 52nd in World Safe Cities Index 2019

- According to a report of Economist Intelligence Unit, Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019, while Delhi stood at the 52nd position.
- **Tokyo** taking the top spot, while **Singapore and Osaka** came 2nd and 3rd in the list.

#### 44. Karnataka tops the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index –

- The State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL was launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities.
- Karnataka has topped the index which evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
- SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE),

Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

#### 45. Akshay Kumar in 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019

- Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the 4th position on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list.
- Akshay has raked in \$65 million. Hollywood star Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.

#### 46. India slips to 7th largest economy in 2018

- According to the World Bank, India has been pushed to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the 6th largest economy.
- The US remains the top economy with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion in 2018.
- China was the 2nd largest economy with \$13.6 trillion, while Japan took the 3rd place with \$5 trillion.
- India's GDP was at \$2.7 trillion in 2018, while UK and France were at \$2.8 trillion.
- India still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

#### 47. London named the world's best city for students -

- London has named the world's best city for students for the 2nd consecutive year, beating Tokyo and Melbourne that came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, on a new worldwide ranking.
- According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113th and Chennai at 115th, out of a total of 120th cities in the list.
- The QS Best Student Cities Ranking compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds highlights each city's performance across different categories.

#### 48. India is the 46th highest risk country in the world: Water Stress Index 2019

- According to the Water Stress Index 2019, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world.
- 11 out of India's 20 largest cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress and 7 are in the 'high risk' category. Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad,

Nashik, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Indore are among the cities facing 'extreme risk'.

- Chennai is the "tip of the iceberg" for India's water-stressed cities.

**49. Global Innovation Index 2019** – On July 24, 2019, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal launched the 12th Edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) for the year 2019 in New Delhi.

- The theme of the 2019 GI is "Creating Healthy Lives – The Future of Medical Innovation".
- Global Index is published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD (Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires) and the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GI Knowledge Partners.
- It ranked 129 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.
- The headquarters of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Ranking

- India was ranked **52nd in 2019** with the score 36.58 out of 100 from 57th position in 2018.
- Top 3 countries – Switzerland, Sweden and United States of America.

**50. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index -**

- The MPI provides a comprehensive and in-depth picture of global poverty – in all its dimensions – and monitors progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 – to end poverty in all its forms.
- The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is published by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)

#### Key findings

- Across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people—23.1 percent—are multidimensionally poor.
- Two-thirds of multidimensionally poor people live in middle-income countries.
- One in every three children (under the age of 10) and every second child below the age of 18 years is multidimensionally poor in the world.
- About 34% of the world's children and 17.5% adults covered under MPI survey are multidimensionally poor.
- One adult in six is multidimensionally poor compared with one child in three, hence children

are more prone to multidimensional poverty than adults.

#### Indian Scenario

- India's MPI value reduced from **0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.123 in 2015-16**.
- India has lifted **271 million people** out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index.
- India and Cambodia has reduced their MPI values the fastest among the 10 selected countries for which changes over time were analysed.
- Jharkhand has reduced the incidence of poverty at a faster pace than other regions (reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty from 74.9% in 2005-06 to 46.5% in 2015-16).
- India (along with Ethiopia and Peru) significantly reduced deprivations in all 10 indicators, namely nutrition, sanitation, child mortality, drinking water, years of schooling, electricity, school attendance, housing, cooking fuel and assets.
- MPI reduced from 640 million people (55.1%) in 2005-2006 to 369 million people (27.9%) in 2015-16.

**51. Singapore tops Asia in Dell Global Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019**

- According to the latest "Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019", sponsored by Dell and conducted by London-based global information provider, IHS Markit, San Francisco Bay Area has topped the list with 63.7 points followed by New York (62.9 points) and London(3rd ).
- Singapore tops in Asian city ranked at 21st position, while Indian cities Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Delhi were ranked 43rd (7th in Asia) and 50th (10th in Asia) respectively.

**52. Chandigarh best performing state in the field of education in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) informed that in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18, Chandigarh was ranked best among States and Union territories (UTs) in the field of education.
- The Index ranked the states on the basis of 5 parameters including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance process. 36 States/ UTs were ranked in the Index.
- Other Rankings: Kerala was ranked second followed by Gujarat (3), Haryana (4), Tamil Nadu (5), Punjab (7), Rajasthan (8), Delhi(9).

- Least Rankings: Arunachal Pradesh (36), Nagaland (35) and Meghalaya (34) were the least performing states.
- Literacy: Kerala had the highest literacy rate followed by Lakshadweep and Mizoram.

**53. Public Affairs Index 2018:** Kerala Best Governed State, Bihar Worst

- Kerala is the best governed state in the country, according to a survey released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre.
- As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.
- Among smaller states – with the population less than two crore – Himachal Pradesh topped the list of states with good governance, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.
- Meghalaya performed the worst in this list. Manipur, Nagaland, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir were the other poor performers.
- This year’s index also measured how child-friendly each state is. Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram topped this index.

**54. India ranked 86th in the Henley Passport Index 2019**

- The Henley Passport Index 2019 have ranked the Indian passport on the **86th position** with a mobility score of 58.
- Japan and Singapore hold the top spot with a score of 189.
- The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations including micro-states and territories.

**55. Global Peace Index 2019: India Ranks 141**

- India’s ranked 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019.
- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation.
- New Zealand has been ranked the second most peaceful country.
- Portugal was ranked third, and Austria fourth and Denmark was fifth most peaceful country in the world.
- The report is prepared by Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace.

**56. Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog’s AMFFRI Index – Maharashtra achieves first rank in NITI Aayog launched**

**“Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)”.**

- Gujarat secured the second rank with a score of 71.5 out of 100, followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- AMFFRI has a score that can have minimum value “0” implying no reforms and maximum value “100” implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

**57. NITI Aayog’s Health Index 2019 - Kerala took the top spot among larger states for overall performance on health indicators in a NITI Aayog report, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.**

- Uttar Pradesh is the worst state in the index.

**Key points**

- **Gujarat, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** stood at fourth, fifth and sixth spots.
- The ranking was done under three categories -- larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs) -- to ensure comparison among similar entities.
- In terms of annual incremental performance among the larger states, **Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are the top-three states.**
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were the top-two states in terms of incremental performance.
- Among the UTs, **Chandigarh** ranked first in overall performance, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli improved the most.
- Niti Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul said the Union government should spend **2.5 per cent of gross domestic product on health.**
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already reached the 2030 SDG target for neonatal mortality rate (NMR), which is 12 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The report has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical assistance from the World Bank.
- The second round of the Health Index took into account the period 2015-16 (base year) to 2017-18 (reference year).

**58. Global Gender Equality Index Released: India Ranks 95**

- India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education,



literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.

- The list was topped by **Denmark** followed by Finland and Sweden.
- Chad was placed at bottom most position (129th).
- The Index is developed by Equal Measures 2030, a partnership effort of regional and global organisations.
- Indicators: It includes 51 indicators across 14 of 17 official Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

### 59. IIT Bombay has emerged the country's best university: QS Rankings

- IIT Bombay has emerged the country's best university for the second consecutive year in the 2019 QS World University Ranking.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was named the world's best for a record eighth consecutive year.
- Twenty-three Indian institutes feature in the sixteenth edition of the QS World University Ranking in which **IIT Bombay (152), IIT Delhi (182) and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (184)** are ranked in the global top 200.
- The ranking is produced by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds, QS ranks the world's top 1,000 universities.

### 60. IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019

- India ranked at 43rd position in the most competitive economy in the world.
- In 2018 India was ranked at 44<sup>th</sup> place.
- Singapore has grabbed the top position.
- Hong Kong SAR is in second position and US has slipped to the third place in 2019.
- The ranking is compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

### 61. India Ranks 140th In World Press Freedom Index –

- India ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2019.
- Index is released by Reporters Without Borders.
- The index is topped by Norway followed by Finland and Sweden.

### 62. WEF Global Energy Transition Index – India rank 76th on a global energy transition index.

- The report stated that India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.

- Sweden remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- The index is compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

### 63. World Happiness Report 2019 – India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations.

- The World Happiness Report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations.
- For the second consecutive year, Finland topped the list.
- Denmark ranked second followed by Norway.
- Pakistan ranked 67th, Bhutan 95th, China 93rd, Bangladesh 125th, and Sri Lanka 130th while South Sudan ranked last in the World Happiness Report.

### 64. Inclusive Internet Index 2019 – India has been ranked 47th.

- **Sweden** has topped the rankings followed by **Singapore and the US**.
- The Inclusive Internet Index 2019 was prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- The 'Inclusive Internet' score was based on the scores of availability, affordability, relevance and readiness categories.

### 65. International IP index 2019

- India has jumped eight places to **36th position** on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index.
- The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the intellectual property index in 2019
- In 2018, India was ranked at 44<sup>th</sup> position.

### 66. Corruption Perception Index 2018

- India has improved its ranking by 3 points by moving onto **78th position** in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2018 published by Transparency International.
- China and Pakistan, in a list of 180 countries, lagged far behind than India at 87th and 117th position respectively.

### 67. India ranks 54th in 'Bloomberg Innovation Index' of 60 economies

- India has grabbed the 54th spot among 60 countries in the Bloomberg Innovation Index with a score of 47.93 out of 100.
- South Korea has topped the Bloomberg Innovation Index for the sixth time in a row with a total score of 87.38.

- Germany ranked second, Finland stood on the third spot.

**68. Global Talent Competitive Index 2019:**

- India ranked at **80th positions** on the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019.
- The index is released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.
- Switzerland topped the index which is followed by Singapore and the US.
- Last year in 2018, India was ranked at 81<sup>st</sup> position.

**69. Democracy Index 2019:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Democracy Index which ranks 167 countries by 60 indicators across five broad categories.

- Top 3 countries in the list are – **Norway, Iceland and Sweden.**
- Australia and New Zealand are the only “full democracies” in the entire Asia-Pacific region
- India was at the **41st place** with a score of 7.23/10 and was placed in the flawed democracies category.

**70. Three Indian origin CEOs in the top 10 best performing CEOs of the world:**

- Among the top 10 chief executives on the list, 3 spots have been occupied by the Indian-origin CEOs.. in the Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019’ list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).
- Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen was ranked 6th, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga ranked at 7th and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella ranked at 9th spot.
- The list also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on the 89th spot. Apple CEO Tim Cook was ranked 62nd in the list.
- The 2019 list has 4 female CEOs in the top 50 of the rankings.
- The List features 100 CEOs which has been topped by the American technology company NVIDIA’s CEO Jensen Huang.

**71. Bill Gates regains world’s richest person title:**

- Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates overtook Jeff Bezos to become the world’s richest person.
- Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos lost the title to Bill Gates, after losing nearly \$7 billion in stock value leaving his net worth to \$103.9 billion.
- Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is currently worth \$105.7 billion.

- Bezos ended Gates’ 24-year run as the richest man in 2018 and became the first man on earth with a net worth of \$160 billion.
- Bill Gates debuted on Forbes’ first ever billionaire list in 1987 with a net worth of \$1.25 billion.

**72. World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Ranking, India ranked at 63rd:**

- World Bank has released Ease of Doing business Rankings which includes 190 countries.
- India has jumped 14 places and has been ranked at 63<sup>rd</sup>.
- New Zealand and Somalia retained their 1st and 190th spot respectively.
- From 2020, the World Bank has expanded its ease of doing business survey to 2 more cities: **Bengaluru and Kolkata** in addition to Delhi and Mumbai that are currently surveyed.
- The World Bank has decided to have four cities from every country with a population above 100 million.

**73. IIT-Bombay again tops this year’s QS India University Rankings 2020**

- The latest 2 edition of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) India University Rankings 2020 released.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) has again topped all Indian Institutes in the list with an overall score of 88.5 followed by IISc- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (ranked 2 with 84.7 score) & Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), which has improved a notch to rank 3 with 82.2 scores.

**74. 2019 World Giving Index:**

- India ranked 82 spots among the 128 countries surveyed in the World Giving Index (WGI).
- The average figures for India over the past decade show that 34 per cent people helped a stranger, 24 per cent donated money and 19 per cent volunteered or donated their time.
- According to the WGI, the USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.

**75. India ranked 102 in Global Hunger Index 2019:**

- As per the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019, India has slipped from 95th ranks in 2010 to 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3.
- Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores less than 5.

- There were only four countries in the alarming hunger category are Madagascar, Chad, Yemen and the Central African Republic in the extremely alarming hunger category.
- The report warned that climate change was causing alarming levels of hunger and making it more difficult to feed people in the world's most vulnerable regions.
- The Global Hunger Index is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.

- The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

#### 76. Global Competitiveness Index by WEF; India Ranks at 68<sup>th</sup>:

- World Economic Forum has released the Global Competitiveness Index report 2019.
- As per the WEF's released report, India has moved down 10 places to rank 68th on an annual global competitiveness index which was topped by Singapore.
- India is among the worst-performing BRICS nations along with Brazil which is ranked 71st this year.

### Economy News

#### Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2019-20

Economic survey is framed by **Chief Economic Advisor of India**, Krishnamurthy V Subramanian and is tabled on the parliament by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

- Theme for Economic Survey 2019-20: "**Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy.**".
- **Wealth Creation: The Invisible Hand Supported By The Hand Of Trust:** - The Survey indicates the fact that the ideas of wealth creation are deeply rooted in India's old and rich tradition from Kautilya's Arthashastra to Thiruvalluvar's Thirukural, which emphasizes ethical wealth creation as a noble human pursuit.
  - Survey suggests that policies must empower transparency and effective enforcement using data and technology.
  - Enable fair competition and ease of doing business is needed to meet the target.
  - Enable trade for job creation and Efficiently scale up the banking sector will help in creating wealth.
- **Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation at the Grassroots: Being a strategy for fuel** productivity growth and wealth creation, entrepreneurship has a significant impact on wealth creation at the grassroots.
  - **As per the World Bank, India ranks third in number of new firms created.**
  - Emergence of new firms in India is heterogeneous and dispersed across districts and sectors.
  - As per the survey, new firms have a growth rate of 12.2 in the formal sector during 2014-18, compared to 3.8 % during 2006-2014. About 1.24 lakh new firms created in 2018, an

increase of about 80 % from about 70,000 in 2014.

- Survey depicted that enhancing ease of doing business and implementing flexible labour laws can create number of jobs and will increase the trust of new entrepreneurs to emerge rapidly.
- **Pro-business versus Pro-markets:** Promoting pro-business policy releases the power of competitive markets to generate wealth, on the one hand, and on the other hand, weaning away from "pro-crony" policy that may favour specific private interests, especially powerful incumbents. Equity index of connected firms outperformed market by 7 % a year from 2007 to 2010, reflecting abnormal profits extracted at common citizens' expense. Index underperforms market by 7.5 % from 2011, reflecting inefficiency and value destruction in such firms.
- **Undermining Markets: When Government Intervention Hurts More Than It Helps:** - Each department and ministry in the Government must systematically examine areas where the Government needlessly intervenes and undermines markets.
  - Government intervention in the market most of the times undermine the growth of market.
  - India ranks 79th among 162 countries in the Index of Global Economic Freedom with 108th rank in business regulation showing the evidence of the same.
  - Government interventions is not apt for today's economy. Removing it will enable competitive markets and thereby spur investments and economic growth.

- **Creating Jobs and Growth by Specializing in Network Products:** India has enormous opportunity to frame a China-like, labour-intensive, export trajectory. By integrating Assemble in India for the world” into Make in India, nation can increase the export as well as job opportunities.
  - India’s exports increased by 13.4 % for manufactured products and 10.9 % for total merchandise
  - Imports increased by 12.7 % for manufactured products and 8.6 per cent for total merchandise.
  - India gained 0.7 % increase in trade surplus per year for manufactured products and 2.3 % per year for total merchandise.
- **Targeting Ease of Doing Business in India:** In ease of doing business ranking, India jumped to 63 position in 2019 in World Bank’s Doing Business rankings. Ease of Starting Business, Registering Property, Paying Taxes and Enforcing Contracts are the parameters that requires further attention.
- Golden jubilee of bank nationalisation: Taking stock: - 2019 marks the golden jubilee of the bank nationalisation. Since 1969, India’s Banking sector has not developed efficiently with the growth in the size of the economy. India has only one bank in the top 100, which is State Bank of India ranked 55<sup>th</sup> at the international level. Finance Technology and Legal framework like Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is suggested as a measure to tackle this situation.
- **Financial Fragility in the NBFC Sector:** NBFCs are rooted due to their over-dependence on short-term wholesale funding from the Liquid Debt Mutual Funds that results in bank-run cases more frequent in NBFC. A dynamic health index (Health Score) is framed that will observe these risks and can be used as an early warning to anticipate liquidity crisis in an NBFC and Policy framers are suggested to use this tool in this survey.
- **Privatization and Wealth Creation:** Efficiency gains from privatization in the Indian context and bolstering the case for aggressive disinvestment of CPSEs is examined by the survey. Government’s strategic disinvestment in HPCL of 53.29 % led to an increase of around Rs. 33,000 crores in national wealth.
- **Is India’s GDP Growth Overstated? No!** - GDP growth, a critical variable for decision-making by investors and policymakers. Setting up of 28-member Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) headed by India’s former Chief Statistician is important. Survey must be taken on board when assessing the quality of Indian data.
- **Thalinomics: The Economics of a Plate of Food in India:** Average prices of a vegetarian Thali have decreased significantly since 2015-16 across India, though the price has increased during 2019-20. Affordability of vegetarian Thalīs improved by 29 % and Affordability of non-vegetarian Thalīs improved by 18
- **State of the Economy:** India’s GDP growth moderated to 4.8 % in H1 of 2019-20, in between a weak environment for global manufacturing, trade and demand. There was a sharp decline in real fixed investment induced by a sluggish growth of real consumption which has weighed down GDP growth from H2 of 2018-19 to H1 of 2019-20.
  - Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed to 1.5 % of GDP in H1 of 2019-20 from 2.1 % in 2018-19.
  - Economy observes Impressive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and rebounding of portfolio flows with accumulation of foreign exchange reserves.
  - Inflation is about to decline with the end of the year with more demand due to the rise of CPI-core and WPI.
  - Financial sector saw great improvement with investment-growth-consumption
  - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and easing of credit, particularly for the stressed real estate and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) sectors and various other factors are going to be helpful soon.
- **Fiscal Developments:** The fiscal policy was characterized by sluggish growth in Tax revenue relative to the budget estimates. The Central government debt was expected to continue with debt reaching 46.2 per cent of GDP and 44.4 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively. Revenue Receipts registered a higher growth during the first eight months of 2019-20, compared to the same period last year. Gross GST monthly collections have crossed the mark of Rs. 1 lakh crore for a total of five times during 2019-20 (up to December 2019). General Government (Centre plus States) has been on the path of fiscal consolidation.
- **External Sector:** India’s external sector gained further stability witnessing improvement in Balance of Payments (BoP) position.
  - Current account deficit (CAD) reduced from 2.1% in 2018-19 to 1.5% of GDP in H1 of 2019-20.

- Foreign reserves of US\$ 461.2 bn as per 10th January 2020 is shown in the data.
- Global trade is estimated to grow at 1.0% after having peaked in 2017 at 5.7%. It is estimated to recover to 2.9% in 2020 with recovery in global economic activity.
- India's merchandise trade balance showed improvement
- India's top five partners in trade are USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong this fiscal year as well.
- **Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:** As on 16 January 2020, Nifty50 and S&P BSE Sensex indices reached record high closing of 12,355 and 41,952 respectively. The repo rate was cut by 110 basis points in four consecutive Monetary Policy Committee meetings due to the reduced growth and lower inflation rate. The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks has remained unchanged at 9.3 % between March and September 2019 and increased slightly for the NBFC from 6.1% to 6.3%.
- **Prices and Inflation:** Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increased from 3.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.1 per cent in 2019-20. WPI inflation fell from 4.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 1.5 per cent during 2019-20. Food inflation showed an upward trend mainly backed by rising vegetables, fruits and pulses prices.
- **Sustainable Development and Climate Change:** SDG implementation through well-designed initiatives with Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh as the front runners in SDG India Index. India also hosted COP-14 to UNCCD which adopted the Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities. Forest and tree cover increased and reached 80.73 million
- hectares while a total 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country is under forest area. 4 terms are being used for the India's International Solar Alliance: Enabler, Facilitator, Incubator, Accelerator.
- **Agriculture and Food Management: Agriculture is the basic sector of India.** The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country has been continuously declining on account of relatively higher growth performance of non-agricultural sectors, a natural outcome of development process. Food processing sector has been growing with AAGR of about 5.06%.
- **Industry and Infrastructure:** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) showed a growth of industrial sector of 0.6% in 2019-20. Fertilizer sector, Steel sector, telecom sector achieved a considerable growth. Infrastructure investment of Rs. 102 lakh crores have been observed.
- **Services Sector:** Services sector is now a significant sector with 55% of the total size of economy and GVA growth. Two-thirds of total FDI inflows into India with 38% exports. After witnessing a recovery in early 2019-20.
- **Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development:** Social services (health, education and others) expenditure increased 7.7 % in 2019-20. India's ranking in Human Development Index improved to 129 in 2018 from 130 in 2017. The share of regular wage/salaried employees has increased by 5 % and reached 28%. A significant jump of around 2.62 crore new jobs. Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush played a good role.

### Scheme Announced in Budget 2020-21

1. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna:** The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched by the Govt. of India (in 2000) to provide connectivity to unconnected villages as part of a poverty reduction strategy.
2. **Village Storage Scheme:** Run by the SHGs to provide farmers a good holding capacity and reduce their logistics cost. Women, SHGs to regain their position as Dhaanya Lakshmi.
3. **New scheme NIRVIK to be launched** to achieve higher export credit disbursement. It will provide Higher insurance coverage to reduction in premium for small exporters Simplified procedure for claim settlements.
4. **Kisan Rail Yojna:** It will be set up by the Indian Railways under PPP (Public Private Partnership) model to transport perishable goods. This will help in building a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables goods can be transported quickly.
5. **Krishi Udaan Yojna:** It will be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation: Both international and national routes to be covered to transport perishable goods.
6. **National Technical Textiles Mission** to be set up with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of Rs 1480 crore.
7. **'Vivad Se Vishwas'** scheme will be setup to reduce litigations in direct taxes. Waiver of interest and penalty – only disputed taxes to be paid for payments till 31st March 2020. Additional amount to be paid if availed after 31st

- March 2020. Benefits to taxpayers in whose cases appeals are pending at any level.
8. Scheme for Revision of **duties** and taxes on exported products to be launched. Exporters to be digitally refunded duties and taxes levied at the Central, State and local levels, which are otherwise not exempted or refunded.
  9. Two new national level Science Schemes to be initiated to create a comprehensive database **Mapping of India's genetic landscape**.
  10. Scheme anchored by EXIM Bank and SIDBI to handhold MSMEs in exports markets
  11. A scheme to encourage the manufacture of mobile phones, electronic equipment and semi-conductor packaging is also proposed.
  12. **Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme** will be expended to all districts by 2024.
  13. **NABARD Re-finance Scheme** to be further expanded.
  14. **PM Jan Arogya Yojana**: More than 20000 empanelled hospitals under More than 20,000 empanelled hospitals under PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
  15. Ayushman Bharat scheme: In this scheme, "TB Harega Desh Jeetega" Campaign launched to end TB by 2025.
  16. **PM-KISAN**: Its beneficiaries to be covered under the KCC scheme.
  17. **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana**: 0.5 crore households mobilized with 58 lakh SHGs for poverty alleviation.
  18. **PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**: More than 20,000 hospitals already empanelled under PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). Viability Gap Funding window proposed for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode. Aspirational Districts with no Ayushman empanelled hospitals to be covered in the first phase. Targeting diseases with an appropriately designed preventive regime using Machine Learning and AI.
  19. **PM-KUSUM to be expanded**: 20 lakh farmers to be provided for setting up stand-alone solar pumps. Another 15 lakh farmers to be helped to solarise their grid-connected pump sets. Scheme to enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their fallow/barren lands and to sell it to the grid.
  20. **Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme**: This scheme will offer 2000 medicines and 300 surgical in all districts by 2024.
  21. **Udaan Scheme**: 100 more airports to be developed by 2024 to support Udaan scheme.
  22. **scheme to provide subordinated debt for entrepreneurs of MSMEs by the banks**: It Would be counted as quasi-equity. Would be fully guaranteed through the Credit Guarantee Trust for Medium and Small Entrepreneurs (CGTMSE). The corpus of the CGTMSE would accordingly be augmented by the government.
  23. **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** (launched in June 2015): Aim to provide affordable housing to urban and rural poor. The beneficiaries of this scheme include Economically Weaker Section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle Income Groups (MIGs). The annual income cap is up to Rs 3 lakh for EWS, Rs 3-6 lakh for LIG and Rs 6 + -18 lakhs for MIG.
  24. **Integrated Child Development Services**: (launched on 2nd October 1975): CCEA has approved four sub-schemes under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The four schemes include Anganwadi services, the program for adolescent girls called Sabla, Child Protection Services, and National Creche Scheme
  25. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) LPG**: The Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) or PAHAL (Pratyaksh Hanstantrit Labh) scheme was earlier launched on June 1, 2013. It required the consumer to mandatorily have an Aadhaar number for availing LPG Subsidy.
  26. **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**: The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims to provide affordable healthcare facilities in different parts of the country and improve medical education. The first phase in the PMSSY has two projects, Setting up of six AIIMS and upgrading existing Government medical colleges.

### Key Highlight Union Budget 2020-21

- With the overall theme of "Ease of Living", Finance Minister presented the Union Budget 2020 to **energizing the Indian economy through a combination of short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures**.
- There are 3 themes of #Budget2020: Aspirational India, Economic development for all, and Developing a caring society.
- **Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development**: Rs 2.83 lakh crore to be spent on Agriculture, Rural Development, Irrigation and allied activities as farmers and rural poor continue to remain the key focus of the Government.
  - Doubling farmers' income by 2022
  - PM Fasal Bima Yojana for farmers
  - Agriculture credit target for the year 2020-21 has be set at Rs 15 lakh crore.
  - Expansion of PM-KUSUM to provide 20 lakh farmers for setting up stand-alone solar pumps and for another 15 lakh farmers to solarise their grid-connected pump sets.
  - Horticulture sector with focus on "one product one district" for better marketing and export.
  - Artificial insemination to develop fodder farms, doubling of milk processing capacity

- Blue Economy through 3477 Sagar Mitras and 500 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations.
- Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana- for alleviation of poverty.
- **Wellness, Water and Sanitation:** Rs 69,000 crore is being provided for Health care including Rs 6400 crores for Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). Setting up hospitals in the PPP mode using machine learning and AI, in the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
  - “TB Harega Desh Jeetega” campaign to end Tuberculosis by 2025
  - Expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts offering 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals by 2024 are some of the other wellness measures in the Budget.
  - Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission
- **Education and Skills:** Rs 3000 crores allocated for skill development. New Education Policy will be announced soon with 150 higher educational institutions to start apprenticeship embedded degree/diploma courses by March 2021.
  - “Study in India” programme, an Ind-SAT is proposed to be held in Asian and African countries.
  - A National Police University and a National Forensic Science University are being proposed
  - National Recruitment Agency (NRA) proposed to conduct common entrance test.
- **Industry, Commerce and Investment:** Rs 27300 crore would be allocated for development and promotion of Industry and Commerce for the year 2020-21.
  - An Investment Clearance Cell will be set up to provide “end to end” facilitation.
  - Five new smart cities in collaboration with States in PPP mode.
  - A National Technical Textiles Mission would be set up.
  - NIRVIK scheme is being launched to support mainly small exporters.
  - Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for creating a Unified Procurement System in the country providing a single platform for procurement of goods, services and works.
- **Infrastructure:** Investment of Rs 100 lakh crore for infrastructure sector. National Infrastructure Pipeline consisting 6500 projects launched in December will play a significant role.
  - Development of 2500 Km access control highways, 9000 Km of economic corridors,
  - 2000 Km of coastal and land port roads and 2000 Km of strategic highways.
- Commissioned 550 wi-fi facilities in as many stations.
- Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains would be done through PPP mode. More Tejas type trains will connect iconic tourist destinations.
- 100 more airports would be developed by 2024 to support Udaan scheme.
- Allocation of Rs 22,000 crore proposed for power and renewable energy sector in 2020-21.
- Expansion of the national gas grid from the present 16,200 km to 27,000 km proposed.
- **New Economy:** Policy to enable private sector to build Data Centre parks will be brought out soon. Fibre to the Home (FTTH) connections through Bharatnet will link 100,000 gram panchayats this year. Measures to benefit the Start-ups: digital platform for seamless application and capture of IPRs, Knowledge Translation Clusters to be set up across different technology sectors including new and emerging areas. It is proposed to provide an outlay of Rs 8000 crore over a period five years for the National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications.
- **Women and Child, Social Welfare:** Rs 35,600 crore proposed for nutrition-related programmes and Rs 28,600 crore proposed for programs that are specific to women. Rs 85000 crore would be allocated towards the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward classes in this budget. Also, Rs 9,500 to be enhanced for senior citizens and Divyang.
- **Culture and Tourism:** Establishment of an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under Ministry of Culture proposed.
  - 5 archaeological sites to be developed as iconic sites with on-site Museums - Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh) Shivsagar (Assam), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).
  - Re-curation of the Indian Museum in Kolkata with a Museum on Numismatics and Trade to be in the historic Old Mint building Kolkata. 4 more with setting up of a Tribal Museum in Ranchi (Jharkhand).
  - Maritime museum to be set up at Lothal- the Harrapan age maritime site near Ahmedabad, by Ministry of Shipping.

- **Environment and Climate Change:** Allocation of Rs 4,400 crore for Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate ensuring cleaner air. PM also launched Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) with Secretariat in Delhi. This is another international initiative after International Solar Alliance.
- **Governance:** For clean, corruption-free, policy driven and good in intent governance, setting up of a National Recruitment Agency (NRA) as an independent, professional, specialist organisation for conduct of a computer-based online Common Eligibility Test for recruitment to Non-Gazetted posts. Deliberation to strengthen the Contract Act is also in this budget.
- **Financial Sector:** Rs 3,50,000 crore capital into Public Sector Banks infused by Government. Government has already approved consolidation of 10 banks into four.
  - Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) for insurance Coverage which is now Rs one lakh to Rs five lakh per depositor.
  - Under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, debt recovery is proposed to be Rs 100 crore with loan size of Rs 50 lakh.
  - Universal Pension coverage with auto enrolment
- For selected sectors such as pharmaceuticals, auto components and others, extension of handholding support for technology upgradations, R&D, business strategy etc. A scheme of Rs 1000 crore will be anchored by EXIM Bank together with SIDBI.
- **Financial Markets:** Specified categories of Government securities would be opened fully for non-resident investors, apart from being available to domestic investors as well.
  - Expand new Debt-ETF consisting primarily of government securities.
  - Partial Credit Guarantee scheme for the NBFCs to address the liquidity constraints of the NBFCs/HFCs.
  - Rupee derivatives to be traded in the International Financial Services Centre at GIFT city, Gujarat.
  - Listing of companies on stock exchange and giving opportunity to retail investors provide financial market and unlocks its value. Also, selling of a part of LIC by IPO is proposed.
  - Nominal growth of GDP is estimated at 10%.
  - A good part of the borrowings for the financial year 2020-21 would go towards Capital expenditure of the Government that has been scaled up by more than 21% spurring growth impulses in the economy.

## February- 2020

### 1. SEBI constituted municipal bonds development committee headed by Sujit Prasad

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted Municipal Bonds Development Committee headed by Shri Sujit Prasad, Executive Director, SEBI in order to get recommendations on policy matters pertaining to development of municipal debt securities market.
- The members of the committee include representatives from ministry, Municipal Corporation, lawyers, professionals and market practitioners.
- To advise SEBI on issues related to regulation and development of primary and secondary market of municipal debt securities.

### 2. Amazon Web Services to invest \$1.6 billion for 2 data centres in India

- Amazon, E-commerce company and leader in cloud computing service with its Amazon Web Services (AWS), is setting up 2 data centers near Hyderabad, Telangana,

with a total investment of Rs. 11,630 crore (around \$ 1.6 billion).

- The data center aims for safe and secure storage, to manage and process customer data & information through cloud computing.

### 3. EIU lowers Global Growth Forecast 2020 to 2.2% from 2.3%

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has revised its Global growth forecast for the year 2020 to 2.2 percent from the previous 2.3 percent.
- This is because of the Impact in Global market created by Novel coronavirus outbreak in China and also the virus starts spreading globally to put barrier for this.
- EIU also revised China's growth downwards by lowering the real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) forecast for China in 2020 to 5.4 percent from 5.9 percent earlier, further in report EIU assumed that the spread of the virus will be under control by March-end.

### 4. Facebook launched digital literacy training to 1 lakh women in 7 Indian states



- Facebook has launched “We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar.
  - It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.
  - The training program aims to equip women with skills & provide equal access to economic opportunities, education & social connection through the internet.
- 5. GSTN formulates panel to improve IT system**
    - Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has formed a consultation committee to give feedback on new functionalities in the GST system and adoption of new information technology (IT) platforms.
    - GSTN is a non-profit, non-government organization which manages the entire IT (Information Technology) system of the GST portal.
    - The committee will have Members including officials from selected states recommended by the GST Council, member secretary of GSTN, representatives from the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and industry chambers such as CII and Assocham.
  - 6. \$118.3 billion received in remittances since 2018-19: Govt data**
    - The Indian govt. has released data of remittances received in the country since April 2018- September 2019.
    - As per the report around 13.62 million Indian nationals are staying abroad & around \$118.3 billion has been received as remittance.
    - The foreign countries in which a large number of Indians were living include Nepal, the Middle East region, the UK (United Kingdom), the US (United States), Malaysia and Germany.
  - 7. Unemployment rate in India was 6.1% in 2017-18 as per new PLFS**
    - As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI), the labour force participation is 36.9 % and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%.
    - The government is conducting a new PLFS with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys. It’s an attempt to provide authentic data.
  - 8. Fitch forecast India’s GDP growth to 4.6 % for FY20 & 5.6 % for FY 21**
    - Fitch Ratings Inc. an American credit rating agency in its ‘India’s economic growth outlook’, has estimated India’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to 5.6 % for the financial year-FY21.
    - For the current fiscal 2019-20 (FY 20), GDP is projected at 4.6 %.
    - This estimation is less than what the central government had estimated in the Economic Survey 2020, presented just a day before the Union Budget for 2020-21.
  - 9. Fiscal deficit reached 132.4 % of budget estimate for 2019-2020 till December: CGA**
    - According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit reached 132.4 % of the full fiscal target in December 2019 itself due to the slow pace of revenue collection in the current financial year-FY 2019-2020.
    - As per the data, in the first 9 months of the current FY, the fiscal deficit i.e. the difference between expenses & receipts stood at Rs 9,31,725 crore.
    - While, the government in its Medium Term Fiscal Policy (MTFP) Statement presented with the Budget 2019-20, had set a target of limiting the fiscal deficit to Rs 7,03,760 crore, or 3.3 % of gross domestic product (GDP), in the current FY ending March 2020.

## January

- 1. Google commits \$ 1 million grant for news literacy in India:**
  - In order to curb misinformation, Google News Initiative (GNI) has announced a \$1 million grant for global non-profit organization ‘Internews’ that will launch a new initiative to promote news literacy among the Indian public.
  - The funding is part of a \$ 10 million Google’s commitment worldwide to media literacy.
  - Google News Initiative India Training Network will pick a team of 250 journalists, fact-checkers, academics and activists of non-governmental organizations for the project, who will be trained by global and Indian experts in 7 Indian languages.
- 2. Tata AIG in collaboration with DFI to develop insurance products for drone industry**
  - The Drone Federation of India (DFI) has announced to collaborate with Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd (Tata AIG) for developing as well as launching insurance products for the drone operators.
  - The announcement was made during the recently concluded Drone Festival of India at New Delhi.
  - Tata AIG has obtained approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for necessary regulations.
  - DGCA regulations make insurance mandatory for operating remotely-piloted aircraft systems (RPAS).

### 3. FICCI estimates India's GDP growth at 5 % for FY20:

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in its "Economic Outlook Survey 2020", has projected India's annual median GDP growth at 5% for 2019-20
- It is in line with the National Statistical Organisation's (NSO) projected growth rate (5%, a 11-year low).
- FICCI has hoped that the conditions will improve further and the country's growth rate could reach 5.5 % in 2020-21.
- It also estimated India's growth rate at 4.7 % in the last December quarter (2019-20).

### 4. NTPC to develop 300 MW solar power projects in West African country Togo

- West African country Togo has appointed NTPC as its project management consultant (PMC) for about 300 MW of solar power projects in Togo.
- Togo has identified 2 different plots of land- one each of 70 and 500 acres in Dapaong (Dalwak region) & Mango (Savanes region) respectively, that will combine to produce 283 MW.
- With this, Togo become the 1st ISA (International Solar Alliance ) nation to get the services of NTPC.

### 5. Government of India has decided to sell 100 percent stake of Air India

- Indian Government has decided to sell its 100 percent stake of Air India (AI) under the reconstituted Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) for re-initiated strategic disinvestment of Air India.
- It includes its 100 percent stake in low-cost airline Air India Express and 50 percent shareholding in joint venture AI SATS Airport Services Private Limited.
- The deadline for submitting the interest to bid Air India is March 17,2020.
- The net worth of the parties interested in bidding for Air India should be Rs 3,500 crore.

### 6. BSE signed licensing agreement with ICE Futures Europe

- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed a licensing agreement with the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Futures Europe. ICE is a global exchange and clearing houses operator.
- Through this pact, the ICE Brent index will be used as a final settlement price for the rupee-denominated Brent future contract of BSE.
- Indian commodity markets will be provided with convenient as well as cost-effective onshore hedging products and the price discovery of Brent crude prices in the Indian time zone will also be enabled.

### 7. Ind-Ra predicts India's GDP to grow at 5.5% for FY21

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), the Indian subsidiary of Fitch group, has estimated the Indian economy to grow at a 5.5% rate in fiscal year 2020-21,

which is slightly higher than the 5% GDP growth rate estimate for 2019-20.

- It is to be noted that earlier in November 2019, Ind-Ra had estimated India's GDP to grow by 5.6 % for FY20.
- As per the agency, earlier it believes that there would be some improvement in the next financial year, but the Indian economy seems to be stuck in a period of low consumption and low investment demand.

### 8. Indian oil signs MOU with NPA Ghana for assistance in LPG programme

- The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed an MoU with the National Petroleum Authority of Ghana Oil Regulator, for the implementation of Ghana's National LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas) Promotion Policy.
- The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas & Steel Shri Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan and Micheal Aaron, High Commissioner of Ghana.
- The purpose of this MoU is to strengthen cooperation between the Parties in the petroleum field specifically LPG.
- The Indian Oil will support the NPA on successful implementation of the Re-circulation Model (CRM) of LPG.

### 9. IMF trims India's 2019 GDP growth forecast to 4.8% from 6.1%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook 2020, has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2019 to 4.8 % from 6.1% predicted earlier in October 2019.
- The growth projections have been lowered, citing pressure from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and weak income growth in rural India.
- It also estimated the India's economic growth rate at 5.8 % in 2020 and 6.5 % in 2021.
- This figure is 1.2 % and 0.9 % less than the previous estimate of the world economic scenario released in October 2019.

### 10. UN predicts India's GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 to 5%

- The United Nations (UN) has predicted the India's GDP growth forecast for the year 2019-20 to 5%.
- This comes a day after its 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)2020' report slashed India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for the year 2019-20 by 1.9% to 5.7%.
- Earlier in 2019, It had projected GDP growth rate of 7.6% for FY 2019-20.
- The estimation of UN hadn't taken into account the latest growth figures released by India's National Statistical Office (NSO) and hence the outlook has been revised.
- Earlier the NSO estimated the growth in real GDP for 2019-20 at 5% compared to 6.8% for 2018-19.

### 11. Retail inflation rose to 7.35% in December 2019, highest in last 5 years: NSO

- According to the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) Retail inflation figures, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Retail inflation rose to a 5-year high of 7.35% in December 2019.
- Earlier, in July 2014, the retail inflation had reached 7.39 %.
- Retail inflation was more affected in December due to high food prices.
- Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at only 2.11 % in December 2018 & 5.54 % in November 2019.

### 12. India to surpass China in terms of oil demand growth by mid-2020: IEA

- According to the report, 'India 2020 Energy Policy Review' released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in collaboration with NITI Aayog, India will overtake China by mid-2020 in terms of crude oil demand growth.
- The report covers the key energy sectors of oil, natural gas and electricity and identify the main energy security issues.
- The report noted that India's strategic crude oil reserves are equal to its 10-day imports & this is not enough for difficult days.
- So, India's crude oil demand will rise from 4.4 million barrels per day in 2017 to 6 million barrels per day in 2024.

## December

### 1. NSO pegs India's Economic Growth at 5% for FY20

#### Note:

- The National Statistics Office (NSO) estimates India's GDP growth during the fiscal 2019-20 at 5% as compared to 6.8% in the previous year.
- Estimated growth of real Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2019-20 is 4.9% as against 6.6% in 2018-19.
- The manufacturing sector is expected to grow at 2% in 2019-20 as compared to 6.9% in the previous year.
- The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2019-20 is likely to attain a level of ₹96,563 as compared to ₹92,565 for the year 2018-19.
- The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 4.3% during 2019-20, as against 5.6% in the previous year.
- Agriculture sector is expected to see a growth of 2.8% as compared to 2.9% in the previous year.

### 2. Union Budget 2020 to be presented on February 01

#### Note:

- As per Finance Ministry the Union Budget 2020-21 will be presented on February 01. The budget session will begin from January 31 and will be held in two phases till 3 April.
- As per the reports, the Budget Session of Parliament will be held in two phases on recommendations by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
- The first phase of Union Budget 2020-21 will be held from January 31 to February 11 and the second phase from March 2 to April 3.

### 3. Government approves over Rs 5000 crore fund for North East natural gas grid project

#### Note:

- The Government has approved 'Viability Gap Funding' worth Rs 5559 crores to set up a natural gas pipeline

grid in the North East. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to the project on January 8, 2020.

- Under the project, a capital grant worth Rs 5559 crores will be provided to Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited to build a natural gas pipeline grid covering eight north eastern states.
- This is the second such funding approved by the Union Government for a gas pipeline project.

### 4. CCI Released report on 'Market Study on E-commerce in India':

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has released a report 'Market Study on E-commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations' on January 08, 2020. This study was initiated by CCI in April 2019 with an objective to understand the performance of e-commerce in India.
- This study highlights that e-commerce is gaining importance across the sectors in India. The study shows that e-commerce has increased price transparency and price competition in the country. Apart from that, it also presents key trends and issues of the market.

### 5. NTPC will invest Rs. 50,000 crores to add 10GW Solar Energy Capacity by 2022

- State-owned power giant NTPC Ltd. is planning to add 10 GW (gigawatt) of solar energy generation capacity by 2022. The project would entail an investment of around Rs.50,000 crore which will be funded mainly by green bonds.
- NTPC's plans to add 10GW solar energy capacity assumes significance in view of country's ambitious target of having 175GW of clean energy by 2022.

### 6. Pan-Aadhaar linking deadline extended to March 2020

#### Note:

- Aadhaar-Pan linking: The deadline to link PAN card with Aadhaar has been extended till March 2020. The Income Tax Department had earlier announced December 31 as the final deadline.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the deadline to link the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar for the eighth time. The Tax department had earlier on December 16, 2019 announced that the linking process must be completed before December 31, 2019 to reap seamless benefits of income tax services.
- The earlier deadline to link the PAN card with the Aadhaar card was September 30, 2019. The deadline, however, was extended till December 31, 2019 by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through order in September 2019.

**7. Finance Minister launches 'eBkay' auction platform for assets attached by banks**

**Note:**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched eBkay, a common e-auction platform to enable online auction of attached assets transparently and cleanly for the improved realization of value by banks.
- The e-auction platform is now linked on Indian Banks Auctions Mortgaged Properties Information (IBAPI) portal and guidelines have been made available.
- The portal will enhance user experience through seamless access to information by search based on type and location of property put up for e-auction by banks in India.

**8. Reliance JioMart launch: Everything you need to know**

**Note:**

- The Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) launched JioMart, a new online grocery platform on December 31, 2019.
- JioMart brings Reliance industries in direct competition with other major e-commerce players such as Flipkart and Amazon. The new e-commerce platform has been initially launched for customers in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan.
- The service will be extended to people across India gradually. It will be operated by Reliance Retail. Reliance Retail has already started begun taking pre-registrations.

**9. Tripura gets its first SEZ in Sabroom**

**Note:**

- Tripura is all set to get its first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) has issued a notification for the same on December 16, 2019. Tripura's first SEZ will be established at Jalefa, Sabroom, South Tripura District.
- Sarbroom is about 130 km away from Agartala. This SEZ will be an agro-based food processing sector specified

economic zone. This project will help hundreds of native people to get employment and provide an opportunity to learn new technologies in the agro-based food processing sector.

**10. BPCL's LPG bottling plant inaugurated in Odisha**

- The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has set up the new state-of-the-art LPG Bottling Plant at Village Barkani in Bolangir district of Odisha.
- The LPG bottling plant with an annual capacity of filling 42 lakh cylinders has been developed by state-run BPCL.

**11. Union Cabinet approves Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- Union Cabinet approved Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 11, 2019. The cabinet was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 proposes to make amendments in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The amendments aim to remove the bottlenecks in insolvency resolution, streamline Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process and protect last-mile funding to boost investment in the financially distressed sectors.

**12. Lok Sabha passes International Financial Services Bill**

- The Lok Sabha passed the International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019 on December 11, 2019. The bill proposes setting of an authority to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.
- The bill will be applicable to all the International Financial Services Centres in India, which were set up under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
- The International Financial Services Centres Authority will comprise nine members including a Chairperson, all of whom will be appointed by the Union government. The members will comprise one each from RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and two officials from Union Ministry of Finance.

**13. Cabinet approves transfer of Assam Gas Cracker Project to oil ministry**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the transfer of administrative control of Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) implementing Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP) from Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (under Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers) to Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG).

**14. SEBI signs pact with Kazakhstan's AFSA for mutual co-operation**

**Note:**

- Markets regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
- The MoU was signed by SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi and the acting chief executive officer (CEO) of AFSA Mukhtar Bubeyev.

**15. GoI to organize more than 100 Hunar Haats in next 5 years**

**Note:**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs will organize more than 100 Hunar Haat in the next five years. The move aims to increase employment opportunities to craftsmen, artisans and culinary experts and also to increase their market exposure.
- The Ministry will organize Hunar Haats in Chennai, Delhi, Kolakata, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Patna, Dehradun and Indore. The ministry has also sanctioned to set up more than 100 Hunar hubs in different parts of the country.
- The Ministry in its report said that more than 65,000 artisans and craftsmen have been employed through Hunar Haats in the last 2 years.

**16. India, ADB sign \$490 Mn loan for PPP to upgrade Madhya Pradesh roads**

**Note:**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India has signed a \$490 million loan for public-private partnership (PPP) project for upgradation of about 1,600 km of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) from single-lane to two-lane widths, with road safety features and all-weather standards in state of Madhya Pradesh. An additional \$286 million investment will be mobilised via private sector participation under PPP modality.
- The state highways and major district roads provide a crucial link between rural roads and national highways, therefore, the upgradation of these roads under project will improve rural and peri-urban connectivity in state as well as improve access to markets and better services.

**17. Kerala sets 2024 deadline for Semi High-Speed Rail project**

**Note:**

- The Thiruvananthapuram–Kasargode Semi High-Speed Rail Corridor (SHSR), a proposed high-speed rail corridor in India that would connect Thiruvananthapuram with Kasaragod in Kerala is expected to be completed by 2024.

- Recently, centre had also given in-principle approval to the Rs.56,000 crore Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod SHSR corridor project. The order was issued by Union Ministry of Railways.

**18. HDFC Bank becomes third Indian company to cross \$100 bn M-cap**

- HDFC Bank Ltd has crossed the \$100 billion market capitalization (M-Cap) in intraday trading, thus becoming only the third company in India to achieve this milestone. However, it closed below \$100 billion mark at \$99.5 billion. HDFC is one of India's largest private-sector lenders.

**19. India's first ever fresh vegetable export to Dubai by Sea Route**

- On December 20, 2019, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) sent its first trial shipment of fresh vegetables from Varanasi to Dubai by sea route. APEDA is the organization under Ministry of Commerce and Industry that promotes export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

**20. Railways Ministry signs MoU with University of Birmingham for establishing Centre of Excellence**

- National Rail Transport Institute (NRTI) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Birmingham in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi to set up its first Centre of Excellence for Next Generation Transportation Systems. NRTI is a deemed to be university under Union Ministry of Railways.

**21. Uttarakhand to host 11th Regional Quality Conclave**

- The 11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC) is being organized on 20 December 2019 at Rudrapur, district Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand. The is being organized by Quality Council of India (QCI) along with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). Through this Conclave the Quality Council of India (QCI) hopes to reach out to industries in the hilly regions of the country.

**22. Infosys launches three block-chain powered distributed applications:**

- Infosys announced the launch of three blockchain-powered distributed applications for government services, supply chain management and insurance domains. These applications are equipped with predictive return on investment (ROI) analytics for business investments that can be tailored to meet numerous industry-specific needs.

**23. ADB issues \$250 million loan to India to expand energy efficiency investments**

**Note:**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a US \$250 million loan agreement with Government of India to

provide loan to public sector company Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) so as to expand energy efficiency investments in India that will benefit agricultural, institutional and residential consumers.

- Earlier, in 2016, ADB had approved a US \$200 million loan to EESL for demand side energy efficiency sector project that focused on efficient lighting and appliances.

**24. India secures loan from Germany to develop an energy-efficient housing programme**

**Note:**

- India has secured a US \$277 million (about Rs.1,900 crore) loan from Germany to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in the country. The loan agreement was signed between State Bank of India (SBI) and Germany's KfW Development Bank for US \$277 million to establish an energy-efficient housing programme in India.

**25. BEE organized International workshop on Energy Efficient Cooling**

**Note:**

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under Union Ministry of Power, conducted an International Workshop on 12-13 December 2019 on 'Energy Efficient Cooling' at Scope Convention Centre in New Delhi. The two-day international workshop was organised as part of 'Energy Conservation Week' being celebrated from 9- 14 December 2019.

**26. 7th Economic Census: First time digital; to be complete by 2020**

**Note:**

- The Seventh Economic Census is being conducted nationwide through Common Service Centres (CSC) and is expected to be completed by March 2020. This is the first time the census is being conducted digitally.
- As the census is being conducted digitally, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducting the census has tied up with CSC e-governance services for the 7th census. Currently the census is being held in Delhi. Delhi is the 26th place where the census is launched. The process is long and will take minimum of three months to complete the census in Delhi region alone. Already the census is on in 20 states and 5 union territories.

**27. Cabinet approves MoU between CDSCO and Saudi FDA**

**Note:**

- Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Saudi Food and Drug Authority in field of Medical Products Regulation. The MoU was signed on 29 October 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**28. Govt launches Pilot Project for using Fastags for Parking at Hyderabad Airport**

- To ensure the benefits of FASTag beyond tolling, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has launched a pilot project for using FASTags for parking purposes at Hyderabad Airport. Conceptualised as FASTag 2.0, the tag would cover parking payments, fuel payments, etc. After the success of project in Hyderabad, it will be launched at Delhi airport.

**29. India's Foreign Exchange touches all time high of 457.468 billion USD**

- RBI announced that Foreign Exchange Reserves of India has swelled by 2.52 billion USD in the week that ended on December 27, 2019.

**30. The Central Bank also said that the country's special drawing rights with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) dipped by 2 million USD and the reserve position increased by 58 million USD. Currently, India SDR with the IMF is 1.4441 billion USD and the reserve is 3.7 billion USD. NSIC & ARAMCO Asia signs MoU for development in Oil & Gas Sector:**

**Note:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Saudi Aramco (Asia) for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector. The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out a space as vendors in Global space.

**31. United States shuts down WTO appeal court:**

**Note:** The Appeal Court of the World Trade Organization that acts as trade dispute settlement body for the members was shut down by the United States on December 9, 2019. The seven-member body that was cut down to a 3-member body in 2018 is now completely blocked by the United States. Without WTO's appellate body, the dispute settlement will return to pre-1995 GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) status quo.

**32. Alliance Air flags off Guwahati-Dimapur-Imphal flight under UDAN-RCS**

**Note:** Air India owned Alliance Air has flagged-off its first flight operations between Guwahati in Assam to Dimapur (largest city of Nagaland) and Imphal (capital of Manipur), under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). This direct 50-minute-long flights connecting Guwahati-Dimapur-Imphal is under a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), part of government's Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) programme.

### 33. Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station becomes country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility

**Note:** Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station which comes under East Central Railway (ECZ) zone has become 5500th station to get free wifi facility. The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL), the digital arm of Indian Railways, has thus provided free WiFi at 5,500 stations across country. RailTel is a 'Miniratna' enterprise that focuses on providing broadband and VPN services.

### 34. Foreign Exchange reserve touches a new high of 451.08 billion USD

**Note:** According to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the foreign exchange reserve touched a new high of 451.08 billion USD. The foreign exchange currency assets include the depreciation or appreciation of the non-US currency like pound, Euro and Yen as well. The increase is mainly due to the rise in foreign currency assets. The Gold reserves of India also declined by 148 million USD.

### 35. Artificial Intelligence introduced as a subject in CBSE schools

**Note:** The Ministry of Human Resource and Development has introduced Artificial Intelligence in classes VIII, IX and X in CBSE schools. The study materials have already been provided to the schools through official CBSE website. The CBSE has collaborated with several organization like Microsoft, Intel, IBM and so on in order to create the module of Artificial Intelligence.

### 36. CSIR, BHEL signs MoU to push 'Make in India' initiative

**Note:** The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on promotion of honey production Khadi outlets to also display CSIR products. MoU is signed to leverage expertise available in CSIR with effort of KVIC for promotion of honey production as well as to enable wider outreach of CSIR technologies and products.

### 37. Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant inaugurated in Uttarakhand

**Note:** King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurated Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Uttarakhand. The Swedish King and Queen are on a five-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral ties. It is the first STP to be completed under Hybrid Annuity (HAM) Based Public Private Partnership Model (PPPM).

### 38. Cabinet approves Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund

**Note:** The union cabinet has approved the launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (BBETF) in order to allow the investors to buy government debts. The fund will allow easy and low-cost access with the smallest amount of Rs 1000. The BBETF at its initial stages will hold basket of bonds that are issued by the public sector undertakings and other government organization bonds. It will have a maturity period of 3 to 10 years and are permitted to be traded on stock exchanges.

### 39. National Public Procurement Conclave held in New Delhi

**Note:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) in New Delhi. The two-day conclave was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). NPPC will be held from 5-6 December 2019.

### 40. Cabinet apprised of Indo-German strategic collaboration on Railways

**Note:** Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was notified of Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany regarding strategic cooperation on Railways projects. The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed by Union Ministry of Railways with Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Federal Republic of Germany in November 2019. Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) will provide a platform to Indian Railways to interact and share latest developments and knowledge in field of Railways.

### 41. Aditya Birla Finance becomes first company to list commercial papers on stock exchanges

**Note:** Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) arm of Aditya Birla Capital, has now become the first company to list its commercial papers (CPs) on stock exchanges. The move comes after stock exchanges- the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange), came out with a framework for listing of commercial papers (CPs), in a bid to broaden investors' participation in such securities.

### 42. Cabinet approves extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has accorded its approval for mandatory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute material for Jute Year 2019-20. The scope of mandatory packaging norms under Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987 has been retained

by Union Government as per 2018. Cabinet decision mandates that 100% of food grains and 20% of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

**43. Authorised capital of Food Corporation of India increased to Rs.10000 crore**

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved increasing authorized capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from existing Rs.3,500 crore to Rs.10,000 crore. CCEA was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. FCI's operations require maintaining perpetual stock of foodgrains which needs to be funded by government of India through equity or via long term loan. Therefore, Centre government is providing equity to FCI for maintaining stocks.

**44. Cabinet approves loan waiver of worth Rs.4 Cr against Sikkim Mining Corporation**

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved waiver of repayment of loan and interest thereon, of nearly worth Rs. 4 crore outstanding against Sikkim Mining Corporation (SMC) including interest accrued on total amount from 1 April 2019, till this approval outstanding against SMC. CCEA is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**45. Indian Railways sets up Institute of Financial Management in Hyderabad**

**Note:** The Indian Railway Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) has been set up in Hyderabad, Telangana. This new entity is set up to impart professional training in management of railway finances. The project was conceived and constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at a cost of Rs 85 crore. IRIFM institution is based on a 14-acre campus at Moula-Ali, Secunderabad.

**46. CBDT inaugurates Web Portal for exchange of information on Income Tax**

**Note:** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has inaugurated the Web Portal for Exchange of Information on Income Tax which will consolidate all relevant Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) related information at one place. This portal will help in convenient access by public, financial institutions as well as departmental officers at large.

**47. Government to launch first fixed income ETF of bluechip PSUs**

**Note:** Union Government will launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of large central public sector enterprises

(PSUs) by mid-December 2019. It will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies. It is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore. It is expected to improve liquidity in corporate bond market, smoothen borrowing plans of the participating state-owned companies and enhance investor base.

**48. UKIBC launched Aerospace and Defence Industry Group**

**Note:** In order to boost the bilateral cooperation in the field of aerospace and defence between India and UK the United Kingdom India Business Council (UKIBC) announced the establishment of Aerospace and Defence Industry Group. The group will advance India's defence acquisition process and also foster long-term technology and hardware transfers. The Aerospace and Defence Industry Group has been formed after suggestions of the Defence and Security Organisation of UK defence solution centre.

**49. ADB approves \$206 million loans to develop water supply, sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu**

**Note:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed \$206 million loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to develop water supply, sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities (Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Madurai and Vellore) of Tamil Nadu (TN) and also enhances capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery. It is the 2nd project loan for the ADB-assisted \$500 million multi-tranche financing for TN Urban Flagship Investment Program, granted in earlier September 2018, that will develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu.

**50. CRISIL lowers India's GDP growth rate estimate for FY 20 to 5.1% from 6.3%**

**Note:** The CRISIL formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited has lowered its estimate of India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate to 5.1 % for the current financial year – FY20 from an earlier estimate of 6.3 %. Growth in the second half of 2019-20 will go up to 5.5%, up from 4.75% in the first half. Crisil's revision is the lowest since Japan's brokerage company Nomura's 4.7 % estimate, comes within days of the government figures showing the economic growth rate in the second quarter (July-September, 2019) of the current financial year came down to 4.5 %.

**51. Fiscal deficit for April-Oct hit at 102.4%, crosses full-year target-CGA**



**Note:** According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), India's fiscal deficit for April-October, 2019 hit at 102.4% of 2019-20 Budget Estimate (BE) as on October 31, 2019. The fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue was at Rs 7,20,445 crore. In comparison with 2018-19 (last year), the deficit

is lower, as it was at 103.9 percent of 2018-19 BE. In budget, government has estimated the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at Rs 7.03 lakh crore, aiming to restrict the deficit at 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

## November

### 1. Government to launch first fixed income ETF of bluechip PSUs:

- Union Government will launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of large central public sector enterprises (PSUs) by mid-December 2019.
- It will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies.
- It is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore.
- It is expected to improve liquidity in corporate bond market, smoothen borrowing plans of the participating state-owned companies and enhance investor base.
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has appointed Edelweiss Asset Management as the asset manager for this proposed debt ETF.
- The tax treatment of this debt ETF will be same as that of debt mutual funds.

### 2. IRCTC Revenue doubles; 14% increase in profits

- The earnings from internet ticketing services of IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) increased by 80.8% between the period April, 2019 and September, 2019.
- IRCTC is an exclusive e-ticketing partner of the Indian Railways.
- This is the first time IRCTC is releasing its revenue after it entered the stock market in October, 14, 2019. Also, the sector has earned huge success in India's path of Digitization.

### 3. Gol merges three Insurance PSUs:

- The Gol will merge 3 public Sector Insurance Companies as announced in budget 2019-20.
- The merger includes United India Insurance Limited, National Insurance Co Limited and Oriental Insurance Company Limited.
- The Budget 2019-2020 did not make provision of funds for insurers and the Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the government institutions in the financial sector are forced to seek supplementary demands to fulfil their purposes. The Budget allocated Rs 12,000 crore for this.

- The General Insurance Companies have sought Rs 500 crore to Rs 3000 crore each to avoid falling below solvency ratio. However, the three companies that are to be merged are struggling to maintain minimum solvency ratio of 1.5

### 4. World Bank's 300 million USD plan to Develop Kolkata:

- The World Bank has submitted a master plan to develop logistics infrastructure of Kolkata metropolitan area. The bank is to invest 300 million USD in the project. The Government entities participating in the deal includes CII and the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation.
- The focus of the project is to be on construction of rail, road, industrial parks. The aim of the project is to improve competitiveness, increase employment.
- The Inland Water Transport World Bank Project, Asian High way project, Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor are the current prominent infrastructural developments in the region

### 5. AIIB to invest 100 million USD in solar and wind projects in India:

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which is headquartered at Beijing expects an investment of 100 million USD in India in a year. The foreign investment is to enter India through the bank in Wind and solar projects.
- AIIB approves 500 million USD for MUTP 3
- On November 16, 2019, the bank approved a loan of 500 million USD in three suburban rail infrastructure projects.
- The projects are being executed under MUTP-Mumbai Urban Transport Project
- The project curbs trespass deaths by including mid-section trespasses. It is the first of its kind in the country.

### 6. Indo-French collaboration: Largest FDI project of Indian Railways:

- The Indian Railways and Alstom came together in the intention of transforming the freight transportation of India.

- In line with the collaboration, the MELPM-Madhepura Electric Locomotive Private Limited has been established.
- MELPM will now manufacture 800 electric locomotives for freight services with the foreign investment of 3.5 billion Euros.

#### 7. **BHIM UPI goes global: Demonstrated at Singapore FinTech Festival:**

As a first step towards internationalization, a global pilot demo of BHIM UPI QR-based payments began on 13 November 2019 with a live transaction at merchant terminal at the **Singapore FinTech Festival 2019**. The Indian contingent with participation of 43 companies and start-ups was one of the largest at Singapore FinTech Festival 2019 being held between 11 and 15 November.

In May 2018 Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested the launch of BHIM UPI QR code-based payments internationally after launching RuPay International card and SBI's UPI based remittance app in Singapore, as an achievement for fintech cooperation between India and Singapore.

#### 8. **Central Electricity Authority Data: India's Electricity Demand fell to a 12-year low**

- According to the data released by the Central electricity Authority (CEA), the electricity demand of the country fell by 13% in October 2019 as compared to October 2018. This is the lowest in 12 years.
- Sharp reduction in the industrialized states like Maharashtra and Gujarat indicating an economic slowdown is the major reason for the decline in demand.
- Electricity demand of the country was 98 billion units in October 2019 as against 112 billion units in October 2018.
- Power demand in Madhya Pradesh declined by 26%, Karnataka declined by 25%, Maharashtra declined by 22%, Gujarat by 19%, Telangana by 16% and Andhra Pradesh by 16%.

#### 9. **World's first CNG port terminal to be built in Gujarat:**

- Gujarat government has given its approval to a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal facility at Bhavnagar port. This would be the world's first CNG port terminal. The approval for this was given by Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board headed by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.
- **World's first CNG port terminal**
- The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK-based Foresight Group to set up this port terminal at Bhavnagar in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in

January 2019. The existing port at Bhavnagar is administered by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).

- The terminal will be jointly built by Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group. The consortium of company will invest Rs.1,900 crore out of which Rs.1,300 crore will be invested in 1st phase and Rs.600 crore in 2nd phase.

#### 10. **Finance Minister: Rs 25,000 crore Fund for stuck Housing Projects**

- On November 7, 2019, Government of India announced the establishment of Rs 25,000 crore fund for home buyers whose money is stuck in stalled projects. According to the Ministry of Finance, there are over 1600 such projects comprising of 4.58 lakh housing units across the country. The "Special Window" will prioritize debt financing in the Affordable and middle-income housing sector.
- Rs 10,000 crore is to be provided by Gol towards the fund. Other firms like LIC and SBI along with sovereign wealth funds and pension funds will contribute Rs 15,000 crore
- The fund is to be set up as Category II Alternate Investment Fund.
- The fund is to be registered with SEBI as an escrow account.

#### 11. **India withdraws from RCEP**

- On November 4, 2019, India decided against joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal as India did not receive any credible assurance on market access and non-tariff barriers. This paved way for the other 15-members to go ahead and sign the deal keeping the door open for India to join at later date.
- Reasons of Withdrawal
- Trade Deficit
- India has trade deficit with at least 11 of 15 RCEP countries. It has doubled in the last five years from 54 billion USD in 2013-14 to 105 billion USD in 2018-19. Of this China alone accounts to 53 billion USD. Signing the RCEP will widen trade deficit and will empty foreign exchange reserve of India at a faster rate.

#### 12. **ADB to give \$451Mn for Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor power links**

- The Asian Development Bank will provide a \$451 million (appx. Rs.3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- As per ADB, the Manila-headquartered multilateral agency the total cost of the project is \$653.5

million, of which the government will provide \$202.5 million.

### 13. IIT Delhi launches Global Alumni Endowment Fund

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has formally launched its Global Alumni Endowment

Fund with an initial commitment of Rs 250.crore from nearly 20 corporate leaders and alumni of institution.

- The Endowment Fund was launched by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 31 October 2019.

## October

1. **SEBI new rule to impact foreign funds** – The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified that only FPIs – Foreign Portfolio Investors located in FATF countries or managed by an enterprise based under FATF jurisdiction can deal in Participatory Notes.

Note:

- **HR Khan Committee** - The new rule is based on the **HR Khan Committee's recommendation**. HR Khan Committee was formed by SEBI under chairmanship of former deputy governor of RBI to streamline FPI.
- **Participatory Notes** are financial instruments required by investors to invest in Indian stock markets without being registered with SEBI.

2. **Govt constituted Ajay Bhushan Pandey panel to check money laundering activities** – On 07th October the government set up a high-level inter-ministerial committee chaired by **the Ajay Bhushan Pandey** (Revenue Secretary) for better coordination among various departments and law enforcement agencies to prevent money laundering activities.

3. **S&P lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3% for 2019-20** - The S&P Global Ratings lowered India's growth projection for 2019-20 to 6.3% from 7.1%.

4. **CBDT launches Documentation Identification Number** – The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a computer-generated **Document Identification Number (DIN)** to ensure greater transparency and accountability in tax administration.

- Thus, from now onwards, every CBDT communication will have to have a documentation identification number.

5. **Finance Minister launches two IT initiatives ICEDASH and ATITHI**

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled two new IT Initiatives 'ICEDASH' and 'ATITHI' for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods and facilitating arriving international passengers.

- ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.
- The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.

6. **Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20**

- US Rating agency, Moody has lowered the India GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 to 5.8% from 6.2%.
- It stated that the Indian economy is experiencing a pronounced slowdown partly due to long-lasting factors.

7. **IMF cuts World and India growth rates**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgrade the global growth in 2019 to 3%, the slowest since the global financial crisis.
- India's growth projections have also been downgraded to 6.1% and 7.0% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, down by 1.2 percentage points and 0.5 percentage points relative to April projection.
- The IMF projected the U.S. would grow at 2.4% and 2.1% in 2019 and 2020 respectively. For China, growth was projected to grow at 6.1% and 5.8% in 2019 and 2020.

8. **Reliance MF renamed as "Nippon India Mutual Fund"**

- Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as "Nippon India Mutual Fund".
- The organization was renamed following the purchase of 75% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management by Nippon Life Insurance.
- Nippon India Mutual Fund has become the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company in India. Sundeep Sikka will continue to lead company as the CEO.

## Banking & Financial Awareness

### February

1. The **Bank of Baroda** partnered with Care Ratings for assessing the credit quality of small and medium enterprises (SME) customers.  
**Note:** State owned Bank of Baroda(BoB) has partnered with Care Ratings for assessing the credit quality of small and medium enterprises (SME) customers. This partnership will help to grade the credit quality of the bank's current and prospective SME customers by processing and analyzing structured, unstructured and new data streams.
2. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has given its approval for loan worth Rs 140 crore at low interest rate to **Punjab State Agricultural Development Bank (PSADB)**.  
**Note:** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has given its approval for loan worth Rs 140 crore at low interest rate to Punjab State Agricultural Development Bank (PSADB). This has been done to strengthen as well as provide financial support to PSADB.
3. Fitch Ratings Inc in its 'India's economic growth outlook', has estimated India's GDP growth rate for the financial year-FY21 at **5.6 %**.  
**Note:** Fitch Ratings Inc, an American credit rating agency in its 'India's economic growth outlook', has estimated India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to 5.6 % for the financial year-FY21. For the current fiscal 2019-20 (FY 20), GDP is projected at 4.6 %.
4. **Amazon India** has partnered with Eastern Railways in order to set up a pick-up kiosk at the Sealdah railway station in Kolkata.  
**Note:** Multinational technology company(MNC) Amazon India has partnered with Eastern Railways in order to set up a pick-up kiosk at the Sealdah railway station in Kolkata, West Bengal. Previously successful pilot of pickup kiosks in 4 railway stations across Mumbai, Maharashtra was set up in 2019.
5. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal for the combination of Yum Restaurants (India) private Limited (YRIPL) and **Devyani International Limited (DIL)**.  
**Note:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal for the combination of Yum Restaurants (India) private Limited (YRIPL) and Devyani International Limited (DIL). The proposal is that DIL is going to acquire some Equity Shareholding and sell some KFC restaurants.
6. The payments bank **Paytm** has launched an all-in-one QR (Quick Response), point-of-sale (POS) device for merchants across India.  
**Note:** Paytm, India's leading digital payments company, has launched an all-in-one QR (Quick Response), point-of-sale (POS) device for merchants across India & SDK (software development kit) for third-party integration . With the help of QR & POS device, businessmen will be able to get unlimited payments across the country at zero percent fees through Paytm wallet, Rupay Cards & all UPI (Unified Payments Interface) based apps directly.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Insurance cover on bank deposits to **Rs 5 lakh**.  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Insurance cover on bank deposits to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh effective from February 4, 2020 with a view to giving protection to depositors. The cover is provided by a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
8. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading insurance companies in India, has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan called **Infinity**.  
**Note:** Reliance General Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading insurance companies in India, has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan called "Reliance Health Infinity". Under the plan, the minimum sum insured will be Rs. 3 lakh while the maximum sum insured limit will be Rs. 1 crore.
9. As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI) the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is **6.1%**.  
**Note:** As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI), the labour force participation is 36.9 % and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%. The government is conducting a new PLFS with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys. It's an attempt to provide authentic data.
10. Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Banking Regulation Act to regulate **Urban Co-Operative banks**.

- Note:** The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Banking Regulation Act to empower India's Central Bank (Reserve Bank of India) to have better control over urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks. These amendments will apply to the urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from **February 10 to February 14, 2020.**  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from February 10 to February 14, 2020. The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)".
  12. To combat the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV) \$2 million as funding approved by **the Asian Development Bank.**  
**Note:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved to sponsor \$2 million as funding to combat the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV). Under the funding, regional technical assistance will be provided in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. ADB has also partnered with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other regional experts to respond to the 2019 nCoV situation.
  13. The Indian government has reported that it has been received remittance of **\$118.3 billion.**  
**Note:** The Indian govt. has released data of remittances received in the country since April 2018- September 2019. As per the report around 13.62 million Indian nationals are staying abroad & around \$118.3 billion has been received as remittance. The foreign countries in which a large number of Indians were living include Nepal, the Middle East region, the UK (United Kingdom), the US (United States), Malaysia and Germany.
  14. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to **₹50 crore.**  
**Note:** Now, pension funds are on par with mutual funds which have to meet a minimum net worth requirement of ₹50 crores, under SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) rules. Provision has also been made for licenses to have indefinite validity. Earlier, the licenses of pension fund managers were granted for a period of 5 years. Now, the license will remain valid until cancelled by the regulator.
  15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** requirement of commercial banks for **5 years.**  
**Note:** In a major step to boost the credit growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement of commercial banks for 5- years. So now the banks would not be needed to maintain the cash reserve ratio (CRR) for 5- years on their deposits for the amount equivalent to loans lent to automobiles, residential housing, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) between 31 Jan-31 July, 2020 from their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) for maintenance of the CRR.
  16. As per the notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020, the currency note of rupees one will of colour of **pink green.**  
**Note:** The Union Ministry of Finance has notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020' which will feature bilingual signature of Shri Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Ministry of Finance. It shall be rectangular 9.7 x 6.3 cms, with its paper made of 100% (cotton) rag content. The note will be 110 microns thick, weighing 90 GSM (Grams per Square Meter). The pink green colour note will have a design of grains, which depicts the "agricultural dominance of the country".
  17. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published draft framework to set up new pan-India New Umbrella Entity for **retail payment systems.**  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published draft framework to set up new pan-India New Umbrella Entity (NUE) for retail payment systems. It will be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and will be given authorization by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under Section 4 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). RBI has invited comments on the draft framework from all stakeholders.
  18. As per the Finance Minister at the end of September 2019 the public sector banks' (PSBs) has recovered bad loan of rupees Rs. **2.03 lakh crore.**  
**Note:** The public sector banks' (PSBs) bad loans trimmed to ₹7.27 lakh crore at the end of September 2019 in comparison to ₹8.96 lakh crore at the end of March 2018. The information was provided by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 10, 2020.
  19. The Indian Bank Association's 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo and Awards 2020 held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
  20. At Indian Bank Association's 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference 'Most Customer Centric Bank Using Technology' award won by **South Indian Bank.**  
**Note:** South Indian Bank emerged winner in the 'Most Customer Centric Bank Using Technology' category and runner up in the 'Best Payments Initiative' category for Small Banks. The awards were received by Mr. Raphael T J Chief General Manager (CGM) and Chief Information Officer

- (CIO) in south Indian bank and Mr. Sony A Joint General Manager (JGM) in south Indian bank
- As per the The Banker's 'Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, **IndusInd Bank** topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks.  
**Note:** It's brand value saw an increase of 122% over the past 12 months. The bank reported total assets of Rs 3.1 lakh crore at the end of Q3 FY20. As a part of the report, the list "Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country" has been topped by China, followed by United States (US) at 2nd position while Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) ranked at 3rd and 4th spots. Japan has moved up to fifth spot. India ranked 8th in this list in comparison to 10th place in 2019.
  - The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has revised its Global growth forecast for the year 2020 to **2.2 percent**.  
**Note:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has revised its Global growth forecast for the year 2020 to 2.2 percent from the previous 2.3 percent. It is because of the Impact in Global market created by Novel coronavirus outbreak in China and also the virus starts spreading globally to put barrier for this.

- "We Think Digital" Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women launched by **Facebook**.  
**Note:** Facebook launched "We Think Digital" Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar. It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.
- To expand its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services to 10 million users, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted **WhatsApp**.  
**Note:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted the instant messaging platform WhatsApp to expand its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services to 10 million users. "WhatsApp Pay", a payment feature of WhatsApp has been designed to run on Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The UPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India. This facility enables the users do business transactions or to pay others directly through their bank accounts.

## January

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has launched **MANI** app for visually challenged to Identify currency Denomination.  
**Note:** The full form of 'MANI' is the "Mobile Aided Note Identifier". The visually challenged people can identify the denomination of a currency note by using the mobile app "MANI". The application also works offline once installed. MANI application scans currency notes using camera and gives audio output in Hindi and English.
- India may **overtake Germany** to become the **fourth-largest** economy by **2026**.  
**Note:** The report titled 'World Economic League Table 2020' was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). According to the report, India is expected to become the fourth-largest economy by 2026 and the third-largest by 2034. The CEBR report states that India would surpass Germany to become the fourth-largest economy by 2026 and further topple Japan in 2034 to become the third-largest economy.
- Health insurance policy in the name 'Arogya Sanjeevani' mandatory for insurance companies -- **IRDAI**  
**Note:** The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** (IRDA) has introduced a standard health cover policy that must be offered by all general and standalone health insurers. As per the guidelines issued by the IRDAI, every general and standalone health insurer should offer a standard health product, the Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, with a minimum sum insured of Rs 1 lakh,

with the upper limit of Rs 5 lakh. The policy term will be for one year. The Arogya Sanjeevani policy is a first of its kind standard health insurance product that will help easy availability of health insurance.

- Public sector lender Indian Bank** has signed an MoU with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu.  
**Note:** The bank, which has dedicated products specially designed for women customers, will provide loans to WEWA members at special discounted rates. Training will be given to the WEWA members in the INDSETIs (Indian Bank Self Employment Training Institutes). WEWA aims at adding 1,000 members by 2023 and requested the bank to provide the skill training to their members as per the interest and choice of the members.
- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for sale of **FASTags**.  
**Note:** The agreement will facilitate the sale of PPBL FASTags through the last mile network of 3.6 lakh CSCs, helping realize the government's vision of cashless and smooth transit at all toll plazas across the country. For this, CSC will integrate its platform with Paytm Payments Bank to carry out seamless transactions. FASTags, which work on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology -- have been made mandatory at toll gates on national highways.

6. **PNB MetLife** partnered with RevFin to offer life cover.  
**Note:** RevFin, a digital lending start-up has partnered with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company to provide life insurance to its customers by bundling life insurance cover on their loans. This partnership supports financial inclusion by helping to secure the families of the borrowers against loan repayment burden in the event of the unfortunate demise of the borrower during the loan term. RevFin customers who have taken a loan to buy an electric three-wheeler can take advantage of this tie-up, and cover their outstanding loan amount during the loan tenure.
7. **State Bank of India** has introduced One Time Password (OTP)-based ATM cash withdrawals.  
**Note:** The step has been taken to reduce the occurrences of unauthorised transactions happening at ATMs. SBI introduced one-time password for every cash withdrawal of Rs 10,000 and above between 8 am and 8 pm. It has been effective from January 1, 2020 across all SBI ATMs.
8. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has enabled select banks in India to offer round-the-clock (24×7) trading in the Indian rupee.  
**Note:** The select banks in India offered Indian customers foreign exchange rates only in inter-bank market hours from 9 am – 5 pm. This decision will also make the offshore currency markets in countries like Dubai & Singapore less attractive for Indian investors.
9. Two Indian banks **Axis Bank and ICICI Bank** has decided to end their operations in Sri Lanka.  
**Note:** The Central Bank of Sri Lanka has permitted these two Indian banks to close their operations in the island nation. The licenses issued to them will be canceled once the winding-up operations are complete.
10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the supervisory action framework for **Urban co-operative banks (UCBs)**.  
**Note:** According to the guidelines, UCBs, with deposits of Rs 100 crore and above, will constitute the BoM, which will be a mandatory requirement for opening new branches. The main functions of the Board of Management (BoM) include recommending action for recovery of NPAs, One Time Settlement and assisting the board in monitoring the same.
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted in-principle approval to Co-operative Bank to convert to a small finance bank (SFB) **Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd**.  
**Note:** It becomes the first urban cooperative bank (UCB) to make the transition since the guidelines came out nearly two years ago. Approval granted will be valid for 18 months to enable the applicant to comply with the requirements under the scheme on the voluntary transition of the urban co-operative banks into a small finance bank. Under the scheme, UCBs with a minimum net worth of ₹50 crores and capital to risk (weighted) assets ratio of 9% and above are eligible to apply for the voluntary transition to SFB.
12. According to the **National Statistics Office release**, India's GDP growth during fiscal 2019-20 is expected at **5%**.  
**Note:** The estimated growth of real Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2019-20 is 4.9% as against 6.6% in 2018-19. The manufacturing sector is expected to grow at 2% in 2019-20 as compared to 6.9% in the previous year. The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 4.3% during 2019-20, as against 5.6% in the previous year. The agriculture sector is expected to see a growth of 2.8% as compared to 2.9% in the previous year.
13. According to the **Deutsche Bank report** Imagine 2030, the Indian economy is likely to become \$7 trillion by **2030**.  
**Note:** The **Indian economy** is expected to grow almost two and half times from about \$3 trillion now and thus it becomes the world's third-largest economy. According to the **report**, India will grow with the Nominal GDP growth rate of just over 10% in the next decade.
14. **State Bank of India** has announced the 'Residential Builder Finance with Buyer Guarantee' (RBBG) scheme to give a push to residential sales and improve homebuyers' confidence.  
**Note:** Under this scheme, the SBI will issue a guarantee for the completion of select residential projects to customers who have availed home loans from it. The scheme will focus on affordable housing projects priced up to 2.50 crore rupees in 10 cities initially. Under RBBG, the guarantee would be given by the bank until the project gets the Occupation Certificate (OC).
15. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has enabled selected banks in India to offer forex rates to Indian clients round-the-clock (24×7).  
**Note:** In effect, this opens up the forex market in India round the clock, allowing Indians to hedge their foreign exchange risks at any time of the day. This will also make the offshore currency markets in Dubai and Singapore less attractive for Indian investors.
16. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has amended the KYC norms allowing banks and other lending institutions regulated by it to use Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).  
**Note:** The V-CIP will make it easier for **banks and other regulated entities** to adhere to the RBI's Know Your Customer (KYC) norms by leveraging digital technology. The regulated entities will have to ensure that the video recording is stored in a safe and secure manner and bears the date and time stamp. As per the circular, the reporting entity should capture a clear image of the PAN card to be displayed by the customer during the process.
17. Central govt raised India Overseas Bank's authorized capital to **Rs 25,000 crore**.  
**Note:** The Union government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an increase in the authorized capital of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to Rs.

- 25,000 crores from the previously authorized capital of Rs. 15,000 crores. The authorized capital of a company/bank/institution is the maximum amount of share capital a company is authorized to issue its shareholders.
18. Payment and fintech company PayU have decided to acquire a controlling stake in digital credit platform PaySense in a deal valued at **USD 185 million**.  
**Note:** After that PayU has also decided to merge its consumer lending businesses, LazyPay with PaySense. , will merge their business operations to build a full-stack digital lending platform in India. The founder and CEO of PaySense Prashanth Ranganathan will lead the PayU's credit business in India as the CEO of the new venture
  19. **Michael Patra** has been appointed as the **deputy governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a three-year term  
**Note:** At present, he is serving as an executive director at the Reserve Bank of India. He replaces Viral Acharya, who left office on July 23, 2019. He will take over as the fourth deputy governor at the Reserve Bank.
  20. Former Flipkart CEO **Sachin Bansal** acquires **DHFL General Insurance**.  
**Note:** Sachin Bansal (Flipkart co-founder and former CEO) has acquired DHFL General Insurance from Kapil Wadhawan-led Wadhawan Group Capital (WGC) for around Rs 100 crore. WGC is the parent company of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) and this deal is seen as a distress sale.
  21. The Global software major **Infosys** signed a 5-year deal with leading European automotive logistics firm GEFCO to digitize its worldwide operations.  
**Note:** Infosys is partnering with the Paris-based GEFCO to digitize its multi-modal supply chain solutions and support its digital transformation over the next five years.
  22. The State Bank of India's research desk has released its report -- **Ecowrap**.  
**Note:** In its report, the SBI has lowered its GDP growth forecast for FY20 to 4.6 percent from the earlier 5 percent. Also, the latest SBI Ecowrap report even predicted the growth rate to remain below 6 percent for the two years in a row.
  23. India's leading digital payments company announced the launch of its all-in-one QR for merchants across the country -- **Paytm**.  
**Note:** The QR code will enable the business to accept unlimited payments through Paytm Wallet, Rupay Cards and all UPI-based payment apps directly into their bank account at zero percent fee. The platform offers a single reconciliation of all payments through its 'Paytm for Business' app. Paytm also launched 'Paytm Business Khata', a new service to promotes the Paytm merchant partners to maintain digital ledgers of all their customer transactions including cash and credit.
  24. India's leading private sector lender **HDFC Bank** has launched myApps application to boost digital payments in India.  
**Note:** myApps is a unique customized suite of banking products to benefit urban local bodies, housing societies, local clubs and gymkhanas, and religious institutions. At present HDFC Bank is offering four types of applications — mySociety, myClub, myPrayer and myCity. myApps will allow institutions to customize their branding and content. Moreover, the app can be customized in over 20 languages starting with Hindi and English
  25. To provide Rs. 179 prepaid plan with life insurance of Rs 2 lakh Airtel joins hands with **Bharti AXA**.  
**Note:** On January 19, 2020, Bharti Airtel Limited has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited to offer Rs 2 lakh insurance cover to Airtel users with every recharge of Rs 179 prepaid bundle. The new plan will be accessible at any Airtel retail store or on the Airtel Thanks app.
  26. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Authorization (CoA) of **Vodafone M-pesa Limited**  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Vodafone M-pesa Limited after it had voluntarily surrendered the authorization. Now Vodafone m-Pesa cannot continue to transact the business of issuance & will no longer have the right to provide payment facility as a prepaid instrument (PPI).
  27. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook 2020, has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2019 to **4.8 %**  
**Note:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook 2020, has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2019 to 4.8 % from 6.1% predicted earlier in October 2019. The growth projections have been lowered, citing pressure from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and weak income growth in rural India.
  28. According to the "Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020" released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) what is India's rank in attracting FDI in 2019 -- **8th**  
**Note:** According to the "Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020" released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India ranked 8th among the top 10 countries attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019. During this period FDI in India grew by 16 % to \$ 49 billion (bn). This led to a surge in FDI growth in South Asia (SA), which recorded a 10% increase in FDI to \$ 60 billion.



29. The Reserve Bank of India has been ranked at what position in buying gold abroad among the central banks of the world -- 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Note:** According to World Gold Council(WGC) report titled “Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold”, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) became the sixth largest buyer when it purchased 25.2 tonnes in first 10 months of 2019 to hedge government’s sovereign gold bond issue. The central banks of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Poland bought more than India in 2019.

30. The United Nations (UN) has predicted the India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the year 2019-20 to 5%.

**Note:** The United Nations (UN) has predicted the India’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for the year 2019-20 to 5% . Earlier in 2019, it had projected GDP growth rate of 7.6% for FY 2019-20.

31. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a platform to make payments fast & secure -- “Vajra Platform”.

**Note:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched blockchain technology-based “Vajra Platform” to make payments fast & secure. The new platform Vajra is based on the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). It has been designed with the aim to offer automatic clearing and settlement of payments on NPCI products such as unified payments interface (UPI) and Rupay card & will significantly reduce the need for manual reconciliation.

32. Indian private bank has launched India’s largest API banking portal **ICICI Bank**.

**Note:** The ICICI Bank has launched India’s largest API (application programming interfaces) Banking portal called ‘ICICI Bank API Banking portal’(<https://developer.icicibank.com/>). It consists of 250 APIs & allows bank’s partner companies across the globe to sign up on it, create an application, select the application, test it out and get the sample code.

33. First-of-its-kind 24x7 self-service delivery facility ‘iBox’ was launched by **ICICI Bank**.

**Note:** ICICI Bank has launched first-of-its-kind 24x7 self-service delivery tool for customers called “iBox” at one of its branches in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The bank has started it in over 50 branches in 17 cities.Under this facility, customers will now be able to take their debit, credit card, check book and return check from the branch close to their home or office.

The iBox terminals are installed outside the premises of the bank’s branches, which can be used even after the bank closes.

34. ‘Corporate Loan’ and ‘Ind Surya Shakthi’ two tailor made credit products were launched by **Indian Bank**.

**Note:** On January 30, 2020 the Indian Bank has announced the launch of two tailor made credit products i.e., Corporate Loan and Ind Surya Shakthi/ Indian Bank Solar which will be available across the country for the benefit of the textile sector. The products were launched during a meeting with high officials of the textile industry under the Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF), in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

35. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has approved part of the banks request to remove interchange fees on **UPI & RuPay card transactions**.

**Note:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has approved part of the banks request to remove interchange fees on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and RuPay card transactions as long as the merchant discount rate (MDR) remains zero. In contrast, it still reviewing other fees like payments service provider (PSP) fee and switching fees as it is concerned that the decision will obstruct its revenues and PSPs like PhonePe & Google-Pay. NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems,

36. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in its “Economic Outlook Survey 2020”, has projected India’s annual median GDP growth for 2019-20 at 5%.

**Note:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in its “Economic Outlook Survey 2020”, has projected India’s annual median Gross Domestic Product growth at 5% for 2019-20. It is in line with the National Statistical Organisation’s (NSO) projected growth rate (5%, a 11-year low). FICCI has hoped that the conditions will improve further and the country’s growth rate could reach 5.5 % in 2020-21 (FY 21).

37. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in its State Focus Paper has estimated credit potential at Rs. 90,395.69 crore for the state of **Odisha**.

**Note:** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in its State Focus Paper for Odisha, has estimated Odisha’s credit potential at Rs 90,395.69 crore for Financial year FY- 2020-21 with a hike of around 20% over credit projection of 2019-20.Out of the total credit potential for priority sector, agriculture constitutes Rs 43,282.11 crore, in which, Rs 40,227.79 crore (92.94 %) is

estimated under farm credit, which consists both crop loans and term loans for agriculture and allied activities.

38. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there have been about 1000 cases of fraud in **the urban cooperative banks (UCBs)**.  
**Note:** According to the India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there have been about 1000 cases of fraud in the urban cooperative banks (UCBs) of the country in the last 5 fiscal years (FY), in which banks have incurred losses of 221 crores.
39. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased Investment Limits Under Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) to **Rs. 1.5lakh crore**.  
**Note:** The Reserve bank of India has made certain amendments in the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) scheme. As per the amendments the investment limit under VRR has now been increased to Rs 1,50,000 crores (1.5lakh crores) from earlier Rs.75,000 crores. The Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) scheme was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2009 in consultation with the govt of India.
40. For money transfer services Western Union Company, a leader in cross-border, cross-currency money movement and payments, has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank**.  
**Note:** Western Union Company has partnered with India's largest integrated telecommunications services company, Bharti Airtel's 2 arms— Airtel Payments Bank & Airtel Africa Plc, to enable millions of latter's customers in India to receive international remittances in their bank accounts & and Mobile Wallets across 14 countries in Africa. Airtel Payments Bank customers will be able to direct a Western Union money transfer into their bank accounts 24/7 via their app in real-time. It will also allow Airtel Payments Bank customer to withdraw money from its authorized 5 lakh outlets.
41. The govt of India, Govt of Maharashtra and the World Bank (WB) signed a loan agreement of **\$210 million**.  
**Note:** The govt of India, Govt of Maharashtra and the World Bank signed a loan agreement of \$210 million for Maharashtra's Agribusiness & rural transformation project. This project will help the farmers in Maharashtra to take part in competitive agriculture value chains, enhance agribusiness investments thereby increasing productivity of commodities. All 36 districts of Maharashtra will be implemented with the project and would benefit nearly 1 million farming households.
42. The asset management platform under the name 'PIONEER' has been launched by **IndusInd Bank**.

**Note:** The IndusInd Bank Limited, one of the leading Private Sector Banks of the country, has launched the asset management platform under the name 'PIONEER' Banking. Through this, services will be provided to high net-worth customers of IndusInd bank. Along with this, specially tailored banking services will also be offered, which will suit the needs of valued consumers.

43. With the aim to boost foreign inflows, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the short-term investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to **30 %**.  
**Note:** With the aim to boost foreign inflows, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the short-term investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to 30 % from 20 % of the total FPI investment in Central government securities including Treasury Bills(T-bills) / state development loans. This rule also applies in corporate bonds. These directions are issued under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. Till date, RBI gave exemptions for FPI investments in Security Receipts from the short-term investment limit & the issue limit.
44. For the 1st time India a multilingual voice-enabled mobile banking application has been launched by **City Union Bank (CUB)**.
45. Which Co-operative Bank has decided to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) **the New India Co-operative Bank (NICB)**.  
**Note:** The New India Co-operative Bank (NICB) has decided to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) after being agreed by its shareholders under Voluntary Transition of Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) into SFB. NICB will now approach the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Registrar of Societies for further action. The bank is currently operating in Maharashtra and Gujarat and has network of Rs. 230 crores.
46. To fund its rural electrification programme the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM bank) has extended \$35.80 million (nearly Rs 250 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) to **Suriname**.  
**Note:** The Export-Import Bank of India has extended \$35.80 million Line of Credit to Suriname to fund its rural electrification programme through solar Diesel Generator (DG) hybrid Photo-Voltaic (PV) systems in Suriname's 50 remote villages. Under the LoC, the projects covered include power, water supply, purchase of helicopters, and rehabilitation and upgradation of milk processing plant.

### 1. SBI announces 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' scheme

#### Note:

- State Bank of India has announced a 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' (RBBG) scheme to give a push to residential sales and improve homebuyers' confidence. Under which the SBI will issue a guarantee for completion of select residential projects to customers who have availed home loans from it.
- The scheme will focus on affordable housing projects priced up to 2.50 crore rupees in 10 cities initially. Under RBBG, the guarantee would be given by the bank till the project gets the occupation certificate (OC).

### 2. SBI lowers GDP estimates for FY20 to 4.6% from 5%

#### Note:

- The State Bank of India's research desk has released its 'Ecowrap' report on January 09, 2020.
- In its report the SBI has lowered its GDP growth forecast for FY20 to 4.6 per cent from the earlier 5 per cent.
- Also, the latest SBI Ecowrap report even predicted growth rate to remain below 6 per cent for the two years in a row.
- For FY20, the budgeted nominal GDP growth rate was 12 per cent which has now been revised downwards to 7.5 per cent.

### 3. Paytm launches unified QR code for merchants to enable unlimited payments

#### Note:

- India's leading digital payments company, Paytm announced the launch of its all-in-one QR for merchants across the country.
- The QR code will enable business to accept unlimited payments through Paytm Wallet, Rupay Cards and all UPI-based payment apps directly into their bank account at zero percent fee
- The platform offers a single reconciliation of all payments through its 'Paytm for Business' app
- Paytm also launched 'Paytm Business Khata', a new service to promotes the Paytm merchant partners to maintain digital ledgers of all their customer transactions including cash and credit.
- Along with this, the company has also launched QR codes in to calculator, power bank, watch, pen stand and radio for the convenience of businessmen.

### 4. In a first, HDFC Bank launches myApps to boost digital payments

#### Note:

- India's leading private sector lender HDFC Bank launched myApps application to boost digital payments in India on January 09, 2020.
- myApps is a unique customised suite of banking products to benefit urban local bodies, housing societies, local clubs and gymkhanas and religious institutions.
- At present HDFC Bank is offering four types of applications — mySociety, myClub, myPrayer and myCity.
- myApps will allow institutions to customise their branding and content. Moreover, the app can be customised in over 20 languages starting with Hindi and English.

### 5. 2 Indian banks to end their operations in Sri Lanka

#### Note:

- Two private sector bank of India, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank decided to close their operations in Sri Lanka after taking permission from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- The licenses issued by Central Bank of Sri Lanka will be cancelled once the winding-up operations are complete.
- The two banks are no longer to carry their banking operations, including accepting deposits from the public in Sri Lanka.

### 6. No extra charge on digital payments via RuPay & UPI from 1st Jan 2020

#### Note:

- Finance Minister announced that the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges for businesses with over Rs 50 crore annual revenues will be waived off from January 1, 2020.
- Also, the digital transactions made using RuPay credit cards, or UPI QR codes will not face any additional charges for merchants or customers from January 1, 2020.
- The Merchant Discount Rate is the percentage of the digital transaction that a merchant pays to banks. This cost is often passed on to the customer. The decision aims to promote the home-grown digital payment pathways like RuPay and UPI, over those promoted by foreign companies, including VISA and MasterCard.

### 7. SBI to implement OTP-based ATM cash withdrawals:

#### Note:

- State Bank of India will introduce One Time Password (OTP)-based ATM cash withdrawals effective from January 1, 2020 across all SBI ATMs.

The step has been taken to reduce the occurrences of unauthorised transactions happening at ATMs.

- SBI will introduce one-time password for every cash withdrawal of Rs 10,000 and above between 8 am and 8 pm.
- When an SBI cardholder will enter the amount of cash he/she wishes to withdraw, a screen will appear asking for the OTP. The customer will then have to put the OTP that the bank will send to the registered mobile number.
- The facility will not be applicable at other banks' ATM as this functionality has not been developed in National Financial Switch (NFS).

#### 8. Government will infuse Rs 8,655 crore into Allahabad Bank, IOB & UCO Bank

**Note:**

- The Government of India has approved the release of Rs 8,655 crore as fresh capital for Allahabad Bank, IOB & UCO Bank. The infusion will be done for preferential allotment of shares.
- Fresh capital amounting to Rs 2,153 crore will be allocated to Allahabad Bank, Rs 2,142 crore to UCO Bank and Rs 4,630 crore to Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for preferential allotment of shares.

#### 9. Google searches for 'Operation Twist' surge in India

**Note:**

- Google searches for "Operation Twist" surged in India after the central bank announced its version of the U.S. Federal Reserve's unconventional monetary policy.
- Most searches for the term came from Delhi followed by Maharashtra.
- The central bank will buy long-term bonds, while simultaneously selling short-term government securities in an effort to cheapen long-term borrowing and boost bank lending.
- The Reserve Bank of India will buy longer-tenor bonds while selling shorter debt. The concept is similar to Operation Twist used by the Fed in 2011-2012 in an effort to cheapen long-term borrowing and spur bank lending.

#### 10. RevFin and PNB MetLife in tie-up to offer life cover

**Note:**

- India's leading Digital lending startup, RevFin has joined hands with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company to offer protection to the RevFin's customers by bundling life insurance cover on their loans. This insurance covers loans up to ₹3 lakh for a period of 3 years.
- The collaboration will help PNB MetLife to reach out to unbanked areas & drive greater financial inclusion in the country by securing the families of

the borrowers against loan repayment in case of unfortunate death of the borrower.

#### 11. CSC inks pact with Paytm Payments Bank for sale of FASTags

**Note:**

- Common Service Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India has signed a memorandum of understanding with Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for sale of FASTags. The agreement will facilitate the sale of PPBL FASTags through the last mile network of 3.6 lakh CSCs, helping realise the government's vision of cashless and smooth transit at all toll plazas across the country.
- FASTags which work on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology have been made mandatory at toll gates on national highways.
- The FASTag process allows toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it, thus doing away with the need for waiting in queues, saving time and fuel.

#### 12. Federal Bank joined hands with Magicbricks to recover dues:

- Federal Bank has partnered with online real estate platform Magicbricks for listing and e-auctioning of immovable properties repossessed by the bank in recovery proceedings.
- 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.

#### 13. Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with Pine Labs to enable EMIs on debit cards

**Note:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to enable debit card facility for their debit cardholders across point-of-sale terminals by Pine Labs.
- Banks customers can avail EMI facility with a minimum purchase of Rs 8,000 and repay over 3 months to 12 months. Its aim is to provide affordable, flexible and easy EMI options on a range of products so that bank's customers can break their high-value purchases into affordable instalments at no extra cost.

#### 14. No extra charge on digital payments via UPI, RuPay from January 1, 2020

**Note:**

- The central government has decided to remove the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) to promote digital payments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said that all digital transactions using RuPay or UPI will not face additional charges from January 1, 2020.
- Earlier, the central government amended two acts, Payments and Settlement Systems Act and the Income Tax Act. Now, the Department of Revenue (DoR) will notify UPI and RuPay as the approved mode of payment for digital transactions without any Merchant Discount Rate (MDR).
- When a person swaps his card at a shop, the fee that the shopkeeper has to pay to his service provider is called MDR Charge. The MDR charges

#### 16. ZestMoney joins hands with Xiaomi to launch 'Mi Credit' personal loan service in the Indian market

- On December 7, 2019, ZestMoney, an AI (Artificial Intelligence) -driven EMI(Equated Monthly Instalment) financing platform based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has partnered with Chinese smartphone company, Xiaomi, to launch new loan service app called "MiCredit" in the Indian market.
- Through this, customers can get an instant loan ranging from Rs 7,000 – Rs 1,00,000.

#### 17. Loans worth over Rs10 lakh cr sanctioned under PMMY

- The Union Government has informed that loans worth over 10 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned till 1st November this year under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, PMMY.
- As per the findings of the PMMY survey, around five crore persons were working in the establishments for which MUDRA loans were availed between April 2015 to March 2018.
- The survey reveals that these loans enabled beneficiaries to sustain the economic activities they were engaged in.

#### 18. Exim Bank provided \$500 million Line of Credit to Bangladesh:

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has provided \$500 million (Rs 3561 crore) Line of Credit to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement in the neighbouring country.
- In this regard the Exim bank has entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division (AFD) in April 11, 2019.
- The agreement became effective from November 7, 2019, and the utilisation period of the loan is 10 years from the date of signing the agreement.

can range from 0% to 2% of the transaction amount

#### 15. NPCI to export UPI, sets up subsidiary: RBI Governor Note:

- The Unified Payment Interface was introduced in India in 2016. Based on its performance, Google has recommended similar service called FedNow to the US Federal Reserve Board.
- With its growing popularity, the RBI on December 16, 2019 announced that NPCI will set up a subsidiary to export UPI.
- India is already extending the app to other countries. Recently, PM Modi launched the service in Singapore during his visit to the country

#### 19. IEPFA inks MoU with Bank of Baroda (BoB) for investor awareness

- The Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to spread customer awareness and investor education and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.
- As per the agreement, 9,456 BoB branches will exhibit IEPFA posters on investor protection & 3,115 ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) and Cash Recyclers supported by self-service channels will feature digital banners on IEPFA.
- The IEPFA works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

#### 20. Mastercard joins hands with Thailand Tourism Authority (TAT) to tap more tourists from India

- American multinational financial service corporation, Mastercard on December 5, 2019 has partnered with Thailand Tourism Authority (TAT) to tap more tourists from India & enable digital payments for a more experiential visit for them.
- As per Mastercard data, there is 20% increase in the amount of spends done by Indians via cashless transactions in Thailand & TAT witnessed a growth of nearly 25% in arrivals from India, taking the total to 1.60 million in 2018-19.
- Airports of Mumbai & Delhi account for more than 50 % of departures to Thailand.
- Bangkok (Thailand's capital) has ranked No.1 in Mastercard's Global Destination Cities Index 2019 as the world's best travel destination. Cardholders spent more than 88% in Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket and Krabi cities.

#### 21. HDFC ERGO general insurance launches 'my:health woman suraksha policy'

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has launched “my:health Woman Suraksha policy”, a comprehensive medical insurance scheme specially designed for women.
- Under this scheme women aged 18–65 years are eligible for the policy & they offered a sum insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to 1 crore.
- The policy is designed to provide financial support during medical emergencies and sicknesses in women’s lives.

## 22. KVGB inks MoU with Canara HSBC OBC for bancassurance

- On 2nd December 2019 the Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has entered into an MoU with Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company Ltd. for bancassurance business.
- Under the MoU KVGB will market wide range insurance products of the Canara HSBC through its 636 branches in 9 districts of Karnataka.

## 23. World Bank arm IFC to invest \$ 200 million in Mahindra finance

- On December 2, 2019, The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has anchored an investment round of

\$ 200 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) with the objective to create a ‘pool’ specifically for financing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in low income states.

- In a regulatory filing, IFC has invested \$ 75 million out of this in its account. The remaining \$ 125 million is being raised in parallel loans. At the same time, Mahindra Finance has committed to invest \$225 million in this fund.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is a unit of the World Bank Group.

## 24. 78% account holders withdraw all their money from PMC Bank: Nirmala Sitharaman

- As per the Union Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman, nearly 78% depositors of the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank have been allowed to withdraw their entire deposits even though the ceiling of Rs 50,000 on withdrawal continues.
- Also account holders are allowed to withdraw up to Rs 1 lakh in case of medical emergency, marriage and other serious situations.

## November

### 1. SEBI slaps Rs 40.5 lakh fine on 7 firms for fraudulent trading

- The Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a total fine of Rs 40.5 lakh on 7 companies for indulging in fraudulent trading in the illiquid stock options segment on the BSE.
- The total fine levied on the firms, Rs 10.5 lakh was levied on Green Venture Securities Management Pvt Ltd while Morgan Financial Services, Niranjana Housing, Navrang Tradelinks, Niranjana Metallic, Nishu Leasing and Finance and Midpoint Tradelink faced a fine of Rs 5 lakh each.
- The reversal trades executed by the Notice were non-genuine in nature and created an impression of genuine trading volumes in respective contracts.

### 2. BlackBuck joins hands with IDFC & Yes Bank to provide free FASTags to truckers

- On November 28, 2019, India’s largest online trucking platform, BlackBuck has partnered with leading private sector banks IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to offer FASTags to truck fleet owners free of cost.
- Under this partnership, truck owners can order FASTags on Blackbuck’s Boss app.

- It will be given free at their doorstep till 31st December 2019.

### 3. SBI’s economic research team revised India’s GDP forecast to 5% for FY 2020:

- The economic research team from the State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 5% from its earlier estimate of 6.1% for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).
- This downgrade was due to global slowdown in the index of industrial production (IIP).
- The SBI economic research team group has projected the second quarter (July-September) GDP growth at 4.2% in their report titled “EcoWrap”. It expects the growth rate to pick up in FY2021 to 6.2%.

### 4. Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates ‘mobile ATMs’ in rural areas

- The Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) has launched ‘mobile ATMs’ in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka.
- The special vehicle includes an ATM and a screen to show videos of different banking schemes.

- The mobile ATMs will go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make them aware of the banking schemes and digital operating systems.
- A bank official would be present in the van, who will provide information regarding the digital operating systems and schemes.

#### 5. DHFL becomes 1st financial services firm to be taken to NCLT

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has referred Dewan Housing Finance Corp. Ltd (DHFL) to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for insolvency proceedings, making it the first financial services player to go NCLT for a possible debt resolution.
- DHFL has a debt of Rs. 83,873 crore. As per the statutory inspection of DHFL conducted by the National Housing Bank, the DHFL showed a serious deterioration in its finances.

#### 1. Muthoot Finance to acquire IDBI Mutual Fund for Rs 215 crore

- Muthoot Finance Ltd, the largest gold loan non-banking finance company in the country, entered into a definitive agreement to acquire IDBI Asset Management Ltd and IDBI Mutual Fund Trustee Company Ltd.
- Muthoot Finance will purchase 100 per cent equity shares of IDBI Asset Management and IDBI MF Trustee for a total consideration of Rs 215 crore.
- The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of February 2020. The deal is subject to receipt of approval from regulators including the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

#### 2. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Instant Digital Savings and Instant FD Account

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched an instant digital savings account (SA) along with Fixed Deposit (FD) and Privilege Savings Account to offer distinctive banking and digital services to its customers.
- The Instant Digital SA account has the restriction of Rs 1 lakh deposit & has the unlimited free transactions on the bank's own ATM (automated teller machine) and 6 free transactions for other bank ATMs per month.
- The Instant Fixed Deposit (FD) will fetch interest rate ranging from 5.5% (7days to 29 days) & up to 8.3% (799 days), the customers can invest in this account up to a maximum of Rs. 1 Lakh without a Savings Account.
- The Privilege SA account comes with the eligibility for a monthly salary of Rs. 30,000 or above /on maintaining a Monthly Average Balance of Rs

25,000 / opening a Fixed Deposit of Rs. 10 Lakh. It provides a higher accidental insurance cover of Rs. 2 Lakh.

#### 3. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches 'Farmitra' mobile app for farmers

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a new mobile app called 'Farmitra' to help the farmers needs and address their worries.
- It also resolves with relevant information, which they can use in optimizing their farming practices.
- The app 'Farmitra' provides services for even those who are not customers of Bajaj Allianz.

#### 4. Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates 'mobile ATMs' in rural areas

- The Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) has launched 'mobile ATMs' in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka.
- The special vehicle includes an ATM and a screen to show videos of different banking schemes.
- The mobile ATMs will go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make them aware of the banking schemes and digital operating systems.
- A bank official would be present in the van, who will provide information regarding the digital operating systems and schemes.

#### 5. SBI's economic research team revised India's FY20 GDP forecast to 5%

- The economic research team from the State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 5% from its earlier estimate of 6.1% for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).
- This downgrade was due to global slowdown in the index of industrial production (IIP).
- The SBI economic research team group has projected the second quarter (July-September) GDP growth at 4.2% in their report titled "EcoWrap". It expects the growth rate to pick up in FY2021 to 6.2%.

#### 6. New rules framed under IBC for rescue of non-bank lenders

- The Government of India has issued fresh rules under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to govern the rescue of non-bank lenders.
- The new rules are likely to help out distressed shadow banks and housing financiers, which have been battling a liquidity crunch for a year.
- These entities will be covered by a special window under the bankruptcy code, which will be notified from time to time.

- Reserve Bank of India has been given the authority to decide which companies will be taken up to a bankruptcy tribunal under these rules.
- The bankruptcy tribunal will appoint an administrator who will be nominated by the regulator, will try to stitch together a turnaround plan. In case a turnaround of the financial institution is not possible, the tribunal will gather the views of the regulator before deciding to liquidate it.

### 7. Exim Bank grants \$30 million line of credit to Ghana

- The Export-Import (Exim) Bank has provided a USD 30 million (about Rs 210 crore) line of credit to Ghana for a potable water project in the country.
- Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods, works and services from India would be allowed subject to their being eligible for export under the Foreign Trade Policy of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank.
- As per the agreement, the terminal utilisation time is 60 months period after the scheduled completion date of the project.

## October

**1. T.L. Alamelu committee** - The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 12-member working group (WG) chaired by T.L. Alamelu to review the product structure of title insurance, which covers any loss caused due to a defect in the 'title' of the property arising out of third-party challenges.

### 2. Axis Bank launches short-term online fixed deposits

**"Express FD"** – Axis Bank has launched the 'Express FD', a digital fixed deposit (FD) product that allows a customer to open an FD account in 3 minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank.

- A customer can open an Express FD account by investing a minimum Rs 5,000 up to Rs 90,000, for a tenure of 6 to 12 months.

**3. SBI becomes first Indian bank to have office in Australia's Victoria** – The State Bank of India opened its Melbourne office and becoming the first Indian bank to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria.

**4. UCO Bank launches UCash, Digilocker and an App** – UCO Bank has launched three new digital products called, UCash, Digilocker and an app in Kolkata, West Bengal.

**5. Grant Thornton to investigate Rs 4,355-crore PMC Bank fraud** – The government has roped in **Grant Thornton** to carry out forensic investigations into the fraud hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank.

- Grant Thornton LLP is the sixth largest U.S. accounting and advisory organization.

#### Note:

- The PMC Bank scam came into the limelight after a whistle-blower informed the RBI to look into the books of the cooperative bank.
- Acting swiftly, the RBI on September 23 placed PMC Bank under an administrator, suspended the management, and placed curbs on deposit withdrawals.

- The former Managing Director of the bank, Joy Thomas, has been arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

- Thomas confessed that the loans granted by the bank were not classified as non-performing assets (NPAs) in the bank's books deliberately so as to avoid RBI scrutiny.

- PMC Bank has given loans of Rs 6,500 crore, which accounts for 73 per cent of the bank's loan book of Rs 8,880 crore.

### 6. SBI Card launches contactless mobile phone payments facility:

- SBI Card has launched 'SBI Card Pay', a feature which allows contactless payment using mobile phones at PoS terminals.
- Using SBI Card Pay, customers can make contactless payments at near field communication (NFC) enabled point of sale terminals with just one tap of their mobiles, without using the physical credit card or entering any PIN.
- SBI Card Pay is a payment feature based on Host Card Emulation (HCE) technology for faster, convenient and more secure card payments using mobile phones.

### 7. India Post launches mobile banking facility for savings accounts

- The Department of Post announced that it has launched mobile banking for its savings account customers.
- The facility will be available all the post office savings account holders of the CBS (core banking solutions) post offices.
- The launch of the mobile banking facility comes almost a year after the Department of Post launched Internet banking facility for its savings account holders.



#### 8. ICICI Bank launches new FD scheme “FD health”

- ICICI Bank has launched a fixed deposit scheme called FD Health, that comes with an in-built critical insurance policy.
- The FD Health – Critical illness Cover will be provided to only the primary holder of the FD account. Anyone in the age bracket of 18-50 years, gets this complimentary insurance cover for a year on 33 critical illnesses.
- For the first year, free of cost insurance cover will be provided which can be renewed later.
- The new FD scheme from ICICI bank offers a complimentary critical illness cover of Rs. 1 lakh from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on opening an FD of Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for a tenure of at least two years.

- The critical illness cover will be available on Cumulative FDs opened for a period of a minimum of 2 years.

#### 9. UCO Bank launches UCash, Digilocker and an App

- UCO Bank has launched three new digital products called, UCash, Digilocker and an app in Kolkata, West Bengal. A new current account facility has also been launched by the bank.
- UCash enables customers to withdraw money from ATMs through mobile banking without using a debit card.
- Digilocker aims to eliminate the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents.
- The third product, the new mobile app, integrates four existing apps of the bank – UCO Mbanking, UCO UPI, UCO Mpassbook and UCO Secure- in a single interface.

### Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** -Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** – Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV**- Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** – Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** – National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** – National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** – National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** – Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code

61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund
98. **NSC** - National Savings Certificate
99. **CbC** - Country-by-Country
100. **WEF** - World Economic Forum
101. **MPI** - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
103. **UPI** - Unified Payments Interface
104. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India
105. **CII** - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. **NBCC** - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. **NSSO** - National Sample Survey Office
108. **EMV** - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. **FATF** - Financial Action Task Force

### Important Committees

1. **Aruna Sundararajan Committee** – Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had constituted a committee chaired by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan to spell out revival plans for Telecom sector.
2. **P K Sinha (Cabinet Secretary) panel** - Central Government has formed a committee for coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the state governments after a tug of war between the two ministries. The panel formation will help in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.
3. **Nandan Nilekani committee** – To encourage digital payments, the committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round-the-clock RTGS and NEFT facility, and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.
4. **V G Kannan committee** - The Reserve Bank of India constituted a six-member committee to review the **ATM interchange fee structure** with a “view to increase the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas”.
  - The committee will be led by V G Kannan, Chief Executive, Indian Banks Association.
5. **Anil Kakodkar & Sidharth Pradhan committee** - to discuss research-related synergies and tax issues for state-run oil companies. The committee has recommended strategies to reduce import dependency.
6. **TN Manoharan committee (Chairman Canara Bank)**- on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.
7. **Kasturirangan committee** - Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
8. **Amitabh Kant (Niti Aayog CEO) committee** - National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.

9. **Suresh Mathur committee** – to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
10. **Bimal Jalan Panel** - to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.
11. **Anoop Satpathy Committee** - Recommends Rs 9,750 Monthly National Minimum Wage  
**Note:**
  - submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government.
  - It recommended the fixation of need-based National Minimum Wage (NMW) for India at Rs 375 per day or Rs 9,750 per month irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption units.
  - The Present NMW is Rs. 4,576.
12. **Sanjeev Sharma (income tax commissioner) Committee** - to look into the matter of taxation related pain points and submit its final report and recommendations by mid-March.
13. **CPWD Constitutes 8-member Committee to Chart Out Design Policy** - The Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has constituted an expert committee to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development.
  - The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of CPWD’s Additional Director General M K Sharma.
14. **Environment Ministry Constitutes Committee to Implement National Clean Air Programme** - The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.
  - The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry. It would be headquartered in New Delhi.
15. **B V R Mohan Reddy committee** - not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.

Note:

- The Panel headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy has suggested All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.
16. **Nandan Nilekani committee** - to boost digital payments and enhance financial inclusion.
  17. **U.K. Sinha committee** - to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
  18. **Committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health)** - The Union government has constituted a high-power committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health) to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products.
  19. **Praveen Kutumbe committee** - Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a panel headed by Praveen Kutumbe, to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard.
  20. **Akhilesh Ranjan Committee** – for drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law)
  21. **Dr. Bibek Debroy (The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) Committee** - to assess key challenges and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce.
  22. **Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman) Committee** – to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.
  23. **Tapan Ray committee** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CICs).
  24. **Ramesh Chand (Member, NITI Aayog) committee** – Central Government has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
  25. **Devendra Fadnavis (CM of Maharashtra)** - PM Narendra Modi has constituted a high-powered Committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) for ‘Transformation of Indian Agriculture’.

## Agreement & Deals

### February/January

1. **Hyundai, Uber join hands to develop electric air taxis**
  - South Korean automobile manufacturer Hyundai Motor Company has entered into a partnership with

US ride-hailing giant Uber to produce electric air taxis. Hyundai is the first automotive company to join the Uber Elevate initiative.

- Under the partnership, Hyundai will produce and deploy the air vehicles and Uber will provide airspace support services, connections to ground transportation and customer interfaces through an aerial rideshare network. The two entities are also collaborating on infrastructure concepts to support their take-off and landing.
- 2. India to MoU with Russia on AK-203 assault rifles**
    - The Indian Army is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles with Russia. The rifles will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.
    - The facility is being set up between the Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) from the Indian side, and Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on the Russian side. The OFB owns 50.5% equity and Russian side holds the remaining 49.5%. The Army has been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle.
  - 3. RevFin and PNB MetLife in tie-up to offer life cover**
    - India's leading Digital lending startup, RevFin has joined hands with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company to offer protection to the RevFin's customers by bundling life insurance cover on their loans. This insurance covers loans up to ₹3 lakh for a period of 3 years.
    - The collaboration will help PNB MetLife to reach out to unbanked areas & drive greater financial inclusion in the country by securing the families of the borrowers against loan repayment in case of unfortunate death of the borrower.
  - 4. CSC signed pact with Paytm Payments Bank for sale of FASTags**
    - Common Service Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India has signed a memorandum of understanding with Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for sale of FASTags. The agreement will facilitate the sale of PPBL FASTags through the last mile network of 3.6 lakh CSCs, helping realise the government's vision of cashless and smooth transit at all toll plazas across the country.
    - FASTags which work on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology have been made mandatory at toll gates on national highways. The FASTag process allows toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it, thus doing away with the need for waiting in queues, saving time and fuel.
  - 5. GOI signed MoU with Flipkart under DAY-NULM scheme**
    - Government of India signed MoU with Flipkart for selling the products made by women self-help groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) on the e-commerce platform. Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), self-help groups consisting of 44 lakh women have been working across the country, a move aimed at making women financially independent.
  - 6. Federal Bank Partnered with Magicbricks**
    - Private sector lender Federal Bank has tied up with online real estate platform Magicbricks for listing and e-auctioning of immovable properties repossessed by it in recovery proceedings. 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.
  - 7. Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with Pine Labs to enable EMIs on debit cards**
    - Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to enable debit card facility for their debit cardholders across point-of-sale terminals by Pine Labs. Banks customers can avail EMI facility with a minimum purchase of Rs 8,000 and repay over 3 months to 12 months. Its aim is to provide affordable, flexible and easy EMI options on a range of products so that bank's customers can break their high-value purchases into affordable instalments at no extra cost.
  - 8. Bank of Baroda partners with Gujarat govt to provide MSME loans**
    - Bank of Baroda signed an MoU with the Gujarat government to facilitate the flow of credit in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector. As per the agreement, the credit will be provided to the MSME for greenfield projects, startups, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from backward areas under the Gujarat Single Window Clearance Act 2017 & Ordinance Number 1 of 2019 dated October 24, 2019.
  - 9. Wipro partnered with NASSCOM to train 10,000 students on emerging technologies**
    - Wipro has partnered with Nasscom to train students on emerging technologies. The programme will train on technologies such as artificial intelligence, data science, internet of things, cybersecurity. Wipro will train 10,000 students from engineering colleges in India as a part of Wipro's corporate social responsibility programme "TalentNext".
    - TalentNext aims to improve the quality of engineering education by preparing faculty and academic leaders to train students. The programme will now be extended to students directly through Future Skills, a Nasscom platform. "Future Skills"

bridges the industry-academia skill gap and help students learn new-age technologies.

**10. Apple, Amazon & Google partners for 'Connected Home over IP'**

- "Amazon.com Inc", "Apple Inc" and Alphabet Inc's "Google" have announced a partnership to lay the groundwork for better compatibility among their smart home products. Zigbee Alliance, whose members include IKEA and NXP Semiconductors among others, will also contribute to the project, titled 'Connected Home over IP'.
- The partnership aims to make it easier for device manufacturers to build products that are compatible with smart home and voice services such as Alexa, Siri and Google Assistant.

**11. India and US signed defence tech transfer pact during 2+2 dialogue**

- India and the US have signed an agreement to facilitate the transfer of defence technology during the 2+2 dialogue held at Washington DC. India and the US have a common vision of a free, seamless and peaceful Indo-Pacific region.
- India has bought weapons worth more than \$15 billion from the United States over the past decade as it seeks to replace its Russian-origin military and is in talks for helicopters, armed drones and a bigger Indian plan for local production of combat planes together worth billions of dollars.

**12. SBI signed \$277 million Agreement with Germany based KfW bank**

- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement worth of \$277 million (about Rs 1,958 crore) with Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) German development bank for establishing an energy-efficient housing programme in India. The programme shall be part of the Indo-German Development Co-operation, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- 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 arrangement of the loan and the grant facilities was facilitated by SBI's investment banking subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd.

**13. ICAR & NABARD signed MoU to promote agriculture & farming systems research**

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient farming systems.
- The research will be of active participation in climate-resilient practices, models and integrated and hi-tech farming practices in a participatory model. The aim of this MoU was to promote sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient farming systems.

**14. Maldives signs contract with JV of Indian companies for development of Addu**

- Maldives government has signed a contract with a joint venture of Indian companies. The contract aims to prepare project report and the development of Addu, which is the second biggest city in the island nation. The contract was signed L & T engineering limited and Lea associates south asia for the Addu Road and Reclamation Project. The project includes land reclamation, construction of roads and storm water drainage system in Addu. This will upgrade existing infrastructure and mitigate the flood situation in Addu.
- Financing of the project will be done by EXIM bank of India through line of credit of USD 800 million.

**December**

**1. Dell Technologies tie up with UNESCO to boost quality of education:**

- Dell Technologies has partnered with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace (MGIEP) to enable school teachers to adopt technology in classrooms by using ICT tools.
- The information and communication technology (ICT) tools have been developed by Dell Aarambh and FramerSpace platform.
- The partnership would enable achieving the UN Sustainable Goal 4.7 towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies and also UNESCO

MGIEP in its mission of building social and emotional learning, innovative digital pedagogies and empowering youth.

**2. MoU signed Between NSIC & ARAMCO Asia for development in Oil & Gas Sectors**

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Saudi Aramco (Asia) for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.
- The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out space as vendors in Global space.

**3. NTPC signed Agreement with SBI for Rs. 5,000 crores:**

- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has signed a term loan agreement of Rs. 5,000 crores with State Bank of India (SBI).
- The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3 Months MCLR of the bank and has a door to door tenure of 15 years. The loan will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

**4. IEPFA signs MoU with Bank of Baroda (BOB) for Investor Awareness**

- Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to spread customer awareness and investor education and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.
- As per the agreement, 9,456 BoB branches will exhibit IEPFA posters on investor protection & 3,115 ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) and Cash Recyclers supported by self-service channels will feature digital banners on IEPFA.
- Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs,

**5. India-Bangladesh ties transcend strategic partnership**

- The ties between India and Bangladesh for transcend strategic partnership. The multidimensional relationship between the two countries covers not only traditional areas like trade, commerce, security and border management but also new areas such as IT, space and nuclear science among others.
- India is a committed development partner of Bangladesh with a credit line worth 8 billion US dollars of which 80% is earmarked for infrastructure and connectivity sector.

**6. BlackBuck partners with IDFC Bank, Yes Bank to offer free FASTags to truck Owners:**

- The Online trucking platform BlackBuck has partnered with private lenders IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to provide FASTags to truck owners free of cost.
- 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 initiative is expected to help over 3 million trucks in India become FASTag compliant.

**7. CPPIB to invest \$600 million in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:**

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) have agreed for CPPIB to invest up to \$600 million through the NIIF Master Fund.

- The agreement includes a commitment of \$150 million in the NIIF Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$450 million in future opportunities to invest alongside the NIIF Master Fund.
- The NIIF Master Fund invests equity capital in core infrastructure sectors in India, with a focus on transportation, energy and urban infrastructure.

**8. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank signs MoU for bancassurance:**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) and Canara, HSBC, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Life Insurance Company Ltd. signed an MoU for bancassurance (for selling life insurance products through the branches of KVGB).
- As per the pact, KVGB will market wide range insurance products of the Canara HSBC through its 636 branches in 9 districts of Karnataka.

**9. ZestMoney partnered with Xiaomi to launch 'Mi Credit' personal loan service in India:**

- Bengaluru based EMI financing platform, ZestMoney has partnered with Chinese smartphone company, Xiaomi, to launch new loan service app called "MiCredit" in the Indian market.
- Through this app customers can get an instant loan ranging from Rs 7,000 – Rs 1,00,000.
- Application process for loans can be completed within 5 minutes, and the repayment can be done over a period from 3 months – 3 years in easy EMIs.

**10. National Museum of Indian Cinema signs MoU with Films Division and BookMyShow:**

- Films Division of India and BookMyShow (BMS) signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for online ticketing of National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in New Delhi.
- With this MoU, booking a ticket to visit NMIC will be a click away as it will now be available on BookMyShow, thus benefiting film lovers in India and abroad.
- The MoU has been part of Museum outreach initiatives aimed at increasing footfalls to NMIC.

**11. Walmart India ties-up with HDFC to launch co-branded credit card for Best price stores**

- In a first, Walmart India has partnered with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- The new co-branded credit card is available exclusively for members of Best Price Modern Wholesale B2B (business to business) cash & carry Stores, owned and operated by Walmart India .
- In this, the facility of free credit will be available for up to 50 days without any interest.

## November

### 1. ADB, India sign \$451 million loan to strengthen Power Connectivity in Tamil Nadu

- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$451 million loan for strengthening power connectivity between northern and southern parts of Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) which is part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).
- ECEC is India's first coastal economic corridor.
- It will help establish extra-high-voltage transmission link between Coimbatore and Virudhunagar. It will meet increased power demand in CKIC by transferring additional generation capacity of 9,000 megawatt (MW), including 6,000 MW from renewables by 2025. This will help reliably evacuate power from these new power plants in southern CKIC.

### 2. SBI & U-GRO signed loan co-origination agreement

- U-GRO Capital has signed an SME loan co-origination agreement with State Bank of India to facilitate broader credit outreach and faster disbursement.

- The alliance to leverage U GRO Capital's proprietary technology platform 'GRO-Xstream' to provide in-principle loan approval within 60 minutes.
- U GRO Capital, a BSE listed, technology-enabled small business lending platform entered into a loan co-origination.

### 3. India-Uzbekistan sign pact on counter-terror cooperation

- India and Uzbekistan have signed a pact for further strengthening of cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism and organised crime.
- The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his Uzbekistan counterpart Pulat Bobojonov here to further increase cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in diverse fields including counter-terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking.
- The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, capacity building and training for Uzbek security personnel in Indian institutions, border guarding and disaster management.

## October

### 1. NHA and Google tie up for Ayushman Bharat

**Implementation** – The National Health Authority (NHA) has joined hands with international giant Google to collaborate as well as strengthen the implementation of government's flagship health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

### 2. Sports Ministry inks MoU with NBCC to develop National Sports University at Imphal

– State-owned construction firm NBCC (India) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Sports under Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) to provide Project Management Consultancy for development of National Sports University at Imphal, Manipur. The approximate cost of project would be Rs.400 crore.

### 3. Indian & Bangladesh signed 7 agreements

– The seven pacts and three projects that were signed and finalised during the visit of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh to India.

**The key agreements signed between India & Bangladesh –**

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for Movement of goods to and from India

- withdrawal of 1.82 cusec of water from Feni river by India for drinking water supply, scheme for Sabroom town, Tripura, India
- MoU on providing Coastal Surveillance System - Delhi to set up a coastal surveillance system radar in Bangladesh
- Inauguration of BIPSDI – Bangladesh – India Professional Skill Development Institute
- Inauguration of Vivekananda Bhaban, students hostel at Ramakrishna mission in Dhaka.

### 4. Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Army for customised services

– Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders.

- The MoU includes handsome free personal accident insurance cover, free air accident insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh to Rs 50 lakh and an overdraft facility up to three times of monthly net salary.

### 5. Siemens signs MoUs with NTPC, TERI on decarbonisation, energy transition

- German multinational conglomerate company, Siemens Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTPC Limited to identify, evaluate and set up reference use cases of hydrogen sector-coupling for various upstream and downstream applications.
  - The collaboration is aimed at developing innovative technologies, solutions and techniques to reduce the dependence on Hydrocarbons in India.
  - Siemens has also inked a separate MoU with TERI for collaboration on technologies to support the energy transition in India including sector-coupling.
- 6. GeM signs MoU with Indian Bank and Canara Bank for payment related service**
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has signed MoU with Indian Bank and Canara Bank.
  - The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities.
  - Through this partnership, both the banks will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Payment Gateway to the registered users on the portal.
- 7. IOB launches health care plus insurance policy**
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance Co Ltd. has launched upgraded health care plus insurance policy.
  - It is a co-branded insurance scheme exclusively designed for IOB customers with a sum insured starting from ₹50,000 and going up to ₹15 lakh.
  - The policy issuance will be made on a real-time basis at the IOB branches to its customers. Self, spouse, dependent children, dependent parents can be covered under the policy.
- 8. USD 165 mn loan agreement for Odisha's Integrated Irrigation Project**
- The Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank have signed a USD 165 million loan agreement.
  - The agreement is signed for Odisha's Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture.
  - The project will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture.
- The \$165 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Member of World Bank Group), has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.
- 9. GeM and Federal Bank sign MoU for payment related services**
- The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Federal Bank to offer a number of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the portal.
  - The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities.
- 10. Grasim partnered with German's MR to produce insulators**
- Grasim Industries Limited has signed a definitive agreement to form a joint venture company in India with Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen GmbH (MR) of Germany.
  - The joint venture is for the manufacturing and sale of Composite Hollow Core Insulators to serve the power transmission and distribution (T&D) industry globally.
  - This joint venture will bring together Aditya Birla Insulators (a unit of Grasim) and Reinhausen Power Composites (a unit of MR).
  - ABPCL will build a fully integrated CHCI plant at Halol, bringing the latest technology for Composite Hollow Insulators from Europe.
  - It will serve the insulator requirements of Indian and global OEMs in the power equipment industry.
- 11. AYUSH, Defence ministries ink MoU to provide traditional medicine services:**
- The AYUSH ministry has signed an MoU with the Defence Ministry to provide traditional medicine services at the armed forces' hospitals and dispensaries.
  - Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik inaugurated an Ayurveda Palliative Care Unit at the Base Hospital in the Delhi Cantonment.
  - Under the MoU, Ayurveda units will also be established at palliative care centres at the Army Research and Referral Hospital, Air Force Hospital, Hindon in Ghaziabad and five identified ex-



servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics in Delhi–NCR.

### 12. Home Credit India join hand with Karur Vysya Bank for joint lending:

- Home Credit India (HCIN), a local arm of the international consumer finance provider, has tied-up with Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) for joint lending using end-to-end automated processing which will help the customer get real-time approval and disbursement.
- Under the agreement, HCIN and KVB will disburse loans in a single amount to customers. With this partnership and by leveraging the lower cost of funds of KVB, Home Credit India will be able to reach out to a new segment of customer. Home Credit India has operations spread over 179 cities across 20 States in India.

### 13. Mastercard and MS Dhoni partner to build 'Team Cashless India':

- Mastercard, along with cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, launched a nationwide initiative 'Team Cashless India' to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments.
- The initiative 'Team Cashless India' brings consumers and merchants to the forefront of the digital payments dialogue.
- The campaign encourages all Indians to nominate one or more merchants who currently do not accept digital payments.
- Mastercard will work together with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), acquirer banks and fintech companies to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.

### 14. ADB & India signs \$190 million loan for projects in Rajasthan:

- The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India has signed a \$190 Million loan. The amount

will be used to upgrade 754 km of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan. For the benefit of commuters and pedestrians, particularly women and children, the project provides for constructing more than 200 bus stops, 70 km of hard shoulder, and 2 km of raised sidewalk on project roads.

### 15. GeM signs MOU with Union Bank of India

- Government e-Marketplace signed an MoU with Union Bank of India. As per the MoU, UBI will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts, advising of Performance Bank Guarantees and Earnest Money Deposit to the registered users on the GeM portal.
- The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and will create an efficient procurement system for government entities.

### 16. NHA ties with Google to strengthen the implementation of PMJAY

- National Health Authority signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with Google to collaborate and strengthen the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- The two organizations will now work together to increase process efficiencies in day-to-day applications. Google will support NHA in improving digital presence of PMJAY and showcasing relevant content to the 50 crore entitled beneficiaries.
- Google will also help provide training and support to NHA personnel to build on digital skills. NHA is the nodal agency for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

## Reports/Survey

### January/ December

#### 1. SIPRI Report: Arms sales increased by 5% in 2018

- As per the report published by the 'Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)', arms sales rose by 5% throughout the world in 2018.
- The report said that the turnover of 100 biggest arms manufacturers came to 420 billion USD.
- Amongst arms manufacturers, US manufacturers accounted for 59% of global weapon market.
- Next to the US, Russia ranked second in arms production contributing 8.6% of the weapon market.
- UK and France ranked third and fourth contributing 8.4% and 5.5% respectively.

## 2. Global Climate Risk Index 2020

- The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' has recently released the Global Climate Risk Index 2019.
- The index analyses the extent to which countries and regions have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)
- As per the report Japan to be the most vulnerable country to climate change, followed by Philippines, Germany, Madagascar and India.
- Globally India is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. India also recorded highest number of fatalities due to climate change and 2nd highest monetary losses from its impact in 2018.

## 3. Delhi enters list of top 10 most popular destinations in the world

- The National Capital has been witnessing soaring popularity and wellness tourism across the world.
- According to Euro Monitor International, Delhi currently ranks 11th in the list of world's top 100 destinations and is to gain 8th rank in 2019.
- The ranking was released by the organization on December 3, 2019 under the title "Top 100 city destination ranking"

## 4. Skymet Report: Kharif crop production to dip by 12%

- On December 3, 2019, a private weather monitoring company, Skymet released a report on Kharif Crop outlook.
- According to the report, barring cotton the Kharif crops are expected to witness a drop-in production by 4.5% to 12% as compared to 2018-19.

- Several crops such as groundnut, soybean, cotton, tur and urad were adversely affected all over the country and especially in Maharashtra.

## 5. UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) 2019:

- The United Nations Development Programme released the Human Development Index for 189 countries on December 9, 2019.
- India was **ranked 129** out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) improving from the 130th position in 2018.
- HDI is part of the Human Development Report that is published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- HDI emphasizes that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.
- **Norway, Switzerland, Ireland** occupied the top three positions in that order in the Human Development Index 2019.

## 6. India among top 10 countries with higher climate performance

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

## November

## 1. UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2019

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released 'Emissions Gap Report-2019'
- The report warns that the Earth's average temperature may rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2100.
- Moreover, despite all scientific warnings and political commitments emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) couldn't decrease globally.
- The report was released prior to United Nations Climate Conference (COP-25) to be held in Spain from 2 December 2019.

- It states that GHG emissions have increased by 1.5% since last decade and that carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions have reached an all-time high figure of 55.3 gigatons.

## 2. India Corruption Survey 2019

- India Corruption Survey 2019 was carried out by Local Circles, a social media firm and the Transparency International India.
- As per the survey, Rajasthan and Bihar fared the worst in country with 78% and 75% of respondents admitting to paying bribes, while Telangana topped the list in south India.

- As compared to 2018, India's overall ranking in Corruption Perception Index has risen 3 places to 78 out of 180 countries.
- 3. Global Diplomacy Index 2019**
    - The 2019 Global Diplomacy Index was released by Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The index gives the latest statistics and marking about how the world's diplomatic networks are expanding and, in certain cases, shrinking. The index ranked 61 countries across the world.
    - China now has more diplomatic posts across the world than United States in 2019. China has overtaken United States with 276 embassies and consulates worldwide, which is 3 more than US (both countries have an equal number of embassies but China has 3 more consulates). This signifies a marker of its growing international clout and ambition.
  - 4. CRY Report on Crime against Children in India**
    - The Child Rights and You recently released a report "How Vulnerable are Children in India to crime?" The report was based on the analysis of National Crime Records Bureau for 2016-17.
    - The report says that the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh topped the list of states for crimes against children. There were over 19,000 cases in both the states.
  - 5. NSO Survey on Household Health Expenditure**
    - The National Statistical Office on November 23, 2019 released its survey on Household Social Consumption related to health.
    - The survey was conducted between July 2017 and June 2018. It was a part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey.
    - The main objective of the survey was to collect data on expenditure on medicines, expenditure in hospitalization, investigation, expenditure, maternity, childbirth, etc.
  - 6. NSS releases report on disability**
    - The data for the survey was collected from 1.13,823 households
    - The National Statistical Office conducted survey of Persons with disabilities in the country between the period July 2018 and December 2018.
    - The main objective of the survey is to estimate indicators of incidence and prevalence of disability, facilities available to persons with disability, age at onset of disability, arrangement of regular care giver, difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities, out of pocket expenses.
    - The survey carried out in the year 2018 was the 76th round. It included all the disabilities that were included in The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
  - 7. NSO report: Rural India yet to become Open Defecation Free**
    - The NSO under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted survey on drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and housing condition between the period July 2018 and December 2018.
    - According to the survey one fourth of the households had no access to toilets.
    - The main objective of this survey was to gather information about sanitation along with housing facilities available to the households and micro environment surrounding the houses.
    - The survey is important as the GoI is currently working on a set target of Drinking Water for all by 2024.

### October

- 1. 300 mn Indians lifted above the poverty line in the last 14 years: NITI Aayog**
  - According to the NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, as many as 300 million Indians were lifted above the poverty line between 2004 and 2018.
- 2. India has the second-highest number of Internet users after China –**
  - According to a report by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), India has the second-highest number of internet users after China.
- As per the report, India has 451 million monthly active internet users at the end of the financial year 2019.
- 3. Indian diaspora largest in the world at 17.5 million: UN Report**
  - India was the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora.

- Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million).
- In India, the highest number of international migrants came from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.
- The International Migrant Stock 2019 was released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- The report provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.

**4. National Nutrition Survey** – The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized first National Nutrition Survey.

- The ministry took help from **UNICEF** to complete the survey.
- The survey was conducted between 2016 and 2018.

**Key points –**

- Around 10% of children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and adolescents in the age group 10 to 19 years are pre – diabetic. 5% of them were overweight and 5% suffered from blood pressure.
- Tamil Nadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.

**5. Mukesh Ambani richest Indian with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore: Report**

- According to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore.
- The second spot was retained by the London-based SP Hinduja & family, with assets worth Rs 1,86,500 crore which is followed by Wipro founder Azim Premji at the third place with a wealth of Rs 1,17,100 crore.

**6. Global Nutrition Report, 2018** – The Global Nutrition Report 2018, prepared by WHO, states that India is home to 46.6 million stunted children out of 150.8 million stunted children all over the world.

The report also says that

- Out of 50.5 million children who are wasted globally, 25.5 million are in India.
- India is the third most obese nation in the world. WHO states India as Diabetes capital with 69.2 million suffering from diabetes.

**7. Mumbai most preferred city for co-living in India:** Knight Frank

- According to the report of property consultant Knight Frank Mumbai ranks 5th among 20 cities in the Asia Pacific that can emerge as a co-living destination.
- Whereas, India capital city New Delhi ranked at 11th and Bengaluru at 19th rank in the list, according to Knight Frank's report 'Insights on Co-living: An Asia-Pacific Perspective.'

- **Beijing, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong** are the top four cities in the list.

**8. Earth has lost 53% of its Wildlife since 1970: WWF Report**

- According to the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity, "Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations" by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the number of forest wildlife populations have declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.
- The report has been produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)& The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) co-led the analysis and modelling for this report.

**9. MSME Pulse Report: Gujarat tops –**

- According to TransUnion Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) – Small Industries Development Bank of India's (SIDBI) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Pulse Report, Gujarat was ranked first in terms of performance and credit growth potential for MSME Corporate Lending in India.
- It has maintained the top position since the past 4 years. MSME corporate entities are borrowers with aggregate credit exposure of up to Rs 50 crore. The market size of this category is Rs 17.6 lakh crore as of March 31, 2019.
- Gujarat was followed by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Delhi. Maharashtra, one among the most industrialized states, was ranked 9th.

**10. "Tata" becomes India's most valuable brand for 2019: Brand Finance India 100 2019 report**

- According to the London-based consultancy Brand Finance annual report, "Brand Finance India 100 2019", "Tata" has become India's most valuable brand for the second straight year in 2019 with the brand value of \$19.6 billion followed by LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) (2nd )with \$7.3 billion and Infosys (3rd )\$6.5 billion.

**11. UN Report: Over 820 million people suffering from hunger**

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- A UN report has said, more **than 821 million people** suffered from hunger worldwide last year. It is the third year in a row that the number has risen.
- The report named, ‘The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**’, produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies, including WHO, was released.
- The report is part of tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goal to Zero Hunger, which aims to end hunger, promote food security and end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Number of hungry people in the world in 2018: 821.6 million (or 1 in 9 people)

- Asia: 513.9 million.
- Africa: 256.1million.
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 42.5 million.

#### 12. India stays lower-middle-income nation while Sri Lanka gets richer: World Bank Report

- According to the World Bank’s classification of countries by income levels, released on July 1, 2019, India continues to be a lower-middle-income country along with 46 others, while Sri Lanka has climbed to the upper-middle-income group for the fiscal year (FY) 2020.
- India became a lower-middle-income nation from low-income in FY 2009.
- Sri Lanka entered the lower-middle-income group in FY 1999, from the low-income category and continued for over two decades, before moving to the upper-middle-income group this year.
- The World Bank classifies economies based on gross national income (GNI) per capita (current US\$) calculated using what is **called the Atlas method**.
- Argentina is the only country that slipped from the high-income to upper-middle-income group.

#### Classifications are determined:

- A country’s GNI per capita, which can change with economic growth, inflation, exchange rates, and population. Revisions to national accounts methods and data can also influence GNI per capita.

#### 13. WHO has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health –

- As per an estimate by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers.
- Currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.

- The International Self Care Day (ISD) is observed annually on July 24.

#### 14. 75% of children with disabilities don't attend schools in India: UNESCO - The 2019 "State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities" took into account the 2011 census, according to which there are 78,64,636 children with disability in India constituting 1.7 percent of the total child population.

##### Key points of the report -

- India is home to **8 million** children with disabilities.
- Nearly 75% of 5 year olds who have certain disabilities, do not go to any educational institution.
- There are more than 78 lakh children aged under 19 lived with disabilities.
- **Three-fourths** of the children with disabilities at the age of five years and **one-fourth** between 5-19 years do not go to any educational institution.
- **SDG:** The report is in sync with the **Sustainable Development Goal 4(SDG)** which aims to ensure **“inclusive and equitable quality education”**.
- The report was commissioned by UNESCO and was prepared by the Tata Institute of Social Science.

#### 15. World Food Programme (WFP) report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) – The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that **31.4% of Indian** children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

##### Key Highlights:

- The stunting in children under 5years of age is the highest in Bihar (48%), Uttar Pradesh (46%), Jharkhand (45%), and Meghalaya (44%).
- Only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each) are stunted.
- Reduction: Stunting in children in India under the age of five has reduced at a rate of about 1% per year in the last decade.
- India must double its rate of progress to reach the target of 25% by 2022 set by the National Nutrition Mission.

##### About Stunting:

- Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

#### 16. WHO - E-2020 initiative: 2019 progress report – According to the World Health Organization (WHO) - four countries from Asia — **China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste** — and

one from **Central America — El Salvador** — reported no indigenous cases of malaria in 2018.

Note:

- Earlier in May 2019, the WHO declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free. The last case of indigenous malaria was reported from Algeria in 2013 and Argentina in 2010.
- Algeria became the second E-2020 country to achieve certification, after Paraguay was certified malaria-free by WHO last year.

#### 17. Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey –

- Mumbai was considered as India's most expensive city.
- Costliest city in the world **was Hong Kong** for the second consecutive year.
- It was followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.
- iLeast Expensive Cities: The world's least expensive cities for expatriates were Tunis (209), Tashkent (208), and Karachi (207).
- Indian Cities: Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked 67th position.
- New Delhi stood at 118th place, Chennai was ranked 154th position, Bengaluru at 179th position and Kolkata at 189th place.

#### 18. India to cross China's population by 2027: United Nations

- As per a United Nations report, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050.

#### Key highlights of the report

- India is expected to add nearly **273 million people between 2019 and 2050** and remain the most populated country through the end of the current century.
- China, with 1.43 billion people in 2019, and India, with 1.37 billion, have long been the two most populous countries of the world,

#### World Population

- The UN report 'The World Population Prospects 2019' added that the world's population is expected to increase by two billion people in the next 30 years -- from **7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion** in 2050.

#### Population Growing Older

- **By 2050**, one in six people in the world will be over age **65 (16 per cent)**, up from one in 11 in 2019 (9 per cent).
- The number of persons aged 80 years or over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.

#### Average life expectancy

- The report also projected people would survive longer in the future, with global average life expectancy expected to reach 77.1 years in 2050 against 72.6 years currently.
- In 1990, the average life expectancy worldwide was 64.2 years.

#### 19. At 9.8 GB per month, India has the highest data usage per smartphone

- According to a new study by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson, India has the highest average data usage per smartphone, reaching 9.8 GB per month at the end of 2018.
- The report, released on 19<sup>th</sup> June, also forecasts that this figure is likely to double to 18 GB per month per smartphone by 2024.
- The 'Ericsson Mobility Report' added that total smartphone subscriptions in the region is likely to reach 1.1 billion by 2024, growing at 11% CAGR.
- The total mobile broadband subscriptions in India are expected to grow from about 610 million in 2018 to 1.25 billion in 2024.

#### 20. Dell has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019: TRA

- According to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research, "Dell" has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019.
- IC and Amazon are ranked on the third and fourth spots and Apple iPhone emerged as India's fifth most trusted brand.

#### 21. Amazon top global brand: 100 Top BrandZ report

- According to global market research agency Kantar in its 2019's '100 Top BrandZ Report', US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand.
- The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, hence jumping from third to first place to replace Google.

#### 22. Arunachal has highest 35% of India's Graphite Deposits: GSI Report

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves are found in Arunachal Pradesh. This is the highest found in the country.

#### 23. BPRD releases "Data on Police Organizations (DoPO 2018)"

- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy has released the Bureau of Police Research

and Development's flagship publication "Data on Police Organizations" (DoPO 2018) in New Delhi.

- There has been an increase of 19,686 Police personnel in the sanctioned strength of the State Police and 16,051 in the strength of CAPFs
- There has been 20.95% increase in the strength of Woman Police which brings the total percentage of women in the Indian Police to 8.73%.
- The overall Police Population Ratio at the state level stood at 192.95 policemen per lakh population.
- Police Stations have increased from 15579 to 16422. This includes Cyber Police Stations whose number has risen from 84 to 120.
- Electronic surveillance has improved with addition of 2,10,278 CCTV Cameras.

#### 24. NCRB releases Crime in India Report 2017

- National Crime Records Bureau has released the annual "Crime in India Report 2017" after a delay of 2 years.
- 3.59 lakh cases of crime against women were reported in the country. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra with 31,979 cases and West Bengal 30,002 in cases of crime against women.
- Majority of cases under crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives' (27.9%) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (21.7%), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (20.5%) and 'Rape' (7.0%).
- The NCRB report also cited 58,880 incidents of rioting in 2017. Maximum incidents of rioting were reported from Bihar (11,698), followed by Uttar Pradesh (8,990) and Maharashtra (7,743).
- The incidents registered under the Scheduled Caste Prevention of Atrocities Act saw an increase from 5,082 incidents reported in 2016 to 5,775 in 2017.
- Incidents of crime related to Scheduled Tribes dipped from 844 in 2016 to 720 in 2017.

#### 25. Narendra Modi becomes most followed leader on Instagram:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the most-followed elected world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram.

- He is ahead of US President Donald Trump, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and former president Barack Obama.
- With 30 million followers, PM Modi leads the list of world leaders on Instagram, with Joko Widodo coming in a close second with 25.6 million followers on the popular app.
- Barack Obama comes in third with 24.8 million followers while, Donald Trump, trails behind with 14.9 million followers.

#### 26. Forbes India Rich List 2019

- The US business magazine Forbes has released "The Forbes India Rich List 2019" which has been topped by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with net worth of \$51.4 billion.
- Industrialist Gautam Adani jumped 8 spots on the list to become the 2nd richest Indian with net worth of \$15.7 billion.
- Hinduja Brothers, Pallonji Mistry and Uday Kotak are at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> position respectively with net worth of \$15.6 billion, \$15 billion and \$14.8 billion

#### 27. 2019 Global Report on Food Crises –

- The report is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key points –

- More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced "acute hunger" last year because of wars and climate disasters, with Africa the worst-hit region.
- Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Syria were among the eight nations accounting for two-thirds of the total number of people worldwide exposed to the risk of famine.
- African Nations were "disproportionally" affected as close to 72 million people on the continent suffered acute hunger.

About FAO –

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Founded: 16 October 1945

### Government Schemes

### February

- 1. Funds released Green for India Mission (GIM):** A sum of Rs 343.08 crore has been released under the Green India Mission (GIM) for undertaking afforestation activities over an area of 126,916.32 hectare (ha) in 13 states, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20. The main objective of GIM is protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.
- 2. The Department of Science & Technology has launched "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes(SATHI)" scheme:** The SATHI scheme is launched to address the need for building shared, professionally managed and strong S&T infrastructure in the country which is readily accessible to academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs etc.
- 3. 'Vivad se vishwas' scheme announced in Union Budget:** This scheme was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her budget speech to settle the huge number of pending direct tax cases. The scheme has the objective to resolve 483,000 direct tax-related disputes pending in various appellate forums.
- 4. Rajasthan government demanded change in norms for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):** Changes in the norms for Central assistance for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in

order to reduce the financial burden is demanded by Rajasthan. The flagship Central scheme at present stipulates the share in 50:50 ratio. Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal) to all rural households by 2024.

- 5. Nirvik Scheme presented at Budget 2020:** This new scheme is launched to achieve higher export credit disbursement with Higher insurance coverage, Reduction in premium for small exporters and Simplified procedure for claim settlements.
- 6. Kisan Rail is to be set up by Indian Railways under PPP (Public Private Partnership) model:** Kisan Rail is launched to transport perishable goods. This will establish a seamless national cold supply chain for perishable goods can be transported quickly.
- 7. Krishi UDAN Scheme:** One of the hit schemes of budget 2020 is the introduction of Krishi UDAN which will be launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation on international and national routes focusing to enhance value realization in North East and tribal districts.
- 8. One District One Product Initiative in Budget 2020:** This initiative will help in improving marketing and export supporting states so that focus is given at district level for horticulture to gain strength in the economy

## January

- 1. PM to release 4<sup>th</sup> instalment for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana:** PM Modi is to release the fourth instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana in Tumakuru, Karnataka and will also confer "Krishi Karman award to three fishermen and 28 progressive farmers from various states. The scheme was first introduced in Telangana as "Rythu Bandhu" scheme.
- 2. FAME India Scheme Phase II:** Department of Heavy Industries under Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has approved 2636 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations under FAME India scheme Phase II.
  - The stations are to be placed in 62 cities in 24 states and Union Territories.
  - FAME India is Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles
- 3. Hospitals de-empanelled under Ayushman Bharat Scheme:** The National Health Authority(NHA), an apex body regulating and implementing Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) has de-

empanelled 171 hospitals with a penalty of Rs 4.5 crore on hospitals for committing fraud and indulging in malpractices under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme. Ayushman Bharat is a flagship scheme for health care.

- 4. Cyber Safe Initiative launched by Government of Maharashtra:** Maharashtra Government launched 'Cyber Safe Initiative' commemorating the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, Indian Social Reformer and the first India female teacher. The main features of the scheme include online cybercrime reporting platform, research and development, cybercrime awareness activities.
- 5. UJALA Programme marked its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary:** Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) and LED Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) marked their fifth anniversary.
  - The schemes were implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) which is a joint venture of PSU operating under Ministry of Power.



- The scheme has brought down the LED bulbs prices to one-tenth of rates as in 2015
  - It has also helped in reducing customer bills by 15%
- 6. Northeast Gas grid Pipeline Project:** Govt to provide ₹5,559 crore funding to northeast gas grid. The proposed northeast gas pipeline grid will connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centres.
- It is 1, 656 km long.
  - The project is being implemented under ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.
  - To be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, a joint venture of state-owned GAIL India, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL).
- 7. Open Acreage Licensing Policy:** Government has launched the bidding process offering 11 areas in oil and gas blocks under Open Acreage Licensing Policy Round-V (OALP-V).
- It is a Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy.
  - Uniform licences for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbons.
- 8. Land Records with the Web portal for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** Maharashtra has become the first state to integrate its land records with the web portal of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). This will help in checking the cases of “over insurance” (insurance of more land than in possession) as well as insurance of ineligible people. PMFBY envisages a uniform premium of only 2% for

Kharif crops, and 1.5% for Rabi crops. The premium for annual commercial and horticultural crops will be 5%.

- 9. Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana:** It is a voluntary and contribution based central sector scheme with a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 for the entry age group of 18-40 years after attaining the age of 60 years, with effect from July 22, 2019. The scheme is based on self-declaration as no documents other than bank account and Aadhaar Card is required.
- 10. Saksham:** It is a people centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) which is a national government agency engaged in promoting energy efficiency. Saksham involves the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments to create focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and sensitize the masses about the conservation and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.
- 11. Maharashtra government launched ‘Shiv Bhojan’ scheme.** The scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor for just 10 rupees, on the 71st Republic Day.
- 12. State Bank of India has announced ‘residential builder finance with buyer guarantee’ (RBBG) scheme** to give a push to residential sales and improve homebuyers’ confidence.
- 13. Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana** to provide financial assistance to the family of farmers who die or become handicapped while working in fields. The scheme will cover farmers and their family members in the age group of 18-70 years.

## December

**1. Indian Railways introduces New Passenger friendly Information System at Anakapalle Station**

**Note:** The Passenger Information system comprises of a Board that provides the Coach Composition position of a train. The main objective of this application is to provide better features and an easy guide to the passengers and thereby providing satisfactory user experience.

**2. Adityanath announces yearly pension of Rs 6,000 for Triple Talaq Victims:**

**Note:** Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh announced to give an annual pension of Rs 6,000 per year to Muslim women who have been given triple talaq by their husbands. The state government should look more into the

education of children and their problem of housing, which will be better than giving Rs 500 as pension to triple talaq victims.

**3. Digit Insurance Launches Health Insurance approves DIY Doctor:**

**Note:** Digit Insurance awarded the General Insurance Company of the Year 2019 in Singapore by Asia Insurance Review Award named the Fastest Growing General Insurance Company in the world with a 1% market share (Q2 FY2019-20) fortified their product portfolio with the launch of retail Health Insurance product Digit Health Care Plus.

**4. Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches welfare scheme for students:**

**Note:** Assam has launched the state government's Abhinandan scheme during a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati. Abhinandan scheme emphasis on one-time subsidy against education loans availed by the students for an amount of Rs 50,000 each to 1,546 students.

**5. Maharashtra Cabinet approves farm loan waiver, meal scheme for poor:**

**Note:** Maharashtra Govt. has approved the farm loan waiver scheme announced a subsidized meal scheme for the poor. The government seek information from banks on accounts where crop loan and restructured crop loans. Shiv Bhojan scheme The Shiv Bhojan scheme incur an expenditure of Rs 6.4 crore for starting a pilot project that will run for three months. The canteen will be started at district headquarters.

**6. Narendra Modi launches Atal scheme on groundwater:**

**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the world's longest mountain tunnel and launched a groundwater conservation mission after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the latter's 95th birth anniversary. Atal tunnel Atal tunnel, an underground passage of strategic importance beneath Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh cuts the road distance between Leh in the Union territory of Ladakh and Himachal's Manali by 46 hours and reduces travel time between Leh and Manali by five hours.

**7. CM Gehlot inaugurated first Janta clinic in Jaipur:**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has inaugurated the first Janta clinic at Valmiki Basti in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur. The state government will also launch Nirogi Rajasthan to support the Janta clinic service.

**8. Odisha launched the Jalsathi programme:** Odisha state government unveiled the "Jalsathi" programme. It was launched by the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The Jalsathi programme aims to ensure the supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state.

**9. Centre to begin Phase III of PMGSY:**

**Note:** The Phase-III of PMGSY is aimed to consolidate 1,25,000 Kms through routes and major Rural links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

**10. Government launched the 4th phase of Regional**

**Connectivity Scheme**30 days ago: The Union government has launched the fourth phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to stimulate air connectivity in an affordable way. Ministry of Civil Aviation has invited bids for the 4th

round of Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of civil aviation (MoCA). The scheme is a part of the government's vision to operationalize over 100 airports in smaller towns and cities over the next five years.

**11. Centre launched the National Broadband Mission:** Union Minister for Communications Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. The mission aims to provide broadband access to all villages by 2022. The mission aims to provide universal and equitable access to broadband services in India, especially in rural and remote areas.

**12. Kerala launched schemes to support differently abled people:** The Kerala state government launched two social welfare schemes to honour differently abled people and NSS, NCC and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units working for their care and welfare. The schemes are Vijayamritham and Sahachari.

**13. First Pashu Kisan credit cards were launched in Haryana:** The First Pashu Kisan credit cards in India were distributed to 101 animal farmers in Bhiwani, Haryana on 6 December at the Animal Farmers Credit Card Scheme launching ceremony.

**14. Odisha to merge Kalia scheme with PM Kisan scheme:** The Odisha government is to merge the State's Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana due to financial constraint. Under the scheme farmers, mostly small and marginal cultivators will get Rs.10,000 in two installments for two crops in a year.

**15. Draj Bridge for all-weather connectivity inaugurated in Rajouri (J&K)**

**Note:** Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu, inaugurated all weather Draj Bridge in Rajouri, J&K. It is an important bridge for the military as well as for socio-economic development of J&K's Rajouri District as a whole. It is a 72-metre-long Multi Cell Box Type Load Class 70 bridge.

**16. Govt Notified that only Aadhar authenticated bank accounts to get PM-Kisan payments**

**Note:** Union Government has notified that the fourth instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) income support scheme due in December 2019 will be transferred only to Aadhar-authenticated bank accounts of more than 50 million beneficiaries. This will be the first time since the launch of this scheme on 24 February 2019, that the government is insisting on mandatory condition of Aadhar seeding.

**17. 100 days of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana**

**Note:** The National programme driven by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), completed 100 days under Ministry of Tribal Affairs on December 7, 2019. The programme aims at empowering the tribal community.

### 18. Fourth Phase of UDAN scheme launched

**Note:** The Union Government of India has launched the fourth round of UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) to enhance the connectivity to regional areas of the country. This phase is to focus on Hilly states, North East Region, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Islands.

### 19. Bharatiya Poshan Anthem launched by Vice President M Venkaiah

**Note:** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem' in New Delhi, which aims towards taking message of making India malnutrition free to all corners of country. While launching, Vice president hoped that the 'poshan anthem' will lead to a nutrition

revolution to transform India into a malnutrition-free country by 2022. The anthem was conceptualised by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and has been penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.

### 20. Intensified Mission Indra Dhanush 2.0 begins

**Note:** Government has launched its flagship scheme 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0' to focus on full immunization coverage of 272 districts spread over 27 states and 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar among hard-to-reach and tribal populations. The Mission Indradhanush 2.0 will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.

## November

1. **HRD Ministry launches Kartavya Portal:** On the occasion of 70th Constitution Day also known as Samvidhan Divas observed on 26 November 2019, Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the [kartavya.ugc.ac.in](http://kartavya.ugc.ac.in) portal for holding monthly essay competitions for students. The portal was launched as part of year-long 'Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan' being observed throughout the country.

### 2. Food Processing Scheme: 271 crores cleared by IMAC:

**Note:** The Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee chaired by Minister of Food Processing Shri Harsimrat Kaur has sanctioned Rs 271 crores for the CEFPPC scheme (Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities) scheme. The focus was given to projects that emphasized on linking agriculture and marketing food processing technologies.

### 3. CLAP: Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal launched by government

**Note:** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Credit Link Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) Awas Portal (CLAP). Along with portal, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA) also launched Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)-India to accomplish 'Housing for All Mission'. MHUA also signed agreements

with certain state governments for the construction of LightHouse projects under GHTC-India.

### 4. J&K achieves highest road length in country under PMGSY in 2019

**Note:** During the current fiscal year so far, the Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in country under Centre's rural roads' programme of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It is a centrally-sponsored scheme under the Union Ministry of Rural Development. This significant accomplishment involves completion of around 11,400 kilometres of different road projects covering 1,838 habitations against the total sanctioned length of 19,700 kilometres against sanctioned 2,214 habitations.

### 5. Assam Government to launch Arundhati Swarna Yojana

**Note:** Assam Government has announced to launch 'Arundhati Swarna Yojana' on 1 January 2020. Under this scheme, state government will give each beneficiary bride fixed amount to buy 10 grams (one tola) of gold during her marriage if the marriage is registered. Under this scheme, State government will not give the gold directly to beneficiary bride but will provide Rs. 30,000 to purchase 10 gms of gold. The scheme will cost around Rs 800 crore annually on the state government exchequer.

## October

1. **Faceless e-Assessment scheme launched by the Income Tax Department** – On 07th October, the Income-Tax Department launched a faceless e-assessment scheme to eliminate interface between an assessing officer and a taxpayer.

- The scheme was launched by the Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey in New Delhi.

- With the launch of the scheme, the Income Tax Department begin with, 58,322 cases for the faceless e-Assessment scheme.
- The National e-Assessment Center (NeAC) will facilitate the faceless e-assessment scheme across the country and benefit taxpayers.

2. **'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme launched by the Delhi Government** – On 07th October Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme to honour good samaritans who take accident victims to the hospital.
3. **YSR Vahana Mitra scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh state** – The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

- The scheme will provide Rs.10,000 allowance to self-employed drivers of the state.

#### About YSR Vahana Mitra Scheme

- Under the scheme an allowance of Rs.10000 would be given every year to the beneficiaries.

- It will provide Rs.50,000 to self-employed drivers in 5 years.
4. **'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children** - On the occasion of 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, launched 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children.
    - This innovation challenge provides a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles.

## Summits & Conference

### January/December

1. **International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems begins in New Delhi**  
**Note:** BIMSTEC countries' 'International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems' was held in New Delhi. The objective of this International Seminar is to have experience sharing to enable improvement of tropical smallholder farming systems for greater productivity and resilience to climate change through ecological approaches.
2. **Switzerland to be the country partner of BioAsia 2020**  
**Note:** Switzerland will be the country partner at the 17th edition of BioAsia2020 scheduled to be held from February 17-19, 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana. The theme of the summit is "Today For Tomorrow". Switzerland is making innovations in the world of medical healthcare and that many pharmaceutical companies have emerged as the center of Switzerland.
3. **54th DGSP/IGSP Conference held in Pune**  
**Note:** 54<sup>th</sup> DGSP/IGSP conference was held in Pune. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory session of the Conference. President's police medals were also awarded to officers of the Intelligence Bureau for their distinguished services.
4. **Goa to host 2nd edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019**  
**Note:** The 2nd edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit was held in Goa on 6-7 December 2019 for Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital (VC) Firms. The summit is being organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Goa Government. Theme for

- Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 is- 'India Opportunity- Investing in tomorrow together'.
5. **NATO Summit 2019 in Watford, United Kingdom:**  
**Note:** 2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit was held in London, United Kingdom (UK). The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit. It was attended by NATO leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.
  6. **3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave held in New Delhi**  
**Note:** It was inaugurated by the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace, GeM in association with Confederation of Indian Industry. GeM epitomizes the speed, skill and scale which is essential in an e-marketplace platform. GeM rests on the three pillars of openness, fairness and inclusiveness and is a symbol of a truly transparent e-marketplace.
  7. **Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 held in Pearl Harbor:**  
**Note:** Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 (PACS 2019) was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Chief of the Air Staff of India participated in the conclave. The theme for this year's symposium is 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'. The conference will bring together Air Chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region who will provide perspectives on common challenges faced and on shared mutual interests while focusing on relevant topics like 'Regional Security', 'Domain Awareness', 'Multi-Domain Awareness', 'Interoperability' and 'HADR'.

**8. Defence Minister addresses Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave:**

**Note:** Defence Minister addresses the Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave in New Delhi. He has expressed confidence that the corporate sector will contribute generously to the welfare of ex-servicemen. He said

common people had generously contributed to 'Bharat Ke Veer' Fund for the bereaved families of soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. 'Bharat Ke Veer' Fund was established with the help of the corporate sector that assisted the families of martyred Central Armed Police Forces personnel.

### November

**1. 1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" held in New Delhi:**

**Note:** Minister of State for Home Affairs, inaugurated the 1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" in New Delhi. The Conference called for developing technology to anticipate disasters like landslides and develop infrastructure to quickly respond to minimise the damage. The landslides have attracted global attention as they may cause huge havoc on communities, livestock, environment leading to huge loss of lives. This conference will go a long way in finding long term solutions to natural disasters.

**2. 8th Water Technology and Environment Control Conference 2019**

**Note:** Union Minister of Jal Shakti, represented India at the 8 WATEC (Water Technology and Environment Control) Conference 2019. The theme of the conference is "Water Stewardship and Innovation—driving global leadership in the responsible planning management, and protection of water". The conference held at David Intercontinental in Tel Aviv, Israel.

**3. DEFCOM India 2019:**

**Note:** The DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar was held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The theme for the seminar is, "Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness". The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness

**1. The 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting held in -- Bangkok, Thailand.**

**Note:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has represented India in the meeting.

**2. State Power Ministers' Conference held in --- Gujarat.**

**Note:** The 2-day conference discussed on policies related to emerging technologies in sustainable and renewable energy sector.

**3. The 1st India Sports Summit 2019 held in -- New Delhi.**

**Note:** According to Minister of State for Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju, 'Fit India' mission office would be set up, with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to promote the aforementioned goals.

**4. The 2nd "India-China Informal Summit" held at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.**

**Note:**The first summit held in Wuhan in the wake of the Doklam crisis in April, 2018.

**between the three services.47th All India Police Science Congress held in Lucknow**

**Note:** The 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) was held in Lucknow. The event was inaugurated by Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi. Uttar Pradesh Police in association with the Home Ministry and the Bureau of Police Research and Development has organised the event at the police headquarters in Lucknow.

**4. India to host SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020**

**Note:** India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020. The 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia.

**5. NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 being held in Haryana**

**Note:** Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 at International Center of Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana. This three-day conference was held from 27 to 29 November 2019. The conference is the largest automotive technology event in country so far. The event is being organized by ICAT on relevant topics of Alternate Fuel Systems and e-Mobility.

**5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme in -- Delhi.**

**Note:** Under the initiative, the government plans to hold people-to-people exchange between states to enhance knowledge about each-others culture. 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' highlights India's diversity and furthers national unity.

**6. The first National Hindi Science writers conference 2019 held in -- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:** A dedicated website WWW.VIGYANLEKHAN.COM has been prepared for this event.

**7. Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a conference on - -- 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag.**

**Note:** Under this system the same FASTag affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle can be used to pay toll across all toll plazas in the country.

**8. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 41st DRDO Directors Conference in -- New Delhi.**

9. Who will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022 --  
- **India**.  
**Note:** All major decisions affecting general policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods and finances are deliberated and discussed by representatives.
10. Dr **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 11th Edition of Nuclear Energy Conclave 2019 in -- New Delhi.  
**Note:** The theme of the Conclave: "Economics of Nuclear Power- Innovation towards Safer & Cost-Effective Technologies". It was organized by India Energy Forum (IEF). A "Hall of Nuclear Energy" was opened to educate the students and the general public about the applications of nuclear energy, in Pragati Maidan in Delhi.
11. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit held in -- **Baku, Azerbaijan**.  
**Note:** The Non-Alignment Movement was founded in 1961. India is a founding member of the NAM summit.
12. The first **India-Bangladesh Stakeholders'** meet was held in - **Guwahati**.  
**Note:** A **70-member delegation** from Bangladesh is participating in the meet, while a similar **top-level team** will represent the host nation.
13. The **Global Bio-India 2019** held for the first time in India -- **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** A brochure of GlobalBio-India 2019 was also released at the Curtain Raiser ceremony.
14. The 9th edition of **Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue** will be held at -- **Cox Bazar, Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** The dialogue aims to draw from learning and experiences in these sectors between India and Bangladesh.
15. The 35th ASEAN Summit began in --- **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** 10 ASEAN member countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos. The theme of the summit for this year is "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability".
16. The 6th parliamentary summit of G20 countries, held in --- **Tokyo, Japan**.  
**Note:** Lok sabha speaker Om Birla composed the Indian Parliament delegation.
17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 11th BRICS Summit in -- Brasilia, Brazil.  
**Note:** The theme of the Summit this year is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future".
18. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurating 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in -- New Delhi.  
**Note:** The **Government of India** has made it mandatory for all medical college hospitals to have full-fledged Emergency Departments by 2022 with an aim to improve trauma care
19. National Capital Region -2041" conclave held in --- **Delhi**  
**Note:** This conclave is organized by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). The theme of the conclave was "Planning for Tomorrow's Greatest Capital Region".
20. 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2020 will be held in -- **India**.
21. The 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) held in -- **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** The theme of this conference was "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" which highlights the actions taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for a strong observing mechanism for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
22. India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Summit 2019 held in --- **New Delhi**.
23. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020 will be hosted by -- **India**
24. Global Bio-India Summit 2019 held in -- **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It will bring academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.
25. 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics will be held in -- **India**.  
**Note:** The conference will be held with the theme of 'Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.  
**Note:** The conference will be held with the theme of 'Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.
26. The **Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** addressed the **2nd edition** of South Asia Safety Summit in - **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The summit was joined by over 100 organisations from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and India.

### October

1. **C40 Summit will be held in Copenhagen** – The C40 Summit is to take place in Copenhagen between 9th October and 12th October, 2019. The aim of the summit is to show how cities are delivering their strong commitments for healthier, sustainable, resilient and inclusive future.
2. **Second edition of informal summit between India and China** – Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who would be visiting Mamallapuram for the second edition of the informal summit between India and China.
  - The summit will be held from October 11-October 12.

Note:

  - Mamallapuram is also known as Seven Pagodas or Mahabalipuram. Marco Polo and other Europeans named it Seven Pagodas

### 3. Kochi to host national health informatics meet in 2020 –

The 20th National Health Informatics conference will be held in Kochi on February 7 and 8 next year.

- The conference will be jointly organised by the Health Informatics and Information Management Association (HIIMA), Kerala, and the Health Records Association of India (HERAI).
- The theme of the conference – Medrecon 2020 – is ‘Value of Data in Health Care Ecosystem’.

### 4. India Economic Summit was held in New Delhi.

Note:

- The World Economic Forum is organizing India Economic Summit on October 3 – 4, 2019 in New Delhi.
- It is hosted in collaboration with CII – Confederation of Indian Industry.

## Books & Author

1. Former Australian cricket umpire **Simon Taufel** released his book titled Finding The Gaps.

2. Note: Simon Taufel (retired in 2012) is a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year (between 2004 and 2008) and part of ICC’s Elite Panel of Umpires. The Australian stood in his first One-Day International in 1999, and his first Test in 2000.

3. A book titled “Hemant Karkare -A Daughter’s Memoir” by his daughter Jui Karkare Navare.

4. Note: The book portrays former Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare’s life as a father to Jui Karkare Navare. The book has been published by The Write Place. 18 security personnel lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks (11th anniversary).

5. Mr. ‘Nishank’ also launched three books which are a collection of stories for Children namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition).

6. Note: Books has been authored by a popular writer of children’s books and travelogues Dr Anita Bhatnagar Jain (IAS-1985 batch). The three books are a collection of stories for children and have brought out environmental issues and topics like socio-cultural unity& cultural heritage in a very simple and interesting manner.

7. 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.

8. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released the monograph, the **Musical Excellence of Mridangam** in Chennai.

**Note:** The book was authored by mridangam maestro and Padma Vibhushan awardee Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman and former scientists T. Ramasami (former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology) and M.D. Naresh.

9. CJI **Ranjan Gogoi** releases Assamese version of book -- ‘**Courts of India: Past to Present**’.

**Note:** Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has inaugurated the Assamese version of the book Courts of India: Past to Present' in Guwahati. The book has captured the historical developments which took place in the history of the nation's courts.

10. Writer and columnist, **Harish Bhat’s** new novel was launched in Mumbai -- **An Extreme Love of Coffee.**

**Note:** The novel is published by Penguin Random House India with the collaboration of Tata Starbucks. This is his third book but the first fiction and it took Bhat about 8 months to complete. The book is a story about two young people, Rahul, and Neha who follow their passion for coffee.

11. **Jal Shakti Minister** releases short documentary film -- **SHIKHAR SE PUKAR.**

12. ‘Hemant Karkare: A Daughters Memoir’, book written by -- **Jui Karkare Navare.**

13. Former cricket umpire and author of ‘Finding The Gaps’ is -- **Simon Taufel.**

14. Book titled “150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy”, -- written by **Fakir Hassen**

**Note:** This book released on Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary.

15. Bill Gates’ Book titled “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need” will be released -- **June 2020.**

**Note:**

16. Book titled "India in a Warming world: Integrating Climate Change and Development" will be published by —**Oxford University Press(OUP)**.
17. Book titled "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life" - written by **Viswanathan Anand**.  
**Note:** The book is based on the experience he had in the game of Chess.
18. Book titled 'Bridgital Nation' – written by N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons and Roopa Purushothaman Eminent industrialist.  
**Note:** The book presents a powerful vision of the future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem.
19. "Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics" - written by **Kashi Nath Pandit**.  
**Note:** A new book looks at the riveting history of Jammu and Kashmir from the time of its political and geographic consolidation to the abrogation of the state's special status.
20. Book titled "**The Tech Whisperer**" written by - **Jaspreet Bindra**
21. Book titled '**Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy**' - written by **Subramanian Swamy** (BJP MP)
22. '**Professor Ayushman**' a comic book released by **Ayush Ministry in New Delhi**
23. Book titled "**Being Gandhi**" authored by **Paro Anand**
24. Book titled "**The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas**" written by the journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni**
25. Book titled "**Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924**" written by Bengaluru-based historian **Vikram Sampath**
26. Book titled 'Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India To Glory' written by - Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj.  
**Note:** The book on India's 4 spin legends: Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhara and S. Venkataraghavan.
27. Book titled 'A Short History of Indian Railways' written by **Rajendra B Aklekar**
28. Book titled 'Big Billion Startup': The Untold Flipkart Story - written by **Mihir Dalal**
29. The Book titled '**Kashmir's untold story: Declassification**'- author of the book is Delhi- based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defense analyst Maroof Raza.
30. Book '**Resurgent India**' – Book authored by former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Bimal Jalan
31. The book, titled '**Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar**' authored by screenwriter **Satyarth Nayak**.
32. Vice President's book titled "**Listening, Learning & Leading**" released – Home Minister Amit Shah released a Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading".
33. **PM Modi releases book on former PM Chandra Shekhar** – PM Narendra Modi releases book "Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics" is written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai in New Delhi.
34. **Book 'Who Stole My Job' authored by Sunil Mishra**
35. **The coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice'**, was released by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh.  
**Note:** This book showcases the courage and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army.
36. Book titled 'Vivekadeepini' – authored by **Adi Shankaracharya**
37. Book titled "A Prime Minister to Remember," – authored by former Navy Chief **Admiral Sushil Kumar**
38. Book titled '**The New Delhi Conspiracy**' – authored by 5. BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi
39. Book titled 'War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960' authored by **Devika Sethi**
40. Book titled 'Whispers of Time' authored by **Dr. Krishna Saksena**
41. Autobiography titled '**Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly**' - autobiography of veteran Bollywood actor **Anupam Kher**
42. Autobiography titled- '**My Life, My Mission**' – authobiography of **Yoga guru Baba Ramdev**
  - The book is co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar.
43. Book titled '**Function of Data Sovereignty: The Pursuit of Supremacy**' authored by - **Vinit Goenka**
44. Book titled '**Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge**' – authored by - Ashis Ray
45. Book titled - Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook - Journalist Saba Naqvi
46. **Book titled 'Darkness to light'** - Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom.
47. Book titled "**No Presents Please**" is authored by - Jayant Kaikini
48. **Book titled "Game Changer" autobiography** of - Shahid Afridi (Pakistan's former Cricket team captain). The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.
49. Book titled "**Indian Fiscal Federalism**" authored by - Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India (The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission of India, N.K. Singh launched the book)
50. Book titled 'Saffron Swords' authored by - Manoshi Sinha Rawal



51. Book titled “The Third Pillar - How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind” authored by –Raghuram Rajan (Former Governor of RBI)
52. Book titled ‘Every Vote Counts: The Story of India’s Elections’ authored by - former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla. Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched the book.
53. Book titled “India Positive” authored by - Chetan Bhagat
54. Book titled ‘Simplicity & Wisdom’ authored by - Mr. Dinesh Shahra
55. Book titled ‘ Khooni Vaisakhi’ authored by -- Nanak Singh (Jallianwala Bagh survivor)  
Note: A poem on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, ‘Khooni Vaisakhi’, by Punjabi writer Nanak Singh has now been translated into English.
  - It was banned by the British in 1920. Singh was present at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919, and was 22 years old at the time.
  - A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, ‘Khooni Vaisakhi’ has been released in Abu Dhabi.
- India’s Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri commended the launch of the book.
- It will be published by Harper Collins India in March to mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh.
56. Book titled “Quality, Accreditation & Ranking” authored by - Dr. H Chaturvedi
57. Book titled ‘Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio’
58. Arun Jaitley releases book titled ‘Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio’ authored by - BlueKraft Digital Foundation
59. Book titled ‘**Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office**’ - Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
60. Book titled “Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India” authored by - **P Chidambaram** (former Finance Minister)
61. Book titled ‘We are Displaced’ authored by - **Malala Yousafzai**
62. A book titled ‘Changing India’ written by – **Former PM Manmohan Singh**

## Obituaries

### February

1. Noted Social activist, feminist writer and journalist passed away --**Vidya Bal**.  
**Note:** She was known for her heroic oppressive practices involving women. She was a forefront fighter for women equality with men. Her Public Interest Litigation was against the restriction of women at Shani Shingnapur temple under Maharashtra Hindu Place of Worship Act, 1956.
2. Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Jaswant Singh Kanwal** passed away.  
**Note:** In 1996, he was bestowed the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship award for his book ‘Pakhi’ (Hand Fan) and two years later in 1998, he received the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel ‘Taushali Di Hanso’.
3. Renowned personality Rabi Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter**.  
**Note:** Renowned Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter Rabi Singh passed away. He was popularly known as ‘Biplabi Kabi’ (the revolutionary poet) for his patriotic writings. Rabi Singh was awarded Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman by Odisha Sahitya Akademi in 2017 for his contribution to Odia literature.
4. Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi novelist passed away recently is **Dalip Kaur Tiwana**.  
**Note:** Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi **novelist, Dalip Kaur Tiwana** passed away at the age of 84 due to old age ailments. She was well known for novels ‘Teeli da Nishaan’ and ‘Sooraj te Samandar’. She was also a former president of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.
5. Sahitya Academy Awardee Jaswant Singh Kanwal passed away at 101, he was writer of **Punjabi**.
6. Daniel Arap Moi passed away recently, he was former President of **Kenya**.  
**Note:** Daniel Arap Moi Kenya’s Ex-President, who is a former School Teacher and became Kenya’s longest serving President dies at 95 due to age issues and also getting treatment in Hospital for a month. Moi’s Death was announced by Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta on the State Broadcaster with a Statement.
7. Noted American author **Roger Kahn** passed way recently.  
**Note:** American author Roger Kahn, known for his best-selling book in 1972 “The Boys of Summer” passed away at Nursing home in Mamaroneck, New York, U.S due to age related ailments announced by his son Gordon Jacques Kahn. Kahn wrote at least 20 books in his lifetime. In 1989

he collaborated with Pete Rose for the Biography of legendary Boxer Jack Dempsey before Jack gets banned from the game.

8. Famous cricket journalist and film historian **Raju Bharatan** passed away recently.

**Note:** Famous cricket journalist and film historian Raju Bharatan, 86 years old, passed away at Mumbai, Maharashtra. He is also the writer for The hindu and Sportstar and also a popular radio commentator for India's cricket matches.

9. **Hindi Novelist** Giriraj Kishore passed away recently.

**Note:** Giriraj Kishore was best known for his novel "Pehla Girmitiya" (for which he received Padma Shri in 2007) and "Dhai Ghar". He was awarded Padma Shri by President of India in 2007, Sahitya Akademi award in 1992, Vyasa Samman in 2000 & an honorary Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) from Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University in 2002.

10. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Veteran, Orator and Philosophical Author **P. Parameswaran** passed away.

**Note:** He established Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram in 1982. He served as editor in magazines Kesari, Manthan, Yuva Bharathi and Vivekananda Kendra patriika. He also

served as President of Vivekananda Kendra. Parameswaran has authored books on Indian Philosophy and society. He has written around 21 books, 'Marx and Vivekananda: A comparative study' and 'From Marx to Maharshi and Bhagavad Gita – Vision of a New World Order' were popular among them.

11. **Journalist** Nandu R Kulkarni passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Note:** He was the bureau chief of the Kolkata-based newspaper "The Statesman" in 1992 & also reported on a wide range of subjects including politics & business. Nandu Kulkarni started his career with "The Indian Express" in 1976 & reported on economic offenses.

12. Renowned personality Wendell Rodricks passed away in Goa, he was a famous **Fashion designer**.

**Note:** Famous Indian Fashion designer Wendell Rodricks, 59 years old, passed away at Colvale, Goa. He was born on 28th May 1960 in Goa. Wendell Rodricks was awarded with Padma Shri in 2014 and also Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 2015.ii. He had also authored books namely: "Moda Goa- History & Style", "The Green room", "Poskem: Goans in the shadows".

## January

1. Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader **DP Tripathi** passed away in New Delhi,

**Note:** He was the general secretary of the Nationalist Congress Party and a former students' union leader. Despite visual impairment, he worked throughout life. He has also written several books, including Congress and Independent India, Jawahar Satkam, Celebrating Faiz and Nepal Transition-A way forward among others.

2. Noted Assamese theatre personality **Ratna Ojha** passed away.

**Note:** Eminent Assamese dramatist, litterateur and social activist Ratna Ojha (88) passed away in Guwahati, Assam. Recipient of the prestigious Natyasurya Award in 2005 for his contributions to theatre, Ojha had introduced street plays in Assam in 1971 with his skit 'Kokaideo' to revive the theatre movement in the state that was fading with the death of his mentor Phani Sarma.

3. Irani Gen **Qassem Soleimani** killed in US airstrike on Baghdad airport.

**Note:** General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC's) Quds Force, and architect of its regional security apparatus has been killed following a US airstrike at Baghdad's international airport.

The strike also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iran-backed militias in Iraq known as the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

4. Former Karnataka Governor **T N Chaturvedi** passes away.

**Note:** Former Governor of Karnataka T N Chaturvedi (90-years) passed away at a private hospital in Noida. Chaturvedi was the 14th Governor of Karnataka (from 2002–2007). He also served as of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) from 1984 to 1989.

5. The King of Oman **Sultan Qaboos bin Said** passed away due to years-long struggle with an illness.

**Note:** Sultan Qaboos supported by Britain came to power in 1970 in a bloodless coup against his father. Sultan Qaboos followed a moderate and a stable foreign policy and is credited with turning Oman into a modern country. During his rule, Oman often became the neutral mediator in the otherwise volatile region. The written constitution Qaboos introduced requires the ruling family to choose a successor within three days of the throne falling vacant.

6. Daughter of late Bollywood actor-filmmaker Raj Kapoor passed away -- **Ritu Nanda**.

**Note:** Ritu Nanda is the sister of Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor and Rajiv Kapoor.

7. Former Indian cricketer **Man Mohan Sood** passed away at **80 years**.  
**Note:** Former test Cricketer and National selector Man Mohan Sood passed away in New Delhi. Sood played 1 Test and 39 first-class matches with 1 century. Born in Lahore, Punjab on 6 July 1939, he played his lone test match against Richie Benaud, Australia at Madras in 1960.
8. Sunanda Patnaik (85) passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal, she was **Indian Classical Singer**.  
**Note:** Indian Classical Singer Sunanda Patnaik, 85 years old passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal due to age-related complications. She was famously known as 'Guruma' in the classical music circle. She is the daughter of renowned Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik and had composed many bhajans (devotional songs) both in Odia and Hindi.
9. On January 20, 2020 Shamsher Singh Surjewala passed away after in AIIMS, New Delhi, he was a renowned **Politician (Congress Chief of Haryana)**.  
**Note:** On January 20, 2020 the former Haryana Congress Chief Shamsher Singh Surjewala passed away after in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital, New Delhi after suffering from a brief illness. He was 87 and hailed from Haryana.
10. On January 17, 2020 Rameshchandra Gangaram Bapu Nadkarni passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra, he was a renowned **Cricketer**.  
**Note:** On January 17, 2020 Former Indian all-rounder Rameshchandra Gangaram Bapu Nadkarni (86) passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was a left-handed batsman and slow-left arm orthodox bowler. He was best known for bowling a record of 21 consecutive maiden overs in a test match against England.
11. Senior Journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) **Ashwini Kumar Chopra** passed away at a private hospital in Gurgaon.  
**Note:** Senior Journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Ashwini Kumar Chopra passed away at a private hospital in Gurgaon after battling with terminal cancer.
12. Noted Urdu poet **Ajmal Sultanpuri** passed away at the age of 97 in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

**Note:** Ajmal Sultanpuri was awarded the "LifeTime Achievement Award" by Uttar Pradesh (UP) Urdu Academy in March 2016 for his contribution to Urdu poetry. The two popular poems of Ajmal Sultanpuri are "Kahan Hai Mera Hindustan" and "Agar Main Tera Shahjahan".

13. The former Indian basketball captain **P Matthew Satya Babu** passed away at the age of 79 in Chennai.  
**Note:** P Matthew Satya Babu, a former Indian basketball captain passed away at the age of 79 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). Matthew Satya Babu had represented India in the Asian Basketball Championship in Seoul, South Korea in 1967, Bangkok, Thailand in 1969 and Manila, Philippines in 1970.
14. Famous social worker, environmentalist, educationist & writer passed away at 85 years in Kolkata **Tushar Kanjilal**.  
**Note:** He was born on March 1, 1935 at Noakhali, Bangladesh and was attracted to Marxist ideologies & quit politics in 1967.
15. Jameela Malik passed away recently at 73 years, she was a veteran **Actress**.  
**Note:** Jameela Malik was the first Kerala woman who graduated from the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Maharashtra. She was born in Kollam, Kerala.
16. Veteran player Sunita Chandra passed away in her hometown Bhopal, she was associated with **Hockey**.  
**Note:** She had played for the Indian women's hockey team from 1956 to 1966. She had served as the captain of the Indian women's hockey team from 1963 to 1966.
17. American legendary player Kobe Bean Bryant and his daughter dies in a helicopter crash. He was a veteran player of **Basketball**.  
**Note:** American basketball legend Kobe Bean Bryant has died along with his 13-years-old daughter Gianna in a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter crash near Calabasas in Southern California. Bryant is the fourth-leading scorer in National Basketball Association (NBA) history and selected to the all-star 18 times and earned a Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in 2008.

## December

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

4. **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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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', '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.

### November

1. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister & **Bharatiya Janata Party** (BJP) leader **Kailash Joshi** passed away.  
**Note:** Mr. Joshi was called as the ‘saint of politics’, served as the Madhya Pradesh 9th chief minister (from June 1977 to January 1978). He was MLA for eight terms and served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
2. Tamil television and film actor **Bala Singh** passed away in a private hospital in Chennai.  
**Note:** Bala Singh was known for playing villainous roles with much aplomb. He played notable characters in Kamal Haasan's Indian, Ullaasam, Simmarasi, Dheena, Virumaandi, Saamy, Kannathil Muthamittal, Pudhupettai and many more films. Bala was last seen in the serial Aathira as Rajarajan in the year 2016
3. Cartoonist Sudhir Dar passed away due to cardiac arrest in Noida.  
**Note:** Sudhir Dar began his career with The Statesman (in 1961), after which he moved to the Hindustan Times. Dar’s cartoons were often political in nature, often taking direct shots at the bureaucracy and the general corruption in Indian politics
4. Former Indian Navy Chief Admiral **Sushil Kumar** passed away in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Sushil Kumar was Navy Chief from 1998-2001. He authored a book named "A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief" which highlighted the key defence-related decisions taken by late former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Kumar had credited Vajpayee for turning the strategic tactical loss into a massive victory
5. Australian writer and broadcaster **Clive James** passed away at home in Cambridge.  
**Note:** Clive James moved to England in 1961 and rose to prominence as a literary critic and TV columnist. He went on to deliver wry commentary on international programming in such shows as Clive James On Television.
6. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor **Kiran Bedi** has inaugurated the 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) in Lucknow.  
**Note:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest at the valedictory function tomorrow evening. During 6 sessions of the event, police officers, academicians, researchers, judicial and scientific experts will present their papers.
7. Lokpal Chairman Justice (retired) **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** has launched the new logo and motto for the apex anti-corruption ombudsman **Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam**.  
**Note:** Earlier, an open competition was conducted, inviting entries for the logo and the motto. A total of 2,236 entries for the logo and 4,705 entries for the motto were received. A logo designed by Prashant Mishra, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, was finally selected.
8. world-renowned rock climber **Brad Gobright** fell to his death while climbing a sheer rock face in northern Mexico.  
**Note:** Witnesses said the men had finished climbing the 900-meter (2,300-foot) summit and were rappelling back down when the accident occurred. US national Gobright (31-years) and fellow American Aidan Jacobson (26-years) were climbing a route known as the Shining Path in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.

9. Japan Former Prime Minister **Yasuhiro Nakasone** passed away.  
**Note:** Nakasone also broke an unwritten rule on limiting the annual defence budget to 1% of Gross National Product. In 1983, he became the first Japanese Premier to officially visit South Korea, mending fences with a country that Japan had brutally colonized from 1910 to 1945.
10. Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka Venkatachala passed away.  
**Note:** Venkatachala was known for bringing to light the existence of Karnataka's autonomous anti-corruption wing as the Lokayukta by conducting raids on public servants and disclosing their names and particulars of seized assets. He was Lokayukta from July 3, 2001, to July 2, 2006.
11. **Geetanjali Ramakrishna:** Vetrean Telugu actress passed away  
**Note:** She had an illustrious career spanning nearly six decades by doing movies not just in Telugu, but also in other South Indian languages. Some of her popular works include Seetharama Kalyanam, Deivathin Deivam, Swapnangal, Parasmani, Gudachari 116 and Bobbili Yuddham.
12. **Gurudas Dasgupta:** Veteran communist leader and trade unionist passed away.  
**Note:** Dasgupta became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1985. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Panskura and Ghatal constituencies of West Bengal in 2004 and 2009 respectively.
13. **Krishnan Kumar Modi:** Noted industrialist & Chairman of Modi Enterprises passed away.  
**Note:** Mr. Modi served as the chairman of Modi Enterprises, which includes companies like Godfrey Phillips, Indofil Industries and Modicare. He was the eldest son of late Rai Bahadur Gujarmal Modi (founder of the city of Modi Nagar).
14. **Babasaheb Dhabekar:** Senior Congress party leader & former Maharashtra minister passed away in Mumbai  
**Note:** Mr. Dhabekar was water resources minister when the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government came to power for the first time in the 1990s.
15. **TN Seshan:** Former **Chief Election Commissioner** (CEC)

**Note:** Mr Seshan (IAS Officer: 1955 batch) was appointed CEC on 12th December 1990 during the P V Narasimha Rao led Congress government. He is widely credited for bringing in electoral reforms that changed the face of Indian elections.

16. **Ramakant Gundecha:** Padma Shri-awardee **Dhrupad vocalist** passed away.  
**Note:** He was awarded the Padma Shri for 2012 in the field of Art – Indian Classical Music – Vocal along with his brother Umakant Gundecha. Dhrupad is a genre in Hindustani classical music from the Indian subcontinent and is related to the South Indian Carnatic tradition.
17. **Sahitya Akademi awardee** writer **Nabaneeta Dev Sen** passed away.  
**Note:** She was also the recipient of the **Padma Shri in 2000**. She is the founder and president of the **West Bengal Women Writers' Association**.
18. **Kailash Joshi:** Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister.  
**Note:** He was MLA for eight terms and also served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha
19. **Vashishth Narayan Singh:** Famous Indian mathematician passed away.  
**Note:** The 77-year old had been suffering from Schizophrenia for 40 years. Vashishth Narayan Singh was famous for his extraordinary skills of calculation, challenged Einstein's theory of relativity.
20. **Kshiti Goswami:** former West Bengal Minister & The General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP).  
**Note:** Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State.
21. Veteran actor **Shaukat Kaifi** passed away.  
**Note:** Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, **Kaifi Azmi**. Kaifi and Shaukat were leaders of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA).
22. Famous Indian mathematician **Vashishth Narayan Singh** passed away.  
**Note:** Vashishth Narayan Singh was famous for his extraordinary skills of calculation, challenged Einstein's theory of relativity.

### October

1. **Ramu, Satyapriya Mohathero:** The second highest **Buddhist leader** of Bangladesh and head of Sima Bihar of Ramu, Satyapriya Mohathero passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
2. **Diahann Carroll:** American actress, singer, and model.
3. **Kadri Gopalnath:** Legendary saxophonist and the Padma Shri awardee. The Carnatic music maestro won multiple awards in his illustrious career, including the Kendra Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award and Karnataka Kalashree

4. **Sara Danius:** She was the first female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body. She also served as the first female permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy between 2015 and 2018.
5. **Alexei Leonov:** He was the legendary Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human to walk in space 54 years ago.
6. Renowned painter **Kalidas Karmakar** passes away in Dhaka.
7. **Alicia Alonso:** Cuban ballet dancer considered one of the greatest 20th Century ballerinas. In 1948, she founded the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company in Cuba's capital.
8. **Mark Hurd:** Former Co-Chief executive Officer (CEO) of Oracle
9. Writer and philosopher **K.B. Siddaiah** passed away.
 

**Note:** He was one of the founder members of Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) during the '80s and co-authored many songs to inspire the movement.
10. **Dadu Chougule:** wrestler and recipient of Major Dhyanchand award passed away.
 

**Note:**

  - In 1973, Chougule had won the titles 'Rustum-e-Hind' and 'Mahan Bharat Kesari' in national-level tournaments.
11. **Marieke Vervoort:** Belgian Paralympic athlete has ended her life at the age of 40 through euthanasia.
12. **Dilip Parikh:** Former Gujarat Chief Minister (13th) passed away. He was an industrialist and also served as president of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
13. India's oldest Yoga teacher **Nanammal** passed away at 99 years.
 

**Note:**

  - She had bagged 150 awards, 6 national-level gold medals and Yoga Ratna award of the Government of Karnataka in 2014.
  - She was also conferred the Padma Shri in January 2019 for her efforts to make people lead a healthy life.
14. First female **UN refugee chief** passed away-- **Sadako Ogata**
15. **John Witherspoon** passed away -- Actor and comedian
 

**Note:**

  - He was best known best known for the hit Friday franchise and The Wayan Brothers.
16. **N. Venkatachala:** Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka

### National Appointments

#### LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS & CONSTITUENCY 2019

Portfolio (Department)	Minister Name	Constituency
Prime Minister and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All-important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Narendra Modi	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	-
Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Karnataka, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Nagpur, Maharashtra
Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk, Delhi

Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Ramvilas Paswan	--
Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Jharkhand, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad, Karnataka
Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Prakash Javadekar	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Food Processing Industries	Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Bathinda, Punjab
Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena, Madhya Pradesh
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti, Jharkhand
Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai, Bihar
Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of Human Resource Development	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Prakash Javadekar	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Shekhawat	Jodhpur, Rajasthan

## New Appointments

### February

- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI) has appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada -- **Ajay Bisaria**.  
**Note:** The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI) announced Ajay Bisaria as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada. Bisaria is an IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer of 1987 batch. Bisaria served as High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.
- Arvind Krishna** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of International Business Machines (IBM).

**Note:** Indian origin technology executive Arvind Krishna has been elected as Chief Executive Officer of American IT giant International Business Machines Corp (IBM) after a "world-class succession process" will be effective on April, becomes the third Indian to head US-based multinational company after Microsoft corporation chief Satya Nadella and Google ceo sundar picai.

- M. Ajit Kumar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).



- Note:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of M.Ajit Kumar as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Ajit is an IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officer of the batch 1984. Ajit served as member of CBIC and he will replace Pranab Kumar. Das as the chairman of CBIC.
4. **Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iraq.  
**Note:** Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi, 65 years old, was appointed as the Iraq's new Prime Minister (PM) by its President Barhim Salih. He was the successor of Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests.
  5. **Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.  
**Note:** Ministry of External Affairs has announced Experienced Diplomat Shri Gopal Baglay, a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Baglay will replace Taranjit Sandhu, who has been appointed as Indian Ambassador to U.S.
  6. **Deepa Malik** has been appointed as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.  
**Note:** India's lone woman Paralympic medalist Deepa Malik, 49 years old, Sonapat from Haryana, was elected as President of the Paralympic Committee of India. He was the successor of the acting interim president Gursharan Singh. Deepa Malik won a silver in shot put F-53 event in the 2016 Rio Paralympic games.
  7. **Albin Kurti** has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Kosovo.  
**Note:** Former rebel leader Albin Kurti (44 years) has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Kosovo by its parliament. Albin replaced Ramush Haradinaj as the PM, as Ramush resigned the post in July 2019 when he was summoned to be questioned at the war crimes court in The Hague, Netherlands.
  8. American Greek economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg has resigned as the Chief Economist of the **World Bank (WB)**.
  9. **Jeff Weiner** has become the Executive Chairman of the LinkedIn.  
**Note:** Jeff Weiner became the Executive Chairman (EC) of LinkedIn. He was the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of LinkedIn for the past 11 years. LinkedIn is the professional networking company owned by Microsoft. Ryan Roslansky, senior Vice President (VP) of LinkedIn will become the CEO of the company as of June 1. He is the successor of Jeff Weiner. Tom Cohan, current Vice President of Marketing Solutions will replace Roslansky.
  10. **Philip Barton** has been appointed as the as Britain's New High Commissioner to India.  
**Note:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of Great Britain announced that it has appointed Philip Robert Barton KCMG OBE (Knight Commander order of British Empire) as its new high commissioner of Great Britain to India. He will Replace Sir Dominic Anthony Gerard Asquith KCMG and will take charge on Spring Season.
  11. **Philip Robert Barton** has been appointed as the new high commissioner of Great Britain to India.  
**Note:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of Great Britain announced that it has appointed Philip Robert Barton KCMG OBE (Knight Commander order of British Empire) as its new high commissioner of Great Britain to India, He will Replace Sir Dominic Anthony Gerard Asquith KCMG and will take charge on Spring Season. Currently Barton serving as Director-General, consular and Security at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
  12. **Arvind Kejriwal** sworn in as new chief minister of Delhi.  
**Note:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) party leader Shri Arvind Kejriwal, 51 years old, to be sworn as Chief Minister (CM) of New Delhi on February 16, 2020 at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, with his cabinet members. He was CM of Delhi for consecutively 3 times during the period of 2013, 2015 and 2020. The party sent a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Shri Anil Bajjal staking claim to form the government.
  13. **Robin Singh** has been appointed as the Director of Cricket of the UAE.  
**Note:** Former India all-rounder Robindra Ramnarine Singh, 56 years old, appointed Director of Cricket of the UAE (United Arab Emirates). He was appointed by Emirates Cricket Board after the dismissal of head coach Douglas Robert Brown.
  14. **Ajay H. Patel** has been elected as the President of All-India Chess Federation (AICF).  
**Note:** Ajay H. Patel was elected unopposed as the President of All-India Chess Federation (AICF) by Justice Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla, returning officer for the AICF & former Supreme Court (SC) judge. Other persons who were elected unopposed to AICF are Bharat Singh Chauhan as the Secretary, Naresh Sharma as Treasurer, M. Arun Singh as Joint Secretary and Vipnesh Bharadwaj as Vice President.
  15. **Atul Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020-21.  
**Note:** Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for 2020-21. They were elected at a meeting of the central council in New Delhi. Atul Gupta, who has served the chartered accountancy profession for about two decades, was the Vice President of ICAI for the term 2019-20. He is a commerce and a law graduate by education.

## January

- VK Yadav** has been re-appointed as **Railway Board Chairman** for a period of one year.  
**Note:** Mr. Yadav had taken over as Railway Board Chairman from Ashwani Lohani, who had retired from the post in December 2018. Earlier, Yadav had held the post of General Manager of South Central Railway (SCR). He is an electrical engineer and belongs to the 1980 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.
- The **Union government** has set up a **7 members Group of Minister (GoM)** to review the crop insurance scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) headed by **Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister)**.  
**Note:** The GoM will also make suggestions to improve the insurance scheme according to the needs of the farmers. The GoM includes home minister Amit Shah and agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the ministers of state for agriculture, finance, tribal affairs, and animal husbandry. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched on 14th January 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering from crop loss or damage due to an unforeseen event.
- Hillary Clinton** appointed as the new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast in Ireland.  
**Note:** Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been appointed the new chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland for a five-year term. She became the university's first female chancellor. The position of chancellor has been vacant since the death in 2018 of Thomas J Moran, chairman, president, and chief executive of Mutual of America Life Insurance Company.
- Iran's supreme leader named the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani - **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.  
**Note:** Earlier, Soleimani was killed in a pre-dawn US strike in Baghdad. Qaani was one of the most decorated commanders of the Guards during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.
- Who has been appointed as the Chairperson and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)\_\_\_ **Harjeet Kaur Joshi**.  
**Note:** Harjeet Kaur is currently the Director Finance at SCI and, since September 12, has been holding the additional charge of the Chairperson and Managing Director of the navratna PSU. Harjeet Kaur will become the first lady to head SCI, which is 63.75 percent owned by the government. She will take charge of SCI at a time when the government is planning to privatize the shipping company.
- Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma** has been appointed as Chairman of National Medical Commission.  
**Note:** He is Professor and Head of ENT – Head and Neck Surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Regarding this, an order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Health Ministry bureaucrat RK Vats, who has also been Medical Council of India (MCI) Secretary-General, has been named Secretary General of NMC.
- Dubai-based Indian girl who can sing in 120 languages wins Global Child Prodigy Award -- **Sucheta Satish**.  
**Note:** The 13-year-old Sucheta Satish, known as the Dubai Indian High School's nightingale, won in the singing category. The Global Child Prodigy Award is a platform to celebrate children's talent and power in different categories such as dancing, music, arts, writing, acting, modelling, science, innovation, sports, etc.
- Zoran Milanovic** has won the presidential election of Croatia.  
**Note:** Zoran Milanovic is the former Prime Minister of Croatia, who has pledged to make Croatia a tolerant country. The Social Democrat candidate, Milanovic took 52.7 percent of the vote, while President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic garnered 47.3 percent. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic was the first female President of Croatia.
- A Sakthivel** has been appointed as the new chairman of the organization.  
**Note:** He has been appointed for the period 2020-2021. He is also the first person in the history of AEPC, who is sworn-in for the fourth time as Chairman of the AEPC. Sakthivel along with some exporters had founded Tirupur Exporters Association in 1990.
- Haitham bin Tariq al-Said** took over as Sultan of Oman.  
**Note:** Late Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed had ruled Oman since 1970 as the 8th Sultan of the House of Al Said. The late sultan had himself chose Haitham Bin Tareq Al Saeed (cousin of late Sultan Qaboos) as his successor, as the Sultan had no children. He was the longest-serving monarch among the recent Arab rulers.
- Tsai Ing-wen** won the Taiwan presidential election.  
**Note:** Tsai won 8.17 million votes, while her main rival Han Kuo-yu bagged 5.52 million votes (38.6 percent). Her Democratic Progressive party retained control of the legislature, according to final results.
- Noted chemist has been elected as a bureau member (2020-23) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) -- **Bipul Behari Saha**.  
**Note:** Bipul Behari Saha is the second Indian after CNR Rao (former Director of the Indian Institute of Science and

- Bharat Ratna) to be elected for this position in a century. IUPAC has the responsibility of naming all new elements and compounds, declare atomic weights and physical constants, update Periodic table and carry out research projects.
13. **Lt Col Yuvraj Malik** has been appointed the Director of the National Book Trust (NBT).  
**Note:** He replaced Sahitya Akademi-awardee writer Rita Chowdhury. Malik has also served with the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Raj Bhawan in Jammu & Kashmir, United Nation Missions in Africa and several operational areas in administrative and operational assignments including Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Punjab and Rajasthan.
  14. **Robert Abela** sworn in as the 14th Prime Minister of Malta.  
**Note:** He replaced ruling PM Joseph Muscat, who resigned amid accountability over the murder of an investigative journalist. Abela is the son of former President of Malta George Abela. Robert Abela secured a surprising victory in Malta's governing party's internal leadership contest to be elected as the new leader.
  15. **M Nagaraj** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).  
**Note:** He will replace Ravi Kanth. Nagaraj is also the Director (Corporate Planning) of the company. HUDCO provides loans for housing and urban infrastructure projects.
  16. **Arjun Munda** has been elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI).  
**Note:** Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda was elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI). The elections were held as per the Delhi High Court order. With the support of former AAI president Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Munda, the president of Jharkhand Archery Association, defeated Assam Archery Association president and retired IAS officer BVP Rao by a margin of 34-18.
  17. **Lt Col Yuvraj Malik** has been appointed as the Director of the National Book Trust on deputation from the Indian Army.
  18. Indian lawyer **Harish Salve** has been appointed into Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate.  
**Note:** Indian Lawyer Harish Salve was appointed into Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate. He has been appointed as Queen's Counsel (QC) for the courts of England and Wales. His name featured in the list of silk appointments released by the UK Ministry of Justice on January 13. Salve and other appointees will be formally appointed as Queen's Counsel on March 16 2020. The title of Queen's Counsel is awarded to those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.
  19. **Nripendra Misra** has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).  
**Note:** Nripendra Misra has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). The Executive Council of the NMML has been reconstituted and it will be now chaired by Mr Misra. Dr A Surya Prakash, chairperson of the Prasar Bharati board, will be the council's vice-chairperson.
  20. **Bipul Behari Saha** has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23.  
**Note:** A noted chemist Bipul Behari Saha has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23. He is the second Indian after CNR Rao to be elected for this position in a century.
  21. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- **Janak Raj**.  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed its Executive Director Janak Raj as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He will replace M D Patra, who was recently elevated as Deputy Governor of the RBI. The MPC is headed by the RBI Governor. The Monetary Policy Committee of India is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India.
  22. **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** has been appointed as the new Indian Ambassador to the United States.  
**Note:** Taranjit Singh Sandhu takes charge as the new Indian Ambassador to the United States. He will succeed Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the new Foreign Secretary-designate, who recently left for New Delhi to take charge. Sandhu is the current High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka since January 24, 2017.
  23. **Sunil Mehta** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).  
**Note:** Sunil Mehta took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). He will replace VG Kannan, who resigned from office as chief executive of IBA on December 31, 2019. The term of the CEO of IBA is for 3 years.
  24. **Sunil Arora** has been appointed as the Chairman of Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2020.  
**Note:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Sunil Arora has taken the charge as the Chairman of Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2020. He has replaced KM Nurul Huda who is the present Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh. Sunil Arora assumed the charge during the 10th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA.

- 25. Katerina Sakellaropoulou** has been elected as the first female president of Greece.  
**Note:** The Parliament of Greece elected Katerina Sakellaropoulou as the country's first female president. Sakellaropoulou received the support of 261 MPs in the 300-seat Parliament, including the support of members of the ruling New Democracy Party.
- 26. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** has been appointed as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India.  
**Note:** The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Managing Director of the State Bank of India. Department of the Financial Services proposed his name to the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet for the position of Managing Director of the State Bank of India. Setty's appointment has been done for 3 years.
- 27. Lingam Venkat Prabhakar** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Canara Bank.

- Note:** The Personnel Ministry has approved the appointment of **Lingam Venkat Prabhakar** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Canara Bank for a period of 3 years.
- 28. Sanjiv Chadha** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Bank of Baroda**.  
**Note:** The Personnel Ministry has approved the appointment of **Sanjiv Chadha** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda for a period of 3 years
- 29. Atanu Kumar Das** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of India.  
**Note:** The Personnel Ministry has approved the appointment of **Atanu Kumar Das** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Canara Bank** for a period of 3 years

## December

- 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).  
**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. **Pritivirajsingh 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.

### November

1. New **Prime minister** of Sri Lanka -- **Mahinda Rajapaksa**.  
**Note:** Mr. Rajapaksa was sworn in by **President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** (his younger brother). Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa served as two-term President from 2005 to 2015 and was barred from contesting Presidential elections because of the two-term limit.
2. Chairman of the **Zee Entertainment Enterprises'** board has resigned -- **Subhash Chandra**.  
**Note:** Mr. Chandra will continue as a non-executive director, which he founded in 1992. Subhash Chandra resigns to comply with a rule mandating that Chairman can't be related to MD & CEO. Zee board appoints six independent directors; all the appointments will have to be approved by the shareholders.
3. The Chief minister (18th) of Maharashtra state -- **Uddhav Thackeray**.  
**Note:** Mr. Thackeray is the third Shiv Sena leader to hold the post after Manohar Joshi (1995–1999) and Narayan Rane (1 Feb- 17 Oct1999).
4. **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. CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
5. **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.
6. Speaker of **Maharashtra Legislative** Assembly --. **Nana Patole.**  
**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.
  7. **Ursula von der Leyen** took charge as the **first female President** of the European Commission (EC).  
**Note:** Von der Leyen served in the federal government of Germany (from 2005 to 2019) as the longest-serving Ms Leyen invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Brussels for the next India-EU Summit.  
member of Angela Merkel's cabinet.
  8. The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) 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.
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**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.
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**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.
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**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.
  13. New **Ambassador of India** to the Republic of Costa Rica -- **Pender 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.
  14. The first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh UT -- **Radha Krishna Mathur.**
  15. The first Lieutenant Governor of J&K - **Girish Chandra Murmu.**
  16. **Argentina's new President:** Alberto Fernandez.  
**Note:** Fernandez, a 60-year-old law professor, got 47.36 per cent votes crossing the threshold for outright victory.
  17. Prime Minister of **Lebanon Saad Hariri** has resigned from the portfolio amid anti-government protests.  
**Note:** He resigned bowing to one of the central demands of anti-government demonstrators shortly after baton-wielding Hezbollah supporters rampaged through the main protest camp in Beirut.
  18. The Government of India has appointment of new **Chief Justices to the High Courts.**  
**Note:**
    - Chief Justice of the Madras High Court -- **Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi**
    - Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court -- **Justice AK Mittal**
    - Chief Justice of the Patna High Court ---- **Justice Sanjay Karol.**
    - The Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court -- **Justice Muhammad Raffiq.**
    - Chief Justice of **Jharkhand High Court** -- **Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan.**
    - Chief Justice of Tripura High Court -- **Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi**
  19. The **new Ambassador** to UAE -- **Pavan Kapoor.**
  20. chairman of the **Land Ports Authority of India** (LPAI) -- **Aditya Mishra.**
  21. Speaker of **Haryana Assembly** -- Gian Chand Gupta.
  22. Governor of **Mizoram** - **P.S Sreedharan Pillai.**  
**Note:** P.S Sreedharan Pillai replaced Governor of Assam Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge- Mizoram).
  23. The two-day 'BIMSTEC Conclave' held in **Visakhapatnam.**  
**Note:** Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya has inaugurated the two-day BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal initiative multi-sector technical and economic cooperation) Conclave at Visakhapatnam.
  24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated two-day mega global investors meet 'Rising Himachal 2019' at **Dharamshala.**

- Note:** The event has been graced by the presence of top heads of Indian industry and business besides foreign delegations and Union minister and senior government officials.
25. Re-elected President of **UAE** -- Sheikh Khalifa bin **Zayed Al Nahyan**.  
**Note:** The UAE's Supreme Council of the Union has re-elected His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan as its President for a fourth five-year term.
  26. Prime Minister of Mauritius -- **Pravind Jugnauth**.
  27. Manmohan Singh has been nominated to the parliamentary standing committee on finance.  
**Note:** In August 2019, Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.
  28. Additional charge of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises --- **Minister Prakash Javadekar**.  
**Note:** President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of the Union Council of Ministers **Arvind Ganpat Sawant (Shiv Sena MP)**.
  29. **Suranga Bawadi in Bijapur (Karnataka)** has been selected as the World Monument Watch List for 2020.  
**Note:** Suranga Bawadi was selected under the category of "Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau" along with 24 monuments across the world. It was built in the 16th century of Adil Shahi-I in Vijayapura.
  30. The new Chairman and Managing Director of **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)** - **G Kamala Vardhana Rao**.  
**Note:** He has also served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15.
  31. The new Chairman of Unilever -- **Nils Andersen**.  
**Note:** Nil Andersen replaced Marijn Dekkers. Unilever is a British-Dutch transnational consumer goods company co-

headquartered in London, United Kingdom, and Rotterdam, Netherlands.

32. **First woman Chief Secretary** of Andhra Pradesh -- **Nilam Sawhney**.  
**Note:** She will replace Neerabh Kumar, who has been holding additional charge as the CS, following the sudden transfer of LV Subramanyam, a week ago.
33. **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde** sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.  
**Note:** Justice SA Bobde succeeds Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
34. The new President of Sri Lanka -- **Gotabaya Rajapakasa**.  
**Note:** Gotabaya is the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa (now Prime minister) and served as defence secretary during the end of LTTE war.
35. President of Gymnastics Federation of India -- **Sudhir Mital**.
36. FIFA's Chief of global football development - **Arsene Wenger**.
37. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India -- **Mohammad Imran**.  
**Note:** Currently, he is Bangladesh's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.
38. Next ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali - **Anjani Kumar**.
39. First Indian to be elected to the position of General Vice President (GVP), International Organisation Development Association (IODA) -- Dr Vinaya Shetty
40. MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndusInd Bank -- **Suman Kathpalia**
41. Dhanlaxmi Bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) **T. Latha** has resigned.

## October

1. **Surjit Bhalla:** The executive director of the International Monetary Fund for a period of three years.
2. **Amrit Lugin:** Ambassador of India to Greece.
3. **Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi:** High Commissioner of India to Nieu.
4. **Sushil Chandra:** MD & CEO of Oil India Limited.
5. **J. P. S. Chawla:** the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He will replace **Girraj Prasad Gupta**.
6. **Anup Kumar Singh:** Director-General of NSG.
7. **Pankaj Kumar:** CEO of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India)
8. **Sourav Ganguly:** New BCCI President
9. **Rajnish Kumar** (SBI chairman): new chairman of IBA.
10. **Manohar Lal Khattar** sworn in as CM of Haryana for a **second term**.
11. **Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde:** 47th Chief Justice of India.
12. **G C Murmu:** Lt Governors of J&K
13. **R K Mathur:** Lt Governors of Ladakh.  
**Note:** Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa, succeeding Mridula Sinha
14. **P S Sreedharan Pillai:** the **15th governor of Mizoram** succeeding Jagdish Mukhi.
15. **New Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF)** - Rakesh Kumar Bhaduria. He is the 26th Chief of the Air Force.
  - He succeeds Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.



### 16. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Chief Justices to 7 high courts –

- New Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court - **Lingappa Narayana Swamy**
- New Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court - **Ravi Shankar Jha**
- New Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court - **Indrajit Mohanty**
- New Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court - **J.K. Maheshwari**
- New Chief Justice of Kerala High Court - **S. Manikumar**
- New Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court - **Arup K. Goswami**
- New Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court - **Ajai Lamba**

17. **Vice-Chief of Air Force** - Air Marshal HS Arora. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria

18. **New chief of PIB** - Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). He becomes the 28th DG of the PIB.

- He succeeds incumbent Sitanshu Ranjan Kar.

19. **New Lokpal of Punjab** - Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma
20. **New MD & CEO of Oil India Limited** – Sushil Chandra Mishra
21. **Surjit Bhalla Appointed as Executive Director for India at IMF** - The government has appointed an eminent economist Surjit S Bhalla as the Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).  
**Note:** Surjit S Bhalla succeeds former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn who died in the US on July 30 after a brief illness.
22. **President of Mumbai Cricket Association** – Vijay Patil (son of former Governor of Bihar Dr DY Patil)
23. New MD & CEO of Tata Communications - Amur Lakshminarayanan
24. New MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank - SS Mallikarjuna Rao. He will replace Sunil Mehta.
25. New chief of South Western Air Command - **Air Marshal S K Ghotia**
26. **New administrator for PMC Bank** – Jai Bhagwan Bhoria
27. International Egg Commission chief – Suresh Chitturi
28. Former Indian cricketer, Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of BCCI.

## Honours & Awards

### February

1. The Most Promising Brand of the Year Award 2019 was won by **Amulya Mica**.

**Note:** It was announced during the 7th edition of the MSME Excellence Award. The award & summit was organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) at Le Maiden in New Delhi.

2. **Madhya Pradesh** state has won the 1st position for its implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

**Note:** Union Minister of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) Smt Smriti Zubin Irani presented the award to Madhya Pradesh for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has also won 1st place for better performance in PMMVY.

3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das was awarded the 'Central Banker of the Year 2020', Asia-Pacific by **The Banker magazine**.

**Note:** The Banker Magazine is a British English-language monthly financial magazine owned by The Financial Times Ltd. Global Central Banker award 2020 has been given to Jorgovanka Tabakovi, the head of the National Bank of Serbia. As per Banker magazine, Shaktikanta Das has made

many efforts to improve India's banking system from NPAs loans to banks struggling with fraud.

4. 1st Mathrubhumi book of the year 2020 award won by **Vinod Shukla**.

**Note:** He received this award from Kerala based Malayalam newspaper Mathrubhumi at the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters 2020. He was awarded for his translated book 'Blue Is Like Blue'. Arvind Krishna Mehrotra and Sara Rai have translated the stories of 'Blue Is Like Blue's into English.

5. National Kishore Kumar Samman of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government for the year 2018 was awarded to **Waheeda Rehman**.

**Note:** She will be awarded at her residence in Mumbai, Maharashtra by Culture minister of MP Vijaylaxmi Sadho. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and a citation. The award couldn't be given to Rehman during a function in 2019 as she was unwell at the time.

6. Transport Minister's Road Safety Award 2018-19 was awarded to **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)**.

**Note:** Delhi govt's public transport Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has been awarded with Transport Minister's Road Safety Award 2018-19 at an event in New

- Delhi. The award was given for its lowest accident rate. The award was given by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (Asrtu).
7. Film '1917' won the Best Film award, in the 73rd British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2020 ceremony.  
**Note:** The ceremony was hosted by Graham Norton, an Irish television and radio presenter, comedian and commentator. First World War drama '1917' won the Best Film award, which was directed by Sam Mendes. The film 1917 won 7 awards including best picture & director for Sam Mendes, the 1st time he has been honoured for direction by the British academy.
  8. **Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt Ltd.** company was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Award for "Boron Nitrate Based Personal Hybrid Combat Armour" at New Delhi, India.  
**Note:** Big Bang Boom Solutions also won in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) competition around See-Through-Armour and Illegal Defence Drones in iDex (Innovations for Defence Excellence) category. BBBS was the first company to consolidate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the defense sector.
  9. **Dinkar Keshav Raikar** has won the lifetime achievement award instituted by the Mantralaya & Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh for journalism in Maharashtra.  
**Note:** Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray presented the Award. Raikar is a consulting editor of Lokmat Group and completed 50 years in journalism.
  10. In the celebrity brand evaluation report for 2019 published by Duff & Phelps the first position was gained by **Virat Kohli**.  
**Note:** Indian Captain Virat Kohli has retained the top position for the third consecutive time. Kohli's brand value has gone up to \$237.5 million in 2019 with a jump of 39%. Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar becomes the 2nd position with a brand value of \$104.5 million. Bollywood couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone became the 3rd position with a brand value of \$93.5 million each.
  11. President of India Shri. Ram Nath Kovind presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to **Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu**.  
**Note:** The award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation. The awards aim to recognize the outstanding work by individuals & organisations to fight leprosy and eliminate the prejudices associated with it. India had successfully achieved levels of leprosy elimination defined as less than one case per ten thousand population.
  12. 1st Indian to receive International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award -- **Pullela Gopichand**.  
**Note:** This was the 3rd edition of International Olympics Committee Annual Awards. He is the 1st Indian coach to be Honoured with this Lifetime award by the Olympics Committee. Gopichand is a former Indian Badminton player, he founded the Gopichand Badminton Academy in 2008. He trained, players like Saina Nehwal (Bronze medalist in 2012 summer Olympics), P.V. Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth Kidambi and etc.
  13. **Kaamya Karthikeyan** becomes the youngest Girl in the World to climb South America's Highest Peak Mt. Aconcagua.  
**Note:** Kaamya Karthikeyan, 12 years old, a class 7 student of Navy Children School (NCS) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, became the youngest girl in the world to climb Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina, (highest peak in South America). Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak outside Asia which ranges about 6962 metres. Kaamya reached the mountain peak on February 1, 2020 and unfurled the Indian tricolour flag.
  14. **Joaquin Rafael Phoenix** clinched the best actor trophy at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.  
**Note:** American actor, producer, and environmentalist Joaquin Rafael Phoenix (45) clinched the best actor trophy for his performance in "Joker", whereas American actress, Renée Kathleen Zellweger (50) won the best actress for "Judy".
  15. **Kathleen Zellweger** clinched the best actress trophy at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.  
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  16. **Parasite** film has been bestowed with best original screenplay award at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.  
**Note:** For the 1st time Bong Joon Ho created history by becoming the first Asian and South Korean filmmaker to bag the Academy Award for best original screenplay for his genre-defying "Parasite", while filmmaker Taika Waititi bagged the Oscar in the adapted screenplay category.
  17. **Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan** named as the 'captain of the year' at the 13th edition of the Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019.  
**Note:** Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan was named as the 'captain of the year' for leading England to win the World Cup Title against New Zealand. Ben Stokes was awarded the 'ODI (One Day International) batting performance of the year'.
  18. **Dr. Vasant Narsimhan** has been conferred with the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.  
**Note:** The award will be given in a function organized by the Telangana government annual global biotechnology & life sciences forum. Dr. Narasimhan has been selected for his new vision in the pharmaceutical business in digital technology and healthcare. He also worked in the development of 20 novel medicines, including advanced

cells, gene therapy as well as vaccines and also worked on the public health issues particularly in developing countries.

19. The President of India Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to **INS Shivaji**.  
**Note:** The award was received by Nishan Adhikari, INS Shivaji and A special cover marking the Platinum Jubilee of INS Shivaji (completed 75 years of service) was released by the President. The ceremonial parade was organized by INS Shivaji consisting of 130 officers, 630 sailors of the Indian Navy, 150 men Guard of Honor and was commanded by Commodore Ravnish Seth. The award ranks high among the honour bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, in peace or war.
20. **Rajendra Indraman Singh** has been bestowed with Indian Achievers Award (IAA).

### January

1. **Results of Swachh Survekshan League 2020:**  
**Note:** Around 4,372 cities participated in the league. It is a cleanliness survey that helps in competitive federalism. Among 10 Lakh plus population category, Indore secured first place in both the quarters. Madhya Pradesh Capital Bhopal got the second and Surat in Gujarat third spot in first Quarter. Rajkot in Gujarat was at the 2nd spot while Navi Mumbai at third. In one Lakh to 10 Lakh population category, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand got the 1st spot in both quarters. New Delhi Municipal Council and Khargone in Madhya Pradesh got the second and third spots in the first quarter in this category. Chandrapur in Maharashtra and Khargone got the second and third spots in Quarter 2 in one to ten lakh population categories.
2. **Umaro Cissoko Embalo** has won **Guinea-Bissau** presidential election.  
**Note:** In the Guinea-Bissau Umaro Cissoko Embalo has won the presidential election with 53.55 percent of votes. This was announced by the National Electoral Commission (CNE) of Guinea-Bissau. He was the opposition leader also served as prime minister of the country.
3. **Sanjay Gupta** has been honoured with **Lokmanya Tilak** journalism award.  
**Note:** Sanjay Gupta (editor-in-chief of 'Jagran') will be honoured with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award' for his contribution to the field of journalism. The award, instituted by the Kesari-Maratha Trust, will be conferred on Gupta in Pune on 139th Foundation Day of 'Kesari', the newspaper started by Lokmanya Tilak. The award is given to recognize the work of an individual, which he or she has carried out for the larger good of the journalistic field.
4. **Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) & SUM Hospital** has been adjudged the **best medical college of the year** and

**Note:** Founder & Chairperson of Priyadarshini Group of Schools & Colleges has been awarded the Indian Achievers Award (IAA) in recognition of his "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Education". The award was presented by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal, Union HRD (Human Resource Development) Minister, in a special ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India.

21. **Manpreet Singh Pawar** has been selected as the FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019.  
**Note:** The captain of India men's national field hockey team selected for the award by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). With this he becomes the 1st Indian to receive this honor. At the same time, Netherlands women's captain Eva de Goede (30) has been named as FIH Women's Player of the Year 2019

conferred with the **Six Sigma Healthcare Excellence** Award for 2019.

**Note:** Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur presented the award at a special function held at New Delhi. SOA University also won a separate award on the occasion as its founder president Manojranjan Nayak was chosen as the dynamic entrepreneur of the year.

5. Five-day-long festival of '**Lai Haraoba**' has begun in **Agartala, Tripura**.  
**Note:** It is a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri Meitei communities since ancient times. The five-day-long festival is jointly organized by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, Puthiba Lai Haraoba Committee and Puthiba Welfare & Cultural Society, Agartala. Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance, and rituals.
6. **Ministry of Science and Technology** has awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.  
**Note:** The fellowship covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of 25 thousand rupees per month. A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary. Instituted to commemorate India's 50th year of independence, Swarna Jayanti Fellowships are awarded to young and brilliant scientists to pursue unfettered research with financial freedom and flexibility.
7. Two youth leaders from Bihar **Kanhaiya Kumar & Prashant Kishor** included in the **Forbes India list of 20 people** to watch in the 2020s.  
**Note:** **Kanhaiya Kumar** finds 12th position in the list while Prashant Kishor is at 16<sup>th</sup> position. Prashant Kishor is Janata Dal (United) National Vice President while Kanhaiya Kumar is former President of Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Students Union. Indian origin US-born political commentator Hasan Minhaj is on the 1st position while Keyna's Marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge in on the 20th place.
8. **India-born author** has bagged a coveted United Kingdom's Costa Children's Award 2019' -- **Jasbinder Bilan**.  
**Note:** She won the award for her debut novel 'Asha and the Spirit Bird'. "Asha and the Spirit Bird", aimed at readers aged nine years and above, beat competition from three other shortlisted books to be named the winner of the 2019 Costa Children's Award this week. Jasbinder's novel was shortlisted from 144 other entries.
  9. **Status of Institution of National Importance** to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions at the Gujarat Ayurved University campus in **Jamnagar**.  
**Note:** The elevation of the status of the institution will provide it with the autonomy to upgrade the standard of Ayurveda education, frame various courses in Ayurveda as per national and international demand. It will help the institute to develop tertiary care in Ayurveda and to secure inter-disciplinary collaborations to give a contemporary thrust to Ayurveda.
  10. India-born author has bagged a coveted UK children's book award for her debut novel -- **Jasbinder Bilan**.  
**Note:** Her novel, 'Asha and the Spirit Bird', aimed at readers aged nine years and above, beat competition from
  13. The 29<sup>th</sup> 'Saraswati Samman 2019' will be conferred to **\_Vasdev Mohi**.  
**Note:** Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2019, a literary recognition given annually by the KK (Krishna Kumar) Birla Foundation. The literary award is given for his short stories collection- 'Chequebook'. The short story talks about the sufferings of the marginalized sections in society. The work was selected by a committee headed by the former secretary-general of the Lok Sabha, Subash C Kashyap.
  14. In the 16th edition of International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards who named ODI cricket of the year -- **Rohit Sharma**.  
**Note:** International Cricket Council has announced the list of ICC award winners for the year 2019 to recognize and honor the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months. Indian opener Rohit Gurunath Sharma became ODI Cricketer of the Year for the first time. At the same time, Virat Kohli bagged Spirit of Cricket award. England's World Cup winning all-rounder Ben Stokes won the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers trophy for the Cricketer of the Year, While Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins became the best Test cricketer of the year, taking 59 wickets in 2019.
  15. 17th edition of Crossword Books Awards held in Mumbai the Popular Best Fiction Award was won by -- **Twinkle Khanna**.  
**Note:** The 17th edition of Crossword Book Awards was held in Mumbai. Twinkle Khanna won the Popular Best Fiction Award for her novel 'Pyjamas Are Forgiving'. Krishna Trilok won the Popular award in the Biography category for Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman.
  16. Madhya Pradesh government 2018 National Lata Mangeshkar Award was conferred to -- **Kuldeep Singh**.  
**Note:** Noted Indian singer Suman Kalyanpur was chosen for the 2017 National Lata Mangeshkar Award of the state govt. of Madhya Pradesh(MP) .While Indian Music composer Kuldeep Singh has been chosen for the same Mangeshkar award for the year 2018. They have been chosen for this award for their contribution in the field of music and will be awarded in February 2020 at an event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
  17. e-Governance Award of Excellence 2019 was won by -- **'cVIGIL' and 'Voter Helpline app'**.  
**Note:** The Award of Excellence for the year 2019 was given by Computer Society of India (CSI) and Special Interest Group on e-Governance at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar, Odisha during the CSI 2020, 53rd annual convention of CSI. The two innovative Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications developed by Election Commission of India (ECI), 'cVIGIL' and 'Voter Helpline App' has won the 'Award of Excellence' 2019.
  18. Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour to **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.  
**Note:** Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour to Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. She is founder and chairperson of biopharmaceutical company Biocon and appointed as an honorary member in the general division of the Order of Australia by Australia's High Commissioner to India Ms. Harinder Sidhu at a ceremony in Leela Palace, Bengaluru,
- three other shortlisted books to be named the winner of the 2019 Costa Children's Award this week. Bilan will receive 5,000 pounds as the winner of the award. The award is open to authors resident in the UK and Ireland and presented annually across five categories of First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book.
11. Indian pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** will receive the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s Polly Umrigar Award.  
**Note:** Currently he ranked as the world no.1 ODI bowler, Bumrah had made his Test debut during India's tour of South Africa in January 2018. He has picked up five-wicket hauls in South Africa, England, Australia, and the West Indies to become the first and only Asian bowler to achieve the milestone. Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav will be given the best international cricketer (women) award.
  12. India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue has begun in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the inaugural session at which seven former heads of state or government will share their views on important challenges facing the world. Raisina Dialogue (fifth edition) jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the Observer Research Foundation.

Karnataka. She is the fourth Indian citizen to be awarded Australia's highest civilian honour. The award is given to foreign nationals who have extraordinarily contributed to Australia or for humanity.

19. Priya Praksah has won the Global citizen prize: Cisco Youth Leadership award for 2019.  
**Note:** Priya Prakash, the founder and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of India-based "HealthSetGo" has won the Global citizen prize: Cisco Youth Leadership award for 2019. The award was given for her school health program that provides healthcare support to children. The Award was given by Cisco Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer Fran Katsoudas at Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom (UK).
20. Prestigious French honour of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) has been conferred to **Sanjana Kapoor**.  
**Note:** Well-known theatre person, Sanjana Kapoor received the prestigious French honour of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre. She is the daughter of Late Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor. L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is a French government distinction instituted in 1957 by the Ministry of Culture and is conferred, regardless of nationality.
21. Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee conferred with honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by **Calcutta University**.  
**Note:** Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee conferred the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by Calcutta University at its annual convocation in Kolkata. The Vice-Chancellor of the University Ms Sonali Chakraborty Banerjee presented the Degree to him. Banerjee, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2019 along with two others for "their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty", is one of the directors of Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) which he had founded in 2003.
22. Assam state Tableaux has won the 1st prize at the Republic Day Parade, 2020 among the States/Union Territories.  
**Note:** The Tableaux of Assam wins the 1st prize at the Republic Day Parade, 2020 among the States/Union Territories. The theme of Assam's tableau was "Land of unique craftsmanship and culture", displaying bamboo and cane work and Bhortal Nritya performed by Xattriya dancers. Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade, 2020 was given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
23. **Dr N Kumar** has been conferred with the 'Harit Ratna Award 2019'.  
**Note:** Dr N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has been conferred 'Harit Ratna Award 2019'. This award is organised by the All India Agricultural Students Association. He was awarded for the dissemination of Rs 30-crore entrepreneurship project in agri-business and also for motivating students towards the agriculture sector in Tamil Nadu.
24. **N Ram** has been selected for Kerala National Media Award.  
**Note:** The chairman of "The Hindu Group" **N. Ram** has been selected as the outstanding media person in a **national award instituted by Kerala Media Academy**. The award was instituted for fearless and brilliant journalistic work at a national level. The award carrying a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, citation and sculpture were announced as part of the academy's 40th-anniversary celebration.
25. **Priya Prakash** has won the Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award for 2019.  
**Note:** The founder and CEO of India based HealthSetGo, Priya Prakash, has won the Global Citizen Prize: Cisco Youth Leadership Award for 2019. The award was given for her school health program that provides healthcare support to children. The prestigious award honours an individual aged 18 – 30 who is bringing about a positive change in the world by solving some of its biggest global challenges. The award includes a US \$250,000 prize.
26. **Yusuf Jameel** has won the 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism.  
**Note:** Senior journalist Yusuf Jameel from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) won the 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism. This was the 2nd edition of award instituted in 2018 by PEN South India and PEN Delhi in the name of editor late Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a citation. The 1st edition was given to cartoonist P Mahamood in September 2018.
27. **Rani Rampal** becomes the 1st ever hockey player to win the 2019 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award.  
**Note:** Indian Hockey women's team captain and 2020 Padma Shri awardee Rani Rampal became the 1st ever hockey player to win the 2019 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award. The announcement was made by the world games. Hailing from Haryana, Rani has obtained 1,99,477 votes from fans worldwide.
28. The Election Commission of India (ECI) awarded National Media Award for print to "**The Hindu Tamil**".  
**Note:** Election Commission of India (ECI) awarded National Media Award for print to "The Hindu Tamil" as part of the poll panel's national awards for voter awareness and education campaign in 2019 on the occasion of the 10th National Voters Day held at New Delhi. President Ram Nath Kovind presented National Media Award for print to K. Ashokan, Editor, The Hindu Tamil for encouraging people for 'Right to vote based on the merit of candidates' during Lok Sabha election 2019.
29. **Sneha Pamneja** awarded Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020, a 1st of its kind award for brilliance in book design.

**Note:** Sneha Pamneja, a well known Graphic designer based in New Delhi, was awarded Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020, a 1st of its kind award for brilliance in book design, at Jaipur BookMark of ongoing 13th edition of the Zee Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) at Diggi Palace Hotel in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She was honoured for designing the cover of the book 'Tiffin: Authentic Recipes Celebrating India's Regional Cuisine'.

## December

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. 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.
5. 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 Rijju, 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 Srikanth**  
**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.

**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.

## November

**32.** The **28th Vyas Samman** for the year 2018 was conferred to Hindi writer **Leeladhar Jagoori**.

**Note:** The prestigious award was presented to him by renowned author Govind Mishra. Mr Jagoori has been chosen for the prestigious award for his poetry collection- Jitne Log Utne Prem.

**33. Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has been honored with the **prestigious Golden Dragon Award**.

**Note:** The Gangs of Wasseypur actor was presented the award by counsel general of Wales, UK, Mick Antoniw, at an event in Cardiff. The actor has made a mark internationally with Netflix's Sacred Games, Ritesh Batra's Photograph and BBC UK's McMafia.

**34.** Indian Film star **Rajinikanth** will be honoured with first "**Icon of Golden Jubilee Award**" at IFFI.

**Note:** The IFFI will also confer with the Lifetime Achievement Award for a Foreign Artiste to French Actress

Isabelle Huppert. The Icon of Golden Jubilee Award is a special award constituted by the Government of India in the year 2019.

**35.** Noted writer **Anand** has been selected for the 27th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.

**Note:** This award is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the Government of Kerala. His one of the famous Novel is Aalkoottam which portrays the unique crises that the nation had witnessed with a rare finesse. His Govardhante Yatrakal had won the Kendra Sahitya Akademi award, Veedum Thadavum and Jaina Manushyan Kerala Sahitya Akademi award and Marubhoomikal Undakunnath, Vayalar award.

**36. Neeraj Sharma:** winner of the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year Award-2019' (Physical Sciences).



- Note:** The Award has been given by the Australian government for his work in lithium-ion batteries found in electronic devices, electric vehicles and the grid.
37. **Sudarsan Pattnaik** has been chosen for the Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019.  
**Note:** He will be felicitated during the International Scorrana Sand Nativity fete in Italy which will be held between 13th and 18th November 2019.
38. U.S. based-Indian author Madhuri Vijay's debut novel, "The Far Field" has won 2019 JCB prize for **Literature**.  
**Note:** She also received the Rs 25 lakh as the prize money, a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra entitled Mirror Melting.
39. **Shripad Naik** inaugurated the DRDO Igniter Complex at **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)** in **Pune**.  
**Note:** HEMRL (a premier laboratory of DRDO) is primarily engaged in developing rocket and gun propellants, pyrotechnic devices, high-explosive systems and synthesis of high-energy molecules.
40. **Sara Damjanovic** has been crowned 'Miss Asia Global 2019' (5th Edition) at Gokulam Convention centre in Kochi, Kerala.  
**Note:** Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Yen Trang was crowned 'Miss Asia', while Samiksha Singh (India) won the sub-title of 'Miss Beautiful Face'. Miss Asia Global aims to find the most beautiful and talented women from all over the globe.
41. West Bengal based writer **Abhisek Sarkar** has won an award at Dhaka Lit-fest.  
**Note:** West Bengal-based writer Abhisek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award. Abhisek and Rofiquzzaman won the awards for their manus, "Nishiddho" and "Dhoashar Tamate Rong," respectively.
42. The Raja Ram Mohan Roy award will be presented to Rajasthan Patrika group chairman **Gulab Kothari**.  
**Note:** Mr Kothari was selected for the prestigious award by the Press Council of India for his outstanding contribution in the field of journalism.
43. TVS Motor Chairman **Srinivasan** conferred with Deming award.  
**Note:** Venu Srinivasan (Chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton) was conferred with the prestigious Deming Distinguished Service Award For Dissemination and Promotion Overseas. Srinivasan becomes the first industrialist from India to be bestowed this prestigious award for his contributions in the field of total quality management (TQM).
44. **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** will be honoured with **Lesley Ho Asian Film Talent Award** at the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF).  
**Note:** He will be awarded for his Netflix's Emmy-nominated original series Sacred Games. Earlier, Nawazuddin Siddiqui was honoured by the Golden Dragon Award at the Cardiff International Film Festival for his excellence in cinema in the International market.
45. Wildlife biologist **K. Ullas Karanth** was awarded the Wildlife Conservation Society's George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science.  
**Note:** K. Ullas Karanth has been awarded for his contribution to the field of conservation. His research is described as pioneering and groundbreaking with focus on the ecology of tigers, predator-prey population ecology, sympatric predators and other large mammals, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts. The award is instituted by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), New York.
46. Writer, translator and film critic **Shanta Gokhale** has been conferred with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.  
**Note:** Poet K Satchidanandan was named the Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate for 2019. Recently, Gokhale published her memoir One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body.
47. **Dr Debabhuson Borah: winner of Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018** in Assam.  
**Note:** He has been awarded for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with with a citation and a plaque. The Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust announced the annual Award instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese.
48. An **Indian Ph.D. Scholar** has won BRICS-Young Innovator Prize -- **Ravi Prakash**.  
**Note:** India won 1st prize of #BRICS -Young scientist forum's (YSF) conclave during 6-8 Nov 2019 in Brazil. The theme for the 4th BRICS-YSF was "Cybersecurity and Bio-economy".
49. Tobacco Board got '**Golden Leaf Award**' Tab Expo 2019 in the **Netherlands**.  
**Note:** The Tobacco Board of India was awarded the 'Golden Leaf award 2019' at the Tab Expo 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
50. **Manoj Bajpayee** starrer won two awards at Asian Film Festival Barcelona -- **Bhonsle**.  
**Note:** Manoj Bajpayee-starrer and critically acclaimed movie "Bhonsle" has won the 'Best Screenplay' and 'Best Director' awards at the 'Asian Film Festival' in Barcelona, Spain.
51. Renowned **Rabindra Sangeet** exponent from Bangladesh **Rezwana Choudhury Bannya** has conferred the ICCR distinguished alumni award in Dhaka.  
**Note:** The award was given away by the Riva Ganguly Das (High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh) in a musical function organized by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC).

**52. Late actor Sridevi Sridevi & actor Rekha** conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019 respectively.

**Note:** The award was presented by Chiranjeevi (Telugu actor). The award is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation and honours those who have made a lasting impact on Indian cinema.

**53. Bajrang Punia** has been conferred the **Indian Personality of the Year Award** (Sports) at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019.

**Note:** World powerlifting champion Mahant Gaurav Sharma was honoured with Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award. Gaurav was conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in London.

**54. Sir David Attenborough.:** 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.

**Note:** He will receive the award for his tireless work to preserve and protect biodiversity. This prestigious award (named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) has been accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Trust since 1986.

**55. Virat Kohli:** Named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.

**Note:** Virat Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter to officials asking for the release of an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is an American animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Virginia.

### October

#### Complete list of the winners of Nobel Prize 2019:

S.No.	Field	Winners	Description
1	Physiology or Medicine	William G. Kaelin (USA)	for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability
		Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (United Kingdom)	
		Gregg L. Semenza (USA)	
2	Physics	James Peebles (Canada)	for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology
		Michel Mayor (Switzerland)	for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star
		Didier Queloz (Switzerland)	
3	Chemistry	John B. Goodenough (Germany)	for the development of lithium-ion batteries
		M. Stanley Whittingham (United Kingdom)	

		Akira Yoshino (Japan)	
4	Literature (2018)	Olga Tokarczuk (Poland)	for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life
	Literature (2019)	Peter Handke (Austria)	for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience
5	Peace	Abiy Ahmed Ali (Ethiopia)	for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation
6	Economics	Abhijit Banerjee (India)	for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty
		Esther Duflo (France)	
		Michael Kremer (USA)	

- Swachhata ambassador award** – President Ram Nath Kovind presented the most effective Swachhata Ambassador award to Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Azizbek Ashurov wins 2019** – Human rights lawyer from Kyrgyzstan Azizbek Ashurov was awarded the 2019 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prestigious Nansen Award.
- National Tourism Award** – Odisha’s Tapan Kumar Mishra has been honoured with the National Tourism Award for the Category of “Best Tourist Guide” for the year 2017-18 during celebration of the World Tourism Day.
  - He is a freelance Tourist Guide approved by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- Golden Dragon Award** for his works in Hindi cinema - **Nawazuddin Siddiqui**.
- The **Mohun Bagan Athletic Club** has conferred life membership to Nobel laureate **Abhijit Banerjee**.
- The Sakharov Prize to Uighur intellectual -- **Ilham Tohti**.
- The Asian Academy Creative Awards – ‘**Gully Boy**’ & ‘**Delhi Crime**’.
- People’s Icon Award 2019: **Jennifer Aniston**.
- “Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award”: **K Parasaran** (former Attorney General of India).
- Orchestra of the year award 2019: **Philharmonic Orchestra**
- 2019 Booker Prize**: Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo.
- Golden Shoe as top scorer in European Leagues: **Leo Messi**  
**Note:** Messi won the trophy for a 3rd straight year after scoring 36 goals, 3 more than his closest challenger, Kylian Mbappe of Paris Saint-Germain.
- Madhya Pradesh government’s** National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19 – Priyadarshan.
- The **31st Indira Gandhi Award** for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018: Chandi Prasad Bhatt.
- Asia Environmental Enforcement Award** by the United Nations Environment Programme -- Ramesh Pandey.
- The Don’ Award** -- **Ashleigh Barty**.
- Russia’s highest honours, “The Order of Courage”-- **Nick Hague** (NASA astronaut).

18. People's Choice Award at My Rode Reel film competition -- **Spirit Of Kerala.**

### List of all winners

#### Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

- Bajrang Punia – Wrestling
- Deepa Malik - Para Athletics

#### Dronacharya Award (regular category for coaches)

- Vimal Kumar – Badminton
- Sandeep Gupta - Table tennis
- Mohinder Singh Dhillon – Athletics

#### Dronacharya Award (lifetime category)

- Sanjay Bhardwaj - cricket
- Rambir Singh Khokar - kabaddi
- Mezban Patel – hockey

#### Dhyan Chand Award

- Manoj Kumar (wrestling),
- C Lalremsanga (archery),
- Arup Basak (table tennis),
- Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and
- Manuel Fredricks (hockey).

### Arjuna Awards

Arjuna Award	Sh. Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Athletics
Arjuna Award	Mohammed Anas Yahiya	Athletics
Arjuna Award	Sh. S. Bhaskaran	Body Building
Arjuna Award	Ms. Sonia Lather	Boxing
Arjuna Award	Sh. Ravindra Jadeja	Cricket
Arjuna Award	Sh. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam	Hockey
Arjuna Award	Sh. Ajay Thakur	Kabaddi
Arjuna Award	Sh. Gaurav Singh Gill	Motor Sports
Arjuna Award	Sh. Pramod Bhagat	Para Sports (Badminton)
Arjuna Award	Ms. Anjum Moudgil	Shooting
Arjuna Award	Sh. Harmeet Rajul Desai	Table Tennis
Arjuna Award	Ms. Pooja Dhanda	Wrestling
Arjuna Award	Sh. Fouaad Mirza	Equestrian
Arjuna Award	Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu	Football
Arjuna Award	Ms. Poonam Yadav	Cricket
Arjuna Award	Ms. Swapna Barman	Athletics
Arjuna Award	Sh. Sundar Singh Gurjar	Para Sports (Athletics)
Arjuna Award	Sh. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth	Badminton
Arjuna Award	Sh. Simran Singh Shergill	Polo

### 66th National Film Awards

- Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal shared the Best Actor national film award and Uri Director Aditya Dhar won the Best Director award.
- The 66th National Film awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the Jury for feature films.

**List of winners –**

- Best Director: Aditya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Feature Film: Hellaro a Gujarati film directed by Abhishek Shah
- Best Actor: Ayushmann Khuranna for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
- Best Supporting Actor - Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
- Best supporting actress - Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
- Best Action Direction: KGF Chapter I
- Best Choreography: Padmaavat for Goomar
- Best Film for National Integration - Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
- Best Popular Film: Badhaai Ho
- Best film on Environment issues - Paani
- Best Debut Film of a Director: Naal (Marathi)
- Best film on Social Issues: Padman
- Best Children's Film: Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod
- Special Jury Award: Award shared by Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachood Rai

**Other Awards**

- 1. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been conferred King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain’s King **Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa** in Manama, capital of Bahrain.
  - He was conferred this prestigious honour in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain.
  - PM Modi is the 1st Indian prime minister to visit Bahrain.
- 2. Order of Zayed** - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was honoured with prestigious ‘Order of Zayed’, United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) highest civilian award.  
**Note:** The award in name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of UAE.
- 3. Eminent Engineer Award 2019 - Prabhakar Singh**, Director General, Central Public Works Department has been chosen for the ‘Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019’.  
**Note:** This award will be given by the Institution of Engineers (India) for his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology.
- 4. UEFA President’s Award** – Former Manchester United forward player Eric Cantona honoured with the award.
- 5. SKOCH Governance Gold Award – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**, has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award.
  - It has been conferred the award for its initiative “Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAISA)”. DAY-NULM is a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 6. Indian documentary film ‘I’m Jeeja’** has won the award at the 14th edition of the ‘We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues’.
- 7. Pushkin Medal 2019** - JNU Professor Meeta Narain was conferred the ‘Pushkin Medal – 2019’. This award is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.  
**Note:** Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.
- 8. South Asian Spelling Bee competition 2019 – Navneeth Murali**, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest.
- 9. Bharat Ratna Award 2019**
  - President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika

(posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika were conferred the award posthumously.
- The Bharat Ratna has been conferred after a gap of four years.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya were given the award by the government in 2015.

#### About Nanaji Deshmukh

- Nanaji Deshmukh was born in 1916 in a Marathi family in Parbhani, Maharashtra. As a child, he was inspired by freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Nanaji established India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950.
- Nanaji Deshmukh had won in the 1977 Lok Sabha election from Balrampur.

#### About Bhupen Hazarika

- Bhupen Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926 in Sadiya, Assam.
- He was also one of the leading author-poets of Assam with more than 1,000 lyrics and several short stories, essays and travelogues to his credit.
- Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the 'Bard of Brahmaputra',.
- In May 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge (9.15 kms), which runs over the Lohit river in Assam. Modi named the Dhola-Sadia bridge after Bhupen Hazarika.

#### About Pranab Mukherjee

- Pranab Mukherjee was born in Mirati in Birbhum District of West Bengal on December 11, 1935 to freedom fighters.
- He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.

#### About Bharat Ratna

- It is highest civilian award of Republic of India. It was instituted in 2 January 1954.
- First recipients of Bharat Ratna award (1954)- C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.
- Limits: Maximum of 3 nominees can be awarded per year.

**10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be honoured with "Order of Zayed"** – The United Arab Emirates will honour

the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the "Order of Zayed", the highest civilian award of the country.

**11. ISRO Chairman K. Sivan honoured with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award** – Tamil Nadu government has awarded K. Sivan with its Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award.

- K. Sivan is currently serving as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

**12. CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship** – Dr K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)– Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) was awarded JC Bose Fellowship.

- He was given this fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.
- The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology.

**13. Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman honoured with Vir Chakra** – Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, has been honoured with the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest war time gallantry medal.

Note:

- From the Army, **Sapper Prakash Jadhav of the Rashtriya Rifles** posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, who played a key role as flight controller during the aerial combat between India and Pakistan on February 27, has been awarded Yudh Seva medal.

**14. Arun Lal awarded CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award** – Former India cricketer Arun Lal conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) in Kolkata.

- Former Bengal captain Raju Mukherjee was also considered for 2019 Lifetime Achievement but CAB eventually picked Lal.

**15. Longest documentary "100 Years of Chrysostom" will receive Guinness Award** – A biographical documentary "100 Years of Chrysostom" will receive Guinness Award in the category of longest documentary.

- The "100 Years of Chrysostom" is based on the life of Philipose Mar Chrysostom, scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy.
- The 48-hour and 8 minutes documentary has broken the record of the 21-hour Saudi Arabian documentary "World of Snakes".

**16. Rajasthan bags award at World Education Summit 2019** – Rajasthan wins the "best innovation and initiative

leadership award” for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.

- 17. Priyam Chatterjee becomes 1st Indian chef to win French honour** – Priyam Chatterjee became the 1st Indian chef to be awarded the ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto’ by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.
- Chatterjee is best known for revisiting the traditional dishes from his native state of West Bengal and giving it a French twist.
- 18. Lionel Messi Wins UEFA Goal of the Season Award 2018-19** – Barcelona’s Lionel Messi has been awarded UEFA’s Goal of the Season award 2018-19 for his free-kick against Liverpool.
- 19. ISRO announces Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award 2019 -** As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO institutes two categories of awards in journalism.
- ISRO has announced its “**Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research**” to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- 20. BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award** - Actor Steve Coogan will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy’s Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honour during the 2019 Britannia Awards.
- 21. President Kovind honoured with the highest award of Republic of Guinea** – President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea.
- The award is bestowed for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea.

Note:

- President of Guinea: Alpha Conde
- Capital of Guinea: Conakry
- Currency of Guinea: Guinean franc

- 22.** India’s transsexual woman Naaz Joshi was crowned Miss World Diversity 2019. This event was held in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- 23. Miss England 2019** - Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor was crowned Miss England 2019.

- 24. Ramon Magsaysay award 2019** – Ravish Kumar has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless”.

**The other winners of the award are:**

- Ko Swe Win (Myanmar): He is a human rights defender and the chief editor of Myanmar Now news agency.
- Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand) is human rights activist and a leading human rights defender in Southern Thailand.
- Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) is a musician who has served in the music faculty of the University of the Philippines and has conducted free workshops for thousands of students all across the country.
- Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth and a South Korean agrarian movement leader who pioneered wasteland cultivation, and strove to demonstrate through his work that life as a farmer can be fulfilling and productive.

Note:

- The Magsaysay award was started in 1957 and celebrates the memory and leadership example of the former Philippine president Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

- 25. Kapil Dev honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award** – East Bengal club awarded former Indian Cricket captain Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav.
- 26. 2019 Prem Bhatia Award** – Veteran journalist and consulting editor at India Today TV (television), Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai was awarded the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for his Outstanding Political Reporting with a career spanning over three decades.
- 27. Ruhan Rajput honoured with ‘Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019’** –
- Ruhan Rajput, a renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019 at New Delhi.
  - Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.
  - His company, is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry.

Oscar Awards 2020

S.NO.	Award Category	WINNER	Description
1	Best Picture	Parasite	-
2	Best Director	Bong Joon Ho	For the movie 'Parasite'
3	Best Actor (Leading Role)	Joaquin Phoenix	For acting in the movie 'Joker'
4	Best Actress (Leading Role)	Renee Zellweger	for 'Judy'
5	Best Supporting Actor	Brad Pitt	for 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood'
6	Best Supporting Actress	Laura Dern	for 'Marriage Story'
7	Best Animated Feature Film	Josh Cooley, Mark Nielsen and Jonas Rivera	for 'Toy Story 4'
8	Best Cinematography	Roger Deakins	for '1917'
9	Best Costume Design	Jacqueline Durran	for 'Little Women'
10	Best Original Screenplay	Bong Joon Ho and Han Jin Won	for 'Parasite'
11	Best Adapted Screenplay	Taika Waititi	for 'Jojo Rabbit'
12	Best International Feature Film Award	Parasite	-
13	Best Documentary - Feature	Steven Bognia, Julia Reichert and Jeff Reichert	for 'American Factory'
14	Best Documentary - Short Subject	Carol Dysinger	for 'Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone'
15	Best Live Action Short Film	Marshall Curry	for 'The Neighbors' Window'
16	Best Animated Short Film	Matthew A Cherry and Karen Rupert Toliver	for 'Hair Love'
17	Best Original Score	Hildur Gudnadottir	for 'Joker'
18	Best Original Song	Elton John	for 'I'm Gonna Love Me Again', 'Rocketman'
19	Best Sound Editing	Don Sylvester	for 'Ford v Ferrari'
20	Best Sound Mixing	Mark Taylor and Stuart Wilson	1917
21	Best Production Design	Barbara Ling and Nancy Haigh	for 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood'
22	Best Makeup and Hair Styling	Kazu Hiro, Anne Morgan and Vivian Baker	for 'Bombshell'
23	Best Film Editing	Michael McCusker and Andrew Buckland	for 'Ford v Ferrari'



24	Best Visual Effects	Guillaume Rocheron, Greg Butler and Dominic Tuohy	for '1917'
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**1. Oscar Awards 2019 announced:** The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars) has been announced at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, the USA.

**Complete list of winners**

- Best Picture - **Green Book**, directed by - **Peter Farrelly**
- Best Actress in a Leading Role - Olivia Colman for film - **The Favourite**
- Best Actor in a Leading Role - Rami Malek for film - **Bohemian Rhapsody**

- Best Director - Alfonso Cuarón for **Roma**
- Best Foreign Language – **Roma** (Alfonso Cuaron's **Roma** from Mexico has won Best Foreign language)
- Best Documentary Short film - **Period. End of Sentence** Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton  
Note:
- India-based **Period End of Sentence** has won **Documentary Short** at 91stOscars Academy Awards.
- The film talks about the stigma of menstruation in **India**.
- It is directed by **Rakya Zehtabchi**.

## National Affairs

### February

1. India's first of its kind fruit train was launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The fruit train was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. This is the first time an entire train carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas which has been sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNP) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Those bananas will be exported to Iran
2. The first meeting of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the meeting of Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi. This was the 1st meeting after the National Commission's reconstitution.
3. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.  
**Note:** Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban

delta waters. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.

4. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme "Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count" at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 2020. The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.
5. The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called **Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)**.  
**Note:** The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs

- to offer high-end analytical testing. This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.
6. Around **73.47 lakh** people were trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana from 2016-20.  
**Note:** Approximately 73.47 lakh candidates were provided skilling under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across India from 2016-2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). It is a flagship program under the Skill India Mission of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSD&E).
  7. India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' was held in **Telangana**.  
**Note:** The festival was inaugurated by M Prashanthi, District Collector of Nirmal, Telangana. The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**".
  8. India signed 4 MoUs in the field of research and higher education with **Norway**.  
**Note:** The agreements were led by Anni Line Wold, Norway Director-General, Norwegian Ministry of Education & Research and witnessed by Hans Jacob Frydenlund Norwegian Ambassador to India at New Delhi, India. The MoU was signed between the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the University of Tromso, the Arctic University of Norway, for cooperation in fields such as biophotonics, health & diagnostic tools, nanotechnology, water management and renewable energy.
  9. 'Intivadhakey Pension' scheme was launched by **Andhra Pradesh** which created a record by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days.  
**Note:** The Andhra Pradesh (AP) state Government led by its Chief Minister (CM) Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, has created a record with its 'Intivadhakey Pension' (Pension to your Doorstep) Scheme by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days. The scheme was launched in 13 districts on February 1, 2020. AP is the 1st state in India to take up such an initiative of Door delivery of pension service.
  10. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implemented a new scheme named "**Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**" (SFURTI).  
**Note:** Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters. Traditional industries to be set up in India in a period of 5 years and make the industries more profitable. The scheme was first launched in 2005 to boost cluster development by MSME.
  11. According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.  
**Note:** The analysis was made after data of around 120 million Indian patients were leaked and made freely available on the internet. Maharashtra was followed by Karnataka in 2nd place with 1,82,865 data leaks giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.
  12. The Supreme Court has directed the state governments to setup "Gram Nyayalayas" within **4 weeks**.  
**Note:** It also asked the High Courts (HC) to speed up consultation with department concerned on the matter. The present scenario of the states with respect to the Gram Nyayalayas were submitted by the SC Advocate Prashant Bhushan. The SC observed that some States haven't taken any initiative & no notification has been issued in the matter.
  13. 15-member trust named 'Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust' for the construction of Ram Mandir led by **Kesava Iyengar Parasaran**.  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, 67.703 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust. This 15 member's trust will also include a Dalit representative who would be in-charge of the entire land.
  14. 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 was held in **Kochi, Kerala**.  
**Note:** The show was organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI). The theme of this year's show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition". More than 200 exhibitors, 350 stalls and over 5000 delegates, including foreign delegates, are expected to attend the event at Kochi.
  15. Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India announced the establishment of the High Performance Centers in **7 places**.  
**Note:** The 7 High Performance Hockey centres will be set up under the Khelo India scheme & will have expert professional training, utilization of sports science & education for the youngsters. The High Performance Centers
  16. The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for setting up a new Major Port at **Vadhavan**.  
**Note:** The new Major Port will be established on the basis of land lord model. The projected cost of the Vadhavan Port is over Rs 65,000 crore. After the development of this new Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra, India is expected to enter the list of countries with top 10 container ports in the world.

17. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in **100 Smart Cities**.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has launched, two Assessment Frameworks, viz. Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities. This will empower the cities to use evidence to plan, implement them & then monitor their performance.
18. Under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) the Union Government has released a total of **Rs. 6,717.18 crore**.  
**Note:** During the period of 2015-16 to 2019-20, the Centre has released a total of Rs 6,717.18 crore under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS). A total of 9,641 applications, covering employment of 2.86 lakh persons and investment of Rs. 40026.5 crore submitted by textile units, have been issued with UIDs (unique identification numbers) till January 2020. This information has been given by textiles minister Smriti Irani as a part of competitiveness of the textile industry.
19. **Hyderabad Metro** Rail Network becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms.  
**Note:** The metro route connecting twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Telangana State Mr. K.Chandrashekhar Rao. The new Metro line from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) will cover a distance of 11-kms (Kilometers). It becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.
20. As of January 1,2020, according to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri.Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, the LPG coverage has reached -- **96.9%**.  
**Note:** According to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri.Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, a total of about 27.5 crore LPG or cooking gas connections are in India. Out of this, 8 crore connections have been provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme. Also, the LPG coverage has reached 96.9 % as of January 1,2020.
21. The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) in association with the governments of Australia and Indonesia. The knowledge partners of the Conference include National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The previous 3 editions of the EAS Maritime Security Conferences organised by the Indian government were held at New Delhi in November 2015, Goa in November 2016 and Bhubaneswar in June 2018.
22. For the first time the Hornbill festival was celebrated in **Tripura**.  
**Note:** Chief Minister (CM) Biplab Kumar Dev inaugurated the 2 day hornbill festival at Baramura hill (in western tripura).The aim of the festival is to raise awareness among people for bird conservation & to boost tourism.The Hornbill festival is a celebration held every year from December 1 to 10, in Nagaland, Northeast India. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.Arunachal Pradesh & Manipur also started organising Hornbill festival following Nagaland.
23. 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.  
**Note:** It is an Environment Treaty Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). logo is to Portray Important Migratory Species in India like Amur falcon, Humpback Whale and Marine Turtles, the Great Indian Bustard (Gibi) is chosen as official Mascot. The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home".
24. The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition "DefExpo 2020" held in **Lucknow**.  
**Note:** The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. It's main theme was "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub" with focus on "Digital Transformation of Defence". This expo is also termed as "Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies". The last two days of the expo was opened for public.
25. The "2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)" was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.  
**Note:** The themes of the exercise was "A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake" & "Flooding or Storm".Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The first similar kind of exercise took place in 2017.
26. The theme of the 20th 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry is "**Kaushal Ko Kaam**".  
**Note:** The 20th 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of "Kaushal Ko Kaam" at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.

27. The Government of India decided to renamed the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, after **Arun Jaitley**.  
**Note:** The Government of India decided to rename the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, Haryana, as “Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)”. NIFM, Faridabad was set up in 1993 as a registered society under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, which train officers of various finance & accounts service recruited by the UPSC.
28. The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.  
**Note:** The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security due to Global climate change. The theme of the conference is ‘Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future’.
29. India’s largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.  
**Note:** The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India. The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.
30. The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.  
**Note:** The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “Right to Water Act” or “Water Rights Act” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.
31. The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day long BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’, in New Delhi. It was organized by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs. This conference was held on the lines of the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 4th BIMSTEC summit in Nepal’s Kathmandu in 2018.
32. The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:** The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted on February 12, 2020 by creating a mock situation using a naval Dornier aircraft by INS Dega, (a naval air station of the Indian navy) at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh and the main objective of the exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.

33. The Ministry of External Affairs announced that two Institutions, the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute have been named after **Sushma Swaraj**.  
**Note:** The Ministry of External Affairs, announced that two Institutions, The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and The Foreign Service Institute have been named after former Indian Diplomat Sushma Swaraj for her Invaluable contribution in Public Service. The announcement is being made on her 68th Birth Anniversary falling on February 14, 2020.
34. To give passengers the experience of world class facilities the Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.  
**Note:** The Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat to give passengers the experience of world class facilities. This will be the first experiment in India. The hotel, being built by the famous hotel chain Leela Group, could be completed by December 2020.
35. Name the Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who visited India -- **Mrs. Dang Thai Ngoc Thinh**.  
**Note:** During the visit she held bilateral delegation-level talks with Vice President of India, Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu. They agreed to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2016 between the two countries. The Joint Inauguration of the launch of direct flights between India & Vietnam was held at New Delhi. Both sides also inked an agreement to open a resident office of Voice of Vietnam in New Delhi.
36. ‘**Arth Ganga**’ project to channelize economic activity along Ganga river bank.  
**Note:** According to Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge), Chemical, and Fertilizers, ‘Arth Ganga’ project implies a sustainable development model with a focus on economic activities along its Ganga bank. Around half of the Indian population lives around the Ganges River belt. In addition, of India’s total freight, about 1/5th originates and 1/3rd terminates in the states around Ganges Belt.

## January

1. **NITI Aayog** has released SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019.  
**Note:** Government think tank the NITI Aayog has Aayog has released the 2nd edition of Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) India Index and dashboard for the year 2019 in New Delhi. The Index comprehensively documents the progress made by India’s States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets. Kerala achieved the first

- rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu ranked at the third position with the score of 67. While Bihar is at the bottom of Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.
2. India's **second spaceport** for launching **small satellites** will be established in Tamil Nadu's **Thoothukudi district**.  
**Note:** The country's first spaceport is at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, about 90 km northeast of Chennai. Thoothukudi is about 600 km southeast of Chennai. The new location is ideal for launching smaller satellites of less than 500 kg in the sun-synchronous orbit.
  3. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will conduct the Asiatic Lion Census in **May 2020**.  
**Note:** Around **8,000-10,000 cameras** will be used to carry out the **2020 lion census** in Gujarat, the last abode of the Asiatic lion. The **2015 lion census** had counted 523 lions in the state. The number is expected to have risen phenomenally the population may have crossed the 1,000-mark. The entire census area is to be divided into a 3-km grid. Officers will collect hair, nails, teeth, etc. The collection process is to be carried out using scientific methods laid out by NTCA.
  4. The **Ministry of Agriculture** announced that the sowing area of rabi crops has increased by **36 lakh hectares**.  
**Note:** This is mainly due to the improvement in **soil moisture in Rabi growing states**. The total area under Rabi crops was 536 hectares last year and this has increased to 571 hectares. Of these, wheat has been sown in 297 lakh hectares, rice has been sown in 14 lakh hectares, coarse cereals in 46 lakh hectares and oilseeds in 74 lakh hectares.
  5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 107th edition of Indian Science Congress in **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** The theme of ISC 2020 is "Science and Technology: Rural Development". The event brings together science fraternity across the world to discuss scientific innovation and research. Over 15,000 participants, including Nobel Laureates, scientists, intellectuals, academicians, policymakers, researchers, students and delegates from different institutions are participating in the event. There will be 28 Plenary Sessions during the event, on areas ranging from Climate Smart Agriculture for Food Security, Crop Improvement Towards Food and Nutrition Security to Artificial Intelligence and Medical Technology.
  6. **Labour Ministry** to launch a portal for the speedy resolution of grievances -- **Santusht**.  
**Note:** The labour ministry has announced to launch a new portal 'Santusht' for the speedy redressal of workers as well as employer grievances and ensuring effective implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level. Initially, 'Santusht' would monitor all services provided by retirement fund body EPFO and health insurance and services provider ESIC to formal sector workers. Workers and employers can lodge their complaints on the portal, which would be managed by an internal monitoring cell comprising five to six officers.
  7. City will host the 14th Global Healthcare Summit 2021 -- **Visakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The brochure of the summit was released on 30 December 2019 by MP M.V.V. Satyanarayana. The focus of the Global Health Summit is an Indian-centric approach, with special events such as global impact and India's contribution in providing cost-effective medicines and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals. For the first time, the 14th Global Health Care summit will be held in AP and is expected to boost the healthcare in the region.
  8. HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated the **28th edition of annual New Delhi World Book Fair** at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** As part of Mahatma Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary celebrations, the theme of this year is Gandhi: The Writers' Writer. Eminent Gandhian scholar Girishwar Mishra is the chief guest on the occasion. The book fair organised by National Book Trust (NBT). Other features at the fair will include -- Theme pavilion, authors' corner, seminar hall, braille books, children's pavilion and foreign countries' pavilion.
  9. Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number for passengers -- **139**.  
**Note:** The Indian Railways has integrated its helpline numbers into a single number 139 for quick grievance redressal and enquiries by passengers during their train journeys. The new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers. It will be easy for passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during train travel.
  10. Twenty-two tableau proposals (16-states and 6- Central Ministries) have been short-listed for participation in this year's **Republic Day parade**.  
**Note:** Ministry of Defence had received a total of 56 tableaux proposals comprising 32 from States and 24 from Ministries in this regard. The tableaux proposals received are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee comprising of eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music and architecture. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020.
  11. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Traders Convention in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The convention has been organized by the Confederation of All India Traders and will deliberate upon various issues concerning traders. The aim of this convention will be to discuss the role of the trading community in achieving a 5 trillion dollar economy goal. today said NDA government is committed to protect the interests of traders and to promote ease of doing business.

12. Third **international symposium** on marine ecosystems – **challenges and opportunities** (MECOS-3) is to be held in **Kochi**  
**Note:** Eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fisheries researchers, and marine biotechnologists from across the globe are expected to participate in it.
13. 5th Global Drosophila Conference held at **Pune**.  
**Note:** The fifth edition of the Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference (APDRC5) was held in Pune. The conference was organized in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
14. India extends USD 75 mn line of credit for solar parks in Cuba.  
**Note:** Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) has given a \$75 million line of credit to Cuba for financing 75 MW Photovoltaic Solar Parks. Exim Bank is the premier export finance institution of India. Regarding this, the Exim Bank has entered into an agreement with Banco Exterior De Cuba on July 16, 2019.
15. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** (KVIC) has inaugurated the first silk processing plant at Surendranagar in **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati 'Patola' sarees locally. The plant has been set up by a khadi institution at a cost of Rs 75 lakh, in which KVIC has contributed Rs 60 lakh.
16. The **Union government** has approved the release of how many Crores to seven states as assistance for the damage caused due to various disasters in 2019 -- **Rs. 5,908.56 crore**.  
**Note:** States include Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tripura. The relief amount is given under the additional central assistance to seven states from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in a High-Level Committee meeting in New Delhi.
17. Indian Navy has launched an expedition, to promote the maritime heritage of India in the Naval Dockyard – **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** The expedition extends from Arnala fort, Northernmost fort of Maharashtra to Sindhudurg fort, the southernmost fort of Maharashtra, covering more than 555 km. The expedition will be held until 11<sup>th</sup> January.
18. South Korean **automobile manufacturer** has entered into a partnership with US ride-hailing giant Uber to produce electric air taxis -- **Hyundai Motor Company**.  
**Note:** Hyundai also unveiled a new full-scale concept PAV (personal air vehicle), developed jointly with Uber, at the ongoing Consumer Electronics Show 2020. Hyundai is the first automotive company to join the Uber Elevate initiative. Under the partnership, Hyundai will produce and deploy the air vehicles and Uber will provide airspace support services, connections to ground transportation and customer interfaces through an aerial rideshare network.
19. Union **Home Minister Amit Shah** has released a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- **Karmayoddha Granth**.  
**Note:** The Home Minister addressed the gathering at the launch and said that the qualities of a Karmayoddha such as a beautiful heart for people, a statesman, a hard taskmaster, an able administrator and an ideal leader who leads by example, are represented by Narendra Modi.
20. Global Investors Meet 'ASCEND 2020' will be held in -- **Kochi, Kerala**.  
**Note:** The Kerala government will highlight the 18 mega projects in the meet including Kochi-to-Palakkad integrated manufacturing cluster, a defence park at Ottapalam and an electronic hardware park in Ernakulam. The meet will also see organizers showcasing 70-odd other projects classified as large, medium and small in the descending order of their capital investment. The meet will be organized by the Industries Department of Kerala.
21. The 31st International Kite Festival was inaugurated at **Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad**.  
**Note:** As a part of the official celebration of 'Uttarayan' or 'Makar Sankranti', Ahmedabad has been hosting the International Kite Festival since 1989. The festival will continue till January 13 at Sabarmati Riverfront. 150 kitists from India and abroad are participating in the event
22. 'Census India-2021' will begin on **1st of April 2020**.  
**Note:** It will be conducted through a mobile phone application, moving away from the traditional pen and paper. The reference date will be 1st March 2021 in most of the country and 1 October 2020 for Jammu and Kashmir and some areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Indian Census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different
23. Amit Shah has inaugurated the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre** (I4C) and dedicated National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal – '**www.cybercrime.gov.in**'.  
**Note:** National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber-crimes online through the portal. It enables filing of all cyber-crimes with a specific focus on crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes. All the cyber-crime related complaints will be accessed by the concerned law enforcement agencies in the States and Union Territories for acting as per law.
24. Power Minister **R K Singh** has released the **State Energy Efficiency Index 2019**.  
**Note:** They track the progress of Energy Efficiency Initiatives in 36 States and Union Territories. The index this year incorporates qualitative, quantitative and outcome-based indicators to assess energy efficiency initiatives, programs and outcomes in five distinct sectors. The index is

- developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency in association with Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy.
25. The fifth edition of the Pulses Conclave will be held in Lonavala, Maharashtra from -- **12-14 February 2020**.  
**Note:** IPGA expects close to 1500 trade stakeholders from India and key pulses exporting countries like USA, Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi. IPGA is the nodal body for the country's pulses trade and industry. The conference aims at increasing exports, processing efficiencies, protein extraction, value addition and post-harvest management.
  26. The Ministry of Steel will launch a world-class steel hub -- **Purvodaya**.  
**Note:** The hub aims at an accelerated development programme of eastern states. The Ministry will be joined by CII (Confederation of India Industries) in the implementation of "Purvodaya".
  27. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will inaugurate 'Advantage Maharashtra Expo 2020' in **Aurangabad**.  
**Note:** The four-day mega industrial exhibition has been organized by the Marathwada Association of Small Scale Industries and Agriculture (MASSIA). Growth of Marathwada industries in technology and innovation and the products produced and exported from the region will be showcased in this exhibition. This exhibition will provide the opportunity for ambitious businesses and will serve as the platform for small entrepreneurs.
  28. The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to provide Rs 5,559 crore viability gap funding for building a 1,656 km gas grid in the **Northeast region**.  
**Note:** The funding will be provided to Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd for setting up the North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid. The gas pipeline would be developed in 8 states of the northeast; this will lead to the development of an industrial climate in these states and improvement in the standard of living of people in the region.
  29. India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant likely to be commissioned by **2021**.  
**Note:** This carrier is being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi. According to Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh, Vikrant will be fully operational by 2022 and it will have a fleet of MiG-29K aircraft
  30. Union Steel Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched a mission to accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub -- **Mission Purvodaya**.  
**Note:** Under the mission, the government will enhance capacity through easing the setup of greenfield steel plants, develop steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centers.
  31. Narendra Modi has announced to rename the Kolkata Port Trust after -- **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee**.  
**Note:** The announcement was made on the 150th anniversary of the historic **Kolkata Port Trust**. The event was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He dedicated a Commemorative Stamp to mark 150 years of Kolkata port trust to the nation. The Kaushal Vikas Kendra and Pritilata Chhatri Avas for 200 tribal girl students from Sundarbans were also inaugurated during the event.
  32. 'Wings India 2020' to be held at Begumpet Airport Hyderabad in **March 2020**  
**Note:** Biennial International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation Sector, 'Wings India 2020' will be held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, Telangana from March 12-15, 2020. The theme of the exhibition is "Flying for all".
  33. The World Future Energy Summit 2020 held in **Abu Dhabi**.  
**Note:** The four-day annual Summit is dedicated to advancing future energy, clean technologies, and energy efficiency. The theme for this year's summit is "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment." World Future Energy Summit is the Middle East's largest future energy and sustainability event.
  34. **The Statue of Unity** has been included in 8 wonders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).  
**Note:** The Statue of Unity is the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of independent India. The 182-meter tall statue is the world's tallest statue that was inaugurated by PM Modi on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in October 2018. The statue was inaugurated on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 2018.
  35. **Indian Oil Corp (IOC)** has developed a special class diesel conforming to NATO grade for use in ships and vessels of the Indian Navy.  
**Note:** Vice Admiral G S Pabby launched the Upgraded High Flash High-Speed Diesel (HFHSD- IN 512) in New Delhi.
  36. The **Henley Passport Index 2020** was released by **Henley & Partners**.  
**Note:** The report is being published every year based on the data obtained from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). According to the index, Indian passport ranked at the 84th spot among the world's most powerful passports list, which is a drop by 2 places as it ranked 82nd in 2019.
  37. **The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)** has released a survey that ranks the world's fastest-growing urban regions/ fastest-growing cities in the world.
  38. **Vishakhapatnam** will host the International naval exercise 'MILAN' in March 2020.  
**Note:** The theme of the exercise for the year 2020 is 'Synergy Across the Seas'. The Milan exercise which will be hosted by Eastern Naval Command (ENC) the objective of this exercise is to enhance professional interaction between foreign navies and also make use of the best practices in the maritime domain. India has invited 41 navies of different countries of which 30 navies have confirmed their participation in MILAN 2020.

39. The 27th edition of South Asian Trade and Travel Exchange Expo (SATTE) 2020 was held at India Expo Mart **Greater Noida – Delhi NCR**.  
**Note:** It is an annual three-day B2B trade show designed to bring together the key travel industry leaders in the region. It convenes Indian & International exhibitors and buyers to forge new partnerships and strengthen the business.
40. 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme was held in **Puducherry**.  
**Note:** 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme begins in Puducherry. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr Kiran Bedi inaugurated this Programme. Two hundred youths from Naxal-affected districts of Chattisgarh are taking part in this week-long programme. The programme has been jointly organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Puducherry Government with a view to ensuring development and empowerment of the tribal youths.
41. Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating ELECRAMA 2020 in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating ELECRAMA 2020 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. ELECRAMA is the flagship showcase of the Indian electrical industry and a platform to connect the world with the Indian industry in respect of technology, new trends and innovation for the future energy transition. The focus of this year's event is on e-mobility, energy storage, start-ups, grid transformation, revenue security with special attention on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
42. Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" at National Museum, New Delhi. This exhibition is first of its kind in the country. The exhibition will stay online until February 15, 2020.
43. The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region will start in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the Conference. The main theme of the conference is the ROLE OF LEGISLATORS. In the Conference, delegates will discuss the Capacity Building of Legislators for Scrutinizing Budgetary Proposals and Enhancing Focus of Legislators on Legislative Business.
44. The 2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 begins today. The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad will inaugurate this conclave in New Delhi.

- Note:** The 2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 begins today. The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad will inaugurate this conclave in New Delhi. These event is being organized by the National Informatics Centre. This conclave will contribute immensely to the capacity building of Government officers across the country and help in delivering high-quality citizen-centric services. This year conclave theme is "Technologies for Next-Gen Governance".
45. A Conference of the Chief Secretaries and Administrator State and Union Territories on Census 2021 was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** A Conference of the Chief Secretaries and Administrator State and Union Territories on Census 2021 and updating of National Population Register, NPR was held in New Delhi. The data collected in the Census helps us in framing policies for the welfare of the people of the country. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also inaugurated the Official Mascot for Census 2021.
46. PM Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post at **Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal)**  
**Note:** Indian Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi along with the PM of Nepal Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post (ICP) Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal) through video conference. Jogbani – Biratnagar acts as an important trade point between the two nations and is equipped with modern facilities.
47. 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented across the country by **June 1, 2020**.  
**Note:** 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented by June 1, 2020 across the country. The announcement was made by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan.
48. Panel to create tougher law against sexual harassment at work will be headed by **Amit Shah**.  
**Note:** The Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Home Affairs (MoHA) Shri Amit Shah constituted to further strengthen legal frameworks to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, has now finalised the recommendations for it. The recommendations in brief are as follows:
49. The committee set up by Supreme Court to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation is headed by **Niranjan Bhat**.  
**Note:** The Supreme Court set up a panel headed by mediator Niranjan Bhat to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation, which would then be sent to the government as a suggestion from the apex court.



50. Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India was launched by **The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)**.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India. The project aims to reduce the hazards of Seismic activities by taking proper measures in major Indian cities and areas falling under high-seismic Zones IV and V. The project has been completed in the State of Sikkim and in other eight cities namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Dehradun Ahmedabad and Gandhidham.
51. Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology set up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The CoE has been set up with the aim of providing blockchain as a service and help all stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences and resources.
52. NITI Aayog signed MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects in **Ladakh**.  
**Note:** NITI Aayog and Union Territory of Ladakh sign MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects in Ladakh. It was signed between NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Dr Yogesh Suri and Adviser to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Umang Narula. The agreement was executed in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
53. South Central Zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU to provide doorstep banking with **State Bank of India**.  
**Note:** To provide doorstep banking services, the South Central Zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India. According to the MoU, the doorstep banking facility will be provided at 585 Railway Stations of the South Central Zone. The “doorstep banking” facility will enable direct pickup of earnings from the railway stations and will save the complex activity of cash movement through cash safes by trains.
54. 1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment Held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** 1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment Held in New Delhi. The 1st ever session of the India-Norway dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was held from January 15-16 in New Delhi. The session was conducted based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) which was signed by India and Norway on 8th January 2019 in New Delhi at time of Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg’s visit to India.
55. World’s largest meditation centre was inaugurated in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.  
**Note:** World’s largest meditation centre was inaugurated at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, Telangana. This centre is built to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heartfulness Institute. The meditation centre with a central hall and eight peripheral halls to accommodate 1,00,000 people will offer meditation training free.
56. Indian Railways has commissioned India’s 1st governmental waste-to-energy plant in **Bhubaneswar**.  
**Note:** Indian Railways has commissioned India’s 1st governmental waste-to-energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair workshop at Bhubaneswar under the East Coast Railway zone. It has been built at a cost of Rs 1.79 crore and has the capacity to dispose of 500 kg waste, including plastic and e-waste.
57. A festival to celebrate the spirit of India “Bharat Parv 2020” was celebrated in **Red Fort, New Delhi**.  
**Note:** A festival to celebrate the spirit of India “Bharat Parv 2020” has begun at Red Fort Ground in New Delhi. The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourist places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of ‘Dekho Apna Desh’.
58. India’s first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre opens in **Niger**.  
**Note:** India’s first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre opens in Niger. Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou inaugurated the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
59. **Telangana will** emerge as Number 1 state in the ‘Decent work and economic growth’ category Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India index in 2019.  
**Note:** As per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, India’s youngest state Telangana has emerged as Number 1 state in the ‘Decent work and economic growth’ category with the score of 82 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India index in 2019.
60. The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by **2022**.  
**Note:** The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by 2022 (which coincides with 75 years of Indian independence) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G) scheme. Under the 2nd phase of the scheme, the eligible people will get one crore 95 lakh houses. Government has set a target of 60 lakh houses for the current financial year-FY 20.
61. 12th edition of the South Asia Conference held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 12th edition of the South Asia Conference at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in New Delhi from January 28-29, 2020. The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India’s neighbourhood etc. The theme of the conference was India’s “Neighbourhood First” Policy: Regional Perceptions.

62. The Indian Railways has decided to provide 'Content on Demand Service on trains and railway stations from 2022.  
**Note:** The Indian Railways has decided to provide 'Content on Demand Service (CoD)' on trains and railway stations from 2022. With COD, passengers will be able to enjoy uninterrupted free subscription based entertainment service such as movies, shows, educational programs during their journey. They will also be able to enjoy high-quality buffer-free streaming on personal devices.
63. The final report submitted by the Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) headed by **Yudhvir Singh Malik**.  
**Note:** The final report of the Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) headed by Yudhvir Singh Malik has been submitted to the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari. The report stresses to improve the present training infrastructure, content, training methodology & to create linkages with world-famous international institutes and undertake applied research & related works.
64. The Assam Rifles (military unit) has constructed a war memorial "Veer Samriti" in **Nagaland**.  
**Note:** Assam Rifles (military unit) has constructed a war memorial "Veer Samriti" in Nagaland, Kohima for 357 Army & Assam Rifles personnel, who died while fighting insurgency in north-eastern state. It is first of its kind in Nagaland.
65. 1st ever Innovation festival was organized at **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Arunachal Pradesh state council for science & Technology (APSCS&T) in partnership with National Innovation Foundation organised the 1st ever Innovation festival at science centre IG Park, Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh. The two days festival aims to encourage the cultural innovation among the people and students of Arunachal Pradesh.
66. India's 1st Super Fab Lab facility was inaugurated in **Kerala**.  
**Note:** The Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated India's 1st Super Fab Lab facility at the Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM). The lab which will function in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States (US), will work in enhancing the hardware industry. It is the only such facility outside the United States (US).
67. The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 based on the theme "Connectivity", between India & Russia was held in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by India's Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan & was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in association with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation.
68. **France** will be the guest of honour at New Delhi World Book Fair for the year 2022.  
**Note:** France will be the guest of honour at the New Delhi World Book Fair in January 2022 as part of a reciprocal invitation as New Delhi is the guest of honour this year at Livre Paris (Paris Book Fair). Leading and emerging Indian authors will be invited to Paris to meet readers, while publishing industry professionals will enhance cooperation between France and India in this area during networking events.
69. The Department of Biotechnology has organized a 2-day long International Summit on Women in STEM—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Department of Biotechnology under the aegis of Ministry of Science & Technology has organized a 2-day long International Summit on Women in STEM—"Visualizing the Future: New Skylines" at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The aim of the summit is to increase the participation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field for development of scientific career.
70. India's first e-waste clinic was opened in **Bhopal**.  
**Note:** India's first e-waste clinic was opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The e-waste clinic was inaugurated by C K Mishra (Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, MoEFCC). The e-waste clinic was jointly set up by the Central Pollution Board Control -CPCB and Bhopal Municipal Corporation -BMC. The e-waste clinic is a 3-month project and if the project becomes successful then it will be established in other parts of the country also.

## December

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 **Maldives 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% 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 IGP 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 Kulashekrappattinam 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 24x7 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. 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.
  30. 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.
  31. **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.
  32. 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
  33. **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.
  34. **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.
  35. 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
  36. 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
  37. 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
  38. 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.
  39. **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
  40. 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.
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. 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 Tamilisai 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.
44. 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.
45. 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.
46. The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** conducted a two-day regional level **pollution response exercise** at sea off Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch -- **Swachchh 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.
47. 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.
48. 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
49. 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.
50. 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.
51. 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.
  52. 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.
  53. 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.
  54. 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.
  55. 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.
  56. 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.
  57. 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.

### November

1. **Census 2021**(16th) will be conducted in **two phases** (House-listing & Housing Census) during **April to September 2020**.  
**Note:** The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has recommended an amount of Rs. 8754.23 crore for conducting Census 2021 in 16 languages. The reference date for the census will be 1 March 2021. It will be 1st October 2020 for Snow-bound Jammu and Kashmir, some areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
2. Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated an **Agro-based Exhibition 'Agro-Vision-2019'** in **Nagpur**.  
**Note:** Agro-Vision exhibition comprises of National Agri-Exhibition Workshop for farmers and seminars. Small entrepreneurs who are engaged in the production of Agricultural machinery and components will be displaying their products at the stalls.
3. **India's two lakhs Gram Panchayats** will be connected with internet, broadband by March 2020.  
**Note:** The union Govt. has set a target to provide internet and broadband connectivity to two lakh Gram Panchayats by March 2019. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband and internet connectivity to all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country.
4. The **Film Bazaar** has been inaugurated by the **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** on the sidelines of the golden jubilee edition of the **International Film Festival of India**.  
**Note:** It has been organised by the **National Film Development Corporation**. The Film Bazaar encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities. Over the years, films such as Lunch Box, Margarita with A Straw, Chauthi

- Koot, Qissa, Miss Lovely, Dum Lagake Haisha and Thithi have been through one or more programmes of the Bazaar.
5. The **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** has delivered '**ICGS Amrit Kaur**', third in the series of five fast patrol vessels (FPV) to **Indian Coast Guard**.  
**Note:** ICGS Priyadarshini and ICGS Annie Besant are the first two FPV in the series which has already been delivered to ICGS. The last two FPVs namely ICGS Kamla Devi and ICGS Kanaklata Barua will be commissioned shortly, after successful sea trials.
  6. The three-day Global Bio-India Summit 2019 held at Aerocity, **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It will be one of the largest biotechnology stakeholder conglomerates held in India for the first time. It will bring academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.
  7. As per Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards, top-ranked state in the list is **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** Top-ranked district is Peddapalli (Telangana)
  8. The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** will operate and **manage luxury train**, Golden Chariot from **March 2020**.  
**Note:** The Golden Chariot Train (commenced operations in 2008) travels through one of the famous tourists and picturesque destinations of Karnataka, and Hamp (UNESCO world heritage site). It has 18 coaches with 44 guest rooms having a capacity for 84 guests. The train promises to offer world-class comfort, state-of-the-art amenities and enhanced and unforgettable experience to passengers.
  9. The two days **Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors (50th)** held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Conference discussed important thematic issues in various sessions. It includes tribal issues, reforms in agriculture, Jal Jeevan Mission, new education policy for higher education and governance for ease of living.
  10. The **2019 NuGen Mobility Summit** held at **Manesar, Haryana**.  
**Note:** The Theme of 2019 is "**Smart & Green Mobility**". The objective of the summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technologies trends for the faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced Automotive Technologies for a smarter and greener future.
  11. Union Minister for **Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has released a short documentary film on Water Conservation named '**SHIKHAR SE PUKAR**'.  
**Note:** The film has been made to promote '**Jalshakti Abhiyan**' and is based on the Journey of an **IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar**. Mr Ravindra Kumar climbed Everest this year to attract the attention of people from the top of the Everest on the serious issue of Water Conservation and stopping Water Pollution. It also picturizes the difficulties and challenges in climbing the highest peak in the world.
  12. The world's **biggest Islamic Congregation** 'Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima' held at **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** More than one million people from 54 countries are expected to attend the congregation which will continue till 25th November. It is a forum for delivering some important religious-spiritual messages to Muslims around the world. The first Alami Tablighi Ijtima took place in Bhopal in 1944 and only 14 people attended it then.
  13. Nitin Gadkari has released a booklet titled 'Convergence of National Highway improvement/construction with water conservation and groundwater recharge' at **Agro Vision-2019, Nagpur**.  
**Note:** The agriculture exhibition, Agro Vision show (4-Day) highlight the scope where the Indian agricultural sector can achieve new height of success. The theme of the 11th Agrovision has been aptly chosen as "Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development
  14. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **two-day Air Force Commanders' Conference** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Top commanders of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in it. They will discuss the operational, maintenance and administrative matters related to Air Force.
  15. The **US State Department** cleared the sale of **sophisticated naval guns worth USD 1 billion to India**.  
**Note:** The MK-45 guns will enhance India's naval capabilities, particularly in the Arabian Sea. The Gun System will provide the capability to conduct anti-surface warfare and anti-air defence missions while enhancing interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces.
  16. **Oxford Dictionaries** has named '**climate emergency**' as 2019 Word of the Year.  
**Note:** It also included 'climate action', 'climate denial', 'eco-anxiety', 'extinction' and 'flight shame'. The word is selected because it shows the increase in usage since 2018. Climate emergency defines as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change.
  17. **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched **Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awasth Portal (CLAP)** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The portal provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS) beneficiaries. Using the portal, a beneficiary can track his application status in real-time. The initiative would also benefit other stakeholders to work in synergy to release subsidy to beneficiaries on time.
  18. The **Indian Railways** has decided to introduce an **automatic train protection system** in its entire network of **68,000 km route**.  
**Note:** As a pilot project, the system would be implemented on **650 route km** of the golden quadrilateral corridor connecting the four metros - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.



19. **ISRO** has launched India's most **sophisticated Earth observation satellite** Cartosat-3 and 13 US nanosatellites from Sri harikota in Andhra Pradesh.  
**Note:** The launch enhanced India's ability in high-resolution imaging and also reinforce India as a global launch destination for small satellites using its workhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. According to ISRO, the 1,625 kg Cartosat-3 is an advanced agile satellite to obtain panchromatic and multispectral imagery with an operational life of five years.
20. Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** has inaugurated a two-day seminar "DEFCON INDIA 2019' in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of 'DEFCON INDIA 2019' is 'Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness'. The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness between the three services.
21. The Indian Navy will host military drill '**Milan 2020**' in March.  
**Note:** MILAN stands for 'Multilateral Naval Exercise'. 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
22. The Indian Railways has set up the Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) at **Secunderabad, Telangana**.  
**Note:** The institute was formally inaugurated by Vinod Kumar Yadav (Chairman, Railway Board. The new entity (IRIFM) will impart professional training in the management of railway finances). Rail Vikas Nigam Limited conceived and constructed the project, on a 14-acre campus at a cost of Rs 85 crore.
23. The Centre for **Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM)** has launched the **Water 4 Change**.  
**Note:** Under the project, six prominent institutions from the Netherlands will perform long-term research and field-level action on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists. The project will bring solutions for water problems in the cities of Kozhikode, Shimla, Bhuj and Bhopal. The CWRDM was established by the Government of Kerala to cater to the needs of research and development in water management of the state.
24. Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the 2019 Global Exhibition on Services (5th edition) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.  
**Note:** The inaugural function was also attended by Chief Minister of Karnataka B. S. Yediyurappa. GES is an annual event established by the Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
25. **G Sathesh Reddy** has been awarded honorary fellowship by **Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)** of United Kingdom (UK).  
**Note:** He is the first Indian recipient of the prestigious award in more than 100 years. It is one of the world's highest distinctions for aerospace achievement awarded for only most exceptional contributions to the aerospace profession. It is considered as equivalent to Nobel Prize in the aerospace domain.
26. The **sixth Dornier aircraft squadron** has been commissioned at Naval Air Enclave- Porbandar on Gujarat coast **Indian Naval Air Squadron 314**.  
**Note:** This squadron will operate the Dornier aircraft, a multi-role SRMR aircraft, with twin turboprop engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited, Kanpur.
27. The **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL)** became the first company to list its commercial papers on the stock exchanges.  
**Note:** The value date of the commercial paper is November 28 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.
28. Union Government has extended the date for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on National Highways to **15th December 2019**.  
**Note:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has equipped all Fee Plazas with Electronic Toll Collection System and to ease in availability of FASTag. It has also launched MyFASTag APP whereby all information regarding FASTag can be obtained.
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a 400 million-dollar Line of Credit of to **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** India gives priority to its relations with Sri Lanka under its Neighbour hood First' Policy.
30. Hallmarking for Gold jewellery and artefacts will be mandatory from **15th January 2021**.  
**Note:** More than 26 thousand jewellers have taken the Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS (Hallmarking) registration till now. If anyone is found violating the set rules after 15th January 2021, they may attract a fine of minimum one lakh rupees or five times the value of the items or a jail term of one year.
31. As per **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope** on Financial Inclusion report:  
**Note:** India placed among the top nations with the most conducive environment for financial inclusion in terms of allowing non-banks to issue e-money. The overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico have the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
32. **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **National symposium** to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of the symposium was "United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis". During the symposium, Dr. Harsh Vardhan signed a 'Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021'. The Lymphatic Filariasis is a disease caused by a human parasitic worm called Wuchereria Bancrofti and spread by Culex Mosquitoes.

- 33.** 5th Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations held in -- **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel co-chaired the 5th Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations to strengthen the "very close" relationship between the two countries. The two leaders also discuss bilateral issues including agriculture economic partnership, trade and investment.
- 34.** **Telecom Regulatory Authority of Indian (TRAI)** fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds on mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones.  
**Note:** The time duration of alert for an incoming voice call, which is neither answered nor rejected by the called party, shall be thirty seconds for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and sixty seconds for Basic Telephone Service. Telecom operators on their own were reducing incoming call ring time to attract reverse calls from the subscriber of other networks.
- 35.** According to a new academic paper- written by Santosh Mehrotra and Jajati K Parida, The total employment during 2011-12 and 2017-18 declined by - **9 million.**  
**Note:** It has been published by the Centre of Sustainable Employment at the **Azim Premji University.** The paper is based on both the recent "Employment and Unemployment" and "Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprise" survey data of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
- 36.** **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** is collaborating with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a space technology cell at the campus.  
**Note:** The cell will work for carrying out focused research projects in the space technology domain with specific deliverables. The IIT Delhi celebrating 50th Convocation on 2 November where Dr. K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO will be the chief guest.
- 37.** **Siemens Limited** has signed a MoU with NTPC Limited to identify, evaluate and set up reference use cases of hydrogen sector-coupling for various upstream and downstream applications.  
**Note:** The collaboration is aimed at developing **innovative technologies**, solutions and techniques to reduce the dependence on Hydrocarbons in India. Siemens has also inked a separate MoU with TERI for collaboration on technologies to support the energy transition in India including sector-coupling.
- 38.** **AYUSH Ministry** has Inaugurated **National Research Institute of Unani Medicine** for Skin Disorders.  
**Note:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders (NRIUMSD) in Hyderabad. It is upgraded institutions from the Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM).
- 39.** German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** pledged to invest **1 billion euros over the next five years** on environmentally friendly urban mobility in **India.**  
**Note:** Merkel, whose visit to the country coincided with one of the worst spells of air pollution in Delhi/NCR, also emphasized on the need to replace diesel-run public transport with electric vehicles. Germany would also put in 200 million euros to reform the bus sector in Tamil Nadu.
- 40.** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **5th India International Science Festival (IISF)** through video conference.  
**Note:** The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India - Research, Innovation and Science Empowering the Nation.
- 41.** The Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** unveiled two new IT Initiatives (**ICEDASH and ATITHI**) for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods.  
**Note:** ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports. The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.
- 42.** The first-ever **containerized cargo movement** via the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route and Brahmaputra river will start from **Haldia (West Bengal).**  
**Note:** The vessel MV Maheshwari, carrying 53 containers of petrochemicals, edible oil and beverage will take 12-15 days to reach the IWAI terminal at Pandu in Assam's Guwahati. National Waterway 2 (NW-2) is a section of the Brahmaputra River having a length of 891 km between the Bangladesh border near Dhubri and Sadiya in Assam.
- 43.** Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** has launched a first of its kind job **helpline number** (76260-76260) for the unemployed youth of the state under **Ghar Ghar Rozgar' programme.**  
**Note:** The objective of this helpline is to reach every house in Punjab. In this process, a 110-seat call centre of Punjab Job Helpline has also been created for the data to be prepared.
- 44.** The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'Dustlik-2019' has begun at Chirchiq Training Area near **Tashkent.**  
**Note:** The exercise enabled the sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and will lead to greater operational effectiveness.
- 45.** The **Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson** (45 minutes) and assembly of spectrometers was successfully achieved at the **Science City, Kolkata (IISF-2019)**  
**Note:** Over 1,598 students has participated in the event.

46. **Union Minister Prakash Javadekar** has attended the 15th meeting of the Governing Council of **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** in **Dhaka**.  
**Note:** The SACEP is an inter-governmental organization which was established in 1982. Its member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka aim to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
47. Italian movie **Despite the Fog** is the opening movie at the 50th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019.  
**Note:** The 100-minute film directed by Goran Paskaljevic narrates the tale of a child whose parents drown while trying to migrate to Italy in a rubber boat. The 50th edition of IFFI witnessed the screening of over 200 best films from 76 countries.
48. Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Sanjay Dhotre has launched the Shala Darpan Portal of **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti**.  
**Note:** Shala Darpan provides an integrated platform to meet the educational and administrative needs of all stakeholders-students, teachers and parents. This will integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas with a common standard which includes around 636 schools and 2.67 million students.
49. Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has released the fifth edition of **Wastelands Atlas - 2019**.  
**Note:** The Atlas, published jointly by Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.
50. **India** has decided not to be part of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement in the national interest.  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his speech at the RCEP Summit in Bangkok. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its six FTA partners (China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).
51. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Within Asia, EM was first recognized in Singapore in 1984, followed by the Philippines, Turkey, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand and India.
52. The union minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated state of **art railway station** in **Sultanpur Lodhi**. Punjab.  
**Note:** The railway station modelled on Sikh architecture has been engineered to facilitate pilgrims visiting the holy city. The Minister also released a book on the life and teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji to commemorate Guru Sahab's 550th Prakash Purb.
53. The Eleventh edition of **Bal Sangam** has begun in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The four-day festival will showcase enthralling folk and traditional performing arts and folk theatre dedicated to children. As many as twelve States including Assam, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat are participating in the event.
54. A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by **Supreme Court Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi** paved the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at **Ayodhya**.  
**Note:** It also directed the Centre to allot an alternative five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque at a prominent place in the holy town.
55. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Integrated check post of **Kartarpur Corridor** at Dera Baba Nanak in **Punjab**.  
**Note:** Mr. Modi flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims led by Akal Takhat Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the corridor. The corridor connects 'Dera Baba Nanak' (in Gurdaspur district-India) to the 'Gurdwara Darbar Sahib' (in Kartarpur in Narowal district of Pakistan). The Kartarpur Gurudwara (Darbar Sahib Kartarpur) is situated on the banks of river 'Ravi', considered to be the first gurdwara ever built.
56. **Indian Coast Guard** conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019).  
**Note:** It conducted this exercise to check the preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner. The two days event organised by the Coast Guard District Headquarters - 11 (Goa) comprised of search and rescue workshop and tabletop exercise followed by search and rescue exercise at sea.
57. India will be the host nation for the 'No Money For Terror' Conference to be held in **2020**.  
**Note:** The 'No Money For Terror' conference is organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of over 100 countries, jointly known as the Egmont Group.
58. The 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (eight-day) held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan inaugurated the festival at a glittering function at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in the city in presence of a galaxy of cine personalities and dignitaries of cultural and sports field. Noted film director Mahesh Bhatt referred the contribution of Bengal's Movies in the national perspective. 213 feature films and 152 short and documentary films from 76 countries will be screened in 17 venues during the film extravaganza.
59. The Golden Jubilee of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019** will screen three films for **differently abled**.  
**Note:** International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019 will have the screening of Accessible India Films. This is a

- collaboration between IFFI, Saksham Bharat and UNESCO with the aim to promote the creation of inclusive spaces for the differently abled to access the joy of cinema through Audio Deion. This unique film section will witness the screening of three films, two in Hindi - Lage Raho Munna Bhai and M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story and one in Konkani - Questao De Confusao in Konkani.
- 60.** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has organized the **27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) in Kolkata.**  
**Note:** The theme of this year's Conference "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
- 61.** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched its **first all-electric experimental aircraft** named-- **X-57 'Maxwell'.**  
**Note:** The first delivery of the all-electric experimental aircraft was taken from Empirical Systems Aerospace (ESAero) in California, United States (US). Due to current battery limitations, Maxwell's design is envisioned for use in short-haul flights as an air-taxi or commuter plane for a small number of passengers.
- 62.** The **Union government of India** has given **approval for setting up Four medical device parks.**  
**Note:** The **four parks** will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, **Telangana**, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. These parks will provide the necessary infrastructure, where companies can easily plug and play. The project of Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone for creation of Common Facility Centre (CFC) for Superconducting Magnetic Coil Testing and Research was given in-principle approval recently.
- 63.** The 50th- edition of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** showcase **Eight** movies from Russia.  
**Note:** 'Andrei Tarkovsky: A Cinema Prayer', is one of the movies to be featured among these Russian movies. The documentary by Tarkovsky is considered one of his masterpieces. It recounts the director's life and works told by himself. In the film, he shares his memories, view of art and reflections on the destiny of the artist and the meaning of human existence.
- 64.** Newly **discovered species** of spider named after **Sachin Tendulkar.**  
**Note:** Mr. Dhruv Prajapati is a research scholar from the Gujarat Ecological Education & Research (GEER) Foundation. One spider species was named after Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as "Marengo Sachin Tendulkar". The other was named as "Indomarengo chavarapater" after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who played a key role in creating awareness on education in the state of Kerala.
- 65.** The defence ministry is organizing Def-Connect to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The conference aims to bring together all stakeholders of the iDEX ecosystem, Ministry of defence, iDEX selected startups, Partner Incubators, Defence Innovation Organisation, Nodal agencies (Indian Army, Navy, Airforce), Defence Research
- 66.** The 39th edition of **India International Trade Fair (IITF-2019)** started at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The theme for the 39th edition of the fair is 'Ease of Doing Business' inspired by India's unique achievement of rising to 63rd rank on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index from 142nd rank in the year 2014. Several countries, including Australia, Iran, UK, and Vietnam will participate in the 14-day IITF-2019. This year the status of 'Partner Country' has been accorded to 'The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan' and 'The Republic of Korea' will be the 'Focus Country'. Bihar and Jharkhand will be the focus states in this edition of the fair.
- 67.** Air Chief Marshal **RKS Bhaduria** has inaugurated the **58th Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) Annual Conference** at **Bengaluru.**  
**Note:** The objective of the conference to address contemporary issues and applications in the subject of aerospace medicine. The theme for this year's conference is 'Changing Paradigms in Aerospace Healthcare'.
- 68.** Brazilian **President Jair Bolsonaro** will be the **Chief Guest** at the **Republic Day Parade 2020.**  
**Note:** The year 2018 was historic when leaders from the 10 ASEAN nations – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei – were the chief guests at Republic Day celebration. On 26th January 2020, India will celebrate its 71st Republic Day.
- 69.** India gets **USD 43 million** from Green Climate Fund to boost climate resilience.  
**Note:** India kicked-off a USD 43 million project to boost climate resilience in three coastal states in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund, established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist developing countries.
- 70.** **Mangala Mani** is the first woman scientist to spend 403 days in Antarctica.  
**Note:** Mani was part of an expedition team that went to Bharati – India's research station in Antarctica – in November 2016. She was the only woman in the 23-member-team that went to the freezing continent this time.
- 71.** The **Union Water Resources Ministry** has set up a Committee to draft a new **National Water Policy (NWP).** The Committee will be chaired by **Mihir Shah.**  
**Note:** The committee has **10 principal members**, including Shashi Shekhar, a **former secretary of Water Resources**, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board. The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987

- 72.** The Supreme Court has held that the office of the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is a public authority under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005**.  
**Note:** The judgment in this regard was made by a five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi on November 13, 2019.
- 73.** The first woman Assistant Naval Attache and second woman defence personnel to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment in Russia --- **Gogoi**
- 74.** The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It was jointly hosted by the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- 75.** India-U.S. tri-services amphibious exercise Tiger Triumph has begun at **Vishakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The training events will enhance U.S.-India military-to-military relations and hone individual and small-unit skills in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The exercise will include staff-planning events as well as field training that simulates moving a humanitarian assistance/disaster relief force from ship to shore.
- 76.** **CSIR- IMTECH, Chandigarh** has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote collaborative research.  
**Note:** The objective of this collaboration is to carry out state of the art research in areas of healthcare especially in projects and missions where both the institutes can significantly complement each other.
- 77.** Two-day **Regional Conference** on the theme: “**Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh**” has begun in **Jammu**.  
**Note:** The Conference is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- 78.** National Initiative for **School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)** was launched in **Jammu and Kashmir**.  
**Note:** The event was attended by around **300 teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and Chief Education Officers, DIET Principals and Educational Administrators**. NISHTHA is a National Mission aimed at improving learning outcomes at Elementary level through integrated Teacher Training
- 79.** **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has a set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit at headquarter in New Delhi.

**Note:** It has been set up to counter the growing menace of child porn on the internet. The new specialized unit under the Special Crime Investigation Wing of the agency will collect intelligence on those who are allegedly creating and transmitting such material on the internet.

- 80.** Smriti Irani Inaugurates Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) to Tackle **Malnutrition**.  
**Note:** The Poshan Atlas was inaugurated by Smriti Zubin Irani along with Bill Gates in New Delhi. The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones to help enable better nutritional outcomes. The Kosh aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children across the country, through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture
- 81.** President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the prestigious President's Colour to the Indian Naval Academy at **Kannur, Kerala**.  
**Note:** President's Colour is a visible symbol of excellence and is earned through worthy contribution both during war and peace.
- 82.** **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC)** has launched a special winter-grade diesel that remains unfrozen up to minus 33 degree Celsius.  
**Note:** The fuel would help provide year-round access to snow-capped border regions and is part of India's efforts to speed up strategic road connectivity.
- 83.** UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) has released a 28-page booklet called ‘**From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha**’.  
**Note:** It explains that nutritious food prepared at less than 20 rupees will help in dealing with problems like underweight, obesity and Anaemia in children. The book gives a detailed break-up of protein, carbohydrate, fat, total fibre, iron, vitamin C and calcium content of the recipe.
- 84.** The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in **Leh**.  
**Note:** The setting up of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) would provide an impetus for the revival of Sowa-Rigpa in the Indian Sub-continent. It will be an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- 85.** RSS Chief **Dr. Mohan Bhagwat** has inaugurated the International Principal's Education Conference (IPEC) at **Nagpur**.  
**Note:** Noted mathematician Anand Kumar (Super 30 founder) was honoured with Nachiketa Sarvottama Award on the occasion. Mr. Kumar dedicated this award to all the teachers who are working for the upliftment of underprivileged children.

## October

- 1. Aarambh:** The Centre's first-ever common foundation course for the 2019 batch probationer civil servants at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat.

**Note:** The theme this year is ‘How to achieve the goal of making India a 5 trillion Dollar economy.

2. **'Maharatna' status** has been granted by the Government to state-owned --- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited & Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.**
3. The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of loss-making telecom firms **BSNL and MTNL**
4. The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** observed the **Vigilance Awareness Week** -- 28th October to 2nd November 2019.
5. IIM Kozhikode and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd. have announced a special drive to support women entrepreneurs in the country -- "La Eve (meaning The Woman)"
6. **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** has launched a cinema advertisement campaign to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India -- **Feed Our Future.**
7. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched the postal stamp under the **'Corporate My Stamp'** scheme of India Posts.
8. NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the -- **India Innovation Index (III) 2019.**  
**Note:**
  - Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.
  - Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively.
9. National Highway No. 703AA renamed as -- **Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg.**  
**Note:** The road starting from Kapurthala connecting Goindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in Punjab.
10. India's longest Tunnel Chenani- Nashri on NH 44, in Jammu and Kashmir will be named after --- Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Bhartiya Jansangh Founder).
11. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off 'Sewa Service' trains -- 9.  
**Note:** The trains are – Delhi to Shamli, Bhubaneswar to Nayagarh town, Murkongselek to Dibrugarh, Coimbatore to Palani, Coimbatore to Pollachi, Vadnagar to Mehsana, Asarya to Himmatnagar, Karur to Salem, Yesvantpur to Tumkur.
12. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry launched

the 1st-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness – **eDantSeva.**

### 13. Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a four-day official visit to India –

- On 03<sup>rd</sup> October, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a four-day official visit to India.

### 33rd India Economic Summit in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was invited as the **Chief Guest at the 33rd edition of the India Economic Summit which was held in New Delhi.**
- The summit was organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The theme for the 2019 summit was 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.

### 14. India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express flagged off – Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off country's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express started its maiden journey from Lucknow.

- It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- All passengers travelling by Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be provided free insurance of up to **₹25 lakh by IRCTC.**

#### Note:

- In a first, IRCTC will offer a refund to travellers if the train gets delayed.
- If the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express delays for over an hour, passengers will get a compensation of ₹100.
- For delay of two hours and more, the passengers will receive ₹250.

### 15. Jaipur topped the list of cleanest railway stations in the country - 'Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019

- According to the 'Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019' report, Jaipur topped the list of the cleanest railway station in India.
- Three railway stations of Rajasthan have been included in the list of top clean railway stations in the country.
- In the Railway Cleanliness Survey conducted by the Ministry of Railways, Jaipur Junction has come first, Jodhpur railway station ranked second and Durgapura railway station ranked at the third spot.
- A total of 720 stations and were included in the survey.

- Since 2016, cleanliness survey is carried out by the Quality Council of India (QCI), an independent body.

Key points of the report - Top 10 cleanest railway station - The top ten railway stations include seven cities of Rajasthan.

- Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
- Durgapura (Rajasthan)
- Jammu Tawi
- Gandhinagar (Jaipur district)
- Suratgarh (Rajasthan)
- Vijayawada
- Udaipur (Rajasthan)
- Ajmer (Rajasthan)
- Haridwar

**Suburban stations** - Suburban stations were included for the first time in this survey.

- Andheri, Virar and Naigaon railway stations were the top three among 109 suburban stations.

**Best railway zone**

- The North Western Railway (NWR), headquartered in Jaipur, has been ranked the best among the 17 railway zones in the country.
- South Eastern Railway ranked at second place and East Central Railway ranked at the third spot in the list.

**16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declares India open defecation-free** – On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared India as Open Defecation Free (ODF).

- On 02nd October, 'Swachh Bharat Divas' program was organized in Sabarmati, Ahmedabad where PM Modi announced the country to be open defecation free.
- During the event, the PM Modi released commemorative Rs 150 coins on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- According to the PM Modi, under the massive, Swachh Bharat Mission India has built almost 11 crore toilets for about 60 crore people in just a period of 60 months.

**17. Titan MD Bhaskar Bhat retires** - The Managing Director (MD) of Titan company Bhaskar Bhat has retired after 33 years of service in the company on 30th September.

**Note: C.K. Venkataraman appointed new MD of Titan** - C.K. Venkataraman has been appointed as the Managing

Director (MD) of Titan company with immediate effect from October 1.

**18. CISF to set up permanent deployment at Baglihar Hydro Electric Power plant** – According to sources, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is all set to have a permanent deployment of more than 300 highly-trained personnel at Baglihar Hydro Electric Power plant in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Note:**

- Baglihar Dam also known as Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project, is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River in the Ramban district of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

**19. India's largest 'Charkha' made of waste plastic inaugurated in Noida** – Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated India's largest 'Charkha' made of Waste Plastic in Noida.

**Note:**

- This 'charkha' (spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- The 'charkha', which symbolises Gandhi's dream of Swadeshi (self-sufficing and self-reliance), measures 14ft, 20ft and 8ft and is made of 1,250 kg of used plastic.

**20. Amit Shah flags off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express** – Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express from the New Delhi Railway Station.

- This is the second Vande Bharat Express. The first one runs in between Delhi and Varanasi.

**Note:**

- Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is an Indian semi-high speed intercity electric multiple unit.
- It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.

**21. Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

- The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary today i.e. 2nd October 2019.
- The nation also remembers Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary.

**22. India will shift to Bharat Stage Six (BS-VI) vehicular emission norms from BS IV by April 2020** in order to curb vehicular pollution. This announcement was made

by the Environment and Forest Minister Mr Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.

23. **Government launches eDant Seva** – On October 7, 2019, the eDant Seva was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. It is an initiative under the National Oral Health Program.
24. **Ganga Aamantran initiative launched by Jal Shakti Minister** – Ganga Aamantran is an initiative to connect stakeholders of the Ganga river. It is the first effort of National Mission for Clean Ganga.
25. **Govt. launches PRAKASH Portal** – To bring better coordination for coal supplies among all stakeholders, PRAKASH portal was launched by Union Power Minister (Independent charge) Raj Kumar Singh and Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi.
  - PRAKASH stands for - Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony Portal

26. **Sarbat Da Bhala Express:** Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Harsh Vardhan and Harsimrat Kaur Badal flagged off 'Sarbat Da Bhala Express' train at New Delhi railway station.
  - The 'New Delhi-Lohian Khas-New Delhi Intercity Express' was recently renamed as 'Sarbat da Bhala Express' by Indian Railways.
  - The renamed train will run from New Delhi to Lohian Khas via holy city Sultanpur Lodhi.
27. **Kartarpur corridor:** Former PM Manmohan Singh has accepted Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's invitation to join the inaugural event of Kartarpur corridor.

### State Affairs February

1. Andhra Pradesh (AP) has launched a doorstep pension delivery scheme named '**YSR Pension Kanuka**'.  
**Note:** Under the scheme various welfare pensions will be delivered to the old age pensioners. The old age pensioners age has also been reduced from 65 to 60 years. The disabled pensions (DP) will be Rs. 3000 per month whereas the pension amount for CKDU (Chronic kidney disease of unknown)/dialysis pensions will be Rs. 5,000-Rs. 10,000 per month.
2. Sale of all types of online lottery schemes has been launched by the state of **Punjab**.  
**Note:** The govt of Punjab has banned the sale of all types of online lottery schemes under section 5 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act 1998 in order to check for illegal sales. The act will not only check illegal lottery business but will also boost Punjab's tax and non-tax revenue.
3. 34th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela was held in **Haryana**.  
**Note:** The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs. The main motto of this mela is to promote handicrafts, rural crafts, arts and the culture of the country and also to bring our country's heritage among new generations.
4. The Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsa 2020 was conducted by **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Madhya Pradesh Government conducts the Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsa 2020 from 31st January to 2nd February 2020 in the beautiful plains of Amarkantak, MP during Narmada Jayanthi. The Narmada is a major source of drinking water, irrigation & hydroelectricity for Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat.
5. The Janasevaka scheme is launched by **Karnataka** state.  
**Note:** The government of Karnataka launched the Janasevaka scheme in certain municipal corporation wards to provide home delivery of various government services like ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards, etc. The scheme is launched by the chief minister of Karnataka Mr. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, and the scheme will contain 53 services from 11 departments.
6. The first of its kind in the country, glass floor suspension bridge is being built in **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** Uttarakhand government has cleared the design of a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. It is being built as a replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).
7. For the first time **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to use drones for mapping villages.  
**Note:** This will replace the land survey work, done either manually or with the help of satellite images. In this regard, state revenue department inked an agreement with Survey of India, the country's national mapping agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
8. The highest number (33,964) of women who go missing in India are from **Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** This is as per the report titled 'missing women and children in India' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It is an Indian government agency



- responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data. the number of missing children are maximum (10, 038) in the State of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the year 2016, 2017 & 2018.
9. The Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana scheme has been launched by **Haryana Government**.  
**Note:** Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar and Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Dushyant Chautala of Haryana jointly launched the scheme. The scheme is about providing financial assistance of Rs. 6000 to the families below the poverty line. and the amount will be transferred through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to Bank accounts.
  10. **Kerala** state unveiled an initiative of setting up 1,000 'Kudumbashree' hotels to provide subsidised meals at Rs 25.  
**Note:** While presenting budget for 2020-21, Kerala's Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac has unveiled an initiative of setting up 1,000 'Kudumbashree' hotels to provide subsidised Kerala meals at Rs 25. In this regard, a budget hotel in each of the 1034 local bodies will be set up. Kudumbashree has also entered into an agreement for manufacturing products such as umbrella, coconut products and curry powders on cluster basis and selling it through the outlets of the Civil Supplies Corporation.
  11. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the 1st Disha Police Station in the State at **Rajamahendravaram**.  
**Note:** The Disha Police station has been established to provide speedy justice to female victims of sexual assaults and other heinous crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The CM also launched an app for women in distress to get immediate response from the police. The new police station will deploy counsellor, mobile kits to gather medical and scientific evidence, and care takers to help the victims who come to the station.
  12. First Helicopter Services under UDAN Scheme has been launched by **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat along with Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) jointly Inaugurated the 1st ever Helicopter services from Dehradun's Sahastradhara helipad to Gauchar and from Sahastradhara to Chinyalisaur. This was launched under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik of Government of India. The main objective of this Helicopter Services is to Improve the Aerial Connectivity of the Hilly areas in the Country.
  13. To inculcate reading habits among students 'Reading Mission' has been launched by **Haryana**.  
**Note:** Kanwar Pal, Haryana education minister, launched 'Reading Mission- Haryana' to inculcate reading habits among students. The mission has been launched based on the Central Government's "Reading Mission -2022" & aims to address the lost glory of reading books.
  14. **Gaurela-Pendra-Maewahi** becomes the 28<sup>th</sup> district of the Chhattisgarh.  
**Note:** Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh, inaugurated Gaurela-Pendra-Maewahi as the 28th district of the state. The new district, carved out of Bilaspur, has 3 tehsils (taluk) & 3 development blocks namely Gaurela, Pendra and Marwahi. The new district comprises 166 gram panchayats, 222 villages and two nagar panchayats with an area of 1,68,225 hectares.
  15. Name the region Tamil Nadu to be declared as Protected Agricultural Zone -- **Cauvery Delta Region**.  
**Note:** Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswamy announced that special team will be formed to produce special law to make the Delta region as a Protected Zone. Districts like Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Delta regions of Trichy, Karur, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai are included in the Protected Zone. Only Agro based Industries are allowed in the Protected Zone.
  16. To improve the falling level of ground water the Ground Water Act-2020 has been approved by **Uttara Pradesh govt**.  
**Note:** The cabinet has also approved the provisions of penalty and punishment against the person who contaminate the ground water level. Under this new act, online registration will be mandatory to install submersible pumps. Domestic consumers and farmers will not have to pay any fee for this registration.
  17. To establish revolutionary changes in the agriculture sector through technology & sustainable increase in farmers' income using organic and natural farming processes an MoU has been signed with 11 agricultural institutions in the country by **Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Chief Minister Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy supervised the exchange of MoUs in Amaravati, AP, between the state Agriculture Department and institutions, the Indian Council Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Institute of Plant Health Management, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Central Fertiliser Quality & Training Institute, National Seed Research & Training Institute. CM also announced 11,158 Rythu Bharosa Kendras will be set up across the state by June 2020, which will be administered by agriculture, horticulture, veterinary and aquaculture assistants to guide farmers in best practices.
  18. **Puducherry** becomes the 1st UT to pass resolution against CAA, NRC, NPR in Assembly.  
**Note:** The Puducherry Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR). Chief Minister (CM) of the Union Territory Puducherry, Velu Narayanasamy

moved the resolution & demanded the withdrawal of these legislations from the Central Government. Assembly Speaker VP Sivakolundhu said that the proposal

has been unanimously accepted. With this, it has become the first Union Territory (UT) to pass a resolution against the CAA.

### January

1. Indian e-commerce company **Flipkart** has signed an agreement with MoHUA to support DAY-NULM.  
**Note:** Flipkart has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to support the ministry's 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)'. Under the MoU Flipkart will sell the products made by women self-help groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) on the e-commerce platform. The e-commerce company will collaborate with state missions to establish the 'Flipkart Samarth programme' in 22 states in India.
2. The **Andhra Pradesh government** is planning to introduce **door-delivery** of sand from **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**.  
**Note:** As a pilot project, it is to be started from in Krishna district on an experimental basis and then extend it. Under this initiative, the AP government will deliver sand at doorsteps and collect transportation charges from the customers. In order to make the initiative successful, the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation will stock 15 lakh tons of sand per month for the next four months.
3. The **Kerala Government** has passed a resolution to roll back the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**.  
**Note:** According to the Government of Kerala, the act was against secularism and has triggered widespread protests in the country. The act also dented India's image among the international community. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 was passed in December 2019. The act amended the Citizenship act passed in 1955. It allows Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, and Parsi religious minorities to gain Indian citizenship.
4. **The Pacific nation of Palau** has become the first country in the world to ban sunscreen that is harmful to corals and sea life.  
**Note:** From **January 1**, sunscreen that includes ingredients like **oxybenzone** and **octinoxate** is no longer allowed to be worn or sold in the Palau. The **compounds are commonly** used in sunscreen formulas as they absorb ultraviolet A rays. The pristine islands, which have a combined population of about 20000, are a famed diving location, and their lagoon is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.
5. UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has launched a dedicated women helpline -- **Damini**.  
**Note:** It will boost women's safety in Roadways buses. As an extension of "Nirbhaya Yojana" of the central government a unique number, "81142-7777", has been subscribed for the helpline. By using this 'Damini' helpline women passengers can lodge their complaints by calling or by using WhatsApp service.
6. Entire Nagaland declared 'disturbed area' for six more months under -- **AFSPA**.  
**Note:** The entire state of Nagaland has been declared a disturbed area for a period of six months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA. The Act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.
7. Assam state zoo first to breed endangered -- **Hargila**.  
**Note:** Hargila is currently on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss stemming from indiscriminate felling of big trees and dwindling wetlands. The Endangered Greater Adjutant stork is one of the rarest species of Storks out of twenty species of Storks in the world. In India, eight species of residential storks are found, out of which Greater Adjutant is one of them.
8. 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative launched by the **Maharashtra** Government.  
**Note:** Maharashtra Government has launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to these cyber-criminal activities. Under the initiative, various awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety to help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes. The initiative has been launched to mark the 189th birthday of Savitribai Phule (19th-century social reformer).
9. Andhra Pradesh govt has appointed as Special Officers for implementing the 'Disha Act 2019' in the state -- **Dr Kritika Shukla and M Deepika**.  
**Note:** The Act is intended for speedy trial and faster execution in cases of sexual offences against women in the state. The AP Disha Bill prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC. To ensure a speedy trial, the state

- will set up exclusive special courts in all the 13 districts to deal with cases of offences against women and children including rape, acid attacks, stalking, voyeurism, social media harassment of women, sexual harassment and all cases under POCSO Act.
10. **Uttar Pradesh** Govt. has become the 1st state to shortlist migrants for citizenship.  
**Note:** Uttar Pradesh is all set to become the first state in the country to start the exercise of shortlisting migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, eligible for citizenship under the new Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The exercise will also identify those who are living illegally in the state. All 75 district magistrates have been asked to track down migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who have settled here for decades, without citizenship.
  11. Zo Kutpui Festival organized in **Mizoram**.  
**Note:** The Mizoram state government will be organizing Zo Kutpui (festival) in at least 10 states across India and countries such as the US, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. The first edition of the festival will start on January 9 in Vangmun in Tripura and will be held over three days. The festival will then move to other states which have a significant Mizo population.
  12. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched an AI-powered learning platform NSE Knowledge Hub in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The hub will assist insurance, banking, and financial services. The hub has adopted the latest technology of Artificial Intelligence.
  13. Women Science Congress held in **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** DRDO Aeronautical Systems Director General Dr. Tessy Thomas who is known as Missile Woman of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The women's science congress aims to provide a single platform for women working in different arena of science and technology to showcase their achievements and experiences. It will also prepare a vision document or a road map for women in science and technology and recommend policies to enhance the role and utilize the full potential of women in science and technology.
  14. ISRO to set up Human Space Flight Centre in **Challakere, Karnataka**.  
**Note:** The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will establish a Massive Human Space Flight Center in the Challakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. For this ISRO has proposed 2,700 crores of the infrastructure plan to construct the facility that will become operational in three years.
  15. **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has decided to observe 2020 as the "Year of Mobility" for the welfare of the troops.  
**Note:** It will focus on the construction of residential units and the implementation of welfare measures for the troops. In the year 2020, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will aim at creating the infrastructure for their families.
  16. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched a portal to strengthen public participation in governance --**Himachal MyGov portal**.  
**Note:** He also launched the Chief Minister App. MyGov Himachal would help people to communicate their views, suggestions, feedback as well as discontentment if any. MyGov Himachal Portal and Chief Minister App would bring the administration closer to people and ensure two-way communication between the government and the people. Himachal with the launch of this app has become the 11th state to have this facility.
  17. As per the report released by the **National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Jammu and Kashmir** has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country.  
**Note:** As per the report, the 96 percent IPD care in rural areas of J&K is provided by Public Health Facilities which is highest against the country's average of 85 percent. In 2016, Jammu and Kashmir had surpassed Kerala as the state with the highest life expectancy in India for all ages, barring life expectancy at birth.
  18. The Gujarat govt. has announced to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) in **Gandhinagar**.  
**Note:** Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) will identify, nurture and promote children's innovation in the state. Children's Innovation Festival has been organized by Gujarat University Start-ups and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC).
  19. The fourth 'Buxa Bird Festival' has begun in Buxa National Park in **Alipurduar, West Bengal**.  
**Note:** Over 50 birdwatchers from across the country and abroad have registered for the 2020 edition of the four-day festival. More than 300 rare species including the Great Hornbill, Sultan Tit and Greater Spotted Eagle visit the national park during this period. Bird enthusiasts watch and click photographs of the migratory birds that come from colder regions in the northern hemisphere.
  20. The famous chariot festival of the Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple is being held in **Tamil Nadu**

- Note:** The ten-day annual festival is held in the Tamil month falling in December - January. The temple is especially significant because it is sacred to both the Shaivite as well as Vaishnavite sects. This 17th-century temple is famous for its architectural grandeur.
21. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has inaugurated the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit -- **AASHVAST**.  
**Note:** He also launched Video Integration and StateWide Advance Security-VISWAS project. The Cyber Crime Prevention Unit-AASHVAST will have a dedicated service helpline for victims of cyber-crimes
  22. **Meghalaya** sate celebrates 48th anniversary of statehood day on 21st January.  
**Note:** Meghalaya celebrates their 48th anniversary of statehood day on 21 January. The Meghalaya Day celebration will continue till the Republic Day celebration. In 1971, the Parliament passed the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971, which conferred full statehood on the Autonomous State of Meghalaya.
  23. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in **Panaji, Goa**.  
**Note:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in Panaji, Goa. This inaugural event of 'Fit India Cyclothon' organised by Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and Government of Goa. This event is organized with the aim to get the people involved in outdoor activities and starting a cycling culture in the state.
  24. Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the state will be celebrated on March 6, 2020 in **Mizoram**.  
**Note:** Government of Mizoram will celebrate Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the Mizos, on March 6, 2020. Chapchar Kut is a spring festival celebrated usually in March after completion of the Jhum cultivation. Jhum cultivation, also known as the slash and burn agriculture, is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
  25. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) to red-listing of orchids by **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Arunachal Pradesh inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) to red-listing of orchids. Arunachal Pradesh has become the 1st state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'red listing' at the state level.
  26. The famous Parshuram Kund Mela was organized in **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The famous Parshuram Kund Mela begins in Arunachal Pradesh. Parshuram Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage centre situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River. Thousands of pilgrims visit the place in winter every year, especially on the Makar Sankranti day for a holy dip in the sacred kund which is believed to wash away one's sins.
  27. **Andhra Pradesh** sate Cabinet clears the Proposal for three capitals.  
**Note:** Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has passed Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive development of All Regions Bill-2020 for the tri-capital system. The bill proposes to make Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Amaravati as the legislative capital and Kurnool as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. The aim behind this bill is decentralised administration that will result in socioeconomic progress at equal levels. Now the bill is presented before the legislative council.
  28. Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in **Assam**.  
**Note:** Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in Assam. Magh Bihu falls in the local month of 'Magh' during mid-january. It is also called 'Bhogali Bihu' or 'Maghor Bihu' as it is celebrated with community feasts after the annual harvest takes place.
  29. The 1st edition of the Krishi Manthan 2020 which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.  
**Note:** The 1st edition of the Krishi Manthan 2020 which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on December 28-29, 2019. The event was organised by the Food and Agribusiness Committee of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA).
  30. Nagoba Jatara tribal festival was celebrated in the state of **Telangana**.  
**Note:** Nagoba Jatara tribal festival was celebrated in the state of Telangana. The festival is prominently celebrated in Keslapur village, Indervelly Mandal, Adilabad district of Telangana. It is the 2nd biggest tribal carnival which is celebrated by the tribal people from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh belonging to the Mesaram clan of of Gond tribes.
  31. 'Direct Consent to operate (CTO) scheme for green industries' has been launched in **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami, announced a new scheme, 'Direct Consent to operate (CTO) scheme for green industries' to get faster clearances from government for green category industries. The scheme was announced at the 125th year celebrations of the Confederation of the Indian Industry (CII) held in Chennai, TN.
  32. 1st virtual police station has been launched in **Odisha** state.  
**Note:** The Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the state's 1st virtual police station at

State Crime Record Bureau in Bhubaneswar, which will facilitate online registration of FIR (first information report) in unknown motor vehicle theft cases. If a case remains undetected for 21 days, the final form will be automatically reflected at the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS).

33. Women with Wheels' cab service has been started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi by 'Sakha cabs' for the safety of women.  
**Note:** The taxis are operated by women drivers and the services are provided only to women or men with family. The cab had been installed with GPS (Global Positioning System) and panic button to help the women drivers & women passengers.
34. After Maharashtra which state government has made it mandatory for schools to read the preamble of the constitution every Saturday -- **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The govt of Madhya Pradesh has made it mandatory for schools to read the preamble of the constitution every Saturday under the name sovereignty of constitution. This has been done to make the students understand the basic principles of justice, equality, liberty & brotherhood.

Earlier Maharashtra govt made the reading of the constitution's preamble mandatory in all primary and secondary schools.

35. **Andhra Pradesh Govt.** has adopted a resolution to abolish the legislative council.  
**Note:** Andhra Pradesh (AP) cabinet has adopted a resolution to abolition the legislative council, which the government feels is a major hurdle for passing crucial bills. This cabinet chaired by the chief minister (CM) YS Jaganmohan Reddy.
36. Maharashtra government has made reading Preamble of the Constitution mandatory in schools.  
**Note:** Reading of the Preamble of the Constitution has been made mandatory for the Maharashtra schools by the government of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra government has mandated the reading of Preamble of the Constitution after prayer in all primary and secondary schools in Maharashtra. The above decision will be implemented from 26 January 2020 through a programme "Sovereignty of Constitution, the public interest of all". power stations in the private domain as well.

## December

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.

22. 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
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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
27. **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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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.
33. **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.
34. **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.
35. 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.
36. 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.
- 37. 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.
- 38. 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.
- 39. 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.
- 40. 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.
- 41. 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
- 42. 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.
- 43. 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.
- 44. 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.
- 45. 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.
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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.

49. 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.
50. 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.
51. **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.
52. 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).
53. 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
54. 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.
55. 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.
56. 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.
57. 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.

## November

1. President **Ram Nath Kovind** laid the foundation stone to the memorial being built in memory of the Paika rebellion.  
**Note:** A 200-year-old armed revolt in 1817 against the British East India Company in Odisha. The proposed project will come up at the foothills of Barunei hills in Khurda district, Odisha
2. The **Assam** Govt. has released the new Land Policy 2019.  
**Note:** The Land Policy has been prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department after 30 years. (last prepared in 1989). According to Mr. Sonowal, the state government has given a lot of emphasis in preparing the Policy to safeguard the interest of the indigenous people.
3. The **Centre and Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement to extend **91 million US dollar** loan to modernize the **Vijayanagara Channel Irrigation Systems**.  
**Note:** It prepares river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin. It will help improve irrigation water



- use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka. The investment programme will help Karnataka's water agencies better draw up and roll out effective river basin management plans.
4. A three-day **Global Buddhist Congregation** has begun at Nagsenvan in **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has delivered two lectures in the Congregation. Buddhist monks and followers of the religion from across the globe arrived here to attend this Congregation
  5. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'Destination North East' Festival in **Varanasi**.  
**Note:** All 8 North-East states have been presented at the event along with their handicrafts, handloom, organic products and cultural troupes. The visitors will have live experiences of the artisans and artists from the NE states working on their looms and crafts, performing their songs and dances in the open stage during the day.
  6. The **Assam** Government will start Arundhati gold scheme by January 2020 for the registered newly married couples.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, an amount of 30 thousand rupees will be given to the bride to purchase gold. According to Assam Finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the scheme is aimed to promote marriage registrations and prevent under-age marriages in the state. The annual income of the bride and her father should not be more than **5 lakh rupees per year** to get the benefit.
  7. The **Kerala Government** has decided to ban the **manufacture, sale and storage** of one-time-use **plastic items** from 1st of January 2019.  
**Note:** Plastic carry bags, plastic sheets, cooling films, plastic plates, cups, thermocol and Styrofoam-based items and others will be covered under the ban. A fine of 10,000 rupees will be slapped on manufacturers, wholesalers and small traders who defy the ban. If the ban is violated for the second time, the fine will be 25,000 rupees.
  8. Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** has inaugurated the week-long **Manipur Sangai Festival 2019** at **Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal**.  
**Note:** During the festival, cultural programmes, traditional games, folk dance and classical music will be performed by different communities of the State as well as from other States. The festival will conclude on the 30th of this month.
  9. Uttar Pradesh Health & Family Welfare Minister **Jai Pratap Singh** has launched a massive **immunisation campaign** against the **filariasis or Filaria**.  
**Note:** Under this campaign, more than 65 thousand teams of health workers will distribute medicines to around 6.5 crore people till 10 December. This year, state's 19 districts have been divided in double drug and triple-drug categories in which they will be provided DEC tablet, Albendazole and ivermectin.
  10. **Gujarat Govt.** has announced a relief package **3,795 crore rupees** for farmers who **suffered crop** loss due to unseasonal rains.  
**Note:** The relief package will help more than 56 lakh farmers across the state. According to Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, total package (1,641 crore rupees) will be given through a budgetary provision and 2,145 crores under the State Disaster Response Fund. Farmers will get assistance in the range of 4,000 rupees to 13,000 rupees
  11. The **Madhya Pradesh** Govt has announced that sports persons of the state will get **5% reservation** in government jobs.  
**Note:** The Minister also announced that children from all CBSE, government and private schools would be involved in the Under 16 state-level Olympics. At present, the competition is being organized for children above 16 years of age. It includes 10 sports (hockey, basketball, football, volleyball, kabaddi, kho-kho, athletics, wrestling, badminton and table tennis).
  12. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated the 8th **National Tribal Craft Mela** at State Tribal Museum Complex in **Bhubaneswar**.  
**Note:** As a part of Odisha Government's '5Ts' initiative, 45 Supplementary Readers prepared in 21 Tribal languages were released simultaneously by CM Patnaik. The objective of the National Tribal Craft Mela is to preserve, promote and popularize traditional tribal art and crafts.
  13. **Uttar Pradesh**, Etawah Lion Safari opened for public without the lion segment.  
**Note:** The Safari has been inaugurated by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan. It is spread in 350 hectares of land and has been developed as an educative tourist destination for children as well as youths. It is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia, spread over an area of 350 hectares (860 acres).
  14. The **Uttar Pradesh government** will set up state's **first vulture conservation** and breeding centre in **farenda area of Maharajganj district**.  
**Note:** The new centre will be set up on the lines of Jatayu Conservation Centre at Pinjore in Haryana (first in the country). It would be set up in association with Bombay Natural History Society, a wildlife research organization.
  15. The **Chhattisgarh** state is set to have **Guru Ghasidas National Park** in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'.  
**Note:** At present there are three tiger reserves in state:
    - Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Bilaspur.
    - Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariaband,
    - Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur district.

16. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved the 2nd tranche of USD 150 million for **West Bengal**.  
**Note:** The board of **ADB approved** a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal to revive the financial health of public sector enterprises.
17. **Assam** Government has prohibited manufacture and sale of gutkha, **pan masala** or any others chewing material in the state.  
**Note:** According to Food Safety commissioner, manufacture, storage, sale, display and transportation of any products containing tobacco or nicotine are banned in the state for one year.
18. Shipping Ministry gave approval for the development of Loktak Inland Waterways improvement project in **Manipur**.  
**Note:** The estimated cost of the project is over 25 crore rupees. The Loktak Lake is the largest fresh-water lake in Northeast located at Moirang in Manipur.
19. According to the Election Commission, **Jharkhand assembly** polls will be held in five phases **between 30<sup>th</sup> November to 20 December**.  
**Note:** As per the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, the polls to 81-member assembly will be held on November 30, December 7, 12, 16 and 20. The counting of votes will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Jharkhand was formed in the year 2000 by dividing Bihar into two-state.
20. The **National Tribal festival** (15-day Aadi Mahotsav) held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of the festival is a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce.
21. The French Development Agency (AFD) and **Assam** govt. have signed an agreement for supporting Phase II of Assam Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC).  
**Note:** The total budget for the second phase is Rs 500 crore. The project was launched in response to the threats posed by deforestation, poaching and over-dependence of local communities on forest resources.
22. The Indian Railways has installed two 'Health ATMs' at the Charbagh railway station in **Lucknow**.  
**Note:** The kiosks, promoted by YOLO Health ATM, provide 16 health check-ups for Rs 50-100. There are two types of check-ups a 9-minute one that costs Rs 100, and a 6-minute one that costs Rs 50.
23. Sanskrit lovers from **17th countries** are attended the three-day mega event in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** According to Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan, Sanskrit continues to be prevalent in the society as it is used by the people across the country.
24. **Cyclone Bulbul** claims at least ten lives and affected **2.73 lakh families** as it hit the coastal districts of **West Bengal**.  
**Note:** The cyclone has also damaged hundreds of houses. Nearly two lakh people have been moved to relief camps set up in nine places of the state. Hundreds of uprooted trees have blocked thoroughfares in Kolkata and its fringe areas.
25. **Gujarat Govt.** has given approval to the world's first **CNG terminal** at Bhavnagar port.  
**Note:** The joint venture of United Kingdom-based Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group will invest 1,900 crore rupees to set up a CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port. Proposed CNG terminal will have an annual capacity of 1.5 metric tonnes.
26. As per Maharashtra Governor's **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** recommendation, **President Ram Nath Kovind** signed a proclamation imposing **President's rule** in **Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** The state legislative assembly has been kept under suspended animation. In India, the president's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct central government rule in a state.
27. Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has launched an **online registration portal** to facilitate setting up of new **MSME units**.  
**Note:** Mr. Rupani approved the **first online application** through the portal and issued a certificate through an **e-mail** to a woman entrepreneur.
28. The **Supreme Court** upheld the disqualification of **Congress-JD (S) MLA** who had resigned this year **17 MLAs**.  
**Note:** Now, the Supreme Court allowed them to contest the election. The speaker of legislative assembly Ramesh Kumar had disqualified 17 rebel MLAs before the confidence motion of the HD Kumaraswamy government in the assembly. Kumaraswamy's government resigned after failing to get a trust vote in the assembly.
29. The **Haryana government** has decided to bring more crops under its '**Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY)**' scheme.  
**Note:** The decision was taken at a BBY's review meeting which was presided by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Under BBY scheme, farmers get compensated for selling their crop at a price lower than that fixed by the government
30. Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** visited Arunachal Pradesh to attend the Maitree Diwas celebrations (11th edition) at **Tawang**.  
**Note:** Maitree Diwas (Civil-Military Friendship) will be celebrated for two days at Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Stadium Tawang. Mr. Rajnath Singh will also inaugurate Sisseri River Bridge and National Highway-52 in East Siang District.
31. **Haryana Government** has constituted an **Economic Advisory Council (EAC)** for **five years to promote industries** in the state.  
**Note:** The **Economic Advisory Council** will comprise membership-based advisory panel and will be headed by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. This council

- would be constituted for 5 years, in which the government members would remain as permanent members of the council, while the members of the private sector would serve a term of 2 years.
32. The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a dedicated web portal and a mobile application for sugarcane farmers of the state -- **e-Ganna App**.  
**Note:** The web portal and e-Ganna App will help in eradicating cane mafia and middleman and strengthen cane development societies. The portal and the App will ensure transparency in the process of getting slips and facilitate sugarcane supply by farmers to mills and check irregularities.
  33. The **Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** has launched a mobile app '**Sishu Suraksha App**'.  
**Note:** The purpose of the app is to empower citizens to take moral responsibility for protecting future generations. The app can be used by anyone in the state to lodge a complaint which will be directly registered at Commission.
  34. **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**Note:** The Union government also planning to introduce another scheme called 'Amma Vodi' in January 2020 to give incentives to others who send their children to school and continue their education till class 12. In the first phase, the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme will be implemented in 15,715 schools. It will cover all schools in three years under a budget of Rs 12,000 crores.
  35. Karnataka Chief Minister **B. S. Yediyurappa** has inaugurated the Bengaluru Tech Summit at **Bengaluru Place**.  
**Note:** More than 3500 delegates, 12,000 visitors and 200 speakers are participating in this Summit. 250 Exhibitors will showcase their services, products, and technologies to visitors. The summit is expected to be attended by global tech leaders, investors, industry captains, research heads, policymakers and startups from India and 20 foreign countries.
  36. UP Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has inaugurated North India's first sugar mill in Gorakhpur (Pipraich area).  
**Note:** North India's first sugar mill will produce ethanol direct from sugarcane. Ethanol is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes and is commonly consumed as a popular recreational drug.
  37. The two tea varieties of Darjeeling (**green tea and white tea**) have been registered as a geographical indication (GI) products in the country.  
**Note:** These two varieties of Darjeeling tea have been registered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999 (effective from October 2019). This will "strengthen the protection of the intellectual property rights of the Darjeeling tea" which is considered as "niche and luxury" products in the country and abroad.
  38. Union Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched 'SAANS' campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia in **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** Mr. Vardhan launched the campaign while inaugurating the **6th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations** in Gujarat. The objective of the **SAANS campaign** to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% of deaths annually of children under the age of five.
  39. Union Minister for Rural Development **Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated the SARAS India International Trade Fair in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** More than seven crore women have joined Self-Help Groups so far and the Ministry is making all efforts to take this number to 10 crores.
  40. The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan amount **USD 91 million** under Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program (IWRM).  
**Note:** The project will help to modernize the Vijayanagara Channel irrigation systems, prepare river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin that will help improve irrigation water use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka.
  41. India's **biggest cinematic event**, the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has begun in **Panaji, Goa**.  
**Note:** Rajinikanth has been conferred with the Special Icon of **Golden Jubilee award** for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. French actor Isabelle Huppert honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. **Russia is the partner country** of the IFFI 2019.
  42. **Directorate of School Education (DSEJ), Jammu** has launched a special enrollment drive under the banner 'Aao School Chalein' for increasing the enrollment in government schools.  
**Note:** As per the Directorate of School Education, the special enrollment drive would be conducted across all the villages and catchment areas of the government schools, under the supervision of chief education officers of all the districts of Jammu Division. The prime focus of the drive is on the strengthening of pre-schooling of children in the age group of 3 to 5 years.
  43. **Assam Govt.** has approved **Arundhati scheme** to provide 1 Tola Gold to Brides free of cost.  
**Note:** This scheme to give 1 tola Gold (11.66 grams) to brides parents belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society, whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh. The objective of the scheme to reduce child marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act that a girl in India can't get married before the age of 18 and a boy cant get married before 21 years of age

- 44. Uttarakhand** govt. has launched a project to connect 500 secondary schools to virtual classrooms.  
**Note:** The schools in the state facing a shortage of teachers will benefit from the new technology. Virtual classes are attended through video conferences where students can meet the teacher on a real-time basis and ask questions. An estimated 1.90 lakh students of 500 government-run secondary schools in the state will benefit from the project
- 45. Haryana Government** has decided to create a dedicated new department namely Department of **Foreign Cooperation**.  
**Note:** The department has been created in order to streamline and provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state government for the promotion of

investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians. The new department will deal in the formulation of country-wise strategies for the promotion of investment, employment in the state, education and skill development and promotion of Haryanvi culture and welfare of Haryanvi diaspora.

- 46. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has inaugurated the newly established Munderwa Sugar Mill in **Basti district**.  
**Note:** Munderwa mill will have a capacity of 5000 Tons of Cane per Day and generate 27 Mega Watt of power. It will be the third inauguration of sugar mills in the state in just three weeks (Ramala in Baghpat and Pipraich in Gorakhpur).

## October

- India's first e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal** – The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
  - “Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.
- PMJAY – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** – According to data available with the Union Health Ministry, in its first year, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the tertiary care arm of Ayushman Bharat, has funded the treatment of 90,000 cancer patients through 1.8 lakh hospital admissions.
  - Tamil Nadu, with 40,056 cases, tops the state where the most cancer patients availed treatment under PMJAY, followed by Kerala (22,000), Madhya Pradesh (19,455), Chhattisgarh (15,997) and Gujarat (14,380).
- Meghalaya govt. signed agreement with Dalmia Cement to turn plastic waste into Fuel** – The Meghalaya state government signed an agreement with Dalmia Cement a cement company, to make the state plastic-free by 2022.
- Odisha govt. & UNICEF launched 'Tikki Mausi' mascot** – The Department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) unveiled a mascot named 'Tikki Mausi'.
  - Aim - to spread awareness about nutrition of children and women.
  - The mascot- 'Tikki Mausi' aims to change the behaviour of common people and make them aware about child and woman's nutrition and development in every household.
- No govt. jobs in Assam for people with more than two children:**
  - The State Cabinet of Assam has decided to make government jobs out of bounds for people with more than 2 children. The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021.
  - The Cabinet also adopted a new land policy that will make the landless indigenous people eligible for 3 bighas (43,200 sq. ft.) of land for farming and half a bigha for constructing a house.
  - The beneficiary will be able to sell the given land only after 15 years of use.
- First Robot Chef Restaurant opens in Odisha:**
  - Odisha's smart city Bhubaneswar gets its 1st Robo Chef Restaurant in Odisha.
  - The Robot Restaurant opened at the Infocity DLF tower of Bhubaneswar claims to be the first restaurant in Eastern India where two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged.
  - The robots are developed at a Jaipur-based startup using SLAM technology, and it automatically navigates like humans, follows the routes and instructions.
- Madhya Pradesh CM inaugurates "Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference":**
  - Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath formally inaugurated the 2-day

Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference in Indore.

- The event showcasing various opportunities that exist in the state in variegated sectors, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, textile and garment, warehousing and logistics, IT &ESDM, urban development and renewable energy.
- Chief Minister Kamal Nath also inaugurated the Global Trade Exhibition at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore.

**8. Tamil Nadu constitutes two panels over water disputes with Kerala:**

- The Tamil Nadu government constituted two committees to deal over water disputes with Kerala relating to the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) and the Pandiyar-Punnampuzha project.
- Secretary of Tamil Nadu's Public Works Department (PWD) K. Manivasan would lead

both the committees constituted by the State government. Cauvery Technical Committee chairperson R. Subramanian is also part of both the panels

**9. Shirui Lily Festival inaugurated in Manipur**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated Shirui Lily Festival, 2019 at Shirui Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in Manipur.
- Mr Patel along with State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh also inaugurated the Strength of Unity Statue as a mark of opening the third edition of the four-day state festival.
- This joint efforts of the State Government and Central Government can only promote tourism and culture of a region to the level of people's expectation.

**International Affairs**

**February**

1. In the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report-2019, released by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania, United States (US), India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at **27<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:** As per the report India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at 27th place among 176 global think tanks. The report was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) of US.

2. **Maldives** has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family.

**Note:** The Maldives became the 54th family member of the Commonwealth family. In November 2018, President Mohamed Solih, cabinet passed the country's interest to rejoin the Commonwealth family. After the positive feedback from Commonwealth observer group, who visited Maldives in April 2019 & from 53 commonwealth nations, Maldives readmitted.

3. Which country ends free entry for Indian tourists -- **Bhutan**.

**Note:** The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for "regional tourists" from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020. The fee is called SDF "Sustainable Development Fees" in order to regulate a new tourism policy

4. In the 8th International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020 India slips to **40<sup>th</sup> rank**.

**Note:** The US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020. The report was

authored by Meir Pugatch and David Torstensson. The index has been topped by the United States (US) followed by UK (United Kingdom), Sweden, France and Germany.

5. A new Children's protection fund for India was unveiled by the Prince of **Britain**.

**Note:** Britain's Prince Charles unveiled a new Children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust. He announced Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson (Katy Perry), American singer as the new ambassador for the British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund for India. The British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund will protect the child from child labour, child sexual abuse, anti-trafficking fund in South Asia.

6. 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance is being launched by **the United States**.

**Note:** The Alliance will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world. It was announced by US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. More than eight in ten people in the world today live in a place where they cannot practice their faith freely. So, in order to provide them religious freedom, this alliance has been launched.

7. **Sri Lanka** has celebrated its 72nd Independence Day on 4th February 2020.

**Note:** On this day, Sri Lanka became an independent nation after getting independence from Britain. The major change in the celebration ceremony was the National Anthem of Sri Lanka as it was sung only in Sinhala and not

in Tamil language. The national anthem was used to be sung in both the languages since 2016.

8. Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as new Prime Minister of **Iraq**.  
**Note:** Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as Iraq's new Prime Minister by President Barhim Salih. He will replace Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests. Mohammed Allawi served twice as communications minister under Former PM Nouri al-Maliki. The 2019 Iraq Protests was also named as Tishreen revolution (October revolution) or Iraqi Intifada.
9. The United Nations has released USD 30 million for humanitarian operations in **Syria**.  
**Note:** Syria's Idlib province has received additional USD 30 million for the humanitarian operations from United Nations' (UN) Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). It has been informed by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock UN Security Council meet in New York, United States (US).
10. According to the Global Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Business School Rankings 2020, The rank of Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB) is **third**.  
**Note:** This is the first-ever Business School rankings based on the provision of MOOCs. MOOC Labs published ranking for the business schools globally who are providing MOOC courses. 16 business schools across the world offers open online courses on 3 major MOOC platforms- Coursera, edX and Futurelearn.
11. Fifth Edition of Joint Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior -2020 is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.  
**Note:** 120 Army Individuals each from Indian and United Kingdom Armies will participate in this Exercise and the Next Edition will be conducted in India, vice-versa. The Main Aim of this Exercise is to conduct Joint Training Operations with High number of Soldiers and also giving Special Importance on Counter Terrorists operation in Urban and Semi Urban Areas. Training on handling of Modern Weapon Systems and Equipment and Simulator based Training have also been Planned.
12. The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially renamed Coronavirus as '**COVID-19**'.  
**Note:** "co" stands for "corona", "vi" for "virus" and "d" for "disease", while "19" was for the year, as the outbreak

was first originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019. Earlier the WHO had given temporary name for the virus as "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease" & China's National Health Commission named it as "novel coronavirus pneumonia" or NCP. The new name had been picked to avoid references to a specific geographical location, animal species or group of people and was pronounceable and related to the virus.

13. The 43rd session of the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 was held in **Rome, Italy**.  
**Note:** The theme of this year is "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". The event, opened by President of the Republic of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, witnessed interactive sessions on how IFAD's role and experience in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritious and efficient food systems place it in a unique position to contribute to eliminate hunger.
14. Astronaut **Christina Koch** returned to Earth after record stay in space.  
**Note:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after her record stay in space. With her 328 days stay in space, she has surpassed Peggy Whitson's record for an American woman on a single spaceflight at 289 days.
15. The **Mobile World Congress** was cancelled due to coronavirus fears which was scheduled to be held in **Barcelona**.  
**Note:** The Mobile World Congress, the annual telecoms industry gathering that draws more than one lakh visitors to Barcelona, was cancelled over coronavirus fears. The event was hosted by the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) telecoms association. The decision comes after dozens of tech companies and wireless carriers dropped out, with the latest cancellations by Nokia, Vodafone, Deutsche Telekom and Britain's BT.
16. **Rishi Sunak** has been appointed as the Finance Minister of the United Kingdom.  
**Note:** He will replace Pakistani Chancellor Sajid Javid. Now three Indian origin Members of Parliament are a part of Britain's most diverse cabinet led by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Along with Rishi Sunak, Priti Patel has been appointed as the Home Minister and Alok Sharma has been appointed as the Business Secretary in the British Cabinet.

### January

17. President of Nepal has launched a much-awaited Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign at historic Dasaratha Rangashala **Kathmandu**.  
**Note:** The ambitious campaign is aimed to promote tourism in Nepal and attract 2 million tourists during the year 2020.

Visit Nepal Year 2020 will create a new image of Nepal in the hearts and minds of the world community. Mythical creature Yeti has been selected as a mascot of the campaign.

**18. The annual report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):**

**Note:** UNICEF has named the last decade as "Deadly Decade" because as per the report, the number of attacks on children since 2010 has increased to three-fold. The world agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world says that in 2018, around 24,000 grave violations were recorded against children and the number has gone up highly to 1,70,000 in 2019. This includes abductions, killing, sexual violence, maiming, child recruitment, denial of humanitarian access and attacks in schools and hospitals.

**19. Piyush Jaiswal** has been awarded the Global Bihar Excellence Award 2019.

**Note:** The award was given to recognize and felicitated Piyush Jaiswal's contribution towards social welfare, women empowerment and introducing new talent in the field of arts and culture. This award was presented by Rajya Sabha MP and Padma Shri Awardee Dr. CP Thakur and Bihar Women Commission president Dilmani Devi in Patna to promote women empowerment.

**20. Indian Army to sign MoU for AK-203 assault rifles with Russia.**

**Note:** The Army is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles from Russia. As per the MoU, around 1 lakh rifles are to be received directly from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India. The rifles will be manufactured at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh by a joint venture (JV) called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL). Of the JV, 50.5% is to be owned by India and 49.5% by Russia.

**21. Naval Exercise 'Naseem-Al-Bahr' will be conducted in Goa.**

**Note:** 12th edition of the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise "Naseem-Al-Bahr" will be conducted in Goa. To participate in it Two ships of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), RNOV Al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab arrived at Mormugao Port on January 06, 2020. Along with these ships, Indian Naval Ships Shubhadra and Beas will also participate in the exercise. Naseem-Al-Bahr' (or sea breeze) naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the RNO, being conducted since 1993.

**22. Iranian Parliament** has approved a triple-urgency bill that designates the US army and the Pentagon as a **Terrorist entity.**

**Note:** Iran's IRGC's Quds Force Commander General Soleimani and Iraq's Popular Forces Commander Abu Mahdi al-Modandis, as well as eight other military men, were killed by the US Army. 233 MPs repeated the words of the speaker, Ali Larijani, warning US President Donald Trump to await the consequences of his actions.

**23. Cabinet approves 'In Principle' strategic disinvestment of equity shareholding of 4 PSUs in Neelachal.**

**Note:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given 'in principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of equity shareholding in 4 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) &

2 Odisha State PSUs in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL). The 4 CPSEs includes Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), MECON, Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) and National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).

**24. The first phase of the world's second-largest Muslim congregation after Haj began on the outskirts of Dhaka.**

**Note:** Thousands of devotees from Bangladesh and abroad are thronging the bank of river Turag at Tongi near Dhaka to participate in the congregation called Bishwa Ijtema.

**25. 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in Davos, Switzerland.**

**Note:** The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum begins in Davos, Switzerland. On the Indian side, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the delegation to the WEF. This year programme will focus on achieving the maximum impact on the Forum's platform for public-private cooperation. This year 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum theme will be "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".

**26. Microsoft** company has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030.

**Note:** The US tech giant Microsoft has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030. The announcement has been made in the form of its increased efforts to combat the climate change. The company announced that it vows to eliminate all the carbon emissions created by the company since its inception in 1975.

**27. Robert Abela** elected as 14th prime minister of Malta with 57.9% of the vote.

**Note:** Labour Party candidate Robert Abela elected as 14th prime minister of Malta with 57.9% of the vote. He defeated his closest rival Chris Fearne. He will replace Joseph Muscat, who resigned over the murder of a journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia.

**28. The 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2020 was held at Abu Dhabi, UAE.**

**Note:** Recently the 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES)2020 hosted by Masdar renewable energy company, was held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from January 13-16, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment".

**29. World Health Organisation (WHO) released the Global challenges for 2020 and identified health challenges in this decade were -- 13.**

**Note:** The World Health Organisation(WHO) released the Global challenges for 2020. 13 health challenges in this decade were also identified.

**30. As per the 9th edition of Tomtom Traffic Index 2019 which city is emerged as the worst traffic congested cities in the world -- Bengaluru.**

**Note:** Dutch multinational developer & creator of location technology and consumer electronics Tomtom has released its 9th edition of Tomtom Traffic Index 2019. As per the

index, Bengaluru (Karnataka) emerged as the worst traffic congested cities in the world. Along with Bengaluru, 3 more Indian cities were ranked in the top 10 list. The other Indian cities ranked in the top 10 places were Mumbai (Maharashtra), Pune (Maharashtra) and New Delhi in the 4th 5th and 8th places respectively.

31. **WHO** has declared novel Coronavirus(nCoV) as a global health emergency.  
**Note:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared novel Coronavirus(nCoV) as a global health emergency during the second meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019 held in Geneva, Switzerland. The outbreak which was more prominent in China has now continued to spread to other countries too.
32. **Bangladesh** has launched e-passport facility.  
**Note:** Prime Minister (PM) of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed has launched e-passport in Dhaka, Bangladesh as Mujib Century year gift to the country. Bangladesh is the first country in South Asia and 119th countries in the world to have an e-passport facility. Malaysia is the first country in the world to launch this facility in 1998.
33. Country's exit from European Union has been approved by the EU Parliament -- **Britain**.  
**Note:** The European Union parliament has approved United Kingdom Brexit deal. European Parliament has voted

overwhelmingly to approve the Brexit deal with London, clearing the final hurdle for Britain's departure from the EU. The vote was 621 to 49 in favour of the Brexit deal that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson negotiated with the other 27 EU leaders. UK will not have any say in policy as it will not be a member of the EU anymore. Britain is the first country to leave the EU.

34. **Britain** has launched a £4 Mn (about Rs 37 crore) 'Innovation Challenge Fund' in India.  
**Note:** The government of UK (United Kingdom) has launched a £4 Mn (about Rs 37 crore) 'Innovation Challenge Fund' in India at an event in Pune, Maharashtra. The fund is focused on 2 main tech platforms including artificial intelligence (AI) and big data in Karnataka and future mobility in Maharashtra. The fund, which is one of several new initiatives of the UK-India Tech Partnership, is aimed to boost industry and academia to collaborate & develop tech solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges in India.
35. **United Kingdom** has unveiled the new 50 pence coin to mark the country's departure from the European Union (EU).  
**Note:** Britain has unveiled the new 50 pence coin to mark the country's departure from the European Union (EU). The coin bears the inscription "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" and the Brexit date of 31 January 2020.

## December

36. 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.
37. **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).
38. 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.

39. 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.
40. 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.



- 41. 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.
- 42. 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
- 43. 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.
- 44. 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 traffics conditions and potential dangers quickly.
- 45. 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).
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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

November

1. The researchers of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden have developed **Diarrhea vaccine**.  
**Note:** Science journal, The Lancet, reports that it has been proved safe and effective in an early-stage clinical trial in Bangladesh. The report said that 80 to 100 per cent of the children aged two to five years and 50 to 80 per cent of infants aged six to eleven months, selected for the study responded to all key immunity generating components of the vaccine.
2. There is no vaccine yet for use for children and vaccine development for Diarrhea is a World Health Organization Bangladesh's State minister of cultural affairs **KM Khalid** has inaugurated the **Ocean Dance Festival 2019** in Cox Bazar of **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** **Ocean Dance Festival** is the largest international dance festival of Bangladesh in which more than 200 dancers, choreographers and scholars from 15 countries are participating. The theme of this year's festival is 'Bridging the distance' or Durotter Shetubandhan. The festival is being organised by the Nriyajog which is the Bangladesh wing of World Dance Alliance (WDA).
3. Maldives' former president **Abdulla Yameen** has been found guilty of money laundering and sentenced to five years in prison.  
**Note:** The five-judge bench of the criminal court unanimously concurred that Yameen is guilty on the charge of laundering state funds for personal gain. He was accused of over 1 million dollars deposit in his bank account by a company that was used to channel resort acquisition fees.
4. Pakistan's Supreme Court **General Qamar Javed Bajwa** granted a six-month conditional extension to Army chief.  
**Note:** Current Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army Mr. Bajwa (since 29 November 2016) continue as the Army chief for another six months. The Chief of Army Staff is appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and final confirmation by the President of Pakistan.
5. India will set up 12 hi-tech parks at a cost of USD 193 million in **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** According to High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, these hi-tech parks will provide training to 30,000 youth of Bangladesh as skilled IT professionals.
6. The 35th ASEAN Summit held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan -O-Cha inaugurated this summit at IMPACT convention complex. The theme of the summit is 'Advancing Partnership for sustainability'.
7. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** represented India at a meeting of the council of heads of government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in **Tashkent**.  
**Note:** The SCO is an influential regional security grouping which is seen as a counterweight to NATO. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation, which was founded in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in the year 2001.
8. Russia's newest nuclear submarine was successfully test-fired a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from **White Sea off Russia**.  
**Note:** The Knyaz Vladimir, or Prince Vladimir, fired the missile from underwater that landed on target on the Kamchatka peninsula in far eastern Russia.
9. The biennial **Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference** held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka 2019**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad is representing India at the conference. The theme of the event: "Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law". Purpose of the event: It seeks to address challenges faced by millions of people seeking to resolve legal problems or disputes.
10. Sudan's **first-ever satellite** for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by **China**.
11. Union Minister for Housing and **Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri** has inaugurated a new Guru Nanak Chair at **University of Birmingham**.  
**Note:** Mr. Puri also announced the new Chair to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak, during his visit to Birmingham where he delivered an Annual Lecture on the Contemporary Relevance of Guru Nanak's Teachings.
12. The **Ministry of Tourism** has participated in the three-day-long **World Travel Market (WTM)** in **London, UK**.  
**Note:** The theme for India Pavilion at WTM 2019 is 'Incredible India - Find Incredible India'. This year, the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the Statue of Unity are also being promoted and publicized in the India Pavilion at WTM 2019.
13. Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has co-chaired the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation in Moscow.
14. The US- Bangladesh Navy exercise '**Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019**' started in **Chattogram**.  
**Note:** CARAT is one of the U.S. Navy's longest continually running exercise in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Assistant chief of naval staff (operations) Bangladesh Navy rear admiral M Makbul Hossain was present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony.
15. According to **US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**, The US has announced the increase of H-1B work visa application fee by **10 US Dollars**.  
**Note:** The non-refundable fee will support the new electronic registration system to make the H-1B cap selection process more efficient. Petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions will first have to electronically register with the USCIS during a designated registration period.

16. Iran and Russia inaugurated a new phase of construction for a second reactor at Iran's sole nuclear power plant in Bushehr.  
**Note:** The reactor is one of two officially under construction since 2017 at the Bushehr site. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal Iran signed with six major powers, including Russia, placed restrictions on the sort of nuclear reactor Tehran could develop and its production of nuclear fuel.
17. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attend the inaugural Ministerial session of **Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference**.  
**Note:** The Minister is scheduled to meet his UAE counterpart Minister of Energy and Industry, Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei. Both the countries will discuss issues of bilateral hydrocarbon as well as steel sector engagements.
18. BRICS trade ministers meeting has been started in **Brasilia**.  
**Note:** MoU on trade and investment promotion between agencies of all the 5 BRICS countries will be signed after the meeting. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal is leading the Indian delegation.
19. The fifth edition of **Global Exhibition on Services (GES)-2019** will be held at **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** The Global Exhibition on Services is an annual event which aims to engage industry and governments across the world and to promote greater exchange of trade in services between India and the rest of the world. GES 2019 is an attempt towards escalating the Indian services bar in the global arena, encompassing participation from 100 countries and hosting sector-specific knowledge sessions. India is looking to attract investments and partnerships in strategic areas like aviation and space programme, infrastructure, and telecom projects.
20. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in **Brasilia**.  
**Note:** BRICS Business Forum will enhance the business collaborations between BRICS countries and deepen the relations with the New Development Bank. The theme of the Summit this year is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future".
21. **India** will host **19th SCO Heads of Government Council** in 2020.  
**Note:** It is the first such high-level meeting of the eight-member grouping to be organised by New Delhi after its admission into the grouping in 2017.
22. The 6th ASEAN **Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with 17 other Defence Ministers of ADMM-Plus countries are attending the meeting.
23. As per latest Global Bribery Risk Index, **Bangladesh** has been identified as the "country with the highest risk" in terms of bribery threats in South Asia.  
**Note:** India has been ranked at 78th in the Global Bribery Risk Index out of 178 countries. In South Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the bribery risk is "high". The five countries with the lowest bribery risk in the world are New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.
24. **Pakistan** has become the 1st country to introduce the new vaccine to combat typhoid.  
**Note:** Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce World Health Organisation-recommended typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) in its national immunisation program. It will initially be used during a two-week immunisation campaign starting from 18 to 30th November in the urban areas of Sindh.
25. 1st Indo-Qatari joint Naval Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) held in **Doha**.  
**Note:** The Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) between the Indian Navy and Qatari Emiri Naval Forces has been started in Doha to enhance interoperability between the two navies. From the Indian side, Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS Trikand and Patrol Aircraft P8-I are participating in the exercise.
26. As per World Talent Ranking (WTR), for the year 201, India was ranked at **59th position**.  
**Note:** In the released report, India was ranked at 59th position, a slip by 6 places on a global annual list of 63 countries. The top 10 countries that followed Switzerland (1st) were Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Austria (4th), Luxembourg (5th), Norway (6th), Iceland (7th), Finland (8th), Netherlands (9th) and Singapore (10th).

## October

1. **Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador** – The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples.  
**Note:** She is the first indigenous Mexican woman to be so recognized by the US Academy Awards
2. **Palestine has released a commemorative** postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his legacy and values, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the world leader.

3. **PM Modi inaugurates Metro Service and ENT hospital in Mauritius** – The Indian Government has granted \$275 million for the Metro Express project and a grant of \$14 million for the new Hospital Project.
4. **Typhoon ‘Mitag’ hits Northern Taiwan**
5. **Mahatma Gandhi’s 80-year-old Letter wishing Jews ‘Era of Peace’ Unveiled** – The National Library of Israel unveiled an 80 – year old handwritten letter by Mahatma Gandhiji on the day World War II broke out. He had wished the Jewish people an era of peace in his letter.
  - The letter was written by Gandhiji on the occasion of Jewish new year, that is, on September 1, 1939.
6. **World Space Week: 4-10 October: Important Facts** – World Space Week is the largest space event on the Earth. More than 80 countries are participating commemorating the week this year
  - This year Theme: **The Moon: Gateway to the stars.**
7. **FATF report on money laundering:** The Asia – Pacific Group of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) slammed Pakistan as the later failed to take actions against terror groups.
  - On 5th October, 2019, the group published report on Money Laundering and terror financing in Pakistan.
8. **Nizam Funds case: India wins £35m worth case at UK court** – India has won a decades-old legal dispute over funds belonging to the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad at the UK Court.
  - The High Court of England and Wales, in a landmark judgement on October 2, 2019, ruled in favour of India and the Nizam's descendants and dismissed Pakistan's claims in a legal battle involving £35m.
  - The judgement was delivered by Justice Marcus Smith. The court ruled that those claiming in

right of Nizam VII- his grandsons and India were now entitled to the Nizam Funds.

#### Background –

- Nizam VII, Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of Hyderabad had transferred a sum of 1 million pounds for safe-keeping to Pakistan’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola, in 1948.
  - The money was transferred from the state of Hyderabad’s bank account to Rahimtoola’s account in UK’s National Westminster Bank.
  - The amount, which has now grown in value to 35 million pounds or Rs 306 crore, continues to remain in the UK bank.
9. **Ecuador to withdraw from OPEC in January 2020** – Ecuador has announced to withdraw its membership from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from 1 January 2020.
    - Ecuador joined OPEC in 1973 had earlier withdrawn from the bloc in 1992. However, it rejoined the organization in 2007.

#### About OPEC –

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 14 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- It was founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members.
- OPEC headquartered is in **Vienna, Austria.**

## Sports News

## February

1. Goa 2020 National Games unveils official Mascot as **Rubigula**.  
**Note:** 'Rubigula', Flame-Throated Bulbul, has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games in Panaji, Goa. The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. Goa will be hosting the 36th edition of the National Games from 20th October to 4th November 2020.
2. **Novak Djokovic** has won the Men's single title at Australian Open 2020.  
**Note:** Novak Djokovic from Serbia inched closer to Spain's Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer from Switzerland on the list of male tennis players with most Grand Slam titles after capturing a record-extending 8th title at Australian Open. Novak Djokovic has become only the 3rd man to win at least 8 titles. Novak Djokovic beat Austrian Dominic Thiem in five sets to successfully defend his Australian Open men's singles title in Melbourne, Australia.
3. **Sofia Kenin** won the Women's single title at Australian Open 2020.  
**Note:** Australian Open is the first of the four annual Grand Slam events among the world's major tennis championships. The grand slam Australian Open is held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. In Australian Open 2020, Sofia Kenin defeated Garbiñe Muguruza to win the Women's Singles title.
4. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended weightlifter -- **Ramshad AR**.  
**Note:** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended weightlifter Ramshad AR for a period of 2 years after being found guilty of violating the anti-doping rule. He was examined by the Doping Control Officer of NADA during the 71st Men's National Weightlifting Championship.
5. American tennis player **Abigail Spears** has been banned for 22 month for doping by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).  
**Note:** The ban was announced on spears after she failed the doping test from the 2019 US (United States) open match. Prohibited substances such as prasterone and testosterone were found during the test. Spears has won 21 women's doubles titles in her career and has also won the mixed doubles title of 2017 Australian open.
6. 13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup won by **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** 13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, an international limited-overs cricket tournament was held in South Africa from 17 January – 9 February 2020. It was administered by International Cricket Council (ICC) & 16 teams participated in the cricket tournament with a total of 48 matches played between the teams. The Finals were held at the JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa between Bangladesh & India. Bangladesh's youth team defeated India by three wickets in a thrilling match in the final.
7. ICC Women's Championship trophy 2020 won by **Australia**.  
**Note:** The Australia's team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning (also known as Meg Lanning), which also won this trophy last time (ie 1st edition 2014–16). With this, Australia making it to the Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand 2021. The ICC Women's Championship has given hosts New Zealand and four top teams a direct place in the World Cup 2021.
8. **Aditya Mehta** has won the men's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.  
**Note:** Indian snooker player, Aditya Mehta has won the men's title in Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020 held at PYC Hindu Gymkhana in Pune , Maharashtra. Aditya Mehta, who represented the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), has defeated several-time world champion Pankaj Advani with 6-2 scores and won the title.
9. **Vidya Viswanathan** has won the women's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.  
**Note:** Indian snooker player, **Vidya Viswanathan** has won the women's title in Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020 held at PYC Hindu Gymkhana in Pune , Maharashtra in the women's snooker finals, Karnataka's Vidya Pillai defeated Ameer Kamani of Madhya Pradesh with 3-2 scores. This is the 10th National Snooker title of Pillai.
10. **Armand Mondo Duplaints** made a new world record in pole vault by jumping a height of 6.17 meters.  
**Note:** Mondo Duplaints jumped a height of 6.17 meters on his 2nd attempt at the World Athletics Indoor Tour meeting in Torun, Poland. Duplaints was born on 10 November 1999, at Lafayette, Louisiana, United States (US). Renaud Lavillennien's, french-player, record was 6.16 meters in February 2014 in Donetsk, Ukraine.
11. **Virat Kohli** retained his top position in the International Cricket Council Men's test ranking 2020 released on 11th February 2020.  
**Note:** Pakistan batsman Babar Azam, who scored a century in the first Test match against Bangladesh, has jumped two places to 5th in test batting rankings with 800 points. Cheteshwar Pujara has dropped one place to 7th position from 6th. At the same time, David Warner (Australia) has come in 6th place. Ajinkya Rahane remains in the top 10 and holds the 9th position.
12. The 54th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament title was won by **Indian Navy**.  
**Note:** Indian Navy, Mumbai (Maharashtra) has defeated South Central Railway (SCR), Secunderabad. The tournament was organised by Mumbai Hockey Association Limited (MHAL).

January

- 1. lawn bowls and cycling games** will be included in the 3rd edition of the 'Khelo India youth games'.  
**Note:** The 3rd edition of the games is going to start from 10th January 2020 in Guwahati Assam. Around 6500 athletes from 37 teams are expected to take part. The cultural events from Assam, North East and rest of the country will be held from **13th to 15th January**. The exhibition of indigenous games will also be held. He said a mega inaugural ceremony is being planned at Sarusajai.
- The 5th Ice **Hockey Association of India (IHA) National Ice Hockey Championship -2020** held in **Leh, Ladakh**.  
**Note:** The tournament will continue till 7th January in Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink in Leh, where the Army, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and home team Ladakh are fighting for the championship in U-20 boys category. Similarly, in Girls category Ladakh, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Chandigarh are playing for the championship.
- Former India skipper **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was picked as captain of ESPN Cricinfo's ODI and Twenty20 teams of the decade.  
**Note:** Virat Kohli was named the leader in Tests. Kuldeep Yadav, and Yuzvendra Chahal, were the only other Indians to make the Test XI. Former skipper Mithali Raj and fast bowler Jhulan Goswami were named in the same women's team picked for both the ODIs and T20s. Australia's inspirational cricketer, Meg Lanning was named the captain of the side.
- Magesh Chandran has** won the Hastings International chess title.  
**Note:** Indian Grand Master P Magesh Chandran has won the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress in Hastings, England. France's Romain Edouard, who was the only player to end the tournament a half-point behind Chandran, took the second spot. The US-based Chandran posted six wins and secured three draws to take the top spot.
- Bhubaneswar** will host the first Edition of Khelo India University Games.  
**Note:** The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held at the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22 to March 1, 2020. Khelo India University Games will witness over 4,000 athletes from 100 Universities across India vying for top honours in 17 different disciplines namely archery, athletics, boxing, fencing, judo, swimming, weight-lifting, wrestling, badminton, basketball, football, hockey, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, rugby and kabaddi.
- Saurabh Chaudhary has** won gold medal in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C'ship.  
**Note:** Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men's 10 meters air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal. Second-placed Sarabjot Singh of Haryana was well behind with a score of 243.9, while world number two Abhishek Verma settled for bronze in a high-quality final.
- India's all-rounder **Irfan Pathan** retires from all forms of cricket.  
**Note:** Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. Pathan played 29 Tests, 120 ODIs and 24 T20Is. He was part of the victorious Indian team at the 2007 World Twenty20 and was the man-of-the-match in the final against Pakistan.
- Cristiano Ronaldo has** won best Men's Player of the Year at Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019.  
**Note:** Cristiano Ronaldo won the Best Men's Player of the Year award at the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards in Dubai. Ronaldo has won the award six times out of its nine years of its existence. England international Lucy Bronze was crowned Best Women's Player of the Year. The 2019 Awards were presented in 16 different categories. The Globe Soccer Awards are the annual awards given for excellence in football, organised by the EFAA (European Association of Player's Agents) and the ECA (European Club Association).
- World Cup winner Italian **Daniele De Rossi** retires from football.  
**Note:** The Italian midfielder Daniele De Rossi (37-year-old) announced his decision to retire from football in order to spend more time with his family. Daniele De Rossi also earned 117 caps for Italy at the senior level, winning the FIFA World Cup in 2006. In an 18-year of his career, he made 616 appearances and scored 63 goals, winning two Coppa Italia titles
- Weightlifter **Sarbjeet Kaur** has been slapped with a four-year ban for doping by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).  
**Note:** The sample of Sarbjeet, who won the 71kg event at the women's national weightlifting championships in February last year, was collected during 34th Women Senior National Weightlifting Championship held at Vishakhapatnam. "The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel has found weightlifter Sarbjeet Kaur guilty of anti-doping rule violation. She has been imposed a penalty of ineligibility for a period of four years.
- Japanese badminton player **Kento Momota** has won the Malaysia Masters 2020.  
**Note:** He defeated Denmark's **Viktor Axelsen** 24-22, 21-11. The victory in Malaysia lends credence to Momota's drive to win the gold in July's Tokyo Olympics. The reigning world champion told reporters that his eyes more success in 2020. Momota, currently the best player on the planet, won a record 11 titles last year.
- Serbia** has won the inaugural 2020 ATP Cup tennis tournament in Sydney.  
**Note:** Djokovic (World No. 2) claimed a straight-sets victory over Rafael Nadal (World No. 1) 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) in singles. In doubles, Djokovic and Viktor Troicki claimed 6-3, 6-4 straight

sets victory over Feliciano Lopez and Pablo Carreno Busta. ATP Cup was the opener for the 2020 ATP Tour, as well as the first ATP team tournament since the last edition of the World Team Cup in 2012.

**13. 3rd Khelo India Youth Games started in Guwahati.**

**Note:** 3rd Khelo India Youth Games 2020 started at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Guwahati, Assam. Khelo India Youth Games event is a National level multidisciplinary games conducted every year. Six thousand five hundred athletes from 37 teams will take part in the event. Cycling and Lawn Ball have been introduced as new disciplines in the games.

**14. Ladakh has won the 7th National Ice Hockey Championship Women trophy.**

**Note:** The match was held at the Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink in Ladakh. The tournament was organized by the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) in association with the Ladakh winter sports club. Four women teams representing Chandigarh, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Ladakh participated in the tournament.

**15. The Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020 held in Sharjah was won by India.**

**Note:** The team of the Indian Consulate has won the Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020 held in Sharjah. The team of the Indian Consulate defeated the Pakistan Consulate to win the trophy which was organized by Skyline University College in Sharjah. The trophy was organised with an aim of uniting the officials and employees of different Consulates based in UAE.

**16. Indian wrestler who won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series in Rome is Vinesh Phogat.**

**Note:** Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series in Rome. She defeated Ecuador's Luisa Elizabeth Melendres 4-0 in the final (53 kg) category. A teen sensation Anshu Malik settled for a silver in 57kg competition. She lost to Nigeria's Odunayo Adekuroye for the score 10-0.

**17. The Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title held in Jakarta, Indonesia was won by Ratchanok Intanon.**

**Note:** Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon wins Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title in Jakarta, Indonesia. She defeats Carolina Marin (Spain) 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in the final clash. The win was her second title in the Indonesian tournament.

**18. Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine) have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia.**

**Note:** Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine) have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia. They beat Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang from China 6-4,6-4. It's Sania's 42nd WTA doubles title and first since Brisbane International

trophy in 2007 with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

**19. ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2020 has begun in South Africa.**

**Note:** The ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2020 begins in South Africa. Indian team played under the captaincy of Priyam Garg. The final of the tournament will be played on Feb 09 at JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa. India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date. India is the defending champions in U19 World Cup 2018. Total 16 teams are participating in the tournament, split into four groups of four.

**20. 1st Indian woman to sign up for foreign football club, 'Rangers FC' of Scotland --Bala Devi.**

**Note:**Ngangom Bala Devi, 29 years old from Manipur, has become the first Indian woman footballer to get a professional contract from Scotland's Women Premier League club Rangers (Football Club) for 18-months and to play for jersey No.10 after a successful trial in November, 2019. The formal announcement was made by Rangers FC and Bengaluru FC at Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**21. Christine Margaret Sinclair becomes the all-time top scorer with 185 goals in international soccer.**

**Note:** Christine Margaret Sinclair, 36 years old, Canadian soccer player, became the all-time top scorer with 185 goals in international soccer. Sinclair surpassed the record of American Abby Wambach (original name Mary Abigail Wambach) who scored 184 goals.

**22. Joao Olavo Soares de Souza has been banned for life due to match fixing and corruption by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU).**

**Note:** According to the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU), which is responsible for investigating match fixing in tennis, Joao Olavo Soares de Souza (31), a former Brazilian professional tennis player has been banned for life due to match fixing and corruption. It also fined Souza with \$200,000. As per the investigation of TIU, Joao Souza did match fixing in tennis at the ATP Challenger and ITF Futures tournaments in Brazil, Mexico, the United States and Czech Republic between 2015 and 2019.

**23. The 71st edition of International Boxing Tournament "Strandja"2020 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria.**

**Note:** The 71st edition of International Boxing Tournament "Strandja"2020 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from January 19-26, 2020. India ranked 9th in the medal tally with 3 medals (1 Silver, 2 Bronze). The list was topped by Ukraine with 10 medals (4 Gold, 1 silver, 5 Bronze).

**24. Esow Alben won the gold medal in the men's Keirin individual cycling event of the Six-Day Berlin Tournament.**

**Note:** Indian cyclist Esow Alben has bagged a gold in the men's Keirin individual event of the Six-Day Berlin Tournament. Czech Republic's Tomas Babek, who won a



silver in the 2017 World Championship, came in second while Maximilian Lev of Germany took home the bronze.

25. The Rowing Federation of India has lifted the ban over Indian rower -- **Dattu Bhokanal**.  
**Note:** The Rowing Federation of India has lifted the ban over Indian rower Dattu Bhokanal. He was suspended in March, 2019 from the game by the Rowing Federation of India for the period of 2 years. He was suspended against the charges of leaving a single sculls race midway during the 2018 Asian Games.

26. **Maharashtra** state top in the medal tally of the 3rd season of the Khelo India Youth Games 2020.

**Note:** The 3rd season of the Khelo India Youth Games concluded. Maharashtra retained its reign in the Khelo India Youth Games held in Guwahati with 256 medals including 78 gold. Haryana stood second with a total of 200 medals. Delhi finished third with 122 medals. Shivangi Sharma of Assam won five gold and two silver in swimming. She was the most successful female player of the Khelo India Youth Games.

## December

1. **Gurpreet Singh & Sunil Kumar** clinched gold medals at the senior national wrestling championships in Jalandhar.  
**Note:** Gurpreet defeated Sajjan 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 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 Sports person of the Year Award 2019.  
**Note:** In the male category, Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won the Sports person 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

## November

- Rafael Nadal** has clinched **6th Davis Cup title** for Spain.  
**Note:** Nadal (33-year) defeated **Shapovalov** 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch Spain's 2-0 win against **Canada**. It was the Spanish team's first Davis Cup title since 2011 and their sixth Davis Cup title overall. In 2019, Nadal won the French Open and the US Open, made the Australian Open final and reached the Wimbledon semi-final.
- India's **Lakshya Sen** has won the Scottish Open men's singles title in **Glasgow**.  
**Note:** Lakshya Sen defeated Ygor Coelho 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 to seal his fourth title in three months. Within a month, Lakshya won his first BWF Super 100 title at the Dutch Open, with the second one coming soon after, at the SaarLorLux Open in Germany
- India concluded its campaign at the **Under-15 Asian Championships** with **28 medals (13 gold, 14 silver and a bronze)**.  
**Note:** For the first time, India finished on top of the team rankings in freestyle category with 225 points as all 10 wrestlers finished on the podium. Kazakhstan finished second while Japan was third.
- Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman** clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.  
**Note:** In the men's category, Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to clinch the gold medal. Former world champion Ankur Mittal has won Silver and Prithvi Singh Chahal bronze.
- Eliud Kipchoge & Dalilah Muhammad** has won the World Athlete of the Year awards.  
**Note:** Kipchoge claimed the prize in Monaco after making history last month when he ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec. American Muhammad won her award after a magnificent year that saw her set a world record of 52.20 seconds at the US Trials in Iowa in July breaking a record that had stood since 2003.
- India won the bid to host **2023 Men's Hockey World Cup**.  
**Note:** Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium Stadium in Rourkela to be the venues for the tournament. Bhubaneswar has hosted some big international sporting events, including the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships, 2017 FIH Hockey World League Final, FIH Men's Series Finals in 2019.
- Abhishek Verma & Jyothi Surekha Vennam** claimed the gold in compound mixed pair event at the **21st Asian Archery Championships**, in Bangkok.  
**Note:** The Indians defeated Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151 in the final clash. India picked up seven medals including one gold, two silver and four bronze medals in the event. The Indian archers participated in the tournament as neutral athletes under the World Archery flag due to the suspension of the national federation Archery Association of India (AAI).
- Deepika Kumari** has won gold medal in the women's individual recurve event of the 21st Asian Championships in Bangkok.  
**Note:** Deepika defeated Ankita 6-0 in the one-sided final. Earlier, the duo had secured an individual Olympic quota

- for the country by storming into the semi-finals of the event.
9. **Justice Mukundakam Sharma committee:** Sports Ministry has constituted a **13-member expert committee** to review the Draft National Sports Code.  
**Note:** Former sports persons Gagan Narang, Bhaichung Bhutia, Anju Bobby George and national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand are part of the panel. The panel has been formed to suggest measures to make the Sports Code acceptable to all the stakeholders. It will try to strike a balance between the autonomy of National Sports Federations vis-a-vis need for transparency and autonomy.
  10. **C. Mary Kom:** included in a **10-member athlete ambassadors' group** by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.  
**Note:** The group will represent boxers in the **build-up to next year's Tokyo Olympics (Tokyo Olympic 2020)**. C. Mary Kom will represent the **Asian bloc in boxing's athlete ambassadors' group**.
  11. **Pooja Gehlot:** silver medal in 53kg at UWW Under-23 World Championships in Budapest.  
**Note:** Pooja lost 0-2 to Okuno in the summit clash. She had entered the finals after beating Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in the semifinals of the tournament.
  12. **South Africa defeated England** in the final to win the **Rugby World Cup**.  
**Note:** South Africa beat **England 32-12** in the world cup final in Japan.
  13. **Lakshya Sen** has won the **SaarLorLux Open badminton tournament** at Saarbrücken in Germany.  
**Note:** He defeated Weng Hong Yang of China in an exciting final last night.
  14. **Novak Djokovic** won the fifth **Paris Masters title for 2019** by defeating Denis Shapovalov in the final.  
**Note:** Djokovic will lose top spot in the rankings to Nadal next week, but could still equal Pete Sampras' record by finishing a sixth year as the world's best player.
  15. Finnish racing driver **Valtteri Bottas** has won the **Formula One, United States Grand Prix 2019**.  
**Note:** Lewis Hamilton was on second, Max Verstappen on third, Charles Leclerc on fourth and Alexander Albon on fifth.
  16. **India B** has won the 2019–20 Deodhar Trophy (47th edition) at JSCA International Stadium Complex, Ranchi.  
**Note:** Deodhar Trophy was contested between three teams (India-A, India -B and India-C) selected by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
  17. Serbian professional tennis player **Novak Djokovic** eased to a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title.  
**Note:** He defeated Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4 in the final.
  18. **Deepak Kumar:** won the men's 10m air rifle bronze medal at the 14th Asian shooting Championships in Doha.  
**Note:** India has already secured nine Tokyo quotas in rifle and pistol and lies behind China who has 25 quotas and Korea's 12 in the Asian region, besides the host-country Japan, in terms of quotas won.
  19. **Manu Bhaker:** He won gold medal in women's 10m air pistol event at **Doha, Qatar**.  
**Note:** She put up a dominant showing, shooting 584 in qualification and 244.3 in the final to take gold. Vivaan Kapoor & Manisha Keer also won the Gold medal in junior trap mixed event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2019.
  20. **Rohit Sharma** has become the **first Indian man and second in world cricket** to complete 100 T-20 Internationals.  
**Note:** He reached the milestone when he led the team in the second match against Bangladesh at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Shoaib Malik with 111 games from Pakistan is the only player to have played more than 100 T20 Internationals.
  21. India will host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup from **13th to 29th January**.  
**Note:** The decisions were made during FIH's Executive Board Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.
  22. Two-time Olympic champion **Nicola Adams** will retire because of fears about her sight.  
**Note:** Nicola Adams became the first-ever women's Olympic boxing champion at London 2012. Adams successfully defended her title in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.
  23. **Kento Momota:** China Open 2019 winner.  
**Note:** Japan's Kento Momota (world number -1) defeated Taiwan's Tien-chen (world number-2) to retain his Fuzhou China Open Badminton title. Chinese player Chen Yufei successfully defended the women's title with a victory over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara. Chen Yufei beat Okuhara 21-9, 21-12, 21-18.
  24. **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won silver medal in **Men's 10m air pistol event** at Asian Championship.
  25. India's Javelin thrower **Sundar Singh Gurjar** has won a gold medal in the men's F46 javelin throw event at World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai.  
**Note:** Gurjar came up with his season's best effort of 61.22m to claim the top spot. While Yogesh Kathuniya added a silver for India in men's discus throw F56 event with a best throw of 42.05m yesterday.
  26. **Shafali Verma (15-years- and 285 days)** has become the youngest Indian Cricketer to score a half-century in International Cricket.  
**Note:** Shafali Verma's 73 runs (49-ball) in the first T20 International against West Indies surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's 30-year-old record. Shafali achieved the feat surpassing batting legend Tendulkar, who had notched up his maiden Test fifty at 16 years and 214 days.

27. The **1st South Asian country** to call match-fixing a crime - **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** Sri Lanka has become the first South Asian nation to criminalize several offenses related to match-fixing. Sri Lanka parliament passed all three readings of a bill labeled "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports".
28. **Punjab** will host the Kabaddi World Cup 2019.  
**Note:** The tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji (1 to 9 December) Nine teams -- India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Canada -- are expected to take part in the tournament.
29. Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand** has been named in the TIME 100 list of the most influential persons in the world.  
**Note:** The list, an initiative of TIME magazine, highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism, etc.
30. **England** has qualified for the UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament.  
**Note:** Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as Portugal secured its place at the Euro 2020 finals. Portugal are the defending champions, having won the 2016 edition. For the first time, the video assistant referee (VAR) system will be used at the UEFA European Championship.
31. Greek tennis player **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the ATP Finals in London.  
**Note:** It is Tsitsipas's third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan. Tsitsipas had qualified for the finals after defeating six-time champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals.
32. Indian women have clinched five gold, while men bagged two silver at Asian Youth Boxing Championship in **Mongolia**.  
**Note:** All five women finalists, Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg) Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg)

and Sushma (81kg) won Gold for the country in a phenomenal sweep.

33. **Harmeet Desai** has won men's singles Gold medal at **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Indonesia Open 2019** Table Tennis tournament.
34. Korean teenager **Joohyung Kim** has won the 2019 Panasonic Open India held at **Gurgaon, Haryana**.  
**Note:** India's Shiv Kapur and Chikkarangappa S finished tied second. With this win, the Joohyung Kim has become the second-youngest winner on the Asian Tour.
35. **David Villa**: Spanish striker has announced his retirement from football.  
**Note:** David Villa retired from the national team with 59 goals in 98 matches, making him Spain's all-time top goalscorer as well as the country's top scorer in the World Cup, with nine goals.
36. **India-Pakistan Davis Cup** tie shifted to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan from **Islamabad**.  
**Note:** The Davis Cup tie was scheduled to be held in September but was pushed to 29-30 November after India expressed concerns about the safety of their players.
37. Belgian-Dutch racing driver **Max Verstappen (with Red Bull)** has won the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix 2019.  
**Note:** The Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clashed in the race due to which Verstappen was able to take the lead and ultimately win the race. Pierre Gasly (France) was on the second position and was the first podium position for him while Lewis Hamilton remained on the third.
38. **Manu Bhaker** has become the second Indian shooter to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISS World Cup 2019.  
**Note:** Serbia's Zorana Arunovic won the silver with 241.9, while Quian Wang of China bagged the bronze with 221.8. Manu Bhaker shot 244.7 to win the gold medal at World Cup Finals.

## October

- Harmanpreet Kaur** has become the 1st Indian to play **100 T20 International** matches.
- Japan Open title 2019 -- **Novak Djokovic**.  
**Note:** He defeated Millman with a score of 6-3, 6-2 and secured a 76th career singles tournament win.
- Austria's **Christine Wolf** has won the Hero **Women's Indian Open** at Gurugram, Haryana.
- Japan's **Naomi Osaka** has won the China Open held in Beijing, China.
- Simone Biles** has won the 15th World Gymnastics Championship title in Stuttgart, Germany.
- German World Cup champion **Bastian Schweinsteiger** has announced his retirement from soccer.
- India's M C Mary Kom has won the **bronze medal** in the **51kg event** of World Women's Boxing Championships in Russia.
- Kenya's **Eliud Kipchoge** becomes **1st athlete** to run sub 2-hour marathon.
- Indian shuttler clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title in the Netherlands-- **Lakshya Sen**.

10. **Manju Rani** settled for silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championships (in the 48-kilogram category) in Russia.
11. **Priyanshu Rajawat** wins men's singles title at Bahrain International Series.
12. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has changed the super-over rule for all its major events  
**Note:** As per new rule, in case of a super over tie, there will be a repeated super over until one team has more runs than the other.
13. Mercedes' **Valtteri Bottas** won the **2019 Japanese Grand Prix**.  
**Note:** Ferrari's **Sebastian Vettel** (Germany) and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton (Britain) were ranked at the **2nd** and **3rd** places respectively.
14. **Zimbabwe** and **Nepal** were re-admitted as **ICC members**.  
**Note:** Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020.
15. The Indian football team won the 3rd Edition of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championships 2019 at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimpu, Bhutan.
16. Yashasvi Jaiswal (17-year) has become the youngest cricketer in the world to score a **double century** in One Day cricket.
17. England all-rounder **Jennifer Louise Gunn** has announced her retirement from international cricket.
18. Great Britain won the **9th edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2019**.  
**Note:** **Great Britain** defeated India in the finals by 2-1 in the
19. **Kuhoo Garg** and **Dhruv Rawat** won the badminton mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo, Egypt.
20. Indian cyclist **Ronaldo Singh** bagged a gold medal in the men's junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships in South Korea.
21. Indian cricketer **Rohit Sharma** smashed the Don Bradman's (former Australia cricketer) record of highest average in **Test cricket** on home soil.  
**Note:** He broke record by scoring an average of **99.84**. Bradman, the legendary Australia cricketer had an average of 98.22.
22. **Riya Bhatia** has won the **ITF women's tennis tournament** in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Note: She defeated Slovenian player Nastja Kolar of Slovenia 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 in the summit clash of the ITF women's tennis tournament.
23. India's **65th Grandmaster:** Raunak Sadhwani.
24. Canadian player Denis Shapovalov has won the **Stockholm Open title 2019**.
25. **Bengal Warriors** wins **7th season of Vivo Pro Kabaddi League 2019**.  
**Note:** Bengal Warriors won their first title by defeating **Dabang Delhi** by 39-34 at the EKA Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
26. The logo for the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games** unveiled at a ceremony in the French capital.  
**Note:** The circular design with Paris 2024 in the art deco style which was in vogue in 1924 when Paris last hosted the Games, also **incorporates** the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789.
27. Para-athlete **Anandan Gunasekaran** has won 2 gold medals at the 7th CISM World Military Games in Wuhan, China.
28. **Graeme Smith** (Former South Africa skipper) has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
29. 1st Indian man to win a gold medal at the Wushu World Championships-- **Praveen Kumar**.
30. Mumbai all-rounder has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket -- **Abhishek Nayar**.
31. Karnataka has won the **2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy**.  
**Note:** Karnataka won their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy title with a dominant display against Tamil Nadu.
32. **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Smriti Mandhana** won Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award.  
**Note:** The other 3 winners are Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan), Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka) and Rashid Khan (Afghanistan). The Zozo Championship 2019 tournament title was clinched by -- **Tiger Woods**.
33. Mercedes' driver won the Mexican Grand Prix 2019 -- Lewis Hamilton.
34. Indian men's doubles pair has won the silver medal in the men's doubles event at French Open -- **Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**.
35. Indian boxer clinched gold medals in Olympic Test Event for Boxing in Tokyo, Japan -- **Shiva Thapa and Pooja Rani**.
36. India's Prithvi Sekhar wins gold in World Deaf Tennis Championship.

**Note:** The 2nd Edition of World Deaf Tennis Championships 2019 was held in Antalya, Turkey.

37. The Indian cricket team will play its first-ever Day-Night Test match against -- **Bangladesh**.

1. **China Open (tennis)** - Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the China Open held in Beijing, China. She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty in the final.
2. **Hero Women's Indian Open (Golf)** - Austria's Christine Wolf has won the Hero Women's Indian Open at Gurugram, Haryana.
3. **Japan Open (Tennis)** – Novak Djokovic defeated Australia's John Millman in the finals to win the Japan Open title.
4. **Ravindra Jadeja becomes second fastest Indian to 200 wickets in Test cricket** –
  - Ravindra Jadeja became the fastest **left-arm bowler** to reach the milestone.
  - He became the second Indian bowler to take the fastest 200 wickets in Test cricket.
  - He achieved the feat when he dismissed centurion Dean Elgar (160) during South Africa's first innings on the third day, in reply to India's 502 for 7 declared.
5. **Professional Cricketers' Association player of the year** – England all-rounder Ben Stokes has been voted Professional Cricketers' Association player of the year at the Professional Cricketers' Association awards.
  - All-rounder Stokes played a starring role in England's maiden World Cup win before
6. **Annu Rani becomes 1st Indian to qualify for women's javelin throw final** – India's top female javelin thrower player Annu Rani made it to the finals of the World Athletics Championship. She is the first Indian woman to reach the finals of this event.

7. **India gets its first-ever floating basketball court in Mumbai** – The National Basketball Association installed India's first-ever floating basketball court in Mumbai.
  - The basketball court set up in the Arabian Sea near the Bandra-Worli Sealink.
  - India's first NBA Game to be held in October
  - The first NBA game is scheduled to host from October 4 to October 5 in in the SVP Stadium at Dome, NSCI, in Mumbai.
8. **India won the under-19 Asia Cup for the 7th time** – The Indian U-19 cricket team has won the Asia Cup for the second time in a row.
  - Team India defeated Bangladesh by 5 runs in a thrilling final in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Note:

  - India has won the Under-19 Asia Cup title for the seventh time.
  - Earlier India won this title in 1989, 2003, 2012, 2013-14, 2016, 2018.
9. Maj **Abdul Quadir Khan** of the Corps of Signals has won the Silver medal at the 53rd Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Championship held at Batam, Indonesia.
10. India's N. Wilson Singh and Satish Kumar Prahapati won the gold medal in the 10m platform synchronised diving event at the Asian Age Group Championships held in Bengaluru.
11. Jamaican sprint legend **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** won gold medal in 100m race of 2019 IAAF World Championships held in Doha.
12. Indian fencer **Bhavani Devi** wins the silver medal in the women's sabre individual event at the Tournoi satellite competition in Belgium.
13. Mercedes Lewis Hamilton won 2019 **Russia F1 Grand Prix**.

## Science & Defense

### Military Exercise

1. Indian Navy to host multi-nation military drill in March -- **Milan 2020**.  
**Note:** 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
2. The union Govt. has extended to ban on Assam-based NDFB by another ---**5 years**.
3. Mine Counter Measure Exercise-first time between – **India & Japan**.

**Note:** This is first time an explosive ordnance disposal and mine counter measure was held by Indian and Japanese forces.

4. **United States of America (USA)** approved Foreign Military Sale to India

**Note:** The principal contractor in this India-US defence deal will be BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Minneapolis, Minnesota with gun manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky.



5. **Lieutenant Shivangi:** 1st woman pilot of Indian Navy to join Naval operations.  
**Note:** She will join after naval operations on completion of operational training at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala
6. The **Defense Research and Defense Organization** has allowed free access to its -- 450 patents.  
**Note:** The organization intends to provide a boost to domestic industries, especially startups and the strategic sector that has a network of 50 national laboratories that are involved in research and development
7. **Prithvi-2 missile successfully test fired:**  
**Note:** India successfully test-fired two rounds of its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile at night as part of a user trial by Indian Army. These test were conducted from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-3 of Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore district of Odisha. These were second night trials of Prithvi-II missile.
8. **DRDO to double ASTRA's range:** Astra (Sanskrit word for weapon) is an all-weather air-to-air missile developed completely by DRDO. Currently, ASTRA is capable of engaging targets upto a distance of 110 km.
9. The central government has banned Meghalaya-based insurgent group '**Hynniewtre National Liberation Council'** (HNL).  
**Note:** The union Govt. also notified that HNL's activities are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India.
10. **Pakistan successfully test fires Shaheen-1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile:**  
**Note:** The test come days after India conducted the first night trial of Agni-II surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile having strike range of 2,000 km.
11. A three-day **naval exercise** is being conducted between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces -- **Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)**.  
**Note:** The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces.
12. Indian Army conducts Sindhu Sudarshan exercise in -- **Barmer, Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** The annual exercise will test the operational readiness and maneuver warfare capability of Indian Army's 21 Corps, one of the service's three so-called Strike Corps.
13. **India conducted its first night trial of AGNI II missile successfully:** It is the first night trial being tested by the country. The nuclear capable missile was tested at the Abdul Kalam Island of Odisha Coast.
14. **Defence Minister inaugurates Sisseri River Bridge in East Siang:** The bridge will play an important role in the overall development of the area and will immensely contributes to the socio-economic development of the region.
15. **Ministry of Defence showcases the innovations of iDEX initiative:** The main objective of the event is to showcase the accomplishments of iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence.
16. **IAF launches** multiplayer version of 'Indian Air Force -- A Cut Above' game  
**Note:** The game is a combat simulator that lets the players choose from an array of IAF's fighter aircraft, such as Tejas, Rafale Mirage-2000, Su-30 among others.
17. **First Tri-services amphibious exercise between India and US:** India and US are to jointly conduct Tiger TRIUMP. It is to be conducted in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It includes field training and events that simulate humanitarian assistance in disaster times. The event will also hold simulations in moving disaster relief forces from ship to shore.
18. India- Indonesian Joint Naval exercise: **Samudra Shakti**  
**Note:** This year is the second edition of India, Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise. The inaugural edition of exercise was held at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia in November 2018.
19. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 'Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019': **ReSAREX- 19**.  
**Note:** The two-day event was organised by Coast Guard District Headquarters-11 (Goa) to test efficiency and preparedness of ICG.
20. **DRDO's Igniter Complex inaugurated in Pune:** The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.
21. **US-Bangladesh Navy exercise: CARAT- 2019**  
**Note:** The biggest US- Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) -- 2019' is being held in Chattogram (or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh. The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of

Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal.  
The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.

## 22. Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise: SCOJtEx-2019

**Note:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue- 'SCOJtEx-2019' in New Delhi.

## 23. India Uzbekistan joint Military Exercise: Dustlik 2019

**Note:** The Defence Minister Shri Raj Nath Singh during his 3 day visit met the Indian contingent participating in the joint exercise.

24. Brahmos missile is considered as one of the fastest supersonic missiles. Philippines army is acquiring Indian-manufactured weapon in order to strengthen its coastal defences. In 2018, Indian PM Modi signed 4 bilateral agreements during his visit to Philippines, and acquiring Brahmos is one among them.

## October

1. **Nomadic Elephant 2019** – joint military exercise between India and Mongolia.
  - The exercise will be conducted from 05 Oct 19 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
2. **'Him Vijay' 2019** – Indian Army's first and biggest mountain combat exercise "Him Vijay" for the year 2019 begun at Arunachal Pradesh.
3. **KAZIND -2019:** joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan held at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.
4. **Malabar 2019** – The 23rd edition of the trilateral maritime exercise of India, Japan and the United States

(US) named "**Malabar 2019**" exercise was held at Sasebo, Japan.

5. **Exercise 'Chang Thang'** - The Indian Army conducted a massive rare exercise 'Chang Thang' in Eastern Ladakh bordering China.
6. **"SITMEX"** - A maiden trilateral exercise SITMEX, involving **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN)** conducted at Port Blair.
7. **Maitree 2019** – joint military exercise between India and Thailand held at Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.

## Science and Technology

### February

1. **ISRO AND DAE conducted events to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are conducting various events at national level programme to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was an Indian physicist and astronomer who started space research and helped develop nuclear power in India.
2. **The Indian Institute of Veterinary Research (IVRI) developed a vaccine to control classical swine fever:** IVRI of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new vaccine to control classical swine fever. The new vaccine will be the part of government's One Health Initiative.
3. **Second Phase of Soil Health Card Scheme:** In Soil Health Card Scheme phase II implementation, 11.69 crore Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers. The scheme has led to a decline of 8-10% in the use of chemical fertilizers and raised productivity by 5-6% and is aimed to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs.
4. **NASA's astronaut Christina Koch landed on the Earth after a record stay of 328 days on the International Space Station:** Earlier longest single spaceflight by any

woman was 289 days by Peggy Whitson in 2017. Valery Polyakov of Russia holds the combine (i.e. for both men and women) record for the longest single spaceflight in history (438 days).

5. **Solar Orbiter Mission launched:** This mission is a collaboration between ESA (the European Space Agency) and NASA. The spacecraft was launched on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket by Cape Canaveral. Solar Orbiter Mission is dedicated to solar and heliospheric physics.
6. **NASA fixed its Voyager-2 probe remotely:** NASA remotely managed to fix Voyager-2, almost 11.5 billion miles away from its location. Voyager 2 is the only probe to observe and study Neptune and Uranus.
  - Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets i.e., Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune and discovered 16 moons, as well as phenomena like Neptune's mysteriously transient Great Dark Spot, the cracks in Europa's ice shell, and ring features at every planet.
7. **The government has passed ambitious gene-mapping project called 'Genome India Project':** Genome India Project is about to be funded Rs 238-crore and will

involve 20 leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and a few IITs.

- 8. Baby giant planet discovered:** The scientists from Rochester Institute of Technology has discovered the

nearest-known 'baby giant planet' and is named as "2MASS 1155-7919 b". It is about 330 light-years from our solar system.

### January

- 1. ISRO aims to launch its maiden Human Space Mission, Gaganyaan soon:** The ISRO Chairman announced in a press briefing about the four astronauts selected for the country's first manned mission to space, called Gaganyaan which will be launched before the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.
- 2. 107th Indian Science Congress held in Karnataka:** 107th Indian Science Congress is being held at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bengaluru, Karnataka with the theme "Science & Technology: Rural Development". Indian Science Congress is held every year by the Indian Science Congress Association every year in the first week of January.
- 3. Australia developed World's most efficient lithium sulphur battery:** University of Monash Researchers in Australia have created a super-capacity prototype by re-engineering a Lithium Sulphur (Li-S) battery. This has five times more capacity than a traditional lithium ion battery and is also cheaper.
- 4. Nasa announces to send astronauts under upcoming space-Artemis Mission:** NASA wants to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon by the year 2024 through Artemis lunar exploration program to measure what happens when the Sun's radiation hits our rocky moon, where there is no magnetic field to protect. Space Launch System (SLS) is the NASA's new rocket which will send astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft a quarter of a million miles away from Earth to the lunar orbit.
- 5. ISRO to establishing optical telescope facilities under Project 'NETRA':** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has inked a pact with Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) to make way for collaboration in establishing optical telescope facilities under Project 'NETRA' for tracking space objects.
  - Project NETRA main objective is to capture the GEO, or geostationary orbit, scene at 36,000 km where communication satellites operate.
  - In Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis), the ISRO plans to put up many observational facilities: connected radars, telescopes; data processing units and a control centre.
  - They can, among others, spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.
- 6. Gravitational ripples event from a collision of two neutron star observed by LIGO-Virgo scientists:** An international team led by LIGO-Virgo scientists has such event making it the second time this type of occurrence has ever been observed in gravitational waves. LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) is a massive observatory for detecting cosmic gravitational waves and for carrying out experiments.
  - LIGO-India project is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
  - India will join the global network of gravitational wave detectors with its establishment.
- 7. Centre is all set to implement scientific social responsibility (SSR) at advanced level:** India is going to be possibly the first country to implement a Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) Policy on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) across the world. the Department of Science and Technology (DST) provided draft of the new policy recently.
- 8. State to scrap proposed Pune-Mumbai Hyperloop project:** Pune-Mumbai Hyperloop project, an ultra-modern transport system that will reduce the travelling time between the two cities to 25 minutes from 2.5-3 hours, may be scrapped by the state government.
- 9. First Government-owned Waste-to-Energy Plant was recently commissioned in Odisha:** India is all set to commission Polycrack technology Waste-to-Energy at the Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop in Odisha. It is first-of-its-kind in the Indian Railways and fourth in the country. It will convert multiple feed stocks into hydrocarbon liquid fuels, gas, carbon and water.
- 10. Qualcomm Technologies released mobile chipsets supporting the Indian regional satellite navigation system 'NavIC'(Navigation in Indian Constellation):** Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) being an independent regional navigation satellite system is designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland. The chipsets will help to accelerate the adoption of NavIC by smartphone Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). The OEMs can now release any new models for the Indian market which are NavIC.
- 11. India new satellite series, Indian Data Relay Satellite System:** India plans to ring in its own era of space-to-space tracking and communication of its space assets by a new satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite

System. This will be launched on the GSLV launcher to geostationary orbits around 36,000 km away.

**12. Spitzer space telescope of NASA given the final goodbye on January 30, 2020:** Spitzer is going to shut down permanently after about 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light.

**13. GSAT-30 launched:** India's latest telecommunication satellite GSAT-30, first mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2020, was successfully launched recently.

- The launch took place from the Spaceport in French Guiana with the launch vehicle 'Ariane 5 VA-251'.

- GSAT-30 will replace INSAT-4A in orbit.
- GSAT-30 is configured on ISRO's enhanced I-3K Bus structure to provide communication services from Geostationary orbit.

**14. Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology set up in Bengaluru:** National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in Bengaluru to provide Blockchain as a service and allow stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences and resources.

## Defense News

### February

**1. SAMPRITI-IX:** The 9th edition of joint military training exercise between India-Bangladesh SAMPRITI-IX will be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya.

**2. US approved Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) to India:** IADWS also known as the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS), provides integrated air missile defence and is currently deployed around Washington, DC. U.S. Department of State has approved the potential sale of a \$1.867 billion IADWS to India. This includes radar, launchers, targeting, and guidance systems, advanced medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) and Stinger missiles, and related equipment and support.

**3. Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR 2020:** The fifth edition of the Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR 2020 will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom in February 2020 between India and the United Kingdom. The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorists operation in urban and semi-urban areas.

**4. First bulletproof helmet developed:** Indian Army Major Anoop Mishra has developed world's first bulletproof helmet under the Indian Army's project "Abhedya". The helmet can stop an AK-47 bullet round fired from about 10 meters.

**5. Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs):** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a partnership pact with Israel Aerospace Industries to manufacture advanced Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) in India.

**6. Ministerial-level Defence dialogue between India and South Korea:** Ministerial-level Defence dialogue between India and South Korea was held in New Delhi to deepen bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.

**7. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of DefExpo India 2020:** The 11th edition of the mega defence exhibition, DefExpo 2020 held at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The theme of DefExpo India 2020 was "**India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub**". Its main objective was to bring new technologies, technological solutions, and to provide single platform for Defence manufacturing companies from India and abroad to showcase their products and services.

**8. Malta Abhiyan conducted by Indian Navy:** The Indian Navy conducted coastal security exercise named 'Malta Abhiyan' in Kolkata, West Bengal to interact with coastal communities to spread awareness on coastal security and understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban deltaic waters.

**9. 200-km strike range tactical ballistic missile 'Pranash' is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

### January

**1. Exercise Winged Raider conducted:** Indian Army conducted the largest air borne exercise called the Winged Raider in the north-eastern theatre. Around 500 troops participated in the exercise. Its main focus was encountering China in the border region.

**2. Joint Exercise Sahyog-Kaijin for Coast Guard:** India and Japan took part in a joint exercise named "Sahyog-Kaijin".

The exercise was conducted at Chennai Port between the coastal guards of both the countries.

**3. India successfully tested Submarine-launched ballistic missile named "K-4":** DRDO tested 3,500-km range submarine-launched ballistic missile, K-4 off the Andhra Pradesh Coast. This is an underwater missile with a strike range of 700km. With this, India will be the 4<sup>th</sup> nation

- having 3500 km range of submarine-launched ballistic missile.
4. **Milan 2020:** Milan (Multilateral Naval Exercise) is aimed at enhancing professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain. It will be held in Visakhapatnam in March 2020. The Theme for Milan 2020 is Synergy across the Seas.
  5. **Indian Navy launches Operation "Vanilla":** Operation "Vanilla" was launched by Indian Navy Ship Airavat to aid the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane. The assistance of India to Madagascar is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.
  6. **CISF observes 2020 as the "Year of Mobility":** Year 2020 as the "Year of Mobility" will focus on construction of residential units and implementation of welfare measure.
  7. **India-Russia signs MoU on AK-203 assault rifles:** Indian Army is to sign MoU for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles from Russia.
  8. **Naval Exercise "Naseem-Al-Bahr":** Two Oman ships RNOV al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab from Royal Navy of Oman arrived in Goa to participate in "Naseem-Al-Bahr", the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise. Shubhadra and Beas will be Indian Navy ships that will participate in the exercise. Indo-Oman naval exercise is being held since 1993.
  9. **First indigenous aircraft LCA Tejas:** Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas successfully landed on INS Vikramaditya. LCA Tejas is developed by DRDO and is the first aircraft to make an arrested landing on a naval ship.
  10. **Maha Navy Connect by Indian Navy:** Indian Navy organised 1st Maha-Navy Connect 2020 Tri-Dimensional Expedition from Mumbai, Maharashtra in January to promote the maritime heritage of India and spread awareness about Coastal Security amongst the coastal communities in Maharashtra. This expedition covered more than 555kms from Maharashtra's northernmost fort Arnala to its southernmost Sindhudurg fort.
  11. **INS Vikramaditya at Arabian Sea:** India deployed its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in the Arabian Sea amid China and Pakistan naval exercise, 'Sea Guardians'.
  12. **Made in India 'K9-Vajra-T Gun':** Defence minister Rajnath Singh flagged off K9-Vajra-T Gun which is a trackable self-propelled howitzer for Indian Army at the Larsen and Toubro Armoured Systems Complex at Hazira, Surat.
  13. **Russia to deliver S-400 Air Defence System to India:** Russia has started the production of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems for India which will be delivered by 2025. India signed a USD 5 billion deal to buy the air defence missile systems in October 2018.
  14. **IAF inducts its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft:** The Indian Air Force has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur base in Tamil Nadu. The newly reinstated 222-squadron, also known as the Tigersharks, would serve as a lethal weapons platform capable of carrying both aerial and maritime roles in the Indian Ocean Region.
  15. **Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to deliver INS Kavaratti:** GRSE is set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy. With a displacement of 3,300 tonnes, the ship has a carbon composite superstructure.
  16. **Assam Rifles builds war memorial in Nagaland:** The Assam Rifles has constructed a combined war memorial in Mokokchung, Nagaland for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed while fighting insurgency in the northeastern state. The War Memorial has three posts representing all the three forces Army, Assam Rifles and Air Force.
  17. **Highspeed interceptor boat 'C-448' commissioned:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned a highspeed interceptor boat C-448 built by L&T (Larsen & Toubro) in Mangaluru, Karnataka. It has a resolution of 500 nautical miles at 20 knots and can reach a maximum speed of 45 knots.
  18. **Indigenous bio-jet aircraft AN-32:** AN-32, an indigenous bio-jet aircraft of Indian Air Force powered with 10% blend of bio-jet fuel took off and landed successfully in Leh airport.
  19. **India Army Day celebrated on 15 January:** Indian Army Day is observed on January 15 in India every year. This year 72nd Army Day is being celebrated across the country.
  20. **Armed Forces Veterans Day:** It is observed each year on 14th January and is celebrated since 2017.
  21. **49th Border Coordination Conference:** 49th Border Coordination Conference was held in New Delhi between border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh.

## December

1. **China launches two powerful naval destroyers in year of harvest for military:**  
**Note:** China has launched two powerful naval destroyers at the Djibouti maritime base in the Indian Ocean to dock its aircraft carriers. The military reduced the size of the army by three lakh troops and resorted to a massive expansion of the navy to extend China's influence and global reach.
2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dedicate five DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories**  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicates five DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories to the nation. The event

- shall be organized at the Aeronautical Development Establishment DRDO at Bengaluru.
3. **Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane to take over as new Army Chief**  
**Note:** Vice Chief of the Army Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge as a new Army Chief. He succeeds Gen Bipin Rawat after a three-year stint as Army chief. Lt Gen Naravane served in numerous command and staff appointments in peace, field, and highly active counter-insurgency environments in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast.
  4. **Gen Bipin Rawat named as country's first Chief of Defence Staff**  
**Note:** Country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will head the new Department of Military Affairs. Chief of Defence Staff ensures the jointness in training, logistics, and procurement of the three services. Defence Ministry amended the army, air force, and navy rules by bringing in a new clause that allows the CDS to serve up to a maximum age of 65 years. Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) is a position for the tri-service chief of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, with the first CDS being General Bipin Rawat.
  5. **Indian Navy bans smartphones social media on bases ships:**  
**Note:** The Indian Navy issued directions to ban the use of all smartphones and social networking platforms on board ships and naval bases. The social networking platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and other messengers from here on now, will not be allowed at the naval bases and ships.
  6. **Indian Navy plans to build 24 submarines 6 of them nuclear powered:**  
**Note:** The Indian Navy plans to build 24 submarines including six nuclear attack submarines. The Indian Navy the panel the Medium Refit Life Certification (MRLC) of submarine Sindhuraj since the Russian side able to submit bank guarantees and integrity pact due to sanctions imposed by the US.
  7. **Indian Air Force Bids farewell to MiG 27:** MiG-27, an ace attacker during the 1999 Kargil War through the skies for one last time after serving the Indian Air Force for over three decades. The upgraded variant of last swing-wing fleet the pride of the IAF strike fleet since 2006. MiG-23 BN, MiG-23 MF, MiG-27.
  8. **Nirmala Sitharaman releases postage stamp to mark service of DRI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a postage stamp to commemorate distinguished service and glorious contribution of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in protecting the nation. The DRI continues to play an immense role in countering smuggling as well as in preserving the cultural heritage and environment of the country.
  9. **IAF Chief to visit Egypt for bilateral talks:** Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria is on a bilateral goodwill visit to Egypt from 24 to 28 December.
  10. **Indian Navy conducted Exercise Apharan at Kochi:** The Indian Navy conducted Exercise Apharan, a large-scale Anti Hijacking Exercise off the Port of Kochi. This is the first time such a large-scale exercise was held in Kerala.
  11. **DRDO conducted 2 test firings of Pinaka missile system:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two test firings as a part of the series of flight trials of the Pinaka missile system. The aim of the trial test was to test low range, functioning of live warhead along with its proximity initiation and salvo launch.
  12. **Exercise INDRA 2019 (second edition) concluded:** The second edition of Exercise INDRA 2019 concluded at Babina, Pune, and Goa. The joint tri-services exercise was held between India and Russia from 10-19 December 2019. The exercise was aimed to strengthen the ties between the defence forces of India and Russia
  13. **DRDO successfully test-fired the Upgraded version of Pinaka rocket:** An upgraded version of India's indigenously developed Pinaka guided rocket system was successfully test-fired from Odisha coast. The rocket aims to boost the Army's artillery power.
  14. **GRSE delivered an LCU to the Indian Navy:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) delivered a Landing Craft Utility (LCU) to the Indian Navy.
  15. **Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIV concluded in Nepal:** Joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIV between India and Nepal was conducted at Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal. The joint military exercise was conducted to enhance the level of defence cooperation and foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.
  16. **Training for First batch of 21 officers of CIAA of Nepal began in GFSU:** The training for the first batch of 21 officers of Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) of Nepal began at Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
  17. **DRDO successfully test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the coast of Odisha.
  18. **IAF Phase of Exercise Indra 2019 began in Pune:** Exercise INDRA-2019 is the second edition of Joint Tri-Services Exercise between the Indian Armed Forces and the Russian Armed Forces.
  19. **Exercise Mitra Shakti VII culminated on Pune:** The exercise was held between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army. The exercise is a part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.
  20. **MoD to organize the Naval weapon Systems seminar NAVARMS:** The fourth edition of the International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems NAVARMS-19 held on 12-13 December 2019.

21. The conclave is organized by the Ministry of Defence at Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, Development Enclave, New Delhi. The theme of the two-day event is Make in India - Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives.
22. **India successfully test fired Prithvi II missile:** India successfully conducted a night test-trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile off complex-3 of Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha coast. The surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile has a strike range of 350 km. It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads. It is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines. The missile was inducted into the Indian defence forces in 2003. The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) of the Ministry of Defence.
23. **Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 to commence:** Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya. The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate.
24. **Shivangi became the first naval woman pilot in India:** Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi of the Indian Navy became the first naval woman pilot in India.
25. **Exercise Mitra Shakti VII began in Pune:** The seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 commenced on 1 December 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
26. **BSF celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December:** Border Security Force (BSF) personnel celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December 1965. PM Modi greeted the BSF personnel on the day.

### November/October

1. The Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise (14th edition) -- **Nomadic Elephant-XIV**.  
**Note:** Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter-terrorism operations under United Nations mandate.
2. The first-ever **India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise** at Uzbekistan -- **Dustlik-2019**.
3. The bilateral between the armies of **India and France** at Rajasthan -- '**Exercise SHAKTI**'.  
**Note:** It will be conducted from 31st October to 13th November 2019 at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.
4. The **Indian Army (IA)** will conduct exercise **Sindhu Sudarshan** in 2019 in the deserts of **Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** The **aim of this exercise** is to evaluate the capability of the defence services in an integrated air-land battle.
5. Two-day long manoeuvres by **Sudarshan Chakra Vahini** of Indian Army Started held at – **Jaisalmer**.  
**Note:** In this war exercise, the army is going to exhibit its strength regarding Agni Missile and artillery
6. The **India-Myanmar Naval Exercise** is being organized in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh -- **IMNEX-2019**.
7. **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** has conducted the **2nd edition** of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 -- **DANX-19**.
8. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** kickstarted its bilateral joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO)-- **EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V**.
9. **Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** carrying out a joint military air force exercise named -- **Shinyuu Maitri**.  
**Note:** The focus of the exercise will be to undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among the two forces.
10. The 10th edition of the joint military exercise between India and the US-- **Vajra Prahar 2019**.  
**Note:** 'Vajra Prahar' is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US. Last year, the exercise had taken place in Jaipur.
11. The 2nd joint military exercise to promote military cooperation between India and Japan held in Mizoram-- '**Dharma Guardian-2019**'.  
**Note:** Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter-Terrorism Operations in respective Countries.
12. The 2nd edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) of the navies of India and Bangladesh held at -- **Northern Bay of Bengal**.
13. **Rajnath Singh creates history, becomes first Defence Minister to fly Rafale jet** – Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh created history by becoming the first

- defence minister to fly sortie in Rafale fighter jet from Dassault Aviation Mérignac facility in France.
- The Defence Minister received the first of the 36 Rafale fighter jets on behalf of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Merignac in France.
- China launched Dongfeng-41 (DF-41) intercontinental-range ballistic missile** – The missile is touted to be the most powerful missile on the planet. It was launched during the National Day parade, as China observed its 70th anniversary of Communist rule.
    - DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), more than any missile on Earth.
  - Japan Launches “World’s Biggest Transport Space-Ship” for Space Station** – Japan launched an unmanned H-2B rocket towards the International Space Station. The H-2B rocket lifted off with cargo vessel Kounotori8, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.
  - India successfully test-fired a land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile from Chandipur coast in Odisha’s Balasore district. DRDO conducted the test-fire successfully.
    - The missile, with a strike range of 290km.
  - US military test fires Minuteman III ballistic missile** – US tested an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile was launched from the California base.
    - The missile travelled 6,750 km across Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands.
  - China launches its first Amphibious Assault Ship** – China has launched its first amphibious assault ship in Shanghai. This ship would enable ground forces to carry out attacks on enemy territory from sea.
  - INS Khanderi submarine commissioned into Indian Navy** – Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 28, 2019 commissioned the INS Khanderi, the second indigenously built Scorpene class submarine, into the Indian Navy.
    - INS Khanderi is fully automated and has been built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai
  - Rajnath Singh becomes 1st Defence Minister to fly in LCA Tejas** – Defence Minister Rajnath Singh becomes the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
    - He flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
  - White Water Rafting Expedition ‘Rudrashila’ Flagged off at Jaisalmer** – The White water Rafting Expedition christened ‘RUDRASHILA’ being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off at Jaisalmer Military station.
    - The expedition christened ‘Rudrashila’ has been organised to commemorate the 75th Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion.
  - ICGS ‘Varaha’ commissioned – Defense Minister Rajnath Singh** has formally commissioned the Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel ‘Varaha’ at the Chennai Port Trust.
  - DRDO hands over second ‘Netra’ (AEWC) aircraft to IAF** – The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has handed over the second airborne warning plane, **Netra**, to the Indian Air Force. The Netra, an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft.
  - India successfully test-fires air-to-air missile Astra** – India has successfully test-fired air-to-air missile Astra from Sukhoi-30 MKI. The indigenously developed missile was tested off the coast of Odisha on September 17, 2019.
    - Astra missile is India’s first indigenous air-to-air and beyond visual range missile.
    - The missile can engage targets of different ranges and altitudes
    - Astra missile has a strike range of over 70 km. It can fly towards its target at a speed of over 5,555 km per hour.
  - Shaheen VIII: joint bilateral aerial exercise between Pakistan and China held in China’s Hotan City.**
  - As part of Indian Navy’s Overseas Deployment to South East Asia and Western Pacific, two Indian Navy warships, INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan arrived at Laem Chabang, Bangkok for a port call from 31 August to 3 September 2019. The port call is a demonstration of India’s warm ties with Thailand.
  - Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile Ghaznavi** – Pakistan successfully conducted night training launch of hypersonic surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hatf-III Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range in Balochistan.
  - Abhinandan Varthaman flies with IAF Chief BS Dhanoa on his last sortie** – Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the recipient of Vir Chakra, flew with IAF Chief BS Dhanoa on his last sortie aboard MiG-21 fighter aircraft on September 2, 2019.
    - Indian Air Force Chief BS Dhanoa and Wing Commander Abhinandan took off in MiG-21 trainer from the Pathankot Airbase in Punjab and flew for 30 minutes.
  - Amazon India launches Military Veterans Employment programme** – Amazon India has launched a Military Veterans Employment programme in country.
    - This initiative of e-commerce giant will create employment opportunities for military veterans



as well as their spouses across company's sort centres, delivery centres and fulfilment centres in India.

- For this, **Amazon** India has partnered with office of Director-General of Resettlement (DGR),

**30. IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters** – The Indian Air Force has inducted 8 Apache AH-64E attack

helicopters at the Pathankot Air Force station to enhance its combat capabilities.

The Apache AH-64E helicopters are made by US company **Boeing** and will give a major boost to combat capabilities of Indian Air Force.

**Important Days**

**February**

- February 2: World Wetlands Day
- February 4: World Cancer Day
- February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- February 5: Safer Internet Day (second day of the second week of February)
- February 10: National De-worming Day
- February 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- February 12: National Productivity Day

- February 13: World Radio Day, National Women's Day (Birth Date of Sarojini Naidu)
- February 14: Valentine Day
- February 20: World Day of Social Justice
- February 21: International Mother Language Day
- February 24: Central Excise Day
- February 27: World NGO Day
- February 28: National Science Day
- February 28/29: Rare Disease Day

**January**

- January 1: Global Family Day
- January 4: World Braille Day
- January 9: NRI Day (Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas)
- January 10: World Hindi Day
- January 12: National Youth Day,
- January 13: Lohri Day
- January 14-15: Makar Sankranti

- January 15: Army day
- January 23: Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Jayanti
- January 25: National Voters day, National Tourism Day
- January 26: India's Republic Day, International Customs Day
- January 27: International Day of Commemoration
- January 30: Martyrs' Day
- January (last Sunday): World Leprosy Eradication Day

**December**

- 01 Dec World AIDS Day
- 02 Dec World Computer Literacy Day, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 03 Dec International Day of People with Disability or World Disability Day
- 04 Dec Indian Navy Day
- 07 Dec International Civil Aviation Day, Indian Armed Force Flag Day
- 09 Dec The International Anticorruption Day

- 10 Dec World Human Rights Day, International Children's Day of Broadcasting
- 11 Dec International Mountain Day, UNICEF Day
- 14 Dec National Energy Conservation Day (India)
- 16 Dec Vijay Diwas
- 18 Dec International Migrants Day, National Minority Rights Day
- 23 Dec National Farmer's Day or Kisan Diwas
- 25 Dec Good Governance day

**November**

- 01 Nov World Vegan Day

- 2nd Nov The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
- 5th Nov World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)
- 06 Nov International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 07 Nov National Cancer Awareness Day
- 10 Nov World Science day for Peace and Development, Public Transport Day
- 11 Nov National Education Day
- 12 Nov World Pneumonia Day, Public Service Broadcasting Day

- 13 Nov World Kindness Day
- 14 Nov Children’s Day (India), World Diabetes Day
- 17 Nov International Students Day, Gurunanak Dev's Birth Anniversary, National epilepsy day
- 19 Nov World Toilet Day, International Men’s Day, National Integration Day
- 20 Nov Universal Children’s Day
- 26 Nov National Law Day or National constitution Day
- 30 Nov National Flag Day

### October

1. October 1 - International Day of Older Persons (**2019 Theme: The Journey to Age Equality**)
2. October 1 - International Coffee Day
3. October 1 - World Vegetarian Day
4. October 2 - International Day of Non – Violence
5. October 5 – World Teachers Day (**2019 Theme: Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession**)
6. October 7: World Habitat Day (**2019 Theme: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth**)
7. October 7 - World Cotton Day

8. October 8 – Air Force Day
9. October 9 - World Postal Day or World Post Office Day
10. October 10 - World Mental Health Day
11. October 11 - International Girl Child Day
12. October 13 - World Calamity Control Day
13. October 14 - World Standards Day
14. October 15 - World Students’ Day
15. October 16 - World Food Day
16. October 17 - International Poverty Eradication Day
17. October 24 - United Nations Day
18. October 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

-----All the Best-----



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