

DSSSB 2020

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs
16 -31 January

Weekly One Liner Updates 16-31st January 2020

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-31st) of January 2020. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** exams.

Important News – India

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" in **New Delhi**.
Note: Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad 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.
4. 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.
5. 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. This 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".
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. '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.
9. 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:

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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’.
19. 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.
20. **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.
21. 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.
- 22.** 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.
- 23.** 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.
- 24.** 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.
- 25.** 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.
- 26.** 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.
- 27.** 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).
- 28.** 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.
- 29.** **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.
- 30.** 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.
- 31.** 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.

Important News – State

- 1. Meghalaya** state 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Andhra Pradesh** state 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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 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 of 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".

Important News - World

- 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".
- 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.
- 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.
- 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".
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 10. 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.

- 11. 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.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- 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.

- 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).

- 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.

- 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.

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

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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.
9. 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.
 10. '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 Texpreneurs Federation (ITF), in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
 11. 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,
 12. 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).
 13. 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.
 14. 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.
 15. 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.
 16. 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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.

20. For the 1st time India a multilingual voice-enabled mobile banking application has been launched by **City Union Bank (CUB)**.
21. 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 networth of Rs. 230 crores.
22. 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.

Obituaries

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

4. On January 17,2020 Rameshchandra Gangaram Babu Nadkarni passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra, he was a renowned **Cricketer**.
Note: On January 17,2020 Former Indian all-rounder Rameshchandra Gangaram Babu 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.
5. 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.
6. 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".
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 had 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.

Important Days

1. In India, the Indian Army Day is observed every year on **15th January**.
Note: Army Day is observed on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India. This year 72nd Army Day is being celebrated across the country.
2. The 15th raising day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) observed on **19th January, 2020**.
Note: 15th Raising day of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was celebrated in New Delhi. The Union Minister of State (MoS) for home affairs Shri Nityanand Rai was the chief guest on this occasion while Shri G.V.V. Sarma, Member Secretary, NDMA was the Guest of Honour. NDRF came into force on Jan 19, 2006.
3. National Immunization Day (NID) also known as 'Polio Ravivar' was observed on **19th January, 2020**.
Note: National Immunization Day (NID) also known as 'Polio Ravivar' was observed on January 19, 2020. The Pulse Polio Programme 2020 was conducted as a part of National Immunization Day across the country. The programme aims to protect children less than five years from Polio disease and to eliminate Poliomyelitis in India.
4. India celebrates National Girl Child Day every year on **24th January**.
Note: India celebrates National Girl Child Day every year on 24th January. The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child. The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.
5. The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year in India on **25th January**.

- Note:** 25th of January is celebrated every year in India as National Voters' Day. This is the 10th edition of the National Voters' Day. The theme for the 10th edition of National Voters' Day is 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'. The theme aims to renew the citizens' faith in the electoral process as well as to educate the voters of India.
- The National Martyr's Day is observed annually on **30th January**.
Note: The National Martyr's Day is observed annually on January 30. The year 2020 marks the 72nd anniversary of the Martyr's Day or Shaheed Divas to pay homage to the freedom fighters who lost their lives for India's Independence from British rule. This day also marks the 72nd death anniversary of India's Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on Jan 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.
 - World Leprosy Day is observed annually on **last Sunday of January**.
Note: World Leprosy Day is observed annually on the last Sunday of January every year. This year, the day was observed on January 26, 2020. In India, it is celebrated on January 30 every year to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1948. This year 2020 marked the 72nd death anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. This year's theme is "Leprosy isn't what you think"

New Appointments

- 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.
- Lt Col Yuvraj Malik** has been appointed as the Director of the National Book Trust on deputation from the Indian Army.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **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.

12. **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.

13. **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

14. **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

Honor & Awards

1. 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, 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. 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.
12. **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'.

Sports News

1. 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.
2. 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 Adekuoroye for the score 10-0.
3. 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.
4. **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.
 5. 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.
 6. 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.
 7. **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.
 8. **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.
 9. 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).
 10. **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.
 11. 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.
 12. **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 medalsShivangi Sharma of Assam won five gold and two silver in swimming. She was the most successful female player of the Khelo India Youth Games.

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