

DSSSB 2020

Bi-Weekly Current Affairs
1 -15 January



Weekly One Liner Updates 1-15th January 2020

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of January 2020. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** exams.

Important News - India

1. Who has released SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019__ **NITI Aayog**.

Note:

- Government think tank the NITI 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 11th 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. Who has been included in 8 wonders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)___ The Statue of Unity.**
- 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. Who has developed a special class diesel conforming to NATO grade for use in ships and vessels of the Indian Navy ___ Indian Oil Corp (IOC).**
- 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. Who has released a survey that ranks the world's fastest-growing urban regions/ fastest-growing cities in the world___ The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU).**
- 38. Who will host the International naval exercise 'MILAN' in March 2020___ Vishakhapatnam**
- 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.

Important News - State

- 1. Indian e-commerce company has signed an agreement with MoHUA to support DAY-NULM ___ Flipkart.**

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 ___ **2nd 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 **state Government** has passed a resolution to roll back the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) __ Kerala**.
- 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. Who has become the first country in the world to ban sunscreen that is harmful to corals and sea life__ **The Pacific nation of Palau**
- 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, "81142-77777", 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 state Government __ **Maharashtra**.

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. Sate Govt. has become the 1st state to shortlist migrants for citizenship__ **Uttar Pradesh**.

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 Vanghmun 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. Who has decided to observe 2020 as the “Year of Mobility” for the welfare of the troops___ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

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.
- It will also aim at focusing on sports and physical fitness leveraging modern gadgetry.
- The CISF guard civil airports, nuclear power stations, mines, thermal power stations in the private domain as well.

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)**, Who has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country___ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

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

Important News – World

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Who has been awarded the Global Bihar Excellence Award 2019__ **Piyush Jaiswal**

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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. **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.

7. 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).

8. 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.

Honor & Awards

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. Who has won **Guinea-Bissau** presidential election ___ **Umaro Cissoko Embalo**.

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. Who has been honoured with **Lokmanya Tilak** journalism award ___ **Sanjay Gupta**.

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. Who has been adjudged the **best medical college of the year** and conferred with the **Six Sigma Healthcare Excellence Award** for 2019 ___ **Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) & SUM Hospital**.

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 has awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology __ **Ministry 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 included in the Forbes India list of 20 people to watch in the 2020s__ **Kanhaiya Kumar & Prashant Kishor**
- Note:**
- **Kanhaiya Kumar** finds 12th position in the list while Prashant Kishor is at 16th 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 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 will receive the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s Polly Umrigar Award __ **Jasprit Bumrah**.
- 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.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched an app for visually challenged to Identify currency Denomination ____ **MANI**.

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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. **Public sector lender** has signed an MoU with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu ____ **Indian Bank**
- 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.
5. 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. Who partnered with RevFin to offer life cover ____ **PNB MetLife**.
- 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. Who has introduced One Time Password (OTP)-based ATM cash withdrawals ____ **State Bank of India**.
- 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. Who has enabled select banks in India to offer round-the-clock (24×7) trading in the Indian rupee___ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- 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 has decided to end their operations in Sri Lanka___ **Axis Bank and ICICI Bank**.
- 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. Public sector bank has announced the 'Residential Builder Finance with Buyer Guarantee' (RBBG) scheme to give a push to residential sales and improve homebuyers' confidence___ **State Bank of India**.
- 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. Who has enabled selected banks in India to offer forex rates to Indian clients round-the-clock (24×7)___ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- 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. Who has amended the KYC norms allowing banks and other lending institutions regulated by it to use Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) ____ Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- 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. Who has been appointed as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a three-year term__ Michael Patra.**
- 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 signed a 5-year deal with leading European automotive logistics firm GEFCO to digitize its worldwide operations__ Infosys.**
- 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 launched myApps application to boost digital payments in India_____ **HDFC Bank.**

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
-

Obituaries

1. Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader passed away in New Delhi___ **DP Tripathi.**

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 passed away __ **Ratna Ojha.**

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 killed in US airstrike on Baghdad airport __ **Qassem Soleimani.**

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 passes away ___ **T N Chaturvedi.**

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 passed away due to years-long struggle with an illness__ **Sultan Qaboos bin Said.**

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.

Important Days

1. The **World Braille Day** is observed across the world every year on __ **4th January**.
- Note:**
- The day mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille.
 - He was the inventor of Braille script or Braille code.
 - Braille is a tactile writing system used by people who are visually impaired.
 - Braille users can read computer screens and other electronic supports thanks to refreshable braille displays.
 - People can write braille with the original slate and stylus or type it on a braille writer, such as a portable braille notetaker (or computer) that prints with a braille embosser.
2. National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas) is celebrated in India on __ **12th January**.
- Note:**
- The National Youth Festival 2020 is organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and State Government of Uttar Pradesh.
 - The theme of the 23rd National Youth Festival 2020 is “FIT YOUTH FIT INDIA”.
3. The National Youth Festival will increase the EK BHARAT SHRESTHA BHARAT bonding and it will prove as a The World Hindi day being celebrated across the world every year on __ **10th January**.
- Note:**
- Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world.
 - The first World Hindi Conference was organized in Nagpur on 10th January 1975.
 - The National Hindi Divas is being observed on 14th September every year across India.
 - learning platform for everyone.
4. Armed Forces Veterans Day is celebrated every year on __ **14th January**.
- Note:**
- The day is being celebrated since 2017 and the day was initially called Armistice Day.
 - Every year, January 14 is marked as Armed Forces Veteran Day as the Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Commander-in-chief of Indian Armed Forces retired on the day.
 - The fourth Army Forces Veteran Day, 2020 is to be celebrated at National War Memorial.

New Appointments

1. Who has been re-appointed as **Railway Board Chairman** for a period of one year __ **VK Yadav**.
- 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.
2. 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.
3. Who appointed as the new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast in Ireland__ **Hillary Clinton**.
- 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Who has been appointed as Chairman of National Medical Commission __ **Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma**.
- 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.
7. 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.
8. Best Motion Picture (Drama) in 'Golden Globe Awards 2020' __1917.
- Note:**
- The 77th Golden Globe Awards, which honor the movies and American Television were distributed on 6th January 2020 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California.
 - Best film – drama: 1917
 - Best actress in a film – drama: Renee Zellweger, Judy
 - Best actor in a film – drama: Joaquin Phoenix, Joker
 - Best film – musical or comedy: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
 - Best score – film: Joker
 - Best director – film: Sam Mendes, 1917
 - Best song – film: I'm Gonna Love Me Again, Rocketman
9. Who has won the presidential election of Croatia__ **Zoran Milanovic**.
- 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.
- 10. Who has appointed as the new chairman of the organization__ A Sakthivel.**
- 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.
- 11. Who took over as Sultan of Oman __ Haitham bin Tariq al-Said.**
- 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.
- 12. Who won the Taiwan presidential election__ Tsai Ing-wen.**
- 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. Who has been appointed the Director of the National Book Trust (NBT) __ Lt Col Yuvraj Malik**
- 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.
- 15. Who sworn in as the 14th Prime Minister of Malta __Robert Abela.**
- 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.
- 16. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)__M Nagaraj.**
- 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.

Sports News

- 1. Games will be included in the 3rd edition of the 'Khelo India youth games'__ lawn bowls and cycling.**

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.

2. The 5th Ice **Hockey Association of India (IHAI) 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.

3. Former India skipper was picked as captain of ESPN Cricinfo's ODI and Twenty20 teams of the decade __ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**.**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.

4. Who won the Hastings International chess title __ **Magesh Chandran**.**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.

5. Who will host the first Edition of Khelo India University Games __ **Bhubaneswar**.**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.

6. Who won gold medal in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C'ship __ **Saurabh Chaudhary**.**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.

7. India's all-rounder retires from all forms of cricket __ **Irfan Pathan**.**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.

8. Who won best Men's Player of the Year at Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019 __ **Cristiano Ronaldo**.**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).

9. World Cup winner Italian retires from football __ **Daniele De Rossi**.

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

10. Weightlifter has been slapped with a four-year ban for doping by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)_ **Sarbjeet**

Kaur.**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.

11. Japanese badminton player has won the Malaysia Masters 2020__ **Kento Momota.**

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.

12. Who has won the inaugural 2020 ATP Cup tennis tournament in Sydney__ **Serbia.**

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. Who has won the 7th National Ice Hockey Championship Women trophy_ **Ladakh.**

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.