

Monthly GK Digest

February 2020



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of February **2020**. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC and Railways** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The **Bank of Baroda** partnered with Care Ratings for assessing the credit quality of small and medium enterprises (SME) customers.
Note: State owned Bank of Baroda(BoB) has partnered with Care Ratings for assessing the credit quality of small and medium enterprises (SME) customers. This partnership will help to grade the credit quality of the bank's current and prospective SME customers by processing and analyzing structured, unstructured and new data streams.
2. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has given its approval for loan worth Rs 140 crore at low interest rate to **Punjab State Agricultural Development Bank (PSADB)**.
Note: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has given its approval for loan worth Rs 140 crore at low interest rate to Punjab State Agricultural Development Bank (PSADB). This has been done to strengthen as well as provide financial support to PSADB.
3. Fitch Ratings Inc in its 'India's economic growth outlook', has estimated India's GDP growth rate for the financial year-FY21 at **5.6 %**.
Note: Fitch Ratings Inc, an American credit rating agency in its 'India's economic growth outlook', has estimated India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth to 5.6 % for the financial year-FY21. For the current fiscal 2019-20 (FY 20), GDP is projected at 4.6 %.
4. **Amazon India** has partnered with Eastern Railways in order to set up a pick-up kiosk at the Sealdah railway station in Kolkata.
Note: Multinational technology company(MNC) Amazon India has partnered with Eastern Railways in order to set up a pick-up kiosk at the Sealdah railway station in Kolkata, West Bengal. Previously successful pilot of pickup kiosks in 4 railway stations across Mumbai, Maharashtra was set up in 2019.
5. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal for the combination of Yum Restaurants (India) private Limited (YRIPL) and **Devyani International Limited (DIL)**.
Note: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposal for the combination of Yum Restaurants (India) private Limited (YRIPL) and Devyani International Limited (DIL). The proposal is that DIL is going to acquire some Equity Shareholding and sell some KFC restaurants.
6. The payments bank **Paytm** has launched an all-in-one QR (Quick Response), point-of-sale (POS) device for merchants across India.
Note: Paytm, India's leading digital payments company, has launched an all-in-one QR (Quick Response), point-of-sale (POS) device for merchants across India & SDK (software development kit) for third-party integration . With the help of QR & POS device, businessmen will be able to get unlimited payments across the country at zero percent fees through Paytm wallet, Rupay Cards & all UPI (Unified Payments Interface) based apps directly.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Insurance cover on bank deposits to **Rs 5 lakh**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Insurance cover on bank deposits to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh effective from February 4, 2020 with a view to giving protection to depositors. The cover is provided by a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
8. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading insurance companies in India, has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan called **Infinity**.
Note: Reliance General Insurance Company Limited, one of the leading insurance companies in India, has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan called "Reliance Health Infinity". Under the plan, the minimum sum

- insured will be Rs. 3 lakh while the maximum sum insured limit will be Rs. 1 crore.
9. As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI) the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is **6.1%**.
Note: As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI), the labour force participation is 36.9 % and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%. The government is conducting a new PLFS with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys. It's an attempt to provide authentic data.
10. Union Cabinet Approves Amendments to Banking Regulation Act to regulate **Urban Co-Operative banks**.
Note: The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Banking Regulation Act to empower India's Central Bank (Reserve Bank of India) to have better control over urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks. These amendments will apply to the urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks.
11. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from **February 10 to February 14, 2020**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from February 10 to February 14, 2020. The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)".
12. To combat the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV) \$2 million as funding approved by **the Asian Development Bank**.
Note: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved to sponsor \$2 million as funding to combat the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV). Under the funding, regional technical assistance will be provided in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. ADB has also partnered with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other regional experts to respond to the 2019 nCoV situation.
13. The Indian government has reported that it has been received remittance of **\$118.3 billion**.
Note: The Indian govt. has released data of remittances received in the country since April 2018- September 2019. As per the report around 13.62 million Indian nationals are staying abroad & around \$118.3 billion has been received as remittance. The foreign countries in which a large number of Indians were living include Nepal, the Middle East region, the UK (United Kingdom), the US (United States), Malaysia and Germany.
14. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to **₹50 crore**.
Note: Now, pension funds are on par with mutual funds which have to meet a minimum net worth requirement of ₹50 crores, under SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) rules. Provision has also been made for licenses to have indefinite validity. Earlier, the licenses of pension fund managers were granted for a period of 5 years. Now, the license will remain valid until cancelled by the regulator.
15. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** requirement of commercial banks for **5 years**.
Note: In a major step to boost the credit growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) requirement of commercial banks for 5- years. So now the banks would not be needed to maintain the cash reserve ratio (CRR) for 5- years on their deposits for the amount equivalent to loans lent to automobiles, residential housing, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) between 31 Jan-31 July, 2020 from their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) for maintenance of the CRR.
16. As per the notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020, the currency note of rupees one will of colour of **pink green**.
Note: The Union Ministry of Finance has notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020' which will feature bilingual signature of Shri Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Ministry of Finance. It shall be rectangular 9.7 x 6.3 cms, with its paper made of 100% (cotton) rag content. The note will be 110 microns thick, weighing 90 GSM (Grams per Square Meter). The pink green colour note will have a design of grains, which depicts the "agricultural dominance of the country".
17. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published draft framework to set up new pan-India New Umbrella Entity for **retail payment systems**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published draft framework to set up new pan-India New Umbrella Entity (NUE) for retail payment systems. It will be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and will be given

- authorization by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under Section 4 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). RBI has invited comments on the draft framework from all stakeholders.
- 18.** As per the Finance Minister at the end of September 2019 the public sector banks' (PSBs) has recovered bad loan of rupees Rs. **2.03 lakh crore**.
Note: The public sector banks' (PSBs) bad loans trimmed to ₹7.27 lakh crore at the end of September 2019 in comparison to ₹8.96 lakh crore at the end of March 2018. The information was provided by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 10, 2020.
- 19.** The Indian Bank Association's 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo and Awards 2020 held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- 20.** At Indian Bank Association's 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference 'Most Customer Centric Bank Using Technology' award won by **South Indian Bank**.
Note: South Indian Bank emerged winner in the 'Most Customer Centric Bank Using Technology' category and runner up in the 'Best Payments Initiative' category for Small Banks. The awards were received by Mr. Raphael T J Chief General Manager (CGM) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) in south Indian bank and Mr. Sony A Joint General Manager (JGM) in south Indian bank
- 21.** As per the The Banker's 'Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, **IndusInd Bank** topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks.
Note: It's brand value saw an increase of 122% over the past 12 months. The bank reported total assets of Rs 3.1 lakh crore at the end of Q3 FY20. As a part of the report, the list "Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country" has been topped by China, followed by United States (US) at 2nd position while Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) ranked at 3rd and 4th spots. Japan has moved up to fifth spot. India ranked 8th in this list in comparison to 10th place in 2019.
- 22.** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has revised its Global growth forecast for the year 2020 to **2.2 percent**.
Note: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has revised its Global growth forecast for the year 2020 to 2.2 percent from the previous 2.3 percent. It is because of the Impact in Global market created by Novel coronavirus outbreak in China and also the virus starts spreading globally to put barrier for this.
- 23.** "We Think Digital" Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women launched by **Facebook**.
Note: Facebook launched "We Think Digital" Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar. It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.
- 24.** To expand its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services to 10 million users, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted **WhatsApp**.
Note: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has permitted the instant messaging platform WhatsApp to expand its Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services to 10 million users. "WhatsApp Pay", a payment feature of WhatsApp has been designed to run on Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The UPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India. This facility enables the users do business transactions or to pay others directly through their bank accounts.
- 25. Sujit Prasad** will head the Municipal Bonds Development Committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
Note: The Municipal Bonds Development Committee headed by Shri Sujit Prasad, Executive Director, SEBI. The committee will give recommendations on policy matters pertaining to development of municipal debt securities market. The members of the committee include representatives from ministry, Municipal Corporation, lawyers, professionals and market practitioners.
- 26.** The Central Board of Directors of the RBI recommended aligning the financial year of RBI from July-June, with the government's fiscal year (April-March) from the year **2020-21**.
Note: The meeting reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank. The meeting was addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She was accompanied by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur, Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar and Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan, among other senior officials.
- 27.** The Reserve RBI has started the first tranche of Long Term Repo Operation (LTROs) by conducting a three-year issue worth **Rs 25,000 crore**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started the first tranche of Long Term Repo Operation (LTROs) by conducting a three-year issue worth Rs 25,000 crore for which it received bids of more than Rs 1.944 lakh crore. The central bank has accepted bids of ₹25,035 crore. The RBI will conduct the second issue for Rs 25,000 crore on February 24 which will have one-year tenor.
- 28.** The Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) with **the World Bank**.

- Note:** The Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank(WB) have inked a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) – National Groundwater Management Improvement Program that will be implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) and cover 78 districts. The main aim of this agreement is to stop the decreasing level of ground water in India and strengthen the institutions related to ground water.
29. As per the US-based think tank World Population Review, Indian economy has become the **fifth largest**.
Note: In accordance with the US-based think tank World Population Review, India has become the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP of \$2.94 trillion overtaking the UK and France in 2019. The size of the UK economy is \$2.83 trillion and that of France is \$2.71 trillion. The list has been topped by the United states (US) with \$21.44 trillion GDP.
30. In order to provide enough credit to entrepreneurs in the MSME sector, the state government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
Note: The agreement was signed between principal secretary M K Das and SBI Ahmedabad circle general manager Ramesh Kumar Agarwal in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Vijay Rupani. The new MSME Start-ups of the state can submit an application on either the MSME portal or to the local nodal agencies.
31. HDFC and SAP Concur collaborated with **MasterCard** to manage the spending of the corporate sector.
Note: HDFC Bank will offer a corporate credit card for business travellers, providing a one-stop solution for payment and expense management during business trips. The card will enable seamless integration of all business-related spend into SAP Concur offerings, enhancing employee experience, increasing visibility, saving money, and improving efficiency.
32. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has received final approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reduce the promoter's stake to 26 % .
Note: Earlier on January 30, the bank had conveyed in-principle approval of the RBI to reduce the promoters' stake to 26 % of the paid-up voting equity share capital (PUVESC) within 6 months of the final approval. RBI had asked the bank to reduce the stake of the promoters to 20 % of the paid-up share capital by 31 March 2018 and 15 % by 31 March 2020. Along with this, the bank is moving towards bringing back the case filed against RBI in the Bombay High Court (HC) for reducing the stake of promoters.
33. SBI Cards has entered into the partnership with **Landmark Group** to launch 3 new retail co-branded credit cards.
Note: The three new retail co-branded credit cards are Lifestyle Home Centre SBI Card, Max SBI Card and Spar SBI Card —with 4 Landmark Group brands – Lifestyle, Home Centre, Max and Spar. The co-branded cards are available in three variants. It includes, Base, SELECT and PRIME and cater to the needs of consumers ranging from Value for Money to Premium and Super Premium. Cardholders of any of the above said cards can enjoy the same benefits across all participating Landmark brands.
34. For installing 1000 public charging stations for electric vehicles state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed an MoU with **BSNL**.
Note: EESL will set up public charging stations in 1000 BSNL sites in a phased manner & also entire upfront investment on the services pertaining to the MoU, along with the operation and maintenance of the charging infrastructure. BSNL would be responsible for providing the requisite space & power connections for installing the charging infrastructure. According to the vision of National Electric Mobility Programme, EESL has commissioned 300 AC (Alternate Current) and 170 DC (Direct Current) chargers across India and at present, 66 public charging points are operational in New Delhi, India.
35. National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-24) has been launched by **RBI**.
Note: The main motive of the strategy is to provide access to financial services in an affordable manner. The Strategy has been launched after thorough consultation with SEBI, PFRDA and also Insurance IRDAI. The strategy was launched based on the recommendations of the Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee that worked in consultation with the above agencies.
36. According to 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, has topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks **IndusInd Bank**.
Note: The brand value of IndusInd Bank has increased by 122% over the past 12 months, making it the highest placed for growth in brand value, across the globe. The bank reported total assets of Rs 3.1 lakh crore at the end of Q3 FY20. As a part of the report, the list "Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country" has been topped by China, followed by United States (US) at 2nd position while Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) ranked at 3rd and 4th spots.
37. The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2019-24 has been prepared by **the Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC) of the RBI**.
Note: In order to promote financial literacy among customers and to provide access to formal financial services in an affordable manner, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2019-24. The strategy has been prepared by Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee

- (FIAC) of the RBI in consultation with the Centre, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA).
- 38. Switzerland** central bank has begun testing world's 1st digital version of currency, e-krona.
Note: Sveriges Riksbank (or simply the Riksbank), the central bank of Sweden, had begun testing its digital version of currency, e-krona. If this year-long pilot project successful, this would lead to the creation of world's 1st central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- 39.** National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated India's economic growth rate to be **4.9 %**.
- 40.** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has granted a sum of Rs. 400.64 crore to **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
Note: The amount has been sanctioned under its 'Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) – Trench XXV' for boosting rural infrastructure during the current financial year-FY (2019-20). Out of the total amount, Rs. 209.87 crore will be provided for the construction of 82 rural roads length of 291 kms & 3 bridges. This will benefit 9.15 lakh people in 19 districts of UT of J&K & they get all weather improved connectivity to 461 remote villages.
- 41.** To train differently abled people to find jobs in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector Microsoft has collaborated with the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
Note: In the first year of partnership 500 differently-abled youths will be upskilled. As a part of this partnership, SBI Foundation and Microsoft will develop an artificial intelligence powered market so that BFSI industry can connect more easily with differently abled people for employment opportunities.
- 42.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed to open new branches without prior permission to **Bandhan Bank**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the ban on Bandhan Bank & allowed it to open new branches without prior permission. However, the RBI came up with some regulatory conditions & directed the bank to order about 25 % of the total banking outlets to be opened in rural areas where banking facilities are not available.
- 43. Mr. G. Srinivasan** will chair the 9-member committee to examine the possibility of allowing life insurers offer indemnity based health policies formed by IRDAI.
Note: After banning life insurers from selling indemnity-based health policies a few years back in July 2016, IRDAI has formed a 9-member committee led by Mr. G. Srinivasan to examine the possibility of allowing them again and extant statutory provisions that are applicable in this regard. The committee, co-chaired by Mr MR Kumar, Chairman of LIC of India, will have to submit its recommendations within 2- months.
- 44.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has came up with a new method of calculating India's growth through a Working Paper titled **"Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model"**.
Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has came up with a new method of calculating India's growth through a Working Paper titled "Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model" under the RBI Working Paper Series, introduced in March 2011. The Paper is co-authored by Soumya Bhadury, Saurabh Ghosh and Pankaj Kumar. The paper introduces the Dynamic Factor Model of calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP), using 12 indicators.
- 45.** 1st non-life insurer in India to use Whatsapp chatbot for entire services -- **Bharti AXA General Insurance**.
Note: Bharti AXA General Insurance becomes the 1st non-life insurer in India to use Whatsapp chatbot for entire services such as policy documents delivery, renewal notices & claim intimation for its customers. It will soon start to sell private cars, 2 wheelers & Travel insurance through Whatsapp.
- 46.** RBI mandates banks to link all new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with external benchmark from **April 1, 2020**.
Note: In a bid to strengthen monetary policy transmission, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has ordered banks to link all their new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with an external benchmark effective from April 1, 2020. The external benchmarks will include Reserve bank's repo rate, Treasury bill (T-bill) yields of 3 months or 6 months /any other benchmark published by the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL). The banks will have to reset the external benchmark every 3 months.
- 47. Rajiv Kumar** inaugurated the 'Baroda Startup Banking' service with the objective of making Bank of Baroda (BoB) a preferred ally of startup companies.
Note: Finance Secretary Shri Rajiv Kumar has inaugurated the 'Baroda Startup Banking' service with the objective of making Bank of Baroda (BoB) a preferred ally of startup companies and connecting more than 2,000 startups over the next 2- years. The initiative was launched simultaneously in 15 cities across India.
- 48.** Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) **Capri Global Capital Limited** has launched an SME lending product "UDAAN" for women entrepreneurs to provide secured loans up to Rs.40 lakhs.
Note: The Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) has launched an SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises) lending product "UDAAN" for women entrepreneurs to provide secured loans upto Rs.40 lakhs only for Business purpose with the

- loan repayment period of 10 years to 15 years at a competitive interest rate after conducting due diligence. Women borrower has to be the primary applicant, within the age group of 18-45 years and must not be more than 60 years of age at the end of their loan repayment period.
49. To launch co-branded credit card 'Ka-ching, HDFC Bank has ties up with **IndiGo**.
Note: The travel credit card named 'Ka-ching' - powered by Mastercard. The co-branded cards are available in 2 variants. It includes basic '6E Rewards' and the premium card '6E Rewards XL' & annual membership fee of '6E Rewards' will be Rs 750 while that of '6E Rewards XL' will be Rs 3,000.
50. To promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment a campaign named "UPI Chalega" has been launched by **NPCI**.
Note: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an industry campaign named "UPI Chalega" to promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment. The "UPI Chalega" campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life. NPCI has launched the campaign in association with the payment ecosystem players.

Obituaries

- Noted Social activist, feminist writer and journalist passed away --**Vidya Bal**.
Note: She was known for her heroic oppressive practices involving women. She was a forefront fighter for women equality with men. Her Public Interest Litigation was against the restriction of women at Shani Shingnapur temple under Maharashtra Hindu Place of Worship Act, 1956.
- Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Jaswant Singh Kanwal** passed away.
Note: In 1996, he was bestowed the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship award for his book 'Pakhi' (Hand Fan) and two years later in 1998, he received the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Taushali Di Hanso'.
- Renowned personality Rabi Singh passed away recently, he was a veteran **Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter**.
Note: Renowned Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter Rabi Singh passed away. He was popularly known as 'Biplabi Kabi' (the revolutionary poet) for his patriotic writings. Rabi Singh was awarded Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman by Odisha Sahitya Akademi in 2017 for his contribution to Odia literature.
- Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi novelist passed away recently is **Dalip Kaur Tiwana**.
Note: Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi **novelist, Dalip Kaur Tiwana** passed away at the age of 84 due to old age ailments. She was well known for novels 'Teeli da Nishaan' and 'Sooraj te Samandar'. She was also a former president of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.
- Sahitya Academy Awardee Jaswant Singh Kanwal passed away at 101, he was writer of **Punjabi**.
- Daniel Arap Moi passed away recently, he was former President of **Kenya**.
Note: Daniel Arap Moi Kenya's Ex-President, who is a farmer School Teacher and became Kenya's longest serving President dies at 95 due to age issues and also getting treatment in Hospital for a month. Moi's Death was announced by Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta on the State Broadcaster with a Statement.
- Noted American author **Roger Kahn** passed way recently.
Note: American author Roger Kahn, known for his best-selling book in 1972 "The Boys of Summer" passed away at Nursing home in Mamaroneck, New York, U.S due to age related ailments announced by his son Gordon Jacques Kahn. Kahn wrote at least 20 books in his lifetime. In 1989 he collaborated with Pete Rose for the Biography of legendary Boxer Jack Dempsey before Jack gets banned from the game.
- Famous cricket journalist and film historian **Raju Bharatan** passed away recently.
Note: Famous cricket journalist and film historian Raju Bharatan, 86 years old, passed away at Mumbai, Maharashtra. He is also the writer for The hindu and Sportstar and also a popular radio commentator for India's cricket matches.
- Hindi Novelist** Giriraj Kishore passed away recently.
Note: Giriraj Kishore was best known for his novel "Pehla Girmitya" (for which he received Padma Shri in 2007) and "Dhai Ghar". He was awarded Padma Shri by President of India in 2007, Sahitya Akademi award in 1992, Vyas Samman in 2000 & an honorary Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) from Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University in 2002.

10. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Veteran, Orator and Philosophical Author **P. Parameswaran** passed away.
Note: He established Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram in 1982. He served as editor in magazines Kesari, Manthan, Yuva Bharathi and Vivekananda Kendra patriika. He also served as President of Vivekananda Kendra. Parameswaran has authored books on Indian Philosophy and society. He has written around 21 books, 'Marx and Vivekananda: A comparative study' and 'From Marx to Maharshi and Bhagavad Gita – Vision of a New World Order' were popular among them.
11. **Journalist** Nandu R Kulkarni passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
Note: He was the bureau chief of the Kolkata- based newspaper "The Statesman" in 1992 & also reported on a wide range of subjects including politics & business. Nandu Kulkarni started his career with "The Indian Express" in 1976 & reported on economic offenses.
12. Renowned personality Wendell Rodricks passed away in Goa, he was a famous **Fashion designer**.
Note: Famous Indian Fashion designer Wendell Rodricks, 59 years old, passed away at Colvale, Goa. He was born on 28th May 1960 in Goa. Wendell Rodricks was awarded with Padma Shri in 2014 and also Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 2015.ii.He had also authored books namely: "Moda Goa- History & Style", "The Green room", "Poskem: Goans in the shadows".
13. Founding member and lead-guitarist of music band Parikrama who passed away recently -- **Sonam Sherpa**.
Note: Sherpa formed Parikrama music band with his associate Subir Malik. The band memorable songs include "But it rained", "Till I'm no one again", "Open skies", "Am I dreaming" and also gave music for the Bollywood movie, Manjunath. Sherpa owned and ran Parikrama school at Hauz Khas village, New Delhi.
14. Ugandan student, who played a memorable role in 2016 Disney film "Queen of Katwe" who passed away -- **Nikita Pearl Waligwa**.
Note: She died at the age of 15 in Uganda, Kampala due to brain tumour. Waligwa was studying at Gayaza High School and was known as "darling to many" in the school. She played the role of Gloria, a younger friend of the main character Phiona Mutesi and taught her how to play chess.
15. Noted American Actress **Lynn Cohen** passed away recently, best known for playing the role of Magda on "Sex and the City" series.
Note: Lynn Cohen reprised her part in the 2 film versions- "Sex & the City" (2008) and "Sex & the city2" (2010) of the HBO (Home Box Office) Series. She acted in the television shows of "Damages", "Nurse Jackie", "The Affair", "Law & Order" and also featured in guest roles on "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel", "God Friend Me" and "Master of None".
16. Noted Bengali actor & former Trinamool Congress MP **Tapas pal** passed away at the age of 61 years.
Note: Tapas Pal was a member of All India Trinamool Congress. He was an MLA from Alipore for 2 terms (2001-2006 & 2006-2009) and former MP (Member of Parliament) of Krishnanagar constituency from 2009 to 2019.
17. Harry Greg passed away at the age of 87 in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, UK, he was a famous **Footballer (goalkeeper)**.
Note: Harry Greg, was named as "Hero of Munich" for rescuing 2 teammates as well as a baby and her pregnant mother in the 1958 air disaster that killed 23 people. Greg spent 9 years with Manchester United after joining as the world's most expensive goalkeeper in 1957.
18. Hall of famer Mary Kathryn Mickey Wright passed away recently was a famous **Golfer**.
Note: Hall of famer Mary Kathryn Mickey Wright, was an American Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour professional golfer, passed away at the age of 85 in Florida, United States (US). She was born on February 14, 1935 in San Diego, California, US (United States). She was a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.
19. M.S. Mani who passed away at the age of 79 was a famous **journalist**.
Note: Former Chief-editor of Kerala Kaumudi (Malayalam daily) and kala kaumudi (magazine) chief editor M.S. Mani passed away at the age of 79 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was born on November 4, 1941 at Mayyanad in Kollam district, Kerala as the son of Kerala Kaumudi Founder editor K Sukumaran and Madhavi Sukumaran.
20. Name the veteran Kannada Actor who passed away recently **Kishori Ballal** .
Note: Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, due to her age related illness. She hailed from Dakshina Kannada district,

Karnataka. She made her debut acting in 1960's with Ivalantha Hendthi and had a career span over 15 years. She has acted in over 75 movies in different languages with some famous directors and dedicated actors.

21. Veteran computer scientist who invented copy-cut-paste passed away recently -- **Lawrence Gordon Tesler**.

Note: Lawrence Gordon Tesler known as Larry Tesler was an American computer scientist who worked in the field of human-computer interaction and also the Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste functions for computers in 1973 has passed away at the age of 74 in Portola Valley, California, U.S.

22. India Footballer who was a part of India's bronze-medal winning teams in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 and 1966, passed away recently -- **Ashok Chatterjee**.

Note: The former Indian Footballer Ashok Chatterjee who was a part of India's bronze-medal winning teams in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 and 1966, passed away at the age of 78 in Kolkata due to age related issues. Ashok was Born and brought up at Halder Para Lane, Howrah in Kolkata. He made his International debut in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 against Japan. Chatterjee also represented India in the 1966 Asian Games, Bangkok and the Asian cup Qualifiers in 1967

23. Former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away recently -- **Krishna Bose**.

Note: Krishna Bose, former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away at the age of 89 in Kolkata, West Bengal due to heart-related ailments. She

was the Chairperson of the Netaji Research Bureau. Krishna Bose joined politics in the mid-1990's. She was elected as MP from the Jadavpur, West Bengal constituency in 1998 and 1999 as TMC candidate.

24. Renowned personality Katherine Johnson passed away recently she was a veteran **Mathematician**.

Note: Famous NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson passed away at the age of 101 in Virginia, US. She was born on August 26, 1918, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, US. Her life was portrayed in the movie "Hidden Figures". Katherine was awarded a "Presidential Medal of freedom" by former President Barack Obama in 2015.

25. Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak who passed away recently was former President of **Egypt**.

Note: Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak, former President of Egypt passed away at the age of 91, in Cairo, Egypt. He was born on 4th May 1928 in Egypt. He served as the president of Egypt for nearly 30 years (1981-2011). He joined the Egyptian Air Force in 1949 and became the commander -in-chief of the Egyptian Air Force in 1972.

26. Centenarian Vedic Scholar and Freedom fighter passed away recently -- **Sudhakar Krishna Rao**.

Note: Sudhakar Krishna Rao, Centenarian Vedic Scholar and Freedom fighter passed away at the age of 122 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on April 1897 at Balepete, Bengaluru. He was the founding editor of Veda Taranga, the Kannada magazine devoted to Vedic studies. He was given the title "Pandit Sudhakar Chaturvedi" for his authority on all the four Vedas.

Important Days

1. The World Wetlands Day was observed on **February 2, 2020**.

Note: World Wetlands Day (WWD) was observed to spread awareness and to conserve the wetlands all over the world. The of this year day is "Wetlands and Biodiversity". The theme highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation, which conveys nearly 40% of the world's plant & animal species live or breed on wetlands.

2. The World Cancer Day was observed on **February 4**.

Note: The World Cancer Day is organized by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Geneva, Switzerland, every year on February 4 to raise awareness to encourage cancer's prevention, detection and treatment. The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to

reduce the illness & death caused by cancer. The theme of WCD from 2019-21 is "I am and I will".

3. International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation 2020 was observed on **February 6, 2020**.

Note: The International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was observed. It was observed since 2003, as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation. The day spreads the awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

4. The National Deworming Day (NDD) was observed across the country on **February 10, 2020**.

Note: The day was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). This will be followed by the mop-up day on February 17, 2020. The objective of

the day is to deworm children and adolescents to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worms in the intestine.

5. The World Pulses Day was observed on **Feb 10**.

Note: World Pulses day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as global food. World Pulses day has been designated on Feb 10 every year since 2019 by the 73rd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on December 20, 2018.

6. International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed on **February 11**.

Note: The day was celebrated to achieve equal participation & access to women and girls in science. The theme of this year is "Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth". The theme aims to encourage women and girls to opt for science.

7. The World Unani Day was celebrated on **February 11**.

Note: The day marks the birthday of great Unani scholar and social reformer "Hakim Ajmal Khan". Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was the chief guest of the 4th Unani day function organized by AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Ministry, New Delhi, India.

8. National Productivity Day 2020 was observed on **February 12, 2020**.

Note: National Productivity day was observed on february 12 annually to increase the productivity culture in India. The day commemorates the foundation of the National Productivity Council (NPC) and Productivity week will be celebrated from (Feb 12 to Feb 18, 2020). National Productivity Council (NPC) comes under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. NPC increases productivity, competitiveness, profits, augments safety and ensures better quality.

9. To commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology Darwin Day was observed on **12th February**.

Note: Darwin Day was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin. He was born 12 February, 1809 at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. This year on 12th February has marked the 211th birth anniversary of the Charles Darwin.

10. The World Radio Day (WRD) was observed on **February 13**.

Note: World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated all over the world with the theme "Radio and Diversity". The day aims to highlight the unique power of radio which connects lives and brings people together from across the world. In the year 1924, Radio was 1st introduced to India by Madras Presidency Club.

11. National Women day was observed on **February 13**

Note: To commemorate the birth anniversary of independence activist, Sarojini Naidu (also named Nightingale of India), every year India observes February 13 as it's National Women day. She was born in 13 February 1879 in Hyderabad British India (now in Telangana, India). It should be noted that the International Women's Day is observed on 8th March annually.

12. The World Pangolin Day was observed across the world on **15th February (3rd Saturday of Feb)**.

Note: The 9th World Pangolin day was observed on February 15, 2020. The Madhya Pradesh forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin for the first time in order to know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan

13. Soil Health Card Day was observed across the country on **19th February**.

Note: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on February 19, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan, to increase the fertility of the soil. The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to farmers every 2 years to identify the nutritional deficiencies in the soil. The scheme also ensures additional incomes to the farmers by increase in yields & also promote sustainable farming.

14. World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on **20th February**.

Note: The day creates awareness against social injustice regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. Theme of this day this year is "Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice". The theme aims to uphold the principles of social justice by promoting gender equality, or the rights of indigenous people or migrants.

- The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on **21st February**.

Note: International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on February 21 since 2000 as a worldwide observance of UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). The day creates an awareness on linguistic, cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism and in India the day is observed as 'Matribhasha Diwas'. Theme of IMLD for the year 2020 is "Languages without Border".

15. The World Thinking Day is celebrated on **22nd February**.

Note: Each year on February 22 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. The theme of World Thinking Day 2020 is "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". On this day girls from every part of the world does the same activity around a shared theme.

16. The Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on **24th February**.

- Note:** Central Excise Day was celebrated every year on February 24 across India to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way and to prevent corruption. The Central Excise Day is celebrated to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.
- 17. Right to Protein**, a national-level public health initiative, has launched India's 1st Protein Day on **27 February, 2020**.
Note: It is to raise awareness about the health benefits of protein. Theme of the Protein Day 2020: Protein Mein Kya Hai. The theme aims to include proteins in our every meal.
- 18. World Non-Governmental Organization Day** was observed annually on **27th February**.
Note: The human Right activists & all individuals celebrated World NGO Day 2020, to raise awareness about the NGO sector and to encourage people worldwide who are involved & dedicatedly working for a good cause. The day was officially recognized and declared by 12 member countries of the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic sea states in 2010 and was first marked by the UN (United Nations), EU (European Union) leaders and international organizations in 2014.
- 19. National Science Day (NSD)** was observed all over India on **February 28, 2020**.
Note: This day marks the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir ChandraShekhara Venkata Raman (also called Sir C V Raman) on 28th February 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. In 1986, the Government of India (GOI) declared Feb 28 as National Science Day. Theme of the NSD 2020: "Women in Science".
- 20. Rare Disease Day (RDD)** is an observance held on the **last day of February**.
Note: This year marked the 13th observance of International Rare Disease Day, which was observed on February 29, 2020. The day creates an awareness of rare diseases and improves access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases & their families. Slogan of RDD 2020: "Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud".

New Appointments

- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI)** has appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada -- **Ajay Bisaria**.
Note: The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI) announced Ajay Bisaria as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada. Bisaria is an IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer of 1987 batch. Bisaria served as High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.
- Arvind Krishna** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of International Business Machines (IBM).
Note: Indian origin technology executive Arvind Krishna has been elected as Chief Executive Officer of American IT giant International Business Machines Corp (IBM) after a "world-class succession process" will be effective on April, becomes the third Indian to head US-based multinational company after Microsoft corporation chief Satya Nadella and Google ceo sundar pichai.
- M. Ajit Kumar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of M. Ajit Kumar as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Ajit is an IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officer of the batch 1984. Ajit served as member of CBIC and he will replace Pranab Kumar. Das as the chairman of CBIC.
- Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi** has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iraq.
Note: Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi, 65 years old, was appointed as the Iraq's new Prime Minister (PM) by its President Barhim Salih. He was the successor of Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests.
- Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.
Note: Ministry of External Affairs has announced Experienced Diplomat Shri Gopal Baglay, a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Baglay will replace Taranjit Sandhu, who has been appointed as Indian Ambassador to U.S.
- Deepa Malik** has been appointed as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.
Note: India's lone woman Paralympic medalist Deepa Malik, 49 years old, Sonipat from Haryana, was elected as President of the Paralympic Committee of India. He was the successor of the acting interim president Gursharan

- Singh. Deepa Malik won a silver in shot put F-53 event in the 2016 Rio Paralympic games.
7. **Albin Kurti** has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Kosovo.
Note: Former rebel leader Albin Kurti (44 years) has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of Kosovo by its parliament. Albin replaced Ramush Haradinaj as the PM, as Ramush resigned the post in July 2019 when he was summoned to be questioned at the war crimes court in The Hague, Netherlands.
 8. American Greek economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg has resigned as the Chief Economist of the **World Bank (WB)**.
 9. **Jeff Weiner** has become the Executive Chairman of the LinkedIn.
Note: Jeff Weiner became the Executive Chairman (EC) of LinkedIn. He was the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of LinkedIn for the past 11 years. LinkedIn is the professional networking company owned by Microsoft. Ryan Roslansky, senior Vice President (VP) of LinkedIn will become the CEO of the company as of June 1. He is the successor of Jeff Weiner. Tom Cohan, current Vice President of Marketing Solutions will replace Roslansky.
 10. **Philip Barton** has been appointed as the as Britain's New High Commissioner to India.
Note: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of Great Britain announced that it has appointed Philip Robert Barton KCMG OBE (Knight Commander order of British Empire) as its new high commissioner of Great Britain to India. He will Replace Sir Dominic Anthony Gerard Asquith KCMG and will take charge on Spring Season.
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 12. **Arvind Kejriwal** sworn in as new chief minister of Delhi.
Note: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) party leader Shri Arvind Kejriwal, 51 years old, to be sworn as Chief Minister (CM) of New Delhi on February 16, 2020 at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, with his cabinet members. He was CM of Delhi for consecutively 3 times during the period of 2013, 2015 and 2020. The party sent a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Shri Anil Baijal staking claim to form the government.
 13. **Robin Singh** has been appointed as the Director of Cricket of the UAE.
Note: Former India all-rounder Robindra Ramnarine Singh, 56 years old, appointed Director of Cricket of the UAE (United Arab Emirates). He was appointed by Emirates Cricket Board after the dismissal of head coach Douglas Robert Brown.
 14. **Ajay H. Patel** has been elected as the President of All-India Chess Federation (AICF).
Note: Ajay H. Patel was elected unopposed as the President of All-India Chess Federation (AICF) by Justice Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla, returning officer for the AICF & former Supreme Court (SC) judge. Other persons who were elected unopposed to AICF are Bharat Singh Chauhan as the Secretary, Naresh Sharma as Treasurer, M. Arun Singh as Joint Secretary and Vipnesh Bharadwaj as Vice President.
 15. **Atul Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020-21.
Note: Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for 2020-21. They were elected at a meeting of the central council in New Delhi. Atul Gupta, who has served the chartered accountancy profession for about two decades, was the Vice President of ICAI for the term 2019-20. He is a commerce and a law graduate by education.
 16. **Rishi Sunak** has been appointed as the United Kingdom's (UK) new Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Note: Indian origin Rishi Sunak (39) has been appointed as the United Kingdom's (UK) new Chancellor of the Exchequer by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the UK government's chief financial minister. He succeeds Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid who resigned as Chancellor.
 17. **Vinay Dube** has been appointed as the CEO of GoAir.
Note: He was the successor of Cornelis Vrieswijk who resigned in February 2019. GoAir MD (Managing Director), Jehangir Waldia was holding the additional charge of chief executive. Vinay Dube served as CEO of Jet

Airways and joined GoAir in an advisory role in October 2019.

18. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai has been elected as the president of Afghanistan.

Note: Afghanistan's Incumbent president Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (70) wins second term as Afghanistan president as an Independent Candidate securing 50.64% votes in september 2019 election announced by the Election Commission of Afghanistan. Mr. Ghani served as president of Afghanistan from 2014, and he also served as Finance minister of Afghanistan (2002-2004) and the Chancellor of Kabul University

19. Supratim Bandyopadhyay has been appointed as the chairman of the PFRDA

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Supratim appointment for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption or till attaining the age of 65 years. He was the successor of Shri Pankaj Jain. Supratim Bandyopadhyay served as Member (Finance) in the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

20. Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).

Note: A high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected Sanjay Kothari as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). Sanjay Kothari to succeed K. V. Chowdary as CVC

21. Bimal Julka has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

Note: A high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected Bimal Julka as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. Bimal Julka to succeed Sudhir Bhargava as CIC.

22. Sunil Gurbaxani has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Dhanlaxmi Bank.

Note: Sunil Gurbaxani served as the Executive Vice President of Axis Bank. Dhanlaxmi bank was removed from the RBI PCA (Prompt Corrective Action) framework, as the bank is found to be not breaching any of the risk thresholds of the framework. During the end of the third quarter in December 2019, the bank reported a 26% rise in a net profit to Rs 21.28 crore & registered a net profit of Rs 16.90 crore during the year 2019.

23. Vijay Adani has been appointed as the as a new chairman of the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

Note: USIBC represents the top global companies across the United States, India and Indo-Pacific. Prior to the current position as an Executive Chairman, Vijay Advani was the CEO of Nuveen and earlier was Co-President of Franklin Templeton Investments.

24. Rajlaxmi Singh has been elected as the President of Rowing Federation of India.

Note: The election was conducted under the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) observer K Govindraj. Rajpal Singh, G Bhasker, Souvik Ghose and Sreekunura Kurup were elected as 4 Vice-Presidents (VP) and Nababudin Ahmed as treasurer. Krishna Kumar Singh and Chirajit Phukan were elected as the 2 joint secretaries. The executive members of RFI consists of 5 members: Jasbir Singh, Venkateshwara Rao, Ismail Baig, Jacob and Manjunatha.

25. The world's Oldest government leader Mahathir bin Mohamad (94) resigned as Prime Minister of **Malaysia**.

Note: His resignation has been accepted by Malaysia's king Al-Sultan Abdullah of Pahang and also named him as the Interim prime minister of Malaysia until a successor is appointed. Mahathir has dissolved his entire cabinet and also called off his political party from Pakatan Harapan coalition. He also resigned from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, the political party of which he was chairman.

26. Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the as the Chairman & Managing Director of State-run hydro power giant NHPC.

Note: He is also acting as a Nominee Director in Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited. In 1983, he completed his Civil Engineering from NIT (National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, West Bengal. Singh joined NHPC at Tanakpur HE (Hydro Electric) Project as a Probationary executive in 1985 & played a vital role in many hydroelectric projects for 35 years.

27. Faure Gnassingbe has been reelected as the President of the Togo.

Note: Faure Gnassingbe is from political party The Union for the Republic party. He took 72% of votes in the first round of presidential election and was re-elected for a fourth term. Final result to be announced by the Supreme Court. He defeated Agbeyome Kodjo, who won only 18% of the votes. Before 2012 he was a Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) candidate, after 2012 he formed & headed a new party named as The Union for the Republic (UNIR).

28. Michael Miebach has been appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mastercard.
Note: He will replace Ajaypal Singh Banga, who assumes charge as Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors. Miebach currently serving as the Chief Product Officer(CPO) in Mastercard and will become the President from March 1, 2020. He will also assume charge as CEO and a member of the Board of Directors from January 1, 2021.

29. Sunil Gurbaxani has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Sunil Gurbaxani as managing director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of three years. Gurbaxani is working with Axis Bank at present. Dhanlaxmi Bank was removed from the RBI Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, subject to certain conditions and continuous monitoring, as the bank is found to be not breaching any of the risk thresholds of the framework.

Honor & Awards

- The Most Promising Brand of the Year Award 2019 was won by **Amulya Mica**.
Note: It was announced during the 7th edition of the MSME Excellence Award. The award & summit was organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) at Le Maiden in New Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh** state has won the 1st position for its implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
Note: Union Minister of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) Smt Smriti Zubin Irani presented the award to Madhya Pradesh for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Indore (Madhya Pradesh) has also won 1st place for better performance in PMMVY.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das was awarded the 'Central Banker of the Year 2020', Asia-Pacific by **The Banker magazine**.
Note: The Banker Magazine is a British English-language monthly financial magazine owned by The Financial Times Ltd. Global Central Banker award 2020 has been given to Jorgovanka Tabakovi, the head of the National Bank of Serbia. As per Banker magazine, Shaktikanta Das has made many efforts to improve India's banking system from NPAs loans to banks struggling with fraud.
- 1st Mathrubhumi book of the year 2020 award won by **Vinod Shukla**.
Note: He received this award from Kerala based Malayalam newspaper Mathrubhumi at the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters 2020. He was awarded for his translated book 'Blue Is Like Blue'. Arvind Krishna Mehrotra and Sara Rai have translated the stories of 'Blue Is Like Blue's into English.
- National Kishore Kumar Samman of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government for the year 2018 was awarded to **Waheeda Rehman**.
Note: She will be awarded at her residence in Mumbai, Maharashtra by Culture minister of MP Vijaylaxmi Sadho. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and a citation.

- The award couldn't be given to Rehman during a function in 2019 as she was unwell at the time.
- Transport Minister's Road Safety Award 2018-19 was awarded to **Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC)**.
Note: Delhi govt's public transport Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has been awarded with Transport Minister's Road Safety Award 2018-19 at an event in New Delhi. The award was given for its lowest accident rate. The award was given by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings (Asrtu).
 - Film '1917' won the Best Film award, in the 73rd British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2020 ceremony.
Note: The ceremony was hosted by Graham Norton, an Irish television and radio presenter, comedian and commentator. First World War drama '1917' won the Best Film award, which was directed by Sam Mendes. The film 1917 won 7 awards including best picture & director for Sam Mendes, the 1st time he has been honoured for direction by the British academy.
 - Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt Ltd.** company was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Award for "Boron Nitrate Based Personal Hybrid Combat Armour" at New Delhi, India.
Note: Big Bang Boom Solutions also won in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) competition around See-Through-Armour and Illegal Defence Drones in iDex (Innovations for Defence Excellence) category. BBBS was the first company to consolidate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the defense sector.
 - Dinkar Keshav Raikar** has won the lifetime achievement award instituted by the Mantralaya & Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh for journalism in Maharashtra.
Note: Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray presented the Award. Raikar is a consulting editor of Lokmat Group and completed 50 years in journalism.

10. In the celebrity brand evaluation report for 2019 published by Duff & Phelps the first position was gained by **Virat Kohli**.
Note: Indian Captain Virat Kohli has retained the top position for the third consecutive time. Kohli's brand value has gone up to \$237.5 million in 2019 with a jump of 39%. Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar becomes the 2nd position with a brand value of \$104.5 million. Bollywood couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone became the 3rd position with a brand value of \$93.5 million each.
11. President of India Shri. Ram Nath Kovind presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to **Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu**.
Note: The award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation. The awards aim to recognize the outstanding work by individuals & organisations to fight leprosy and eliminate the prejudices associated with it. India had successfully achieved levels of leprosy elimination defined as less than one case per ten thousand population.
12. 1st Indian to receive International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award -- **Pullela Gopichand**.
Note: This was the 3rd edition of International Olympics Committee Annual Awards. He is the 1st Indian coach to be Honoured with this Lifetime award by the Olympics Committee. Gopichand is a former Indian Badminton player, he founded the Gopichand Badminton Academy in 2008. He trained, players like Saina Nehwal (Bronze medalist in 2012 summer Olympics), P.V. Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth Kidambi and etc.
13. **Kaamya Karthikeyan** becomes the youngest Girl in the World to climb South America's Highest Peak Mt. Aconcagua.
Note: Kaamya Karthikeyan, 12 years old, a class 7 student of Navy Children School (NCS) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, became the youngest girl in the world to climb Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina, (highest peak in South America). Mount Aconcagua is the highest peak outside Asia which ranges about 6962 metres. Kaamya reached the mountain peak on February 1, 2020 and unfurled the Indian tricolour flag.
14. **Joaquin Rafael Phoenix** clichéd the best actor trophy at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.
Note: American actor, producer, and environmentalist Joaquin Rafael Phoenix (45) clichéd the best actor trophy for his performance in "Joker", whereas American actress ,Renée Kathleen Zellweger (50) won the best actress for "Judy".
15. **Kathleen Zellweger** clichéd the best actress trophy at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.
Note: American actor, producer, and environmentalist Joaquin Rafael Phoenix (45) clichéd the best actor trophy for his performance in "Joker", whereas American actress ,Renée Kathleen Zellweger (50) won the best actress for "Judy".
16. **Parasite** film has been bestowed with best original screenplay award at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020.
Note: For the 1st time Bong Joon Ho created history by becoming the first Asian and South Korean filmmaker to bag the Academy Award for best original screenplay for his genre-defying "Parasite", while filmmaker Taika Waititi bagged the Oscar in the adapted screenplay category.
17. **Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan** named as the 'captain of the year' at the 13th edition of the Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019.
Note: Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan was named as the 'captain of the year' for leading England to win the World Cup Title against New Zealand. Ben Stokes was awarded the 'ODI (One Day International) batting performance of the year'.
18. **Dr. Vasant Narsimhan** has been conferred with the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.
Note: The award will be given in a function organized by the Telangana government annual global biotechnology & life sciences forum. Dr. Narasimhan has been selected for his new vision in the pharmaceutical business in digital technology and healthcare. He also worked in the development of 20 novel medicines, including advanced cells, gene therapy as well as vaccines and also worked on the public health issues particularly in developing countries.
19. The President of India Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to **INS Shivaji**.
Note: The award was received by Nishan Adhikari, INS Shivaji and A special cover marking the Platinum Jubilee of INS Shivaji (completed 75 years of service) was released by the President. The ceremonial parade was organized by INS Shivaji consisting of 130 officers, 630 sailors of the Indian Navy, 150 men Guard of Honor and was commanded by Commodore Ravnish Seth. The award ranks high among the honour bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, in peace or war.
20. **Rajendra Indraman Singh** has been bestowed with Indian Achievers Award (IAA).
Note: Founder & Chairperson of Priyadarshini Group of Schools & Colleges has been awarded the Indian Achievers Award (IAA) in recognition of his "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Education". The award was presented by Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal, Union HRD (Human Resource Development) Minister, in a special ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India.
21. **Manpreet Singh Pawar** has been selected as the FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019.

- Note:** The captain of India men's national field hockey team selected for the award by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). With this he becomes the 1st Indian to receive this honor. At the same time, Netherlands women's captain Eva de Goede (30) has been named as FIH Women's Player of the Year 2019.
- 22. Radhakishan Damani** becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani.
Note: Supermarket chain DMart's Founder Radhakishan Damani becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited. According to Forbes 'Real Time Billionaires' Index, Damani has a net worth of \$17.8 billion. DMart's shares surged 700% in March 2017, with a market capitalisation of Rs 1.55 lakh crore. DMart operates 196 stores in 72 cities across the country.
- 23. Film 'Gully Boy'** has won the best film award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020.
Note: The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020. The event was hosted by Karan Kumar Johar, an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal.
- 24.** The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam.**
Note: The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020. The event was hosted by Karan Kumar Johar, an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal.
- 25. Ranveer Singh for Gully Boy** won the best Actor award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020.
Note: The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020. Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'Gully Boy' emerged as big winner as it bagged 13 awards including the prestigious best film award. Ranveer Singh bagged Best Actor's trophy for his performance in Gully Boy, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.
- 26.** 20th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards 2020 was held in **Berlin, Germany.**
Note: It was the 2nd Laureus World Sports Awards to take place in Berlin, following the 2016 ceremony which took place at the Messe Berlin. It was organized by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. Laureus World Sports Awards is known as 'Oscars of Sport'. The event was hosted by Actor Hugh Grant.
- 27. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019.
Note: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019 at the 21st edition of the awards held in New Delhi, India. She is Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) of Bengaluru based biopharmaceutical company Biocon. She will also represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo between June 4 and 6, 2020.
- 28. PV Sindhu** received the 'sports person of the year 2019 female' at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019.
Note: Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary as 'sports person of the year 2019 female & male'. PV Sindhu received this 'Sports person of the year' (Female) award for the third consecutive time. Dutee Chand was named as the first winner of the ESPN India courage award.
- 29. Saurabh Chaudhary** received the 'sports person of the year 2019 male' at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019.
Note: Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary as 'sports person of the year 2019 female & male'. PV Sindhu received this 'Sports person of the year' (Female) award for the third consecutive time. Dutee Chand was named as the first winner of the ESPN India courage award.
- 30.** Winner of the 2019 Kate Webb Prize by the Agence France-Presse -- **Ahmer Khan.**
Note: The 27-year old Indian freelance reporter Ahmer Khan was announced as the winner of the 2019 Kate Webb Prize by the Agence France-Presse, for his series of videos and written reports on how people in Kashmir impacted while scraping article 370 by the Government of India. In 2008 AFP established the Kate Webb Prize with a cash reward of euro 3000 (approximately Rs.3.2 lakhs) to recognize Journalists working in difficult conditions in Asia, for the remembrance of Kate Webb. And later in 2020, the Award will be formally presented in a ceremony at Hong Kong.
- 31.** Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to **P Ramakrishnan.**
Note: Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly Shri P. Ramakrishnan. The Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker Award-2019 recognises the significant contribution made by the Hon'ble Speaker in strengthening & safeguarding best legislative practices in the state. The selection committee was chaired by Shri Shivraj Patil -Former Speaker of the Parliament and the Governing Council of

- the Bhartiya Chhatra Sansad and honoured by MIT School of Government.
- 32. Winner of Miss Diva Universe 2020 -- Adline Castelino.**
Note: Adline Castelino (from Mangalore) has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition at an event held in YRF (Yash Raj Films) Studios, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She will go on to represent the country at Miss Universe later this year. Aavriti Choudhary (Jabalpur) crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020 and was crowned by his predecessor Shefali Sood.
- 33. Niti Kumar** won the SERB Women Excellence Award-2020.
Note: Dr Niti Kumar is a Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow. Her research team is testing the protein quality control machinery in human malaria parasite for exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.
- 34. Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
Note: Actor Ravi Dubey served as the host of the event. This is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career. Hrithik Roshan bagged the Best Actor award for film "Super 30".
- 35. The Raja Ravi Varma State Award was conferred on Prof. J.S. Khanderao (2019) and Vasudev Kamath (2020).**
Note: Veteran painter from Kalaburagi, Prof. J.S. Khanderao (for the year 2019) and senior artist from Mumbai, **Vasudev Kamath (2020)** were awarded with the Raja Ravi Verma State Award. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10,000 and a citation. Raja Ravi Varma State Award was instituted by Karnataka's Shri Ravivarma Art Institute.
- 36. Film editor has entered Limca Book of Records -- Sreekar Prasad**
Note: Sreekar Prasad, a veteran film editor has entered Limca Book of Records for 'films edited in the most number of languages'. He has edited films in 17 languages till now in Tamil, English, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Odia, Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi, Nepali, Marathi, Sinhalese, Karbi, Mishing, Bodo, and Pangchenpa. He also holds eight National Awards.
- 37. Jadav Payeng** will be awarded with Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020.
Note: Forest Man of India Jadav Payeng will be awarded Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020 in New Delhi. He was awarded the 6th Karmayogi Award for his consistent efforts in creating a real man-made forest through massive reforestation. The award is composed of a trophy, a recitation and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

Important News – India

- 1. India's first of its kind fruit train was launched by Andhra Pradesh.**
Note: The fruit train was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. This is the first time an entire train carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas which has been sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNP) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Those bananas will be exported to Iran
- 2. The first meeting of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi.**
Note: The Union Minister of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired the meeting of Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) in New Delhi. This was the 1st meeting after the National Commission's reconstitution.
- 3. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' in Kolkata, West Bengal.**
Note: Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.
- 4. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 was held in New Delhi.**
Note: The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme "Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count" at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 2020. The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.
- 5. The Department of Science and Technology has launched a special scheme for Science and Technology infrastructure in India is called Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)".**
Note: The aim of the scheme is to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing. This will

- help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.
6. Around **73.47 lakh** people were trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana from 2016-20.
Note: Approximately 73.47 lakh candidates were provided skilling under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across India from 2016-2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). It is a flagship program under the Skill India Mission of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSD&E).
 7. India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' was held in **Telangana**.
Note: The festival was inaugurated by M Prashanthi, District Collector of Nirmal, Telangana. The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "**Spot and encourage rural tech innovators**".
 8. India signed 4 MoUs in the field of research and higher education with **Norway**.
Note: The agreements were led by Anni Line Wold, Norway Director-General, Norwegian Ministry of Education & Research and witnessed by Hans Jacob Frydenlund Norwegian Ambassador to India at New Delhi, India. The MoU was signed between the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the University of Tromso, the Arctic University of Norway, for cooperation in fields such as bio-photonics, health & diagnostic tools, nanotechnology, water management and renewable energy.
 9. 'Intivadhakey Pension' scheme was launched by **Andhra Pradesh** which created a record by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days.
Note: The Andhra Pradesh (AP) state Government led by its Chief Minister (CM) Yeduguri Sandinti Jagannathan Reddy, has created a record with its 'Intivadhakey Pension' (Pension to your Doorstep) Scheme by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days. The scheme was launched in 13 districts on February 1, 2020. AP is the 1st state in India to take up such an initiative of Door delivery of pension service.
 10. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implemented a new scheme named "**Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**" (SFURTI).
Note: Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters. Traditional industries to be set up in India in a period of 5 years and make the industries more profitable. The scheme was first launched in 2005 to boost cluster development by MSME.
 11. According to the recent report published by German cybersecurity firm Greenbone Sustainable Resilience **Maharashtra** state topped hit by global medical data leak.
Note: The analysis was made after data of around 120 million Indian patients were leaked and made freely available on the internet. Maharashtra was followed by Karnataka in 2nd place with 1,82,865 data leaks giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.
 12. The Supreme Court has directed the state governments to setup "Gram Nyayalayas" within **4 weeks**.
Note: It also asked the High Courts (HC) to speed up consultation with department concerned on the matter. The present scenario of the states with respect to the Gram Nyayalayas were submitted by the SC Advocate Prashant Bhushan. The SC observed that some States haven't taken any initiative & no notification has been issued in the matter.
 13. 15-member trust named 'Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust' for the construction of Ram Mandir led by **Kesava Iyengar Parasaran**.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, 67.703 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust. This 15 member's trust will also include a Dalit representative who would be in-charge of the entire land.
 14. 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 was held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
Note: The show was organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI). The theme of this year's show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition". More than 200 exhibitors, 350 stalls and over 5000 delegates, including foreign delegates, are expected to attend the event at Kochi.
 15. Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India announced the establishment of the High Performance Centers in **7 places**.
Note: The 7 High Performance Hockey centres will be set up under the Khelo India scheme & will have expert professional training, utilization of sports science & education for the youngsters. The High Performance Centers
 16. The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for setting up a new Major Port at **Vadhavan**.
Note: The new Major Port will be established on the basis of land lord model. The projected cost of the Vadhavan Port is over Rs 65,000 crore. After the development of this new Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra, India is expected to enter the list of countries with top 10 container ports in the world.

17. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in **100 Smart Cities**.
Note: The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has launched, two Assessment Frameworks, viz. Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019 to assess quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities. This will empower the cities to use evidence to plan, implement them & then monitor their performance.
18. Under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) the Union Government has released a total of **Rs. 6,717.18 crore**.
Note: During the period of 2015-16 to 2019-20, the Centre has released a total of Rs 6,717.18 crore under the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS). A total of 9,641 applications, covering employment of 2.86 lakh persons and investment of Rs. 40026.5 crore submitted by textile units, have been issued with UIDs (unique identification numbers) till January 2020. This information has been given by textiles minister Smriti Irani as a part of competitiveness of the textile industry.
19. **Hyderabad Metro** Rail Network becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms.
Note: The metro route connecting twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Telangana State Mr. K.Chandrashekhar Rao. The new Metro line from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) will cover a distance of 11-kms (Kilometers). It becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.
20. As of January 1,2020, according to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri.Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, the LPG coverage has reached -- **96.9%**.
Note: According to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri.Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, a total of about 27.5 crore LPG or cooking gas connections are in India. Out of this, 8 crore connections have been provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme. Also, the LPG coverage has reached 96.9 % as of January 1,2020.
21. The 4th edition of East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in **Chennai Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) in association with the governments of Australia and Indonesia. The knowledge partners of the Conference include National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The previous 3 editions of the EAS Maritime Security Conferences organised by the Indian government were held at New Delhi in November 2015, Goa in November 2016 and Bhubaneswar in June 2018.
22. For the first time the Hornbill festival was celebrated in **Tripura**.
Note: Chief Minister (CM) Biplab Kumar Dev inaugurated the 2 day hornbill festival at Baramura hill (in western tripura). The aim of the festival is to raise awareness among people for bird conservation & to boost tourism. The Hornbill festival is a celebration held every year from December 1 to 10, in Nagaland, Northeast India. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'. Arunachal Pradesh & Manipur also started organising Hornbill festival following Nagaland.
23. 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, was hosted by India at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.
Note: It is an Environment Treaty Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). logo is to Portray Important Migratory Species in India like Amur falcon, Humpback Whale and Marine Turtles, the Great Indian Bustard (Gibi) is chosen as official Mascot. The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home".
24. The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition "DefExpo 2020" held in **Lucknow**.
Note: The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. It's main theme was "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub" with focus on "Digital Transformation of Defence". This expo is also termed as "Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies". The last two days of the expo was opened for public.
25. The "2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)" was held at **Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha**.
Note: The themes of the exercise was "A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake" & "Flooding or Storm". Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The first similar kind of exercise took place in 2017.
26. The theme of the 20th 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry is "**Kaushal Ko Kaam**".
Note: The 20th 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of "Kaushal Ko Kaam" at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.

27. The Government of India decided to renamed the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, after **Arun Jaitley**.
Note: The Government of India decided to rename the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, Haryana, as “Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)” .NIFM, Faridabad was set up in 1993 as a registered society under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, which train officers of various finance & accounts service recruited by the UPSC.
28. The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security will be held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
Note: The “CLIMISHCON” is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security due to Global climate change. The theme of the conference is ‘Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future’.
29. India’s largest air quality monitoring network will be established at **Mumbai**.
Note: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India. The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.
30. The National Water Conference was held at **Bhopal**.
Note: The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “Right to Water Act” or “Water Rights Act” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.
31. The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’ was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day long BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) ‘Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking’, in New Delhi. It was organized by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs. This conference was held on the lines of the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 4th BIMSTEC summit in Nepal’s Kathmandu in 2018.
32. The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted at **Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted on February 12,2020 by creating a mock situation using a naval Dornier aircraft by INS Dega, (a naval air station of the Indian navy) at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh and the main objective of the exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.
33. The Ministry of External Affairs announced that two Institutions, the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute have been named after **Sushma Swaraj**.
Note: The Ministry of External Affairs, announced that two Institutions, The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and The Foreign Service Institute have been named after former Indian Diplomat Sushma Swaraj for her Invaluable contribution in Public Service. The announcement is being made on her 68th Birth Anniversary falling on February 14,2020.
34. To give passengers the experience of world class facilities the Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
Note: The Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5- Star Hotel on the tracks in Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat to give passengers the experience of world class facilities. This will be the first experiment in India. The hotel, being built by the famous hotel chain Leela Group, could be completed by December 2020.
35. Name the Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam who visited India -- **Mrs. Dang Thai Ngoc Thinh**.
Note: During the visit she held bilateral delegation-level talks with Vice President of India, Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu. They agreed to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2016 between the two countries. The Joint Inauguration of the launch of direct flights between India & Vietnam was held at New Delhi. Both sides also inked an agreement to open a resident office of Voice of Vietnam in New Delhi.
36. ‘**Arth Ganga**’ project to channelize economic activity along Ganga river bank.
Note: According to Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge), Chemical, and Fertilizers, ‘Arth Ganga’ project implies a sustainable development model with a focus on economic activities along its Ganga bank. Around half of the Indian population lives around the Ganges River belt. In addition, of India’s total freight, about 1/5th originates and 1/3rd terminates in the states around Ganges Belt.
37. **South Central Railways (SCR) zone** becomes the first in India to have 13 energy-neutral stations.
Note: The number is highest amongst all the zones across the Indian Railways network. These are capable of meeting 100% energy requirements through solar photovoltaic panels which have been commissioned at the station buildings. The total capacity of all the solar panels installed at the 13 energy neutral stations is 99 kWp at a cost of Rs 50 lakh

- 38.** Union minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari flagged off KVIC's 'Apiary on Wheels' in **New Delhi**.
Note: Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept for easy maintenance of BeeBox and migration of live colonies, designed by KVIC. In accordance with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision, KVIC's honey mission was launched in 2017 and involves training of beekeepers, distribution of bee-keeping boxes and rural-educated. Apiary on Wheels is a holistic approach to meet the challenges faced by beekeepers & also help reduce the labor cost of maintenance of bee box and living bee colonies across India.
- 39.** To investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defense and internal security the 15th Finance Commission has set up a five-member group led by **Nand Kishore Singh**.
Note: This group will test whether a separate mechanism for financing defense and internal security should be put in place, and if so, how this fund would be operationalized. The announcements were made after the commission held the 6th meeting of its advisory council to seek views of the participants on the Commission's report for 2020-21 and other recommendations included in the report. Apart from this, outlook for nominal GDP growth during 2021-22 to 2025-26 and other macro-economic parameters were also discussed.
- 40.** Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service in **Maharashtra**.
Note: The electric bus has 43 seats manufactured by Mitra Mobility Solution, covers a range of 300 kilometre on single charge & will be operated twice between 2 cities. Nitin Gadkari mentioned that the government is planning to build e-(electric) highways.
- 41.** The National Organic Food festival was hosted by The Government of India (GOI) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The festivals was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, India. The festival was inaugurated by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). The 3 day festival was celebrated for the 1st time in order to boost organic products and to promote women entrepreneurship in the area of production & processing of organic products. The theme of the festival was 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
- 42.** 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
Note: It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'. Switzerland is the partner Country for 2020 as part of the annual tradition & around 40-member team comprising industries, academia and start-ups from Switzerland participated in this event. Assam, Kerala, Odisha and Gujarat were the partner states.
- 43.** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called "Air Defence Command (ADC)" by **June 2020**.
Note: The ADC formation, by combining the resources of the three services under one command under the mandate given to the Department of Military Affairs, will help to protect the air space of the country. The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.
- 44.** The 4th National Conference on Review of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) held in **Udaipur**.
Note: It was inaugurated by Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the conference saw the participation of 140 members representing different states, banks, insurance companies, RBI (Reserve Bank of India), NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development). The first three editions were held in Lucknow, Bangalore, and Guwahati respectively.
- 45.** According to the GMR Group which airport becomes the the 1st airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)**.
Note: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) -ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) also recognized DIAL for successfully implementing the campaign to make the airport voluntary plastic free. It is inline with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by 2022.
- 46.** **Uttar Pradesh** state becomes the first in India to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department.
Note: In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government has implemented the Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department. Consumers will now get financial compensation for delay in resolving their complaints by the department.
- 47.** The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after **Manohar Parrikar**.
Note: The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in order to "honour the commitment and legacy" of late Manohar Parrikar. Late Manohar Parrikar was a former defence minister and Padma Bhushan awardee. The Defence

- Minister chairs the Executive Committee of the IDSA Institute.
- 48.** The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying will facilitate the increase of milk processing capacity to 108 million metric tonne (MT) from 53.5 million metric tonne by **2025**.
Note: In the last 5 years milk production in India has grown by 6.5%, which has increased from 146.3 million metric tonne in 2014-2015 to 187.7 million metric tonne in 2018-2019. From the above data only 54% of milk produced is for Marketable surplus and the remaining 46% is for local consumption, In that 46% only 36% is handled by Co-operative and private sectors.
- 49.** India to switch to World's Cleanest petrol and diesel from **April 1, 2020**.
Note: India to switch to World's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1, 2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present. India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.
- 50.** BioAsia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in **Hyderabad**.
Note: It was hosted by the Government of Telangana in partnership with EY (Ernst & Young Private Limited). It was the 17th edition of the flagship international convention – BioAsia, whose CEO is Shakthi Nagappan. The event was attended by Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry.
- 51.** The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge in **Manipur**.
Note: The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge. It is built across the Makru river in the Tamenglong district, near Noney of Manipur
- 52.** 8th edition of the "Ganga Kayak festival" was inaugurated in **Devprayag, Uttarakhand**.
Note: The festival was organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and The Adventure Sports Society witnessed participation of 45 males and 6 women athletes from Russia, Australia and Nepal. In male sprint category, India's Ayodhya Prasad stood first followed by Nepal's Man Bahadur Kandel, Rishi Rana of India coming 3rd place. In the women's category, Elizabeth Health of Australia came in first followed by Ekaterina of Russia and Anna of Russia in the 3rd position.
- 53.** According to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the total food grain production in the country is estimated at record **291.95 million tonnes**.
Note: It should be noted that the 2019-20 production is also higher by 26.20 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of foodgrain. India's crop year is July-June. The cumulative rainfall in the country during the monsoon season has been 10% higher than Long Period Average (LPA), resulting in a boost in foodgrain production.
- 54.** India and Myanmar signed an MoU for regular passenger bus service between Imphal and **Mandalay**.
Note: The bus service will begin in April 2020. The MOU was signed between the two firms namely Shwe Mandalar Express Company limited, Yangoon & Seven Sisters Holiday, Imphal. Bus service from Mandalay will end at the border of Tamu from there Indian bus operators will take passengers to Moreh town in Manipur.
- 55. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 (**CSIR**).
Note: All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from december 01, 2018 to 30th November, 2019. Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.
- 56.** Union Minister of State for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the India's first floating jetty in **Goa**.
Note: The jetty was inaugurated on the banks of Mandovi river, Goa. The floating jetty is made up of cement concrete which was built on a short time, will boost inland waterways, they are environment friendly and 3 more will be built in Goa.
- 57.** The National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs was inaugurated at **New Delhi**.
Note: Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) inaugurated National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. It is jointly organized by both the ministries with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner. The theme of the festival is 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
- 58.** Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has installed a India's 1st squat machine at **Anand Vihar Railway Station in Delhi**.
Note: It was installed to promote the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi-led "Fit India" initiative.
- 59.** The first-ever 2 days long Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav 2020 was held in **Agartala, Tripura**.
Note: It was inaugurated by Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb & organized by Department of Tourism, Government of Tripura in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war. The key attraction of the festival includes Seminars, discussions, cultural events, etc.
- 60.** The International Judicial Conference – "Judiciary and The Changing World" was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: The theme of the conference was “Gender Just World”. Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde, Attorney General Kottayan Katankot Venugopal, and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also addressed the gathering. The aim of the conference was to facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad. The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women.

61. Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM) has completed **four years**.

Note: The 4th anniversary of the launch of Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM) has been celebrated. The mission was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 21 February 2016. Launched by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, it focuses on cluster-based integrated development through location planning. Under this, rural clusters are identified in rural areas across India, where increasing signs of urbanization such as increasing urban density, high levels of non-agricultural employment, increasing economic activity and other socio-economic scale are being received.

62. World’s largest ‘Export Cold Zone’ to Store Agro, Pharma Products has been unveiled in **Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL)**.

Note: Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) has unveiled the world’s largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility, the ‘Export Cold Zone’. It is for processing and storage of agro and pharma products, for which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will be the largest export gateway.

63. 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held in **Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat**.

Note: The theme of the conference was “Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home”. The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conferencing and was attended by Union Minister of Environment, Prakash Javadekar, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Minister of State (MoS) for Environment and Forests Babul Supriyo, among others. It was inspired by “Kolam”, a traditional art form from southern India.

64. Losar festival was celebrated in **Himachal Pradesh**.

Note: The festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar also called Tibetan New Year. Losar is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism.

65. **Haryana** state tops in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts rating for 2019-20.

Note: According to the recent ratings regarding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts, prepared for the 1st time by the Central Government. Small state Haryana has emerged as the best state in DBT payouts (Rs.4782 crore

in over 4 crore transactions) in 2019-20. While, West Bengal has emerged as the worst performer in DBT payouts (8793 cr through 5 crore transactions) and ranked 36th position.

66. **Himachal Pradesh** became the 1st state in the country to have 100% LPG coverage due to the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Note: Following the implementation of the PMUY scheme, the state government launched ‘Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana’ in May 2018 to cover the scheme to remaining households. Under the scheme except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible. Nearly 2.64 lakh free gas connections were provided through the state funded Grihini Suvidha Yojana & 1.36 lakh were benefited through PMUY scheme.

67. 5-day long 5th edition of India-UK bilateral air exercise “Indradhanush-V” 2020 was held in **Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.

Note: ‘Base Defence and Force Protection’ was the focus of this edition’s exercise. 36 specialised combatants from RAF Regiment & 42 combatants of the GARUD Force from IAF team participated in this exercise with para drops from C-130J aircraft, tactical insertions by Mi-17 V5 helicopters and use of various airborne sensors. During the exercise both the elements of the air force will share and jointly validate strategies and tactics to tackle terror threats to their installations.

68. In accordance with the “2019 World Air Quality Report-Region & City PM2.5 Ranking” compiled by IQAir AirVisual, India’s rank as most polluted country -- **5th**.

Note: The report has been prepared by monitoring the real time data to tackle the urgent issue of air pollution. Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM2.5 exposure. It is followed by Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and India at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.

69. **Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma** led the committee that submitted its report on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985.

Note: A high-powered committee headed by retired former Gauhati High Court (HC) Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma has formally submitted its report on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 to Assam Chief Minister (CM) Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of state’s finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other officials. The report will then submitted to the Union Home Minister (HM) Amit Shah.

70. India’s 1st Artificial intelligence summit, RAISE 2020 will be held in **New Delhi**.

Note: The Government of India announced India’s 1st Artificial intelligence summit, RAISE 2020- ‘Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment’ will

be organized in New Delhi. The summit will be organized by the Government of India in partnership with Industry & Academia & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It is to be held between April 11 & 12, 2020. The government launched AI-Startup Challenge & the event website. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit.

71. **NTPC** has signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations.

Note: NTPC will provide financial support of Rs 80 crore for installation of 25 CAAQMS across 6 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs). 6 States: CAAQMS will be installed in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Patna (Bihar), Varanasi, Lucknow, Kanpur & Allahabad (all in Uttar Pradesh [UP]), Pimpri Chinchwad (Maharashtra) and Madurai (Tamil Nadu). 3 UTs: CAAQMS will also be installed in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Port Blair), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (Silvassa) and Daman & Diu (Daman).

72. To launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with **NASSCOM**.

Note: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with NASSCOM to launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across 5000 Atal Tinkering Labs for the beneficial of 2.5 million students in the country from February 27, 2020 so that students can get for better knowledge of AI. Additionally, an AI Step-up Module is under development that is to be launched as next step.

73. According to the 1st edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2019-20 **Madhya Pradesh** emerged as the best performing state in terms of digitising land records with the score of 74.9.

Note: According to the 1st edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2019-20) released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research

(NCAER), Madhya Pradesh (MP) emerged as the best performing state in terms of digitising land records with the score of 74.9. It was followed by Odisha (67.5 points) and Maharashtra (65.3 points). While Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh ranked at bottom at 33rd position with a score of 2.0.

74. "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe (ST) Representatives in Local Self Governments (LSG)" has been launched in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Note: Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda has launched the "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe (ST) Representatives in Local Self Governments (LSG)" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in the presence of Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Navin Patnaik. Arjun Munda also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS (Geographic Information System)-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs during the event.

75. 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) 2020 will be held in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

Note: The 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) will be held from May 6 to May 8, 2020 at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka. WPC is the world's largest convention for productivity development which promotes innovation and world class practices that shape future productivity growth and to be held in India after 45 years. WPC was held in India in 1974. Theme of 19th Productivity Congress 2020: "Industry 4.0 - Innovation and Productivity"

76. Indian Railways launched its First "Restaurant on Wheels" at **Asansol Station, West Bengal**.

Note: Also, 2 new air-conditioned retiring rooms & Electronic Reservation Chart Display System and a Battery operated car was inaugurated at Asansol station, West Bengal. The Restaurant on wheels was developed by modifying 2 over aged MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) coaches.

Important News - State

1. Andhra Pradesh (AP) has launched a doorstep pension delivery scheme named '**YSR Pension Kanuka**'.
Note: Under the scheme various welfare pensions will be delivered to the old age pensioners. The old age pensioners age has also been reduced from 65 to 60 years. The disabled pensions (DP) will be Rs. 3000 per month whereas the pension amount for CKDU (Chronic kidney disease of unknown)/dialysis pensions will be Rs. 5,000-Rs. 10,000 per month.
2. Sale of all types of online lottery schemes has been launched by the state of **Punjab**.

Note: The govt of Punjab has banned the sale of all types of online lottery schemes under section 5 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act 1998 in order to check for illegal sales. The act will not only check illegal lottery business but will also boost Punjab's tax and non-tax revenue.

3. 34th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela was held in **Haryana**.
Note: The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs. The main motto of this mela is to promote

- handicrafts, rural crafts, arts and the culture of the country and also to bring our country's heritage among new generations.
4. The Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsa 2020 was conducted by **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Madhya Pradesh Government conducts the Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsa 2020 from 31st January to 2nd February 2020 in the beautiful plains of Amarkantak, MP during Narmada Jayanthi. The Narmada is a major source of drinking water, irrigation & hydroelectricity for Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat.
 5. The Janasevaka scheme is launched by **Karnataka** state.
Note: The government of Karnataka launched the Janasevaka scheme in certain municipal corporation wards to provide home delivery of various government services like ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards, etc. The scheme is launched by the chief minister of Karnataka Mr. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yedyurappa, and the scheme will contain 53 services from 11 departments.
 6. The first of its kind in the country, glass floor suspension bridge is being built in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: Uttarakhand government has cleared the design of a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. It is being built as a replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).
 7. For the first time **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to use drones for mapping villages.
Note: This will replace the land survey work, done either manually or with the help of satellite images. In this regard, state revenue department inked an agreement with Survey of India, the country's national mapping agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 8. The highest number (33,964) of women who go missing in India are from **Maharashtra**.
Note: This is as per the report titled 'missing women and children in India' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). It is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data. The number of missing children are maximum (10,038) in the State of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the year 2016, 2017 & 2018.
 9. The Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana scheme has been launched by **Haryana Government**.
Note: Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar and Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Dushyant Chautala of Haryana jointly launched the scheme. The scheme is about providing financial assistance of Rs.6000 to the families below the poverty line. and the amount will be transferred through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to Bank accounts.
 10. **Kerala** state unveiled an initiative of setting up 1,000 'Kudumbashree' hotels to provide subsidised meals at Rs 25.
Note: While presenting budget for 2020-21, Kerala's Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac has unveiled an initiative of setting up 1,000 'Kudumbashree' hotels to provide subsidised Kerala meals at Rs 25. In this regard, a budget hotel in each of the 1034 local bodies will be set up. Kudumbashree has also entered into an agreement for manufacturing products such as umbrella, coconut products and curry powders on cluster basis and selling it through the outlets of the Civil Supplies Corporation.
 11. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the 1st Disha Police Station in the State at **Rajamahendravaram**.
Note: The Disha Police station has been established to provide speedy justice to female victims of sexual assaults and other heinous crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The CM also launched an app for women in distress to get immediate response from the police. The new police station will deploy counsellor, mobile kits to gather medical and scientific evidence, and care takers to help the victims who come to the station.
 12. First Helicopter Services under UDAN Scheme has been launched by **Uttarakhand**.
Note: Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat along with Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) jointly Inaugurated the 1st ever Helicopter services from Dehradun's Sahastradhara helipad to Gauchar and from Sahastradhara to Chinyalisaur. This was launched under the Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik of Government of India. The main objective of this Helicopter Services is to Improve the Aerial Connectivity of the Hilly areas in the Country.
 13. To inculcate reading habits among students 'Reading Mission' has been launched by **Haryana**.
Note: Kanwar Pal, Haryana education minister, launched 'Reading Mission- Haryana' to inculcate reading habits among students. The mission has been launched based on the Central Government's "Reading Mission -2022" & aims to address the lost glory of reading books.
 14. **Gaurela-Pendra-Maewahi** becomes the 28th district of the Chhattisgarh.
Note: Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh, inaugurated Gaurela-Pendra-Maewahi as the 28th district of the state. The new district, carved out of Bilaspur, has 3 tehsils (taluk) & 3 development blocks namely Gaurela, Pendra and Marwahi. The new district comprises 166 gram panchayats, 222 villages and two nagar panchayats with an area of 1,68,225 hectares.
 15. Name the region Tamil Nadu to be declared as Protected Agricultural Zone -- **Cauvery Delta Region**.

- Note:** Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswamy announced that special team will be formed to produce special law to make the Delta region as a Protected Zone. Districts like Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Delta regions of Trichy, Karur, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai are included in the Protected Zone. Only Agro based Industries are allowed in the Protected Zone.
- 16.** To improve the falling level of ground water the Ground Water Act-2020 has been approved by **Uttara Pradesh govt.**
Note: The cabinet has also approved the provisions of penalty and punishment against the person who contaminate the ground water level. Under this new act, online registration will be mandatory to install submersible pumps. Domestic consumers and farmers will not have to pay any fee for this registration.
- 17.** To establish revolutionary changes in the agriculture sector through technology & sustainable increase in farmers' income using organic and natural farming processes an MoU has been signed with 11 agricultural institutions in the country by **Andhra Pradesh.**
Note: Chief Minister Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy supervised the exchange of MoUs in Amaravati, AP, between the state Agriculture Department and institutions, the Indian Council Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Institute of Plant Health Management, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Central Fertiliser Quality & Training Institute, National Seed Research & Training Institute. CM also announced 11,158 Rythu Bharosa Kendras will be set up across the state by June 2020, which will be administered by agriculture, horticulture, veterinary and aquaculture assistants to guide farmers in best practices.
- 18. Puducherry** becomes the 1st UT to pass resolution against CAA, NRC, NPR in Assembly.
Note: The Puducherry Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR). Chief Minister (CM) of the Union Territory Puducherry, Velu Narayanasamy moved the resolution & demanded the withdrawal of these legislations from the Central Government. Assembly Speaker VP Sivakolundhu said that the proposal has been unanimously accepted. With this, it has become the first Union Territory (UT) to pass a resolution against the CAA.
- 19.** With an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state 'Pyaar ka Paudha' drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign has been launched by **Bihar.**
Note: The state Government of Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign. As a part of this initiative, the environment department has appealed to the people to gift the plant of love to their close ones as it will be alive for years & also stalls of Patna plants have been planted for this purpose. If this experiment is successful, it will be implemented in other areas of the state as well.
- 20. Manipur** government has launched "Anganphou Hunba" (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme.
Note: Manipur Chief Minister, Nongthombam Biren Singh launched the scheme. The programme was organised by Arapti Urup Farmers' Association under the supervision of Keirao AC Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lourembam Rameshwor. The state govt has prepared a Rs 260-crore project to provide irrigation facilities by pumping ground water and is awaiting the Centre's approval.
- 21.** Rs 6 crores cash rewards for gold medal winners at Olympics games has been announced by **Haryana.**
Note: The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar has announced that the state government will provide Rs. 6 crores for the players who bagged gold medals, Rs. 4 crores for the silver medalist and Rs. 2.5 crores for the bronze medalists at the Olympics Games and also employment in Haryana Civil Service or Haryana Police service to the sportsperson.
- 22.** Haryana government has renamed Ambala city bus stand after **Sushma Swaraj.**
Note: The Haryana government has decided to rename the the newly constructed Ambala city Bus stand as Sushma Swaraj bus stand. The name of the bus stand will be changed on the birth anniversary (14th February) of the late Union Minister Sushma Swaraj, who was born in Ambala Cantt and elected as MLA twice from the Ambala constituency.
- 23. Punjab** state government will honour cops under 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme.
Note: Dinkar Gupta, Punjab DGB (Director General of Police), launched the 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme in Phillaur, Punjab, in order to boost the confidence of police officers who work extraordinarily and the best cops will be awarded every month. Under this scheme, the nominations of the best police will be sought from police chiefs of various districts by the 25th of every month, and these will be screened by a committee consisting of senior police officers and the awardees name would be announced by the 5th of every month.
- 24.** Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Bal Thackeray has approved the renaming of the Latur Medical College as **Vilasrao Deshmukh Institute of Medical Sciences.**
Note: Vilasrao was a member of the Indian National Congress, he served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for Two times from 1999 to 2003 and from 2004 to 2008. He also served as Union cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises of Government of India.

25. To modernise all government hospitals Nadu-Nedu scheme has been launched by **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: An amount of Rs 15,337 crore has been allocated to modernise all government (govt) hospitals in 3 years. The Government hospitals will be constructed or modernized with the highest Indian standard- Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).
26. Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens has been launched by **Haryana**.
Note: These canteens provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate in all mandis and sugar mills. 25 such canteens will be established this year. Haryana government will also provide free and concessional travel facility to 41 different categories of residents in the ordinary buses of Haryana Roadways. Under a new initiative, the women and girls belonging to 11 lakh BPL families will be given sanitary napkins free of cost during the year 2020-2021.
27. Tea Board of India has organized “Run for India Tea” in collaboration with **Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC)**.
Note: The event has been organized to further promote and popularise Tripura tea alongside India tea and to boost the tea industry in the state. TTDC is also planning to expand tea supplies through fair price shops across the state. “Run for India Tea” event was followed by a colourful tableau procession which featured the participation of large number of tea workers wearing traditional dresses.
28. “Yodhav” (Warrior) mobile app has been launched by **Kerala**.
Note: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched “Yodhav” (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala. Through this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution. The application was introduced by the Kochi city police and the informer’s identity could be kept secret.
29. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a scheme **Jagananna Vasthi Deevana**.
Note: The 'Jagananna Vasathi Deevana' scheme will aid students pursuing various post-intermediate courses and are from low-income households with hostel and mess fees and ensure that they get Rs 20,000 per year. The money will be credited to the students' mothers' accounts in two instalments each year. This will cost the government Rs 2,300 crore, and the scheme is expected to benefit 11,87,904 students.
30. Losar festival is being celebrated in **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**.
Note: Losar festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar and is also called Tibetan New Year. It’s a festival related to Tibetan Buddhism and marks the Ladakhi New Year.
31. **Madhya Pradesh** state became the 1st state to introduce the unified registration card.
Note: Madhya Pradesh became the 1st Indian state to introduce the unified registration card and the 2nd state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh. These cards will have exhaustive information on both sides with a unique number, emergency contact number and QR code for data verification. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued the guidelines regarding uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in March 2019.
32. ‘Vasantosav’ Cultural festival is organised by **Gujarat Government**.
Note: The department of Youth and cultural Affairs, Government of Gujarat has organised cultural festival called “Vasantotsav” to celebrate the rich diverse heritage of the country. The theme of “Vasantotsav” 2020 was “Ek Bhaart Shreshth Bharat”. The Eight-day annual cultural fair called “Vasantotsav” was inaugurated on 25 February at Sanskruti Kunj in Gandhinagar.
33. Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved to change the name of **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University**.
Note: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to change the name of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University which is known as **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti** Languages University. The university is in Lucknow
34. **Maharashtra** Government has decided to undertake the genetic study for the conservation of the native species of domesticated animals.
Note: The genetic study aims to conserve the native species of domesticated animals in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Under this project, genetic traits of Osmanabadi goat, Red Kandhari cow, Deoni bull, Caravan or Pashmi dogs will be studied.
35. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has inaugurated BSNL FTTH at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
Note: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated BSNL FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) and WiFi services at Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun. For the first time in Uttarakhand, all users will get 100 mbps speed of internet. Customers of other networks will not face any network problems with the WiFi facility.
36. Indian city **Mumbai** has launched world’s largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility.
Note: The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) has launched the world’s largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility known as the ‘Export Cold Zone’ for processing and storage of agro and pharma products. The exclusive terminal can hold over 700 tonnes of such cargo at one time with a combined annual capacity of 5.25 lakh

- tonnes. MIAL a joint venture between the GVK led consortium (74%) and Airports Authority of India (26%).
37. Capacity building programme for Scheduled Tribe PRI Representatives is launched at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
Note: Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda launched "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled

Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments" at Bhubaneswar (Odisha). He also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs. FRA Atlas of Odisha and short documentary film on FRA in Odisha were also released on the occasion.

Important News - World

- In the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report-2019, released by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania, United States (US), India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at 27th.
Note: As per the report India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at 27th place among 176 global think tanks. The report was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) of US.
- Maldives** has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family.
Note: The Maldives became the 54th family member of the Commonwealth family. In November 2018, President Mohamed Solih, cabinet passed the country's interest to rejoin the Commonwealth family. After the positive feedback from Commonwealth observer group, who visited Maldives in April 2019 & from 53 commonwealth nations, Maldives readmitted.
- Which country ends free entry for Indian tourists -- **Bhutan**.
Note: The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for "regional tourists" from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020. The fee is called SDF "Sustainable Development Fees" in order to regulate a new tourism policy
- In the 8th International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020 India slips to 40th rank.
Note: The US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020. The report was authored by Meir Pugatch and David Torstensson. The index has been topped by the United States (US) followed by UK (United Kingdom), Sweden, France and Germany.
- A new Children's protection fund for India was unveiled by the Prince of **Britain**.
Note: Britain's Prince Charles unveiled a new Children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust. He announced Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson (Katy Perry), American singer as the new ambassador for the British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund for India. The British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund will protect the child from child labour, child sexual abuse, anti-trafficking fund in South Asia.
- 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance is being launched by **the United States**.
Note: The Alliance will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world. It was announced by US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. More than eight in ten people in the world today live in a place where they cannot practice their faith freely. So, in order to provide them religious freedom, this alliance has been launched.
- Sri Lanka** has celebrated its 72nd Independence Day on 4th February 2020.
Note: On this day, Sri Lanka became an independent nation after getting independence from Britain. The major change in the celebration ceremony was the National Anthem of Sri Lanka as it was sung only in Sinhala and not in Tamil language. The national anthem was used to be sung in both the languages since 2016.
- Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as new Prime Minister of **Iraq**.
Note: Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as Iraq's new Prime Minister by President Barhim Salih. He will replace Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests. Mohammed Allawi served twice as communications minister under Former PM Nouri al-Maliki. The 2019 Iraq Protests was also named as Tishreen revolution (October revolution) or Iraqi Intifada.
- The United Nations has released USD 30 million for humanitarian operations in **Syria**.
Note: Syria's Idlib province has received additional USD 30 million for the humanitarian operations from United Nations' (UN) Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). It has been informed by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock UN Security Council meet in New York, United States (US).
- According to the Global Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Business School Rankings 2020, The rank of Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB) is **third**.
Note: This is the first-ever Business School rankings based on the provision of MOOCs. MOOC Labs published ranking for the business schools globally who are providing MOOC courses. 16 business schools across the world offers open online courses on 3 major MOOC platforms- Coursera, edX and Futurelearn.

11. Fifth Edition of Joint Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior - 2020 is conducted between India and **United Kingdom (UK)**.
Note: 120 Army Individuals each from Indian and United Kingdom Armies will participate in this Exercise and the Next Edition will be conducted in India, vice-versa. The Main Aim of this Exercise is to conduct Joint Training Operations with High number of Soldiers and also giving Special Importance on Counter Terrorists operation in Urban and Semi Urban Areas. Training on handling of Modern Weapon Systems and Equipment and Simulator based Training have also been Planned.
12. The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially renamed Coronavirus as '**COVID-19**'.
Note: "co" stands for "corona", "vi" for "virus" and "d" for "disease", while "19" was for the year, as the outbreak was first originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019. Earlier the WHO had given temporary name for the virus as "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease" & China's National Health Commission named it as "novel coronavirus pneumonia" or NCP. The new name had been picked to avoid references to a specific geographical location, animal species or group of people and was pronounceable and related to the virus.
13. The 43rd session of the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 was held in **Rome, Italy**.
Note: The theme of this year is "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". The event, opened by President of the Republic of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, witnessed interactive sessions on how IFAD's role and experience in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritious and efficient food systems place it in a unique position to contribute to eliminate hunger.
14. Astronaut **Christina Koch** returned to Earth after record stay in space.
Note: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s astronaut Christina Koch has returned to Earth after her record stay in space. With her 328 days stay in space, she has surpassed Peggy Whitson's record for an American woman on a single spaceflight at 289 days.
15. The **Mobile World Congress** was cancelled due to coronavirus fears which was scheduled to be held in **Barcelona**.
Note: The Mobile World Congress, the annual telecoms industry gathering that draws more than one lakh visitors to Barcelona, was cancelled over coronavirus fears. The event was hosted by the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) telecoms association. The decision comes after dozens of tech companies and wireless carriers dropped out, with the latest cancellations by Nokia, Vodafone, Deutsche Telekom and Britain's BT.
16. **Rishi Sunak** has been appointed as the Finance Minister of the United Kingdom.
Note: He will replace Pakistani Chancellor Sajid Javid. Now three Indian origin Members of Parliament are a part of Britain's most diverse cabinet led by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Along with Rishi Sunak, Priti Patel has been appointed as the Home Minister and Alok Sharma has been appointed as the Business Secretary in the British Cabinet.
17. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s 43rd Governing Council meeting was held in **Rome, Italy**.
Note: The theme of the meeting is "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". During the meet, the IFAD stated that the sequences of climate change and its impacts on agriculture will push around 100 million people to poverty by 2030.
18. As per the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) annual "Military Balance" report what is India's rank in the defence spending ___5th.
Note: The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) annual "Military Balance" report states that global spending on defence hiked by 4% percent in 2019.
19. The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to be held in **Glasgow UK**.
Note: The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled to be held from 9-19 November 2020, at Glasgow's Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in Scotland under the presidency of the UK (United Kingdom) government. UNFCCC, the UN's climate body, holds an annual summit known as a COP, attended by national ministers and heads of state. All of the world's nations are 'parties to the Convention'.
20. 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
Note: 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 & 4th edition - Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with the aim to improve investment in India and Asia. As a part of this event, AsiaOne Magazine & URS Media organized a Networking Meet called 'India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together' in partnership with the India Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) at to discuss the cause of business, political and social issues in the entire Asia & GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region.
21. **UAE** becomes the 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant.
Note: The United Arab Emirates representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency Mr. Hamad al-kaabi announced that the National Nuclear Regulator has issued an Operating license for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant and becomes the 1st arab country in

- the world to operate a nuclear power plant. The Barakah nuclear power plant is being built by the Korea Electric Power Corporation in a deal of USD 20 billion and the plant is on the Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi, out of 4 nuclear reactors in the plant only one got the license, if it is fully operational it can generate 5600 megawatts of electricity which is 25% of the Nation's need.
- 22. Hindi** becomes the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin.
Note: The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated Hindi, as the 3rd most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers. English language was at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers and Mandarin Chinese was at the 2nd position with 1,117 million speakers.
- 23. The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019** ranked India in **35th position**.
Note: The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in 35th position, whereas in 2018 it was ranked 40th position. The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation. The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.
- 24. Air-launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II** has been launched by **Pakistan**.
Note: The Ra'ad-II weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance & navigation systems ensuring of engagement targets with high precision. Ra'ad-II missile is planned to be attached to Mirage aircraft or F-16 fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force. The cruise missile with a range of 600 km significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.
- 25. To combat Climate Change**, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of "Bezos Earth Fund" worth **\$10 billion**.
Note: Through this fund, Jeff Bezos has committed to contribute \$10 billion to help preserve and protect the natural world against the climate change. The Bezos Earth Fund will fund the scientists, activists, NGOs to save Earth to tackle the issue of climate change.
- 26. On 19th February** the 70th National Democracy Day was observed by **Nepal**.
Note: Nepal celebrates the National Democracy Day every year on Falgun 7 to commemorate the attainment of democracy after the abolition of the 104-year long autocratic Rana Regime. In 2007 Bikram Sambat, on this day, democracy was established in the Himalayan nation ending over a century old autocratic Rana regime.
- 27. Ashraf Ghani** has won the Presidential elections of Afghanistan and will become the President of Afghanistan for the 2nd time.
Note: Ashraf Ghani has won the Presidential elections by winning 9,23,592 votes or 50.64% of the total votes. He defeated his closest opponent Abdullah Abdullah who received 7,20,841 votes or 39.52% of votes. The Election Commission stated that only 1.8 million Afghan citizens voted in the election out of total 9.6 million eligible voters in the country.
- 28. An MoU for up-gradation of infrastructure in plantation schools for estate workers of Indian origin** was signed between India and **Sri Lanka**.
Note: The MoU was signed between Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, acting High Commissioner of India and Secretary, Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, Mr. N.H.M Chithrananda at Colombo, Sri Lanka. The project is implemented to upgrade the infrastructure of 9 plantation schools as identified by Sri Lanka under an Indian grant assistance of Rs 30 crores.
- 29. The Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** continue to keep Pakistan in **Grey List**.
Note: Islamabad (Pakistan) continues to remain on grey list & If it does not curb the financing of terrorism by June 2020, it will be put on the blacklist. The decision has been taken by FATF after the completion of its 6-day plenary session in Paris, France. Pakistan was placed on the grey list in June 2018. It was given an action plan to complete by October 2019.
- 30. The 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety** was held in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
Note: It was hosted by Government of Sweden in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO). The aim of the meet was to chart future strategic directions for global road safety and to share successes and lessons from implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020. It should be noted that United Nations (UN) has set a goal under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- 31. 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO** held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.
Note: The conference was to discuss different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states and regional security. They have agreed on joint training and military exercises. The event was hosted by Pakistan as part of the 'SCO Defence & Security Cooperation Plan – 2020'. India has attended this meet along with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Belarus attended the meeting as the observer state.
- 32. 9th Edition of Barun Global Rich List 2020** is released by **Harun Global**.
Note: Hurun Global Rich List 2020 is released that rank of the world's dollar billionaires. It is a compilation of the richest 2,817 individuals across the globe having a net worth of \$1 billion or even more. Jeff Bezos has topped the list while Mukesh Ambani ranked 9th came out to be the richest in India. China with 799 Billionaires topped the list followed by USA.

Sports News

1. Goa 2020 National Games unveils official Mascot as **Rubigula**.
Note: 'Rubigula', Flame-Throated Bulbul, has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games in Panaji, Goa. The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. Goa will be hosting the 36th edition of the National Games from 20th October to 4th November 2020.
2. **Novak Djokovic** has won the Men's single title at Australian Open 2020.
Note: Novak Djokovic from Serbia inched closer to Spain's Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer from Switzerland on the list of male tennis players with most Grand Slam titles after capturing a record-extending 8th title at Australian Open. Novak Djokovic has become only the 3rd man to win at least 8 titles. Novak Djokovic beat Austrian Dominic Thiem in five sets to successfully defend his Australian Open men's singles title in Melbourne, Australia.
3. **Sofia Kenin** won the Women's single title at Australian Open 2020.
Note: Australian Open is the first of the four annual Grand Slam events among the world's major tennis championships. The grand slam Australian Open is held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. In Australian Open 2020, Sofia Kenin defeated Garbiñe Muguruza to win the Women's Singles title.
4. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended weightlifter -- **Ramshad AR**.
Note: The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended weightlifter Ramshad AR for a period of 2 years after being found guilty of violating the anti-doping rule. He was examined by the Doping Control Officer of NADA during the 71st Men's National Weightlifting Championship.
5. American tennis player **Abigail Spears** has been banned for 22 month for doping by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
Note: The ban was announced on spears after she failed the doping test from the 2019 US (United States) open match. Prohibited substances such as prasterone and testosterone were found during the test. Spears has won 21 women's doubles titles in her career and has also won the mixed doubles title of 2017 Australian open.
6. 13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup won by **Bangladesh**.
Note: 13th edition of 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup, an international limited-overs cricket tournament was held in South Africa from 17 January – 9 February 2020. It was administered by International Cricket Council (ICC) & 16 teams participated in the cricket tournament with a total of 48 matches played between the teams. The Finals were held at the JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa between Bangladesh & India. Bangladesh's youth team defeated India by three wickets in a thrilling match in the final.
7. ICC Women's Championship trophy 2020 won by **Australia**.
Note: The Australia's team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning (also known as Meg Lanning), which also won this trophy last time (ie 1st edition 2014–16). With this, Australia making it to the Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand 2021. The ICC Women's Championship has given hosts New Zealand and four top teams a direct place in the World Cup 2021.
8. **Aditya Mehta** has won the men's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.
Note: Indian snooker player, Aditya Mehta has won the men's title in Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020 held at PYC Hindu Gymkhana in Pune, Maharashtra. Aditya Mehta, who represented the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), has defeated several-time world champion Pankaj Advani with 6-2 scores and won the title.
9. **Vidya Viswanathan** has won the women's title in the Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020.
Note: Indian snooker player, **Vidya Viswanathan** has won the women's title in Indian National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2020 held at PYC Hindu Gymkhana in Pune, Maharashtra in the women's snooker finals, Karnataka's Vidya Pillai defeated Ameer Kamani of Madhya Pradesh with 3-2 scores. This is the 10th National Snooker title of Pillai.
10. **Armand Mondo Duplaints** made a new world record in pole vault by jumping a height of 6.17 meters.
Note: Mondo Duplaints jumped a height of 6.17 meters on his 2nd attempt at the World Athletics Indoor Tour meeting in Torun, Poland. Duplaints was born on 10 November 1999, at Lafayette, Louisiana, United States (US). Renaud Lavillennière's, french-player, record was 6.16 meters in February 2014 in Donetsk, Ukraine.
11. **Virat Kohli** retained his top position in the International Cricket Council Men's test ranking 2020 released on 11th February 2020.
Note: Pakistan batsman Babar Azam, who scored a century in the first Test match against Bangladesh, has jumped two places to 5th in test batting rankings with 800 points. Cheteshwar Pujara has dropped one place to 7th position from 6th. At the same time, David Warner (Australia) has come in 6th place. Ajinkya Rahane remains in the top 10 and holds the 9th position.

12. The 54th All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament title was won by **Indian Navy**.
Note: Indian Navy, Mumbai (Maharashtra) has defeated South Central Railway (SCR), Secunderabad. The tournament was organised by Mumbai Hockey Association Limited (MHAL).
13. The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, -- "**United By Emotion**".
Note: The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, "United By Emotion", which reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020. The motto highlights the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to connect & celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences. The official Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger", but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.
14. Badminton Asia championships 2020 was held in **Manila, Philippines**.
Note: Indian men's team clinched bronze medal at the Badminton Asia team championships 2020 after losing to two-time defending champions Indonesia with 2-3 scores in semi-finals of the tournament held at Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila, Philippines from 11 – 16 February 2020. This is the 2nd time that India bagged bronze medal in the championship after it won the 1st bronze in 2016 at Hyderabad, Telangana.
15. **Koneru Humpy** has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St. Louis, United States.
Note: Grandmaster Koneru Humpy has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St. Louis, US (United States). She won the title after finishing 6 points off 9 rounds and a cash prize of \$45,000. This was the second edition of the Cairns Cup. With this win, she was ranked 2nd in the recently released chess world ranking.
16. Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 is scheduled to be held in **India**.
Note: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that India will host Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 and the women's Junior Hockey World Cup would be held for the first time in Potchefstroom, South Africa. This is the third time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament, having staged in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2016 & New Delhi, India in 2013.
17. **Amit Dahiya** has been banned by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for four years.
Note: The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) has passed an order to National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to ban javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years for sending wrong sample collection and trying to cheat officials during the 2nd National Javelin throw open Championship 2019 held at Sonapat in Haryana.
18. AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in **India**.
Note: The Women's Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) informed that India has been recognised as the first South Asian to host the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup, in the meeting held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Besides India, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan were the other competing candidates.
19. FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2020 will be held in **India**.
Note: Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju announced the 5 host cities of India for the FIFA Under-17 Women's Football World Cup which begins on 2nd November 2020. The official slogan of the tournament is: Kick Off the Dream. The final match will be held at Dr D Y Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on 21st November 2020.
20. The International Cricket Council (ICC) bans Oman cricketer **Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi**.
Note: The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has banned Oman cricketer Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi from all forms of cricket for seven years. **Al Balushi** accepted four charges of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code related to the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifiers 2019 held in the United Arab Emirates. Yousuf has not been an active player for Oman for a few years after being named among the reserves for the 2016 T20 World Cup.
21. **India** will host Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championship.
Note: India will host the Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships in January 2022. The medals from the two events will be counted for ranking of competing nations at the Birmingham Games. The two events will be held in Chandigarh in January 2022 while the Birmingham Commonwealth Games is scheduled from 27th of July to 7th of August, 2022.
22. Five-time Grand Slam winner Tennis player **Maria Sharapova** has announced retirement.
Note: Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 32, after a struggle with shoulder injuries. This Russian tennis player won her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon in 2004 aged 17. She became world number one in 2005 and won the US Open in 2006.
23. Kiren Rijiju inaugurated 1st Khelo India Winter Games in **Union Territory of Ladakh**.

Note:The Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the first-ever Khelo India Winter Games in the Union Territory of Ladakh. It is being organized to promote winters sports as well as to harness youth's talent of India. Open Ice Hockey Championship, Figure Skating, Speed Skating will be the three winter sports held during the winter games.

24. Ross Taylor has become the first player in the cricketing world to play 100 matches in all the three formats of the game.

Note:Ross Taylor reached the landmark feat during the first international cricket match of India and New Zealand bilateral test series started at Basin Reserve in Wellington. Former New Zealand wicket-keeper Ian Smith presented Ross Taylor with 100th Test cap before the match. Ross Taylor has represented New Zealand in 231 One Day International matches, 100 T20 International matches and 100 Test matches.

25. FC Goa Football Confederation has become the first Indian club to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champion League group stage.

Note: FC Goa sealed the top spot in the Indian Super League (ISL 2019-20) standings, finishing as the league's table-topper after beating Jamshedpur FC 5-0 in an Indian Super League match. No team from the country has ever played in the group stage of AFC Champions League since its introduction in 2002.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 1st Khelo India University Games at **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium**

Note: 1st Khelo India University Games is organised at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha through video conferencing. About 3,400 athletes from 159 universities across the country will be participating across 17 disciplines. It is the largest ever multi-discipline sports event being conducted at one venue for University.

27. Russia will host the new format of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Team World Cup 2020.

Note: Russia will be the first country to host the new format of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Team World Cup 2020. AIBA Executive committee members voted in favour to approve the Russian bid at its meeting in Budapest, Hungary. The tournament will be coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II under the motto "Boxing for peace".

28. India's Grandmaster D Gukesh has won the **34th Cannes Open in France.**

Note:D Gukesh (Tamil Nadu) defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of France in 50 moves to win the chess tournament. Siva Mahadevan of India secured the 10th place with six points. He was the world's second youngest Grandmaster in 2019 when he won the Hillerod 110th Anniversary Open event in Denmark.

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