

## **Weekly One Liner Updates** **15-21st January 2020**

### **New Appointments**

1. Who has been elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI) \_\_\_\_ **Arjun Munda**.

**Note:**

- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda was elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI). The elections were held as per the Delhi High Court order.
- With the support of former AAI president Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Munda, the president of Jharkhand Archery Association, defeated Assam Archery Association president and retired IAS officer BVP Rao by a margin of 34-18.

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

3. Name the Indian lawyer appointed into Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate \_\_\_\_ **Harish Salve**

**Note:**

- Indian Lawyer Harish Salve was appointed into Queen Elizabeth II's counsel of Senior Advocate.
- He has been appointed as Queen's Counsel (QC) for the courts of England and Wales. His name featured in the list of silk appointments released by the UK Ministry of Justice on January 13.
- Salve and other appointees will be formally appointed as Queen's Counsel on March 16 2020. The title of Queen's Counsel is awarded to those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.

4. Who has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) \_\_\_\_ **Nripendra Misra**.

**Note:**

- Nripendra Misra has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).
- The Executive Council of the NMML has been reconstituted and it will be now chaired by Mr Misra. Dr A Surya Prakash, chairperson of the Prasar Bharati board, will be the council's vice-chairperson.

5. Who has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23 \_\_\_\_ **Bipul Behari Saha**.

**Note:**

- A noted chemist Bipul Behari Saha has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23.
- He is the second Indian after CNR Rao to be elected for this position in a century.

### **Important News – India**

1. 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme was held in \_\_\_\_ **Puducherry**.

**Note:**

- 12th National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme begins in Puducherry. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr Kiran Bedi inaugurated this Programme. Two hundred youths from Naxal-affected districts of Chattisgarh are taking part in this week-long programme.
- The programme has been jointly organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Puducherry Government with a view to ensuring development and empowerment of the tribal youths.

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2. Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating ELECRAMA 2020 in \_\_\_\_ **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.**  
**Note:**
- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar was inaugurating ELECRAMA 2020 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
  - ELECRAMA is the flagship showcase of the Indian electrical industry and a platform to connect the world with the Indian industry in respect of technology, new trends and innovation for the future energy transition.
  - The focus of this year's event is on e-mobility, energy storage, start-ups, grid transformation, revenue security with special attention on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
3. Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" in \_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**  
**Note:**
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched an exhibition titled "Indian Heritage in Digital Space" at National Museum, New Delhi.
  - This exhibition is first of its kind in the country. The exhibition will stay online until February 15, 2020.
4. The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region was held in \_\_\_\_ **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**  
**Note:**
- The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region will start in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the Conference. The main theme of the conference is the ROLE OF LEGISLATORS.
  - In the Conference, delegates will discuss the Capacity Building of Legislators for Scrutinizing Budgetary Proposals and Enhancing Focus of Legislators on Legislative Business.
5. The 2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 begins today. The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad will inaugurate this conclave in New Delhi.  
**Note:**
- The 2nd edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 begins today. The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad will inaugurate this conclave in New Delhi.
  - This event is being organized by the National Informatics Centre.
  - This conclave will contribute immensely to the capacity building of Government officers across the country and help in delivering high-quality citizen-centric services. This year conclave theme is "Technologies for Next-Gen Governance".
6. A Conference of the Chief Secretaries and Administrator State and Union Territories on Census 2021 was held in \_\_\_\_ **New Delhi.**  
**Note:**
- A Conference of the Chief Secretaries and Administrator State and Union Territories on Census 2021 and updating of National Population Register, NPR was held in New Delhi.
  - The data collected in the Census helps us in framing policies for the welfare of the people of the country. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also inaugurated the Official Mascot for Census 2021.
7. PM Narendra Modi and Nepalese PM Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post at \_\_\_\_ **Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal)**  
**Note:**
- Indian Prime Minister (PM) Shri Narendra Modi along with the PM of Nepal Shri Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the 2nd Integrated Check Post (ICP) Jogbani (Bihar, India) – Biratnagar (Nepal) through video conference. Jogbani – Biratnagar acts as an important trade point between the two nations and is equipped with modern facilities.
8. 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented across the country by \_\_\_\_ **June 1, 2020.**  
**Note:**
- 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented by June 1, 2020 across the country.

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- The announcement was made by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan.
9. Panel to create tougher law against sexual harassment at work will be headed by \_\_\_ **Amit Shah**.
- Note:**
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Home Affairs (MoHA) Shri Amit Shah constituted to further strengthen legal frameworks to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, has now finalised the recommendations for it. The recommendations in brief are as follows:
10. The committee set up by Supreme Court to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation is headed by \_\_\_ **Niranjan Bhat**.
- Note:**
- The Supreme Court set up a panel headed by mediator Niranjan Bhat to firm up draft legislation to give legal sanctity to disputes settled through mediation, which would then be sent to the government as a suggestion from the apex court.
11. Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India was launched by \_\_\_ **The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)**.
- Note:**
- The Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) has launched Seismic Hazard Microzonation project in major cities of India.
- The project aims to reduce the hazards of Seismic activities by taking proper measures in major Indian cities and areas falling under high-seismic Zones IV and V.
- The project has been completed in the State of Sikkim and in other eight cities namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Jabalpur, Dehradun Ahmedabad and Gandhidham.
12. Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology in \_\_\_ **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- The Union Minister of Law and Justice (MoL&J) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Blockchain Technology set up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The CoE has been set up with the aim of providing blockchain as a service and help all stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences and resources.
13. NITI Aayog signed MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects in \_\_\_ **Ladakh**.
- Note:**
- NITI Aayog and Union Territory of Ladakh sign MoU for Development of Infrastructure Projects in Ladakh.
- It was signed between NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Dr Yogesh Suri and Adviser to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Umang Narula.
- The agreement was executed in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
14. South Central Zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU to provide doorstep banking with \_\_\_ **State Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- To provide doorstep banking services, the South Central Zone of the Indian Railways has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India.
- According to the MoU, the doorstep banking facility will be provided at 585 Railway Stations of the South Central Zone.
- The "doorstep banking" facility will enable direct pickup of earnings from the railway stations and will save the complex activity of cash movement through cash safes by trains.
15. 1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment Held in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- 1st Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment Held in New Delhi
- The 1st ever session of the India-Norway dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was held from January 15-16 in New Delhi.
- The session was conducted based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) which was signed by India and Norway on 8th January 2019 in New Delhi at time of Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg's visit to India.

1. Which state celebrates 48th anniversary of statehood day on 21 January \_\_\_\_ **Meghalaya**.

**Note:**

- Meghalaya celebrates their 48th anniversary of statehood day on 21 January. The Meghalaya Day celebration will continue till the Republic Day celebration.
- In 1971, the Parliament passed the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganization) Act, 1971, which conferred full statehood on the Autonomous State of Meghalaya.

2. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in \_\_\_\_ **Panaji, Goa**.

**Note:**

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju flag off 'Fit India Cyclothon' in Panaji, Goa.
- This inaugural event of 'Fit India Cyclothon' organised by Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs and Government of Goa.
- This event is organized with the aim to get the people involved in outdoor activities and starting a cycling culture in the state.

3. Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the state will be celebrated on March 6, 2020 in \_\_\_\_ **Mizoram**.

**Note:**

- Government of Mizoram will celebrate Chapchar Kut, the biggest and most important festival of the Mizos, on March 6, 2020.
- Chapchar Kut is a spring festival celebrated usually in March after completion of the Jhum cultivation. Jhum cultivation, also known as the slash and burn agriculture, is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.

4. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) to red-listing of orchids by \_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- Arunachal Pradesh inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) to red-listing of orchids.
- Arunachal Pradesh has become the 1st state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'red listing' at the state level.

5. The famous Parshuram Kund Mela was organized in \_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- The famous Parshuram Kund Mela begins in Arunachal Pradesh. Parshuram Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage centre situated on the Brahmaputra plateau in the lower reaches of the Lohit River.
- Thousands of pilgrims visit the place in winter every year, especially on the Makar Sankranti day for a holy dip in the sacred kund which is believed to wash away one's sins.

6. Which state Cabinet clears the Proposal for three capitals \_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has passed Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive development of All Regions Bill-2020 for the tri-capital system.
- The bill proposes to make Visakhapatnam as the executive capital, Amaravati as the legislative capital and Kurnool as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- The aim behind this bill is decentralised administration that will result in socioeconomic progress at equal levels. Now the bill is presented before the legislative council.

7. Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in \_\_\_\_ **Assam**.

**Note:**

- Magh Bihu, an auspicious harvest festival is being celebrated in Assam.
- Magh Bihu falls in the local month of 'Magh' during mid-January.
- It is also called 'Bhogali Bihu' or 'Maghor Bihu' as it is celebrated with community feasts after the annual harvest takes place.

8. The 1st edition of the Krishi Manthan 2020 which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in \_\_\_\_ **Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**

**Note:**

- The 1st edition of the Krishi Manthan 2020 which is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on December 28-29, 2019.
- The event was organised by the Food and Agribusiness Committee of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA).
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### **Important News – World**

1. 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) was held in \_\_\_\_ **Davos, Switzerland.**

**Note:**

- The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum begins in Davos, Switzerland. On the Indian side, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the delegation to the WEF.
- This year programme will focus on achieving the maximum impact on the Forum's platform for public-private cooperation.
- This year 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum theme will be "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".

2. Which company has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030 \_\_\_\_ **Microsoft.**

**Note:**

- The US tech giant Microsoft has announced that it would become "carbon negative" by year 2030.
- The announcement has been made in the form of its increased efforts to combat the climate change.
- The company announced that it vows to eliminate all the carbon emissions created by the company since its inception in 1975.

3. Who elected as 14th prime minister of Malta with 57.9% of the vote \_\_\_\_ **Robert Abela.**

**Note:**

- Labour Party candidate Robert Abela elected as 14th prime minister of Malta with 57.9% of the vote. He defeated his closest rival Chris Fenech.
- He will replace Joseph Muscat, who resigned over the murder of a journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia.

4. The 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2020 was held at \_\_\_\_ **Abu Dhabi, UAE.**

**Note:**

- Recently the 10th edition of World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2020 hosted by Masdar renewable energy company, was held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from January 13-16, 2020.
- The theme for the year 2020 was "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment".

5. World Health Organisation (WHO) released the Global challenges for 2020 and identified health challenges in this decade were \_\_\_\_ **13.**

**Note:**

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the Global challenges for 2020. 13 health challenges in this decade were also identified.

6.

### **Honor & Awards**

1. The 29<sup>th</sup> 'Saraswati Samman 2019' will be conferred to \_\_\_\_ **Vasdev Mohi.**

**Note:**

- Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2019, a literary recognition given annually by the KK (Krishna Kumar) Birla Foundation.
- The literary award is given for his short stories collection- 'Chequebook'.
- The short story talks about the sufferings of the marginalized sections in society. The work was selected by a committee headed by the former secretary-general of the Lok Sabha, Subash C Kashyap.

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2. In the 16th edition of International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards who named ODI cricket of the year \_\_\_\_ **Rohit Sharma**.  
**Note:**
- the International Cricket Council has announced the list of ICC award winners for the year 2019 to recognize and honor the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months.
  - Indian opener Rohit Gurunath Sharma became ODI Cricketer of the Year for the first time. At the same time, Virat Kohli bagged Spirit of Cricket award.
  - England's World Cup winning all-rounder Ben Stokes won the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers trophy for the Cricketer of the Year,
  - While Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins became the best Test cricketer of the year, taking 59 wickets in 2019.
3. 17th edition of Crossword Books Awards held in Mumbai the Popular Best Fiction Award was won by \_\_\_\_ **Twinkle Khanna**.  
**Note:**
- The 17th edition of Crossword Book Awards was held in Mumbai.
  - Twinkle Khanna won the Popular Best Fiction Award for her novel 'Pyjamas Are Forgiving'.
  - Krishna Trilok won the Popular award in the Biography category for Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman.
4. Madhya Pradesh government 2018 National Lata Mangeskar Award was conferred to \_\_\_\_ **Kuldeep Singh**.  
**Note:**
- Noted Indian singer Suman Kalyanpur was chosen for the 2017 National Lata Mangeskar Award of the state govt. of Madhya Pradesh(MP)
  - While Indian Music composer Kuldeep Singh has been chosen for the same Mangeskar award for the year 2018.
  - They have been chosen for this award for their contribution in the field of music and will be awarded in February 2020 at an event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
5. e-Governance Award of Excellence 2019 was won by \_\_\_\_ **'cVIGIL' and 'Voter Helpline app'**.  
**Note:**
- The Award of Excellence for the year 2019 was given by Computer Society of India (CSI) and Special Interest Group on e-Governance at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in Bhubaneswar, Odisha during the CSI 2020, 53rd annual convention of CSI.
  - The two innovative Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications developed by Election Commission of India (ECI), 'cVIGIL' and 'Voter Helpline App' has won the 'Award of Excellence' 2019.
6. Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour to \_\_\_\_ **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.  
**Note:**
- Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour to Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.
  - She is founder and chairperson of biopharmaceutical company Biocon and appointed as an honorary member in the general division of the Order of Australia by Australia's High Commissioner to India Ms. Harinder Sidhu at a ceremony in Leela Palace, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
  - She is the fourth Indian citizen to be awarded Australia's highest civilian honour.
  - The award is given to foreign nationals who have extraordinarily contributed to Australia or for humanity.
7. Who has won the Global citizen prize: Cisco Youth Leadership award for 2019 \_\_\_\_ **Priya Praksah**  
**Note:**
- Priya Prakash, the founder and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of India-based "HealthSetGo" has won the Global citizen prize: Cisco Youth Leadership award for 2019.
  - The award was given for her school health program that provides healthcare support to children.
  - The Award was given by Cisco Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer Fran Katsoudas at Royal Albert Hall, London, United Kingdom (UK).

### Sports News

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1. The Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020 held in Sharjah was won by \_\_\_\_ **India**.

Note:

- The team of the Indian Consulate has won the Diplomat Cup Cricket Championship of 2020 held in Sharjah.
- The team of the Indian Consulate defeated the Pakistan Consulate to win the trophy which was organized by Skyline University College in Sharjah.
- The trophy was organised with an aim of uniting the officials and employees of different Consulates based in UAE.

2. Indian wrestler who won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series in Rome is \_\_\_\_ **Vinesh Phogat**.

Note:

- Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series in Rome. She defeated Ecuador's Luisa Elizabeth Melendres 4-0 in the final (53 kg) category.
- A teen sensation Anshu Malik settled for a silver in 57kg competition. She lost to Nigeria's Odunayo Adekunle for the score 10-0.

3. The Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title held in Jakarta, Indonesia was won by \_\_\_\_ **Ratchanok Intanon**.

Note:

- Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon wins Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- She defeats Carolina Marin (Spain) 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in the final clash. The win was her second title in the Indonesian tournament.

4. Who have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia \_\_\_\_ **Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine)**.

Note:

- Sania Mirza (India) and Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine) have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart, Australia.
- They beat Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang from China 6-4, 6-4.
- It's Sania's 42nd WTA doubles title and first since Brisbane International trophy in 2007 with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

5. ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2020 has begun in \_\_\_\_ **South Africa**.

Note:

- The ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket 2020 begins in South Africa. Indian team played under the captaincy of Priyam Garg. The final of the tournament will be played on Feb 09 at JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date. India is the defending champions in U19 World Cup 2018. Total 16 teams are participating in the tournament, split into four groups of four.

## Banking & Financial Awareness

1. To provide Rs. 179 prepaid plan with life insurance of Rs 2 lakh Airtel joins hands with \_\_\_\_ **Bharti AXA**.

Note:

- On January 19, 2020, Bharti Airtel Limited has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited to offer Rs 2 lakh insurance cover to Airtel users with every recharge of Rs 179 prepaid bundle.
- The new plan will be accessible at any Airtel retail store or on the Airtel Thanks app.

2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Authorization (CoA) of \_\_\_\_ **Vodafone M-pesa Limited**

Note:

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Vodafone M-pesa Limited after it had voluntarily surrendered the authorization.
  - Now Vodafone m-Pesa cannot continue to transact the business of issuance & will no longer have the right to provide payment facility as a prepaid instrument (PPI).
3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook 2020, has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2019 to \_\_\_\_ **4.8 %**
- Note:**
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook 2020, has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2019 to 4.8 % from 6.1% predicted earlier in October 2019.
  - The growth projections have been lowered, citing pressure from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and weak income growth in rural India.
4. According to the "Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020" released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) what is India's rank in attracting FDI in 2019 \_\_\_\_ **8th**
- Note:**
- According to the "Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020" released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India ranked 8th among the top 10 countries attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019.
  - During this period FDI in India grew by 16 % to \$ 49 billion (bn).
  - This led to a surge in FDI growth in South Asia (SA), which recorded a 10% increase in FDI to \$ 60 billion.
5. The Reserve Bank of India has been ranked at what position in buying gold abroad among the central banks of the world \_\_\_\_ **6th**.
- Note:**
- According to World Gold Council(WGC) report titled "Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold", the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) became the sixth largest buyer when it purchased 25.2 tonnes in first 10 months of 2019 to hedge government's sovereign gold bond issue.
  - The central banks of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Poland bought more than India in 2019.
6. The United Nations (UN) has predicted the India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the year 2019-20 to \_\_\_\_ **5%**.
- Note:**
- The United Nations (UN) has predicted the India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast for the year 2019-20 to 5% .
  - Earlier in 2019, it had projected GDP growth rate of 7.6% for FY 2019-20.
7. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a platform to make payments fast & secure \_\_\_\_ **"Vajra Platform"**.
- Note:**
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched blockchain technology-based "Vajra Platform" to make payments fast & secure.
  - The new platform Vajra is based on the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT).
  - It has been designed with the aim to offer automatic clearing and settlement of payments on NPCI products such as unified payments interface (UPI) and Rupay card & will significantly reduce the need for manual reconciliation.
8. Indian private bank has launched India's largest API banking portal \_\_\_\_ **ICICI Bank**.
- Note:**
- The ICICI Bank has launched India's largest API (application programming interfaces) Banking portal called 'ICICI Bank API Banking portal'(<https://developer.icicibank.com/>).



- It consists of 250 APIs & allows bank's partner companies across the globe to sign up on it, create an application, select the application, test it out and get the sample code.

### Obituaries

1. Former Indian cricketer passed away at 80\_\_\_ **Man Mohan Sood**.

**Note:**

- Former test Cricketer and National selector Man Mohan Sood passed away in New Delhi.
- Sood played 1 Test and 39 first-class matches with 1 century.
- Born in Lahore, Punjab on 6 July 1939, he played his lone test match against Richie Benaud, Australia at Madras in 1960.

2. On January 19, 2020 Sunanda Patnaik (85) passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal, she was \_\_\_ **Indian Classical Singer**.

**Note:**

- Indian Classical Singer Sunanda Patnaik, 85 years old passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal due to age-related complications. She was famously known as 'Guruma' in the classical music circle.
- She is the daughter of renowned Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik and had composed many bhajans (devotional songs) both in Odia and Hindi.

3. On January 20, 2020 Shamsher Singh Surjewala passed away after in AIIMS, New Delhi, he was a renowned \_\_\_ **Politician (Congress Chief of Haryana)**

**Note:**

- On January 20, 2020 the former Haryana Congress Chief Shamsher Singh Surjewala passed away after in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital, New Delhi after suffering from a brief illness.
- He was 87 and hailed from Haryana.

4. On January 17, 2020 Rameshchandra Gangaram Bapu Nadkarni passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra, he was a renowned \_\_\_ **Cricketer**.

**Note:**

- On January 17, 2020 Former Indian all-rounder Rameshchandra Gangaram Bapu Nadkarni (86) passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- He was a left-handed batsman and slow-left arm orthodox bowler.
- He was best known for bowling a record of 21 consecutive maiden overs in a test match against England.

5. Senior Journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) passed away at a private hospital in Gurgaon \_\_\_ **Ashwini Kumar Chopra**.

**Note:**

- Senior Journalist and former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Ashwini Kumar Chopra passed away at a private hospital in Gurgaon after battling with terminal cancer.

### Important Days

1. In India, the Indian Army Day is observed every year on \_\_\_ **January 15**.

**Note:**

- Army Day is observed on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India.
- This year 72nd Army Day is being celebrated across the country.

2. The 15th raising day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) observed on \_\_\_ **19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**.

**Note:**

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- 15th Raising day of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was celebrated in New Delhi.
  - The Union Minister of State (MoS) for home affairs Shri Nityanand Rai was the chief guest on this occasion while Shri G.V.V. Sarma, Member Secretary, NDMA was the Guest of Honour.
  - NDRF came into force on Jan 19, 2006.
3. National Immunization Day (NID) also known as 'Polio Ravivar' was observed on \_\_\_\_ **19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.**
- Note:**
- National Immunization Day (NID) also known as 'Polio Ravivar' was observed on January 19, 2020.
  - The Pulse Polio Programme 2020 was conducted as a part of National Immunization Day across the country.
  - The programme aims to protect children less than five years from Polio disease and to eliminate Poliomyelitis in India.

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