

# Weekly One-Liners

1-7 January 2020



## **Weekly One Liner Updates**

### **1-7th January 2020**

#### **Important Days**

1. The **World Braille Day** is observed across the world every year on **\_\_\_4th January**.

**Note:**

- The day mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille.
- He was the inventor of Braille script or Braille code.
- Braille is a tactile writing system used by people who are visually impaired.
- Braille users can read computer screens and other electronic supports thanks to refreshable braille displays.
- People can write braille with the original slate and stylus or type it on a braille writer, such as a portable braille notetaker (or computer) that prints with a braille embosser.

#### **New Appointments**

1. Who has been re-appointed as **Railway Board Chairman** for a period of one year **\_\_\_ VK Yadav**.

**Note:**

- Mr. Yadav had taken over as Railway Board Chairman from Ashwani Lohani, who had retired from the post in December 2018.
- Earlier, Yadav had held the post of General Manager of South Central Railway (SCR).
- He is an electrical engineer and belongs to the 1980 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.

2. The Union government has set up a **7 members Group of Minister (GoM)** to review the crop insurance scheme, "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)" headed by **\_\_\_ Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister)**.

**Note:**

- The GoM will also make suggestions to improve the insurance scheme according to the needs of the farmers.
- The GoM includes home minister Amit Shah and agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the ministers of state for agriculture, finance, tribal affairs, and animal husbandry.
- The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched on 14th January 2016 to provide financial support to farmers suffering from crop loss or damage due to an unforeseen event.

3. Who appointed as the new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast in Ireland **\_\_\_ Hillary Clinton**.

**Note:**

- Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been appointed the new chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland for a five-year term.
- She became the university's first female chancellor.
- The position of chancellor has been vacant since the death in 2018 of Thomas J Moran, chairman, president, and chief executive of Mutual of America Life Insurance Company.

4. Iran's supreme leader named the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani **\_\_\_ Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**.

**Note:**

- Earlier, Soleimani was killed in a pre-dawn US strike in Baghdad.
- Qaani was one of the most decorated commanders of the Guards during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

5. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) **\_\_\_ Harjeet Kaur Joshi**.

**Note:**

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- Harjeet Kaur is currently the Director Finance at SCI and, since September 12, has been holding the additional charge of the Chairperson and Managing Director of the navratna PSU.
  - Harjeet Kaur will become the first lady to head SCI, which is 63.75 percent owned by the government.
  - She will take charge of SCI at a time when the government is planning to privatize the shipping company.
6. Who has been appointed as Chairman of National Medical Commission \_\_ **Dr. Suresh Chandra Sharma**.
- Note:**
- He is Professor and Head of ENT – Head and Neck Surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
  - Regarding this, an order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
  - Health Ministry bureaucrat RK Vats, who has also been Medical Council of India (MCI) Secretary-General, has been named Secretary General of NMC.
7. Dubai-based Indian girl who can sing in 120 languages wins Global Child Prodigy Award \_\_ **Sucheta Satish**.
- Note:**
- The 13-year-old Sucheta Satish, known as the Dubai Indian High School's nightingale, won in the singing category.
  - The Global Child Prodigy Award is a platform to celebrate children's talent and power in different categories such as dancing, music, arts, writing, acting, modelling, science, innovation, sports, etc.
8. Best Motion Picture (Drama) in 'Golden Globe Awards 2020' \_\_ 1917.
- Note:**
- The 77th Golden Globe Awards, which honor the movies and American Television were distributed on 6th January 2020 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California.
  - Best film – drama: 1917
  - Best actress in a film – drama: Renee Zellweger, Judy
  - Best actor in a film – drama: Joaquin Phoenix, Joker
  - Best film – musical or comedy: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood
  - Best score – film: Joker
  - Best director – film: Sam Mendes, 1917
  - Best song – film: I'm Gonna Love Me Again, Rocketman

### Important News – India

1. Who has released SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019 \_\_ **NITI Aayog**.
- Note:**
- Government think tank the NITI Aayog has released the 2nd edition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and dashboard for the year 2019 in New Delhi.
  - The Index comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards achieving the 2030 SDG targets.
  - Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu ranked at the third position with the score of 67.
  - While Bihar is at the bottom of Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index.
2. India's **second spaceport** for launching **small satellites** will be established in Tamil Nadu's \_\_ **Thoothukudi district**.
- Note:**
- The country's first spaceport is at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, about 90 km northeast of Chennai. Thoothukudi is about 600 km southeast of Chennai. The new location is ideal for launching smaller satellites of less than 500 kg in the sun-synchronous orbit.
3. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will conduct the Asiatic Lion Census in \_\_ **May 2020**.
- Note:**
- Around **8,000-10,000 cameras** will be used to carry out the **2020 lion census** in Gujarat, the last abode of the Asiatic lion.
  - The **2015 lion census** had counted 523 lions in the state.

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- The number is expected to have risen phenomenally the population may have crossed the 1,000-mark.
  - The entire census area is to be divided into a 3-km grid. Officers will collect hair, nails, teeth, etc.
  - The collection process is to be carried out using scientific methods laid out by NTCA.
4. The **Ministry of Agriculture** announced that the sowing area of rabi crops has increased by **\_\_\_36 lakh hectares**.
- Note:**
- This is mainly due to the improvement in **soil moisture in Rabi growing** states.
  - The total area under Rabi crops was 536 hectares last year and this has increased to 571 hectares. Of these, wheat has been sown in 297 lakh hectares, rice has been sown in 14 lakh hectares, coarse cereals in 46 lakh hectares and oilseeds in 74 lakh hectares.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 107th edition of Indian Science Congress in **\_\_\_Bengaluru**.
- Note:**
- The theme of ISC 2020 is "Science and Technology: Rural Development". The event brings together science fraternity across the world to discuss scientific innovation and research.
  - Over 15,000 participants, including Nobel Laureates, scientists, intellectuals, academicians, policymakers, researchers, students and delegates from different institutions are participating in the event.
  - There will be 28 Plenary Sessions during the event, on areas ranging from Climate Smart Agriculture for Food Security, Crop Improvement Towards Food and Nutrition Security to Artificial Intelligence and Medical Technology.
6. **Labour Ministry** to launch a portal for the speedy resolution of grievances **\_\_\_ Santusht**.
- Note:**
- The labour ministry has announced to launch a new portal 'Santusht' for the speedy redressal of workers as well as employer grievances and ensuring effective implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.
  - Initially, 'Santusht' would monitor all services provided by retirement fund body EPFO and health insurance and services provider ESIC to formal sector workers.
  - Workers and employers can lodge their complaints on the portal, which would be managed by an internal monitoring cell comprising five to six officers.
7. city will host the 14th Global Healthcare Summit 2021 **\_\_\_ Visakhapatnam**.
- Note:**
- The brochure of the summit was released on 30 December 2019 by MP M.V.V. Satyanarayana.
  - The focus of the Global Health Summit is an Indian-centric approach, with special events such as global impact and India's contribution in providing cost-effective medicines and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals.
  - For the first time, the 14th Global Health Care summit will be held in AP and is expected to boost the healthcare in the region.
8. HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated the 28th edition of annual New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan in **\_\_\_ New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- As part of Mahatma Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary celebrations, the theme of this year is Gandhi: The Writers' Writer.
  - Eminent Gandhian scholar Girishwar Mishra is the chief guest on the occasion.
  - The book fair organised by National Book Trust (NBT).
  - Other features at the fair will include -- Theme pavilion, authors' corner, seminar hall, braille books, children's pavilion and foreign countries' pavilion.
9. Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number for passengers **\_\_\_139**.
- Note:**
- The Indian Railways has integrated its helpline numbers into a single number 139 for quick grievance redressal and enquiries by passengers during their train journeys.
  - The new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers.
  - It will be easy for passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during train travel.
10. Twenty-two tableau proposals (16-states and 6- Central Ministries) have been short-listed for participation in this year's **\_\_\_ Republic Day parade**.

**Note:**

- Ministry of Defence had received a total of 56 tableaux proposals comprising 32 from States and 24 from Ministries in this regard.
- The tableaux proposals received are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee comprising of eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music and architecture.
- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to be the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020.

11. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Traders Convention in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The convention has been organized by the Confederation of All India Traders and will deliberate upon various issues concerning traders.
- The aim of this convention will be to discuss the role of the trading community in achieving a 5 trillion dollar economy goal. today said NDA government is committed to protect the interests of traders and to promote ease of doing business.

12. Third international symposium on marine ecosystems – challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) is to be held in \_\_\_ **Kochi**

**Note:**

- Eminent marine scientists, oceanographers, fisheries researchers, and marine biotechnologists from across the globe are expected to participate in it.

13. 5th Global Drosophila Conference held at \_\_\_ **Pune**.

**Note:**

- The fifth edition of the Asia Pacific Drosophila Research Conference (APDRC5) was held in Pune.
- The conference was organized in the country for the first time by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).

14. India extends USD 75 mn line of credit for solar parks in \_\_\_ **Cuba**.

**Note:**

- Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) has given a \$75 million line of credit to Cuba for financing 75 MW Photovoltaic Solar Parks.
- Exim Bank is the premier export finance institution of India.
- Regarding this, the Exim Bank has entered into an agreement with Banco Exterior De Cuba on July 16, 2019.

15. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has inaugurated the first silk processing plant at Surendranagar in \_\_\_ **Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- This would help cut down the cost of production of silk yarn drastically and increase the sale and availability of raw material for Gujarati 'Patola' sarees locally.
- The plant has been set up by a khadi institution at a cost of Rs 75 lakh, in which KVIC has contributed Rs 60 lakh.

### Important News – State

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

**Note:**

- Flipkart has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry to support the ministry's 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)'.
- Under the MoU Flipkart will sell the products made by women self-help groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) on the e-commerce platform.
- The e-commerce company will collaborate with state missions to establish the 'Flipkart Samarth programme' in 22 states in India.

2. The **Andhra Pradesh government** is planning to introduce **door-delivery** of sand from \_\_\_ **2nd January 2020**.

**Note:**

- As a pilot project, it is to be started from in Krishna district on an experimental basis and then extend it.

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- Under this initiative, the AP government will deliver sand at doorsteps and collect transportation charges from the customers.
  - In order to make the initiative successful, the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation will stock 15 lakh tons of sand per month for the next four months.
3. The **state Government** has passed a resolution to roll back the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)** \_\_ **Kerala**.
- Note:**
- According to the Government of Kerala, the act was against secularism and has triggered widespread protests in the country. The act also dented India's image among the international community
  - The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 was passed in December 2019. The act amended the Citizenship act passed in 1955. It allows Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, and Parsi religious minorities to gain Indian citizenship.
4. Who has become the first country in the world to ban sunscreen that is harmful to corals and sea life \_\_ **The Pacific nation of Palau**
- Note:**
- From **January 1**, sunscreen that includes ingredients like **oxybenzone** and **octinoxate** is no longer allowed to be worn or sold in the Palau.
  - The **compounds are commonly** used in sunscreen formulas as they absorb ultraviolet A rays.
  - The pristine islands, which have a combined population of about 20000, are a famed diving location, and their lagoon is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.
5. UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) has launched a dedicated women helpline \_\_ **Damini**.
- Note:**
- It will boost women's safety in Roadways buses?
  - As an extension of "Nirbhaya Yojana" of the central government a unique number, "81142-77777", has been subscribed for the helpline.
  - By using this 'Damini' helpline women passengers can lodge their complaints by calling or by using WhatsApp service.
6. Entire Nagaland declared 'disturbed area' for six more months under \_\_ **AFSPA**.
- Note:**
- The entire state of Nagaland has been declared a disturbed area for a period of six months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, AFSPA.
  - The Act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior notice.
7. Assam state zoo first to breed endangered \_\_ **Hargila**.
- Note:**
- Hargila is currently on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss stemming from indiscriminate felling of big trees and dwindling wetlands.
  - The Endangered Greater Adjutant stork is one of the rarest species of Storks out of twenty species of Storks in the world.
  - In India, eight species of residential storks are found, out of which Greater Adjutant is one of them.
8. 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative launched by the state Government \_\_ **Maharashtra**.
- Note:**
- Maharashtra Government has launched a 'Cyber Safe Women' initiative to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to these cyber-criminal activities.
  - Under the initiative, various awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety to help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes.

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- The initiative has been launched to mark the 189th birthday of Savitribai Phule (19th-century social reformer).
9. Andhra Pradesh govt has appointed as Special Officers for implementing the 'Disha Act 2019' in the state\_\_ **Dr Kritika Shukla and M Deepika.**
- Note:**
- The Act is intended for speedy trial and faster execution in cases of sexual offences against women in the state.
  - The AP Disha Bill prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.
  - To ensure a speedy trial, the state will set up exclusive special courts in all the 13 districts to deal with cases of offences against women and children including rape, acid attacks, stalking, voyeurism, social media harassment of women, sexual harassment and all cases under POCSO Act.
10. Sate Govt. has become the 1st state to shortlist migrants for citizenship\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**
- Note:**
- Uttar Pradesh is all set to become the first state in the country to start the exercise of shortlisting migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, eligible for citizenship under the new Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
  - The exercise will also identify those who are living illegally in the state.
  - All 75 district magistrates have been asked to track down migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who have settled here for decades, without citizenship.
11. Zo Kutpui Festival organized in \_\_ **Mizoram.**
- Note:**
- The Mizoram state government will be organizing Zo Kutpui (festival) in at least 10 states across India and countries such as the US, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
  - The first edition of the festival will start on January 9 in Vangmun in Tripura and will be held over three days.
  - The festival will then move to other states which have a significant Mizo population.
12. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has launched an AI-powered learning platform NSE Knowledge Hub in \_\_ **New Delhi.**
- Note:**
- The hub will assist insurance, banking, and financial services. The hub has adopted the latest technology of Artificial Intelligence.
13. Women Science Congress held in \_\_ **Bengaluru.**
- Note:**
- DRDO Aeronautical Systems Director General Dr.Tessy Thomas who is known as Missile Woman of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.
  - The women's science congress aims to provide a single platform for women working in different arena of science and technology to showcase their achievements and experiences.
  - It will also prepare a vision document or a road map for women in science and technology and recommend policies to enhance the role and utilize the full potential of women in science and technology.
14. ISRO to set up Human Space Flight Centre in \_\_\_\_ **Challakere, Karnataka.**
- Note:**
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will establish a Massive Human Space Flight Center in the Challakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.
  - For this ISRO has proposed 2,700 crores of the infrastructure plan to construct the facility that will become operational in three years.
15. Who has decided to observe 2020 as the "Year of Mobility" for the welfare of the troops\_\_ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- Note:**
- It will focus on the construction of residential units and the implementation of welfare measures for the troops.

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- In the year 2020, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will aim at creating the infrastructure for their families.
- It will also aim at focusing on sports and physical fitness leveraging modern gadgetry.
- The CISF guard civil airports, nuclear power stations, mines, thermal power stations in the private domain as well.

### Important News – World

1. President of Nepal has launched a much-awaited Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign at historic Dasaratha Rangashala \_\_\_\_ **Kathmandu.**

**Note:**

- The ambitious campaign is aimed to promote tourism in Nepal and attract 2 million tourists during the year 2020.
- Visit Nepal Year 2020 will create a new image of Nepal in the hearts and minds of the world community
- Mythical creature Yeti has been selected as a mascot of the campaign.

2. The **annual report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):**

**Note:**

- UNICEF has named the last decade as "Deadly Decade" because as per the report, the number of attacks on children since 2010 has increased to three-fold.
- The world agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world says that in 2018, around 24,000 grave violations were recorded against children and the number has gone up highly to 1,70,000 in 2019.
- This includes abductions, killing, sexual violence, maiming, child recruitment, denial of humanitarian access and attacks in schools and hospitals.

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

**Note:**

- The award was given to recognize and felicitated Piyush Jaiswal's contribution towards social welfare, women empowerment and introducing new talent in the field of arts and culture.
- This award was presented by Rajya Sabha MP and Padma Shri Awardee Dr. CP Thakur and Bihar Women Commission president Dilmani Devi in Patna to promote women empowerment.

4. Indian Army to sign MoU for AK-203 assault rifles with \_\_\_\_ **Russia.**

**Note:**

- The Army is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles from Russia.
- As per the MoU, around 1 lakh rifles are to be received directly from Russia and the rest will be manufactured in India.
- The rifles will be manufactured at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh by a joint venture (JV) called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL). Of the JV, 50.5% is to be owned by India and 49.5% by Russia.

5. Naval Exercise 'Naseem-Al-Bahr' will be conducted in \_\_\_\_ **Goa.**

**Note:**

- 12th edition of the Indo-Oman bilateral naval exercise "Naseem-Al-Bahr" will be conducted in Goa.
- To participate in it Two ships of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), RNOV Al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab arrived at Mormugao Port on January 06, 2020.
- Along with these ships, Indian Naval Ships Shubhadra and Beas will also participate in the exercise.
- Naseem-Al-Bahr' (or sea breeze) naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the RNO, being conducted since 1993.

### Honor & Awards

1. **Results of Swachh Survekshan League 2020:**

**Note:**

- Around 4,372 cities participated in the league. It is a cleanliness survey that helps in competitive federalism.

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- Among 10 Lakh plus population category, Indore secured first place in both the quarters.
  - Madhya Pradesh Capital Bhopal got the second and Surat in Gujarat third spot in first Quarter.
  - Rajkot in Gujarat was at the 2nd spot while Navi Mumbai at third.
  - In one Lakh to 10 Lakh population category, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand got the 1st spot in both quarters.
  - New Delhi Municipal Council and Khargone in Madhya Pradesh got the second and third spots in the first quarter in this category.
  - Chandrapur in Maharashtra and Khargone got the second and third spots in Quarter 2 in one to ten lakh population categories.
2. Who has won **Guinea-Bissau** presidential election \_\_\_\_ **Umaro Cissoko Embalo**.
- Note:**
- In the Guinea-Bissau Umaro Cissoko Embalo has won the presidential election with 53.55 percent of votes.
  - This was announced by the National Electoral Commission (CNE) of Guinea-Bissau.
  - He was the opposition leader also served as prime minister of the country.
3. Who has been honoured with **Lokmanya Tilak** journalism award \_\_\_\_ **Sanjay Gupta**.
- Note:**
- Sanjay Gupta (editor-in-chief of 'Jagran') will be honoured with the 'Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award' for his contribution to the field of journalism.
  - The award, instituted by the Kesari-Maratha Trust, will be conferred on Gupta in Pune on 139th Foundation Day of 'Kesari', the newspaper started by Lokmanya Tilak.
  - The award is given to recognize the work of an individual, which he or she has carried out for the larger good of the journalistic field.
4. Who has been adjudged the **best medical college of the year** and conferred with the **Six Sigma Healthcare Excellence Award** for 2019 \_\_\_\_ **Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) & SUM Hospital**.
- Note:**
- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur presented the award at a special function held at New Delhi.
  - SOA University also won a separate award on the occasion as its founder president Manojranjan Nayak was chosen as the dynamic entrepreneur of the year.
5. Five-day-long festival of '**Lai Haraoba**' has begun in \_\_\_\_ **Agartala, Tripura**.
- Note:**
- It is a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri Meitei communities since ancient times.
  - The five-day-long festival is jointly organized by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, Puthiba Lai Haraoba Committee and Puthiba Welfare & Cultural Society, Agartala.
  - Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance, and rituals.
6. Ministry has awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology \_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- Note:**
- The fellowship covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of 25 thousand rupees per month.
  - A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary.
  - Instituted to commemorate India's 50th year of independence, Swarna Jayanti Fellowships are awarded to young and brilliant scientists to pursue unfettered research with financial freedom and flexibility.

### Sports News

1. Games will be included in the 3rd edition of the 'Khelo India youth games' \_\_\_\_ **lawn bowls and cycling**.
- Note:**
- The 3rd edition of the games is going to start from 10th January 2020 in Guwahati Assam.
  - Around 6500 athletes from 37 teams are expected to take part.
  - The cultural events from Assam, North East and rest of the country will be held from **13th to 15th January**.

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- The exhibition of indigenous games will also be held. He said a mega inaugural ceremony is being planned at Sarusajai.
2. The 5th Ice **Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship -2020** held in \_\_ **Leh, Ladakh**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ The tournament will continue till 7th January in Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink in Leh, where the Army, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and home team Ladakh are fighting for the championship in U-20 boys category.  
 ➤ Similarly, in Girls category Ladakh, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Chandigarh are playing for the championship.
3. Former India skipper was picked as captain of ESPN Cricinfo's ODI and Twenty20 teams of the decade \_\_ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Virat Kohli was named the leader in Tests.  
 ➤ Kuldeep Yadav, and Yuzvendra Chahal, were the only other Indians to make the Test XI.  
 ➤ Former skipper Mithali Raj and fast bowler Jhulan Goswami were named in the same women's team picked for both the ODIs and T20s.  
 ➤ Australia's inspirational cricketer, Meg Lanning was named the captain of the side.
4. Who won the Hastings International chess title \_\_ **Magesh Chandran**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Indian Grand Master P Magesh Chandran has won the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress in Hastings, England.  
 ➤ France's Romain Edouard, who was the only player to end the tournament a half-point behind Chandran, took the second spot.  
 ➤ The US-based Chandran posted six wins and secured three draws to take the top spot.
5. Who will host the first Edition of Khelo India University Games \_\_ **Bhubaneswar**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held at the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22 to March 1, 2020.  
 ➤ Khelo India University Games will witness over 4,000 athletes from 100 Universities across India vying for top honours in 17 different disciplines namely archery, athletics, boxing, fencing, judo, swimming, weight-lifting, wrestling, badminton, basketball, football, hockey, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, rugby and kabaddi.
6. Who won gold medal in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting C'ship \_\_ **Saurabh Chaudhary**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men's 10 meters air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal.  
 ➤ Second-placed Sarabjot Singh of Haryana was well behind with a score of 243.9, while world number two Abhishek Verma settled for bronze in a high-quality final.
7. India's all-rounder retires from all forms of cricket \_\_ **Irfan Pathan**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.  
 ➤ Pathan played 29 Tests, 120 ODIs and 24 T20Is.  
 ➤ He was part of the victorious Indian team at the 2007 World Twenty20 and was the man-of-the-match in the final against Pakistan.
8. Who won best Men's Player of the Year at Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019 \_\_ **Cristiano Ronaldo**.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Cristiano Ronaldo won the Best Men's Player of the Year award at the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards in Dubai.  
 ➤ Ronaldo has won the award six times out of its nine years of its existence.  
 ➤ England international Lucy Bronze was crowned Best Women's Player of the Year.  
 ➤ The 2019 Awards were presented in 16 different categories.  
 ➤ The Globe Soccer Awards are the annual awards given for excellence in football, organised by the EFAA (European Association of Player's Agents) and the ECA (European Club Association).

## Banking & Financial Awareness

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

**Note:**

- The full form of 'MANI' is the "Mobile Aided Note Identifier".
- The visually challenged people can identify the denomination of a currency note by using the mobile app "MANI". The application also works offline once installed.
- MANI application scans currency notes using camera and gives audio output in Hindi and English.

2. India may **overtake Germany** to become the **fourth-largest** economy by \_\_\_\_ **2026**.

**Note:**

- The report titled 'World Economic League Table 2020' was released by the UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- According to the report, India is expected to become the fourth-largest economy by 2026 and the third-largest by 2034.
- The CEBR report states that India would surpass Germany to become the fourth-largest economy by 2026 and further topple Japan in 2034 to become the third-largest economy.

3. Health insurance policy in the name 'Arogya Sanjeevani' mandatory for insurance companies \_\_\_\_ **IRDAI**

**Note:**

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA)** has introduced a standard health cover policy that must be offered by all general and standalone health insurers.
- As per the guidelines issued by the IRDAI, every general and standalone health insurer should offer a standard health product, the Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, with a minimum sum insured of Rs 1 lakh, with the upper limit of Rs 5 lakh. The policy term will be for one year.
- The Arogya Sanjeevani policy is a first of its kind standard health insurance product that will help easy availability of health insurance.

4. **Public sector lender** has signed an MoU with the Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA), Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_ **Indian Bank**

**Note:**

- The bank, which has dedicated products specially designed for women customers, will provide loans to WEWA members at special discounted rates.
- Training will be given to the WEWA members in the INDSETIs (Indian Bank Self Employment Training Institutes).
- WEWA aims at adding 1,000 members by 2023 and requested the bank to provide the skill training to their members as per the interest and choice of the members.

5. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for sale of \_\_\_\_ **FASTags**.

**Note:**

- The agreement will facilitate the sale of PPBL FASTags through the last mile network of 3.6 lakh CSCs, helping realize the government's vision of cashless and smooth transit at all toll plazas across the country.
- For this, CSC will integrate its platform with Paytm Payments Bank to carry out seamless transactions.
- FASTags, which work on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology -- have been made mandatory at toll gates on national highways.

6. Who partnered with RevFin to offer life cover \_\_\_\_ **PNB MetLife**.

**Note:**

- RevFin, a digital lending start-up has partnered with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company to provide life insurance to its customers by bundling life insurance cover on their loans.

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- This partnership supports financial inclusion by helping to secure the families of the borrowers against loan repayment burden in the event of the unfortunate demise of the borrower during the loan term.
  - RevFin customers who have taken a loan to buy an electric three-wheeler can take advantage of this tie-up, and cover their outstanding loan amount during the loan tenure.
7. Who has introduced One Time Password (OTP)-based ATM cash withdrawals\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**

**Note:**

- The step has been taken to reduce the occurrences of unauthorised transactions happening at ATMs.
- SBI introduced one-time password for every cash withdrawal of Rs 10,000 and above between 8 am and 8 pm.
- It has been effective from January 1, 2020 across all SBI ATMs.

8. Who has enabled select banks in India to offer round-the-clock (24×7) trading in the Indian rupee\_\_\_ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

**Note:**

- The select banks in India offered Indian customers foreign exchange rates only in inter-bank market hours from 9 am – 5 pm.
- This decision will also make the offshore currency markets in countries like Dubai & Singapore less attractive for Indian investors.

**Obituaries**

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

**Note:**

- He was the general secretary of the Nationalist Congress Party and a former students' union leader.
- Despite visual impairment, he worked throughout life. He has also written several books, including Congress and Independent India, Jawahar Satkam, Celebrating Faiz and Nepal Transition-A way forward among others.

2. Noted Assamese theatre personality passed away \_\_\_ **Ratna Ojha.**

**Note:**

- Eminent Assamese dramatist, litterateur and social activist Ratna Ojha (88) passed away in Guwahati, Assam.
- Recipient of the prestigious Natyasurya Award in 2005 for his contributions to theatre, Ojha had introduced street plays in Assam in 1971 with his skit 'Kokaideo' to revive the theatre movement in the state that was fading with the death of his mentor Phani Sarma.

3. Irani Gen killed in US airstrike on Baghdad airport \_\_\_ **Qassem Soleimani.**

**Note:**

- General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC's) Quds Force, and architect of its regional security apparatus has been killed following a US airstrike at Baghdad's international airport.
- The strike also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iran-backed militias in Iraq known as the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

4. Former Karnataka Governor passes away \_\_\_ **T N Chaturvedi.**

**Note:**

- Former Governor of Karnataka T N Chaturvedi (90-years) passed away at a private hospital in Noida.
- Chaturvedi was the 14th Governor of Karnataka (from 2002–2007).
- He also served as of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) from 1984 to 1989.

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