Monthly Current Affairs Capsule & Quiz
January 2020
Pacific Island nation Palau bans ‘reef-toxic’ sunscreen

Palau's pioneering ban on "reef-toxic" sunscreens takes effect from 01 January 2019.

- From New Year's day, any reef-toxic sunscreen imported or sold in Palau will be confiscated and the owner will be fined.
- The tiny Pacific island nation introduced strict environmental measures.
- Palau is renowned for its marine life and is regarded as one of the world's best diving destinations.
- Along with the ban, Palau's much-touted marine sanctuary came into effect on January 1.
- This closes 80 per cent of its exclusive economic zone to fishing and other marine activities including mining and shark finning.

Nepal’s President launches ‘Visit Nepal Year 2020’ campaign to promote tourism

President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari launched much-awaited ‘Visit Nepal Year 2020’ campaign amidst a spectacular ceremony held at historic Dasaratha Rangashala in Kathmandu.

- The ambitious campaign is aimed to promote tourism in Nepal and attract 2 million tourists during the year 2020.
- The government has a goal of making tourism one of the key pillars of Nepali economy.
- Visit Nepal 2020 campaign was also launched in all the seven provinces of Nepal from.
- During the campaign a large number of programmes will be organized in various parts of Nepal throughout the year.

World Braille Day: 4 January

World Braille Day is annually celebrated on January 4, the birthday of Braille inventor, Louis Braille.

- The day recognizes the contributions of Louis Braille in helping blind and visually impaired people to read and write.
- In November 2018, the General Assembly decided to proclaim 4 January as World Braille Day.
- World Braille Day, celebrated since 2019, is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

2020 Designated as “Year of Nurse and Midwife”
In the honour of 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, WHO designated the year 2020 as the “Year of Nurse and Midwife”.

- This year, WHO is to focus on nursing and midwifery in order to achieve Universal Health coverage. WHO will launch the reports prior to 73rd session of WHO which is to be held in Geneva between February 3 and 8, 2020.
- Every year, the day is celebrated on May 12. The day is celebrated by the International Council of Nurses.

**World Braille Day: 04 January**

The world Braille Day was celebrated on 04 January.

- The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille - for people with visual disabilities.
- Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in northern France.
- At the age of just 3, he lost both his eyes in an accident.
- This resulted in the invention of the language of 6 dots - which is popularly known as braille.

**Iran takes final step by abandoning JCPOA restrictions**

In Iran, the Cabinet announced the country's decision to take the final step to reduce commitments to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), popularly referred to as the 2015 nuclear deal.

- Iran will observe no restrictions in operational areas including enrichment capacities, enrichment percentage, and the volume of enriched material as well as research.
- However, Iran will continue cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency as before.
- Under the 2015 accord, Iran had agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities and allow in international inspectors in return for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

**India Russia to sign MoUs on AK-203 assault rifles**

The Army is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles with Russia.
• About 1 lakh rifles will come directly from Russia and the remaining will be manufactured by the JV in India.
• The rifles will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.
• The Army has been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle.

UAE Cabinet approves issuance of 5-Year multi-entry tourist visa

The UAE Cabinet has approved the issuance of a five-year multi-entry tourist visa for all nationalities visiting the country.

• The decision was made during the Cabinet’s first meeting of 2020.
• The move comes in a bid to support the UAE’s tourism economy, and affirm the country’s position as a global tourist destination.
• The country receives 21 million tourists annually and their aim is to establish the country as a major global tourist destination.

Iran designate US armed forces and Pentagon as ‘terrorist entities’

The Iranian parliament approved a triple-urgency bill which designates the US army and the Pentagon as a terrorist entity.

• The Bill further requires the government to allocate 200 million euro to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force to take revenge for the US killing of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.
• Iran’s IRGC’s Quds Force Commander General Soleimani and Iraq’s Popular Forces Commander Abu Mahdi al-Modandis, as well as eight other military men, were killed by the US Army.

Israel unveils revolutionary laser-based air defense system

Israeli Ministry of Defense announced that it has successfully developed a laser-based air defense system.

• The system is meant to intercept aerial threats ranging from as mortar fire, drones, medium range Grad rockets, anti-tank missiles as well as long-range missiles, currently at the disposal of Iran-backed terror groups in Syria and Lebanon.
• The system is set to be tested in six months’ time at an undisclosed location in northern Israel.
• If the interception test is successful, the laser-based system will be dispatched for field use along Israel’s border with the Gaza Strip.
• The technological development will enable the long-range targeting and stabilization of laser beams, allowing them to intercept targets at great distances.
Iranian armed forces accepts responsibility for accidental shoot-down of Ukrainian passenger plane

An Iranian Revolutionary Guard Commander has said his unit accepts full responsibility for the accidental shoot-down of a Ukrainian passenger plane.

- General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said that when he learned about the downing of the plane, which killed all 176 passengers on board, he wished that he should have died.
- Iran's armed forces said they mistook the passenger plane for a hostile target in the tense aftermath of Iran's ballistic missile attack on two military bases in Iraq housing US troops.
- A Ukrainian airliner carrying 176 passengers crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran.

Nearly 8,000 Philipinos evacuated as Taal volcano erupts near Manila

About 8,000 residents were evacuated after a small active Taal volcano near Manila spewed a massive cloud of ash.

- Experts warned of another possibility of "hazardous explosive eruption."
- Taal, one of the world's smallest active volcanoes, sits in the middle of a lake about 70km (45 miles) south of the centre of Manila.
- Authorities said there was a risk an eruption could cause a tsunami in the lake.
- The Philippines lies on the Ring of Fire, a belt of volcanoes circling the Pacific Ocean that is also prone to earthquakes.
- One of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines, Taal has erupted more than 30 times in the past five centuries, most recently in 1977.

World Future Energy Summit begins in Abu Dhabi


- 33,500 participants from 170 countries and 800 specialist exhibitors are expected to attend the four-day annual event.
- The theme for this year's summit is "Rethinking Global Consumption, Production, and Investment."
- The World Future Energy Summit is the Middle East’s largest future energy and sustainability event.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen secures second term in landslide victory
Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen secured a landslide victory in presidential elections with voters resoundingly handing its first female leader a second term.

- Her main rival, Han Kuo-yu of the China-friendly Kuomintang (KMT) party, has conceded defeat.
- As per official results, Tsai was ahead with 57 per cent.
- In her victory speech, President Tsai Ing-wen expressed hope that Beijing authorities understand that democratic Taiwan, and its democratically elected government, will not concede to threats and intimidation.

World Bank predicts Sri Lanka’s economic growth at 3.3% for 2020

The World Bank has forecast Sri Lanka’s economic growth at 3.3% for 2020 saying the growth is likely to remain below four per cent in the next three years.

- The bank said, in its latest report of World Bank’s January 2020 Global Economic Prospects, that for 2021 and 2022, it maintains the same forecast of 3.7 percent of economic growth in Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka’s new government headed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said recently that one of its targets include achieving a 6.5 per cent economic growth per annum from 2020 and a GDP growth of 6,500 U.S. dollars per capita.
- Sri Lanka’s growth had dipped below 3 per cent last year which was attributed to Easter attacks and policy uncertainty during the previous government.
- Previously, The World Bank (WB) has lowered India's GDP growth to five per cent for the fiscal year 2020-21 from its earlier estimated six per cent.

Iranian Olympic medalist Kimia Alizadeh announces her defection

Iran’s Olympic medalist, Kimia Alizadeh took to her Instagram to announce that she is leaving the country.

- Alizadeh is the only woman from Iran to have won the Olympic medal.
- She made history at the Rio Olympics in 2016, when she won the bronze medal for her country in Taekwondo.
- Alizadeh did not announce any future plans or the country which she has gone to, but she said that she will remain the daughter of Iran.

Japan Coast Guard Ship ‘Echigo’ arrives in Chennai
The Japan Coast Guard Ship ‘Echigo’ has arrived in Chennai on a five-day goodwill visit.

- It will be participating in the Annual Joint Exercise ‘Sahyog-Kaijin’ with the Indian Coast Guard off Chennai.
- This is the 19th such exercise being conducted between the two Coast Guards since 2000.
- Four Indian Coast Guard ships, their aircraft and a vessel from the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology - NIOT are participating in the exercise along with the Japanese vessel.

China dropped from US currency manipulator list

The US Treasury department has dropped the designation of China as a currency manipulator.

- It is a gesture that aims to ease tensions with Beijing ahead of this week’s signing of a deal to halt their trade war.
- In August 2019, China was labeled officially as “currency manipulator” by the United States and also accused China of using yuan to gain “unfair competitive advantage” in trade.

Sri Lankan President decides estate workers’ daily wage to be Rs. 1,000 from March 1

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has decided that the minimum daily wage of estate workers will be 1000 rupees with effect from 1st March.

- The decision came on eve of Thai Pongal as most of the estate workers are Tamils of Indian origin.
- The workers have been demanding the 1000 rupee wage since past few years and held several protests during the previous government.
- Gotabaya has promised the hike in his election manifesto.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev submits resignation

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has resigned.
The Medvedev submitted his resignation to President Vladimir Putin. The surprise announcement came after Putin proposed constitutional amendments that would strengthen the powers of the prime minister and parliament at the expense of the presidency. Mr. Putin will name Mr. Medvedev as deputy of the presidential Security Council. Russian President asked Medvedev's Cabinet to keep working until the new Cabinet is formed.

Nepal celebrates 'Maghe Sankranti' with gaiety & religious fervor

The festival of Maghe Sankranti is being celebrated with gaiety and religious fervor in Nepal. It is known as Maghi Sankranti in Tarai region.

- The day is also being celebrated as Maghi festival by Tharu community to mark the beginning of its new year.
- Maghe Sankranti is celebrated on the first day of Magh month of Vikram Samvat.
- It marks the transition of Sun into Hindu zodiac sign Makara (Capricorn) and is seen as a celebration of the end of the winter.

Brazil's new US$100 million Antarctic base, built by China

Brazil has inaugurated a new US$100 million Antarctic base, built by Chinese company CEIEC to replace a research station destroyed by fire almost seven years ago.

- The new 48,375 sq ft facility was bigger and safer, with 17 laboratories, a heliport, and other advances.
- Scientists will use the base to study microbiology, glaciers, and climate, among other areas.
- Brazil’s programme was set back in 2012 when an explosion in the generator room caused a fire that killed two naval officers and destroyed 70 percent of the building.

First Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) concluded

The first Session of India-Norway Dialogue on Trade & Investment (DTI) was convened in New Delhi on 15-16 January, 2020.

- The session was based on the Terms of Reference (ToR) signed between India and Norway on 8th January, 2019 in New Delhi,
during the visit of Prime Minister of Norway.

- This was the first meeting after the signing of DTI.

Russia to deliver S-400 air defence systems to India by 2025

Russia said it has started production of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems for India, and all five units will be delivered by 2025.

- In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal to buy the air defence missile systems.
- Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin also said that a contract will be finalised shortly for joint production of Kamov lightweight multi-role military helicopters for India.
- The Indian Armed forces will receive the first batch of 5,000 Kalashnikov rifles this year as well.
- These will be produced in India under a joint venture.

Myanmar-China push for BRI with 33 deals

Myanmar and China signed 33 bilateral deals including agreements, MoUs, exchange letters and protocols on the concluding day of the two day visit by the Chinese President Xi Jinping to Myanmar.

- A large number of these deals relate to the implementation of the China Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by China.
- The two countries signed a concession agreement and shareholders’ agreement for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) deep seaport project.
- The port will link the land locked Yunnan province of China directly to the Indian Ocean allowing China to bypass the strait of Malacca through which it imports a sizable amount of oil and gas.

Social Mobility Index: India ranks low at 76th place; Denmark tops

India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum.

- Denmark has topped the charts.
- The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score.
- The top five are all Scandinavian, while the five economies with the most to gain from boosting social mobility are China, the United States, India, Japan and Germany.

China reports SARS-like virus spreads across country, nearly 136 new cases
China reported a mysterious SARS-like virus has spread across the country, including to Beijing.

- A third person was confirmed to have died and nearly 140 cases were announced.
- The new coronavirus strain has caused alarm because of its connection to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.
- A total of 201 people have now been diagnosed with the virus in China.
- SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, is the disease caused by SARS coronavirus.

50th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins in Davos

The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, a congregation of rich and powerful from across the world, opens in Davos, Switzerland.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation to the WEF.
- Besides, over 100 CEOs, political leaders including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers will take part in the 50th edition of the annual event.
- The welcome message was followed by the annual crystal awards and this year's recipients included celebrity film star Deepika Padukone.

 Prince Harry, Meghan Markle sign formal deal to exit from royal family

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have signed up to a formal exit deal from the royal family.

- It will see them forsake their His and Her Royal Highness (HRH) titles and will no longer receive UK taxpayers' funding for their duties.
- The deal, which comes into effect by spring in a few weeks' time, means the couple will no longer be representing the Queen in an official capacity.
- Queen Elizabeth II said the agreement followed months of discussions and was a constructive and supportive way forward for her grandson and his family.

France to train Indian flight surgeons for Gaganyaan mission
France will train Indian flight surgeons to enable them to monitor the health of astronauts selected for the ambitious human space mission Gaganyaan.

- The two-week training is a critical aspect of the Gaganyaan project that is aimed at sending three Indians to space by 2022.
- The flight surgeons, who will be Indian Air Force doctors specialising in aviation medicines and responsible for the health of astronauts before, during and after flight, will be shortlisted soon.
- The four shortlisted astronauts, all test pilots from the Indian Air Force, are currently in Russia for an 11-month training programme.

**Procurement of defence equipment worth over Rs 5,000 cr approved to promote indigenisation**

Defence Acquisition Council, DAC has approved procurement of equipment worth over five thousand 100 crore rupees from indigenous sources to promote indigenization.

- They include sophisticated Electronic Warfare Systems for the Army designed by Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO and manufactured locally by the Indian industry.
- These systems will be used in deserts and plains and will provide comprehensive Electronic Support and Counter Measure capabilities to the field formations in both communication and other aspects of Electronic Warfare.
- The council also approved prototype testing of trawl assemblies designed by DRDO for T-72 and T-90 tanks providing an important indigenous de-mining capability to the Army.

**Brazil President Bolsonaro to be chief guest at 71st Republic Day**

President of Brazil Jair Messias Bolsonaro will arrive in New Delhi on a four-day state visit to India.

- President Bolsonaro will be the chief guest at the 71st Republic Day Parade at RajPath in the national capital on January 26.
- He will be accompanied by a delegation consisting of seven Ministers, Chairman of Brazil-India Friendship Group in the Brazilian Parliament.
- On 27th of this month, President Bolsonaro will address Indian and Brazilian Business leaders at the India-Brazil Business Forum.

**North Korea to attend Munich Security Conference for first time**
North Korea will send a delegation to the Munich Security Conference for the first time in the 56-year history of the top diplomatic gathering.

- A MSC Spokesperson confirmed that North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Son Gyong would attend next month's event.
- The announcement comes a month after Pyongyang declared it was abandoning moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests.
- The self-imposed ban on tests had been the centerpiece of two years of nuclear diplomacy between the US and North Korea.
- Founded in 1963, the Munich Security Conference hosts hundreds of high-ranking officials and dozens of world leaders each year to discuss security challenges.
- The 2020 edition will be held from February 14 to 16 in Munich, Germany.

Lebanon announces formation of new govt headed by Hassan Diab

- The presidency announced the formation of the new government after Hezbollah and its allies clinched a deal on a cabinet that must tackle the country's worst economic crisis in decades.
- The new government headed by Prime Minister Hassan Diab, a 60-year old professor at the American University of Beirut, will consist of 20 ministers-technocrats.
- The country has been hit by protests since October last year against the ruling political class.

Nepal invites PM Modi for Sagarmatha dialogue

- Nepal has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the first Sagarmatha Sambaad forum to be held here in April.
- He said leaders of all SAARC countries, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, have been invited.
- The Sambaad (dialogue) is named after the world's tallest mountain Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) which is also a symbol of friendship.

Switzerland mints smallest gold coin featuring image of Einstein
The smallest gold coin in the world featuring legendary scientist Albert Einstein has been recently minted by Switzerland.

- The gold coin of about 0.12 inches of diameter has been made by state-owned Swissmint and features the scientist sticking out his tongue.
- The size of the coin weighing 1/500th of an ounce is so small that it comes along with a magnifying glass for observing Einstein's cheeky image.
- The price of each gold coin has been pegged at USD 205 and only 999 of these have been made by producers.
- Famed physicist Einstein was granted Swiss citizenship in the year 1901 and he was also a recipient of the 1921 Nobel Prize for physics.

UK introduces new fast-track visa to attract scientists

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson introduced a new fast-track visa to attract more of the world's best scientists to the U.K. in hopes of creating a global science "superpower."

- Johnson paired the announcement of the Global Talent route program with a pledge of 300 million pounds ($392 million) for research into advanced mathematics.
- The money will help fund researchers and doctoral students whose work in math underpins myriad developments such as safer air travel, smartphone technology and artificial intelligence.
- The new visa route will have no cap on the number of people able to come to the U.K. under the program.
- Britain is facing its biggest immigration shake-up in decades after it leaves the EU.

Nepal’s newly elected Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota assumes office

Nepal’s newly elected Speaker of House of Representatives, the Lower House of the Parliament, Agni Prasad Sapkota has assumed the office.

- President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Saptoka at the President's House in Kathmandu.
- Earlier, ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker Agni Prasad Sapkota was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The post of Speaker was lying vacant since October last year after Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara resigned following allegations of attempted rape.

Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Sarec resigns
Slovenian Prime Minister Marjan Sarec announced a step down and called for fresh elections, following weeks of rising tensions within his minority five-party coalition government.

- Mr Sarec’s resignation came almost at the same time as Finance Minister Andrej Bertoncelj announced that he too would quit in a row over health care funding.
- Mr Sarec, is Slovenia's youngest-ever Prime Minister.
- He was previously best known as a comedian and political satirist before he launched himself as an anti-establishment politician.

**Points to Remember**

- Capital of Slovenian: Ljubljana
- Currency: Euro

**Oxford declares 'Samvidhaan' the Hindi word of 2019**

Oxford University Press (OUP) named ‘Samvidhaan’ (Constitution) the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019.

- OUP said that it received widespread attention in the year which was witness to the spirit of the Indian Constitution being embraced across segments of the society.
- The Oxford Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of attention and reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.
- In November 2019, Oxford Dictionaries has named “climate emergency” as its 2019 Word of the Year.

**Indian Navy launches operation 'Vanilla' to provide disaster relief at Madagascar**

Indian Navy has launched operation Vanilla to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar.

- Operation Vanilla has been launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane.
- The Indian Navy Ship is geared to set up medical camp and provide food, water and other necessary relief material.

**World’s biggest meditation centre in Hyderabad**

To mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission and Heartfulness Institute, unveiled the meditation centre slated to be the world’s largest.

- The centre that can accommodate one lakh meditation practitioners at a time.
• Built on 30 acres, the meditation centre with a central hall and eight peripheral halls to accommodate 1,00,000 people will offer meditation training free.
• It is dedicated to the first guide of Heartfulness Lalaji Maharaj affectionately known as Daaji, the present guide of Heartfulness, in the presence of several dignitaries.

Delhi government’s naming committee has decided to rename Pragati Maidan Metro station as Supreme Court Metro Station.

• Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia announced this in New Delhi during a press conference.
• The naming committee in its meeting also decided to rename Mukarba Chowk and its flyover after Kargil war martyr Captain Vikram Batra and Mehrauli - Badarpur Road as Acharya Shri Mahapragya Marg.

Entire Nagaland declared ‘disturbed area’ for six more months under AFSPA

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.
• The Central Government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole state of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and
dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.

- Nagaland has been under AFSPA for almost six decades now.

**11-day long ‘Dhanu Jatra’ begins at Bargarh in western Odisha**

The famous 11-day long ‘Dhanu Jatra’, considered as the largest open-air theatre of the world begins at Bargarh in western Odisha.

- The Jatra is based on the mythological story of Lord Krishna and his demon uncle King Kansa.
- It is about the episode of Krishna and Balaram visit to Mathura to witness the Dhanu ceremony organized by their (maternal) uncle King Kansa.
- Dhanu Jatra is the annual drama-based open-air theatrical performance celebrated in and around Bargarh city is considered to be the world’s largest open-air theatrical festival that finds a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

**ISRO picks four Astronauts for Gaganyaan**

Indian Space Research Organisation identifies four Astronauts for Gaganyaan manned mission.

- ISRO chief K. Sivan says, their training will begin from the third week of January, 2020.
- Also, Indian Space Research Organisation Chief K Sivan said that Government has approved Chandrayaan-3 and the project is ongoing.
- K Sivan said that the Chandrayaan-3’s configuration will be similar to that of its predecessor, the Chandrayaan-2.
- This means that the Chandrayaan-3 will also have a lander and a rover with a propulsion module.

**PM Modi’s ‘Pariksha pe Charcha’ programme rescheduled on Jan 20**

Pariksha pe Charcha, the programme in which Prime Minister interacts with the cross section of Students and Teachers from India and abroad to beat exam stress has been rescheduled to 20th January this year.

- The programme was earlier scheduled for 16th of January.
- It has been rescheduled in view of festivals of Pongal, Makar Sankranti, Lohri, Onam across the country.

**353rd Birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji**

The birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh ji is being celebrated in the country.

- Born in 1666, Guru Gobind Singh is considered to be one of the most celebrated of all Sikh gurus.
- He was the tenth Sikh Guru, a spiritual master, warrior, poet and philosopher.
Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding the Sikh warrior community called Khalsa in 1699 and introducing the Five Ks (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kachera and Kirpan), the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times.

Bengaluru’s University of Agricultural Sciences to host Indian Science Congress

The University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru is all set to host the 107th Indian Science Congress.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the conference to be attended by over 15,000 delegates including Nobel laureates, scientists, academicians, students, farmers, among others.
- The General President of the Indian Science Congress Association, Prof. K S Rangappa has informed that 1500 scientific papers and 5700 posters will be laid in 14 scientific disciplines.
- The Pride of India exhibition is one of the attractions during the Science show.
- Over 130 participants are exhibiting technologies, machineries, equipments and science models.

10,000 cameras to be used for 2020 lion census in Gujarat

- As against 15,000 sq km area surveyed in the last census, lions will be counted across 25,000 sq km area spanning seven districts.
- For the first time, the expertise of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will be perused in the census, scheduled to take place in May 2020.
- The 2015 lion census had counted 523 lions in the state.
- The number is expected to have risen phenomenally with internal assessments of the forest department indicating that the population may have crossed the 1,000-mark.

RBI launches ‘MANI’ mobile app

The Reserve Bank of India, RBI has launched a mobile app, MANI, Mobile Aided Note Identifier, to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes.
• The app, which is available on both Android and iOS operating systems, was launched by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in Mumbai.
• RBI said that the visually challenged can identify the denomination of a note by using the application, which can also work offline once it is installed.
• Through the downloaded app, users can scan the notes using the camera.
• The audio output will give the result in Hindi and English.

PM Modi disburses 12,000 crore rupees to six crore farmers as third instalment of PM-KISAN scheme

In Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi electronically released 12,000 crore rupees under Pradhan Mantri Samaan Yojana to six crore farmers in Tumakuru.

• He also awarded the Krishi Karman Award to the progressive farmers from 21 states.
• The PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding from Government of India.
• The key element of PM-KISAN is income support of Rs 6,000 per year provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each every four months.

Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number 139 for passengers

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.
• The Helpline 139 will be available in twelve languages.
• A call can be made on this number from any mobile phone and not just smart phones, thus, providing easy access to all mobile users.

General Bipin Rawat proposes creation of Air Defence Command by June 30

Chief of the Defence Staff, CDS General Bipin Rawat has directed various branch heads to come up with recommendations for inter-service synergy and jointness in a time bound manner.

• After assuming charge as CDS, General Rawat held a meeting with important
functionaries of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

- He directed that a proposal to create Air Defence Command be prepared by 30th of June this year.

22 tableau proposals out of 56 shortlisted for Republic Day

A total of twenty two tableau proposals including 16 from states and six from Central Ministries have been short-listed for participation in this year's Republic Day parade.

- 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.

Points to Remember

- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to be chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020.

28th World Book Fair to focus on Gandhi as writer

The annual New Delhi World Book Fair, in its 28th edition, will focus on how Mahatma Gandhi influenced generations of writers through his writings.

- The nine-day fair, organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) in association with ITPO, will be inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- Commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi, the theme pavilion, inspired by Sabarmati Ashram, uses hand-spun materials as wall-cladding.
- Besides an exclusive exhibition of 500 books on and by Gandhi in different languages, it will also host 30 panel discussions, book launches and performances related to the theme.
- The fair, however, will not be hosting any 'guest country' this year.

Assam state zoo first to breed endangered Hargila

The Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and Aaranyak has jointly attained a landmark
achievement by successfully hatching a pair of Greater Adjutant or Hargila chicks in an artificial platform within the zoo enclosure, in the first ever experiment of its kind.

- This rarest of storks, the 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.
- Once abundantly distributed in Southeast Asia, this stork is now restricted to a few isolated pockets in Assam and Bihar in India and PrekToal in Cambodia.

Ritualistic festival ‘Lai Haraoba’ begins in Tripura

In Tripura, Lai Haraoba, a ritualistic festival observed by Manipuri meitei communities since ancient times, began in Agartala. Lai Haraoba is celebrated through oral literature, music, dance and rituals.

- This festival is jointly organised by Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, Puthiba Lai Haraoba Committee and Puthiba Welfare & Cultural Society, Agartala.
- The five-day long festival was inaugurated by Speaker of state legislative Assembly, Rebati Mohan Das.

- The festival aims to uphold tradition and cultural values of Meitei community.

Maharashtra Govt launches ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative

Maharashtra Government has launched a ‘Cyber Safe Women’ initiative under which awareness camps will be held across all the districts of the state regarding cyber safety.

- The initiative will help in educating women about how the web is used by anti-social elements and child predators to commit various types of crimes.
- Mr. Thackeray said rising instances of cyber-crime need to be curbed and the government is looking to take all measures to ensure that women and children do not fall prey to these criminal activities.

Telangana Teen Malavath Poorna Scales Antarctica’s Highest Peak

18, Malavath Poorna, who has won laurels for scaling Mount Everest thereby becoming the
youngest girl in the world to achieve the feat, has added another feather to her cap by conquering Mt. Vinson Massif, the Antarctica continent's highest mountain peak (4,987m).

- She is now gearing up to scale Mt. Denali (North America’s highest mountain peak).
- At the age of 13 years she became the world’s youngest girl who scaled Mt. Everest.

**UPSRTC launches women’s special helpline Damini**

UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) launched a dedicated women helpline, Damini, a calling and a WhatsApp service.

- A unique number, “81142-77777”, has been subscribed for the helpline which was launched by transport minister Ashok Kataria. Women officers from UPSRTC will monitor this service from 9 a.m to 6 p.m everyday. After 6 p.m complaints can be lodged using general helpline number 1800-180-2877.
- The helpline is an extension of “Nirbhaya Yojana” of the Centre.

**Abhinav Kumar gets extension as BSF IG**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs for extending the deputation tenure of IPS Abhinav Kumar, Inspector General, Border Security Force (BSF), up to June 27, 2021, in relaxation of IPS Tenure Policy.

- BSF formed in 1 December, 1965
- Motto of BSF: Duty Unto Death
- DG BSF: V K Johri

**5th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship-2020 begins in Leh**

The 5th Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship -2020 has begun in Leh.

- The tournament is being organized at the Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink located in the largest city of the union territory of Ladakh.
6 Teams from hosts Ladakh, Indian army, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi are participating in the boy’s U-20 category.

In the girl’s category, 4 teams from Ladakh, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Maharashtra are participating in the 5th edition of the tournament.

Since April 1989, the Ice Hockey Association of India is a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

Neutral pronoun 'they' voted Word of the Decade

Neutral pronoun 'they' has been voted word of the decade by US language experts, beating out other contenders.

- "They" is used in English by a growing number of non-binary individuals, people who do not identify as either male or female.
- They prefer the plural neutral pronoun to bypass using the pronouns "he" or "she".
- The recognition comes after US dictionary Merriam-Webster in December named "they" as word of the year.

India ranked 34th on world travel, tourism competitiveness index

According to WEF report, India has moved up six places to rank 34th on world travel and tourism competitiveness index.

- India's ranking improved from 40th to 34th, the greatest improvement over 2017 among the top 25 percent of all countries ranked in the report.
- Spain held on to the top spot in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) latest Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report (TTCR), which ranked 140 countries on their relative strengths in global tourism and travel.
- Spain was followed by France, Germany and Japan, with the United States replacing the UK in the top five.

WB Govt to provide holy water of Ganga Sagar through an app

West Bengal Government has decided to provide holy water of Ganga Sagar on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.
The people who desire to have holy water may apply through the designated app of the Mela.
Only courier charges will be taken for this purpose.
The Ganga Sagar Mela will take place on the 14th of January this year in West Bengal.

Kolkata Police to start third edition of 'Sukanya' project

Kolkata Police will start the third edition of its 'Sukanya' project to provide girls studying in schools and colleges in the city with self-defence training.

- The third batch of 'Sukanya' will start at 100 city-based schools and colleges situated in Kolkata Police jurisdiction.
- Girl students of VIII, IX, XI and girls studying in the first year at educational institutions in this area will be part of it.
- Sukanya is an initiative of the Kolkata Police's Community Policing Wing to provide self-defence training to girl students of city-based schools, colleges and universities.

Adani Ports to acquire a 75% stake in Krishnapatnam Port

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone on announced its decision to acquire a controlling stake in Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited (KPCL) in what would be the largest acquisition in the port sector in India.

- The Gautam Adani-led company will buy a 75% stake in KPCL at an enterprise value of Rs 13,572 crore after prolonged talks to obtain the all-weather port in Andhra Pradesh.
- Located at Krishnapatnam in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, north of Chennai, the port was developed in 2008 by CVR Group, which continues to own a majority stake.
- With Krishnapatnam, Adani Ports now has 12 ports and terminals across the country.

4th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship 2019

The 4th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship 2019 was inaugurated in New Delhi.

- The 5-day sporting event will draw to a close on the 7th Jan.
- The sporting event is organized by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Previous editions of the cluster have been organized by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), West Bengal Police and Odisha Police in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Govt's UJALA, SLNP complete five years of illuminating nation

UJALA and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) of the central government completed five successful years of illuminating the country.

- Over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across the country through the UJALA initiative.
- This has resulted in an estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kilowatt-hour per year.
Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) project brought the market transformation in the energy efficiency sector.

More than 1.03 crore smart LED streetlights have been installed till date under the Street Lighting National Programme.

Women Science Congress begins in Bengaluru

The Women Science Congress was inaugurated at the ongoing Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru.

- DRDO Aeronautical Systems Director General Dr. Tessy Thomas who is known as Missile Woman of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.
- Recalling the contribution of women in different spheres, she said, the status of women in the country is changing as their growing presence is seen in many areas of expertise.

Kochi to host global meet on marine ecosystem

Kochi will host the third international symposium on marine ecosystems challenges and opportunities (MECOS-3) from January 7 to 10.

- Organised by the Marine Biological Association of India, MECOS-3 will serve as a platform for discussions on a range of topics, including the impact of the climate crisis on marine ecosystems and an unusual warming of the Arabian Sea.
- The meet will also focus on the UN’s sustainable development goal-14 (life under water), development of small-scale fisheries, recent developments in aquaculture, eco-labelling and green fishing technologies.
- The symposium is aimed at reviewing the concerns involved in marine ecosystem and formulating strategies for the better and sustainable utilisation of marine wealth.

MP govt starts Mukhyamantri Karmachari Swasthya Bima Yojana

The Madhya Pradesh government has given its 12.55 lakh employees a new year bonanza by approving a health insurance scheme, ‘Mukhyamantri Karmachari Swasthya Bima Yojana’.

- The scheme will be effective from April 1 and will make every government employee and their families eligible for medical treatment worth Rs 5 lakh annually.
- For some critical diseases, the eligibility will be enhanced to Rs 10 lakh.
• All permanent and contractual employees, teachers, retired employees, home guards and others getting salary from contingency fund will reap the benefits of this scheme.

First-of-its kind turtle rehab centre comes up in Bihar

A first-of-its-kind rehabilitation centre for freshwater turtles will be inaugurated in Bihar’s Bhagalpur forest division in January 2020.

• The rehab centre, spread over half a hectare, will be able to shelter 500 turtles at a time.
• The need to build such a centre was felt after several turtles were found severely wounded and sick when rescued from smuggles by rescue teams.
• Previously, rescued turtles used to be released into rivers without much treatment in the absence of any facility like the centre.

2nd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush-2 begins

The second phase of Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 rolled out at block level in 35 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

• The aim of the program launched by the central government in 2017 is to achieve 90 percent vaccination coverage in children of less than 2 years in state.
• First round was completed in December last year.
• Next round will be in February and March months and will cover 425 blocks of 73 districts of state.
• In Bihar Mission Indradhanush 2.0 has been launched for covering low immunization pocket of state.
• The extensive immunization will cover children up to 2 years of age and all pregnant women.

Points to Remember

• The aim of mission Indradhanush is to fully immunize more than 89 lakh children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.
• It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 3-day National Traders Convention in Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day National Traders Convention at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi.
The convention has been organised 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 trading community in achieving 5 trillion dollar economy goal.

Centre approves Rs 5,908 crore to seven states for calamity damage relief

The Centre approved the release of Rs 5,908.56 crore to seven states, including Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam, as assistance for the damage caused due to various calamities last year.

- The decision was taken at a meeting of a high-level committee (HLC), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Rs 616.63 crore will be given to Assam, Rs 284.93 crore to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 1869.85 crore to Karnataka, Rs 1749.73 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs 956.93 crore to Maharashtra, Rs 63.32 to Tripura and Rs 367.17 crore to Uttar Pradesh for floods or landslides or cloudburst during the 2019 southwest monsoon.
- During 2019-20, the government has released Rs 8,068.33 crore to 27 states as central share from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Uttar Pradesh first state to kickstart implementation of CAA

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.

Bhubaneswar to host 1st edition of Khelo India University Games

The first edition of Khelo India University Games is scheduled to be held at the KIIT University in Bhubaneswar from February 22nd to March 1st.
• Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the logo and jersey of Khelo India University Games.
• Bhubaneswar has gained the reputation of being the Sports Capital of India.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates National Stock Exchange knowledge hub

Commeration and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated National Stock Exchange (NSE) Knowledge Hub in New Delhi.

• India has come up as the second-largest fintech hub in the world but a lot of work still needs to be done in the BFSI sector.
• He hoped that the knowledge hub created by NSE in the national capital will fill in these gaps and help the financial sector to move into the future.
• The minister said AI and machine learning will contribute USD 1 trillion by 2035 and it was a good beginning by NSE to tap the potential of AI and use it as a tool to create a workforce in the BFSI sector in India.

President Kovind lays foundation stone to Lakshadweep's first Super Specialty Hospital at Kavaratti

• President who is on two days visit to the union territory assured special focus for the development of Lakshadweep and directed Lakshadweep Administrator to give special attention for the completion of Super Specialty Hospital.
• Lakshadweep Administrator Dineshwar Sharma received the President at Agatti Airport.
• President received guard of honour from a joint group of 160 different forces.

India's GDP growth rate for 2019-20 estimated at 5%, says NSO

The Indian economy is estimated to grow at 5 per cent in 2019-20 as against 6.8 per cent in the previous fiscal.
• According to the first advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the decline has been mainly on account of deceleration in manufacturing sector growth, which is expected to come down to 2 per cent in 2019-20 from 6.2 per cent in the year-ago fiscal.
• The deceleration was also witnessed in sectors like agriculture, construction and electricity, gas and water supply.
• Whereas, some sectors, including mining, public administration, and defence, showed minor improvement.

Gujarat to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center in state

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced the setting up of the Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC).

• The aim is to identify, nurture and promote children’s innovation in the state.
• As part of it a letter of intent was exchanged between Gujarat University and UNICEF.
• Rupani was speaking during the felicitation ceremony of Children’s Innovation Festival (CIF) held at Swarnim Sankul in Gandhinagar.
• Children’s Innovation Festival - CIF has been organized by Gujarat University Start-ups and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC) - an incubation centre set up by Gujarat University in partnership with UNICEF.

31st International Kite Festival launched in Ahmedabad

The 31st International Kite Festival has been launched at Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad.

• It will continue till 14th January- Makar Sankranti- the festival of Kites in different parts of the state.
• Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has inaugurated the colourful kite festival, which is also attracting large number of foreign tourists in the state.
• More than 140 kite flying experts from 40 countries are participating in this event.
• International Kite Festival is being organized at nine other places across the state simultaneously including Statue of Unity- Kevadiya, Surat and Vadodara.

Delhi goes to poll on February 8
Voting for 70 members Delhi Assembly will be held on the 8th of next month and counting on 11th February.

- The notification will be issued on the 14th of this month and last date of nomination will be the 21st of January.
- Over 13 thousand polling stations will be set up for more than 1.46 crore voters in the national capital.
- The term of current assembly will expire on 22nd of February.
- In the 2015 Assembly elections, AAP had won 67 seats with 54.34 per cent vote share, while BJP grabbed 3 seats with 32.19 percent vote share.

J&K registers highest Inpatient Department care in country

Jammu and Kashmir has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country.

- According to the state-wise fact sheets released by National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), New Delhi, overall all women in J&K are availing Antenatal Care (ANC) services.
- As per the report, the 96 percent IPD care in rural areas of J&K is provided by Public Health Facilities which is highest against the country’s average of 85 percent.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas: 09 January

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India.

- It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.
- Established in 2003 the celebratory event is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs every year on this day.
- On the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar interacted with Indian Diaspora across the globe through a digital video conference.

India continues to be top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism

India continued to be the top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism with Indian tourists constituting maximum 19 percent of total tourist arrivals to the island nation in 2019.

- The latest data released by Sri Lankan tourism revealed that 355,002 Indian tourists visited Sri Lanka last year against total arrival of around 1.91 million.
Sri Lankan tourism suffered a setback following Easter Sunday attacks last April and the annual tourist arrival dropped by 18 percent since 2018 figures.

India, the United Kingdom, China, Germany and Australia were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets last year.

Art Exhibition inaugurated to mark 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Bangladesh

A ten-day-long art exhibition commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated in Dhaka.

- The art exhibition has been organised by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh in association with the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy.
- The two Gandhi Ashrams in Bangladesh are located at Jamalpur and Noakhali.
- The exhibition also featured unique photographs of Mahatma Gandhi from his days in South Africa to various movements in India.

Cabinet approves India-Mongolia agreement on space cooperation

The Cabinet gave its approval for an Agreement between India and Mongolia on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful and Civilian Purposes.

- The agreement was signed in New Delhi on 20th September last year during the visit of the President of Mongolia to India.

‘Advantage Maharashtra expo 2020’ inaugu rated

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the Advantage Maharashtra expo 2020 in Aurangabad.

- The four-day mega industrial exhibition has been organised by the Marathwada Association of Small Scale Industries and Agriculture (MASSIA).
- Growth of Marathwada industries in technology and innovation and the products produced and exported from the region will be showcased in this exhibition.
- Over 450 exhibitors from within the state as well as outside the state are participating in this exhibition.

Institutions at Gujarat Ayurved University to get status of Institution of National Importance
The Cabinet approved conferring the status of Institution of National Importance to a cluster of Ayurvedic institutions at Gujarat Ayurved University campus in Jamnagar.

- The elevation of the status of institution will provide it with the autonomy to upgrade the standard of Ayurveda education, frame various courses in Ayurveda as per national and international demand.
- It will help the institute to develop tertiary care in Ayurveda and to secure interdisciplinary collaborations to give a contemporary thrust to Ayurveda.
- The status of National Importance will boost the role and importance of Ayurveda in Public Health.

Govt approves over Rs 5000 cr project for natural gas supplies in Northeast

The Government has approved the Viability Gap Funding, VGF of 5 thousand, 559 crore rupees to Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited to build Natural Gas Pipeline Grid covering 8 North Eastern states.

- This is the second such funding by the government for a gas pipeline project.
- The total cost of the grid is 9 thousand 256 crore rupees and sanctioned VGF amount will cover 60 per cent cost of the project.
- The 1,656-km pipeline will connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl and Agartala.
- The project is critical towards implementing the government's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the North-East.

CCEA approves strategic disinvestment of 49.78 per cent equity shareholding of MMTC

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has given in-principle approval for the sale of equity held by four Central Public Sector Enterprises and two-state PSUs in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited-NINL.

- It has approved strategic disinvestment of 49.78 per cent equity shareholding of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited and 10.10 per cent of National Mineral Development Corporation.
- The CCEA gave approval for strategic disinvestment of 0.68 percent of MECON and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited each.
- NINL is a Joint Venture company, in which these six companies are shareholders.

Chadar trek in full swing in Ladakh
The world famous Chadar trek, a trekking on ice sheets on the frozen Zanskar river is in full swing in Ladakh.

- A total of 84 trekkers including 16 female trekkers come from different parts of the country have left Leh town to conduct trek on the ice after they have been declared medically fit during the mandatory medical check-up at Tourists Reception Centre, Leh.
- The intending trekkers have to undergo mandatory fitness check-up on the third day of their arrival at Leh.
- Chadar Trek is one of popular trekking on high altitude in sub-zero temperatures for adventure lovers to experience the thrill and endurance trekking on the frozen river and camping at cave camp in sub-zero temperature.

India Declared 5th Biggest Geopolitical Risk Of 2020

India under Narendra Modi is the fifth biggest geopolitical risk of 2020, said Eurasia Group, world’s leading political risk consultancy.

- Eurasia’s annual ‘Top 10 Risks’ of the year list is considered one of the foremost geopolitical indicators among global investors, multinational firms and various financial and business consultancies.
- The list that is topped by elections in the US and followed by events and developments like the US-China technology tug of war on 5G as well as the trade war between Beijing and Washington.

International Naval event ‘MILAN 2020’ in Visakhapatnam in March

Visakhapatnam is gearing up to host another International Naval event ‘MILAN’ in March 2020.

- MILAN 2020 is a multilateral naval exercise aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- The Exercise with the theme 'Synergy Across the Seas' would provide an excellent opportunity for Operational Commanders of friendly foreign navies to interact with each other in areas of mutual interest.
- Of the 41 navies invited, confirmation from over 30 navies have been received towards their participation in MILAN 2020.

Census India-2021 to begin on 1st April

Census India-2021 will begin on 1st of April this year and will end on 30th of September.

- Census India-2021 will be conducted through a mobile phone application, moving away from the traditional pen and paper.
• Enumerators of the census will seek the information of mobile number of the head of the family, information related to toilets, TV, Internet, vehicles owned, source of drinking water besides asking other questions during the house listing phase of the exercise.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020' to be held on 20th Jan

The third edition of Prime Minister’s Interaction with school students, "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020", will be held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on 20th of this month.

• Over 2000 students, parents and teachers will be participating from all over India in this event.
• The Human Resource Development Ministry in partnership with MyGov last month launched a ‘short essay’ competition for students of classes 9 to 12 for the third edition of Prime Minister’s Interaction with school students.
• The themes given this time for PPC 2020 are 'Gratitude is Great', 'Your future depends on your aspirations', 'Examining Exams', 'Our duties, you take' and 'Balance is Beneficial'.
• The first edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was held on 16th February, 2018 and second on 29th of January last year.

Kerala: Alert issued against H1N1 in Kozhikode

The Kerala State Health department had issued in connection with confirmation of H1N1 infection in Kozhikode district.

• The blood sample report from Manipal Virology lab confirmed H1N1 infection in around 5 people including teachers and students of Mukham Anayankunu higher secondary school in Karashery Panchayat in Kozhikode.
• The authorities had informed that the situation is under control and there is no need to panic.

Points to Remember

• Swine flu is caused by the H1N1 virus strain, which started in pigs.
• In June 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new strain of swine-origin H1N1 as a pandemic.
• This strain is often called swine flu by the public media

Budget to be presented on Feb 1; Economic Survey on Jan 31

Union Budget will be presented on 1st of next month and the Economic Survey on 31st January.

• The Budget Session of Parliament will begin on the 31st of this month.
• The first Union budget of independent India was presented by R. K. Shanmukham Chetty on 26 November 1947.
- Until 2016, the budget of the Indian Railways was presented separately to Parliament and dealt with separately.

**India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant likely to be commissioned by 2021**

![Image of Vikrant](image1)

The manufacturing of the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant is currently under phase three.

- It is likely to be commissioned by early 2021.
- This carrier is being built at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi.
- Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on December 3 had said that Vikrant will be fully operational by 2022 and it will have a fleet of MiG-29K aircraft.

**Access to Internet is a fundamental right**

![Gavel and Supreme Court logo](image2)

The Supreme Court has declared access to the internet a fundamental right.

- A government cannot deprive the citizens of fundamental rights except under certain conditions explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
- The ruling came on hearing of a plea in connection with Internet blockade in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5 in the view of revoking of Article 370 in the Union Territory.
- Indian constitution makes the right to freedom of speech and expression a fundamental right for all citizens. It has been listed in Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution.

**Famous chariot festival of Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple started in Tamil Nadu**

![Image of Suchindram Temple](image3)

The famous chariot festival of the Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple, the southernmost major temple in Tamilnadu, is being held with great camaraderie and devotion.

- The ten-day annual festival is held in the Tamil month falling in December - January.
- The temple is especially significant because it is sacred to both the Shaivite as well as Vaishnavite sects.
- This 17th-century temple is famous for its architectural grandeur.
- There is an Anjaneya statue, which is 22 feet tall and is carved out of a single granite block. It is said to be one of the tallest statues of its type in India.

**Eight North-Eastern states to participate in the Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat in April**
The eight States of the Northern Eastern Region will participate in a big way during the Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat due to be held in the first week of April this year.

- The annual fair is held at Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar district and the Mela this year will commence on 2nd April, a day after the Ram Navami festival.
- The Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat shares its connection to the Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The week-long ‘Utsav’ will see a vibrant cultural trail of art, dance, music, poetry, story-telling and folk drama from Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and other North-Eastern States with the aim to integrate the rich cultures of the two regions.

Andhra Pradesh Government signs MoU with German firm KFW for Zero Budget Natural Farming

The Andhra Pradesh Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the representatives of a German firm, KFW for ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming’ (ZBNF).

- As part of the agreement that intends to scale up the ongoing project with the German firm, the government has taken a loan of Rs 711 crores out of the estimated amount of Rs 1015 crore earmarked to be spent towards the climate-resilient, ZBNF.
- The YS Jaganmohan Reddy led-State government will spend Rs 304 crore on the project.
- The project is aimed to cover 2.39 lakh farmers in around 600 village panchayats and promote natural farming.
- Zero Budget Natural Farming, as the name implies, is a method of farming where the cost of growing and harvesting plants is zero.
- This means that farmers need not purchase fertilizers and pesticides in order to ensure the healthy growth of crops.

Pulses Conclave to be held in Lonavala

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the nodal body for the country's pulses trade and industry on announced that the fifth edition The Pulses Conclave, will be held from February 12-14 in Lonavala, Maharashtra.

- IPGA expects close to 1500 trade stakeholders from India and key pulses exporting countries like USA, Australia, Canada, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi.
- The conference aims at increasing exports, processing efficiencies, protein extraction, value addition and post-harvest management.
National Youth Day: 12 January

The nation is celebrating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day on 12 January.

- One of the greatest spiritual leaders of India, Swami Vivekananda introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
- He became popular in the western world after his famous speech at the World's Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893.
- Vivekananda was the chief disciple of the 19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- He was the founder of the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission.

National Youth Festival 2020 begins at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh

On the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, 23rd National Youth Festival 2020 started with a grand inauguration ceremony in Lucknow.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the youth of the country to try only to purchase local products by 2020 which will help our countrymen.
- The National Youth festival will increase the EK BHARAT SHRESTH BHARAT bonding and it will prove as a learning platform for everyone.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh are jointly organising the national youth festival.

Government issues notification to bring Citizenship Amendment Act into effect

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act has come into effect from 10 January.

- The Centre has issued a gazette notification in this regard.
- The notification said, the Central Government appoints the 10th day of January, 2020 as the date on which provisions of the Act will come into force.
- According to the Act, members of six minority communities who have come to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants.
- They will be given Indian citizenship.
- These communities are of the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians.

Home Minister Amit Shah launches country’s first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit AASHVAST in Gandhinagar
Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit AASHVAST in Gandhinagar.

- He also launched Video Integration and StateWide Advance Security-VISWAS project.
- The Cyber Crime Prevention Unit-AASHVAST which will have a dedicated service helpline for victims of cyber crimes.

Smriti Irani launches Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa

Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, Smriti Irani launched Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa.

- The event was held at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium at Taleigao near Panaji.
- The Minister said that the development of women is the base for the development of the nation.
- Under Yashaswini scheme, women self-help groups will be given interest free loans of upto Rs Five lakh for business.
- Swasthya Sakhi Project and breast cancer screening initiative were also inaugurated on the occasion.

Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala top State Energy Efficiency Index 2019

Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala have topped the State Energy Efficiency Index 2019.

- This index tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives in 36 states and union territories based on 97 significant indicators.
- The State Energy Efficiency Index categorises states as ‘Front Runner’, ‘Achiever’, ‘Contender’ and ‘Aspirant’ based on their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation.
- The top performing states in the State EE Index 2019 - Haryana, Kerala and Karnataka - are in the ‘Achiever’ category.
- There isn’t any ‘frontrunner’ state, it can be inferred that a lot more can be done at the state level to realise energy savings from energy efficiency.
- This index is developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in association with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

India to acquire 200 fighter jets for Air Force

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has said, the government is in the process of acquiring around 200 aircraft to cope with the depleting aerial inventories of the Indian Air Force.

- The contract for HAL-manufactured 83 LCA Tejas Mark 1 A advanced fighter jets are in the final stages.
- Apart from these, Expression of Interest has been floated for another 110 aircraft, based on which Request for Proposal will be floated.
- The Air Force has Sukhoi 30 MKIs, Mirage 2000s, Mig 29s and the ageing Jaguars and
Mig 21 Bisons in its inventory of fighter jets at present.
- The last fleet of seven swing-wing MiG-27 fighters, which played an important role during the 1999 Kargil war, was decommissioned on December 27.

**DRDO's Naval variant of Light Combat Aircraft makes its first successful landing**

The naval version of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, made its first successful landing on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

- This aircraft is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO.
- Congratulating the DRDO and Navy for this achievement, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that he is extremely happy to learn about the maiden landing of naval variant of LCA on INS Vikramaditya.
- With the successful landing of Light Combat Aircraft, LCA on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, India has entered into the club of selected nations having the capability to design a fighter jet which can land on an aircraft carrier.
- LCA is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class.

**Dharmendra Pradhan unveils Mission Purvodaya to develop eastern region into a integrated steel hub**

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveils Mission Purvodaya in Kolkata.

- The programme is aimed at accelerated development of eastern India through establishment of integrated steel hub.
- Pradhan said that the eastern belt has the potential to add over 75 percent of the country’s incremental steel capacity envisioned by the National Steel Policy.
- Through this programme, the government aims to transform logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the eastern India.

**Kolkata Port renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port**

The Kolkata Port has been renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port.

- The Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi announced this in Kolkata on the occasion of 150th year celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust.
Mr. Modi launched several Port led development projects worth Rs 600 cr rupees to mark the day.

On the occasion the Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp on 150th years of the Kolkata Port Trust.

India finish 2019 as number one shooting nation in world

According to International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF), With its sparkling show through 2019, India finished the year as the top shooting nation in the world, leaving behind Olympic heavyweights China and the USA.

- In terms of overall medals, the tally stood at 21 gold, six silver and three bronze as India topped all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups and Finals in a unforgettable year.
- While India leads the standings with 30 medals overall, China is second with 11 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 44 podium finishes.
- The USA is placed third with 15 medals including six gold six silver and three bronze.

Raisina Dialogue to begin

India's flagship global conference on geopolitics and geo-economics Raisina Dialogue began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the inaugural session in New Delhi.

- Seven former heads of state or government will share their views on important challenges facing the world.

The fifth edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation, will bring together 700 international participants from over a 100 countries.

- The three-day conference will see participation of 12 foreign ministers, including from Russia, Iran, Australia, Maldives, South Africa, Estonia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Latvia, Uzbekistan and the EU.

Register all drones by January 31 or face action: Civil Aviation Ministry

Government has announced a scheme for voluntary registration of all drones and their operators.

- The registration can be done by the 31st of this month.
- The Civil Aviation Ministry said in a notice that those who fail to register will face action.
- A Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Co-Chair Committee on Drones last year had estimated that the number of illegal drones in India are likely to be between fifty to sixty thousand.

Bhogi being celebrated in south India

Bhogi is being celebrated in Tamil Nadu and several other parts of southern India.

- It marks the last day of the month of Margazhi in the Tamil calendar.
- On Bhogi day, redundant or unusable materials are disposed of, to welcome the auspicious Pongal festival.
- Bhogi is a prelude to the grand Pongal festivities.

Yogi Adityanath govt implements police commissionerate system in Lucknow, Noida

The Uttar Pradesh government switched to the commissionerate system of policing for Lucknow and Noida, giving magisterial powers to the top cops in both cities.

- Lucknow and Noida will now have an additional director general level officer as police commissioner.
- The state government announced the names of the state’s first police commissioners senior IPS officers Sujit Pandey for Lucknow and Alok Singh for Noida.
- The commissioners in both the districts will have magisterial powers.

Indian Army Day: 15 January

Army Day is celebrated on 15 January every year in India, in recognition of Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.

- At the time of Indian independence the command of Indian army was in the hands of the British General Sir Francis Butcher.
- Cariappa was the second person to receive the title of Field Marshal of India on 14 January 1986, the first went to Sam Manekshaw in 1973.

India, Bangladesh ink MoU for co-production of biopic on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

India and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the co-production of a biopic on Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

- The biopic will be directed by acclaimed filmmaker Shyam Benegal and will be released in March 2021 as part of centenary celebrations of Banga Bandhu.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is often called the father of Bengali nation.
- He served as the first President of Bangladesh and later as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 17 April 1971 until his assassination on 15 August 1975.

ISRO's communication satellite GSAT-30 to launch on Jan 17
India would launch a communication satellite GSAT-30 onboard Ariane-5 launch vehicle (VA 251) from French Guiana on January 17.

- The 3,357-kg satellite is slated to blast off from the Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou, a French territory located along the northeastern coast of South America.
- GSAT-30 is to serve as a replacement to INSAT-4A spacecraft services with enhanced coverage.
- With a mission life of 15 years, GSAT-30 is an operational communication satellite for DTH, television uplink and VSAT services.

Amit Shah chairs sixth meeting of Island Development Agency

Union home minister Amit Shah chaired the sixth meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA).

- In the meeting chaired by Shah, the progress made under the "Holistic development of islands" program was reviewed.
- For the first time in the country, an initiative of sustainable development in the identified Islands within scientifically-assessed carrying capacity has been taken-up.
- Development plans with a focus on the creation of jobs for the islanders through tourism promotion as well as the export of seafood and coconut-based products.

Fox ‘jallikattu’ organisers in TN warned of punishment

Forest Department officials in Salem, Tamil Nadu are gearing up to prevent an unusual jallikattu, one that uses foxes (Bengal Fox) instead of bulls.

- The "Wanga" breed of foxes are tied using ropes and chased across the streets by the villagers on 'Kaanum Pongal'.
- The villagers observe this practice as they believe the Wanga foxes bring good fortunes and copious rains.
- Another forest official said the "wanga" foxes are a rare breed and found in dense forest areas in the district.

Inscriptions confirm presence of two medieval monasteries at Moghalmari
Recently, a study of inscriptions on clay tablets excavated from Moghalmari have confirmed the presence of two monasteries.

- Moghalmari is a Buddhist monastic site of the early medieval period in West Bengal’s Paschim Medinipur district.
- The inscriptions are in Sanskrit and the script is a transitional phase between later north Indian Brahmi and early Siddhamatrika.

Postal Ballot now for PwDs and super Senior Citizens too

People with disabilities (PwDs) and people over 80 years of age can now cast their vote in Delhi Assembly Election through postal ballot.

- For the first time, Delhi Metro, Northern Railway Employees and media persons covering polling can also use postal ballot facility to cast their votes.
- Till now, voting through postal ballot was available to armed forces and those assigned in poll duties.
- Employees of essential service can fill out the form 12(D) and submit before 19th of this month to avail the postal ballot facility.

Mega campaign on fuel conservation 'Saksham' launched

Saksham, a people centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has been launched.

- One month long mega campaign was inaugurated by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi.
- During this campaign, PCRA along with Oil and Gas companies will carry out various activities like ‘Saksham’ cycle Day, cyclothons, seminars for housewives on adopting simple fuel saving measures.
- This campaign aims to spread the message of fuel conservation and greener environment across India.

7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region starts
The 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region started at the legislative assembly building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Conference in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Around 100 Delegates of 15 state assemblies and representatives of some foreign countries have reached Lucknow to take part in the 7th Conference of CPA India Region.
- The main theme of the conference is ‘ROLE OF LEGISLATORS’.

Ladakh hosts first ever Food Processing Summit to attract investors

Union Territory Ladakh is hosting the first ever Food Processing Summit to attract investors to the region.

- With the help of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the UT Administration of Ladakh is organizing the Summit.
- Ladakh region has vast scope for investment in food Processing Industries in horticulture products like Apricot, SeabuckThorn, Apple and agricultural produce like buckwheat and barley.
- Over a hundred entrepreneurs from Leh and Kargil are participating in the Summit.
- The event is aimed at encouraging the entrepreneurs to begin a StartUp to tap the potential in the Food Processing Industries in Ladakh.

Fifth Science Film festival kick-starts in Goa

The fifth edition of Science Film Festival of India, SCI-FFI 2020, was kick-started on in Goa's capital city Panaji.

- The four-day-long festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Dr. Paramod Sawant.
- The festival aims at instilling the knowledge of science among the youth with the help of exhibitions, masterclasses, workshops, and other activities.
- Besides, Goa Government and Government of India, the event is being supported by Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and National Institute of Science
The Delhi government has recommended rejecting the mercy petition filed by Mukesh Singh, one of the four men convicted in the Nirbhaya murder case.

- The mercy petition was filed by Mukesh Singh moments after the Supreme Court rejected a curative petition filed by him.
- A curative petition is the last judicial remedy available to a person convicted by courts of law.
- If rejected, convicts are left with the option of seeking mercy from the President.
- Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia confirmed the development saying the recommendations of rejection was done with lightning speed.
- The recommendation has been sent to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, who will base his recommendation on the Delhi government's advice.
- Mr Baijal's recommendation will then be sent to the Union Ministry for Home Affairs, which in turn will form its own recommendation and forward that to the President.
- President Ram Nath will ultimately make the decision of whether or not to grant Mukesh mercy.
- Mukesh, along with Vinay Sharma, Akshay Kumar Singh and Pawan Gupta, was convicted for the 2012 gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedic student in Delhi.

In a first in the country, Maharashtra Police would be organising an international marathon in Mumbai on February 9.

- Around 15,000 runners are expected to take part in the marathon.
- A state police force is organising an international marathon for the first time.
- The theme of the marathon would be "Health Run".

India successfully launches high power communication satellite GSAT-30

India's high power communication satellite GSAT-30 was successfully launched onboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana.
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the GSAT-30 is aimed at providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services.

The 3,357-kg GSAT-30 derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series, and is equipped with 12 C and 12 Ku band transponders.

GSAT-30 will serve as replacement to the aging INSAT-4A spacecraft services with enhanced coverage.

Rajnath Singh dedicates 51st K9 Vajra-T guns to nation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation the 51st K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer gun made by L&T at Hazira in Gujarat.

- The gun weighs 50 tonnes and can fire 47-kilogram bombs at targets up to a distance of 43 kilometres.
- It can also turn around at zero radius.
- L&T’s Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) has a state of the art complex to manufacture and integrate advanced armoured platforms.
- L&T’s Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Surat had been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January last year.

India to host SCO Heads of Govt meeting

India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting later this year.

- The meeting is held annually at the Prime Minister's level and it discusses the SCO's programme and multilateral economic and trade co-operation.
- All eight members and four observer states and other international dialogue partners will be invited for the meeting.
- SCO member states are Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Observer states are Afghanistan, Iran, Mongolia and Belarus.

First edition of Krishi Manthan begins in Ahmedabad

In Gujarat, the first edition of Krishi Manthan- the largest Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia organized by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad began.
More than 1,500 delegates including students and academicians are participating in the two-day event organized by the Food and Agribusiness Committee of IIMA.

The students along with working professionals from Food, Agriculture and allied sectors are getting benefited from the workshops during this summit.

Bru refugees from Mizoram to settle down in Tripura

The Union Government signed an agreement with stakeholders from the State of Tripura, Mizoram and members of the Bru community bringing an end to the 22-year old Bru refugee crisis.

- This agreement was signed in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and others in New Delhi.
- As per the agreement, over 30 thousand Bru refugees will be settled in Tripura.
- The Centre has sanctioned a 600-crore rupee package for the rehabilitation of the people from this community.
- Bru refugees will get a 40 x 30 feet plot along with a fixed deposit of four lakh rupees, cash assistance of five thousand rupees per month for two years and free ration.
- The Bru tribals from Mizoram have been living as refugees in Tripura since 1997.

Arunachal to start red-listing of orchids

Arunachal has become the first state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) ‘red listing’ at the state level after it inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the IUCN.

- As per the MoU, the state government will collaborate with the IUCN in carrying out red-list assessment of the orchids in the state.
- The IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species is a critical indicator of the health of the world’s biodiversity.
- The project will be spread across 12 months, during which workshops on red list assessment will be conducted by experts from the IUCN.

Points to Remember

- International Union for Conservation of Nature: Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland
- CEO: Grethel Aguilar

State of Art Tejas express train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad flagged off

Arunachal to start red-listing of orchids
The state of art- new Tejas Express train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai Central has been flagged off by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Ahmedabad Railway Station.

- The train will have stoppages at Nadiad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Vapi and Borivali en-route to Mumbai Central.
- The first train under the private sector has world-class comfort and facilities for passengers.
- The train operated by IRCTC will run between Ahmedabad and Mumbai on a six days a week basis except Thursday.
- The second Tejas Express by IRCTC is being called a ‘private’ train since its operational control is entirely under IRCTC, instead of Indian Railways.

IIM- Indore to give management lessons with Tik Tok

Indian Institute of Management- Indore joined hands with video-sharing application Tik Tok to produce short video modules on management courses.

- The institute has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tik Tok to prepare short video modules on communication, strategy, negotiation, marketing among others things.
- IIM-I will implement these video modules in its different courses.

50th World Economic Forum in Switzerland on 21 January; Union Minister Piyush Goyal to lead Indian delegation

The four day 50th World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland will begin on 21 January.

- 53 heads of state or government from 117 countries are participating in the event.
- The theme of this year's WEF is 'Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World'.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation.
- Among other highlights of the forum is Indian actress Deepika Padukone, who will be given a WEF crystal award for her work on mental health while the US rapper William Adams will be talking about ending gun violence.

9th International Children's Film Festival begins in Kolkata

The 9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata.
The 9th International Children’s Film Festival begins in Kolkata with the screening of Aizaz Khan directed Hamid.

- About 250 films from 45 countries will be screened in the week-long festival.
- The National Award winner Children actor, Talha Arsad Rishi will inaugurate the festival.
- Besides the screening of films, an exhibition on the children's film festival will also be organised.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurates ELECRAMA 2020, a flagship showcase of electrical industry in India

Union Minister for Heavy Industries Prakash Javadekar inaugurated ELECRAMA 2020, the flagship showcase of the Indian electrical industry, in Greater Noida.

- He asked the power industry to focus on the quality of electrical equipment.
- He urged the industry to become a part of the production chain and not just a supplier of spare parts.

Kiren Rijiju and Pramod Sawant flag off ‘Fit India Cyclothon’ in Panaji

The Fit India Mission under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized the inaugural event of ‘Fit India Cyclothon’ event in Panaji.

- The Cyclothon was flagged off by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant from the Campal Parade Ground in the city.
- The Cyclothon event witnessed participation by over 500 cycling enthusiasts who came together to cycle through a five-kilometre stretch within the Panaji city.

India successfully test-fires K-4 ballistic missile

India has successfully test-fired a 3,500 kilometre range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine.
The test of the K-4 ballistic missile was conducted off the Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh on.

With this test, India has moved one more step towards the induction of this ballistic missile on the INS Arihant class of nuclear submarines.

The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Only the US, Russia and China have submarine-launched ballistic missiles of 3,500-kilometre range.

Nationwide programme to administer polio drops to children organized on National Immunization Day

The National immunization day was observed on 19 January.

With an aim to maintain the 'NO POLIO' status, a nationwide programme to administer polio drops to children below 5 years was organized throughout the country.

President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Pulse Polio Programme for this year by administering Polio drops to children below the age of five at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

This immunization programme would be held for the next two days to cover all the left out children by door to door visit.

PM Modi interacts with students in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with school students in his 'Pariksha Pe Charcha-2020 programme.

- The third edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was organised at Talkatora Indoor Stadium in Delhi.
- Over 2,000 students, parents and teachers participated from all over the country.
- Mr Modi answers questions and interacts with students on how they can beat examination stress.

Delhi CM launches 'Guarantee card'

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched party's Guarantee Card ahead of upcoming assembly elections in the national capital.
This card lists 10 promises that AAP will deliver on if it is elected to rule Delhi again.

The card, '10 guarantees of Kejriwal', also promised to continue the scheme for free electricity up to 200 units, free health facilities and to plant two crore saplings in the national capital over the next five years.

**PM Modi, Nepali PM KP Sharma Oli to inaugurate ICP Biratnagar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart KP Sharma Oli inaugurated Integrated Check Post (ICP) Biratnagar.

- ICP Biratnagar has been built on 260 acres of land at a cost of around 140 crore rupees.
- It has the facilities for immigration clearance of foreign passengers, export and import cargo handling.
- It is designed to handle around 500 trucks per day.
- India and Nepal share over 1,850 kilometre-long border which is characterized by a unique and long tradition of free movement of people.
- Jogbani-Biratnagar international trade point is one of the important trade points between the two countries.
- Biratnagar is also the third-largest Revenue Collecting Customs Office of Nepal.
- Presently, over 65 percent of Nepal’s trade is with India and also over 65 percent of Nepal’s exports are to India.

**IAF inducts its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft equipped with BrahMos missiles**

The Indian Air Force has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur base in Tamil Nadu.

- The Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Bhadauria inducted the squadron at an impressive ceremony.
- The newly reinstated 222-squadron, also known as the Tigersharks, would serve as a lethal weapons platform capable of carrying both aerial and maritime roles in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Thanjavur is strategically located in the southern peninsula.
- From there, the Tigersharks can dominate the seas and provide very close and integrated support to the Indian Navy.

**Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurates second edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020**
Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the second edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 in New Delhi.

- The two-day 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’s theme is Technologies for Next-Gen Governance.

National Girl Child Day to be celebrated on January 24

The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24.

- It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India in 2008
- National Girl Child Day will be celebrated on 24 January in Madhya Pradesh.
- The theme of the day will be “Aware girl child-able Madhya Pradesh” (Jagruk Balika-Samarth Madhya Pradesh) under the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" scheme.
- The aim of this celebration is to create awareness in the society about the rights of daughters and to provide new opportunities to the daughters for their social and financial development.
- Apart from Girl child day, Women and Child Development Department will also celebrate National Girl Child Week from January 24 to 30.

Andhra Pradesh Assembly passes bill to establish three capitals

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a bill proposing three capitals, Legislative, Executive and Judicial for the state.

- The Assembly passed the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill this regard.
- Visakhapatnam is proposed to be the Executive capital, Amaravati Legislative capital and Kurnool will be the Judicial capital.
- The Bill also provides for dividing the State into various zones. It seeks to establish zonal planning and development boards.
- The Bill will be moved in the Legislative Council where YSR government may face an uphill task to see it through as it has just nine members in the 58-member Upper House.

Haryana Assembly ratifies 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill
The Haryana Assembly ratified the 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill, passed by the Parliament in December last year.

- Earlier, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Bihar Assemblies had ratified the Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad on December 9, 2019.
- The Bill amends provisions related to reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The Constitution provides for reservation of seats for SCs and STs and representation of the Anglo-Indian community by nomination in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of states.
- This has been provided for a period of 70 years since the enactment of the Constitution and will expire on January 25, 2020.
- The Bill seeks to extend the reservation for SCs and STs by another 10 years till January 25, 2030.

Meghalaya Celebrates 48th anniversary of statehood

Meghalaya celebrated the 48th anniversary of statehood day on 21 January.

- During the British rule of India, the British imperial authorities nicknamed it the "Scotland of the East".
- Meghalaya was previously part of Assam, but on 21 January 1972, the districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya.

- Along with Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur also celebrates their Statehood Day on 21 January.

Points to Remember

- Meghalaya Governor: Tathagata Roy
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma

Jharia most polluted place in India in 2018, Greenpeace report

Jharia, known worldwide for its underground coal fires, continued to be the most polluted city in the country in 2018, according to Airpocalypse-IV, an annual report released by Greenpeace India.

- The report, based on analysis of particulate matter data across 287 cities, said Delhi was 10th most polluted city in 2018, an improvement by two ranks as compared to 2017.
- Lunglei in Mizoram was the least polluted city in India, followed by Meghalaya’s Dowki, according to the report.
- Six of the top-10 polluted cities are in Uttar Pradesh: Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad and Firozabad.

Zomato buys Uber Eats in $300 million

Alibaba's Ant Financial-backed online food delivery and restaurant discovery platform Zomato has acquired Uber Eats for around Rs 2,485 crore ($350 million) in an all-stock deal.
The deal gives the ride-hailing app a 10 per cent stake in Zomato.
Notably, Zomato will not absorb Uber Eat employees, which means they will either be absorbed in Uber's other verticals or could face lay-off.
The deal comes days after Zomato had raised $150 million in funding from existing investor Ant Financial, an Alibaba affiliate.

Apollo Hospitals launches Health EMI Card in tie-up with Bajaj Finserv

Bajaj Finserv has launched digitized health EMI cards covering an entire family with a credit limit ranging between Rs 40,000 and Rs 4 lakh.
- The 0% EMI cards, which will be accepted across all centres of Apollo Hospitals in the country, has a personal accident insurance cover of Rs 1 lakh.
- These EMI cards can be availed by people who are covered under health insurance also.

Cabinet gives approval to EC to enter into MoU with Election Commissions of Tunisia and Papua New Guinea

The Cabinet gave approval to the Election Commission of India to enter into MoU with the Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia and the Papua New Guinea Election Commission.
- The MoU has been signed for elections for cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

The Cabinet also gave its nod for the four agreements between India and Brazil in the field of oil and natural gas, Geology and Mineral Resources, mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and cooperation in the field of early childhood care.

ISRO’s Gaganyaan to carry lady robot ‘Vyomamitra’ to space!

Before the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sends a man into space next year in its first manned-mission Gaganyaan, it will send two unmanned missions to space in December this year and June next year.
- The first unmanned mission will, however, have a half humanoid called ‘Vyomamitra’, a ‘lady’ robot.
- The robot was the highlight at the ‘Human Spaceflight and Exploration – Present Challenges and Future Trends’ symposium.
- The robot Vyomamitra can monitor through module parameters, perform life support operations and switch panel operations.

Jaipur Literature Festival to begin

The festival of festivals.
The Jaipur Literature Festival will begin on 23 Jan 2020.

- About 500 speakers of different fields are participating in the festival, which is currently in its 13th edition.
- The five-day event will see more than 200 sessions and will be attended by 500 speakers from 20 countries.
- Out of them, 120 are award-winning speakers.
- The festival will have a range of speakers including Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, Booker award-winning British novelist Howard Jacobson and Author Elizabeth Gilbert.

**Nation pays homage to Subhas Chandra Bose on his 123rd birth anniversary**

A number of functions have been organised across the country to mark the occasion.

- He was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha.
- He started the newspaper 'Swaraj'.
- Subhash Chandra Bose was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress, (1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri)
- His act of hoisting the Tricolour for the first time in Port Blair in 1943 and declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as first Indian territory to be freed from British rule continues to inspire every Indian.

**India opens its first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre in Niger**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou jointly inaugurated the first convention centre established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

- The External Affairs Ministry said in a statement that the establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) is a landmark for India-Niger friendship, as also a symbol of India's firm commitment towards Africa.
- It is the first centre to be established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th Birth Anniversary was observed last year.
- The convention centre has been designed as a spacious, modern and eco-friendly facility, including a 2,000 capacity Plenary Hall.

**Mumbai malls, shops, eateries can stay open 24X7 from January 27**

Mumbai malls, shops, eateries can stay open 24X7 from January 27
The Maharashtra cabinet has approved a proposal to allow malls, multiplexes, shops and eateries to remain open round the clock.

- The decision will come into force from 27th January and will be implemented only in non-residential areas like Bandra Kurla Complex and Nariman Point.
- In another decision, the cabinet has made the film "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior" tax-free in the state.
- The film is based on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's trusted lieutenant Tanaji Malusare who had played a pivotal role in capturing the Sinhagad Fort.

IIM Indore to train Uttar Pradesh cops on communication skills, mob management

The Indian Institute of Management Indore in Madhya Pradesh will teach lessons on crowd management and effective communication to Uttar Pradesh (UP) police.

- A memorandum of understanding for this project was signed by UP Director General of Police OP Singh and IIM Indore Director Professor Himanshu Rai in Lucknow.
- He said training sessions would be held to teach officers effective ways to negotiate and communicate with the mob.
- Under the agreement, police will be trained in traffic management, data analysis, use of artificial intelligence, social media management among other aspects.
- The MoU comes at a time when UP, as well as other states, are seeing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, several of which have turned violent.

National Girl Child Day: 24 January

The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24.

- It was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India in 2008.
- The main objective of National Girl Child Day is to: To spread awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by girls in the country. To promote awareness about the rights of a girl child. To increase awareness on the importance of girl education, health, and nutrition.

Points to Remember

- International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

Pranab Mukherjee delivers Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture on electoral processes
The Election Commission of India hosted the first Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture.

- The Annual Lecture Series is envisaged as a tribute to Sukumar Sen, the first Chief Election Commissioner of India credited with commendable conducting the first two General Elections to the Lok Sabha.
- The speaker for the first Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture this year was the former President of India Pranab Mukherjee.
- Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and the former President Pranab Mukherjee also unveiled a postal stamp commemorating the first Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen at this juncture.

44th International Kolkata Book Fair to start from Jan 29

The 44th International Kolkata Book Fair (IKBF) is all set to start from January 29 at the Central Park Mela Complex in Salt Lake, Kolkata.

- This year, Russia will be the theme country of the fair.
- 'CESC Sahitya Samman' will be conferred on Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri from the inaugural dais of IKBF.

Cabinet committee approves the closure of Hindustan Fluorocarbons plant in Telangana

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA approved shutting down the operations of the plant and unit of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited, HFL and closure of the company.

- HFL is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.
- HFL has only one plant located at Rudraram, District Sangareddy in Telangana.
- The company was not operational and the decision only means an official closure of the public sector unit.

India's first e-waste clinic opens in Bhopal

The country’s first e-waste clinic is being opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- It will enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
- The e-waste clinic is jointly set up by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC).
In the absence of a safe disposal mechanism, electronic waste at present is being disposed of along with other waste. The electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the e-waste clinic.

National Voters' Day: 25 January

The Government of India observes 25 January every year as "National Voters' Day".

- It started on January 25, 2011 to mark the Election Commission's foundation day.
- The theme for National Voters Day this year is ‘Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy’.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware of their voting rights and to attract more people, mostly the newly eligible younger generation, to vote and contribute to the electoral political process.

India provides 30,000 doses of vaccine to Maldives after Measles Outbreak

India supplied 30,000 doses of Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccine to the Maldives responding swiftly to an emergency request to contain the measles outbreak in the Maldives.

- The vaccine supply was quickly procured and delivered to Maldives Health Ministry within 72 hours of the request.
- Four people were tested positive for Measles in the last one week even though it has been eliminated from the country.
- Maldives Government had suspected an outbreak and requested emergency supplies of vaccine, which could not be made possible by a few international organizations.
- In 2015, India responded to the water crisis in Malé and airlifted water immediately and also sent supplies by ship, including an RO plant.

ECI hosts 10th Annual Meeting of Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia

Election Commission of India is hosting the 10th Annual Meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) in New Delhi.

- The Election Commission of India will take over the Chair of the forum for the year 2020.
- On the occasion, the International Conference on the theme ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity’ is also being organized.
- The forum was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election
Management Bodies of SAARC Countries held at New Delhi in 2012.

16 States and UTs along with 6 central ministries to participate in Republic Day Parade

Sixteen states and Union Territories and Six Central Ministries will participate in the Republic Day Parade this year at Rajpath in New Delhi.

- Start-up India, Jal Jeevan Mission and Financial Inclusion are some of the themes of the tableaux of Ministries and Departments.
- The Walled City of Jaipur and Gujarat's iconic stepwell in Patan and the 550th Anniversary of Sikhism Founder Guru Nanak Dev will be thematically showcased among the host of tableaux in the Republic Day function.

This year, Republic Day ceremony to start from War Memorial, not India Gate

Changing a decades-old tradition, the 71st Republic Day ceremony will not begin from India Gate, where the Prime Minister commemorates soldiers who have died in combat for India.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay a wreath at the National War Memorial, which was opened on February 25, 2019.
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, Army chief General M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Force chief Air Marshal R K S Bhadauria will stand behind Modi when he pays homage to the dead soldiers.
- On March 27 last year, India became only the fourth country to successfully fire an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile under a project named Mission Shakti.
- Demonstrating this prowess, the A-SAT missile will feature in the parade this Republic Day.

Bharat Parv 2020 to begin at Red fort ground in New Delhi

Bharat Parv 2020, the programme to celebrate the spirit of India, begins at Red fort ground in New Delhi and will be on till 31st January.

- The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourism places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of ‘Dekho Apna Desh’.
- The Tourism Ministry has said that the theme of this year’s Bharat Parv is Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Bharat Parv has many attractions for the public including display of Tableaux of the
Republic Day parade, performance by armed forces bands.

2-day ‘Innovation Festival’ begins at Science Centre in Itanagar

In Arunachal Pradesh, the two-day ‘Innovation Festival’ kicked off at the Science Centre.

- The festival is being organized by the Arunachal Pradesh State Council for Science & Technology in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation.
- More than 50 innovations are put on display by students from various educational institutions, grassroots innovators, artisans and entrepreneurs from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and other states.
- The Innovation Festival, a first of its kind in the state, aimed to foster the culture of innovation among all people of the state, especially in all the educational institutions.

Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 50th Statehood Day

Himachal Pradesh celebrated its 50th Statehood Day on 25 January.

- On January 25, 1971 Himachal Pradesh was carved out as the 18th State of the country, after being a Union Territory for over 15 years.

Points to Remember

- Number of District in Himachal Pradesh: 12
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Members of the Legislative Assembly: 68
- Lok Sabha Seats: 4
- Rajya Sabha Seats: 3

Nation celebrates 71st Republic Day

The nation celebrates 71st Republic Day.

- The main function was organized at Rajpath in the National Capital. President Ram Nath Kovind unfurled the tricolour and took the salute of the parade.
- President of Brazil Jair Messias Bolsonaro was the Chief Guest at the Parade this year.
- The parade started from Vijay Chowk and proceeded towards the Red Fort grounds.
- It was commanded by Parade Commander, Lieutenant General Asit Mistry, General Officer Commanding, Headquarters Delhi Area.
- For the first time, a contingent of women bikers of CRPF performed daredevil stunts.
Sixteen States and Union Territories and six Central Ministries participated in the Parade.
Jammu and Kashmir participated in the parade for the first time as a Union Territory.
The Tableau of Gujarat was on the theme Rani ki Vav - Jal Mandir which is a unique piece of ancient Indian architectural style, construction work and craftsmanship.
Meghalaya's Tableau depicted the Double Decker Living Root Bridge which is a main tourist attraction of the state.
Telangana's tableau brought to life its floral festival called Bathukamma.
The major attraction was fly-past by the newly inducted Chinook and Apache helicopters along with Sukhoi and advanced light helicopters.
Anti-satellite weapons - Mission Shakti, Army’s battle tank Bhishma were also showcased during the 90-minute long parade.

Tribal Affairs Ministry proposes 6th Schedule Area status to Ladakh

Union Home Ministry to declare the 6th Schedule status to Ladakh.
Environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk had last month appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to preserve the culture and identity of Ladakh.
The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Western Bengal emerges at the top in vegetable production

West Bengal has overtaken Uttar Pradesh and emerged as the top State in vegetable production in 2018-19.

- According to the State-wise horticulture production data released at a conference organised by the Agriculture Ministry last week, West Bengal produced 29.55 million tonnes (mt) of vegetables last year.
- Andhra Pradesh continued to hold on to the pole position in fruits with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and UP (10.65 mt).

CEC Sunil Arora assumes Chairmanship of FEMBoSA for 2020

Tribal Affairs Ministry has proposed 6th Schedule Area status to Union Territory of Ladakh.

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said that his ministry has sent the proposal to the
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has assumed Chairmanship of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2020.

- The Outgoing Chair of FEMBoSA, handed over the Logo of FEMBoSA to Mr Arora at the 10th Annual Meeting of FEMBoSA held in New Delhi.
- FEMBoSA was established at the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies of SAARC Countries held at New Delhi in May, 2012.
- With its eight members, FEMBoSA represents a very large part of the democratic world and is an active regional association of Election Management Bodies.

Gadkari gives ‘GATI’ to monitor Rs 3 lakh crore road projects

The Union ministry of road transport and highways has launched an online portal ‘GATI’.

- The new portal created by NHAI on the lines of PRAGATI portal used by PMO can be accessed from NHAI website and contractors, concessionaires can raise any project related issues on it.
- Issues raised on GATI portal will be monitored daily by a team of officers in NHAI and will be constantly reviewed by the senior officers of NHAI and the ministry of road transport and highways.

Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission to begin from Bijnor, Ballia in UP

The five-day Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission kicked off from Bijnor and Ballia in Uttar Pradesh.

- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Union Minister Sanjeev Bajpai launched the yatra from Bijnor, a place where Ganga enters Uttar Pradesh.
- Governor Anandiben Patel, Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Modi will launch it from Ballia in eastern UP, where the holy river leaves the state to enter Bihar.

Country's first Super Fab Lab inaugurated in Kerala

The country's first Super Fab Lab was launched at the Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).

- The lab will give a major push to the hardware industry in the country and the only such facility outside the U.S.
The Super Fab Lab will function in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

**Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra govt launches its much-awaited 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme**

The Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government launched its much-awaited 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme.

The scheme is aimed at providing a meal to the poor for just 10 rupees.

- Under the scheme thalis or lunch plates would be available to people at designated centres/ canteens during a stipulated time in all the districts.
- Launching the scheme was one of the poll promises made by the Shiv Sena, which shares power with the NCP and Congress in a coalition government.
- Under the pilot scheme, at least one 'Shiv Bhojan' canteen has been started at district headquarters.

**Pema Khandu dedicates Padi Yubbe outdoor stadium to the people of Lower Subansiri**

Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the 4000 seating capacity Padi Yubbe outdoor stadium to the people of Lower Subansiri district.

- The stadium has been named after the first cabinet Minister from the Apatani community.
- This Padi Yubbe Outdoor Stadium is the third after Pasighat and Daporijo to be completed and ready for use.

**India’s first war memorial for animals to come up in Meerut**

A first of its kind war memorial for animals is being planned in Uttar Pradesh’s Meerut city.

- It will feature those animals that have lost their lives in counter-insurgency operations, mainly in Kashmir.
- The memorial will be unique since it will be devoted to service animals, mostly dogs, but also horses and mules.
- It will be the country’s first animal war memorial and recognise their heroics on the battlefield, devotion to duty and outstanding contribution to military service alongside soldiers.
- The monument would be similar to the National War Memorial in Delhi but on a smaller scale.

**Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary: 28 January**
The year 2020 marks the 155th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, one of the greatest freedom fighters of India.

- Lala Lajpat Rai was born on January 28, 1865, in a Jain Punjabi family in Dhudikae village of Punjab’s Moga district.
- Rai was also known as Punjab Kesari.
- He played a pivotal role in the Indian freedom struggle.
- He was part of the famous radical trio Lal Bal Pal, who advocated the Swadeshi movement in India, involving the boycott of all imported goods and the use of Indian made goods.
- To report the political situation of India, in 1928, the British government set up the Commission, headed by Sir John Simon.
- When the Commission visited Lahore on October 30, 1928, Lajpat Rai led a non-violent march in protest against it.

Government signs 'Historic' peace accord with NDFB, ABSU to resolve Assam's decades-old Bodo issue

The government signed an accord with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, one of the dreaded insurgent groups of Assam.

- The pact, described as “historic” by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, provides for setting up of a commission to reconstitute the Bodo Territorial Areas District (BTAD) by including new Bodo-dominated villages contiguous to the existing BTAD area and excluding villages with a predominantly non-tribal population.
- The All Bodo Students' Union, which has been spearheading a movement for a Bodoland state since 1972, and another group called United Bodo People’s Organisation were also signatories to the accord.
- As per the accord, 1,550 militants belonging to the NDFB will lay down their arms on January 30.
- Also an economic programme of Rs 1,500 crore will be implemented in the next three years with equal contribution of Rs 750 crore each from the central and state governments.

Biggest DefExpo 2020 to take place in Lucknow

The Defence Expo 2020 in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow city is going to be by far the biggest expo.

- The number of international companies confirming their presence at the expo has also gone up as compared to previous expos.
- The number of companies registered for participating in the 11th edition of the biennial mega defence exhibition, DefExpo
2020, to be held at Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow between February 5-9, 2020; has reached 1,000.

- In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 companies had participated.
- Thus, it has become by far the biggest ever DefExpo to be held in India.

**GRSE set to deliver ASW corvette INS Kavaratti to Navy soon**

Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) is set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to the Navy.

- 'Kavaratti' is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes built by the GRSE for the Indian Navy under Project P28.
- Three of the four corvettes, INS Kamorta, INS Kaumatt and INS Kiltan were commissioned in 2014, 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- The new technology will mean that the warship, which has 90 per cent indigenous components, will also require lower maintenance.

**Andhra cabinet approves abolition of legislative council**

The Andhra Pradesh cabinet has approved the abolition of the legislative council after its chairman referred the three-capital Bill to the select committee on discretionary powers.

- The assembly had on discussed the happenings that took place in council in the last two days.
- Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy asked the Speaker to allow a discussion on whether there was any need to let the council continue to exist, or whether it could be abolished.
- The Legislative Council may be dissolved for other reasons but not for the reason that it sent the bills to a select committee.

**Coast Guard Ship 'Annie Besant' reaches base harbour at Chennai**

The recently inducted Indian Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant has reached its base harbour at Chennai.

- It was received with pomp and splendour by the staff and their family members of the Coast Guard Chennai office.
- The ship Annie Besant is the third Fast Patrol Vessel of the ‘Priyadarshini’ class.
- The ship has been indigenously designed and built and was commissioned at Khidderpore Dock, Kolkata.
- The ship ICGS Annie Besant is fitted with modern navigational and communication equipment and sensors.
- It is capable of undertaking multi-faceted maritime operations such as Surveillance, Search and Rescue and Interdiction.

**SC allows centre to introduce African cheetah to suitable habitat in India**
The Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to suitable habitat in India.

- The apex Court's decision followed a petition filed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah as rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country.
- The government's plan is to import the Cheetah from African countries like Namibia and reintroduce them in India.
- In 2013, the top court had declined the plea seeking relocation of African Cheetah at Kuno National Park.

10 more wetlands from India get the Ramsar site tag

Ramsar has declared 10 more wetland sites from India as sites of international importance.

- The Ramsar Convention signed on February 2, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by members countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines of the convention.
- With this, the numbers of Ramsar sites in India are now 37 and the surface area covered by these sites is now 1,067,939 hectares.
- Maharashtra gets its first Ramsar site (Nandur Madhameshwar), Punjab which already had 3 Ramsar sites adds 3 more (Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve, Nangal) and UP with 1 Ramsar site has added 6 more (Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaaspur, Sandi and SarsaiNawar).

Jitendra Singh launches Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal

Union Minister of State for PMO Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal that will enhance network application of gram panchayats.

- The Portal will function with the help of satellite technology developed by ISRO.
- The Web Geo portal is an easy to use Geo portal developed for database visualization, data analytics, generation of automatic reports, model based products and services for the benefit of Gram Panchayat members and other stakeholders.
- The targeted audience for this portal are Public, PRIs and different stakeholders belonging to the gram panchayats.
Govt targets to install 175 GigaWatt renewable energy by 2022

The Government has targeted to install 175 GigaWatt renewable energy by 2022 to build a healthy planet with a less carbon intensive economy.

- Through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan, PM-KUSUM scheme, the government empowers the farmers to be the producer of energy.
- The PM-KUSUM scheme covers grid connected renewable energy power plants, stand alone solar powered agricultural pumps and solarization of existing grid connected agriculture pumps.
- The Scheme has substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions and all three components of the Scheme combined together are likely to result in saving of about 27 million tonnes of CO2 emission per annum.

Martyr’s Day: 30 January

Five days are declared as Martyrs Day in India to honour those who laid down their lives for the nation.

- The first fall accordingly on January 30, the day when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in 1948.
- Mahatma Gandhi played a significant role in India's struggle for Independence.
- He brought forth the awe-inspiring method of non-violent protests, Satyagraha and spread the word of peace and harmony even in dissent.

Points to remember

The other 4 Martyr’s observed in India are:

- 23 March: Day to remember the deaths of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru.
- 21 October: Police Martyrs Day. This day marks the ambush of a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrol party at the Indo-Tibetan border in Ladakh by the Chinese forces.
- 17 November: The death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- 19 November: It celebrates the birthday of Rani Lakshmibai and honours those who gave their lives in the rebellion of 1857.

Cabinet approves 30 per cent of North-Eastern Council's allocation for new projects

Cabinet has approved allocation of 30 percent of the North-Eastern Council's allocation for new projects.
This will help in focused development of deprived areas, neglected sections of society and emerging priority sectors.

The Cabinet has also approved extension of Productivity-Linked Reward Scheme for the employees and workers of the Major Port Trust and Dock Labour Board for the period beyond 2017-18.

The Scheme will annually benefit over 28 thousand workers.

Cabinet approves Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill to raise upper limit for termination of pregnancy to 24 weeks

Union Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

- The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- The limit of termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
- For Medical termination of pregnancy, permission will be needed, from two doctors and one of them must be a government doctor.
- The proposed amendments are a step towards the safety and well-being of the women and many women will be benefitted by this.

S Jaishankar lays foundation stone of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre at Kevadia in Gujarat

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar laid the foundation stone of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods near the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat.

This will be a state-of-the-art skill Development centre in this tribal area.

This Residential Centre will have all modern infrastructure including accommodation for about 100 youth at a time.

It will run several free of charge skill courses aligned to the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

To begin with, the majority of the courses will focus to meet the demand of tourism and hospitality requirements at Kevadia.

This centre will prove to be a boon for empowering the local youth and women by their skill development and by providing them employment opportunities.

ORF ranks 27th on Global Go to Think Tank Index report

India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has jumped more than 90 places to 27th position among 176 global think tanks.

- The 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, ranked ORF among top 30 think tanks globally.
- ORF moved up from the 118th position in the 2018 ranking and got featured at the ninth position on the "Think Tank to Watch in 2019" list.
- Moreover, ORF curated Raisina Dialogue has been ranked 7th best conference in the report, moving up from 12th position.
- The list was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace of US, followed by
Belgium's Bruegel and French Institute of International Relations (IFRI).

Calcutta University confers Honorary D.Litt. to Nobel Laureate Prof Abhijit Binayak Bandyopadhyay

The Calcutta University conferred Honorary D.Lit. Degree to Nobel Laureate Prof. Abhijit Binayak Bandyopadhyay at its Annual Convocation.

- The Vice-Chancellor of the University Ms Sonali Chakraborty Banerjee presented the Degree to him.
- Mr Monoranjan Bapari received the RabindraNath Tagore Memorial Medal for his outstanding contribution in the field of Literature.
- Prof. Joyanta Bishnu Narliker got the Asutosh Mukherjee Memorial Medal at this juncture.

WHO declares global emergency as death toll hits 213

The World Health Organization declared a global emergency over the new coronavirus, as China reported the death toll had climbed to 213 with nearly 10,000 infections.

- The UN health agency based in Geneva had initially downplayed the threat posed by the disease, but revised its risk assessment after crisis talks.
- Many countries have already urged their citizens not to visit China, while some have banned entry for travellers from the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus first surfaced.

World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS), the annual flagship event of TERI started in New Delhi.

- The theme of this day is 'Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count'.
- In its 2020 edition, the Summit will address broad themes of- circular economy, water, energy, industry transitions & e-mobility.
- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is The Energy and Resources Institute's annual event.

ICG commissions C-448 third interceptor boat
The third Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat of Coast Guard Headquarters (Karnataka), C 448, was officially commissioned at New Mangalore Port.

- The interceptor boat has been built by Larsen and Toubro Shipyard Limited in Surat.
- The interceptor boat will help the Coast Guard check illicit activities, including infiltration, smuggling and illicit fishing.
- Also, the Karnataka government has also decided to provide 160 acres of land at Kenjar village in Mangalore taluk to set up a Coast Guard Training Academy.

India's Forex reserves touch all time high of 457.468 billion

India's foreign exchange reserves swelled by 2.520 billion USD to touch a record high of 457.468 billion USD in the week that ended on 27th December 2019.

- An RBI press release has informed that foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves rose by 2.203 billion USD to 424.936 billion USD.
- India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund, however dipped by 2 million USD to 1.441 billion USD, while the country's reserve position increased by 58 million USD to 3.7 billion USD.

Two Indian banks to cease operations in Sri Lanka

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka has permitted Indian private sector lenders Axis Bank and ICICI Bank to close their operations in Sri Lanka.

- The licenses issued to them will be cancelled once the winding-up operations are complete.
- The two banks are no longer permitted to carry on banking operations, including accepting deposits from the public.

Uber teams up with Hyundai on electric air taxi

US ride-hailing company Uber Technologies Inc and South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor have teamed up to develop electric air taxis.

- Uber and Hyundai, for instance, gave widely different timelines for commercialisation, underlying these challenges.
- Hyundai is the first carmaker to join Uber's air taxi project, which also counts Boeing subsidiary Aurora Flight Sciences among its partner firms.
- Hyundai will produce and deploy the vehicles while Uber will provide aerial ride-share services.
SBI announces 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' scheme

Country's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India has announced a 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' (RBBG) scheme.

- It aims at giving a push to residential sales and improving home buyers' confidence.
- Under this scheme, the SBI will issue a guarantee for completion of select residential projects to customers who have availed home loans from it.
- The scheme will focus on affordable housing projects priced up to 2.50 crore rupees in 10 cities initially.

RBI amends KYC norms, allows banks to use V-CIP

The RBI has amended the KYC norms allowing banks and other lending institutions regulated by it to use Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).

- It will help them onboard customers remotely.
- The Reserve Bank said it decided to permit video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) as a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer's identity.
- The RBI further said that the regulated entities will have to ensure that the video recording is stored in a safe and secure manner and bears the date and time stamp.
- It also said that Live location of the customer (Geotagging) shall be captured to ensure that the customer is physically present in India.

SBI lowers GDP estimates to 4.6% in FY20 from 5%

The SBI lowered the economic growth forecast to 4.6% from the earlier 5%.

- The latest SBI Ecowrap report even predicted growth rate to remain below 6 percent for the two years in a row.
- The SBI Research Desk stated that factors like government expenditure are the key factors in determining the overall growth outlook for FY20.

RBI extends recurring payments feature to UPI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will now allow consumers to give an e-mandate for recurring payments made through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

- This functionality will allow UPI users to bypass additional factor authentication (AFA) every time a payment is made to a regular merchant by giving a one time instruction to the UPI service provider.
- This facility was earlier available for card and wallet based payments.
- The limit on such recurring transactions has been set at Rs 2000.

Retail inflation jumps to about 5-yr high of 7.35 pct in Dec 2019

Retail inflation rose to about five-and-half year high of 7.35 per cent in December 2019, surpassing the RBI's comfort level, mainly due to rise in prices of vegetables as onions.

- As per the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO), the spike in inflation in the vegetable segment was 60.5 percent during the month compared to December 2018.
- The overall retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.11 per cent in December 2018 and 5.54 per cent in November 2019.
- The previous high in retail inflation was witnessed at 7.39 per cent in July 2014, the year the Narendra Modi-led Government assumed office for the first term.

- The Central Government has mandated the Reserve Bank of India to keep inflation in the range of four per cent with a margin of two per cent on the either side.

Former Flipkart CEO Sachin Bansal acquires DHFL General Insurance

Former co-founder and CEO of e-commerce giant Flipkart recently acquired DHFL General Insurance from the Kapil Wadhawan-led Wadhawan Group of companies for ₹100 crore.

- The deal is seen as a distress sale for Kapil Wadhawan-led financial services group, which used to run the debt-laden DHFL.
- With this acquisition, Bansal has entered into the insurance business.
- The investment is also seen as part of his strategy to enter into the financial services industry.

World Bank and Government of India Sign $88 million loan agreement for the implementation of Assam Inland Water Transport Project

- The World Bank and the Government of India signed a $88 million loan agreement for the implementation of the Assam Inland Water Transport Project.
The Government of India, the Government of Assam and the World Bank signed a loan agreement of $88 million here to help modernize Assam’s passenger ferry sector that runs on its rivers including the mighty Brahmaputra.

- A majority of Assam’s more than 361 ferry routes cross the Brahmaputra or serve its islands, providing a crucial means of transport to thousands of commuters in both the urban and rural areas of the Brahmaputra Valley.
- The Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP) will help Assam improve the passenger ferry infrastructure and its services and strengthen the capacity of the institutions running the inland water transport.
- The Assam Inland Water Transport Project will help develop a modern, efficient and safe river transport system for the large volume of passengers and cargo carried by the vessels.
- Assam has the largest network of navigable waterways in India.

UN lowers India's growth forecast for FY20 to 5.7%

United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2020 has lowered its GDP growth estimate for India to 5.7 per cent in the current fiscal (from 7.6 per cent forecast in WESP 2019) and lowered its forecast for the next fiscal to 6.6 per cent (from 7.4 percent earlier).

- It has also forecast a growth rate of 6.3 percent for the fiscal beginning in 2021.
- According to the UN study, one in five countries will see per capita income stagnate or decline this year, but listed India among few countries where the per capita GDP growth rate could exceed 4 percent level in 2020.

3 years after launch, Jio becomes No.1 telecom company by user base, revenue

According to data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Reliance Jio surpassed all other telecom players to become the largest in terms of the number of subscribers.

- It added 5.6 million new subscribers added in November 2019
- In addition to this, the telco held 32.04 percent share in the wireless subscriber segment in November 2019, as against Vodafone Idea's 29.12 percent and Bharti Airtel's 28.35 percent.
- As of November 2019, Jio had 369.93 million subscribers, up from the 364.32 million in the month-ago period.
- The company replaced Vodafone Idea to become India's largest mobile service provider with the latest addition to its customer base.

After Iran, UCO Bank chosen to pay Russia
India is set to change the bank it uses to make payments for Russian arms and is likely to route the money through UCO Bank, which is also being used to carry out trade with Iran.

- The payments were earlier being routed through Syndicate Bank.
- The new route was necessary due to the merger of Syndicate and Canara banks.
- UCO Bank, which has been used in the past to make payments for oil to Iran, is likely to get business worth over $4 billion annually.
- Major projects for which payments will flow to Russia over the next few years include the $5.4 billion contract for the S-400 system, a $3 billion deal to lease another nuclear attack submarine and the $2 billion contract to procure four frigates for the navy.

**Points to remember**

- Exim Bank CEO: David Rasquinha
- Headquarters: Mumbai

**Indian Railways, SBI come together to offer doorstep banking in 585 stations**

Indian Railways’ South Central Railway (SCR) zone has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Bank of India (SBI) for ‘doorstep banking’.

- The signed MoU will help in direct pickup of earnings covering all 585 Railway stations over SCR Zone.
- With the facility of direct pick up of cash from all the railway stations it will save the tedious and complex activity of movement of cash earnings through ‘cash safes’ by trains.
- It will help in hassle free collection of traffic earnings by SBI and remittance into

**Exim Bank to raise up to $3 billion from overseas borrowings in FY21**

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) is looking to raise up to $3 billion (about Rs 21,000 crore) from overseas borrowing in next financial year (2020-21).

- The bank has raised $1.7 billion (about Rs 11,900 crore) of overseas borrowing through bond issues and foreign loans in the current financial year.
- It has also raised $350 million in foreign loans so far in FY20.
- In terms of geographic distribution, 44 per cent bonds were distributed in Asia, 36 per cent in the US and 20 per cent from EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region.
Government account avoiding delay in transmission of traffic cash earnings.

BoB and Kotak Mahindra Bank exit Equifax Credit Information Services

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Kotak Mahindra Bank has exited from credit information bureau Equifax Credit Information Services for a consideration of Rs 91.03 crore.

- In a regulatory filing, BoB sold 1,35,00,000 shares of a face value of Rs 10 for Rs 67.43 per unit.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank also existed from Equifax Credit Information Services.
- This is part of capital-raising exercise by exiting non-core business.

RBI cancels certificate of authorisation of Vodafone m-pesa

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that it has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Vodafone m-pesa on account of voluntary surrender of authorisation.

- Following the cancellation of the CoA, the company cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- Vodafone m-pesa, a Payment System Operator (PSO), had voluntarily surrendered the authorisation.
- Last year, Vodafone Idea had decided to close m-pesa vertical following the closure of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd (ABIPBL), with which it was being merged.
- Vodafone m-pesa was one of the 11 firms that was given payments bank licence by the RBI in 2015.

Bharti Airtel approves up to 100% in FDI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has approved a 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) limit for Bharti Airtel.

- Earlier, the limit was 49 per cent.
- The telecom operator also has the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that allowed foreign investors to hold up to 74 percent stake in the company.

Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank submits merger proposal with Rupee Bank to RBI
The Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC) Bank has submitted a joint proposal for a merger with the Rupee Cooperative Bank.

- Mounting bad debt of the Rupee Bank had led RBI to put severe sanctions on the bank while superseding the erstwhile board of directors in 2013.
- The total deposit in the bank is around Rs 1,290.96 crore.
- The bank also has 304 employees who will be absorbed within the rolls of the MSC Bank.

**RBI raises short-term investment limit of FPIs to 30% from 20% of portfolio**

The Reserve Bank of India raised the investment limit for FPIs in government and corporate bonds.

- In two separate notifications, the central bank said foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) can now invest 30 per cent of their portfolios in central and state government securities, including in treasury bills, from the 20 per cent earlier.
- Similarly, in corporate bonds, too, short-term investments can now be 30 percent of the portfolio from 20 per cent earlier.
- Meanwhile, the RBI has also made relaxation in the voluntary retention route (VRR) for FPI investments in debt.
- The investment cap through VRR has been doubled to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, the RBI said in another circular.

**Government to sell 100 pc stake in Air India**

The government issued the preliminary information memorandum for 100 per cent stake sale in national carrier Air India.

- As part of the strategic disinvestment, Air India would also sell 100 per cent stake in low cost airline Air India Express and 50 per cent shareholding in joint venture AISATS.
- Management control of the airline would also be transferred to the successful bidder.
- The government has set March 17 as the deadline for submitting the Expression of Interest (EoI).

**Google announces $1 million grant to promote news literacy in India**

Technology giant Google announced a USD 1 million grant to promote news literacy among Indians.

- The money will be given to Internews, a global non-profit, which will select a team of 250 journalists, fact checkers, academics and NGO workers for the project.
- The announcement, part of a USD 10 million commitment worldwide to media literacy, comes at a time when news publishers, especially on the digital front, have been found to have indulged in spreading misinformation.
- A curriculum will be developed by a team of global and local experts, who will roll out the project in seven Indian languages.
Stephen Marandi to be Protem Speaker for fifth Jharkhand Assembly

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha JMM senior leader Stephen Marandi took oath as the Protem Speaker for the fifth Jharkhand Assembly at Raj Bhavan.

- Governor Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Marandi.
- Protem Speaker Stephen Marandi will administer the oath of office and secrecy to all newly elected legislators on the first day of the new state assembly session scheduled from 6th to 8th January in New Year 2020.

General Mukund Naravane becomes new Indian Army chief

General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge as the 28th Chief of Army Staff.

- He succeeded General Bipin Rawat who retired on 31st December, 2019.
- Earlier, General Naravane was serving as vice chief of the Indian Army.
- General Mukund Naravane is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy.

Vinod Kumar Yadav assumes charge as Chairman, Railway Board

Vinod Kumar Yadav has assumed the charge of Chairman, Railway Board after being reappointed.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the reappointment of Vinod Kumar Yadav as Chairman, Railway Board for a period of one year.
- Yadav had taken over as Railway Board Chairman from Ashwani Lohani, who had retired from the post in December 2018.
- He is an electrical engineer and belongs to the 1980 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.

Umaro Sissoco Embalo wins Guinea-Bissau presidential election

- He was commissioned into the 7th battalion, the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in June 1980.
In the West African state of Guinea-Bissau, Opposition leader Umaro Sissoco Embalo has won presidential elections, picking up 53.55 per cent of votes.

- His rival Domingos Simoes Pereira, head of the country's ruling party PAIGC, bagged 46.45 percent votes.
- National Electoral Commission (CNE) President Jose Pedro Sambu announced the result.

**Points to Remember**

- Guinea-Bissau is a tropical country on West Africa’s Atlantic coast.
- Capital: Bissau
- Currency: West African CFA franc

**Andhra Pradesh govt appoints Special Officers for Disha**

The state government appointed Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official Dr Kritika Shukla and Indian Police Service (IPS) official M Deepika, as Special Officers for implementing the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act 2019.

- 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.
- The state will also employ special Public Prosecutors and Special Police force dedicated to such crimes only.

**Hillary Clinton appointed as new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast in Ireland**

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been appointed the new chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland.

- Clinton became the university's first female chancellor.
- She will serve as chancellor for a five-year term.
- 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.

**Iran names Esmail Qaani as new Commander**

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei named the Deputy Head of the Revolutionary
Guards' foreign operations arm Esmail Qaani to replace Qasem Soleimani as its commander.

- Qaani is one of the most decorated commanders of the Guards during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.
- Soleimani was killed in a targeted U.S. drone strike on 3 January 2020 in Baghdad, Iraq.

**Karur Vysya Bank CEO & MD PR Seshadri resigns**

Karur Vysya Bank Ltd said that its Managing Director & CEO P R Seshadri has submitted his resignation citing personal reasons.

- Board of Directors of the Bank in their meeting has accepted the resignation of P R Seshadri.
- He will be relieved from the services of the Bank at the close of working hours on 31st March 2020 as per his request.

**Ravindra Nath Mahto elected as Jharkhand Assembly Speaker**

In Jharkhand, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislator Ravindra Nath Mahto from Nala constituency was unanimously elected as the new Assembly Speaker.

- Protem Speaker Stephen Marandni administered the oath to the newly elected Speaker of the State Assembly.

**Hudco appoints M Nagaraj as Chairman, Managing Director**

State-owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco) said that M Nagaraj has been appointed the company's Chairman and Managing Director.

- Nagaraj is also Director (Corporate Planning) of the company
- He has experience of around 28 years in a multitude of sectors such as housing, infrastructure finance, skill development and microfinance in the social sector, and international trading.
- Hudco provides loans for housing and urban infrastructure projects.

**Sakthivel takes over as AEPC India Chairman**

- Chief Minister Hemant Soren wished the newly elected Speaker on taking up the new position.
Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC) said it has appointed A Sakthivel as the new chairman of the organisation.

- Sakthivel said the industry had been struggling to survive and the exports growth were stagnant.
- Sakthivel along with some exporters had founded Tirupur Exporters Association in 1990.

Haitham bin Tariq al-Said takes over as Sultan of Oman

Mohd Haitham bin Tariq al-Said took over as Sultan of Oman after the death of long-time ruler Qaboos.

- The new ruler is the cousin of late Sultan Qaboos.
- Sultan Qaboos died at the age of 79 following a prolonged illness.
- Qaboos had ruled Oman since 1970 and was the eighth sultan of the House of Al Said.
- He was the longest-serving monarch among the recent Arab rulers.

Robert Abela sworn in as Malta's new prime minister

Robert Abela has been sworn in as Malta’s 14th prime minister in a ceremony at the Grand Master’s Palace in Valletta.

- The newly-elected Labour leader succeeds Joseph Muscat.
- Abela is the son of former President of Malta George Abela.

Points to Remember

- Malta is an archipelago in the central Mediterranean between Sicily and the North African coast.
- Capital: Valletta
- Currency: Euro

Scientist Saha elected as IUPAC bureau member

Bipul Behari Saha, a noted chemist has been elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for the period 2020-23.

- Founded 100 years ago, IUPAC is the largest global organization of Chemistry professionals.
- Saha is only the second Indian after CNR Rao, former Director of the Indian Institute of Science and Bharat Ratna, to be elected (in 1979) for this prestigious position.
- IUPAC has the responsibility of naming all new elements and compounds, declaring atomic weights and physical constants, updating the Periodic table and carrying out research projects.

Senior IPS officer AP Maheshwari appointed Director General of CRPF

Senior IPS officer A P Maheshwari was appointed as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
• He would soon take over the charge from ITBP Director General S.S. Deswal who was given the "additional" charge to head the country's largest paramilitary force.
• Maheshwari, a 1984 batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry.
• The post of DG CRPF was lying vacant after R R Bhatnagar retired on December 31.

**Senior IPS officer Sujit Pandey takes charge as Lucknow Police Commissioner**

Senior IPS officer Sujit Pandey took over as the first police commissioner of Lucknow.

• Senior IPS officer Alok Singh also took charge as the first commissioner of police of the newly-formed Gautam Buddh Nagar commissionerate.
• Yogi Adityanath government had approved the commissionerate system of policing in Lucknow and Noida.
• The system gives more powers, including magisterial powers, to police officers and is aimed at better and effective policing.

**Harish Salve appointed Queen's Counsel for courts of England & Wales**

Senior Advocate Harish Salve has been appointed the Queen's Counsel for the courts of England and Wales.

• This was announced by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Justice Department.

• The title of Queen's Counsel is usually awarded to lawyers possessing demonstrated skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.
• Advocate Salve served as a Solicitor General for India until 2002.
• He is known for representing India before the International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav extradition case.

**Centre appoints Nripendra Misra as chairman of NMML executive council**

Former principal secretary to the Prime Minister, Nripendra Misra, has been appointed chairperson of the executive council of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).

• According to a government order, the Executive Council of the NMML has been reconstituted and it will be now chaired by Mr Misra.
• Mr Misra is a 1967-batch retired IAS officer.
• The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library is a museum and library in New Delhi, which aims to preserve and reconstruct the history of the Indian independence movement.

**Arjun Munda becomes President of suspended AAI**


Union Minister Arjun Munda was elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI) in its much-delayed elections.

- The elections were held as per the Delhi High Court order.
- Mr Munda had a smooth sailing as he beat his rival B V P Rao by a margin of 34-18 votes.
- A three-time Jharkhand Chief Minister, the 51-year-old Munda is a hugely popular tribal leader who also runs an archery academy which was instrumental in the rise of former world number one Deepika Kumari.

**JP Nadda elected as National President of Bharatiya Janata Party**

BJP Working President J P Nadda was elected unopposed as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

- Party's election in-charge of organization, Radha Mohan Singh gave him the certificate of his election on the occasion.
- Earlier, the nomination process for the top party post was held at party headquarters in the national capital.
- Mr. Nadda, who is from Himachal Pradesh, was appointed as the party's working president in July last year.
- He has long been a member of the BJP Parliamentary Board, its highest decision-making body.
- He was also the Cabinet Minister in the first tenure of the Narendra Modi Government.

**Challa Sreenivasulu Setty appointed MD of SBI**

The government appointed Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the managing director of the State Bank of India for a period of three years.

- Setty is currently serving as the deputy managing director of the SBI, in the key post.
- With over three decades of experience in various functional areas of banking, he held various positions at SBI such as VP & Head (syndications) in SBI.

**Katerina Sakellaropoulou is Greece’s first female President**

In a historic first, the Greek parliament has elected Katerina Sakellaropoulou as its first female president.
• She is a senior judge with an expertise in environmental and constitutional law.
• 261 MPs out of the 300 voted for 63-year-old Katerina to become the ceremonial head of the country.
• She is the first elected President with no affiliation to any political parties.

Sunil Mehta takes over as Chief Executive of Indian Banks’ Association

• Mr Khanna had served as ATF President from 2005 to 2019 and also ITF Vice President from 2015-19.
• The ATF held the meeting of its Board of Directors in Melbourne and unanimously nominated Mr Khanna as Life President.
• He was also appointed Chairman of the ATF Finance Committee.

Qatar names Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani new PM

• He will replace Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.
• The earlier Prime Minister has submitted his resignation.
• The state-run Qatar News Agency reported that no reason for the change has been specified.

Points to Remember

• Capital: Doha
• Currency: Qatari riyal

Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed India’s ambassador to US

Senior diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the US.

• Sandhu, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently posted as High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka.
- He replaces Harsh Vardhan Shringla as India's envoy in Washington.
- Shringla has been named as India's next foreign secretary.

**Harsh Vardhan Shringla takes charge as new Foreign Secretary**

Harsh Vardhan Shringla took charge as new foreign secretary succeeding Vijay Gokhale.

- Mr Shringla is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service.
- In the course of a diplomatic career spanning 35 years, Shringla has held a variety of positions in New Delhi and abroad, and is considered an expert on India's neighbourhood.
- He has also headed the United Nations Political and SAARC divisions in the ministry.

**IBM raises IITian Arvind Krishna to CEO effective April**

IBM said its board of directors had appointed Arvind Krishna as chief executive officer, effective April 6.

- IBM said current CEO Ginni Rometty would continue as executive chairman of the board through the end of 2020, at which point she would retire after almost 40 years with the company.
- Krishna is currently senior vice president for cloud and cognitive software and was a principal architect of the company's acquisitions of Red Hat.
- Krishna studied at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and has a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois. He joined IBM in 1990.

**ICC appoints Anurag Dahiya as chief commercial officer**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed seasoned media professional Anurag Dahiya as its Chief Commercial Officer.

- Dahiya brings more than two decades of commercial experience from the media industry, most recently as head of content and media sales at Singtel, Asia's leading telecommunications group.
- Prior to that, he spent 14 years with Fox International Channels (previously ESPN STAR Sports) as senior vice president, strategy and business development.
- His responsibilities there included cricket rights and content acquisition working on
14 scientists awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology have awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology.

- 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, Swaran Jayanty Fellowships are awarded to young and brilliant scientists to pursue unfettered research with financial freedom and flexibility.

Golden Globes Awards :2020

The 77th Golden Globe Awards were announced at the Beverly Hilton hotel in California.

Here is the full list of winners.

- Best Motion Picture - Drama: 1917
- Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama: Renee Zellweger, (Judy)
- Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Once Upon A Time In Hollywood
- Best Motion Picture - Animated: Missing Link
- Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Awkwafina, (The Farewell)
- Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Taron Egerton, (Rocketman)
- Best Motion Picture - Foreign Language: Parasite (South Korea)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role in Any Motion Picture: Laura Dern, (Marriage Story)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role in Any Motion Picture: Brad Pitt, (Once Upon A Time In Hollywood)
- Best Director - Motion Picture: Sam Mendes, (1917)
- Best Screenplay - Motion Picture: Quentin Tarantino, Once Upon A Time In Hollywood
- Best Original Score - Motion Picture: Hildur Gudnadottir, (Joker)
- Best Original Song - Motion Picture: I'm Gonna Love Me Again, (Rocketman)
- Best Television Series - Drama: Succession
- Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Drama: Olivia Colman, (The Crown)
- Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series - Drama: Brian Cox, (Succession)
- Best Television Series - Musical or Comedy: Fleabag

First-ever Antar-rashtriya Yoga Diwas Media awards presented to 30 media houses for promoting Yoga.
Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar conferred the first Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman to 30 media houses in New Delhi.

- The Ministry had instituted the award in June last year to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.
- Eleven awards were conferred under the category of Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Newspapers.
- Eight awards under the category Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Television and 11 awards were conferred under the category Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Radio.

Jasbinder Bilan wins UK children's book award

India-born author Jasbinder Bilan has bagged a coveted UK children's book award for her debut novel.

- Her novel, 'Asha and the Spirit Bird', aimed at readers aged nine years and above, beat competition from three other shortlisted books to be named the winner of the 2019 Costa Children's Award this week.
- Bilan will receive 5,000 pounds as the winner of the award.
- The award is open to authors resident in the UK and Ireland and presented annually across five categories of First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book.

Iranian Film ‘Castle of Dreams’ gets Best Film Award at Dhaka International Film Festival

The Iranian film ‘Castle of Dreams’ directed by Reza Mirakarimi won the Best Film Award in Asian Competition section of the 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF).

- The film also won the Best Director Award.
- Information Minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud gave away the award carrying prize money of Tk 1 lakh, a citation in the closing ceremony held in Dhaka.
- Indian film ‘Finally Love’ directed by Anjan Dutt bagged Best Audience Award in Cinema of the World Category.
- The theme of this year’s festival was ‘better film, better audience, better society’.

President Kovind confers Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards to children

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2020 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- The Bal Puraskar is given by the government every year to recognize exceptional achievements of children in various fields.
- These fields are innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, sports and bravery.
- The 22 children who were selected for National Bravery Awards also received the awards from the President.

Uttarakhand DMMC gets Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC), Uttarakhand, (in the institution category) and Kumar Munnan Singh (individual category) have been selected for the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020.

- A winning institution receives a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh and the money is to be used for disaster management-related activities only.
- In the case of the winner being an individual, the person gets a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- In 2019, the 8th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) located at Ghaziabad had been selected for the award for its commendable work in disaster management.
- The award was instituted to recognise the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in India in the field of disaster management.
- It is announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Government announces 141 Padma Awards for this year on occasion of 71st Republic Day

The government has announced 141 Padma Awards for this year on the occasion of 71st Republic Day.

- The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhusan and 118 Padma Shri awards.
- Former Union Ministers George Fernandes, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- Pejawara math seer late Vishveshateertha Swamijji will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.
- Former Prime Minister of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth, Hindustani classical vocalist Chhannulal Mishra and Boxer MC Mary Kom will also get Padma Vibhushan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated all those who have been selected for Padma Awards.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University VC gets Harit Ratna Award

N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has been conferred ‘Harit Ratna Award 2019’ by the All India Agricultural Students Association.
• He has been awarded for dissemination of ₹30-crore entrepreneurship project in agri-business and for motivating students to the agriculture sector in the State.
• The award was conferred at the 5th National Youth Convention at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya in Raipur recently.

**Grammy Awards 2020 announced**

![Grammy Awards 2020](image)

The 62nd Annual Grammy Awards announced.

- The show was hosted by Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys.
- Record of the Year: “Bad Guy” Billie Eilish
- Song of the Year: “Bad Guy” Billie Eilish & Finneas O’Connell, songwriters (Billie Eilish)
- Best New Artist: Billie Eilish
- Best Pop Solo Performance: “Truth Hurts” Lizzo
- Best Music Video: Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus, “Old Town Road”
- Best Pop Vocal Album: “When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?” Billie Eilish
- Best Rap Album: “Igor” Tyler, The Creator
- Best R&B Performance: “Come Home” Anderson.Paak, featuring André 3000
- Best Country Album: “While I'm Livin” Tanya Tucker
- Best Rock Album: “Social Cues” Cage The Elephant
- Best Music Film: “Homecoming” Beyoncé
- Best World Music Album: Angélique Kidjo, “Celia”
- Best Spoken Word Album: “Becoming” Michelle Obama

• Best Rap/Sung Performance: “Higher”, DJ Khaled featuring Nipsey Hussle and John Legend

**Assam tableau wins first prize at 71st Republic Day parade**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave away Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade, 2020 in New Delhi.

- Assam's tableau which portrayed the unique craftsmanship and culture of the state has been chosen as the best tableau, followed by Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.
- The tableaux of National Disaster Relief Force and Jal Shakti Mission were chosen as the best among the Ministries and Departments.
- The Central Public Works Department got the Special Prize for their tableau which was based on the theme - Kashmir se Kanyakumari.

**CISF contingent adjudged Best Marching Contingent in Republic Day parade**

![CISF contingent](image)
The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) contingent has been adjudged the “Best Marching Contingent” amongst Para-Military Forces and other Auxiliary Marching Contingents in 2020 Republic Day parade.

- This is the sixth time that CISF Contingent has won the Best Marching Contingent award.
- Also, The marching contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been adjudged the first among the marching contingents of the three services.

French honour for theatre artiste, Shashi Kapoor’s daughter Sanjana Kapoor

Well-known theatre person Sanjana Kapoor received the prestigious French honour of ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre.

- French Minister of Culture Franck Riester conferred the insignia of the distinction on Kapoor in a special investiture ceremony.
- L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is a French government distinction instituted in 1957 by the Ministry of Culture, and is conferred, regardless of nationality, on persons who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the fields of art or literature, or for their contribution to promoting art and literature in France and throughout the world.

Indian environmental economist Pavan Sukhdev wins 2020 Tyler Prize

Renowned Indian environmental economist and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador Pavan Sukhdev has won the 2020 Tyler Prize.

- It is regarded as the "Nobel Prize for the Environment" for his groundbreaking "green economy" work.
- Sukhdev, who will receive the award alongside conservation biologist Gretchen Dailyas, has been acknowledged for his work on bringing the economic consequences of environmental degradation and loss to the attention of corporate and political decision-makers.
- They will each receive a gold medallion and share a USD 200,000 cash prize.

Rani Rampal wins 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award

Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal became the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award.
The World Games announced the winner on after 20 days of polling by sports fans worldwide.
Rani, who has been a member of the national team since she was 15-years-old, currently has more than 240 caps for India.
Under Rani’s leadership, the Indian women’s team qualified for just the third Olympic Games in its history.

It also announced that the country will bid to host either the 2026 or 2030 edition.
Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), President Dame Louise Martin welcomed India confirming participation at the Birmingham Games.
The country hosted the 2010 edition in the national capital.

Boxer Vikas Krishan makes it to India squad for Olympic Qualifiers

In Boxing, Vikas Krishan claimed a slot in the Indian men’s boxing squad in the 69 kilogram category for next year’s Olympic qualifiers.

The former world championships and Asian Games medal-winning is back to the 69 kilogram division after recovering from a back injury.
The 26-year-old two-time Olympian out-punched national medallist, Duryodhan Singh Negi in a unanimous decision in the trial finals.

ICC plans to scrap five-day Tests from 2023

The International Cricket Council, plans to scrap five-day Tests from 2023.

The ICC could make four-day Tests mandatory from 2023 as part of the World Test Championship, primarily to free up the crowded calendar.
Tests have been played over five days through most of their 140-year history.
The last such Test was played between England and Ireland earlier this year. South Africa and Zimbabwe too played one in 2017.

MS Dhoni picked captain of ESPN Cricinfo's ODI and T20 teams of past decade

Former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was picked as captain of ESPN Cricinfo’s ODI and Twenty20 teams of the decade, while 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.

Irfan Pathan announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket.

Irfan, who has been out of favour from the Indian team for a few years now, made his Team India debut at the age of 19 in 2003.

- He last played for India in October 2012.
- He 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.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in men's 10 m air pistol at 63rd National Shooting Championship

Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary has won the men's 10 metres air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship in Bhopal.

- The 17-year-old from Uttar Pradesh shot a classy 246.4 to finish on top.
- 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.
- Abhishek and Sarabjot together won the team gold for Haryana.

P Magesh Chandran lifts 95th Hastings International Chess title

India’s P Magesh Chandran lifted the title in the 95th edition of the prestigious Hastings International Chess Congress at Hastings in England.

- He remained unbeaten in all the nine rounds.
- The 36-year old Grand Master with a FIDE rating of 2479, finished in clear first place with 7.5 points from nine games.
France's Romain Edouard, who was the only player to end the tournament a half-point behind Chandran, took the second spot.

Four players shared third to sixth places with 6.5 points.

Both Boys, Girls teams win 5th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship 2020

In Leh-Ladakh, the home teams won the 5th Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) National Ice Hockey Championship -2020 in both Boys and Girls categories.

- Ladakh Scouts Regiment Centre (LSRC) won the bronze medal, in the Under-20 Boys category.
- Maharashtra girls stood 3rd in the championship.
- Ice Hockey National teams will be shortlisted from the Championship and teams will be selected after a coaching and conditioning camp.
- The Under-20 boys will be playing in the Asia Challenge Cup between 10th and 15th of next month in Thailand.

3rd Khelo India games begins at Guwahati in Assam

The stage has been set for the grand inauguration of the third Khelo India youth games at Guwahati in Assam.

- The opening ceremony of the event was held at Sarusajai stadium in Guwahati.
- Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal, Union Sports minister Kiren Rijiju and several star players graced the opening ceremony.

Cycling and Lawn Bowls are the new additional games of this year's event.

Indian squad announced for ICC Women's T-20 World Cup

Harman Preet Kaur-led India squad was announced in Mumbai for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia, starting on 21st February.

- Bengal's woman Richa Ghosh was the only new face in a 15-member team.
- 15-year-old Haryana school girl Shafali Verma will also be playing her first global meet following some good performances at the international level in her first season.
- The selectors also announced a 16-member squad for a tri-series in Australia prior to the T20 World Cup, with Nuzhat Parveen being added as the 16th member.
- That tournament starts on January 31 and also features England.

Japan's Kento Momota wins Malaysia Masters
World number one Kento Momota won the Malaysia Masters after easily defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen 24-22, 21-11.

- The victory in Malaysia lends credence to Momota's drive to win the gold in July's Tokyo Olympics.
- The reigning world champion told reporters that he eyes more success in 2020.
- Momota, currently the best player on the planet, won a record 11 titles last year.

Rani Rampal to lead Indian Women's Hockey squad for New Zealand tour

Striker Rani Rampal will lead the 20-member Indian Women's Hockey team for the upcoming New Zealand tour.

- Hockey India also said that Savita will be the vice-captain of the team for the forthcoming tournament, which will begin from 25 January 2020 in Auckland, New Zealand.
- India will take on New Zealand on January 27 and 29 followed by a match against Great Britain on February 4.

MS Dhoni dropped from BCCI's central contracts list

Mahendra Singh Dhoni was dropped from the Board of Control for Cricket in India's list of centrally-contracted players.

- The BCCI announced the central contracts for the period of October 2019 to September 2020.
- The 38-year-old player was in the 'A' category, which fetches a player five crore rupees as annual retainership, until last year.
- Skipper Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and top pacer Jasprit Bumrah were retained in the highest A bracket of seven crore rupees.
- Veteran Cricketer Mithali Raj was demoted to Grade 'B' from 'A' while Radha Yadav and Taniya Bhatia were elevated to the middle bracket.
- T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur retained her 'A' category contract alongside Smriti Mandhana and Poonam Yadav.

ICC U-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa

The ICC Under-19 World Cup Cricket begins in South Africa.

- Indian team, under the captaincy of Priyam Garg, will look to defend the title when it begins its campaign against Sri Lanka at the Oval, Bloemfontein.
- India are placed in Group 'A' and will face New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Japan, who will be making their first-ever appearance in any World Cup.
- India is the most successful team in the tournament, having won four titles till date, including the last edition in 2018.

Vinesh Phogat wins gold medal in Rome Ranking Series

A dominant Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal of the 2020 season at the Rome Ranking Series event after teen sensation Anshu Malik settled for a silver in 57kg competition, in Rome.
• Vinesh downed two tough Chinese rivals on her way to the 53kg gold medal bout in which she overpowered Ecuador's Luisa Elizabeth Valverde 4-0.
• She won by technical superiority against Khrystyna Bereza (10-0) and Lannuan Luo (15-5) before getting the better of Qianyu Pang (4-2).

Tow-day SQAY competition kicks off in Madhya Pradesh

The two-day SQAY competition is being organized at Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

• The under-21 category tournament is organized under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' campaign.
• SQAY is a martial art form of Central Asia, in which the players show the skills of fencing.
• Experts say that the martial art form originated in Kashmir.
• In this competition, teams from eight states across the country including Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Bihar and Tripura will participate.

Ratchanok Intanon lifts Indonesia Masters 2020 title

Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon lifted the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title after defeating Carolina Marin in the summit clash.

• Intanon defeated Marin 21-19, 11-21, 21-18 in one hour and twenty minutes long match.

• The clash went into three-games and both the shuttlers tried their 100 per cent to turn things in their favour.
• Despite losing the first game, the Spanish shuttler made a comeback in the second game and claimed the game by 21-11.
• Intanon won the match by claiming the third game by 21-18.

India bags 7 medals in Rome Ranking Series

In wrestling, India has returned with seven medals from the Rome Ranking Series.

• Bajrang Punia and Ravi Kumar Dahiya claimed gold medals in the tournament.
• The 25-year-old Bajrang staged a comeback to secure a 4-3 win against USA's Jordan Michael Oliver in the summit showdown of the 65kg freestyle category.
• The 23-year-old Ravi bagged the gold after defeating Kazakhstan's Nurbolat Abdualiyev 12-2 in his final 61 kg category bout.
• Earlier, Vinesh Phogat won a gold and Anshu Malik a silver in the women's competition.
• In Greco-roman, Gurpreet Singh won gold in 82 kg category.
• Sunil Kumar settled for a silver in the 97kg category while Sajan Bhanwal got a bronze in the 77 kg category.

Sania Mirza wins women's doubles title of WTA International trophy at Hobart

Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon lifted the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title after defeating Carolina Marin in the summit clash.
In Tennis, Sania Mirza and her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart in Australia.

- In the final, they beat Shaui Peng and Shuai Zhang of China 6-4, 6-4.
- It is Sania's 42nd WTA doubles title and first since Brisbane International trophy in 2007 with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Qatar and FIFA publish planning strategy ahead of the 2022 football World Cup

Qatar and FIFA published the first jointly issued legacy planning strategy ahead of the football World Cup in 2022.

- FIFA and the Qatari Supreme Committee organisers said in a statement in Doha that it contains pledges on labour and LGBT rights alongside protections for activists and journalists.
- A total of 22 objectives have been described in detail, together with more than 70 concrete initiatives and programmes to deliver the strategy.
- The 112-page "Sustainability Strategy" also sets out commitments on making the tournament inclusive for groups including the disabled.
- The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup.
- It is scheduled to take place in Qatar in 2022.
- This will be the first World Cup ever to be held in the Arab world and the first in a Muslim-majority country.

Celebrated wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt and Paralympian Deepa Malik inducted in AICS

Celebrated wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt and Paralympian Deepa Malik are among the new inductees in the government's All India Council of Sports (AICS).

- It is an advisory body to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which was formed in 2015 by the then Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Its term has also been extended by three years and it will continue to be led by veteran sports administrator V K Malhotra as President.
- Some other renowned new entrants in the Council are former shooter Anjali Bhagwat, footballer Renedy Singh, and mountaineer Bachendri Pal.

Indian shooters Divyansh Singh Pawar, Apurvi Chandela Clinch Gold in Meyton Cup
Indian shooters Divyansh Singh Pawar and Apurvi Chandela have clinched a gold medal each in Meyton Cup in Innsbruck, Austria.

- The Meyton Cup is a private tournament where shooters go on their own to participate to gain experience before international events.
- While Divyansh won the gold in the men's 10m air rifle event with an effort of 249.7, Auprvi bagged the yellow metal in the 10m air rifle women's category with a 251.4.
- Deepak Kumar and Anjum Moudgil also bagged bronze medals each in men's and women's 10m air rifle events respectively.

Maharashtra retains Khelo India Youth Games champions trophy

Maharashtra retained first place in the Khelo India Youth Games champions trophy with a rich collection of 256 medals, including 78 gold.

- Haryana came second with 200 medals (68 gold, 60 silver, 72 bronze), followed by Delhi at third with 122 medals (39 gold, 36 silver, 47 bronze).
- After 13 days of intense competition, Maharashtra won its second Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) trophy in a row.

World Archery lifts suspension on India enabling Indian archers to represent country

The World Archery conditionally lifted the suspension on India, less than a week after the embattled national federation held its elections.

- A statement from the World Archery said the federation needs to comply with good governance and activity portions of the World Archery constitution and rules.
- The Indian archers, who had to compete as neutral athletes at the Asian Championships because of the suspension, can now represent the country under the Tricolour.
- Union Minister Arjun Munda was elected President of the Archery Association of India (AAI) after the much-delayed elections were held in presence of three observers, including one from the World Archery.

Rowing Federation of India lifts Dattu Bhokanal's ban after IOA's intervention

Indian Rower Dattu Bhokanal's two-year suspension on charges of tanking a race during the 2018 Asian Games was lifted after the intervention of the Indian Olympic Association.

- Bhokanal was one of the Indian quartets that won gold in the men's quadruple sculls event
in the Asian Games but later left the single sculls race midway.

- He was banned by the Rowing Federation of India in March last year.
- In his explanation, Bhokanal had said that he fell off the boat as it overturned and he was also not well on that day.

North East Dr T Ao Trophy: Mizoram defeats Sikkim

Two times champion Mizoram defeated Sikkim by a solitary goal to emerge as the champion of the Northeast Dr. T Ao Football Trophy 2020 at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima.

- The first half saw a goalless draw. Mizoram midfielder David Lalrinmuana scored the lone goal in the 74th minute to secure the title for the team.
- While the champion team received a cash prize of 10 lakh rupees, the runners up got six 6 lakhs.
- Rhitsho Mero received the golden boot for his 10 goals.
- Nagaland defeated Arunachal Pradesh by 4-2 to claim the third position.

India's Esow Alben bags gold in men's Keirin individual event of Six Day Berlin Tournament

In Cycling, India's Esow Alben has bagged a gold in the men's Keirin individual event of the Six Day Berlin Tournament.

- Czech Republic's Tomas Babek, who won a silver in the 2017 World Championship,
- came in second while Maximilian Lev of Germany took home the bronze.
- Keirin event is a six-day track cycling race. Each cyclist competes on every day of the competition.

Tripura CM kicks off 65th National School Games U-17 boys football

In Tripura, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated the 65th National School Games Under-17 boys at Umakanta Academy Mini Stadium in Agartala.

- 38 football teams coming from different parts of the country are taking part in the games.
- Matches will be played at 17 grounds in 4 districts.

Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Tokyo Olympics

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of
87.86 metres at the Athletics Central North East meeting in South Africa.

- The 22-year-old Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medallist breached the Olympic qualification mark of 85 metres in his fourth attempt at Potchefstroom.
- Neeraj had missed the IAAF World Championships, the Diamond League and the Asian Championships due to an elbow injury.
- His last major international competition was the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games where he won gold with a national record of 88.06 metres.

National Shooting trials: Ayonika Paul and Vijayveer Sidhu emerge winners

Olympian Ayonika Paul has won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event while Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's 25m Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting trials at Thiruvananthapuram.

- Ayonika overcame a quality eight-woman field which had the likes of Tokyo 2020 quota holders Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil among competitors.
- Ayonika registered a score of 252.0 enroute to victory.
- Apurvi came third with a score of 229.8 but it was Himachal's Zeena Khitta, who had the best day in women's Air Rifle event, coming in second place with a score of 251.1.
- Chandigarh's Vijayveer won the junior men's 25m Pistol with an aggregate score of 585.

Senior NCP Leader DP Tripathi Passes Away After Prolonged Illness at 67

- He was the former MP of Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra.
- He was one of the founders of NCP along with Sharad Pawar and P.A. Sangma.
- He played an important role in the establishment of democracy in Nepal.

Noted Assamese Theatre Personality Ratna Ojha, Dies at 88

Renowned Assamese dramatist, writer and social activist Ratna Ojha passed away in Guwahati, Assam
at 88. He took part in an ongoing protest against the amended Citizenship Act.

- In 1971, he introduced street plays in Assam.
- He also received prestigious Natyasurya Award in 2005 for his contribution in the field of theatre.

Former Karnataka Governor T N Chaturvedi passes away

Former Governor of Karnataka T N Chaturvedi passed away.

- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1991.
- He was the Governor of Karnataka from the year 2002 to 2007.

World's shortest man Khagendra Thapa Magar dies

The world's shortest man who could walk, as verified by Guinness World Records, died in Nepal.

- Khagendra Thapa Magar, who measured 67.08cm (two feet and 2.41 inches), died of pneumonia.
- Magar was first declared the world's shortest man in 2010 after his 18th birthday.
- Magar became an official face of Nepal's tourism campaign, which featured him as the smallest man in a country that is home to the world's highest peak, Mount Everest.

Former cricketer Bapu Nadkarni Passes Away

Former India all-rounder cricketer Bapu Nadkarni, who built an extraordinary career with his parsimonious left-arm spin, has died at the age of 86.

- Nadkarni enjoyed a 13-year international career, during which he played 41 Tests and snared 88 wickets.
- The legendary cricketer will be best remembered for bowling 21 consecutive maiden overs against England in a Test match in Chennai.
- He also served as a member of the National Selection Committee and also as the Joint Honorary Secretary of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

Veteran Odia Hindustani vocalist Sunanda Patnaik passes away at 85
Eminent Indian classical singer and daughter of noted Odia poet Baikunthanath Patnaik, Sunanda Patnaik passed away.

- Singer of Gwalior gharana of classical music, Sunanda was referred to as ‘Guruma’ in the classical music circle.
- Her popular devotional Odia song ‘Jeevana Patra Mo Bhariccha Kete Mote’ that was penned by her father, still holds a special place in the hearts of Odias.
- For her contribution to Hindustani classical music, Sunanda was honoured with the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1970 and 1971 and the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2012.

Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala passes away

Veteran Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala has passed away following prolonged illness.

- Surjewala, father of party leader Randeep Surjewala, breathed his last at the AIIMS hospital in Delhi.
- Shamsher Surjewala remained a five-time MLA and one-time Rajya Sabha MP.
- He was also the former president of the Haryana Congress and a former minister.
- He was the president of the Haryana Krishak Samaj and fought for farmers rights.

NBA legend Kobe Bryant killed in helicopter crash

Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA’s all-time greatest players whose international stardom transcended basketball, was killed at age 41 in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles.

- Bryant rocketed to fame as an 18-year-old rookie and played 20 years for the Los Angeles Lakers, winning five NBA championships.
- The cause of the crash was unknown, and an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board could take months.

M Kamalam, veteran Congress leader and former Kerala minister passes away

Former Kerala state Minister and veteran Congress leader M Kamalam passed away at her residence in Kozhikode.

- Kamalam was active in politics for seven decades.
She was Co-operation Minister between 1982-1985 during Chief Minister K Karunakaran’s tenure.

She represented the Kalpetta Assembly constituency twice, having won in 1980 and in 1982.

During her long political career, she served as Vice President and general secretary of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

She had also served as Chairperson of the Kerala Women’s Commission.

**Quiz January 2020 (English)**

**Q.** Railways has renamed RPF as ________.

- Railway Protection Police Service
- Railway Protection Police
- Indian Railway Protection Force Service
- Railway Protection Police Force
- None of these

**Q.** Who among the following has been appointed as the Protem Speaker for fifth Jharkhand Assembly?

- Stephen Marandi
- Nalin Soren
- Dinesh William Marandi
- Sita Murmu
- Pradeep Yadav

**Q.** Recently, General Manoj Mukund Naravane took charge as the ________ Chief of Army Staff.

- 22th
- 24th
- 25th
- 27th
- 28th

**Q.** Which of the following Delhi Metro station has been renamed as Supreme Court station?

- Pragati Maidan
- Janpath
- Khan Market
- Mandi House
- None of these

**Q.** Recently, Entire ______ has been declared ‘disturbed area’ for six more months under AFSPA.

- Tripura
- Nagaland
- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Manipur

**Q.** Which of the following Indian state is the host for the largest open-air theatre of the world ‘Dhanu Jatra’?

- Madhya Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Assam
- Odisha

**Q.** Which of the following game/games will in included in the upcoming Khelo India games for the first time?

- Andhra Pradesh
- Odisha
Lawn Bowl
Cycling
Bowling

1 and 2

1, 2 and 3

**Q.** Indian Olympic Association (IOA) withdraws boycott call for 2022 Commonwealth Games. 2022 Commonwealth Games will take place in ________.

Victoria

Birmingham

Kuala Lumpur

Kingston

Perth

**Q.** Recently, Vikas Krishan makes it to India squad for Olympic Qualifiers. He is associated with which of the following sports?

Cycling

Boxing

Shooting

Archery

Fencing

**Q.** The International Cricket Council has decided to scrap five-day Tests from ________.

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

**Q.** Which of the following country had recently banned ‘reef-toxic’ sunscreen?

Guam

Palau

Samoa

Madagascar

Fiji

**Q.** Which of the following statements is true with reference to Chandrayaan-3’s configuration?

- It will only have a lander
- It will only have a rover
- It will only have an orbiter
- It will have a lander and a rover
- None of these

**Q.** Who among the following interacts with students and teachers from India and abroad in ‘Pariksha pe Charcha’ programme?

University Grants Commission Chairman

Central Board of Secondary Education Chairperson

President of India

Prime Minister of India

HRD Minister of India

**Q.** Guru Gobind Singh was born in the year ________.
Q. Which of the following institute will host the 107th Indian Science Congress?

University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru

G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar

Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur

Q. According to the 2015 Lion Census, The number of lions in the state of Gujarat were ______.

883

523

384

933

626

Q. The Reserve Bank of India, RBI has launched a mobile app named as ______ to help visually challenged people to identify denomination of currency notes.

PAISA

MANI

RUPYA

NOTE

RASHI

Q. Who among the following has assumed the charge as the Chairman of Railway Board?

Vinod Kumar Yadav

Ram Manohar Singh

Akash Deep

Manoj Desai

Rahul Nandan

Q. Recently, Umaro Sissoco Embalo won the presidential election of which of the following country?

Gabon

Gambia

Chad

Guinea-Bissau

Ghana

Q. Who among the following has been named as the captain of ESPNCricinfo's ODI and T20 teams of the past decade?

Virat Kohli

Steve Smith

Mahendra Singh Dhoni
Rohit Sharma

AB de Villiers

Q. The ambitious ‘Visit Nepal Year 2020’ campaign is aimed to promote tourism in Nepal and attract ______ tourists during the year 2020.

1 million

2 million

5 million

10 million

15 million

Q. PM Modi disburses ______ as third instalment of PM-KISAN scheme.

5,000 crore rupees

8,000 crore rupees

12,000 crore rupees

16,000 crore rupees

20,000 crore rupees

Q. What is the integrated helpline number launched by Indian Railways for passengers?

139

120

117

141

199

Q. Chief of the Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat proposes creation of Air Defence Command by _______.

30 June

1 April

15 August

26 January

1 May

Q. Jair Bolsonaro will be chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2020. He is the President of which of the following country?

Indonesia

Belgium

Brazil

South Africa

Peru

Q. Which of the following state zoo has become the first to breed endangered Greater Adjutant or Hargila?

Bihar

Jharkhand

West Bengal

Assam

Karnataka
Q. Disha Act 2019 is associated with which of the following Indian state?

- Assam
- Andhra Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Tamil Nadu
- Gujarat

**Andhra Pradesh**

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast in Ireland?

- Tulsi Gabbard
- James Comey
- Hillary Clinton
- Joe Biden
- Elizabeth Warren

**Hillary Clinton**

Q. Recently, Union Ministry of Science and Technology have awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to ______ scientists.

- 7
- 9
- 14
- 18
- 22

**14**

Q. 5th Edition of IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship-2020 begins which city?

- Shimla
- Kashmir
- Srinagar
- Leh
- None of these

Q. ‘Lai Haraoba’ is a famous festival of which state?

- Manipur
- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- None of these

Q. Name the initiative which is recently launched by Maharashtra government to create awareness about cyber crime among women.

- Cyber Safe Women
- Cyber Safety Women
- Cyber Security Women

Era of 90s

**Gandhi as writer**

Technological advancement of India

17 Sustainable Development Goals

None of these

Q. What will be the focus subject of 28th World Book Fair in New Delhi?

- Era of 90s
- Gandhi as writer
- Technological advancement of India
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- None of these

Q. 5th Edition of IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship-2020 begins which city?

- Shimla
- Kashmir
- Srinagar
- Leh
- None of these

Q. ‘Lai Haraoba’ is a famous festival of which state?

- Manipur
- Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Tripura
- None of these

Q. Name the initiative which is recently launched by Maharashtra government to create awareness about cyber crime among women.

- Cyber Safe Women
- Cyber Safety Women
- Cyber Security Women
To mark the 200th birth anniversary of ______, WHO designated the year 2020 as the “Year of Nurse and Midwife”.

Mary Seacole
Edith Cavell
Lenah Higbee
Florence Nightingale
Gabrielle Petit

Q. DP Tripathi has been passed away. He was a______.
   Journalist
   Politician
   Entrepreneur
   Writer
   Mathematician

Q. Ratna Ojha has recently died at 88. He was a noted_______theatre artist.
   Assamese
   Kannada
   Tamil
   Gujarati
   Odia

Q. 4th January observed as__________.
   International Customs Day
   World Braille Day
   National Voters Day
   National Youth Day
   None of these

Q. Malavath Poorna has recently scaled highest mountain peak of Antarctica, Mt. Vinson Massif. She belongs to which state?
   Andhra Pradesh
   Tamil Nadu
   Madhya Pradesh
   Odisha
   Telangana

Q. Which State Road Transport Corporation has recently launched women’s special helpline Damini?
   Madhya Pradesh
   Andhra Pradesh
   Uttar Pradesh
   Arunachal Pradesh
   Maharashtra

Q. Abhinav Kumar has recently got extension as IG of which Paramilitary force?
   CRPF
   BSF
   ITBP
Q. World Braille Day is observed every year on _______.
02 January
03 January
04 January
05 January
06 January

Q. Which of the following word has been named as the voted Word of the Decade?
Toxic
Climate emergency
They
Youthquake
Justice

Q. India ranks at _____ spot in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report (TTCR)?
34th
58th
44th
29th
64th

Q. The famous Ganga Sagar Mela takes place in _______.
Uttarakhand

Uttar Pradesh
Bihar
Jharkhand

West Bengal

Q. Which of the following city police has started the third edition of 'Sukanya' project to provide self-defence training to girls studying in schools and colleges.
Indore
Gwalior
Mumbai
Kolkata
Agra

Q. Recently, Qasem Soleimani was killed in a targeted U.S. drone strike. He was the commander of _______ forces.
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Kuwait
Afghanistan

Q. Adani Ports will acquire a 75% stake in Krishnapatnam Port. Krishnapatnam Port is located in _______.
Karnataka
Maharashtra
Gujarat
Andhra Pradesh
**Tamil Nadu**

**Q.** Which of the following city is hosting the 4th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship 2019?

- New Delhi
- Bhubaneswar
- Ranchi
- Gandhi Nagar
- Pune

**Karnataka**

- Andhra Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Kerala

**Q.** Recently Government SLNP has completed 5 years. SLNP stands for –

- Street Lighting National Programme
- Street Light National Programme
- Smart Lighting National Programme
- Street LED National Programme
- Smart Light National Programme

**Q.** For which motion picture Renee Zellweger won 77th Golden Globes Awards 2020 for best actress?

- Joker
- Judy
- The Firewall
- Parasite
- Marriage Story

**Q.** Which of the following city will host the third international symposium on marine ecosystems challenges and opportunities?

- Visakhapatnam
- Kozhikode
- Thrissur

**Q.** T N Chaturvedi has recently passed away. He was a former governor of which of the following state?

- Rajasthan
- Andhra Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Kerala

**New Delhi**

Bhubaneswar

Ranchi

Gandhi Nagar

Pune

**Q.** Irfan Pathan announces retirement from all forms of Cricket. Which of the following statements is not true about Irfan Pathan?

- Irfan debut at the age of 19 in 2003.
- He played 29 Tests, 120 ODIs and 24 T20Is.
- He was part of the victorious Indian team at the 2007 World Twenty20.
- He was the man-of-the-match in the final against Pakistan in 2007 World Twenty20.

All are correct

**Q.** Saurabh Chaudhary, Sarabjot Singh are related to which of the following sports?

- Hockey
- Badminton
- **Shooting**
- Wrestling
- Weightlifting

**Q.** T N Chaturvedi has recently passed away. He was a former governor of which of the following state?
**Kochi**

**Thiruvananthapuram**

**Q.** Which of the following is true about Mukhyamantri Karmachari Swasthya Bima Yojana?

Every government employee and their families eligible for medical treatment worth Rs 5 lakh annually

This scheme is started by the Madhya Pradesh Government

The eligibility will be enhanced to Rs 10 lakh in critical cases

Contingency fund will reap the benefits of this scheme

**All the above**

**Q.** Which of the following state will inaugurate first-of-its kind turtle rehabilitation centre?

Odisha

**Bihar**

Jharkhand

Andhra Pradesh

Tamil Nadu

**Q.** For which assault rifles India will sign an MoU with Russia?

Micro-Uzi

SAF Carbine 2A1

**AK-203**

**Kochi MP5**

SIG SG 550

**Q.** Women Science Congress begins in _______.

Kolkata

New Delhi

**Bengaluru**

Kochi

Bhopal

**Q.** On 27th December 2019, India's Forex reserves touch all time high of ____________.

457.468 billion

557.468 billion

357.468 billion

657.468 billion

257.468 billion

**Q.** Cabinet of Iran announced to take the final step to reduce commitments to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, popularly referred to as the ________ nuclear deal.

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016
Q. Recently, Which of the following country has approved issuance of 5-Year multi-entry tourist visa for all nationalities visiting the country?

UAE
Saudi Arabia
Japan
Canada
Indonesia

Q. The 2nd round of Intensified Mission Indradhanush-2 has been started. Mission Indradhanush is related to _______.

Education of children below 14 years of age

Immunization of children under 2 years of age and pregnant women

Provide scholarships to meritorious child

Improve sports infrastructure in the country

None of these

Q. Who among the following has inaugurated the 3-day National Traders Convention in Delhi?

Rajnath Singh
Amit Shah
Nitin Gadkari
Nirmala Sitharaman

None of these

Q. Recently, The Central government has approved _______ to seven states for calamity damage relief.

Rs 2,387 crore
Rs 3,732 crore
Rs 4,748 crore

Rs 5,908 crore
Rs 6,484 crore

Q. Which of the following state will become the first state in the country to kickstart implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act?

Assam
Uttar Pradesh
Kerala
Haryana
Bihar

Q. Which of the following city is also known as the Sports Capital of India?

Ranchi
Bhubaneswar
Hyderabad
Chandigarh
Pune

Q. Recently, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated National Stock Exchange knowledge hub in _______.

Hyderabad
Q. Axis Bank and ICICI Bank will close their operations in which of the following country?

Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Pakistan

Bhutan

Indonesia

Q. PR Seshadri has resigned as the Managing Director & CEO of which of the following bank?

Karur Vysya Bank

Bandhan Bank

Indian Bank

Dena Bank

None of these

Q. P Magesh Chandran is associated with which of the following sports?

Football

Badminton

Chess

Long Jump

Shooting

Q. Which of the following countries has recently designated US armed forces and Pentagon as ‘terrorist entities’?

Iran

Iraq

Lebanon

Syria

Jordan

Q. President Kovind has laid the foundation stone to Lakshadweep’s first Super Specialty Hospital at _______.

Kavaratti

Agatti

Minicoy

Kadmat

None of these

Q. For 2019-20, National Statistical Office (NSO) has forecasted India's GDP forecast at _______.

4.8%

4.9%

5%

5.2%

5.4%
Q. Recently, Which of the following Indian state has recently decided to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center?

Madhya Pradesh
Uttar Pradesh
Jharkhand
\textbf{Gujarat}
Maharashtra

Q. 31st International Kite Festival launched in 

\textbf{Ahmedabad}
Bhopal
Agra
Chandigarh
Lucknow

Q. What is the total number of seats in Delhi Legislative Assembly?

65
66
70
71
73

Q. Which of the following Indian state/UT has registered the highest Inpatient Department, IPD care in the country?

Chandigarh
\textbf{Jammu and Kashmir}
Punjab
Gujarat
Tamil Nadu

Q. Who among the following has been elected as the speaker of Jharkhand Assembly?

\textbf{Ravindra Nath Mahto}
Kedar Hazra
Kishun Kumar Das
Amba Prasad
Raj Sinha

Q. Information and Broadcasting Minister has conferred the first Antarrrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman to a total of ______ media houses.

25
30
22
42
12

Q. Which of the following company has became the first carmaker to join Uber's air taxi project?

\textbf{Hyundai}
Ford
Toyota
None of these

Q. Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January ______.

1911
1913
1915
1917
1918

Q. Which of the following countries has been the top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism in the year 2019?

India
China
France
Australia
Indonesia

Q. Recently, Which of the following countries has inaugurated an Art Exhibition to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi?

Nepal
Bhutan
Oman
Bangladesh
France

Q. Recently, The Cabinet gave its approval for an Agreement between India and ______ on Cooperation in the exploration and uses of Outer Space for Peaceful and Civilian Purposes.

Oman
Germany
Spain
Mongolia
Brazil

Q. Which of the following countries has been the top sourcing market for Sri Lankan tourism in the year 2019?

India
China
France
Australia
Indonesia

Q. Recently, Which of the following countries has inaugurated an Art Exhibition to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi?

Nepal
Bhutan
Oman
Bangladesh
France

Q. Recently, The Cabinet gave its approval for an Agreement between India and ______ on Cooperation in the exploration and uses of Outer Space for Peaceful and Civilian Purposes.

Oman
Germany
Spain
Mongolia
Brazil

Q. Which of the following cities is hosting ‘Advantage Maharashtra expo 2020’?

Kolhapur
Nashik
Aurangabad
Pune
Jalgaon

Q. Recently, The Government has approved to confer the status of Institution of National Importance to ______.

Sanskrit Institute at Shree Somnath Sanskrit University
Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar
Ayurvedic institutions at Gujarat Ayurved University

None of these
Q. Recently, The government has approved the Viability Gap Funding, VGF of _____ rupee to build Natural Gas Pipeline Grid covering 8 North Eastern states.

Rs 1000 crore
Rs 2000 crore
Rs 5000 crore
Rs 8000 crore
Rs 11,000 crore

Q. Recently, CCEA has approved strategic disinvestment of 49.78 per cent equity shareholding of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited in which of the following company?

Mahanadi Coalfields
Odisha Hydro Power Corporation
Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited
Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited
None of these

Q. Which of the following banks has announced a 'Residential Builder finance with Buyer Guarantee' (RBBG) scheme?

Axis Bank
State Bank of India
Punjab National Bank
ICICI Bank
Bank of Baroda

Q. Which of the following teams has won 5th ‘IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship 2020’ organised in Leh?

Himachal Pradesh
Haryana
Leh-Ladakh
Uttarakhand
Maharashtra

Q. Chadar trek is associated with which of the following river?

Gomal River
Hunza River
Zanskar River
Shyok River
Gilgit River

Q. According to Eurasia's annual 'Top 10 Risks', India has been declared as the _____ biggest Geopolitical Risk of 2020?

2nd
4th
5th
7th
9th

Q. Which of the following cities will host the International Naval event 'MILAN' in March 2020?
Q. Census India-2021 will start from _______.

1 August
1 April
1 March
1 July
1 June

Q. Which of the following is/are the theme of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020'?

Gratitude is Great
Your future depends on your aspirations
Examining Exams
Our duties, you take
All of these

Q. Alert issued against H1N1 in Kozhikode. H1N1 virus is associated with _______.

Swine Flu
Bird Flu
Ebola virus
Diphtheria

Q. Union Budget will be presented on Feb 1. Who among the following presented the first Union budget of independent India?

Morarji Desai
Indira Gandhi
R. K. Shanmukham Chetty
N. D Tiwari
None of these

Q. RBI amends KYC norms, allows banks to use V-CIP. V in V-CIP stands for _______.

Voice
Virtual
Video
Visual
None of these

Q. Recently, Who among the following has won the UK children's book award?

Aravind Adiga
Kiran Desai
Jasbinder Bilan
Beverly Cleary
Neil Gaiman
None of these
Q. Which of the following game/games has been introduced as the new additional games in 3rd Khelo India games?

- Cycling
- Lawn Bowls
- Speed Skating

1 and 2

1,2 and 3

Q. Which of the following countries has unveiled a revolutionary laser-based air defense system?

- USA
- Russia
- Israel
- Japan
- Iran

Q. What is the name of India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier that will be commissioned by 2021?

- Virat
- Vikrant
- Lakshay
- Khandari
- Tejas

Q. The Supreme Court has declared access to the internet a fundamental right under article ______ of the Indian constitution?

- Article 17
- Article 19
- Article 14
- Article 21
- Article 11

Q. The famous chariot festival of Suchindram Thanumalayan Temple started in ______.

- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Assam
- Telangana
- Odisha

Q. Madhavpur Mela takes place in ______.

- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh
- Gujarat
- Rajasthan

Q. The Andhra Pradesh Government has signed a MoU for ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming’ (ZBNF) with which of the following countries?

- France
- Italy
- Germany
Russia

Japan

Q. The fifth edition The Pulses Conclave will take place in _______.

Lonavala

Nainital

Shimla

Agra

Nagpur

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco)?

R Swami

M Nagaraj

Jyoti Bala

Ajay Tripathi

Rahul Joshi

Q. SBI Ecowrap report has reduced the GDP forecast in FY20 from 5% to _______.

4.4%

4.5%

4.6%

4.7%

4.8%

Q. Who among the following took over as the Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC)?

S D Goswami

A Sakthivel

Kumar Rana D

R Richardson

None of these

Q. Which of the following country’s armed forces accepts responsibility for accidental shoot-down of Ukrainian passenger plane?

Iran

Iraq

USA

Lebanon

None of these

Q. National Youth Day is observed every year on _______.

10 January

11 January

12 January

13 January

14 January

Q. The National Youth Festival 2020 begins in _______.

Pune

Agra
Lucknow
Gandhinagar
Gwalior

Q. Citizenship Amendment Act came into into effect from ______
09 January 2020

10 January 2020
11 January 2020
12 January 2020
13 January 2020

Q. According to the Citizenship Amendment Act, People of ______ minority communities who have come to India till December 31, 2014 will not be treated as illegal immigrants.
3
5
6
8
9

Q. Home Minister Amit Shah launched the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit named as _____ in Gandhinagar.
AAKASH
AJAY
AASHVAST
AADHAR
ADHIKAR

Q. Smriti Irani launches Yashaswini Scheme for Women entrepreneurship in Goa. Under this scheme women self-help groups will be given interest free loans of upto ______ for business.
Rs 1 lakh
Rs 2 lakh
Rs 3 lakh
Rs 5 lakh
Rs 10 lakh

Q. Which of the following states have topped the Energy Efficiency Index 2019 by securing a place in the ‘Achiever’ category?
Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala
Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Goa
Sikkim, Assam and Rajasthan
Punjab, Kerala and Jharkhand
None of these

Q. Haitham bin Tariq al-Said takes over as Sultan of which of the following countries?
UAE
Oman
Kuwait
Bahrain
Saudi Arabia

Q. RBI extends recurring payments feature to UPI. The limit on such recurring transactions has been set at______.
Rs 500
Rs 1000

**Rs 2000**
Rs 2500
Rs 5000

**Q.** Nearly 8,000 people evacuated as the Taal volcano erupts. Taal volcano is in ________.
Peru
Chile
Philippines
Japan
None of these

**Q.** Which of the following cities is the host for the ‘World Future Energy Summit 2020’?
Paris
Tokyo
Dubai
Abu Dhabi
Muscat

**Q.** Tsai Ing-wen won the presidential election of ________.
Thailand
Taiwan
Vietnam
Laos

**Q.** On 27 December Indian Air Force decommissioned the last fleet of ________, which played an important role during the 1999 Kargil war.
Mirage 2000s
Mig 29s
MiG-27
MiG 21
Jaguar

**Q.** The naval version of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, made its first successful landing on the aircraft carrier______.
INS Kolkata
INS Vikrant
INS Rajput
INS Vikramaditya
INS Arihant

**Q.** Mission Purvodaya is related to ________.
Ensuring electricity supply to eastern region
Developing Bamboo cultivation in eastern region
**Developing eastern region into a integrated steel hub**
Providing reach to educational institutions in eastern region

Cambodia
None of these

**Q.** The Kolkata Port has been renamed as __________.

- Madan Mohan Malaviya Port
- Lala Lajpat Rai Port
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port
- Rabindranath Tagore Port
- Atal Bihari Vajpayee Port

**Q.** According to the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF), Which of the following countries has finished the year as the top shooting nation in the world?

- Japan
- France
- India
- China
- USA

**Q.** For the year 2020, The World Bank predicts Sri Lanka’s economic growth at ________.

- 3.0%
- 3.3%
- 3.9%
- 4.1%
- 4.3%

**Q.** Recently, Who among the following has won the men’s title at Malaysia Masters?

- Chen Long
- Shi Yuqi
- Kento Momota
- Lin Dan
- Zheng Siwei

**Q.** Recently, Iran’s Kimia Alizadeh announced that she is leaving the country. She is a/an ________.

- Grammy Award winner
- Olympic medalist
- Journalist
- Army Officer
- None of these

**Q.** ‘Sahyog-Kaijin’ is a joint Exercise of the Indian Coast Guard with ________.

- Japan
- China

- Harman Preet Kaur
- Mithali Raj
- Smriti Mandhana
- Priya Punia
- Deepti Sharma
Indonesia
Vietnam
Oman

**Q.** The ______ edition of the prestigious Raisina Dialogue begins in New Delhi.

3rd

5th

8th

9th

11th

**Q.** Recently, Which of the following ministry has directed to register all drones by January 31?

Civil Aviation Ministry

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**Q.** Bhogi is being celebrated in south India to welcome the auspicious ______.

Bohag Bihu

Ugadi

**Pongal**

Onam

None of these

**Q.** The Uttar Pradesh government has implemented a police commissionerate system in ______ and _______.

Lucknow and Noida

Varanasi and Noida

Agra and Lucknow

Prayagraj and Ghaziabad

None of these

**Q.** In December 2019, The Retail inflation stood at about a 5 year high of ________.

7.15 %

8.10 %

7.35 %

6.28 %

6.65 %

**Q.** Recently, Who among the following has acquired DHFL General Insurance for ₹100 crore?

Max Life Insurance

Ritesh Agarwal

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance

Sachin Bansal

Gautam Adani

**Q.** Recently, Robert Abela has been sworn in as the new prime minister of ______.

Cyprus
Turkey

Lebanon

Tanzania

**Malta**

Q. Recently, The US Treasury department has dropped the designation of which of the following country as a currency manipulator?

North Korea

China

Japan

Russia

Iran

Q. Indian Army Day is observed every year on _______.

12 January

13 January

14 January

15 January

16 January

Q. India has signed a MoU for the co-production of biopic on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first President of _______.

Sri Lanka

Pakistan

**Bangladesh**

Indonesia

None of these

Q. ISRO's satellite GSAT-30 to launch on Jan 17. It is a/an _______.

Remote Sensing Satellite

Navigation Satellite

**Communication satellite**

CubeSats Satellite

None of these

Q. Who among the following has chaired the sixth meeting of the Island Development Agency (IDA)?

Amit Shah

Rajnath Singh

Narendra Modi

Nirmala Sitharaman

Nitin Gadkari

Q. Instead of bulls, Which of the following animals is used in Salem, Tamill Nadu in a different ‘jallikattu’ on the occasion of 'Kaanum Pongal'?

Elephant

Dog

Fox

Pig

Deer
Q. Inscriptions confirm the presence of two medieval monasteries at Moghalmari. Moghalmari is a Buddhist monastic site in _______.
Jharkhand
Gujarat
Bihar
West Bengal
Assam

Q. Who among the following has become the second Indian to be elected as a bureau member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)?
Bipul Behari Saha
Rajiv Deep Nair
Sumit Jaiswal
Anand D Ranga
None of these

Q. Who among the following will lead Indian Women’s Hockey squad for the New Zealand tour in February 2020?
Reena Khokhar
Monika Malik
Rani Rampal
Navjot Kaur
Navneet Kaur

Q. Which of the following neighbouring countries has decided to increase estate workers’ daily wage to Rs. 1,000?
Nepal
Bangladesh
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Bhutan

Q. Recently, Dmitry Medvedev has submitted his resignation. He was serving as the Prime Minister of _______.
Spain
Russia
France
Italy
Austria
Q. Who among the following can now cast their vote in the Delhi Assembly Election through postal ballot?

- People with disabilities (PwDs)
- People over 80 years of age
- Delhi Metro Employees
- Northern Railway Employees
- All of these

Q. Mega campaign 'Saksham' is related to _______.

- Awareness about Nutrition
- Fuel Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Child Education
- Curb crime against children

Q. Which of the following cities is organising the 7th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region?

- Agra
- New Delhi
- Lucknow
- Kolkata
- Pune

Q. Which of the following India states organising the fifth edition of Science Film Festival of India, SCIFFI 2020?

- Goa
- Assam
- Jharkhand
- Telangana
- Uttar Pradesh

Q. After the rejection of curative petition _______ is the last option left with the option of seeking mercy?

- Contempt Appeal
- Mercy from President
- Criminal Revision Petition
- Special Tribunal Appeal
- None of these

Q. Which of the following state police will become the first state police in the country to organise an international marathon?

- Maharashtra
- Uttar Pradesh
Q. Who among the following took over as the first police commissioner of Lucknow?
Ajay Tripathi
Sujit Pandey
Ranjeet Singh
Raman Gill
Narendra Singh Deshwal

Q. Which of the following statements is not true with reference to GSAT-30?
- It is a communication satellite.
- It was launched onboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana.
- It is aimed at providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services.
- GSAT-30 will serve as replacement to the aging INSAT-4A

**All are correct**

Q. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation the 51st K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer gun made by _______.

**L&T Armoured System Complex**
Ordnance Factory Board

Kalyani Group
Bharat Dynamics
None of these

Q. Which of the following countries will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting later this year?
Russia
China
India
Pakistan
Kyrgyzstan

Q. Which of the following institutes is organising the first edition of Krishi Manthan?
IIM Ahmedabad
IIM Bangalore
IIT Madras
IIM Lucknow
IIT Mumbai

Q. The Union Government signed an agreement to settle Bru refugees in _______.
Assam
Nagaland
Tripura
Meghalaya
Manipur
Q. Which of the following states has become the first state in the country to initiate the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) ‘red listing’ at the state level?
- Assam
- Karnataka
- Uttarakhand
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Odisha

**Arunachal Pradesh**

Q. Recently, the World Bank and Government of India signed a $88 million loan agreement for the Inland Water Transport Project in _______ river.
- Ganga
- Narmada
- Mahanadi
- Brahmaputra
- Yamuna

**Brahmaputra**

Q. In the current fiscal, The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2020 has lowered its GDP growth estimate for India to _______.
- 5.2%
- 5%
- 6%
- 5.7%
- 5.9%

Q. Who among the following has been appointed Queen's Counsel for courts of England & Wales?
- Mahesh Jethmalani
- Gopal Subramaniam
- Harish Salve
- Fali Sam Nariman
- None of these

Q. Recently, Who among the following was dropped from the Board of Control for Cricket in India's list of centrally-contracted players?
- Shikhar Dhawan
- MS Dhoni
- Virat Kohli
- Shikhar Dhawan
- Hardik Pandya

Q. Which of the following countries has helped to build Brazil’s new Antarctic base?
- Russia
- China
- France
- Japan
- USA

Q. The First Session of India-Norway Dialogue was held in _______.
- New Delhi
Recently, A new Tejas Express fully controlled by IRCTC has been inaugurated between _______ and _______.

Ahmedabad and New Delhi

Chennai and Mumbai

Ahmedabad and Mumbai

New Delhi and Jaipur

None of these

Which of the following institutes has joined hands with video-sharing application Tik Tok to produce short video modules on management courses?

IIM Indore

IIM Ahmedabad

IIM Lucknow

IIM Calcutta

IIM Bangalore

Which of the following Bank has been chosen to make payments for Russian arms?

State Bank of India

Indian Bank

Punjab National Bank

UCO Bank

None of these

Which of the following banks has partnered with 585 stations of Indian Railways’ South Central Railway (SCR) zone to offer doorstep banking?

ICICI Bank

State Bank of India

None of these

Exim Bank to raise up to $3 billion from overseas borrowings in FY21. Exim Bank is headquartered in _______.

Chennai

Mumbai

New Delhi

Pune

None of these

According to a recent data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Which of the following companies has become the No.1 telecom company by user base, revenue?

Vodafone Idea

Reliance Jio

Bharti Airtel

BSNL

None of these
Indian Bank
Punjab National Bank
Axis Bank

**Q.** Recently, Which of the following bank/banks have made an exit from Equifax Credit Information Services?

Bank of Baroda
Kotak Mahindra Bank
Axis Bank

1 and 2
1,2 and 3

**Q.** ICC U-19 World Cup Cricket begins in _______.

India
Australia
Japan
UAE

**South Africa**

**Q.** Which of the following countries will deliver S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems to India?

USA
Japan

**Russia**

Israel
France

**Q.** Who among the following will receive WEF crystal award at the 50th World Economic Forum?

Anil Kapoor
Priyanka Chopra

**Deepika Padukone**

Ranveer Singh
None of these

**Q.** Which of the following cities is hosting the 9th International Children’s Film Festival?

Chennai
Kolkata
New Delhi
Gwalior
Gandhi Nagar

**Q.** Who among the following inaugurated ELECRAMA 2020, a flagship showcase of the electrical industry in India?

Rajnath Singh
Smriti Irani
Prakash Javadekar
Amit Shah
None of these

**Q.** Who among the following has been appointed as the chairman of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).
Q. Who among the following has been elected as President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI)?

- Babulal Marandi
- Harsh Vardhan
- Arjun Munda
- Pralhad Joshi
- None of these

Q. In January 2020, Kiren Rijiju flag off ‘Fit India Cyclothon’ in _______.

- Panaji
- Gwalior
- Indore
- Mumbai
- None of these

Q. Who among the following has won a gold medal in the 2020 Rome Ranking Series?

- Vinesh Phogat
- Babita Kumari
- Pooja Dhanda
- Ritu Phogat
- None of these

Q. Recently, World's shortest man Khagendra Thapa Magar passed away. He was from _______.

- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- Japan
- None of these

Q. India Recently, Bapu Nadkarni passed away. He was associated with which of the following sports?

- Cricket
- Badminton
- Football
- Hockey
- Basketball

Q. China signed a concession agreement for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) deep seaport project. This SEZ is located in _______.

- Myanmar
- Indonesia
- UAE
- Madagascar
- Vietnam

Q. India ranks _______ on Social Mobility Index.
India has successfully test-fired a K-4 ballistic missile that can be launched from a submarine. K-4 ballistic missile has a range of _______

- 500 km
- 1,000 km
- 2,000 km
- 3,500 km
- 5,000 km

National immunization day was observed on _______.

- 17 January
- 18 January
- 19 January
- 20 January
- 21 January

PM Modi interacts with students in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program on 20 January. This was the _______ edition of this program.

- First
- Second

Which of the following State/UT’s Chief Ministers has recently launched a 'Guarantee card'?

- Delhi
- Uttar Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Jharkhand
- Haryana

SQAY is a martial art form of Central Asia, in which the players show the skills of fencing. Recently, a two-day SQAY competition has been inaugurated in the ______ district of Madhya Pradesh.

- Gwalior
- Bhopal
- Rewa
- Betul
- Ujjain

Who among the following has won the Indonesia Badminton Masters 2020 women's singles title after defeating Carolina Marin in the summit clash?

- Ratchanok Intanon
- Akane Yamaguchi
Tai Tzu-ying
Nozomi Okuhara
P. V. Sindhu

**Q.** Recently, Who among the following along with Nadiia Kichenok have won the women's doubles title of the WTA International trophy at Hobart in Australia?

- Ankita Raina
- Sania Mirza
- Ankita Bhambri
- Zeel Desai
- Sunitha Rao

**Q.** Recently, Sunanda Patnaik who was also known as ‘Guruma’ passed away. She was a famous __________.

- Dhrupad vocalist
- Sitar Player
- Odia Hindustani vocalist
- Kathak Dancer
- Tabla Player

**Q.** The _______ edition of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum begins in Davos, Switzerland.

- 45th
- 63rd
- 36th

**Q.** Who among the following has signed a formal deal to exit from the royal family?

- Prince Harry
- Meghan Markle
- Prince William
- Prince Philip
- Both 1 and 2

**Q.** In January 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and K P Sharma Oli inaugurated Integrated Check Post (ICP) at _______.

- Banbasa
- Biratnagar
- Nepalgunj
- Dharan
- None of these

**Q.** IAF inducts its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft equipped with BrahMos missiles at _______.

- Jodhpur base
- Awantipur base
- Thanjavur base
- Jorhat base
- Gorakhpur base

**Q.** Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the second edition of NIC Tech Conclave-2020 at _______.
Kolkata

**New Delhi**

Pune

Gandhinagar

Hyderabad

**Q.** National Girl Child Day is observed every year on ______.

- 25 January
- 21 January
- 23 January
- 24 January
- 22 January

**24 January**

**22 January**

**Q.** Which of the following state legislative assembly has passed a bill proposing three capitals, Legislative, Executive and Judicial for the state?

- Madhya Pradesh
- Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra
- Andhra Pradesh
- Haryana

**Andhra Pradesh**

**Q.** Recently, the Haryana Assembly ratified the 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill. The 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill is related to ______.

- Goods and Services Tax
- Reservation for Economically Weaker Section
- Bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs

**Q.** Who among the following has been elected as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party?

- Radha Mohan Singh
- Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Ram Vilas Paswan
- JP Nadda
- Giriraj Singh

**Q.** Which of the following films has won the Best Film Award in Asian Competition section at 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)?

- Castle of Dreams
- Main Idea
- When the Moon Was Full
- Just 6.5
- Life Hanging

**Q.** Which of the following country will train Indian flight surgeons for Gaganyaan mission?

- Germany
- France
- Russia
- Japan
- USA

**Q.** In January 2020, Defence Acquisition Council, DAC has approved procurement of equipment over ______ from indigenous sources to promote indigenization.
1,000 crore rupees
2,000 crore rupees
5,000 crore rupees
10,000 crore rupees
15,000 crore rupees

Q. Who among the following will be the chief guest at 71st Republic Day?

Martín Vizcarra
Tom Thabane
Ameenah Gurib
**Jair Messias Bolsonaro**
Muhammadu Buhari

Q. Meghalaya celebrated its statehood day on______.

19 January
20 January
21 January
22 January
23 January

Q. According to Airpocalypse-IV, released by Greenpeace India, Which of the following Indian cities has been termed as the most polluted city in the country in 2018?

Dhanbad
New Delhi
Moradabad
Jharia
Firozabad

Q. Which of the following companies has acquired UberEats business in India for $350 million in an all-stock deal.

Zomato
Walmart
Amazon India
PayTm
Swiggy

Q. Recently, Apollo Hospitals has launched a Health EMI Card in tie-up with which of the following company?

Max Bupa
Apollo Munich Health Insurance
Bajaj Finserv
ICICI Lombard
None of these

Q. In January 2020, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the certificate of authorisation of the following Payment System Operator (PSO)?

Muthoot Finserv
MoneyGram Payment Systems
Oxigen Services
Vodafone m-pesa
None of these

Q. Which of the following countries will become the first Arab world country to host the FIFA World Cup?

Oman
Q. Recently, Who among the following have clinched a gold medal each in Meyton Cup in Innsbruck, Austria?

- Divyansh Singh Pawar
- Apurvi Chandela
- Deepak Kumar

**1 and 2**

1, 2 and 3

Q. The Cabinet gave approval to the Election Commission of India to enter into MoU with the Election Commission of _______ and _______.

- Tunisia
- Papua New Guinea
- Cambodia

**1 and 2**

1,2 and 3

Q. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send a half humanoid named _______ to space.

- Shakti
- Vyomamitra
- Antrika
- Bhagirathi
- Bharti

Q. Recently, The Jaipur Literature Festival began on 23 Jan 2020. This is the _______ edition of this festival _______.

- 8th
- 10th
- **13th**
- 16th
- 18th

Q. Nation pays homage to Subhas Chandra Bose on his 123rd birth anniversary. He was born in _______.

- Kolkata, West Bengal
- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Cuttack, Odisha**
- Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Q. India opens its first Mahatma Gandhi convention centre of Africa in _______.

- Burundi
- Rwanda
- Benin
- **Niger**
- Chad

Q. Recently, Which of the following state cabinet has approved a proposal to allow malls, multiplexes, shops and eateries to remain open round the clock?

- Telangana
- Maharashtra
Gujarat
Andhra Pradesh
None of these

Q. The Indian Institute of Management Indore will teach lessons on crowd management and effective communication to which of the following state police?

Maharashtra
Assam
Gujarat
Uttar Pradesh
Madhya Pradesh

Q. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has approved foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in Bharti Airtel from 49% to ______.

55%
67%
82%
90%
100%

Q. This President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Bravery Awards to _______ children.

14
42
16
22
38

Q. Which of the following states/UT has topped the Khelo India Youth Games medals table?

Haryana
New Delhi
Assam
Maharashtra
Madhya Pradesh

Q. Which of the following countries will attend the Munich Security Conference for the first time?

Japan
India
North Korea
Pakistan
Iran

Q. National Girl Child Day is observed every year on ________.

21 January
22 January
23 January
24 January
25 January

Q. Who among the following delivered the first Sukumar Sen Memorial Lecture?

Amit Shah
Narander Modi
Pranab Mukherjee
None of these

Q. Which of the following countries will be the theme country at the 44th International Kolkata Book Fair?

Japan
France
Russia
Italy
Canada

Q. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved shutting down the operations of Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited, HFL. HFL has only one plant located in ______.

Jharkhand
Assam
Uttar Pradesh
Telangana
Punjab

Q. The country’s first e-waste clinic has been opened in ______.

Bhopal
Chandigarh
Dibrugarh
Hyderabad
Ranchi

Q. Recently, Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been appointed as the Managing Director of which of the following bank?

Punjab National Bank
Indian Bank
State Bank of India
Syndicate Bank
Bank of Baroda

Q. Which of the following state’s Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre has won the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020?

Assam
Kerala
Uttarakhand
Uttar Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh

Q. World Archery lifts suspension on India after ______ was elected President of the Archery Association of India (AAI).

Madhu Koda
Ramesh Pokhriyal
Arjun Munda
Thawar Chand Gehlot
None of these

Q. After the intervention of the Indian Olympic Association, India lifted a ban on Dattu Bhokanal. He is associated with which of the following sports?
Golf
Rowing
Squash
Fencing
Archery

**Q.** Which of the following countries has announced the formation of a new govt headed by Hassan Diab?

Syria
Jordan
Libya
Lebanon

None of these

**Q.** Which of the following countries will host the first edition of the 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' from April 2 to 4?

India
China
Bangladesh
Nepal

**Q.** National Voters' Day is observed every year on ______.

22 January
23 January
24 January
25 January

26 January

**Q.** India has recently provided 30,000 doses of Measles vaccine to which of the following countries?

Sri Lanka
Maldives
Madagascar
Niger
Chad

**Q.** Which of the following countries is hosting the 10th Annual Meeting of Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)?

China
India

Bangladesh
Vietnam

Sri Lanka

**Q.** Which of the following will be thematically showcased among the host of tableaux in the Republic Day function?

Walled City of Jaipur
Gujarat's iconic stepwell in Patan
550th Anniversary of Sikhism Founder Guru Nanak Dev
1 and 2

1, 2, and 3

**Q.** This year, the Republic Day ceremony will start from which of the following places?

Rashtrpati Bhawan

War Memorial
Q. Which of the following banks has submitted a joint proposal for a merger with the Rupee Cooperative Bank?

- Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank
- Gujarat State Cooperative Bank
- Bihar State Cooperative Bank
- Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank
- None of these

Q. Katerina Sakellaropoulou has been elected as the first female President of _______.

- Turkey
- Poland
- Greece
- Croatia
- Slovenia

Q. The Reserve Bank of India has raised the investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in government bonds to _______.

- 12%
- 15%
- 18%
- 20%
- 30%

Q. Recently, Bharat Parv 2020, the programme to celebrate the spirit of India, begins in _______.

- New Delhi
- Chennai
- Jaipur
- Agra
- Lucknow

Q. Recently a 2-day ‘Innovation Festival’, a first of its kind in the state begins in _______.

- Agra
- Panjim
- Itanagar
- Patna
- Ranchi

Q. On January 25, 1971 Himachal Pradesh was carved out as the ______ state of the country.

- 15th
- 18th
- 19th
- 20th
- 23rd

Q. On 71st Republic Day parade a floral festival Bathukamma was presented. This festival is observed in the state of _______.

- Telangana
- Gujarat
Q. Double Decker Living Root Bridge, that was presented on 71st Republic Day parade, is a main tourist attraction of which of the following Indian states?

Assam

Meghalaya

Q. Tribal Affairs Ministry proposes 6th Schedule Area status to Ladakh. Currently the 6th schedule deals with the administration of how many Indian states?

3

4

5

6

7

Q. According to the State-wise horticulture production data, Which of the following Indian states has emerged as the top state in fruit production in 2018-19?

Andhra Pradesh

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

Himachal Pradesh

Bihar

Q. Who among the following has assumed the Chairmanship of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) for the year 2020?

Achal Kumar Jyoti

Om Prakash Rawat

Sunil Arora

Syed Nasim Ahmad Zaidi

None of these

Q. Government announced _______ Padma Bhusan Awards for this year on the occasion of 71st Republic Day?

22

27

16

13

15

Q. Which of the following country mints the smallest gold coin featuring the image of Einstein?

Russia
Canada
Austria
Switzerland
France

Q. Which of the following country has announced the Global Talent route program with a pledge of 300 million pounds ($392 million) to attract more of the world's best scientists?

UK
China
Russia
USA
France

Q. What is the name of the portal launched by Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to raise any project related issues to NHAI?

UNNATI
GATI
SADAK
PRAGATI
None of these

Q. The five-day Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission kicked off. The Ganga enters Uttar Pradesh from _______.

Meerut
Muzafarnagar
Bijnor

Moradabad
Agra

Q. Which of the following state governments has launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme that aimed at providing a meal to the poor for just 10 rupees?

Kerala
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
Odisha
Karnataka

Q. Recently, The Padi Yubbe outdoor stadium has been inaugurated in _______.

Punjab
Jharkhand
Assam

Arunachal Pradesh
Bihar

Q. India’s first war memorial for animals that have lost their lives in counter-insurgency operations will be inaugurated in _______.

Agra
Patna
Pathankot
Bhatinda

Meerut

Q. The government has announced to sell ________ stake sale in national carrier Air India.
Q. Recently, Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash. He was associated with which of the following sports?

Hockey
Football
Basketball
Golf
Tennis

Q. Country's first Super Fab Lab that has been inaugurated in Kerala, will work in collaboration with which of the following institutes?

Yale University
Stanford University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Harvard University
University of Oxford

Q. Recently, Agni Prasad Sapkota has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives of _______.

Bangladesh
Myanmar
Bhutan
Nepal

Sri Lanka

Q. Recently, Marjan Sarec has resigned from the post of Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

Austria
Egypt
Slovenia
Hungary
Poland

Q. The birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, who was also known as Punjab Kesari is observed every year on _______.

25 January
26 January
27 January
28 January
29 January

Q. The government signed an accord with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland. NDFB is an insurgent group from _______.

Assam
Nagaland
Tripura
Odisha
Jammu and Kashmir

Q. The Defence Expo 2020 will take place in _______.

Agra
**Q.** Which of the following PSU will deliver Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to Navy?

- Bharat Dynamics Limited
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- Cochin Shipyard
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- None of these

**Q.** Who among the following took over as Chief Executive of Indian Banks’ Association?

- Rahul Jha
- Ankit Raj
- Sunil Mehta
- Sanjeev Desh Pandey
- None of these

**Q.** Who among the following was recently nominated Life President of Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)?

- Rohit Chaudhary
- Anil Khanna
- Samvidhaan
- None of these

**Q.** Recently, N Kumar has been conferred ‘Harit Ratna Award 2019’ by the All India Agricultural Students Association. He is the Vice Chancellor of _______.

- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
- G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Uttarakhand
- Kerala Agricultural University
- Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Haryana

**Q.** Recently, Which of the following song has won as Record of the Year at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards?

- Truth Hurts
- While I'm Livin
- Bad Guy
- Come Home
- Homecoming

**Q.** Which of the following words has been declared as the Hindi word of the year of 2019 by Oxford dictionary?

- Sanshodhan
- Swadesh
- Naagrik
- None of these
Q. The recently inducted Indian Coast Guard Ship Annie Besant has reached its base harbour at _______.

Kochi
Chennai
Mumbai
Surat
None of these

Q. Recently, the Supreme Court has allowed to introduce which of the following animals to suitable habitat in India?

African Cheetah
Koala
Platypus
Emu
Giant panda

Q. Nandur Madhameshwar has been introduced as the first Ramsar site of _______.

Gujarat
Assam
Maharashtra
Jharkhand
Rajasthan

Q. Who among the following has launched Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal to enhance network application of gram panchayats?

Jitendra Singh
Rajnath Singh
Shripad Naik
Harsh Vardhan
Prakash Javadekar

Q. Recently, Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani has been named as the new Prime Minister of _______.

UAE
Kuwait
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Bahrain

Q. Which of the following state’s tableaux won the first prize at the 71st Republic Day parade?

Odisha
Rajasthan
Assam
Punjab
Himachal Pradesh

Q. Which of the following contingent has been adjudged the “Best Marching Contingent” amongst
Para-Military Forces and other Auxiliary Marching Contingents in 2020 Republic Day parade?

**Central Industrial Security Force**

Border Security Force

Central Reserve Police Force

Indo-Tibetan Border Police

None of these

**Q.** Recently, Mizoram defeated Sikkim to win the North East Dr T Ao Trophy. North East Dr T Ao Trophy is related to _______.

Cricket

Hockey

**Football**

Volleyball

None of these

**Q.** India's Esow Alben bags gold medal in men's Keirin individual event of Six Day Berlin Tournament. Esow Alben is related to which of the following sports?

Cycling

Badminton

Table Tennis

Chess

Golf

**Q.** India observed Martyr’s Day on 30 January to mark the death anniversary of _______.

Mahatma Gandhi

Lala Lajpat Rai

Bhagat Singh

Rani Lakshmibai

None of these

**Q.** Indian Navy has launched operation 'Vanilla' to provide disaster relief to _______.

Myanmar

Indonesia

Vietnam

**Madagascar**

Maldives

**Q.** Recently, The cabinet has approved allocation of ______ of the North-Eastern Council's allocation for new projects.

10 %

30 %

40 %

50 %

70 %

**Q.** Recently, the Cabinet has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill that raises the upper limit for termination of pregnancy to ________.

21 weeks

24 weeks

26 weeks
28 weeks
30 weeks

Q. World’s biggest meditation centre that can accommodate one lakh meditation practitioners at a time in, has been inaugurated in _______

Dehradun
Haridwar
Hyderabad

Q. In January 2020, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar laid the foundation stone of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods in _______

Kevadia
Patna
Gandhinagar

Q. Recently, Which of the following companies has announced $1 million grant to promote news literacy in India?

Apple
Google
Facebook
Yahoo
Microsoft

Q. Who among the following took charge as the new Foreign Secretary of India?

Harsh Vardhan Shringla
Nirupama Rao
Shivshankar Menon
Ranjan Mohan Singh
Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Q. The 65th edition of boys football U-17 National School Games was inaugurated in _______

Assam
Nagaland
Uttar Pradesh
Odisha
Tripura

Q. Recently, Neeraj Chopra qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. He is associated with which of the following sports?

Shot Put
Wrestling
Javelin throw
Boxing
Shooting
- Watch Videos
- Practise Quizzes
- Performance Analysis

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