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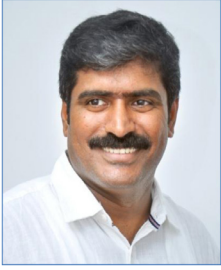
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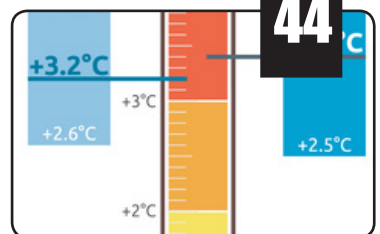


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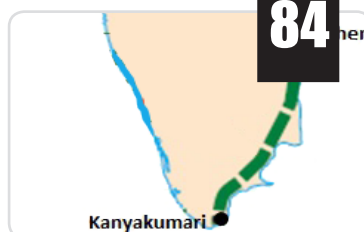
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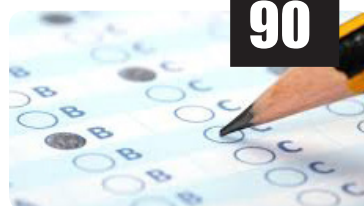
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# History



## 1.1 Important Days

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
24-11-2019	<b>NCC celebrates its 71<sup>st</sup> Raising Day</b>	The National Cadet Corps (NCC), the world's largest uniformed youth organization
25-11-2019	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</b>	The theme for this year is "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape".
26-11-2019	<b>National Milk Day</b>	It is celebrated across the country on the birthday of Dr. Verghese Kurien.
26-11-2019	<b>Constitution Day</b>	The day is celebrated to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949 by Indian Constituent Assembly.
01-12-2019	<b>World AIDS Day</b>	The theme for year 2019 is "Communities Make the Difference."
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov - 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2019	<b>Labour Ministry celebrating Pension Week</b>	The Pension week aims at enrolling 1 crore recipients under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) and 50 lakh recipients under National Pension Scheme for traders and self-employees (NPS-Traders) by March 2020.
01-12-2019	<b>BSF Celebrated its Raising Day</b>	The BSF was raised in 1965 with the specific purpose of manning Indian borders as the 'First Line of Defence' against infiltration, smuggling, and military assault.
01-12-2019	<b>Nagaland celebrated 57<sup>th</sup> statehood day</b>	On 1 December 1963, Dr. S Radhakrishnan inaugurated Nagaland as the 16th state of the country.
02-12-2019	<b>National Pollution Control Day</b>	To raise awareness about increasing air pollution and educating people about how to control and manage industrial disasters.
02-12-2019	<b>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</b>	

03-12-2019	<b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b>	Promoting participation of persons with disabilities and leadership.
04-12-2019	<b>National Navy Day</b>	
05-12-2019	<b>World Soil Day</b>	Theme : "Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future"
05-12-2019	<b>International Volunteer Day</b>	Theme is "Volunteer for an inclusive future".
07-12-2019	<b>International Civil Aviation Day</b>	
07-12-2019	<b>International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD)</b>	The theme of ICAD 2019-2023 is "75 years of connecting the world".
07-12-2019	<b>Armed Forces flag Day</b>	Armed Forces Flag Day is observed by the Ministry of Defence
07-12-2019	<b>GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas</b>	The aim of organizing this event was to get an on-the-spot response and suggestion to the new system for filing GST Returns to be introduced from next fiscal year.
09-12-2019	<b>International Anti-Corruption Day</b>	Theme : "United Against Corruption"
09-12-2019	<b>International Anti-Corruption Day</b>	International Anti-Corruption Day Theme of 2019 is "United Against Corruption".
09-12-2019	<b>International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime</b>	The day is observed to raise awareness of the Genocide Convention and its role in the prevention of the crime of genocide and to honor its victims.
10-12-2019	<b>Human Rights Day</b>	Theme : "Youth Standing Up for Human Rights"
11-12-2019	<b>International Mountain Day</b>	Theme : "Mountains matter for youth"
12-12-2019	<b>International Day of Neutrality</b>	
12-12-2019	<b>International Universal Health Coverage Day</b>	The theme for the 2019 UHC Day is "Keep the promise".
16-12-2019	<b>Vijay Diwas is celebrated</b>	India had defeated Pakistan in this war and Bangladesh celebrates its independence day on December 16 every year.
18-12-2019	<b>International Migrants Day</b>	Theme - We Live Together

18-12-2019	Minorities Right Day in India	Aims to enlighten people about the problems related to minorities and their safety. Minorities Right Day in India is observed by the National Commission of Minorities (NCM) in India
20-12-2019	International Human Solidarity Day	
23-12-2019	India Celebrates National Farmers Day	India celebrates National Farmers Day on 23rd December to commemorate the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. He was a farmer's leader and he had introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers. Choudhary Charan Singh Choudhary Charan Singh served as the Prime Minister of India between 28 July 1979 and 14 January 1980. He is often referred to as the champion of India's peasants.
24-12-2019	National Consumer Rights Day 2019	24 <sup>th</sup> December is observed as the National Consumer Rights Day every year. The Consumer Protection Act received the President's approval on December 24, 1986. Theme: Alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal

**Extra News**

**Odisha Govt. launches 'Jalsathi' programme**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Jal sathi' programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state. The Odisha CM also launched the 'Jal Sathi' App on the occasion. The Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the women federations in Bhubaneswar for the implementation of the programme. The Jal Sathi initiative aims to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to consumers through piped water connections.



**International Tea Day - May 21**

- In addition, the United Nations General Assembly has recognized the tea's medicinal properties as well as cultural importance.



## 1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

### Indian Navy test-fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- Indian Navy test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, from the Navy's stealth destroyer INS Kochi.
- Moreover, the second ship of Project 15-A 'Kolkata-class' guided missile destroyer test-fired advanced missile during a naval drill in west coast.

### Milan 2020: Indian Navy to host multi-nation military drill in March

- Indian Navy will be hosting military drill called 'Milan 2020' at Visakhapatnam in March 2020 which will witness the participation of several countries.
- MILAN stands for 'Multilateral Naval Exercise'.

### Mitra Shakti: India Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise

- The seventh Indo-Sri Lanka joint military exercise was held on December 1, 2019 at Aundh military station.
- The main objective of the exercise is to build and promote positive relations between the countries.
- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Pune between December 1 and December 14, 2019.

#### Significance

- The Mitra Shakti exercise was started in 2013 and is conducted annually as a part of military diplomacy and interaction between the armies of India and Sri Lanka.

### Anti-hijacking exercise conducted in Kochi port

- The Indian Navy, in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard, Cochin Port Trust and all other concerned stakeholders, conducted a large-scale anti-hijacking exercise off the Port of Kochi.
- The Exercise code-named "Apharan" saw the participation of multiple agencies, including more than 12 ships and helicopters of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Cochin Port Trust.
- Apharan was aimed at streamlining the response mechanism/preparedness to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to hijack a merchant's vessel or attempt forced entry of a rogue/commandeered merchant vessel into the Kochi harbour.

### Indian Navy commissions sixth Dornier aircraft squadron

- Indian Naval Air Squadron 314, the sixth Dornier aircraft squadron was commissioned at Naval Air Enclave-Porbandar on Gujarat coast. Vice Admiral Pawar announced that commissioning of Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 314 - marks yet another milestone in country's efforts towards enhancing maritime security and surveillance footprint in the North Arabian Sea.

### India & Japan holds Mine Countermeasure Exercise(MINEX) 2019

- A maiden bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) have conducted Mine Countermeasure Exercise (MINEX) 2019 at Kochi, Kerala.

## **Defence Ministry approves purchase of weapons, military platforms worth Rs 22,800 crore**

- Defence Ministry has approved acquisition of military platforms and weapons worth Rs 22,800 crore.
- The DAC has also approved procurement of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) Anti-Submarine Warfare P8I aircraft for the Indian Navy. These aircraft would greatly strengthen the Navy's capabilities for maritime coastal surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Vessel (ASV) strike

## **10<sup>th</sup> Joint Military Training (JMT) – Singapore and India added Air-Sea Drill for the 1<sup>st</sup> time**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) are conducting the 10<sup>th</sup> Joint Military Training (JMT) at Kalaikunda, Air Force Station in West Bengal from October 31 to December 12.
- The first JMT was conducted in the year 2008 under the ambit of the Air Force agreement, signed in 2007.

## **'Spike' Artillery Resistance Test Success**

- These missiles, which have been purchased from Israel, have a range of 4 km. They are capable of hitting and destroying the target.
- 2 'spike' missiles were inspected in Mow, Madhya Pradesh. Army officials said the missiles accurately hit the target.
- These missiles are the fourth generation missiles.

## **MEA hosts 6<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Dialogue, Delhi Dialogue XI**

- Union Ministry of External Affairs will be hosting 6<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) and Delhi Dialogue XI at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
- Theme for 2019 Indian Ocean Dialogue is- 'Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography'.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> IOD which takes place on 13 December is being organized with assistance of the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA). Theme for 2019 Delhi Dialogue is- 'Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific'. It is being organized with assistance of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute.

## **Army sign deal for six Apache attack helicopters**

- The deal for six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for the Indian Army, estimated to cost around \$930 million, is likely to be signed early next year. These are in addition to 22 Apaches being inducted by the Indian Air force (IAF).
- For this, India is exercising the optional clause in the original deal for 22 Apaches, that has a provision for 11 helicopters. The Army had made a pitch for all of them, but the government had limited it to six.
- The IAF has recently inducted the first batch of eight Apaches based in Pathankot. All the 22 Apaches are expected to be delivered by 2020 and will replace the ageing Russian Mi-35 attack helicopters in service.

### **'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' Joint military exercise between India and Nepal will be held in Salijhandi, Nepal**

- 'SURYA KIRAN – XIV' the Joint military exercise between India and Nepal will be held in Salijhandi, Rupendehi district of Nepal from 03 to 16 December 2019.

### **Exercise Indra: Joint tri service Exercise between India and Russia**

- The Joint tri service exercise between India and Russia, INDRA 2019 is to be held between December 10-19, 2019 in Pune. The event is planned for 10 days between army, naval and air force forces of both the countries.

### **Chief of Defence Staff to come under RTI Act; NSA-led panel submits report**

- A high-level committee headed by NSA Ajit Doval to finalise responsibilities and enabling framework for the proposed chief of defence staff (CDS) has submitted its report to the government.
- The government is likely make an announcement within next two weeks to appoint the CDS who will be the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15 announced that India will have the CDS as head of the tri-services.

### **Navy to set up aircraft museum in Kolkata**

- The Navy will set up a Tupolev TU-142 aircraft museum in Kolkata on the lines of the naval museum in Visakhapatnam.

### **8<sup>th</sup> India-China joint training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019' to be held from Dec 7-20,2019 in Meghalaya**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the joint training exercise between India and China named "HAND-IN-HAND 2019" for the year 2019 is to be held in Umroi, Meghalaya from December 7-20, 2019.
- The aim of this exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operation in the semi-urban terrain.
- Theme: The theme for the exercise will be 'counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate'.

### **Defence Minister addresses Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave**

- Defence Minister addresses the Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave in New Delhi.
- He has expressed confidence that the corporate sector will contribute generously to the welfare of ex-servicemen.
- He said common people had generously contributed to 'Bharat Ke Veer' Fund for the bereaved families of soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

### **Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 being held in Hawaii**

- The Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria is set to participate in Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2019 (PACS 2019) being held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii (a state of USA).
- Theme for 2019's symposium is: 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'.

**DRDO tests QRSAM (missile) successfully**

- The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) test fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) successfully. The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha.

**QRSAM**

- The QRSAM is a missile developed by DRDO along with Bharat Electronics Limited for the Indian army. In 2007, the proposal of QRSAM was launched as a replacement for Osa-AK and Kvadrat missile systems. The first testing of QRSAM was conducted in 2017.
- Previously, the QRSAM missile testing was conducted in August 2019.

**5<sup>th</sup> Edition of ARTECH to be held in New Delhi**

- Ministry of Defence is to hold ARTECH seminar in New Delhi on 23rd December, 2019. ARTEC is Army Technology Seminar that is being held since 2016.

**UAE, US joint military exercise 'Iron Union 12' commences**

- 'Iron Union 12', a joint military exercise between the ground forces of the UAE and the United States, commenced. 'Iron Union 12' will see the two sides take part in joint military cooperation to enhance combat and tactical capabilities.
- The joint military exercises of the UAE Armed Forces with fraternal and friendly countries takes place in a manner consistent with latest developments and reflects the UAE Armed Forces' determination to stand firmly against all threats and challenges facing the region.

**ICG conducted 'Swachchh Samundra NW-2019' off Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat**

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a 2-day regional level pollution response exercise named 'Swachchh Samundra NW-2019' at sea off Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch (GoK), Gujarat. The aim of the exercise was to create a response mechanism by ICG, by taking actions for oil pollution incidents.

**BrahMos missile successfully test-fired from Chandipur, Odisha**

- Land-attack version of the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully test fired from Chandipur district of Odisha. It was test fired from a mobile autonomous launcher at Launch Complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.

**Philippines to sign Brahmos deal with India in 2020**

- Philippines confirmed that signing contract with India for medium range Brahmos Cruise Missiles. The agreement will be signed in 2020.

**Army officer awarded for developing bulletproof jacket**

- Maj. Anoop Mishra was felicitated by Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat with Army design Bureau (ADB) excellence award for indigenously developing Sarvatra bulletproof jacket that can provide protection against various ammunition including of spinner rifles. Maj. Mishra is presently posted as instructor at the college of Military Engineering, Pune. He was among the four awardees felicitated by Gen. Rawat. The suit was named Sarvatra Kawach, it provides protection from neck to ankle and upper arms.

### **India and France to begin patrolling mission in Indian Ocean Region**

- India and France are to launch joint naval patrolling mission after the Varuna Naval Exercise that was held in May, 2019.
- The joint mission is to be executed in the Indian Ocean Region to protect the strategic interests of the countries and to check large scale illegal fishing.

### **NAVARMS-19: International Seminar on Naval weapon Systems**

- The fourth edition of International Seminar-cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems 'NAVARMS-19' is scheduled to be held on 12-13 December 2019 at Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis (IDSA), Development Enclave, New Delhi.
- The theme for 2019 edition is: "Make in India - Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives".

### **Military Literature Festival organised in Chandigarh**

- The third edition of coveted Military Literature Festival (MLF) is being held at Chandigarh.

### **About Military Literature Festival 2019**

- The Fest was led by Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh with discussions in various aspects of military and sharing his experiences of serving country in armed forces.
- All three days also had Clarion Call theatre events comprising of special audio visual shows on 'Josh', 'Jazbaaa' and 'Junoon' of being part of armed forces.

### **Mongla and Chattogram declared as Ports of Call under the "Coastal Shipping Agreement"**

- The Ministry of Shipping (MoS) announced that Mongla and Chattogram (Both in Bangladesh) have been declared as Ports of Call under "Coastal Shipping Agreement" between India & Bangladesh.
- The Port of Mongla is declared as Port of Call under PIWT&T (Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade) and Chattogram port is not part of PIWT&T.

### **World malaria report 2019: India reports 2.6 million fewer malaria cases in 2018**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) released a report titled "World malaria report 2019". The report was on Malarial cases and steps taken regarding the disease globally.

### **Pinaka missile successfully test fired by DRDO**

- The Pinaka missile was successfully test fired from Odisha coast from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur.

### **Highlights**

- The Pinaka missile is a modified version of Pinaka Mk-II rocket. The missile navigation will be aided by the IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System).

### **Pinaka missile**

- The Pinaka is an artillery missile. It is capable of striking an enemy territory till 75 km of range with high precision. Pinaka was used for the first time in Kargil war



## 1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

### Saudi Arabia Assumes 2020 G20 Presidency

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia assumes the 2020 G20 Presidency, 1 December, 2019.
- The Saudi G20 Presidency will focus on "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All."
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commends the work of the Japanese G20 Presidency in 2019 and will continue to support its efforts to forge global cooperation.
- This year's G-20 conference was held in Osaka, Japan.
- In the meantime, next year's conference is being held in Riyadh, the capital of the Middle East, Saudi Arabia.

### COP25 Climate Change Conference

- The 25<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference will be taking place in Madrid, Spain, and will convene from 2-13 December 2019.
- It will feature the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC)

### World Economic Forum Report: India slips to rank 112 in Gender Gap

- The World Economic Forum released its report according to which India ranked 112<sup>th</sup> in terms of gender gap.
- The report said that the India was ranked in bottom-five in terms of survival and economic participation.

#### Highlights: India

- India was in 108<sup>th</sup> position in 2018. Its performance weakened in the year 2019 according to the report. India's performance was lagging in three out of four metrics used for ranking the countries.

### 2019 NATO Summit held in Watford, United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom (UK) hosted two day organised 2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit in London from December 3-4, 2019. The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit.
- It was attended by NATO leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.

### WHO launches first biosimilar medicine to treat Breast Cancer

- The World Health Organization launched its first biosimilar medicine to treat breast cancer. The WHO intends to make the expensive, life-saving treatment affordable for women all over the world.
- It is an antibody that shows high efficacy in curing early stages of breast cancers. It was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015.



### **BIMSTEC: International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems held in New Delhi**

- A three day “International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming systems” is being held in New Delhi. The seminar is being organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

### **2000 years old famous Thai massage included in UNESCO heritage list**

- Thailand’s famous 2000-year-old massage, Nuad Thai was added to UNESCO’s (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) prestigious heritage list.

### **UNESCO removes ‘Carnival of Aalst’ from Intangible Cultural Heritage List**

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), has removed the ‘Carnival of Aalst’ of Belgium from its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List. The 2019 carnival featured a parade float that included racist and anti-Semitic representations which mocked the Orthodox Jews. The carnival was added to the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010

### **UNESCO to train 4,000 Indian teachers in AI-powered Digital Technology**

- UNESCO and Dell Technologies will launch a new education program where they will train 4,000 Indian teachers in Artificial Technology.
- The program will aid in GoI step of introducing Artificial Intelligence as a subject in school.

### **WHO launches first biosimilar medicine to treat Breast Cancer**

- The World Health Organization launched its first biosimilar medicine to treat breast cancer. The WHO intends to make the expensive, life-saving treatment affordable for women all over the world.
- It is an antibody that shows high efficacy in curing early stages of breast cancers. It was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015.

### **Poland out of EU’s Climate Neutrality 2050 plan**

- Poland left 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of European Union as the Union demanded for more funds to support nuclear power and for economic transition.

### **UNICEF in association with WCD ministry launched youth skilling initiative YuWaah-2019 in India**

- In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD), Smriti Zubin Irani has informed that UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) in association with the WCD Ministry jointly launched “YuWaah-(Generation Unlimited India)” with the aim to transform the countries involved into hubs of education, skilling and employment for its more than 300 million young people aged 10-24 years.

## 1.4 Places in News

### ASI identified 138 monuments as 'Must See Monuments': Govt

- The Minister of State for Culture and Tourism informed Parliament that Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has identified 138 monuments as 'Must See Monuments'. This information has been made available on 'Must See' portal of ASI.

### Rohtang tunnel named after Vajpayee

- A day before the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Union Cabinet approved two schemes in his honour: one to improve groundwater management in villages and the other to rename the tunnel being built under the Rohtang Pass after him.



### American actor Joaquin Phoenix named 2019 'Person of the Year' by PETA

- Joaquin Rafael Phoenix, American actor from California, United States (US) has been bestowed with the PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) 'Person of the Year' Award 2019. Joaquin Phoenix has been a vegan since the age of three and has been a supporter of PETA for a long time.

## 1.5 Eminent Persons

### Right Livelihood Award 2019 honours activists Davi Kopenawa, Greta Thunberg, Guo Jianmei and Aminatou Haidar

- Activists Davi Kopenawa, Greta Thunberg, Guo Jianmei and Aminatou Haidar received the Right Livelihood Award 2019, also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'.
- The award ceremony took place at Stockholm, Sweden at the end of a Final event of a ten days long program of celebrations in Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.

#### Key Points:

- The Right Livelihood Award is awarded to honour people who have answered the urgent challenges faced by today's world.
- The award is also called as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' but it does not have any ties with the organization awarding the Nobel prize nor it is similar to the Nobel prize in anyway.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee meet to commemorate Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary held in New Delhi

- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presided the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of National Committee for Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary (October 2) of Mahatma Gandhi 'Gandhi@150' which was held in New Delhi.

## Mukesh Ambani is the 9<sup>th</sup> richest person

- Ambani was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the annual Forbes' rich list for 2019.
- The company became the first Indian firm to hit the Rs 10 lakh crore market valuation mark following a spike in its share price.
- Jeff Bezos with a net worth of USD 113 billion topped the The Real-Time Billionaires List of Forbes, followed by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (USD 107.4 billion) and Bernard Arnault & family chairman and CEO, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (USD 107.2 billion) in the second and third positions, respectively.



## DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy-1<sup>st</sup> Indian to get honorary fellowship 2019 by UK's Royal Aeronautical Society

- G.Satheesh Reddy, Secretary Department of Defence Research and Development (R&D), and Chairman of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) has been awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Society 2019 by Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS).
- With this, he became the first Indian recipient of this prestigious award in over 100 years.
- G Satheesh Reddy is known for his capability to develop indigenous technologies and is famous amongst students as "Junior Kalam" and "Next Generation Missile Man".



## Sub Lt Shivangi becomes Navy's first woman pilot

- Sub Lieutenant Shivangi became the first woman pilot for the Indian Navy. She joined operational duties at the Kochi naval base.
- She was inducted into the Indian Navy as SSC (Pilot) as part of 27 NOC course in Indian Navy Academy, Ezhimala and got formally commissioned by Vice Admiral AK Chawla.



## Sanna Marin becomes World's Youngest-Serving Prime Minister

- The 34-year-old Sanna Marin, was selected by her Social Democratic party of Finland to become the country's youngest prime minister ever, taking over after resignation of outgoing leader Antti Rinne. Sanna who will now be youngest head of government in the country's history, has earlier served as transport minister of Finland.



## Ramaswamy Paiyachchi Memorial Hall



- Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy inaugurated the Ramasamy Padiyachchi Memorial Hall, a former freedom fighter and former minister.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu has completed the work of setting up a hall with a full brass statue at Cuddalore Manjukuppam at a cost of Rs 2 crore 15 lakhs.
- Born on September 16, 1918, Shiva Chidambara Ramasami was a soldier. People called him SS Ramaswamy Padiyachchi.

### Indian men's football team ranked 108<sup>th</sup> in latest FIFA rankings

- The Indian men's football team remained static at 108<sup>th</sup> spot in the year-ending FIFA rankings.
- India lost 11 places throughout the year. With 1187 total points, India is placed at 19<sup>th</sup> spot among Asian countries headed by Japan 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Mahaparinirvan Diwas-6 December

- The nation is paying homage to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64<sup>th</sup> Mahaparinirvan Diwas (death anniversary) on 6 December.

## IIT researchers to create 'Gandhipedia'

- The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and IIT (Indian Institutes of Technology) Gandhinagar and Kharagpur, have joined hands to develop Gandhipedia, an online repository of books, letters and speeches written by Mahatma Gandhi, to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.
- The entire project will be done with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- In the first phase, over 40 books written by Mahatma Gandhi will be digitised and indexed and their portions which are to be completed by March 2020, and the remaining four phases will be worked on till March 2024.

## National Anti-Doping Agency appoints Actor Suniel Shetty as its brand ambassador

- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), India's anti-doping body has selected Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty has been selected as its brand ambassador. NADA hopes that his celebrity status would help its efforts to clean up sports in the country from the menace.

## Jamaicas Toni-Ann Singh bags Miss World title

- Jamaica's Toni-Ann Singh has bagged the Miss World 2019 crown at an annual beauty pageant held here. With India's Suman Rao becoming second runners-up. France's Ophely Mezino, who was adjudged first runner-up, while India's Suman Rao was declared second runner-up

## Nirmala Sitharaman 34<sup>th</sup> among world's 100 most powerful women: Forbes

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked 34<sup>th</sup> by Forbes in 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'.



S.No.	Name	Country
1	Angela Merkel	Germany
34	Nirmala Sitharaman	India
54	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	India
65	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	India
100	Greta Thunberg	Sweden

## Srinivasa Ramanujan Birth Anniversary

- Srinivasa Ramanujan 22nd December 1887 Srinivasa Ramanujan was an Indian mathematician who lived during the British Rule in India.

### Death:

- He died on 26th April 1920
- In India, the day 'December 22 has been declared as the National Mathematics Day, during the inaugural ceremony of the celebrations to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan held at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium on 26 February 2012.

## Portugal sets up Gandhi prize

- Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced the setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize while attending the second meeting of National Committee for the Commemoration Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary, chaired by president Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapathi Bhavan.
- The prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes, he said, adding that the first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare.

## Climate activist Greta Thunberg (16) becomes youngest TIME's Person of the Year for 2019

- Greta Thunberg, 16 year-old Swedish climate activist was named TIME's Person of the Year for 2019, she is the youngest person to be honored with the title in the 92 year history of TIME magazine. The TIME's Person of the Year for 2019 award is conferred since 1927, for a person or a group of people who create an impact on the important events taking place in the year, the selection is done by the editors of TIME magazine.

### Key Points:

- Greta Thunberg, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, she began a global movement in August 2018 creating a campaign outside the Parliament of Sweden called 'Fridays for Future', a global student movement pushing the government to take immediate action on climate change, by her active involvement she became the most compelling voice on the significant issue of Global Warming faced by today's world.



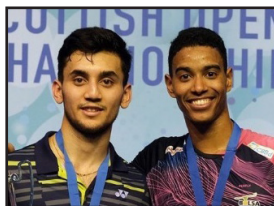
## 1.6 Sports and Games

### Three Indians clinch Golden Target award

- Despite competing in the company of two of the world's best shooters Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela, the young Elavenil Valarivan was able to close the season as the World No.1 in women's air rifle.
- She will be given the Golden Target award by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) in Munich, Germany.
- The Golden Target is the award given by the ISSF as a "tribute to the best athletes of the year according to the annual ranking in each of the individual Olympic events.

### Lakshya Sen wins Scottish Open title

- India's Lakshya Sen has won the Scottish Open badminton men's singles title, defeating Brazilian Ygor Coelho to seal his fourth title in 3 months.
- Entering the tournament as the top seed, the world number 41 registered an 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 win in 56 minutes to claim the title in Glasgow, Scotland.



### Abhishek-Jyoti combine claims compound mixed pair gold at Asian Archery

- Abhishek Verma and Jyoti Surekha Vennam claimed the top honours in compound mixed pair event to fetch India's lone gold at the 21<sup>st</sup> Asian Archery Championships, which ended with the country picking up seven medals in all.



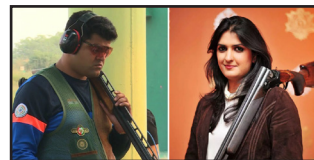
### Jon Rahm won 2019 DP World Tour Championship

- Jon Rahm won the 2019 DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. This is his second title in three years. The award has crowned him as European Number One on the final day at Jumeirah Golf Estates, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Rahm shot four-under 68 to reach 19-under 269. He defeated Tommy Fleetwood to clinch the title.



### Sangram Dahiya, Varsha Varman win double trap national titles

- Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63<sup>rd</sup> National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.
- In men's category, Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to leave behind former world champion Ankur Mittal, who managed 137 hits over the five rounds of 30 targets each to win a silver.





## Sports Ministry constitutes new committee

- The Union Ministry of Sports has constituted a 13-member expert committee to review the draft of the National Code for Good Governance in Sports, 2017.
- The committee, chaired by Retired SC Justice Mukundakam Sharma, will be required to suggest measures for making the Draft National Code for Good Governance in Sports, 2017 acceptable to all stakeholders.

## Bhubaneswar and Rourkela to host 2023 men's hockey World Cup

- Odisha would continue to be the hotbed of hockey tournaments in the country with the FIH naming the city as the host for the 2023 men's World Cup.
- This time, Bhubaneswar (which hosted the 2018 WC) would share hosting rights with the Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.

## National Wrestling Championship

- **W r e s t l e r** Gursharanpreet Kaur at Senior National **W r e s t l i n g** Championships in Jalandhar. Asian Championship's silver medallists Gurpreet Singh and Sunil Kumar lived up to their reputation as both clinched gold medals of the Tata Motors Senior National Wrestling Championship in Jalandhar. This was Gurpreet's fourth senior national title.



## Sports ministry launched logo, jersey & mascots of 3<sup>rd</sup> Khelo India Youth Games 2020 in Guwahati, Assam

- The union sports minister Shri Kiren Rijiju launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at KarmabirNabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, Assam.
- Over 10,000 students will be participating in a total of 451 medal events.

## Indian archers bag recurve bronze at Asian Championships



- Indian archers Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das won a bronze medal in the recurve and compound mixed event at the Asian Archery Championships in Kolkata.
- They defeated China by 6-2 to clinch the medal in the championships.

## Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik clinch gold in Senior Wrestling National C'ships

- **S t a r** wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik **r e g i s t e r e d** convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals at the Senior Wrestling National Championships in Jalandhar, Punjab.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Asian Archery Championship 2019 held in Bangkok, Thailand

- The 21<sup>st</sup> Asian Archery Championship for the year 2019 was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- India secured second position in the overall medal tally while South Korea topped the list. The third position was obtained by China.
- Indian archers Abishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won India's only gold in the compound mixed pair event.
- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won silver medal.

## Swiss player Roger Federer becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> living Swiss to have his image engraved in the Swiss coin



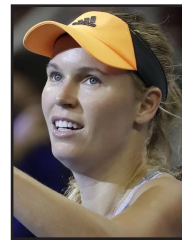
- Roger Federer (38), from Basel Switzerland becomes the first ever living Swiss to have his face engraved in the Swiss coin.
- Roger's image was engraved in a 20-Franc silver coin by the Swissmint, official mint of the Swiss Confederation.

## South Asian Games begins in Kathmandu

- The President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari opened the South Asian Games in Kathmandu. The event is scheduled to be conducted for 10 days. Around 487 athletes are participating from India.

## Caroline Wozniacki, Former World No.1 Tennis Player announced her retirement

- Caroline Wozniacki (29), former World No.1 tennis player announced her retirement from tennis after next month's Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the year 2019 and WTA (Women's Tennis Association) event in Auckland.
- Caroline Wozniacki was born in Odense, Denmark.



## Russia Banned From Olympics and Global Sports for 4 Years Over Doping

- The world's top anti-doping authority - World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banished Russia from international competition - including next summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo - for four years, the latest and most severe punishment yet connected to a yearlong cheating scheme that has tarnished sports, rendered Russia a sports pariah and exacerbated tension between Moscow and the West.

## Indian chess grandmaster Praggnanandhaa wins London Chess Classic 2019

- Indian chess grandmaster, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (14) was crowned the winner of the London chess classic 2019 with 7.5 points from 9 rounds & shared the title with Anton Smirnov of Australia, who also scored 7.5 points. The tournament, organized by the World Chess Federation (FIDE), was held at Olympia London in London, United Kingdom (UK).

## India achieve their highest medal tally in South Asian Games

- India had claimed 309 medals in the 2016 edition of the South Asian Games and by winning 310 this time around, the contingent has broken their record. India concluded the South Asian Games with their highest medal tally in the history of the tournament. The contingent was able to win 310 medals, which includes 172 gold, 93 silver, and 45 bronze medals.

## G S Lakshmi (51) becomes first woman Referee in Men's ODI match

- Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi, 51, former Indian Cricketer became the first woman referee in the Men's ODI (One Day International) match after overseeing the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 held in Sharjah Cricket Stadium, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)



## FICCI India selects Hockey player Rani rampal & shooter Saurabh chaudhary as 'Sportsperson of the year 2019'

- Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal(25) and Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary (17) were honored with the 'Sports Person of the Year 2019' award at the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards-2019 held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.

## 2020 Tokyo Olympics: India's hockey Programme announced

- Indian men will take on New Zealand in their opening hockey match at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics while the women's team will play Rio Games silver medalist the Netherlands as the draw for the quadrennial extravaganza was announced in Tokyo.



## 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience

- The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on 'Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience - 2019' was held in New Delhi.

## National Green Corps Eco-club programme meets for the first time

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) organized an annual meeting of state nodal agencies implementing the Eco-club programme for the first time. The event was organized in collaboration with GEER foundation, Gujarat.

## National Green Corps

- The program was launched by the MoEFCC covering 1,20,000 schools in India. The program mainly covered the School Eco clubs in different states.
- They are titled NGC students similar to NCC.

## Deepak Punia named 2019 UWW's 'Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year'

- The World Championships silver medalist Deepak Punia was named as the 2019 'Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year' by United World Wrestling (UWW).
- Punia is the first Indian wrestler in 18 years to win a junior world title at the Junior World Championships held in Tallinn, Estonia in August 2019.

### Awards:

Sl.No	Award Name	Awardee	Country
1	Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year	Deepak Punia	India
2	Greco-Roman Wrestler of the Year	Nihat Mammadli	Azerbaijan
3	Freestyle Wrestler of the Year	Rahman Mousa Amouzadkhalili	Iran
4	Junior Greco-Roman Wrestler of the Year	Kerem KAMAL	Turkey
5	San Marino Athlete of the Year	Myles Nazem Amine (America)	San Marino
6	Junior Women's Wrestler of the Year	Yui SUSAKI	Japan

## Sahitya Akademi Award

- Tamil writer Cho Dharman has won the 2019 Sahitya Akademi award for his novel Sool, depicting the life of the people in the lower rung of society at Urulaikuddi village in Thoothukudi district. He published his first short story in 1992 and followed by a novel Dhoorvai. The novel Koogai received critical acclaim and it won him the Iyal award of the Canada-based Tamil Literary Garden.

## Shashi Tharoor wins Akademi's 2019 award for english

- The Sahitya Akademi announced its annual literary awards for 2019 for works in 23 languages, including one for Shashi Tharoor's non-fiction book about British rule in India.
- An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India' by Mr.Tharoor, who is a Congress MP, was selected in the English category.

## Liverpool win maiden FIFA Club World Cup

- Liverpool beat Brazil's Flamengo 1-0 to win the FIFA Club World Cup at Doha's Khalifa International Stadium.
- It is the first time Liverpool have won the competition, which features each continent's champions, and they became only the second English team to lift the trophy after Manchester United in 2008

### **CBI officer BP Raju wins 'India Cyber Cop of the Year' 2019 award given by NASSCOM-DSCI**

- B.P Raju, CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) officer won 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019' award given by NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies)-DSCI (Data Security Council of India) in the Annual Information Security Summit held at Gurugram.
- He received the award for cracking a fraud case in an online entrance exam conducted by an engineering college in Rajasthan.

### **Mirabai Chanu bags Gold in 6<sup>th</sup> Qatar International Cup in Doha**

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (24), the Former world champion weightlifter won the women's 49kg category gold medal to open India's account at 6<sup>th</sup> Qatar International Cup being held in Doha.
- Chanu lifted 83kg in snatch and 111kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of podium. However, her performance was way below her personal best of 201 kg which she lifted during this year's World Championships in Thailand.
- The French duo of Anais Michel (172kg) and Manon Lorentz (165kg) took won the silver and bronze medals respectively.



### **Virat Kohli tops the Forbes India celebrity list 2019**

- The Forbes India magazine has published its list of celebrity 100 for the year 2019. This ranking was based on the estimation of their annual earnings through professions and endorsement of celebrities.
- According to the list of celebrity 2019, Indian Cricket team captain Virat Kohli has become the first sportsman to gain the top spot for the first time with the annual earnings of ₹252.72 crore. Kohli replaced Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who had been at the top for the previous three years. Actor Akshay Kumar is at the second position followed by Salman Khan.
- **World Forbes List:** Virat Kohli only Indian in Forbes 2019 list of world's highest-paid athletes, released on Jun 13, 2019
- Akshay Kumar only Indian on the Forbes Celebrity 100 list for 2019, released on Jul 17, 2019

### **Ukrainian Lifter stripped of Olympic gold**

- Ukrainian weight lifter Oleksiy Torokhity was stripped of his 2012 Olympic gold medal for doping, the International Olympic committee announced.
- The 33-year-old, who triumphed in the 105kg division, was disqualified after a re-analysis of his urine sample revealed a positive test for testosterone. Torokhity has been banned for two years. At the 2012 event, Iran's Navab Nasirshelal had take silver with Poland's Bartlomiej Bonk winning bronze.



## 1.7 Books & Authors

### Book titled "Hemant Karkare - A Daughter's Memoir" by Jui Navare released

- Marking the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, a book titled "Hemant Karkare - A Daughter's Memoir" by Jui Karkare Navare was released in Prerna hall of police club in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Christopher Paolini's first science fiction novel titled "To Sleep in a Sea of Stars"

- Bestselling American author Christopher Paolini's next, which will also be his first science fiction novel, will be published by Pan Macmillan.
- The book, titled "To Sleep in a Sea of Stars", published under Macmillan's Tor imprint, will be Paolini's departure from his much loved four-book fantasy series, "Inheritance Cycle". The book will be published in September 2020.

### Union Minister launches Braille edition of the book "Exam warriors" authored by PM Narendra Modi

- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Braille Edition of the book "Exam Warriors" authored by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The book was prepared by Braille Press of Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh, Jaipur, India.

### Vice President released book 'Turbulence and Triumph' by Rahul & Bharathi in New Delhi

- The Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years' in New Delhi. The book is jointly authored by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan and is published by Om Books International.

### HRD ministry launches 3 books -Kumbh, Garam pahad and Dilliki Bulbul (Sindhi edition) penned by Dr. Anita bhatnagar Jain

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has launched 3 books for children namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilliki Bulbul (Sindhi edition) in New Delhi.
- The 3 books, penned by Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain (an officer of Indian Administrative Services (1985 batch), are a collection of stories for children and have documented the environmental issues & topics like socio-cultural unity, cultural heritage along with the message of save environment in a very lucid manner.

### DPIIT invites applications for first ever National Startup Awards 2020

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced institution of first ever National Startup Awards.
- The award was launched by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Railways. The applications for the awards are open till 31 December 2019.



### **Gadkari releases booklet at Agro Vision 2019**

- Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari has released a booklet called 'Convergence of National Highway improvement/construction with water conservation and groundwater recharge' at Agro Vision-2019 in Nagpur, Maharashtra

### **The Vault of Vishnu**

- The next book of Ashwin Sanghi, an Indian writer, named 'The Vault of Vishnu' will be released in the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) by Westland publications.
- The Jaipur Literature Festival is the World's largest free literature festival and takes place between 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### **City police SKOCH Award for cleanliness**

- The Greater Chennai police received the Union government's SKOCH Award under the category 'Swachh Police Station', for maintaining cleanliness at all its police stations. This follows the police' efforts to clear up abandoned and unclaimed vehicles from all station premises.

### **Book on Punjab's militancy by Inderjit Singh Jaijee & Dona Suri released**

- A new book titled "The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy" by civil rights activist Inderjit Singh Jaijee and journalist Dona Suri was released.
- **Publisher:** The book is published by 'SAGE'.

### **'Borderman' yearly magazine released by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs**

- The yearly magazine called 'Borderman' was released by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs on the occasion of 55<sup>th</sup> raising day of BSF (Border Security Force) organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The 55<sup>th</sup> raising day of BSF (Border Security Force) was celebrated on the 1st of December 2019.

### **T.N. bags organ donation award**

- For the fifth consecutive year, Tamil Nadu received the Best State Award in cadaveric organ donation from the Nation Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The State received the best performing hospital award for the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), and an award for plastic surgeon V.Ramadevi for performing a bilateral hand transplant at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital.

### **Chief Minister of Telangana, K. Chandrashekar Rao releases book on Kaleshwaram project**

- Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao, Chief Minister of Telangana released a book named "Kaleswaram project: Telangana Pragathi Ratham (Kaleswaram project: The Telangana Development Chariot) at Pragati Bhavan. The book was authored by Sridhar Rao Deshpande.

### Viswanathan Anand launches autobiography 'Mind Master'

- Releasing his book 'Mind Master', Anand, in conversation with N. Ram, Chairman, THG Publishing Private Limited.

#### Achievements

- Anand is considered one of the best contemporary chess players in the world, especially renowned for his versatility. He is a five-time winner of the World Chess Championship and was the undisputed World No.1 from 2007 to 2013. In 2007 he was presented with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award for his achievements in chess.

### Abanindranath Tagore's Book 'Nalak', translated to English by Urbi Bhaduri

- Abanindranath Tagore's Book 'Nalak' featuring the journey of life of Gautama Buddha, was translated to English by Urbi Bhaduri, and was published by Niyogi Books.
- The English translation of the book has no chapters and has been featured in pen and ink style including a theme inspired by Buddhist tankha paintings.

### Operation 'Clean Art' to crack down on illegal trade in mongoose hair

- Operation Clean Art was the first pan India Operation to crack down on the smuggling of mongoose hair in the country. There are six species of mongoose found in India and we have mostly recovered (in the rains) grey mongoose (hair) announced by H.V.Girisha, Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), New Delhi.

### New book by R. Balakrishnan

- The new book 'Journey of a Civilization: Indus to Vaikai' will be released at the Anna Centennial Library in Chennai. Tony Joseph, author of 'Early Indians', published by Justice R.Magadevan.



### CM Jaganmohan Reddy to inaugurate first Virtual Police station at AU in Andhra Pradesh

- The government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) inaugurated the first Virtual Police Station at the Andhra University (AU) in Visakhapatnam, AP. The concept of Virtual police station was initiated by AU Vice-Chancellor Prasad Reddy, it aims to provide security to students.
- By using these facilities students can file their complaint easily which will be forwarded to police officials after being inspected by the control room. The system includes an inbuilt complaint monitoring and action-taken mechanism which will make it easy for the students to get their complaints answered.

**Not a pretty picture**

A look at the seizure of paint brushes made of mongoose hair in recent years





	Cases	No. of brushes seized	Arrests
2017	15	62,924	23
2018	16	79,021	19
2019	27	54,352	49

- For about 150 kg of mongoose hair, at least 6,000 animals would have been killed, according to an estimate
- Mongoose is listed in Schedule II Part 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act
- Any smuggling or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence

## 1.8 India and its Neighbours

### Rare Buddha statue in Pak museum



- The Islamabad Museum has put on display a rare statue of Lord Buddha's head after retrieving it from its reserves where it was locked for decades
- The sculpture from the period between the 3rd and the 4th century AD was discovered by the first Italian archaeological mission in Pakistan that was led by Giuseppe Tucci in the Swat Valley area.
- The statue was excavated in the Swat Valley by a mission led by Dr Giuseppe Tucci. Although the mission began digging in the valley in 1956, the artefact was excavated sometime in the 60s and it was last displayed in a museum in 1997.

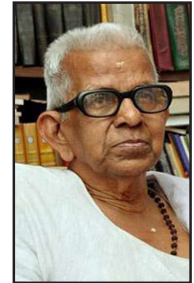
### Fifth NITI Aayog–DRC Dialogue Held in Wuhan

- The Fifth Dialogue of NITI Aayog and Development Research Centre (DRC), of the State Council, People's Republic of China, was held in Wuhan, China. The Indian delegation was led by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog while the Chinese delegation was led by Ma Jiantang, Party Secretary of DRC

## 1.9 Awards & Honours

### Jnanpith for Malayalam poet Akkitham

- Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, popularly known as Akkitham, has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award, according to an announcement by the Jnanpith Selection Board.



- Born in 1926, Mr. Akkitham is one of the revered names in Malayalam poetry.

### NDTV wins International Press Institute India award for Excellence in Journalism

- India's private news channel NDTV has been awarded International Press Institute India award for excellence in journalism by the India chapter of the Vienna-based International Press Institute. NDTV was awarded for its 'expose of the conspiracy to scuttle' the Kathua rape and murder case probe.

### Archaeologist honoured in Bangladesh

- Noted archaeologist R. Nagaswamy was honored at the Silver Jubilee International Conference of Art in Dhaka by Bangladesh Culture Minister for his contribution to art, archaeology, history and culture.

### Khel Ratna Award

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju presents the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award to Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia

## President of Ethiopia has won the Nobel Peace Prize

- Ethiopia Prime Minister Abi Ahmad Ali received the Nobel Peace Prize at a ceremony in Oslo. The Nobel Prize in Physics, Physics, Economics, Peace, Literature and Chemistry is honored with annual Nobel Prizes.
- Meanwhile, the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 was announced on October 11 in Stockholm, Sweden's capital. Ethiopia Prime Minister Abi Ahmad Ali, 43, has been selected for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony was held in Oslo, Norway.

## Southern Railway wins energy conservation awards

- Southern Railway has won accolades at national level for its energy conservation efforts for the year 2018-19. Southern Railway headquarters bagged certificate of merit under the transport sector/ zonal railway category. Erode Railway School bagged the first prize in railway school category while Podanur Railway School was awarded certificate of merit.

## Odisha wins 'World Habitat Award' for OLHM- Jaga Mission

- Odisha won the 'World Habitat Award' for Jaga Mission also called Odisha Livable Habitat Mission (OLHM), a slum land titling project executed for the benefit of millions of urban-poor people living in slums. The award was given by the World Habitat, a UK (United Kingdom) based organization which gives the award annually to recognize innovative housing projects around the world.

## Indian NGO to receive climate action award

- A project led by NGO Mahila Housing Sewa
- Trust to organize and empower women in low-income households to increase their resilience to climate change will get a UN award next month.
- It is one of the 15 recipients of the 2019 United Nations Global Climate Action Awards.

## Floating school project of Bangladesh wins Aga Khan Architecture Award

- Floating school project of Bangladesh wins Aga Khan Architecture Award. Bangladesh is a land of water.
- It is a floating school named 'The Arcadia Education Project'. 'The Arcadia Education Project' in South Kanarchor of Bangladesh is an innovative concept.

## Miss South Africa 2019, Zozibini Tunzi won the 68<sup>th</sup> edition of Miss Universe 2019

- Zozibini Tunzi, 26, Miss South Africa 2019, was crowned Miss Universe 2019 by Catriona Gray, Miss Universe 2018 during the 68<sup>th</sup> edition of the Miss Universe Pageant held in Atlanta, Georgia.

## CII award for The Hindu Group

- THG Publishing Pvt. Lt. (The Hindu Group of Publications) received the CII Award for Customer Obsession 2019 for Recognition for Active Customer Engagement and Special Recognition: Leveraging Digital Technologies for Superior Customer Experience.

### M.Ummul Khair has been chosen for the Helen Keller Award

- M.Ummul Khair had been a struggle all along for this 33-year old disability rights lawyer.
- She has been chosen for the Helen Keller Award, instituted by Mind-tree and the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People.
- She is the only person from South India to win the award this year, and the award recognises her as a role model.



### 'Practices' wins Golden Peacock at 50<sup>th</sup> IFFI

- The jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India came to a close with Blaise Harrison's Particles winning the top award, the Golden Peacock. Described by the jury as "an ambitious yet modest film about being a teenager", the film won a cash prize of ₹40 lakh.

### Manisha Kulshreshtha wins 28<sup>th</sup> Bihari Puraskar

- Noted writer from Rajasthan, Manisha Kulshreshtha, was awarded the 28<sup>th</sup> Bihari Puraskar for 2018 for her novel 'Swapnapash'.
- The award is presented by the KK Birla Foundation and is for writers of Rajasthani origin.



### Rahul Adhikari awarded 2019 Karmaveer Chakra by iCONGO and United Nations

- Gold-Medalist from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) & founder of International Changemaker Olympiad Rahul Adhikari, was conferred with 2019 Karmaveer Chakra Award REX Karmaveer Global Fellowship at the REX CONCLIVE held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.



#### About Karmaveer Chakra Award:

- It is national people's award for citizen social action and a global civilian honours instituted by the International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) in partnership with the United Nations (UN).

### December Art Festival inaugurated

- Music and arts festivals help youngsters experience and understand the cultural treasures of the country.
- Mr.Purohit earlier conferred the title 'Gaana Padhamam' on Hyderabad Brothers and Carnatic music duo D.Raghavavchary and D.Seshachary; 'Naatya Padhmam' on Danseuse Urmila Sathyanarayanan; 'Naataka Pradhamam' on actor and writer Visu and 'vaadya Padhmam' on Tabil Vidwan T.R.Subramanian.



## Soma Roy Burman appointed new CGA, becomes seventh woman to hold the post

- The government announced it has appointed Soma Roy Burman, a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service Officer, as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Burman is the 24th CGA and is the seventh woman to hold this position. Prior to this, Burman served as the Additional Controller General of Accounts in the office of CGA, handling the critical areas of accounting rules, policy and reforms, financial reporting, data analytics, cash and budget management.



## Ballon d'Or 2019: Lionel Messi and Megan Rapinoe win awards

- Lionel Messi was named the best player in the world for a record sixth time when he took home the Ballon d'Or at an awards ceremony in Paris. The Argentinian moved ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo, who has won the trophy five times and finished third in the men's rankings this time behind Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk. Megan Rapinoe, star of USA's World Cup winning side, won the women's award. Messi, 32, received his first Ballon D'Or in 2009, and over the past decade has gone on to become the most celebrated player in football and perhaps the greatest to play the game.



## 27<sup>th</sup> Ekalabya Award 2019 – Odisha weightlifter JhilliDalabehera

- Jhilli Dalabehera, Odisha weightlifter has been awarded the 27<sup>th</sup> Ekalabya Award 2019, the annual award organized by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT) managed by IMFA (Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys limited) group. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs.5 lakhs along with citation.



## Tony Joseph wins 2019 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

- English author Tony Joseph has won the 12<sup>th</sup> 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize'. He was awarded for his 2018 book, "Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From".

## Honours for Unnikrishnan, Rajendra Gangani

- Musician P.Unnikrishnan and Karthak exponent Pandit Rajendra Gangani were honoured with the titles 'Sangeetha Choodamani' and 'Nritya Choodamani', respectively, at the 64th Margazhi Mela of Krishna Gana Sabha there are nearly 150 sabhas in Chennai, which host about 2,500 music concerts, dance recitals, lecture demonstrations, dramas and bhajans all in December, go a long way to prove the worth of the city and its citizens.



## Centre releases list of best police stations, Andaman's Aberdeen tops them all

- Aberdeen in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the best police station in India, followed by Balasinor in Gujarat and AjkBurhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- These rankings were based on a range of parameters such as addressing the number of offences related to property disputes, crime against women and crime against weaker sections at a police station.

State	District	Police Station	Ranking
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Andaman	Aberdeen	1
Gujarat	Mahisagar	Balasinor	2
Madhya Pradesh	Burhanpur	AjkBurhanpur	3
Tamil Nadu	Theni	AWPS Theni	4
Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang Valley	Anini	5

### Vishwa Kala Puraskhar Award

- Visva Kala Sangam presented the award to Carnatic musician Neyveli Santana Gopalan and flute musician Ronumajumdar at Visva Kala Puraskhar 2019 in Chennai.

### Award for Rescue Mission to Tamil Nadu Coast Guard

- The National Coast Guard Search and Rescue Award from the Federal Government has been awarded to the Coast Guard of Tamil Nadu at a function in Delhi on December 18. This is the first time the Tamil Nadu Police has received this award.

### President Ram Nath Govind conferred National Florence Nightingale awards 2019

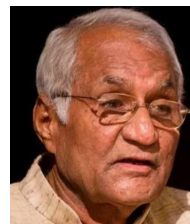
- Ram Nath Kovind, President of India bestowed 36 awardees with the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2019 at an event in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The award was given to Late LiniSajeesh from Kozhikode, Kerala, who died while on duty caring for a Nipah (NiV) virus infected patient in Kerala. The award was received by her spouse Sajeesh.

### AICTE honours SRM with Swachhta Ranking Award

- The objective of the award is to draw the attention of institutions towards the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

### Hindi Poet Viswanath Tiwari from UP to be honoured with Gangadhar National Award

- Renowned Hindi poet, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari is to be honoured with the



Gangadhar National Award, during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day celebration of Sambalpur University, Odisha.

- Viswanath was the former President of the Sahitya Akademi between 2013-2014 and was born in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

## 4 diplomats honoured with 2019 'Diwali – Power of One Award' at New York, US



- Kairat Abdrakhmanov – Former Foreign Minister and Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN.
- Nicholas Emiliou– Former Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the UN.
- Frantisek Ruzicka– Former Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly(UNGA) and Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN. Volodymyr Yelchenko-Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN.

### Key points

- The 'Diwali – Power of One Award' were established by the Diwali Foundation USA, Inc in 2017.

## Padmeswar Gogoi, Educationist bestowed with the First edition of Siu-Ka-Pha Awards 2019

- Padmeswar Gogoi, was bestowed with the first edition of Siu-Ka-Pha award for the year 2019 by the Central Committee of Different Ethnic Groups and the organizations of the Golaghat district at the Siu-Ka-Pha Samannay Kshetra in Golaghat, Assam.

## Telangana's Kamareddy district was awarded by UNICEF for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2019

- United Nations International Children's and Education Fund (UNICEF) has awarded Kamareddy district of Telangana for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in water sanitation and hygiene sectors for the year 2019.

## Popular marathi actor Sharad ponkshe wins Janakavi P Sawlaram memorial award 2019

- Sharad Ponkshe (52), an Indian film actor and writer, mainly working in Hindi and Marathi cinema, was awarded prestigious Janakavi P Sawlaram Memorial Award 2019 at Thane in Maharashtra for his contribution in the field of cinema and theatre. The award consists a cash prize worth of ₹ 25,000, a citation and shawl. Also, Marathi Actress, Usha Naik was also awarded the Ganga-Jamuna Award 2019.

## SASTRA-Ramanujan Award for Warwick University faculty

- Ken Ono, vice-president, American Mathematical Society and Thomas Jefferson Professor of Mathematics, University of Virginia. He made the remark while inaugurating the international conference on number theory at the SASTRA Deemed University campus at Kumbakonam, when he also gave away the SASTRA-Ramanujan Award to Adam Harper Assistant Professor, University of Warwick, England.

### **Sundram Fasteners' Suresh Krishna gets 'Quality Ratna' award**

- CII Institute of Quality, in its 27<sup>th</sup> Quality Summit held in Bengaluru earlier this week, bestowed India's first 'Quality Ratna' award to Suresh Krishna, Chairman, Sundram Fasteners Ltd.
- In 1998, Suresh Krishna was named the founder of TQM (Total Quality Management) Consortium in India in conjunction with the Japan Industrial Management Federation.
- At a recent event in Bengaluru, the award was presented to him by Sir T.V. Sadananda Gowda.

### **Gurugram-based Startup Blue Sky Analytics application 'Zuri' wins 'Space Oscars' award**

- The Gurugram- based startup program has created an application called 'Zuri' that won the Copernicus Masters Award also called Space Oscars, under the social Entrepreneurship category. The award was given by the Earth observation program managed by the European Commission (EU) in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA). The application was developed by Gurgaon-based startup Blue Sky Analytics.

### **T.N. bags Krishi Karman award for the fifth time**

- Tamil Nadu has yet again bagged the Krishi Karman Award for its performance in agricultural production. The award has been given for oilseeds production. This was the fifth time that the State received the award under various categories since 2011-12.

### **Tamil Nadu Chief Co-operative Banking Agency: Received National Award for Best State Agency**

- Tamil Nadu State Leadership Co-operative Bank of India has been recognized and honored with the National Award for the year 2019 as the best state agency in India.
- The State Co-operative Bank has been selected as the best state agency for the year 2009-2019, on behalf of the National Disabled Financial Development Corporation (NDFD).
- Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, presented the National Award for the Best State Agency in India at a ceremony held in the Indian capital.

### **Indian Shooters Divyansh, Elavenil and Saurabh receive Golden Target Award from ISSF Golden Target award from ISSF**

- Indian Shooters, Divyansh Singh Panwar, from Jaipur, Rajasthan Elavenil Valarivan, from Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu and Saurabh Chaudhary, from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh received the Golden Target Award from International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at its headquarters in Munich, Germany.

### **Amitabha Bagchi wins 2019 DSC Prize**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the IME Nepal Literature Festival, held at Pokhara, concluded with the announcement of the winner of DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019.

## 2020 Crystal Award: World Economic Forum

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced the Winners of 26th Annual Crystal Award for the year 2020.
- The Crystal Awards recognizes as well as celebrates the achievements of leading artists. The annual awards are hosted by World Economic Forum's World Arts Forum.

### WEF's 2019 Crystal Award Recipients

- Jin Xing – China's media personality. She was recognized for her leadership in shaping inclusive cultural norms
- Theaster Gates – Chicago-based artist. He was recognized for his leadership in creating sustainable communities
- Lynette Wallworth – Australian artist. She won for her leadership in creating inclusive narratives
- Deepika Padukone - Indian actress. She won the award for her remarkable leadership in raising mental health awareness.

## Writer Anand bags Ezhuthacha Award

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presented the Ezhuthacha Award for the year 2019 to writer Anand (P.Sachidanandan) at Thiruvananthapuram.



The award carries a purse of ₹5 lakh. The author has penned novels such as Aalkootam, Maranacertificate and Marubhoomikal Undakunnathu.

## Aditya became 1<sup>st</sup> child from Kerala to receive Bharat Award for bravery

- The Bharat award for bravery was announced. Aditya K. of Ramanattukara, Kozhikode, Kerala became the first child from the State to receive the highest honour award for bravery, the Bharat award. He was awarded for saving 20 people from a burning bus on the move. The awards will be presented by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Republic Day event in New Delhi on January 26, 2020.

## Ben Stokes has won the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019 award

- Stokes is only the fifth cricketer, and the first since Andrew Flintoff in 2005, to have received the honor since it began in 1954. The award, announced, 15 December, is part of BBC's annual sporting awards, and celebrates the best of British sport, with the public voting on shortlisted candidates.

## Union Rural Development Ministry selected UT of J&K for National award

- Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been selected for the national award by Union Rural Development Ministry for best performance in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The entire road length has been sanctioned for up-gradation of existing road infrastructure with 10-year maintenance

## National Award for Director of Human Resources in India

- The Indian Public Relations Association is holding an annual national seminar to improve the management skills of public sector consultants. The awards were given two awards, NLC, India's Best Social Responsibility Agency and Best Enforcement of Right to Information Act.
- This is the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that NLC and India have won the award for the best implementation of the Right to Information Act

## Tamil Isai Sangam honours musicians

- Violin maestro A. Kanniyakumari was conferred the title "Isai Peraringnar" and musician A. Balasubramaniya Odhuvar the "pann Isai Peraringnar" award at the annual Tamil Isai Festival organized by Tamil Isai Festival organized by Tamil Isai Sangam. President of Tamil Isai Sangam P.R. Gokulakrishnan and honorary secretary of the Sangam A.C. Muthiah were present on the occasion.

### Extra News

## International Astronomical Union names a star after Indian Woman Scientist

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) named a white yellow star in Sextans Constellation as "Bhibha" and its planet as "Santamasa"

**Highlights :** The star has been named Bhibha honoring Indian Woman Scientist Bhibha Choudhury who discovered subatomic particle pi-meson. Bhibha means a bright beam of light in Bengali. The name Santamasa in Sanskrit means clouded.

## 1.10 Latest Historical Events

### 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

- The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy is being observed across the country. It is one of the world's worst industrial disaster that claimed thousands of lives on the night of December 2, 1984.
- The disaster took place in a pesticide production plant, named the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL).
- The leak of 40 tonnes of deadly methyl isocyanate gas on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984.

### Sri Lanka formally releases 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor'

- Sri Lankan government has formally released its new National policy Framework titled 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor'.
- The framework is meant to guide the government ministries and departments in implementing their policies.
- It is aimed at achieving fourfold outcome of being a productive citizen, a contented family, a virtuous, disciplined and just society and a prosperous nation.
- Maintaining GDP growth rate of 6.5% or higher under the macroeconomic program, achieving a per capita income exceeding 6,500 US dollar during 2020 to 2025 are one of the key objectives of the framework.



## 1.1 India and its neighbours

### Global Migration Film Festival organised in Dhaka

- The Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) was organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The festival screened 15 films on the theme of “migration and its various aspects”. The festival was organised by the International Organisation of Migrants (IOM) and Dhaka University Film Society with the support of the European Union.

### Pakistan's Former dictator Pervez Musharraf sentenced to death

- Pakistan's former dictator General Pervez Musharraf was sentenced to death in absentia in the high treason case for subverting the Constitution in 2007, becoming the first military ruler to receive the capital punishment in the country's history. Musharraf is the first military ruler convicted for subverting the Constitution.

### India Builds Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School

- The Government of India has constructed Girls' Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School in Kirtipur, Kathmandu. The project was implemented by Nepal Armed Police Force (APF). The project compliments effort of Government of Nepal in augmenting infrastructure in the field of education.

### About Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School

- It is an academic institution created under APF Welfare Service Centre of Nepal Armed Police Force. The school was founded in 2005 and it has over 21% of girls students.

### Lahore-Wagah shuttle train service resumes operation after 22 years

- The shuttle train service between Lahore and Wagah railway station resumed operation on 15 December 2019 after a gap of 22 years. The train would complete three round trips daily as well as will provide the travelling facility to over 1,000 passengers in three trips.
- The train service was operational between Wagah to Lahore since the partition of India in 1947 till 1997 but was closed due to certain operational and security reasons.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks held in New Delhi

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks were held in New Delhi.
- 2020 cooperation talks venue: During the talks, it was also decided to hold the next Development Cooperation Talks for the year 2020 in Thimphu, Bhutan on a mutually agreed date.
- The Indian govt. has committed assistance of ₹4,500 crores for implementing development projects and ₹400 crores for transitional trade support facility during the Bhutan's 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2018 - 2023).

### India-China discuss border issues in New Delhi

- Indian and Chinese representatives met in New Delhi for the 22<sup>nd</sup> time to discuss the border issues between the countries.
- This is the first meeting of the representatives since the second informal summit between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping that was held at Chennai in October 2019.

## 1.12 Appointments – Who is who?

### Suman Billa to join UNWTO as Director

- Suman Billa, IAS, who was Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, will join UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as Director.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister, had approved his appointment last week. As per sources, he will take charge in the UNWTO headquarters in Madrid, Spain.
- In 1979, World Tourism Day created, to be celebrated every year on 27<sup>th</sup> September.



### Bipin Rawat to be first Chief of Defence Staff

- General Bipin Rawat to be first Chief of Defence Staff. He will end his tenure as the Army Chief in December 2019.
- He will take over as the first Chief of Defence Staff – a four-star position being created as part of a defense management overhaul.
- He will get a term of 2 years as the CDS. He took over as the 27<sup>th</sup> Chief of Army Staff on 31 December 2016 after General Dalbir Singh retired.



### Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO

- Sundar Pichai promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO after Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.
- Alphabet and Google no longer need two CEOs and a President and Sundar Pichai will be the CEO of both Google and Alphabet.

### Ripu Daman Bevli named as Plogging Ambassador of India

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) Kiren Rijiju felicitated Ripu Daman Bevli, popularly known as Plogman of India and named him as Plogging Ambassador of India.

### What is Plog Run?

- It is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging. It was added to Fit India Movement as a unique way of combining cleanliness and fitness. Plogging Run combines the Fit India Movement and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- First Fit India Plogging Run was held on 2 October 2019 in which more than 36 lakh people participated in over 62,000 locations across India.

### Dr Sangita Reddy appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20

- Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Group was appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2019-20, during FICCI's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in New Delhi.

## Girish Chandra Chaturvedi appointed as chairman of National Stock Exchange

- India's leading stock exchange the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has appointed public interest Director Girish Chandra Chaturvedi as its new chairman.
- The appointment was done after market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval. Chaturvedi replaced Ashok Chawla, who resigned as a chairman in January 2019



## Uddhav Thackeray sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister

- Uddhav Bal Thackeray was sworn-in as the 18<sup>th</sup> chief minister of Maharashtra.
- The 59-year-old Uddhav Thackeray is the first of his family to be the chief minister of Maharashtra.

## Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Secretary of India

- The Government of India as appointed the Senior Diplomat and Indian ambassador to the United States, Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next Foreign Secretary.
- He is the 33<sup>rd</sup> foreign secretary of the country. He replaces Vijay Gokhale. Shringla will take charge after the completion of Vijay Gokhale's two-year term on January 29, 2020.

## Lt.Gen. Manoj Kukund Naravane next Army Chief

- Vice-Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Major Mukund Naravane, has been appointed the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), Army officials confirmed.
- He is the senior most officer in the Army after Gen.Rawat and the government has gone with the seniority principle in the appointment. He will have a tenure till April 2022 till his superannuation



## Mallika Srinivasan, chairman of TAFE appointed as a board member of USIBC

- Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) was appointed as one of the board members of the United States (US)- India Business Council (USIBC), a global board of the US Chamber of Commerce.
- The appointment is to take immediate effect as she joins a prestigious list of Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and executives on USIBC 35-member board.

## Sridhar Patra appointed CMD of NALCO

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed Sridhar Patra as the new chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). NALCO was established on 7 January, 1981, with its registered office at Bhubaneswar, Odisha

## Chandrayaan-2 director out of 3<sup>rd</sup> Moon mission

- M Vanitha, who was the project director for Chandrayaan-2, is no longer going to be retained in the Chandrayaan-3 team.
- Ritu Karidhal, whose team was responsible for the mission, continues to be mission director for Chandrayaan-3. Vanitha has been replaced by P. Veeramuthuvel from ISRO headquarters.

## Mallika Srinivasan, chairman of TAFE appointed as a board member of USIBC

- Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) was appointed as one of the board members of the United States (US)-India Business Council (USIBC), a global board of the US Chamber of Commerce. The appointment is to take immediate effect as she joins a prestigious list of Chief Executive Officers (CEO) and executives on USIBC 35-member board.



## Sethuraman Panchanathan to be appointed as the National Science Foundation

- The USA President Donald Trump has chosen Indian-American computer scientist Sethuraman Panchanathan to lead the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- He will replace France Cordova when her 6-years-old term as the NSF Director ends in 2020. The position of NSF Director will be fixed by the Senate of the state.



## Nagpur Resolution to empower citizens adopted at conference organised by DARPG in Nagpur.

- The 'Nagpur Resolution' which is an approach to empower citizens, was adopted during the 2-day organised Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) along with Maharashtra govt and the Maharashtra State Commission for Right to Public Services' collaboration.

### Nagpur Resolution:

- ▶ The conference had conducting of six technical sessions during the 2-day event.
- ▶ Previously, Shillong Declaration and the Jammu Resolution were adopted for good governance in 2019.

## Brexit coins ordered again for new January 2020 deadline

- The UK government has ordered a new set of commemorative coins to mark the latest Brexit deadline of January 31, 2020 after having to melt down thousands with missed deadlines this year.
- The Royal Mint had commissioned special coins to mark the UK's scheduled exit from the European Union (EU) first by March 29 this year and then October 31 this year, both deadlines which were missed amid parliamentary deadlock.

## 1.13 Cultural Panorama

### Ocean Dance Festival 2019 starts in Cox Bazar

- The Ocean Dance Festival 2019 kicked off in Cox Bazar of Bangladesh.
- The festival is being organised by the Nrityajog which is the Bangladesh wing of World Dance Alliance (WDA). The festival aims to expand cultural tourism in Bangladesh.
- The theme of this year's festival is 'Bridging the distance' or Durotter Shetubandhan.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of Hornbill festival began in Nagaland on December 1

- The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hornbill festival began in Heritage Kisama, an Amphitheatre in Kohima, Nagaland, it is also the 57<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Nagaland.
- The festival is organized by Nagaland Government and is celebrated for the promotion of tourism and for the exhibition of the state's tradition and culture.
- The festival included colourful display of Naga culture themed as "Colours of Nagaland".

### National Tribal Dance Festival to be held in Raipur

- A National Tribal Dance Festival will be held in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur from December 27 to 29.
- Nearly 1,400 artists belonging to 151 art troupes from 23 states and guest artists from six countries including Sri Lanka, Belarus, Uganda and Bangladesh will participate in the three-day programme.

### Manipur Sangai Festival 2019 being organised in Imphal

- The 2019 edition of Manipur Sangai Festival is being organised from 24-30 November in Imphal. Every year in November, Gateway of North-East region, Manipur celebrates the 'Sangai Festival', which was named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur.

#### About Sangai deer

- Endangered (EN) - IUCN.
- Endemic species found only in Manipur, India.
- State animal of Manipur

#### Habitat:

- Floating marshy grasslands, Phumids, of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the southern parts of the Loktak Lake (largest freshwater lake in eastern India) Phumdi - floating mass of entangled vegetation formed by the accumulation of organic debris and biomass with soil.

### Madhya Pradesh to host "Namaste Orchha" festival 2020 in Orchha

- Madhya Pradesh (MP) Tourism Department is going to organize a 3-day Cultural Festival 'Namaste Orchha 2020' in Orchha from March 6 - March 8, 2020 with the aim to promote MP Tourism through Orchha & especially to attract tourists.







## 2.1 Latest Court Verdicts

### Chief justice forms panel of two SC judges to expedite trials in sexual assault cases

- Chief Justice of India SA Bobde formed a panel of two Supreme Court judges to speed up clearing sexual assault cases, reported Bar and Bench.
- The judicial committee of Justices Subhash Reddy and MR Shah will monitor, supervise and make suggestions for expeditious trial in cases relating to rape and POCSO across the country.
- The judicial committee of Justices Subhash Reddy and MR Shah will 'monitor, supervise and make suggestions' for speedy trials.

### *Extra News*

### Andhra pradesh cabinet approves Disha bill, 2019 to make criminal cases against women in 21 days

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) state Cabinet chaired by chief minister (CM), Yeduguri Sandinti (YS) Jagan Mohan Reddy, has approved the A.P. Disha Bill, 2019 that makes it mandatory to settle cases of atrocities against women in 21 days and punishment including a death penalty for the offences of rape and gang-rape. The new bill, the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (amendment) Act, 2019, called as A.P Disha Act, 2019.

### SC uses extraordinary powers to grant divorce to couple

- Marriages are said to be made in heaven and broken on earth, the Supreme Court said while using its extraordinary powers to do "complete justice" and grant divorce to a couple whose marriage has irretrievably broken down to the state of a "dead letter".
- A Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph said the ground of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" was yet to be recognised by the divorce law.
- Hence the court had to resort to its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to dissolve irreparable marriages, which remains outside the statutes despite two reports by the Law Commission of India recommending its insertion

**Key Points:** The amended law mandates the completion of investigation in 7 days and subsequent court trial in the next 14 days so that the sentence can be given within 21 days. The current law gives 4 months to go to trial in such cases. New Provision: The bill amended provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Sections 354-E and 354-F in the IPC have also been created to deal with harassment of women via social media, digital mode & molestation / sexual assault of children respectively

## 2.2 India's Foreign Policy

### India and Sweden set to expand ties

- Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf held extensive talks with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expand overall bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including in trade and investment, innovation and culture. The King and President Kovind, the sides signed three pacts providing for cooperation in polar science, innovation and research and in maritime spheres. India-Sweden High-Level Policy Dialogue on Innovation Policy, discussing ways to expand engagement in research and development.

## 2.3 Political parties and Political system in India

### SPG Bill passed amid Opposition walkout

- The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the special protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which will now protect only the Prime Minister and members of his immediate family residing with him at his official residence. It will also provide security to former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members staying with them at the residence allotted for a period of five years from the date on which they cease to hold office.

### Logo, motto introduced for Lokpal

- Lokpal Chairman Justice (retired) Pinaki Chandra Ghose launched the new logo for the apex anti-corruption ombudsman. A new motto, 'Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam (Do not be greedy for anyone's wealthy, was also adopted. A logo designed by Prashant Mishra, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, was finally selected.

### Description of the Symbol

Ombudsman	Judges Session
People	Picture of three Human
Inquiry	Asoka Chakra stone formation student
Law	The shape of the Book in orange
Judiciary	Two hands with tricolor will form a Unique balance

### Santhali language spoken for first time in Rajya Sabha

- 'Santhali' reverberated in Rajya Sabha for the first time in 67 years since its inception when BJD MP Sarojini Hembram spoke in the language of the tribal community Santhals.
- She belongs to Santhal community, Hembram raised the issue of conferring Bharat Ratna to Raghunath Murmu, the inventor of the 'OIchiki', the script used in Santhali language.

### Santhali language

- Santali also known as Santhali, is the most widely-spoken language of the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages, related to Ho and Mundari, spoken mainly in the Indian states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Odisha, Tripura and West Bengal.

## Social Security Code Bill introduced in Lok Sabha

- The social security code bill was introduced in Lok Sabha. The bill paves way for universalization of social security of 50 crore workers in the country.

### Key Features of the bill

- The bill proposes setting up of a social security fund to fulfill benefits such as medical cover, pension, death and disablement benefits including gig workers.

## World's Deepest land canyon discovered under Denman glacier in Antarctica

- The deepest canyon on land on earth is found in the Denman glacier in East Antarctica. The discovery was done by Glaciologists at the University of California Irvine (UCI), California and was presented at the American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting held in San Francisco.

## CSIR, BHEL signs MoU to push 'Make in India' initiative

- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on promotion of honey production Khadi outlets to also display CSIR products.

## Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019

- The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 seeks to provide for protection of personal data of individuals, and establishes a Data Protection Authority for the same. Applicability: Personal data is data which pertains to characteristics, traits or attributes of identity, which can be used to identify an individual. The Bill categorizes certain personal data as sensitive personal data.
- This includes financial data, biometric data, caste, religious or political beliefs, or any other category of data specified by the government, in consultation with the Authority and the concerned sectoral regulator.

## Parliament passes ship recycling bill

**Building Blocks**

**RECYCLING OF SHIPS BILL, 2019 MAKES WAY FOR...**

- Better handling of hazardous waste
- Legal provisions for green recycling
- EU, Japan come forward to promote industry here
- Better safety conditions for workers
- Annual growth of 20% expected

**We want to double ship recycling industry in India... Employment generation capacity of the industry will also increase**

**MANSUKH MANDAVIYA**  
SHIPPING MINISTER

- The bill restricts and prohibits the use or installation of hazardous material, which applies irrespective of whether a ship is meant for recycling or not. Ships to be recycled in India shall be required to obtain a Ready for Recycling Certificate in accordance with the HKC-Hong Kong International Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships.
- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (the Hong Kong Convention), was adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China in 2009. It was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2009.

## 2.4 Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

### 'One nation, one ration card': Centre makes standard format

- The Centre has designed a standard format for ration cards as it moves ahead with 'one nation, one ration card' initiative and has asked state governments to follow the pattern while issuing fresh ration cards.
- Currently, the central government's ambitious initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in a cluster of six states. It wants to implement this facility across the country from June 1, 2020.
- Under this initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food-grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country using the same ration card.
- The states have also been told to have a 10-digit standard ration card number, wherein first two digits will be state code and the next two digits will be running ration card numbers.

### Indian Railways offers 50% concession for Youth participating in the "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" programme

- In order to facilitate the travel of youth participants of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" program, Indian Railways has decided to grant 50% concession in basic fares of Second/Sleeper Class to youths with earnings emoluments of not more than ₹5000/- per month for travelling from one State to another State to take part in 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme. This concession has been granted as a special case and it is admissible only in the normal train services and not for booking of Special Trains/Coaches.

### Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 to be launched across India

- Centre is launching nationwide vaccination drive to prevent eight diseases under Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 across the country. The government's flagship scheme is aimed at immunizing children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women against eight vaccine preventable diseases.
- The IMI covers vaccines for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B. Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and hemophilus influenza are also being provided in selected areas.
- Over 88.5 per cent children and pregnant women have been vaccinated under routine immunization in Rajasthan and a target has been set to reach 100 per cent under this campaign.

### Govt launches 4<sup>th</sup> round of Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN

- The Union Government of India has launched the fourth round of UDAN (UdeDesh Ka AamNagrik) to enhance the connectivity to regional areas of the country. This phase is to focus on Hilly states, North East Region, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Islands.

### **Lok Sabha passes bill to extend SC-ST quota in legislatures**

- Lok Sabha unanimously passed a Constitution amendment bill to extend reservation to SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by another 10 years even though the opposition slammed the government for not giving the benefit to the Anglo-Indian community.
- The bill was passed with 352 members voting in favour and none against it.
- Responding to the debate on the Constitution (126th) Amendment Bill, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asserted that quota in legislatures for SCs and STs was required to build a new political leadership of the two communities.
- The reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in Lok Sabha and state assemblies was due to end on January 25, 2020.

### **Annual solar eclipse on Dec 26 in India**

- A day after the world celebrates Xmas on December 25, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in India along with several other countries.
- This will be an annular solar eclipse in some parts of India and elsewhere which happens on December 26, 2019 when the Moon covers the Sun's centre, leaving the sun's visible outer edges to form a "ring of fire"
- From India, annular phase will be visible in the morning after sunrise from some places within a narrow corridor of southern part of the country (parts of Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu) and it will be seen as partial solar eclipse from the rest part of the country.
- The narrow corridor of annular phase of the eclipse will pass through the southern part of the country through certain places like Cannanore, Coimbatore, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangalore, Ooty, Tiruchirappalli etc.

### **GoI flagship scheme, AMRUT extended by 2 years**

- The Government of India extended the deadline of its flagship scheme AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) by two more years.
- The mission was launched in 2015 by PM Modi promising 139 lakh water connections and 145 lakh sewer connections by March 2020. The expenditure of the mission was estimated as ₹ 77,640 crores.

#### **AMRUT scheme**

- After its launch, Rajasthan was the first state to submit its State Annual Action Plan (SAAP). The plan is submitted by the state governments to the centre.
- With the help of the plan the centre formulates city level estimation of budget required to avail water supply, draining system, sewerages, digital and internet facilities, industrial and transport facilities, etc



### **NIFTEM to conduct National Organic Festival of Women Entrepreneurs**

- Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to organize 'National Organic Festival of Women Entrepreneurs'. The event will be planned and organized through National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Sonapat, Haryana. NIFTEM is an academic institution under the administrative control of Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

### **Govt. Aims to provide broadband access to all villages by 2022**

- The government announced a new 'mission' aimed at providing broadband access in all villages in the country by 2022, entailing investments of around ₹7 lakh crore from various stakeholders. The National Broadband Mission will facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas." The mission envisages stakeholder investment of \$100 billion (₹7 lakh crore), including ₹70,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in coming years

### **Phase III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana launched**

- Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

### **Indian Railways offers 50% concession for Youth participating in the "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" programme**

- In order to facilitate the travel of youth participants of "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" program, Indian Railways has decided to grant 50% concession in basic fares of Second/Sleeper Class to youths with earnings emoluments of not more than ₹5000/- per month for travelling from one State to another State to take part in 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' programme.
- This concession has been granted as a special case and it is admissible only in the normal train services and not for booking of Special Trains/Coaches.

## **2.5 Problems in Conduct of Public Elections**

### **Election Commission to implement registration tracking system "PPRTMS"**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) reviewed the political parties' registration process and decided to implement new guidelines and "Political Parties.
- Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS), related to the registration process effective from January 1, 2019.
- The PPRTMS will be implemented through an online portal in order to track the status of the applicants. Guidelines: The guidelines for this purpose are made available in the election commission's website <https://eci.gov.in>.

# 3. GEOGRAPHY



## 3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

### Undersea telecom cables can be used as earthquake monitoring networks

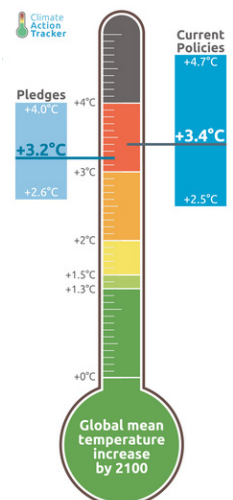
- Fibre-optic cables that make up the global undersea telecommunications network may help researchers assess offshore earthquakes, and hidden geologic structures in the depths of the ocean, according to a study.
- The study, published in the journal Science, describes an experiment which turned a 20 kilometre section of undersea fibre-optic cable into the equivalent of 10,000 seismic stations monitoring quakes along the ocean floor.
- The researchers, including those from the University of California (UC) Berkeley in the US, recorded a 3.5 magnitude earthquake, and seismic scattering from underwater fault zones during their four-day experiment.

### Global temperature will rise 3.2 degree Celsius by 2100: UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2019

- The latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report-2019 warns that the average temperature of the Earth may rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2100. Despite all the scientific warnings and political commitments emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) couldn't decrease globally. A report released prior to the United Nations Climate Conference COP-25 to be held in Spain from December 2 states that GHG emissions have increased by 1.5 per cent since the last decade. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions have reached an all-time high figure of 55.3 gigatons.

### Guru Ghasidas National Park to become Chhattisgarh's 4<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve

- Chhattisgarh government announced that the state is set to have Guru Ghasidas National Park in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'.
- This decision was taken in 11th meeting of Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had approved to declare Guru Ghasidas National Park as a tiger reserve in 2014.
- Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh: At present there are three tiger reserves in state: Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Bilaspur, Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariaband and Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur district.



### **Etawah Lion Safari inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh**

- The Etawah Lion Safari, formally known as Etawah Safari Park was thrown open for public in Uttar Pradesh without the lion segment. It is a drive-through safari park located in Etawah, Uttar Pradesh and is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia with an area of 350 hectares (860 acres). In 2014, the first pair of lions reached the safari and has now at least 18 lions roam in the premises. The wildlife officials entrusted with this project visited England's Longleat Safari Park for inspiration.

### **UNDP launches Accelerator Lab in New Delhi**

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched the India chapter of its new initiative, Accelerator Lab in New Delhi. The objective behind launching lab is to address some of the most pressing issues facing India, including air pollution, through innovation. To achieve its objectives, the UNDP has also partnered with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

### **Central Government has decided to deploy drones to destroy hidden Marijuana plants**

- The central Government has decided to deploy drones to destroy marijuana plantations before it reaches the hands of the drug cartels. The decision has been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

### **Country's tiger population up by 750 in 4 yrs to 2,976**

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar recited in the Rajya Sabha that tiger population in the country has increased by 750 in the last four years to 2,976.
- The Country's geographical area of forest cover has increased by 17,374 sq km between assessments of 2007 and 2017.

### **'Earth's most uninhabitable place found'**

- Researchers have found an aquatic environment on the Earth with complete absence of any forms of life, an advance that may lead to an improved understanding of the limits of habitability.
- The study, published in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution, revealed that any form of microbial life was absent in the hot, saline, hyperacid ponds of the Dallol geothermal field in Ethiopia.

## **3.2 Natural Disasters - Safeguard Measures**

### **Typhoon Kammuri hits Philippines**

- Typhoon Kammuri hits Philippines disrupting people's daily routine. Over three lakh people were moved out from their homes and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was shut down and about 500 flights were cancelled.
- The storm also affected the South part of Manila where thousands of athletes were gathered for the regional South Asian Games (SEA).



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

### Walmart Inc launches supplier development programme in India

- US-based retail major Walmart Inc launched a supplier development program in India with the aim to train 50,000 small and medium entrepreneurs enabling them to scale up and become part of global supply chains. The initiative called the Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program, aims to train these 50,000 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) by setting up 25 institutes strategically near manufacturing clusters across the country in the next five years. The first such institute is expected to open in March 2020. India is already among the top five sourcing markets for the retail giant globally, and the new initiative is part of its long-term commitments to the country.

### GOVT. Extends 15<sup>th</sup> finance panel term

- The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the term of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- The term had been extended till October 30. The first report, for financial year 2020-21, will be submitted in the coming months before the Union Budget, and the second report for the period 2021-26 will be presented by October 30, 2020.
- This will effectively mean the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations will be applicable for six years and not the conventional five-year period.
- The extension will help the N.K.Singh-led panel to examine comparable estimates for financial projections.

### Challenges ahead for most Indian non-financial companies in 2020: Moody's Investors Service

- Driven by sluggish economic growth and slowing earnings, credit conditions will weaken for most Indian non-financial companies in 2020 announced by Moody's Investors Service
- Moody's expects India's GDP growth to slow to 6.6 per cent in 2020, weaker than in previous years, with limited prospects for government stimulus measures to improve credit conditions in the near term. Funding conditions also remain tight, slowing demand for consumer goods and leaving banks selective in extending loans to companies.

### **Aditya Birla Finance becomes first company to list commercial papers on stock exchanges**

- Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) arm of Aditya Birla Capital, has now become the first company to list its commercial papers (CPs) on stock exchanges.
- The move comes after stock exchanges—the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange), came out with a framework for listing of commercial papers (CPs), in a bid to broaden investors' participation in such securities.

### **Shipping Ministry approves Loktak Inland Waterways Project in Manipur**

- Union Ministry of Shipping (MoS) has approved long pending demand of Government of Manipur for development of Loktak Inland Waterways Project in the north eastern state. The request for development of this project was made by Loktak Development Authority.

### **Exim Bank sanctioned \$500 million LoC to Bangladesh for defence procurement**

- India's EXIM bank (Export Import Bank of India) has provided \$500 million (Rs 3561 crore) Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement in the neighbouring country. The EXIM bank entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division (AFD) in this regard on April 11, 2019.
- The agreement became effective from November 7, 2019 and the utilization period of the loan is 10 years from the date of signing the agreement.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission submits its report for 2020-21 to President**

- President of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee, NK Singh, presented the report for the financial year 2020-21 to President Ramnath Govind. The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee report for the financial year 2020-21 was ordered to be submitted on the 27th of last month.
- NK Singh submitted a financial statement to President Ramnath Govind in Delhi. According to the report, the time limit for submitting the financial committee's report for 2021-26 has been given until October 30 next year.

### **Xiaomi launches service "Mi Credit" in India for Android phones**

- Xiaomi has formally launched its lending platform "Mi Credit" in India for Android phones.
- According to platform "Mi Credit" individuals can avail up to Rs 1 lakh loan.
- Xiaomi has roped in Aditya Birla Finance Ltd, Money View, Early Salary, Zest money and Credit Vidya as the current lending partners for Mi Credit service.

### **Reliance is a track record - worth Rs 10 lakh crore**

- The market value of Reliance Industries has crossed Rs 10 lakh crore.
- On the Bombay Stock Exchange, Reliance's current market value is Rs 10.01 lakh crore.
- Shares of Mukesh Ambani Company closed at Rs. 579.95
- The Bombay Stock Exchange, for the first time in its history, reached 41 thousand and 120 points between trading.



### Canada's CPPIB commits to invest up to \$600 million in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India

- Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) has agreed to invest up to \$600 million in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India through the NIIF Master Fund. CPPIB's commitment includes a \$150 million in the NIIF Master Fund and co-investment rights of upto \$450 million in future opportunities to invest alongside the NIIF Master Fund.

### ADB trims growth forecasts as Asia's biggest economies slow

- India's growth is now seen at a slower 5.1% in 2019-20. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has trimmed its forecasts for economic growth in developing Asia this year and next year as growth in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India is weighed down by both external and domestic factors. In South Asia, India's growth is now seen at a slower 5.1% in fiscal year 2019 (2019-20) as the foundering of a major nonbanking financial company in 2018 led to a rise in risk aversion in the financial sector and a credit crunch.

### NSE launches interest rate options on 10-yr govt bonds

- National Stock Exchange launched interest rate options on ten-year Government bonds. The exchange recorded a turnover of 5,926 contracts on the first day of its launch. The exchange has added one more instrument to the fixed income derivatives asset class. Interest rate options will provide institutional investors with the ability to manage risk through a non-linear product.

### India in the midst of significant slowdown: IMF

- India is now in the midst of a significant economic slowdown, the International Monetary Fund has said, urging the government to take urgent policy actions to address the current prolonged downturn.
- In its report released Monday, the IMF Directors noted that India's rapid economic expansion in recent years has lifted millions of people out of poverty. However, in the first half of 2019, a combination of factors led to subdued economic growth in India.

### Bharat Bond ETF first cut

- India's first bond exchange-traded fund (ETF) is just a few weeks away from being rolled out. The Bharat Bond ETF, Edelweiss Asset Management will launch it soon, after nearly two years of deliberation with the government of India.
- The former finance minister Arun Jaitley had made announcements relating to bond ETFs in his Budget speech of 2018. It is a low-down on the structure of the product and some pointers for investors to benefit from.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Pashu Kisan Credit Cards of India, distributed in Bhiwani, Haryana

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Pashu Kisan credit cards (Animal husbandry Credit Card) in India were distributed to 101 animal farmers in Bhiwani district of Haryana. These credit cards were launched to promote animal husbandry and agribusiness. The haryana govt has also set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by March 2021.

## Reliance Industries topples IOC to become largest company on Fortune India 500 list

- Reliance Industries (RIL) ended Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) 10-year reign as India's largest corporation on the Fortune India 500 list. The Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate also became the first privately-held and the only company apart from the state run oil-refiner to top the list since it was first published in 2010.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census: India's 1<sup>st</sup> digital census launched in New Delhi

- 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Economic Census was launched in New Delhi. To carry out the economic census, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) tied up with Common Service Centres Network (CSCN). CSC is an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) under Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY). It is for the first time the census is being conducted in digital platform named ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

## Infosys launches distributed apps powered by blockchain tech

- Infosys announced the launch of three blockchain-powered distributed applications for government services, insurance, and supply chain management domains.
- These comprehensive applications designed as ready-to-subscribe business networks ensure quick deployment, interoperability across disparate systems of value chain stakeholders and a wide variety of use cases involving other digital technologies like IoT, Analytics as well

## RBI's launched special operation to forcefully lower interest rates.

- To forcefully bring down the rate of interest in the economy, the RBI would buy Government Securities (G-Secs) with a 10- years maturity while, at the same time, sell government bonds with just one-year maturity both worth ₹10,000 crore each. Globally termed as 'Operation Twist' for quite sometime, economics have been expectating the Central bank to launch this special manoeuvre so that rate cuts by it could lead to a commensurate drop in the rate of interest in the economy.

- 'Operation Twist' is the name given to a monetary policy tool that the Jerome Powell- led US Federal Reserve had started to influence the rate of interest in the world's largest economy. The process involves buying and selling of both short-and long-term government bonds- depending upon its objective relating to rates-at the same time.

## SEBI signs pact with Kazakhstan's AFSA for mutual co-operation

- Markets regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kazakhstan-based Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

## About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- It is responsible for regulating Securities market in India. It was first established in 1988 as a non-statutory body for regulating securities market and was given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992.

## **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 in Rajya Sabha**

- Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha. Earlier, it was passed in Lok Sabha on December 9 after a long debate. This bill has to be introduced in Rajya Sabha. The BJP has issued a whip for its Rajya Sabha MPs for December 10 and 11.

### **What is Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019?**

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill-2019 will provide Indian citizenship to the six minority communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. These six communities are - Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, Christian and Sikhs. At present, it is mandatory for a person to stay here for at least 11 years to get citizenship of India. The bill will reduce this period to six years. It will enable people from these communities to get Indian citizenship in six years. It will make some amendments to the Citizenship Act 1955 to provide legal aid for citizenship.

### **About the bill:**

- The Union Cabinet approved the draft law on 4 December 2019, while it was passed by the Lok Sabha with 311 MPs voting in favour and 80 against the bill. It is likely to be passed by the Rajya Sabha on 11 December. The bill was first introduced in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government, but was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- The Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955 to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Christians, Sikhs and Parsis facing persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan - but excludes Muslims. The bill aims to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who entered India on or before 31 December 2014, eligible for Indian citizenship.
- It also seeks to relax the requirement of residence in India for citizenship by naturalisation from 11 years to 5 years for these migrants. The bill exempts the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution from its applicability. These tribal areas include Karbi Anglong in Assam, Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Chakma district in Mizoram, and Tribal Areas district in Tripura.
- It also excludes the areas regulated through the Inner Line Permit which includes Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. The bill includes new provisions for cancellation of the registration of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI). The criteria include OCI registration through fraud, imprisonment for two or more years within five years of OCI registration and when it's a matter of India's sovereignty and security.

## **PM Modi holds 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Cabinet Committee on Investment & Growth**

- The newly formed Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth held its first meeting as the government looked at boosting spending to bring back a sputtering economy on track. The panel has four other members - Home Minister Amit Shah, Highways and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce & Railways Minister Piyush Goyal.

### **ADB approves \$ 490 million loan to upgrade roads in Madhya Pradesh**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB), an international development finance institution has inked a \$490 million loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) for upgrade about 1,600 km of Madhya Pradesh(MP) state highways (750km) & major district roads- MDRs (850km) from single-lane to two-lane widths in the state. This project will be a public-private partnership (PPP) through the hybrid-annuity model (HAM), for this, an additional \$286 million investment will be mobilized by the state.
- This project will be a public-private partnership (PPP) through the hybrid-annuity model (HAM), for this, an additional \$286 million investment will be mobilized by the state.

### **Bharat Bond ETF subscribed 1.7 times**

- Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), the country's first corporate bond exchange traded fund aimed to retail investors, saw a strong response, with the issue getting subscribed around 1.7 times.

### **NEFT transaction facility to be available 24×7 for customers from December, 16, 2019: RBI**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the round-the-clock (24×7) transactions facility under the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system to customers on all days including weekends and holidays from December 16, 2019. As per the recommendation of Nandan Nilekani-led Committee on Digital Payments panel, RBI directed banks to withdraw the charges levied on the NEFT transactions.

### **SEC releases final list for local body polls**

- Tamil Nadu Election Commission has declared that in the final list 2,31,890 candidates will be contesting in the rural local body elections on December 27 and 30. According to a release 3,20,994 nomination were received to contest for 91,975 posts- village panchayat ward member, panchayat president, union ward and district ward member post in 27 districts across the state. After scrutiny 3,643 papers were rejected ,48,891 with drew their nominations and candidates were declared elected unopposed for 18,570 posts.

## **4.2 Current Socio-Economic Problems**

### **DHFL becomes 1<sup>st</sup> financial services firm to be taken to NCLT**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has referred Dewan Housing Finance Corp. Ltd (DHFL) to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for insolvency proceedings, making it the first financial services player to go NCLT for a possible debt resolution.
- DHFL has a debt of ₹ 83,873 crore. As per the statutory inspection of DHFL conducted by the National Housing Bank, the DHFL showed a serious deterioration in its finances.

# 5. SCIENCE



## 5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

### 1<sup>st</sup> night trial of Agni-III Missile held at Abdul Kalam island ITR, Odisha

- The first night trial of the nuclear capable Agni-III surface-to-surface ballistic missile was carried out from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

### Boeing's Starliner Lands Safely Back to Earth After Aborted Space Station Mission

- Boeing's Starliner spacecraft returned to Earth, landing safely in the New Mexico desert.
- The journey is being hailed as a major achievement despite failing to complete a core objective: docking at the international space station.



### Govt propose to set up new rocket launch pad near Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu

- Union Government is planning to set up a new rocket launch pad near Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu. At present, the Indian Space Research organisation (ISRO) has two launch pads at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDCC) in Sriharikotta, Andhra Pradesh.

### BRUIE to hunt for life on distant ocean worlds

- NASA recently displayed a new underwater robot for a mission that could one day search for life in ocean worlds beyond earth. The robot, known as Buoyant Rover for Under - Ice Exploration (BRUIE), is being developed for underwater exploration in extra-terrestrial, icy waters. It could be used to explore Jupiter's moon Europa or Saturn's moon Enceladus.

### Japan launches world's 1<sup>st</sup> liquid hydrogen transport ship, 'Suiso frontier'

- Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd, a Japanese public multinational corporation has launched the world's 1st ocean-going liquid hydrogen carrier ship designed to carry liquid hydrogen at minus 253 ° C produced in south coast of Australia to unload in Kobe, Japan.
- The liquid hydrogen carrier tank has been named as 'Suiso Frontier' at a ceremony held at Kobe Works yard, Japan



### India conducts successful trial of indigenously made Prithvi-2 missile

- India has successfully conducted another night trial of its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-2 missile from a mobile launcher of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha coast.
- Earlier, the flight test of surface-to-surface missile was carried out barely a 15 days after two back-to-back trials of Prithvi-2 were conducted successfully at night from same base on 20 November.

### CSIR Developed Anti-Diabetes Medicine

- The diabetic population in the country is close to hitting the alarming mark of 69.9 million by 2025, which denotes that the country is expected to witness an increase of 266%. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) developed scientifically validated herbal product NBRMAP-DB as anti-diabetic formulation and the knowhow for the product was licensed to M/s AIMIL Pharma Ltd., Delhi who are manufacturing and marketing it as BGR-34, across the country.

### MG Motor unveils its first electric car in India

- The automaker plans to bring in a long-range electric SUV named ZS next month MG Motor is betting on the upcoming EV to establish the brand in the domestic market South Korea's Hyundai Motor was the first to launch a long-range electric vehicle in India, Kona, which has found wide acceptance among affluent retail customers.

### Intel's design and engineering facility opens in Hyderabad

- Intel India opened a 3,00,000 sq ft Design and Engineering Centre in Hyderabad, a facility the tech major expects will make significant contributions to its critical global products.
- One of the important tasks the 1,500-seater facility will focus on is the Exascale Computing project.

### IIT Kanpur develops drone called 'Prahari'

- Students of IIT-Kanpur have developed a drone named 'Prahari' which can not only carry a load of about 4 to 5 kilograms but can also patrol sensitive zone for three hours continuously. The autonomous system (drone) consists of an unmanned helicopter with drone catching net. 'Prahari' is unique in this way that it can chase, outrun and capture the rogue drone. This system has been developed by Prof Abhishek and Prof Mangal Kothari of the department of aerospace engineering and their team of students.



### 'T-Taxi' cell phone processor for drivers

- T-Taxi, a new cell phone processor that unites drivers and drivers who own personal vehicles, was unveiled in Chennai.
- T-Taxi Co-operative Service Union has announced that there will be no additional charges for congestion during peak hours.

## Chennai Engineer Who Alerted NASA

- A Chennai-based engineer has been credited by NASA for alerting them about the presence of the debris of the lander of Chandrayaan 2, India's ambitious moon mission.
- Shanmuga Subramanian, 33, found the debris from the Vikram moon lander that scientists had been looking for and helped guide them to the spot where it had crashed.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had lost contact with the lander Vikram following its launch from Chandrayaan 2 moon orbiter on September 6 when it tried to make soft-landing near the moon's south pole.

## ISRO sets up Space Technology Cells in premier institutions

- The Indian Space Research Organization will set up five Space Technology Cells at the premier institutes in order to carry out research activities. It includes IISc, IITs in Kharagpur, Bombay, Madras and Kanpur.

### Space Technology cell

- The Technology cells will consist of professors and scholars associated with the institute. Under the programme, the experts will conduct space technology research and applications.

## Swachh Bharat Mission achieves its urban target

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced that urban areas of 35 states have been declared Open Defecation Free. It includes 4,167 cities. The target has been achieved through third party verification.

### Highlights

- According to the ministry, the target has been achieved by constructing 65.81 lakh households toilets as against the target of 59 lakhs. In order to achieve the target, the ministry had launched ODF+ and ODF++ protocols.

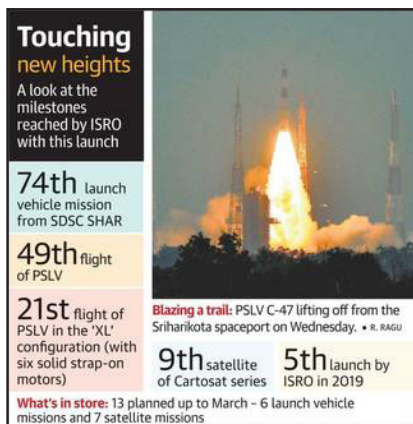
## Mozhugampoondi is India's best panchayat

- Mzhugampoondi village in Tiruvannamalai district has been selected as the best implementation of the central government program. Under the Central Government's 'Mission Antyodaya', the basic facilities required for the villages are provided.
- In this project, the village of Thiruvannamalai district, Arani, next to Mzhugampoondi village has been selected as the best performing village in India. It topped the charts. This year's rankings for the central and state governments are based on road maintenance, drinking water, electricity, education and rural development.

## World's First fully electric commercial Seaplane takes test flight in Canada

- The World's first fully electric commercial aircraft takes test flight in Vancouver, Canada.
- It is manufactured by Harbour Air and Magnix and involves a six-passenger DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver with a 750-horsepower (560 kW) magni500 propulsion system, and was piloted by Greg McDougall, founder and Chief Executive of Harbour Air.

## India's Cartosat-3 plus 13 nano satellites put in orbit



- The 'sharpest eye in the sky', India's Cartosat-3, and 13 other nano satellites belonging to two companies in the U.S. lifted off successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- The Cartosat-3 is a high resolution imaging satellite that will help large-scale urban planning, infrastructure development, and coastal land use, among others. The satellite is also likely to have a military use since it provides the highest-ever spatial resolution of about a foot.

## Police launches "MP e-cop" an application to ensure women's safety in Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh (MP) police have launched an application named 'MP e-cop' to ensure the safety of women.
- The MP e-cop app includes SOS (an international code signal for extreme distress) facility which will send an alert SMS (Short Message Service) to 100 and any five phone numbers fed in the app as soon as the button is pressed.

## 50<sup>th</sup> PSLV launch carries radar satellite

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) marked its 'Golden Jubilee' launch by injecting India's advanced radar imaging satellite RISAT-2BRI and nine other customer satellites from Japan, Italy, Israel and the U.S., into their intended orbits. The PSLV, which has a history of successful launches of payloads that include Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission and the space recovery mission.

## New China-Brazil earth resource satellite named "CBERS-4A" launched into space

- China and Brazil's jointly developed earth observation satellite named China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite- 4A (CBERS-4A).
- The satellite along with 8 other satellites, was launched under a bilateral programme that would enhance cooperation among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations. It was launched from Long March-4B rocket in the northern Chinese province of Shanxi.

## City gets an online waste exchange

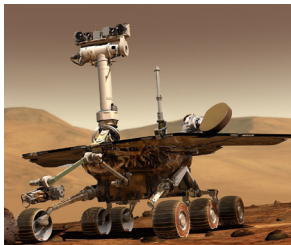
- Chennai has become the first city to have an online waste exchange for municipal solid waste.
- Residents who want to sell their waste online will be able to contact 2,600 scrap dealers and other agencies across the city.
- The Madras Waste Exchange, which is both a web portal and an application. Has been conceptualized by the Smart City Mission, with support from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The web portal is [www.madraswasteexchange.com](http://www.madraswasteexchange.com).

## Tata Motors unveils Nexon Electric SUV

- Tata Motors has unveiled the Nexon Electric Vehicle (EV), which will be commercially launched in January 2020.
- Targeted at personal car buyers, this EV is powered by Ziptron technology and is expected to be priced between ₹ 15 Lakh and ₹ 17 lakh. The company calls it 'India's own Electric SUV'. The EV will come with a warranty of eight years or 1,60,000 kms. Whichever is earlier, on battery and motor. It will have a range of 300 km in a single charge.

## NASA to launch rover 'MARS 2020' in the year 2020

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) announced to launch its rover 'MARS 2020' in the year 2020. Capturing features: 'Mars 2020' has 23 cameras, most of them are colour cameras. The rover also has two microphones to capture not only the first sounds of a Mars landing but also Martian wind and the rover's chemical-analyzing laser zaps.



## Part of BrahMos missile found off Cuddalore coast

- India successfully test fired two supersonic BrahMos missiles to check their precision in hitting long distance targets. The object with an inscription 'BrahMos BIFP-04' in bright red colour may weigh close to 70 kg.

## International Astronomical Union names new star 'Sharjah'

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has announced new names of its newly discovered star and its planet. The star 'HIP 7943' was named as "Sharjah" and one of its planet (exoplanet) was named as "Barjeel".
- The announcement was made during a press conference of IAU in Paris, France during the centenary celebration of the union (IAU).
- **Star Sharjah:** Appreciating the achievements of Sharjah, which is the Capital of Arab Culture, Capital of Islamic Culture and also has the name of World Book Capital, the star was named as "Sharjah".
- **Barjeel meaning:** A barjeel is a wind tower that directs the flow of wind, where the air can be recirculated as a form of air conditioning. Barjeel is an exoplanet to Sharjah. Planets orbiting their stars are called exoplanets.

## AP CM Jagan launched 'Netanna Nestham' welfare scheme for weavers

- The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Shri Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scheme for weavers named "Nethanna Nestham" at Dharmavaram of Anantapur district.
- The aim of the scheme is to provide ₹ 24,000 per annum for each handloom weaver family.
- The scheme would provide financial aid to about 85,000 families across the State for a period of 5 years. Thus, each family would get ₹ 1.2lakh at the end of 5 years.

## 5.2 Latest Discoveries in Health Science

### Discovery of skin infection in Kerala for the first time in India

- For the first time in India, cattle in Kerala have been diagnosed with skin and skin tumors. Last week, the Central Government reported to the World Veterinary Health Organization that the disease had been detected in India.
- Cows living in tropical areas have high immunity. But milk production is low. The whitening revolution was caused by the increase in demand for milk.

### Home ministry alerts on Android bug 'StrandHogg' vulnerable to cyberattack

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) sent an alert to all States warning about a bug in Android operating system (OS) called 'StrandHogg'. It is a real-time malware application which would pose as genuine applications and access all the users' data. All android device versions including latest android version 10, are vulnerable to this bug.

### Mutation in smell gene found to be associated with asthma

- A multi-in-situational study by Indian researchers has shown that a variant of an olfactory gene (OR2AG2) is a novel candidate for Asthma. This is the first time in India a four-generation large family with high asthma prevalence has been studied for the said purpose.
- The gene was validated in a north Indian cohort of 141 children with asthma and 130 controls. About 80% of children with asthma carried a copy of the gene variant.

### World's lowest dose-volume Rota virus vaccine by Bharat Biotech launched in New Delhi

- The Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu launched world's lowest dose volume vaccine for Rotavirus at a function in New Delhi. The oral rotavirus vaccine called "ROTAVAC 5D" is developed by Indian manufacturer Bharat Biotech.
- The first generation of the vaccine prior to ROTAVAC 5D was ROTAVAC. It was developed by the Bharat Biotech under a public-private partnership with the govt's department of biotechnology (DoB) and other international partners. It also required much lower temperature for storage and in higher doses for full efficacy (efficiency).

### Apollo Hospitals Bangalore launches first dedicated robot-assisted cardiac surgery unit in India

- Apollo Hospitals Bangalore, one of the most advanced multi-specialty tertiary care hospitals in the city and part of the Apollo Hospitals Group announced the launch of the first dedicated robot-assisted cardiac surgery unit in India.



- A milestone in the history of cardiovascular surgery in the country, the robot-assisted cardiac surgery unit will offer patients with complex cardiac disease treatment with robotic-assisted minimally invasive cardiac surgery.



## 5.3 Mass Media & Communication

### Microsoft rolls out the K12 Education Transformation Framework in India

- Microsoft rolled out its K12 Education Transformation Framework more widely to schools across India at the second edition of the Microsoft Education Days in Gurgaon.
- Teachers and students from schools across India also demonstrated the innovative ways in which they are digitally transforming education by bringing in AI, gamification, personalization and simplifying STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) learning for students.

### Housing ministry launched Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awas Portal "CLAP"

- Shri. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (MoS- Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the Credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS) portal named "CLAP" (CLSS Awas Portal). The link to the portal is <https://pmayuclap.gov.in/>

### Centre launches EChO Network to catalyze cross-disciplinary leadership in India

- Government of India launched EChO Network, a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India. The network specifically focuses on increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.
- About EChO Network: Founding Partners of EChO Network: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), India Climate Collaborative (ICC), Round Glass and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE).
- Objective: To bring together leaders and individuals working hard to make a positive difference for Indian ecosystem and to share knowledge and synergize their efforts under umbrella of science.

### NVIDIA announces world's largest GPU-accelerated cloud-based super computer

- NVIDIA has announced a new kind of GPU-accelerated supercomputer in the cloud on Microsoft Azure.
- NDv2 super computer is designed to handle demanding AI and high performance computing applications, using up to 800 NVIDIA V100 Tensor Core GPUs interconnected on a single.
- Mellanox Infini Band backend network, making it the world's largest GPU-accelerated cloud-based supercomputer.

### Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched Mobile app "Madhu" for e-learning

- The Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik launched an e-learning mobile phone app named "Madhu App" for students by providing video lectures and exercise in Odia language prepared by highly qualified educationists and teachers.
- The is named after freedom fighter social reformer Madhusudan Das.

## Google report claims over 500 attempts of government-backed snooping from India

- There were more than 12,000 warnings sent to users across 149 countries that they were targeted by government-backed attackers, according to a new report by Google's Threat Analysis Group (TAG).
- US saw over 1,000 such government-backed phishing attacks while countries like Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos and South Korea also saw between 500 and 1,000 such attempts.

## Culture Ministry launches a portal to showcase Indian culture

- Union Minister of State (M/s) for Culture and Tourism (IC) launched the Indian Culture web portal, <http://www.indianculture.gov.in>, which brings together all the cultural resources of the country on one platform.
- The Indian Culture portal was envisioned by Union Ministry of Culture and was developed by a team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), over a course of three years.
- This project is a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India initiative to showcase information about the rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India both at home and abroad.

## HRD Ministry launches Kartavya Portal

- On the occasion of 70th Constitution Day also known as Samvidhan Divas observed on 26 November 2019, Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister launched the [kartavya.ugc.ac.in](http://kartavya.ugc.ac.in) portal for holding monthly essay competitions for students.
- The portal was launched as part of year long 'Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan' being observed throughout the country.

## Amazon's Audible launches app "Audible Suno" in India

- Amazon's audio book company Audible has launched a new app "Audible Suno" in India. This app features original audio series which aims to expand Audible's reach in India's highly competitive digital entertainment and streaming space.

## Haryana Police became the first to introduce 'Trakea' software in FSL



- Haryana police have introduced a software named "Trakea" to enable foolproof security of the samples collected in Forensic reports.
- Haryana became the first State in the country to introduce this unique barcoding system.
- Trakea has recently been bestowed with National SKOCH Police Silver Award at New Delhi.

## Software to translate SC judgments in 9 languages

- An advanced software, assisted by artificial intelligence, has been developed to translate Supreme Court judgements in nine vernacular languages and there are plans to expand it, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told Rajya Sabha.
- Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS), a machine learning tool trained by Artificial Intelligence to be used for translating Supreme Court Judgments into vernacular languages, was introduced on November 26, 2019, Prasad told the Upper House during Question Hour.



### Decade of 'exceptional' heat likely to be hottest on record

- The last decade has been one of "exceptional" heat around the world, and was almost certainly the hottest on record, while the oceans have also warmed to record levels and grown markedly more acidic. Temperatures for the years from 2010 to 2019 were about 1.1° C above the average for the pre-industrial period, showing how close the world is coming to the 1.5°C of warming that scientists say will cause dramatic impacts, extreme weather and the loss of vital ecosystems.

### Potash mineral resources found in Nagaur & Bikaner

- The Minister of Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs, Prahlad Joshi informed the Lok Sabha today that, Potash mineral resources have been found during surveys conducted by Geological Survey of India, GSI, an attached office of Ministry of Mines in Nagaur and Bikaner Districts of Rajasthan. The Minister was responding to a query raised by Rashtriya Loktantrik Party member, Hanuman Beniwal of Nagaur constituency during the question hour.

### Special court in Chennai to hear POCSO cases

- Senior High Court Judge Vineet Kothari inaugurated a special court to hear cases of child trafficking in India. The Madras High Court has recommended that POCSO Act start a special court to investigate and resolve child sex offenses. After considering these recommendations, the Government of Tamil Nadu decided to set up a special court in Tamil Nadu. On the basis of this, the first phase of the order was issued on November 19, to open a special court in 16 districts including Chennai, Kanchipuram, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari.

# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT



## Assam government will set up 100 organic markets for selling organic products

- In a move to incentivize organic farming, Assam government will set up 100 organic markets for selling organic products.
- Chairing a meeting of Agriculture department Chief Minister Sonowal also directed Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to allot suitable lands in their respective districts.
- Sonowal asked the Managing Director of Assam Seeds Corporation Limited to produce seeds to the tune of Rs. 200 crore.
- The University of Natural Agriculture was started in Goa

## Indian Railways sets up Institute of Financial Management in Hyderabad

- The Indian Railway Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) has been set up in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- This new entity is set up to impart professional training in management of railway finances. The project was conceived and constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at a cost of Rs 85 crore.

## About Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management

- IRIFM institution is based on a 14-acre campus at Moula-Ali, Secunderabad.

## Prime Minister Modi launches Fit India School grading system in schools across India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Fit India School grading system in schools across the country. The grading will be in 3 categories. During the launch PM Modi also appealed all schools to enroll in Fit India ranking system to make it a mass movement and spread awareness. He also urged students and teachers to participate in 'Fit India Week' to be organized by as many as 22,000 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools across the country.

## National Tribal Craft Mela- 2019 being held in Bhubaneswar

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 8<sup>th</sup> National Tribal



Craft Mela at State Tribal Museum Complex in Bhubaneswar. As a part of Odisha Government's '5Ts' initiative, (which is aimed at achieving progress through Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation) 45 Supplementary Readers prepared in 21 Tribal languages were released simultaneously by Chief Minister on the occasion of Tribal Mela.

## Delhi Assembly first in India to host Commonwealth Youth Parliament

- In a first, the Delhi Assembly along with the Lok Sabha will host a three-day Commonwealth Youth Parliament starting from November 25.
- Talking to reporters, Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel announced 47 participants from 24 Commonwealth countries will participate in the event. Eleven participants will be from India.
- It is for the first time that an Indian Legislature is hosting the Commonwealth Youth Parliament and the event has generated a lot of interest amongst the youth
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be the chief guest at the event to be inaugurated. The participants, in the age group of 18 to 29 years.

## DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar being held in New Delhi

- A two-day seminar 'DEFCOM INDIA 2019' is being held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from 26-27 November 2019.
- The theme for seminar is – 'Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness'.
- The prestigious DEFCOM journal was also released during the seminar. DEFCOM 2019 exhibition showcased cutting edge communication solutions from industry and gave officers from three services an opportunity to gain insights on technology and industry capabilities.
- It is jointly organised by the Corps of Signals and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

## CRY Report on Crime against Children in India

- The Child Rights and You recently released a report "How Vulnerable are Children in India to crime?". The report was based on the analysis of National Crime Records Bureau for 2016-17.
- The report says that the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh topped the list of states for crimes against children. There were over 19,000 cases in both the states. The highest increase in crimes between the years 2016 and 2017 was seen in Jharkhand. The Child labor in the country saw a substantial increase of 126%.

## State's 1<sup>st</sup> Vulture Conservation to set up by UP Government

- In a major step to conserve the endangered vulture population, the Uttar Pradesh government will set up the state's first vulture conservation and breeding centre in farenda area of Maharajganj district.
- According to Environment Minister, there has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country which has come down from 40 million to 19,000 in a span of over three decades.





**MSME minister Nitin gadkari address 11th edition of Agrovision exhibition 2019 held in Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

- Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has inaugurated the 11th edition of Agrovision 2019 , an Agricultural exhibition based on the theme “Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development” held at Reshimbagh Ground, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

**India has 96 universities ranked, including 20 brand new entries in QS World University Rankings: Asia 2020**

- India has 96 universities ranked, including 20 brand new entries in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2020. The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) leads nationally at overall 34th place, and it is followed by IIT Delhi (IITD) in the 43rd place and by IIT Madras (IITM) in the 50th position.
- Only Mainland China is more represented than India, with 118 featured universities. Among these, 4 stands in the top 10 list.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) reported 8 Indian universities are placed among the top 100.

**80% Quota In Private Jobs For Locals**

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari announced that the Maha Vikas Aghadi government is concerned over unemployment and it will enact a law to ensure 80 percent reservation in private sector jobs.


**'3.7% food samples unsafe, 15.8% sub-standard'**

**Food for thought**  
Tamil Nadu was the worst performer in terms of "unsafe food" & "labelling defects" while Nagaland had the most "sub-standard" products, according to a sample study done by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

Top States	%
T.N.	12.7
Assam	8.9
Jharkhand	8.8
W.B.	7.6
Odisha	6.7

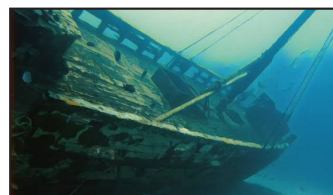
Top States	%
Nagaland	86.6
U.P.	35.0
Rajasthan	22.1

Top States	%
T.N.	18.5
J&K	17.8
Punjab	15.6



- Data released by the Food, Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on enforcement of norms has noted that 3.7% of the samples collected and analysed were found unsafe, 15.8% substandard and 9% samples had labeling defects.

**India's first Maritime Museum in Gujarat**



- The Government of India is planning to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal in Gujarat.
- Themuseumwillalsoactasanindependent research center for archaeology of boat building, reconstruction of maritime history and materials traded. It will hold display of salvaged materials from shipwreck sites in Indian Ocean waters.
- Lothal is an ancient city of Indus Valley Civilization. It was discovered in 1954 by the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India).

### **UP govt launches immunisation campaign against Filariasis**

- Uttar Pradesh government is launching a massive immunization campaign against the filariasis or Filariasis. The central government has set the year 2021 as the deadline for complete eradication of filariasis in the country. Filariasis is spread by infected mosquitoes, especially through the parasitic *Culex fatigans* female mosquito.

### **India's 1<sup>st</sup> Ganga Centralised aqua lab to be set up in Dehradun, Uttarakhand**

- The Uttarakhand state forest minister Shri Harak Singh Rawat laid foundation stone of India's first Ganga centralized aqua lab at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

### **Bihar topped in acute respiratory infections among children under-5 yrs**

- Non-Government Organization (NGO), Save the Children released a report titled "Situation Analysis of Pneumonia in India". The report was on respiratory infections in children. As per the report, Bihar recorded the highest prevalence of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) among children under the age of 5 years when compared with the 5 high burden states between September 2018 and June 2019. Bihar had 15.9% of prevalence of ARIs. The other states in the top 5 ranking includes, Uttar Pradesh (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jharkhand (3<sup>rd</sup>), Madhya Pradesh (4<sup>th</sup>) and Rajasthan (5<sup>th</sup>).

### **Tamil Nadu to set up language lab in BHU to teach Tamil**

- A language lab will be set up in the Banaras Hindu University to teach Tamil quickly and easily to speakers of other languages.
- Rs 9.20 lakh will be allotted for the purpose.

### **India becomes 1<sup>st</sup> country to make entire Haj process digital**

- India has become the 1<sup>st</sup> country to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital.
- Digital pre-tagging: It has been arranged by the airlines, so that Haj pilgrims have all kinds of information in India itself, such as which room of which building in Mecca Medina and what number bus after landing at the airport will have to be taken, will get it.
- e-MASIHA: In this App, information related to the health of each Haj pilgrim will be available online.
- HGO: Haj Group organizers (HGO) have also been linked to the 100% digital tax portal <http://haj.nic.in/pto/>.

### **Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh offers free police drop facility women at night**

- Driving at women safety, the Punjab Government announced police escort for those travelling late at night. Chief Minister made it clear that women, travelling between 9 pm and 6 am, could call 100, 112 and 181 to seek police help for the pick-and-drop facility if they are stranded outside.
- The decision came at a time when the entire nation is clamouring for providing safety to the womenfolk in the wake of rising incidences of atrocities

### **National Public Procurement Conclave held in New Delhi**

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) in New Delhi.
- The two-day conclave was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

### **Online courts, artificial judges in china**

- The Chinese government is constantly promoting the use of the Internet and modern information technologies in the field of justice. For its part, authorities have set up e-commerce courts through the most popular 'WeChat' social network in China.
- In such courts set up for the Zuma 12 provinces, the public can sue by 'WeChat'. With these eCommerce courts, cases are quickly and accurately concluded. This in turn reduces the workload for judges in China.

### **Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant inaugurated in Uttarakhand**

- King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurated Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Uttarakhand.
- The Swedish King and Queen are on a five-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral ties.

### **About Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)**

- It is the first STP to be completed under Hybrid Annuity (HAM) Based Public Private Partnership Model (PPPM).
- The 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sarai STP has been constructed at a cost of Rs.41.40 crore under Centre government's Namami Gange Programme.
- Namami Gange - National Mission for Clean Ganga is an Integrated Conservation Mission (ICM), approved as 'Flagship Programme' with budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore.

### **Only 3% target of pulses and seeds achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme**

- According to the data released by the Agriculture Ministry in the Lok Sabha the production of pulses has been only 1.08 lakh tons so far but the target of the PM-AASHA scheme is to produce 37.59 lakh metric tons of crops.

### **About Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA):**

- The aim of the PM-AASHA scheme is to safeguard the income of farmers by increasing the MSP (Minimum Support Price) of the Kharif crops with the principle of 1.5 times the cost of production. The scheme includes three main sections the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and the Pilot of Private Procurement and Stocklist Scheme (PPPS).

### **First Mega Food Park of Central India inaugurated**

- Union Minister for Food Processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Steel Silo based Avantee Mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. This is the first food park of central India.

### **Vice president Venkaiah Naidu launched "Poshan Anthem" in New Delhi**

- The Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'POSHAN Anthem' at an event organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in New Delhi. The anthem was launched to spread the message of the importance of nutrition.
- **Anthem:** The lyricist of the POSHAN anthem was Shri Pasoon Joshi and its composer was singer Shri Shankar Mahadevan.

### **Rajasthan bags four prizes for NREGA**

- Rajasthan has bagged four prizes for its performance under the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREGA) Scheme.
- The prizes were given by the Union Minister of Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar to zila parishad and panchayat officials of Kota, Dungarpur, Bhilwara and Jaisalmer districts

### **4<sup>th</sup> India Water Impact Summit held in Delhi**

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the fourth water impact summit in New Delhi. Theme: Financing of High Impact projects in the water sector

### **Mumbai Central railway station-1<sup>st</sup> to receive FSSAI's 'Eat Right Station' certification**

- The Mumbai Central station of Western Railways was conferred with the 'Eat Right Station' certification with a 4-star rating by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). With this certification, it became India's first "Eat right station".
- The certification was done as part of the 'Eat Right India' movement launched in 2018 by FSSAI.

### **Goa to host 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is being organized in Goa for Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital (VC) Firms.
- The summit is being organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Goa Government.
- Theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 is- 'India Opportunity- Investing in tomorrow together'.

### **ICG organises 18<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting**

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organized 18<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB) meeting in New Delhi.

### **Jal shakti minister Gajendra singh addresses 4<sup>th</sup> India water impact summit 2019 held in New Delhi**

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> India Water Impact Summit 2019 with the theme "Valuing Water | Transforming Ganga" held with the focus on integrated water resources management in urban and rural areas at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- On this occasion, Shekhawat also released the report on River Restoration and Conservation - A Concise Manual and Guide, and Documents on "cGanga Hubs".

### **Human Library event held in Mysuru**

- Human Library, a concept which seeks to replace books with humans, was held in the City of Palaces, Mysuru, Karnataka. It was organized by international non-profit organization- Human Library for first time in Mysuru.
- The objective of this event was to break past long-standing prejudices and stereotypes by creating a safe framework for conversation by using a library analogy of lending people rather than books.

### **Haryana CM inaugurates Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Gurgaon**

- The Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Gurgaon, built at a cost of Rs 38 crore.
- The center will connect all government buildings and police stations in the city with fiber network, but currently 160 government buildings and police stations in the city have been connected with fiber network.
- The center has online real time access, evaluation and reporting of data for decisions, paperless work, Wi-Fi with high-speed internet facilities

### **Only Aadhar authenticated bank accounts to get PM-Kisan payments: Govt**

- The Government of India has notified that the fourth installment of the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) income support scheme due in December 2019 will be transferred only to Aadhar authenticated bank accounts of more than 50 million beneficiaries.
- This will be the first time since the launch of this scheme on 24 February 2019, that the government is insisting on mandatory condition of Aadhar seeding.

### **About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Yojana**

- It is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Centre Government. Under PM-Kisan Yojana, the central government provides income support of Rs.6,000 per year to all farmer families in country. The income support is paid in installments of Rs.2,000 every four months.

### **Nagaland extends Inner Line Permit regime to Dimapur district**

- The state government of Nagaland has extended Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime to Dimapur district, which is the commercial hub of the state. Dimapur was the only district that was not under ILP regime unlike the rest of Nagaland, which came into being in 1963.



### **Alliance Air flags off flight from Guwahati to Dimapur to Imphal under UDAN-RCS**

- Alliance Air, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India, today flagged-off its first flight operations between the capital city of Assam, Guwahati to Dimapur, the largest city of Nagaland, to the capital city of Manipur, Imphal, making it the 236route under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UdeDesh KaAam Nagrik, RCS-UDAN, under the Government of India.
- Alliance Air continues to focus on new routes to connect regional destinations. The airline has been awarded 12 new routes under UDAN-3.1, which are being launched progressively in the coming year bringing new destinations on India's air map.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 held in Goa**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit, organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in partnership with Govt of Goa, was held in Goa.
- The summit was organized for fund managers and limited partners of top global venture capital firms. The theme for the 2019 summit was "India Opportunity – Investing in tomorrow together".

### **Setting Up of Indian Institute of Skills**

- The Government of India has approved the proposal for setting up of Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) in 3 locations in the country namely Mumbai, Kanpur and Ahmedabad.
- The vision behind setting up IIS is to build world-class skill training centres by learning from and imbibing best practices from internationally renowned existing skill institutions.

### **TRIFED Celebrates 100 days of Prime Minister Van Dhan Yojana**

- TRIFED updated the media on the completion of '100 days of Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY)', a national programme driven by TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, aimed at empowering tribal all over the country to make them entrepreneurs.

### **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)**

- On April 14th, 2018 Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has announced the launching of Van Dhan Yojana in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh under which one Van Dhan Vikas Kendra was set up, as a pilot project.

### **Digital Exhibition on history of Constitution of India being held in New Delhi**

- The 'Digital Exhibition on History of Constitution of India', was inaugurated in New Delhi by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (M/S) for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.
- It will be organised for two days from 9-10 December 2019

### **Workshop on Bamboo cultivation to be held in Jammu**

- In Jammu and Kashmir, a first of its kind workshop on Bamboo cultivation will be held on 19th and 20 of this month in Jammu. The workshop will focus on the promotion of Bamboo cultivation in the potential Kandi areas of Jammu and its value addition as an economic activity and generate entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

### **India Skills Report: Maharashtra with highest employable talent**

- The India Skills Report was released jointly by the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry), AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), UNDP (United Nations Development Program) and AIU (Association of Indian University).
- The report provides employability of citizens in the country across the states and. The report also ranked the cities based on the availability of employment.
- The report was prepared based on a survey that assessed 300,000 candidates from 35 educational institutes across 28 states and 9 Union Territories.

### **NPL scientists develop ink to stop fake passports and currency notes**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Physical Laboratory (NPL) developed an ink to combat the problem of fake printing of passports and counterfeiting of currency notes. The ink has a new security feature of protecting itself against duplicity

#### **Key facts of the discovery**

- The ink was produced based on single excitable dual emissive luminescent pigment.

### **Draj Bridge for all-weather connectivity inaugurated in J&K's Rajouri**

- Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu, inaugurated Draj Bridge in Rajouri, J&K.
- It is an important bridge for the military as well as for socio-economic development of J&K's Rajouri District as a whole.
- This bridge will facilitate all-weather and speedy movement of Army troops and locals.

### **Union Minister Amit Shah lays foundation for Bharat Vandana Park in Dwarka, New Delhi**

- Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) presided over in the ceremony to lay foundation stone for the Bharat Vandana Park, Dwarka, New Delhi.

#### **Key Points:**

- The park, to become a major tourist attraction covering an area of 200 acres at a cost of Rs.550 crores is located near the Indira Gandhi International Airport and metro station.
- The park is to be developed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and will be completed by March 2022

### **Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway to be named after late Bal Thackeray**

- The Mumbai state cabinet Maharashtra minister Eknath Shinde has approved to name the under-construction Mumbai-Nagpur super communication Samruddhi expressway after Shiv Sena party founder late Bal Thackeray.
- Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi expressway: It is a 700-km super expressway, which is scheduled to be completed in 2021

### **Prime Minister Modi addressed Ekal Vidyalaya Sangathan in New Delhi**

- The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi addressed Ekal Vidyalaya Sangathan in Gujarat through Video message from New Delhi.
- The Ekal Vidyalaya Sangathan spearheads 'Ekal School Abhiyan' which aims to promote the education among rural and tribal children.
- PM Modi announced to set up 400 new 'Eklavya Model residential schools' by 2022 across the country, so as to ensure that children in tribal areas are not deprived of quality education.

### **Nilgiri Mountain Railway conducts special service for foreign tourists**

- The UNESCO-recognized Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) conducted a special service for foreign tourists. 71 tourists from several countries, including the USA, the UK and France travelled by a special steam engine service from Coonoor to Ooty.
- They were presented with special mementoes and gift hampers as well as served with the replica of the original Edmonton type cardboard ticket.
- The NMR is one of the few railways in the world that uses the unique rack and pinion system, with its special third rail to negotiate gradients en route from Mettupalayam in the foothills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu to Ooty, the Queen of Western Ghats.

### **20<sup>th</sup> edition of GeoSmart India Conference 2019 in Hyderabad, Telangana**

- 20<sup>th</sup> edition of GeoSmart India conference 2019, was held in Hyderabad, Telangana from December 3-5, 2019. It was the largest geospatial event of India with the aim of bringing the geospatial and emerging technologies together.

#### **Key Words:**

- The theme of the 2019 conference was "Ignite - Innovate - Integrate".

### **Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted university heads' conference**

- Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted a conference of 46 Heads of Central Universities and Institutes of Higher Learning in several fields including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, design, petroleum and energy.
- Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realization of the country's socio-economic goals.

### **Govt organised symposium on "Scope of Science of Ayurveda in Global Health"**

- Ministry of AYUSH organised a Symposium on "Scope of Science of Ayurveda in Global Health" in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs. Ambassadors/High Commissioners and diplomats of 61 countries attended the symposium. The aim of the event was to sensitize all the Ambassadors/High Commissioners and impart them with the information about advance research & recent developments in Ayurveda.

### **Kerala's first all-transgender canteen to open in Palakkad**

- Kerala's first transgender canteen would be inaugurated at the Palakkad civil station. The canteen would be run by Oruma transgender Kudumbasree unit, supported by the social welfare department, district panchayat and the Kudumbasree Mission.

### **"Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development" Summit held in Delhi**

- Summit on "Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development" was held in Delhi. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change addressed the summit with the concerns about the depleting ozone layer and the emission of Cfc's and Hfc's.

### **BEE organized International workshop on Energy Efficient Cooling**

- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body under Union Ministry of Power, conducted an International Workshop on 'Energy Efficient Cooling' at Scope Convention Centre in New Delhi.
- The two-day international workshop was organised as part of 'Energy Conservation Week' being celebrated from 9- 14 December 2019

### **CII organizes "Steeling India-2019"**

- The Confederation of Indian Industry organized "Steeling India 2019" conference, a drive to increase metal intensity in key sectors.

### **GEM launches national outreach programme 'GeMSamvaad'**

- Government e-commerce portal GeM has launched a national outreach program called 'GeM Samvaad', to bring on-board more local sellers.
- The outreach programme will take place from 19 Dec 2019 to 17 Feb 2020 and will cover all States and Union Territories (UTs) of the country.

### **PM Modi chaired 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of National Ganga Council in Kanpur, UP**

- The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the National Ganga Council in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- The aim of the council was to reinforce the importance of a 'Ganga-centric' approach in all departments of the concerned states as well as relevant Central Ministries.
- The council was responsible for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries.
- ₹20,000 crores allocated: Various initiatives undertaken by the govt like Namami Gange project in 2014 were reiterated. The Central Government, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time made commitment of ₹ 20,000 crores for the period 2015-20 to the five states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal) through which Ganga passes, to ensure adequate and uninterrupted water flows in the river

## Vande Bharat Express

- To import complete train sets by floating global tenders and the stiff resistance that followed from senior railway officials and political parties, the Ministry of Railways has accorded sanction to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) here to roll out 45 rakes (720 coaches) of the Vande Bharat Express.
- The Railway Board cleared the decks for the ICF to proceed with the procurement process immediately with the specifications issued by the research Designs and Standards Organization(RDSO).
- This is a huge success for the ICF that manufactured Train18, India's first Semi-highspeed train, in a record 18-month time in 2018. The indigenously built self-propelled train, launched as Vande Bharat Express between New Delhi and Varanasi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February, has been acknowledged as one of the most successful products of the Make in India campaign

## MSME Minister launches 'Khadi Rumal' stitched by militancy affected women of J&K

- Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari launched the sale of 'Khadi Rumal' stitched by militancy affected women of Nagrota town of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The aim is to provide employment to the women in the terrorist affected areas as well as create employment opportunities for militancy affected families of J&K.

## In Gujarat, solar energy is helping farmers double their income

- Farmers covered under pilot Scheme Surya Shakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) get more money from selling power than farm produce.
- Farmers in Gujarat are reaping a rich harvest from their solar power installations, quite literally doubling their incomes.
- The Gujarat government launched a pilot project of its farmer-oriented scheme Surya Shakti Kisan Yojana (SKY), aimed at setting up solar pumps on farmland and facilitating farmers to sell the surplus power generated to the grid and earn extra money.

## Madhya Pradesh CM to inaugurate International Film Festival in Khajuraho

- The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath will inaugurate the International Film Festival in Shilpkala village of Khajuraho. Films from the country and abroad including Bundelkhandi will be screened at the Tapra Talkies made for the festival. The International Khajuraho Film Festival is being organized by the Prayas Sanstha in collaboration with the State Government

## FICCI organizes 9<sup>th</sup> Global sports summit 'TURF 2019' in New Delhi

- FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), an association of business organizations in India, has organized the 9th edition of Global Sports Summit 'TURF 2019' & India sports awards 2019 at the FICCI Federation house in New Delhi



## India leads world in pollution-linked deaths with about 2.3 million in 2017: GAHP Report

- According to the new report, “2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis” released by Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP), India leads the world with about 2.3 million (23,26,771 deaths) in 2017 in terms of premature deaths due to pollution.
- India is followed by China (18,65,566 deaths) & Nigeria (2,79,318 deaths). The United States (US), the world’s third most populous country with 325 million people, stood at 7th position (1,96,930 deaths).
- Pollution death per 1 lakh population: In terms of total untimely deaths per 1 lakh population due to pollution, Chad ranks 1st with 287 deaths, followed by Central African Republic (251) & North Korea (202) .while India ranks 10th in this list with (174).

## NPR data was first collected in 2010

- The data for National Population Register (NPR) was first collected in 2010 and West Bengal was one of the five States that used the requisite information for planning various beneficiary schemes, a senior government official said.
- The other States which used the NPR data collected by the Registrar General of India (RGI) on behalf of the Centre were Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Manipur and Rajasthan.
- The NPR was updated in 2015 by seeding it with biometric details of Aadhaar.

## First SEZ in Tripura to focus on agro-based food processing

- The Government of India approved the first SEZ (Special Economic Zone) at Sabroom, Tripura in October 2019. Recently, it was announced that the SEZ will primarily focus on agro-based food processing. Union Government is expected to invest around Rs 1550 crore in the project.

### Highlights

- The SEZ is to be developed by the Tripura Industrial Development Corporation.
- The SEZ is expected to generate 12,000 skilled jobs. The zone will attract more private investments as its location is nearer to Chittagong Port.

## National conference on ‘Uniformed Women in Prison Administration’ begins

- Union Minister of State for Home affairs inaugurate a National Conference on ‘Uniformed Women in Prisons Administration’ begins in Central Academy for Police Training in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- In this Conference, uniformed women officers and staff of all the states from Jail Wardens up to Director Inspector General’s level, members of non-governmental organizations, representatives of academic institutions and officers of other government departments are taking part in the conference.

## **FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 38<sup>th</sup> GST council meeting in New Delhi**

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired the 38<sup>th</sup> Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting in New Delhi.

### **Highlights of 38<sup>th</sup> GST Council Meet:**

- The GST council has decided to levy uniform tax on lottery will be effective from March 01,2020 at 28%. The council was also decided to give exemption from upfront amount payable by entities in which the central / state government holds 20 % stake on long-term lease of industrial or financial infrastructure plots.

### **Background:**

- When GST was implemented on 1 July 2017, the states were promised that the revenue loss would be repaid by the Center. The compensation amount was fixed at 14 per cent of the total revenue received in the base year 2016-17. On 20 September 2019, the GST Council met last time at its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **About GST:**

- It is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) imposed in India on the supply of goods and services. Goods & services tax separated into 5 different tax slabs for collection of tax. It includes,0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

## **ICG organises 18<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting**

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organized 18<sup>th</sup> National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB) meeting in New Delhi.

## **“Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development” Summit held in Delhi**

- Summit on “Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development” was held in Delhi.
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change addressed the summit with the concerns about the depleting ozone layer and the emission of Cfcs and Hfcs.

## **16<sup>th</sup> Orange Festival begun in Tamenglong, Manipur**

- The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the State level Orange Festival began at Manipur. The 3-day festival which will be held until 18, 2019 was inaugurated by Manipur’s Chief Minister (CM) at district headquarters Tamenglong.
- The festival is conducted annually by the Manipur govt under the sponsorship of North Eastern Council (NEC), to promote the fruit and encourage its growers.

## **5<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission held in New Delhi**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission was held in New Delhi.
- In the meeting, possible macro assumptions related to real growth, inflation, ongoing structural reforms, tax revenue including GST, adherence to Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act and fiscal transparency were discussed.

### **GoI to organize more than 100 Hunar Haats in next 5 years**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs will organize more than 100 Hunar Haat in the next five years. The move aims to increase employment opportunities to craftsmen, artisans and culinary experts and also to increase their market exposure.

### **Uttarakhand to host 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Quality Conclave**

- The 11th Regional Quality Conclave (RQC) is being organized at Rudrapur, district Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand.

### **Kerala sets 2024 deadline for Semi High-Speed Rail project**

- The Thiruvananthapuram-Kasargode Semi High Speed Rail Corridor (SHSR), a proposed high-speed rail corridor in India that would connect Thiruvananthapuram with Kasaragod in Kerala is expected to be completed by 2024.
- Recently, centre had also given in-principle approval to the Rs.56,000 crore Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod SHSR corridor project. The order was issued by Union Ministry of Railways.

### **About Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod Semi-High Speed Rail (SHSR) corridor project**

- This 532km double-line project is a joint venture of Government of Kerala and Union Ministry of Railways.
- SHSR named as Silver Line, is envisaged to cut travel time between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod from 12 hours to 4 hours and is expected to fast-track the economy of Kerala

### **IIT-H fellow launches Vaccination on Wheels in collaboration with Gates Foundation**

- Jigneh Patel, a fellow at Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CHE) at Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has launched a 'Vaccination on Wheels Clinic' in Pune city's PCMC area, Maharashtra.
- The one of its kind service has been started in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- He had received a grant for the service under the Foundation's 'Grand Challenges Explorations'. He then founded Jivika Healthcare to provide this vaccination service.

### **Railway Board revamp will see cut in strength**

- The Union Cabinet approved the restructuring of the Railway Board, including reduction in the Board strength as well as merger of the different cadres into a central service called the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).
- The government said this would help end "departmentalism", while ensuring smooth functioning of the Railways and expediting the decision-making process.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> follow-up committee meet by India, Afghan & Iran on Chabahar pact held in New Delhi

- The 2nd meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementing trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran was held in New Delhi. The meeting was held at the level of Joint Secretary/ Director General.

### Agreement to include Mormugoa and New Mangalore Port from India:

- During the meeting, it was agreed to include Mormugao (Goa) and New Mangalore Port (Karnataka) from India in addition to JNPT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust), Mundra(Gujarat), Kandla(Gujarat) and Cochin(Kerala) ports as part of designated route under the Chabahar Agreement.

### Progress in port operations:

- ▶ These 3 countries headed a steady progress in port operations by India Ports Global Ltd company since the company took over the port operations Shaheed Beheshti Port at Chabahar in December 2018.
- ▶ Over 5 lakh tons of cargo were handled successfully which also included exports from Afghanistan through Chabahar Port which began in February 2019.

## PM Modi attends centenary celebrations of ASSOCHAM

- PM Modi addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi. The event was organized to commemorate 100 years of ASSOCHAM. The event was organized under the theme
- **Theme:** New India Aspiring for 5 trillion USD

## Chilai-Kalan: 40-day period of extreme cold begins in Kashmir

- The traditional 40-day period of harshest winter in Kashmir known in the local parlance as 'Chillai-Kalan' began on 21 December 2019, with the upper reaches of valley receiving snowfall. Chillai-Kalan period which is known for sub-zero temperatures, frozen lakes and river, will end on 31 January 2020.

## NASVI, FSSAI to jointly organise National Street Food Festival

- The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) and food regulator FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) are jointly organizing National Street Food Festival (NSFF) at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi during 25-29 December 2019. This year is the 11th edition of National Street Food Festival. Ever since its inception in 2009, this festival, has helped mainstream various street vending communities.
- Theme of 2019's festival- 'Healthier Diets'. The idea is to focus various initiatives of FSSAI around healthy eating through gamification (in an interactive manner through games and quizzes). A footfall of around 75,000 people are expected to visit the festival.

## First Tripartite Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund

- The department of fisheries (GoI), NABARD and Tamil Nadu Government signed an agreement to implement Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF). The tripartite agreement set a total of Rs 7522 crores to address the infrastructure requirement of fisheries sector.

### Role of NABARD

- NABARD provides concessional financing to fisheries infrastructure facilities through state governments under FIDF. It is the Nodal Loaning Entity of the fisheries department. It also supports fisheries under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

### Fisheries in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu is the home of 10 lakh fisher families. The state is ideal for brackish water fisheries, marine fisheries and inland fisheries. Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in total fish production in the country. India ranks second in the world fish production. The fisheries sector in the country contributes to 1% of GDP of the country.

## Union Cabinet Clears NPR update, census

- A meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved over ₹ 3,941.35 crore for updating the National Population Register (NPR) across the country, barring Assam, and ₹ 8,754.23 crore for conducting the Census of India, 2021.
- The Citizenship Rules, 2003, however, state clearly that the Centre, by issuing an order, can decide a date to prepare the NPR. They also provides for the creation of a National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), or the NRC, which is being bitterly opposed by people across the country, that will flow from data gathered in the NPR.
- According to the Rules, a person's citizenship status will be decided by local officials - whether or not the person will figure in the NRIC or not. No new law or rules are needed to conduct this exercise across the country.



## Geneva to host first Global Refugee Forum

- The first ever Global Refugee Forum is being held in Geneva, Switzerland. It is being jointly hosted by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) along with Government of Switzerland.

## India-US 2+2 Dialogue held at Washington

- India and United States held security dialogue in Washington. This was their second 2+2 dialogue.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## India ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in 2019 Nomura's Food Vulnerability Index

- Japanese company Nomura Global Market Research released a report titled "2019 Nomura's Food Vulnerability Index" (NFVI). The report was about 50 countries, most vulnerable to the food price surge.
- India ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in the list out of the total 110 countries taken for analysis.

## Global Diplomacy Index 2019

- The 2019 Global Diplomacy Index was released by Sydney-based Lowy Institute.
- The index gives the latest statistics and marking about how the world's diplomatic networks are expanding and, in certain cases, shrinking. The index ranked 61 countries across the world.

## India to host SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020

- India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia.

## India-Netherland: "Water 4 change", an urban water management system

- The Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), operating under the Government of Kerala has launched the "Water 4 Change". Under the project, six prominent institutions from Netherlands will perform a long-term research and field level action on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists.

## India attends WATEC Conference in Israel

- The Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat represented India at the WATEC Conference that was held in Israel. The Water Technology and Environment Control (WATEC) conference helps to get updates on technologies related to water and environmental management.

## China due to introduce face scans for mobile users

- People in China are now required to have their faces scanned when registering new mobile phone services, as the authorities seek to verify the identities of the country's hundreds of millions of internet users.
- The government wants to protect the legitimate rights and interest of citizens in cyberspace. China already uses facial recognition technology to survey its population.

## Australia to return 3 idols to India in January



- Three culturally significant artifacts' a pair of 'Dwarapala' (door guardians) from Tamil Nadu and one 'Nagaraja' (Serpent King) from either Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, purchased from idol smuggler Subhash Kapoor will be returned to India by the Australian government during Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit to India in January 2020.
- The artefacts which were held by the National Gallery of Australia (Gallery), were purchased in good faith, but extensive research undertaken by the gallery has led to its decision to voluntarily return these artefacts to India.
- While the Dwarapalas from Tamil Nadu are announced to be from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Nagaraja, dated 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century, is from Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh.
- Both India and Australia are party to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the illicit Import, Export and Transport of Ownership of Cultural Property.

## Abu Dhabi selected as world's leading sports tourism destination

- Abu Dhabi (UAE) has been selected as the world's leading Sports tourism Destination at the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Travel Awards (WTA) being held in Muscat, Oman.
- This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time in a row that Abu Dhabi has been selected for this coveted award. The award is the latest in several prestigious accolades gained by Abu Dhabi, including being selected as the West Asia's Leading Business Tourism Destination at the West Asia edition of WTA and Best City Break at the UK's Selling Travel Agents' Choice Awards.
- Sports tourism has been labelled by the United Nations World Travel Organisation, UNWTO, as one of the fastest-growing sectors of tourism worldwide.

## New Zealand volcano eruption

- At least five people were killed, up to 20 injured and several reported missing after a volcano that is a tourist attraction suddenly erupted off the coast of New Zealand's North Island.
- White Island, where the volcano erupted spewing a plume of ash thousands of feet into the air.
- About 50 people, New Zealanders as well as foreign tourists, were feared to have been nearby and several were seen near the rim of the crater minutes before the eruption.

## India ranks 5<sup>th</sup> and China tops the list of invasive use of Biometrics: Comparitech

- A study done by Comparitech, Britain-based tech research firm, states that India ranks 5<sup>th</sup> along with Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines in the list of invasive use of Biometrics while China, Malaysia and Pakistan come before India in the list.
- India's performance could have been worse if the Aadhar, India's national biometric database had been under the access of Police and other investigation agencies. The report also stated that the countries from the European Union had a lower score because of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which involves the controlling and processing of personal information.

### List of top Ranks in the invasive use of Biometrics:

Country	Rank	Score out of 25
China	1	24
Malaysia	2	21
Pakistan	3	21
The United States of America(USA)	4	20
India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan	5	19

## 73 Countries join Climate Ambition Alliance at COP25

- Around 73 countries have joined the Climate Ambition Alliance (CAA) at the COP25. The alliance is led by Chile and was launched at the Climate Action Summit, New York in 2019. They will also work towards COP-26 that is to be held at Glasgow, UK.

## Saudi Arabia elected to UNESCO's world heritage committee

- Saudi Arabia was elected to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee for the first time. The announcement comes after the Kingdom was elected to the UN heritage body's executive board for 2019-2023.
- There are five sites in Saudi Arabia that are currently on UNESCO's World Heritage List: Al-Ahsa Oasis, Al-Hijr Archaeological Site (Madain Saleh) in AlUla, Al-Turaif district in Diriyah, Historic Jeddah, and rock art in the Hail region.

## Switzerland to seek closer ties with India at BioAsia 2020

- The BioAsia 2020 is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in between February 17 and 19, 2020. The Ministry of Industries and Commerce and IT informed that Switzerland will serve as India's partner at the conference.

## BioAsia 2020

- The BioAsia 2020 is a comprehensive framework hosted by the Government of Telangana. It is dedicated to investors, health care, pharma, biotechnology and startups. Theme: Today for Tomorrow

## World's New Nation: Bougainville gains independence from Papua New Guinea

- The South Pacific Archipelago of Bougainville voted to become independent of Papua New Guinea. Around 98% of 1,81,067 voters voted to get independent from Papua New Guinea.

## Bougainville

- It is the largest island of the Solomon Islands Archipelago. The island has the world's largest copper deposits. The most widely spoken language in the country is Halia



## Thailand elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee

- Thailand has been elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee.
- It was selected during the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in Paris.
- The representatives from 193 countries cast their votes to fill nine vacant seats on the 21-member World Heritage Committee.
- The term would end in 2023. Also, the committee will reconsider Bangkok's proposed listing of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex and also PhuPhrabat Historical Park in 2020.

## India's Pavilion inaugurated at International Book Fair in Mexico

- Minister of State for Human Resource Development Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated the India Pavilion at International Book Fair in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- India is the 'Guest of Honour Country' in book fair and becomes the first Asian country to participate as 'Guest of Honour' in the Fair. This fair is the biggest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world.

## Cabinet approves Social Security Agreement between India and Brazil

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi gave its approval for signing Agreement on Social Security between India and Brazil.
- The Social Security Agreement is being signed by India with several other countries in order to protect the interests of the professionals and skilled workers living abroad.

## Ranked 129, India marginally improves in human development index in 2018

- India climbed one spot to 129 among 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index, according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In India, 27.1 crore people were lifted out of poverty from 2005-06 to 2015 -16, UNDP India resident representative Shoko Noda said.
- India ranked 130 last year. The steady progress was due to nearly three decades of rapid development, which had seen a dramatic reduction in absolute poverty, along with gains in life expectancy, education, and access to health care.
- The overall index, given in the 2019 HDI report of UNDP, showed that India scored 0.647 in 2018, as against 0.643 in the previous year.
- The score is calculated in the range of zero to one. India's development initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (for financial inclusion) and Ayushman Bharat (for universal health care) were crucial in ensuring that "we meet our promise to leave no one behind and fulfill PM's vision of development for all", she said.
- According to HDI, South Asia was the fastest-growing region, witnessing 46 per cent growth during 1990-2018, followed by East Asia and the Pacific at 43 per cent.
- India's HDI value increased by 50 per cent (from 0.431 to 0.647), which places it above the average for countries in the medium human development group (0.634) and above the average for other South Asian countries (0.642).

## India to Host International Geological Congress 2020

- India is set to host the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC) in New Delhi during the first week of March 2020.
- The theme for next year conference is 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Development'.
- India and IGC: India is the only Asian country to host the IGC event twice. India had earlier hosted the event for the first time in 1964, which was 22<sup>nd</sup> IGC

## India is world's third largest producer of scientific articles: US Report

- According to a latest report by US National Science Foundation (NSF), India has emerged as the world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles. As per the statistics compiled in report, China has topped the list followed by USA.

### Key Highlights of Report

- China tops the list as it accounts for 20.67% of all global publications in scientific articles. **India:** emerged as world's third largest publisher of science and engineering articles after China (5,28,263) and US (4,22,808) in 2018, with about 1,35,788 science and engineering articles were published in country.

## Trump Officially Establishes US Space Force with 2020 Defense Bill Signing

- President Trump has signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and with it directed the establishment of the U.S. Space Force (USSF) as the sixth branch of the armed forces. The Space Force is part of the Department of the Air Force, much as the U.S. Marine Corps is part of the Department of the Navy. The new branch will be stood up over the next 18 months

## World's oldest artwork uncovered in Indonesian cave

- An Indonesian cave painting that depicts a prehistoric hunting scene could be the world's oldest figurative



artwork dating back nearly 44,000 years, a discovery that points to an advanced artistic culture, according to New Research. Spotted two years ago on the island of Sulawesi, the 4.5 metre (13 foot) wide painting features wild animals being chased by half-human hunters wielding what appear to be spears and ropes, announced by the study published in the journal Nature This hunting scene is to our knowledge currently the oldest pictorial record of storytelling and the earliest figurative artwork in the world.

## UN Medal awarded to Indian peacekeepers to support the people of South Sudan

- Indian peacekeepers have been recognized for their strong contribution to building peace in conflict-affected South Sudan as well as for going above and beyond their duties to support local communities. Almost 850 Indian troops received the United Nations Medal for their dedication and sacrifice serving so far away from home to protect civilians and build durable peace in South Sudan.
- Currently, 2,342 Indian troops and 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).



## Indian-American named 1<sup>st</sup> woman Chief Technology Officer of US' communications commission

- Indian-American Dr Monisha Ghosh has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US government's powerful Federal Communications Commission.
- She will advise Indian-American Chairman of the FCC Ajith Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues, and work closely with the Office of Engineering and Technology. Ghosh will take charge on January 13 next year.

## President Donald Trump Impeached in the House of Representatives.

- The House of Representatives of the US has voted to impeach President Donald Trump.
- The voting of impeachment was on the grounds of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. President Trump will be the third president in U.S. history to be impeached.
- The other two Presidents who were impeached were President Andrew Johnson in 1868 and President Bill Clinton in 1998.

### Allegations on Trump:

- The House chamber voted 230 to 197 to adopt the first of two impeachment articles. One of the allegations is he misused the power of his office to pressure Ukraine to investigate the Bidens.
- The House voted 229 to 198 on a second article that accused him of obstructing Congress.

## 17<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit 2020 to be held in Brussels

- The President of European Council Charles Michel invited Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to attend the 17th India-EU summit in early 2020.
- The summit which will be held at Brussels, Belgium, is aimed at expanding strategic partnership with Europe.

### Key Points:

- The summit will focus on areas such as Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), Europol, counter-terrorism, Euroatom, climate change, etc. BTIA is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and EU in the year launched in 2007

## Afghanistan becomes 1<sup>st</sup> country to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) has been recognised formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- IP is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 thereunder. It specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India in terms of their identity, purity and strength.
- To ensure the quality of medicinal products, the legal and scientific standards are provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS



## Workshop on water security inaugurated

- Tamil Nadu sets the agenda for other States to follow in the country, and it will also set an example in water conservation with the launch of the Water Security and Climate Adaptation in rural India (WASCA) workshop.
- “Jalsakthi Abhiyan of the Central government and “Kudimaramathu’ of the State government are being implemented in the State to make it a leader in implementation of schemes.
- The WASCA project, involving various departments like Forests, Rural Development and Horticulture is aimed at water security, poverty alleviation, and climate resilience”.

## Tamilnadu is leading in the field of female entrepreneurs

- Tamil Nadu has the largest number of female entrepreneurs in Indian states, according to a study. It states that there are more female entrepreneurs in the states of Kerala and West Bengal, next to Tamil Nadu.
- It is noted that 80 per cent of women are employing their own investments, rather than using government subsidies. The findings are based on research by the She at work website, which employs female entrepreneurs.

## A modern park at Adyar River on ₹ 8 crore

- The state-of-the-art park, including a playground and a snack complex, is set to be built on the Adyar River, including the metropolitan Chennai corporation.
- Tree Growing in Miyawaki : The 'Miyawaki' tree planting method was invented by the Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. According to the philosophy of space-free adakkad, this method involves digging a deep pit and pouring biodegradable debris into the trees.
- Of these, up to 30 dozen folk trees can be grown in one place. Furthermore, this does not require maintenance after three years.

## Wastewater treatment projects in Israel and Sweden start at ₹ 88 crore

- In developed countries, including Israel and Sweden, 100 percent of the sewage water is dumped into the Porur lake by the Indirect Potable Reuse system.
- The project for refining it and providing drinking water to the people of Chennai has begun at ₹ 88 crore.

## Chief Minister inaugurates Tirupattur and Ranipet districts

- Chief minister Edappadi K.Palaniswami inaugurated Tirupattur and Ranipet as Tamil Nadu's 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> districts, respectively.
- The Tirupattur district was created after the Vellore district was trifurcated into Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur. The announcement of its creation was made during the Chief minister's Independence Day speech in Chennai in August.
- The new district, spread over an area of 1,797,92 sq.km with a population of 11,11,812, will have two revenue divisions.
- Vaniyambadi and Tirupattur, Vaniyambadi; four taluks: Tirupattur, Vaniyambadi, Natrampalli and Ambur; 15 firkas; 195 revenue villages; seven panchayat unions; four municipalities; three town panchayat unions; 207 village panchayats; and three Assembly constituencies in parts under its jurisdiction.
- The Chief Minister announced several new projects, including a sandalwood research station at Tirupattur and water supply schemes for 45 village panchayats in Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet.

## Botanical Glass House in Ooty

- The Indoor Garden Heritage Park is being developed in Chennai for the first time in a colorful palette like the Glass House Garden at Ooty Botanical Garden.



## TN govt inks MoUs worth ₹ 5,027 crore at investment conclave

- The Tamil Nadu government signed nine Memoranda of Understanding with various companies, including ITC Paperboard, BYD of China and Mitsuba Sical, with investment worth Rs 5,027 crore that would create 20,351 jobs.
- The MoUs were signed at the Investment and Skill Development Conclave organised by the government and officiated by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami.
- The government has also signed knowledge partnership with DRDO and IIT-M for the proposed Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor which would be helpful in making the State an aerospace and defence manufacturing hub.

## Exam to Possibility Public School Students to Find Opportunity and Higher Education

- The Central Human Resources Department, with the help of the National Education Research and Training Council (NCERT), has designed the 'Tamanna' Skill Selection System.
- Accordingly, the selection will take place in a total of 7 topics as Verbal and Linguistic.
- According to the school education department, on the effective selection of Tamil Nadu Some changes have been made to the choice of Tamanna designed by NCERT.

## **ADB, India sign \$451 million loan to strengthen Power Connectivity in Tamil Nadu**

- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$451 million loan for strengthening power connectivity between northern and southern parts of Chennai – Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) which is part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC). ECEC is India's first coastal economic corridor.

### **Key Highlights of Project**

- It will help establish extra-high-voltage transmission link between Coimbatore and Virudhunagar. It will also build operational capacity of TANTRANSCO (Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation) by supporting a financial restructuring plan and improved monitoring system for social and environmental impacts. TANTRANSCO is state-owned company responsible for transmission.

### **About Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)**

- East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) of which CKIC is a part, covers 2500km of India's coastline. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is lead partner of Government of India for developing ECEC and will invest \$500 million in infrastructural development of the project.

### **TamilNadu get 13 awards for rural development**

- The Tamil Nadu rural development department received 13 awards from the centre of effective implementation of rural development schemes, including MGNREGA, the 100-day job guarantee scheme. The state received awards in the category of state, district, panchayat union and village panchayats in program like MGNREGA, National Rurban Mission and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana. The rural development department received 31 national awards this fiscal

## **T.N. gets a pat on the back for its transplant record**

- In a year that saw organ donations dip in the state, Tamil Nadu, for the fifth consecutive year, received an award from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOT-TO).
- According to Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) data, the State has had 1,326 deceased donors from 2008 till date. A total of 7,783 organs, including 4,712 major organs such as heart, lungs, liver and kidneys, were donated.
- This year, TRANSTAN has done a 10-year compilation of post-transplant data of patients. Through this exercise, data on how well patients are doing after transplants and survival rates are available.

### **'NABARD Rural Festival' National Handloom Exhibition in Chennai**

- Handicrafts Exhibition on behalf of NABARD Bank in Chennai.
- A national exhibition of products made by rural artisans and handloom weavers on behalf of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) was held at the Mother Teresa Girls' Complex in Valluvarkottam, Chennai

## ADB approves \$206 million loan to develop water supply, sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu

- Asian Development Bank (ADB), a regional development bank has signed \$206 million loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to develop water supply ,sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities (Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Madurai and Vellore) of Tamil Nadu (TN) and also enhances capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery.

### Key Points:

- The first project under the program amounting to \$169 million targeting the cities of Chennai, Coimbatore, Rajapalayam, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, and Vellore is currently under implementation.

## 6<sup>th</sup> World Tamils Economic Conference

- The Madras Development Society and World Tamils Economic Foundation will organize the 6th World Tamils Economic Conference and the Chennai Global Economic Summit 2019, between December 28 and 30 at Hotel Le Royal Meridien.

## 17<sup>th</sup>-Chennai International Film Festival

- The 17<sup>th</sup> Chennai International Film Festival, on behalf of the Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation, is set to begin on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Art Gallery.
- The festival, which runs until the 19<sup>th</sup>, features 130 films from 55 countries. 75 lakhs has been provided on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

## Odisha government included its agriculture department in state's "Mo Sarkar" scheme

- The Odisha Government included the department of agriculture and farmer's empowerment in the "Mo Sarkar" scheme as an expansion of the '5T' initiative. The plan will soon be implemented by the Department of Higher Education (DHE).

### Key Points:

- The 'Mo Sarkar program' also called 'My Government' was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, it was first implemented in the department of Home and Health.
- The aim of the program is to provide service with dignity to people who are coming to government offices for different purposes

## Concept of 3 capitals to be considered in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister indicated that the state could have three capitals. The state government has been aiming at the decentralized development and as part of it, the AP will have three capitals instead of Amaravati alone.
- During a short discussion on progress of construction of Amaravati, the Chief Minister announced that, the Legislature capital may remain in Amaravati, Executive capital may be shifted to Visakhapatnam and the High Court in Kurnool.

## Exercises first, classes later: Minister

- School Students will start their day with 15 minutes of physical exercise, School Education Minister K.A.Sengottaiyan.



## T.N. tops in coverage under micro-irrigation

- Tamil Nadu has emerged as the topper in coverage of area under micro-irrigation (MI) this year.
- Of about 3.64 lakh hectares brought under MI, Tamil Nadu accounts for around 1.39 lakh hectares, accounting for 38% of the total coverage in the country, according to the website of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, a scheme aimed at improving on-farm water use efficiency through a number of measures such as MI.
- Gujarat comes next to Tamil Nadu with a coverage of 77,858 hectares and Andhra Pradesh, 52,027 hectares. Maharashtra comes fourth with around 36,831 hectares and Uttar Pradesh with 25,680 hectares.
- The Central government sanctioned the installation of 17,500 solar agricultural pump sets in the State. This has been done under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uttham Mahabhiyan (PM-Kusum) scheme

## Indigenous Faith Day celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

- Donyi Polo Cultural & Charitable Trust and Indigenous Faith & Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh celebrated 'Indigenous Faith Day' on 1st December.
- The celebrations were held at Pasighat with religious fervour.
- The day is celebrated to protect and promote the indigenous faith and tribal tradition to keep the ethnic identity of the local tribes.

## Maternal mortality ratio in Tamil Nadu

- In the current year, Aranthangi Health District has recorded 10,065 deliveries without maternal deaths, making it the model district in Tamil Nadu.
- The World Health Organization has determined how many mothers die per 100,000 live births. 130 deaths per lakh people in India.
- The World Health Organization has set a target of reducing it to 70 by 2030. But it is currently 63 in Tamil Nadu. The health department is working to reduce this further

## Kerala launches 'Vijayamritham' & 'Sahachari' schemes to support differently-abled people

- As a motivation and helping hand for differently-abled persons, the state Government of Kerala has launched 2 social welfare schemes - 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari'. These schemes also applicable to NSS (National Service Scheme), NCC (National Cadet Corps) and Student Police Cadet (SPC) units working for their care and welfare.
- **Vijayamritham:** It provide onetime cash award to meritorious differently abled students who have scored high marks in Degree/ Equivalent courses, Post Graduate (PG) & Professional courses.
- **Sahachari scheme:** This scheme is aims to provide encouragement to NCC/ NSS/SPC units functioning in schools who offer assistance to differently abled students with over 40% disability in their studies as well as other extra-curricular activities.

### **Anna University's name shouldn't change after getting Institute of Eminence status**

- Anna University the status of Institution of Eminence (IoE) from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the government of Tamil Nadu has formed a committee to study the possibility of bifurcation of the university into an IoE and an affiliating university.
- The order stated that a cabinet meeting was conducted in November to consider the proposal to bifurcate the erstwhile Anna University into Anna Institute of Eminence (Anna IoE) and Anna University, by amending the Anna University Act, 1978.
- It has also been decided to get a clear response from the government of India regarding the applicability of the state's reservation policy on Anna University after granting of the IoE status.

### **Madras High Court cannot be renamed**

- The Madras High Court has rejected the Union Law Ministry's request to change the name of the Madras High Court to a Tamil Nadu High Court.
- A meeting of all the judges of the Madras High Court recently took place. The meeting also discussed the letter sent by the Union Law Ministry to the High Court regarding the renamed the Madras High Court as the Tamil Nadu High Court.
- It has been decided at the jury meeting that the names of Chartered Courts such as the Madras High Court and the Bombay High Court and the Calcutta High Court have not been changed and the Madras High Court is in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

### **Chennai most vulnerable to cyberattacks among metros**

- Chennai continued to be the most vulnerable city among metros to cyber attacks to the second quarters of 2019 (August-October), according to the findings of 'Cyber Threat Monitor', by K7 computing. Despite a 2% decrease in infection rate from the last quarter, Chennai still remains the most vulnerable at 46%. Among metro cities, cyberattacks in Delhi ballooned in the second quarter with a 6% increase in the quarter on quarter infection rate, according to the report. The infection rate in cyber city, Hyderabad is 41% from 39% recorded last quarter, while Bengaluru and Pune experienced 39% and 35% of cyberattacks, similar to the previous quarter.

### **Odisha govt reduced subsidy to farmers under KALIA scheme to ₹ 4,000 per annum from ₹ 10,000**

- The Odisha government has reduced the amount of aid given to farmers under the KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation) scheme from Rs 10,000 to Rs 4000 per year. This decision was taken by the state government after merging the KALIA scheme with Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) yojana. Keeping similarity between the two schemes, small farmers will be given Rs 6,000 rupees for 2019-20 from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana and Rs 4,000 rupees from 2020-21 under the KALIA Scheme, so that they can get ten thousand rupees annually.

# 10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who is the highest executive head of state?  
 (A) Chief Minister (B) Home Minister  
 (C) Governor (D) Chief Justice of High Court
2. When was World AIDS day observed?  
 (A) December 01 (B) December 02 (C) November 31 (D) November 30
3. Golconda Fort frequently seen in news, where is it located?  
 (A) Andrapradesh (B) Telengana (C) Odisha (D) Madhya Pradesh
4. Which state won 'organ donation award' awarded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare?  
 (A) Kerala (B) Uttar Pradesh (C) Karnataka (D) Tamilnadu
5. Which country introduced Mandatory Face Scan for Phone Users?  
 (A) USA (B) Japan (C) China (D) India
6. Where is Siachen Glacier located?  
 (A) Jammu and Kashmir (B) Ladakh  
 (C) Sikkim (D) Himachal Pradesh
7. With which country India Signed agreement to create a new Innovation policy?  
 (A) Switzerland (B) Sweden (C) Singapore (D) Japan
8. Who was awarded "Gold Wing Award" recently?  
 (A) Shivangi (B) Mohana Singh (C) Avani Chaturvedi (D) Bhawana Kanth
9. A voter from rural area from Tamilnadu has to vote, how many votes in local body election?  
 (A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5 (D) 6
10. Which city Police awarded Skoch Governance Award recently?  
 (A) Thiruvananthapuram (B) Bangalore  
 (C) Greater Chennai (D) Mumbai
11. Which of the following bank internet banking service hit by Technical Glitch recently?  
 (A) SBI (B) ICICI (C) HDFC (D) IOB
12. Who is appointed as new President of European Commission?  
 (A) Ursula Von der Leyen (B) Christine Lagarde  
 (C) Jin Liqun (D) Klaus Schwab
13. Recently Poshan Anthem is launched, what is the target year of Govt. to eliminate malnutrition in India?  
 (A) 2020 (B) 2021 (C) 2022 (D) 2024
14. INSTEX barter system related to  
 (A) Money for Gold (B) Gold for Oil (C) Coal for Oil (D) Specified Good for Oil
15. Which Railway station in India gets 1<sup>st</sup> Eat Right Station certificate?  
 (A) Mumbai Central (B) Chennai Central  
 (C) Gorakhpur Railway Station (D) Egmore Railway Station
16. Where will be National maritime heritage museum build, with which of the following country's help?  
 (A) Mumbai, UK (B) Kolkata, UK (C) Goa, Portugal (D) Lothal, Portugal
17. PPRIMS Portal related to  
 (A) Central Vigilance Commission (B) Central Information Commission  
 (C) Election Commission of India (D) Tamilnadu State Election Commission
18. Which of the following missile test firing was recently failed when it is test in night?  
 (A) Agni - 1 (B) Prithvi - 2 (C) Agni - 2 (D) Prithvi - 1
19. Which organization released "World Malaria Report - 2019"?  
 (A) World Health Organization (B) United Nation Development Program  
 (C) Lancet (D) EIU

20. Who is awarded lifetime achievement award for Public Service 2019 by ET?  
 (A) Prathiba Patil (B) Narendra Modi (C) Nirmala Sitharaman (D) Arun Jaitly
21. Which State Govt launched Madhu-an e-learning app?  
 (A) Andrapradesh (B) Delhi (C) Odisha (D) Karnataka
22. When was Indian Navy day observed?  
 (A) 02 December (B) 03 December (C) 04 December (D) 05 December
23. Recently election commission announced Jannayak Janta Party as state party of which of the following state?  
 (A) Haryana (B) Punjab (C) Jharkhand (D) Madhya Pradesh
24. What is the India's first corporate bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)?  
 (A) Nifty (B) Shariah (C) Bharat Bond ETF (D) Gold ETF
25. Who is known as the custodian of Foreign Reserve in India?  
 (A) Finance Minister (B) Comptroller and Auditor General  
 (C) Reserve Bank of India (D) Finance Secretary
26. Which of the following state's Farmer Welfare Scheme KALIA is linked with Pradhan Mandri Kisan Scheme?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Maharashtra (C) West Bengal (D) Jharkhand
27. Blue Flag certification related to which of the following?  
 (A) Capacity Building (B) Beaches as Tourism sites  
 (C) Heritage Symbols (D) Sea related Industries
28. India's monetary polices are determined by Monetary Policy Committee, which is recommendation of which of the following committee?  
 (A) Bimal Jalan (B) Rangarajan (C) P. Chidambaram (D) Urjit Patal
29. Where is 3<sup>rd</sup> Khelo India youth games to be held?  
 (A) Mumbai (B) Pune (C) Guwahati (D) New Delhi
30. Mahaparinirvan Diwas related to which of the following personality?  
 (A) B.R. Ambedkar (B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel  
 (C) J.P. Kripalini (D) Deendayal Upadhyaya
31. Who is the first transgender to be appointed as Govt. hospital nurse?  
 (A) Anbu Ruby (B) Anitha (C) Nilima (D) Jeniffer
32. BGR-34- A drug frequently seen news, is curative drug of which of the following disease?  
 (A) Cancer (B) Malaria (C) Chickengunya (D) Diabetes
33. Operation Clean Art related to  
 (A) Mongoose (B) Tiger (C) Asiatic Lion (D) One horned Rhino
34. Who is recently appointed as senior security Advisor of Ministry of Home affairs?  
 (A) Ajit Doval (B) Vijay Kumar (C) P.K. Mishra (D) N.K. Singh
35. What is the Expansion of NEFT?  
 (A) National Electrical Fund Transfer  
 (B) National Electronic Fund Trust  
 (C) Network Electronic Fund Transfer  
 (D) National Electronic Fund Transfer
36. With which country National Agricultural Research organization planned to develop a new variety cotton?  
 (A) Brazil (B) USA (C) Uganda (D) Turkey
37. When will Southern Indian states gets an opportunity to see partial solar eclipse?  
 (A) December 24 (B) December 25 (C) December 27 (D) December 26
38. What is the first tribal language that is used in Rajya Sabha recently?  
 (A) Bodo (B) Dogri (C) Maithili (D) Santhali

39. In which of the following institution ISRO setup Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)?  
(A) NIT, Warangal (B) NIT, Rourkela (C) NIT, Trichy (D) NIT, Hamirpur
40. Where is 54<sup>th</sup> DGsP, IGsP conference held?  
(A) Pune, Maharashtra (B) Mumbai, Maharashtra  
(C) Hyderabad, Telangana (D) New Delhi
41. When was GST stakeholder Feedback Diwas observed?  
(A) 01 July (B) 01 December (C) 07 December (D) 08 December
42. The delimitation of local bodies done by which of the following organization?  
(A) State Legislature (B) State Election Commission  
(C) Parliament (D) Election Commission of India
43. What is total value of National Investment and Infrastructure Funds (NIIF)?  
(A) \$ 2 Billion (B) \$ 3 Billion (C) \$ 4 Billion (D) \$ 5 Billion
44. What is the objective Van Dhan Yojana?  
(A) To enhance livelihood of tribal gatherers and artisan  
(B) To enhance income of unorganized sector workers  
(C) To enhance skills of ICT employees  
(D) To enhance capacity of Central Govt. workers
45. Which of the following committee related to 2002 - Gujarat riots?  
(A) Justice Rohini Commission (B) Kaka Kalelkar Commission  
(C) Nanavati-Mehta Commission (D) Srikrishna Committee
46. Which state passed Disha bill to ensure rape verdicts in time bound manner?  
(A) Telengana (B) Andrapradesh (C) Odisha (D) Delhi
47. Rushikula rookery coast frequently seen in news located at  
(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) West Bengal (C) Odisha (D) Goa
48. Which country became world's newest country after passing a successful referendum?  
(A) Papua New Guinea (B) Catalonia (C) Quebec (D) Bougainville
49. In which country fully electric commercial aircraft takes its first flight?  
(A) USA (B) Canada (C) Japan (D) Mexico
50. Where is NAVARMS-2019 an International Seminar-cum-Exhibition on Naval Weapon System going to be held?  
(A) Visakhapatnam (B) Kochi (C) Chennai (D) New Delhi
51. "Draj Bridge" recently seen in news located at which of the following state?  
(A) Nagaland (B) Jammu & Kashmir (C) Sikkim (D) Ladakh
52. When was Arms act enacted at which an amendment is recently proposed in Indian Parliament?  
(A) 1950 (B) 1951 (C) 1958 (D) 1959
53. Which of the following ministers going to be participate the two-plus-two dialogue between India and USA?  
(A) Home Affairs and External Affairs (B) External Affairs and Finance  
(C) External Affairs and Defence (D) Defence and Home Affairs
54. Who became the first Indian to play 150 Ranji matches?  
(A) Sairaj (B) Muzumdar (C) Wasim Jaffer (D) Devendra Bundela
55. From Dhaka to which of the following Indian tourism spots Bangladesh government inaugurated direct bus services?  
(A) Bhuvaneshwar, Gangtok (B) Gangtok, Imphal  
(C) Darjeeling, Gawahati (D) Gangtok, Darjeeling
56. World's oldest hunting artwork has been uncovered recently in which country?  
(A) Indonesia (B) Australia (C) China (D) South Africa
57. Which film has been named the best film of the year by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association?  
(A) Parasite (B) The Irishman (C) Leave no Trace (D) IT Chapter 2



58. 'Sohae' satellite launching station is located in which country?  
 (A) Japan (B) South Korea (C) China (D) North Korea
59. What is the expansion of NFRA?  
 (A) National Forest Recreating Association  
 (B) Non Formal Regulating Authority  
 (C) National Financial Reporting Authority  
 (D) Non-Banking Financial Regulating Authority
60. Which of the following two organisations are jointly planning to train 4000 Indian Teachers in Artificial Technology?  
 (A) World Bank + IMF (B) IBM + Dell (C) UNESCO + Dell (D) TCS + CTS
61. According to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) data 2019-20, which state generated largest power through renewable energy?  
 (A) Kerala (B) Gujarat (C) Karnataka (D) Tamilnadu
62. Where is 3-day National Tribal Dance festival going to be held?  
 (A) Raipur (B) Guwahati (C) Gangtok (D) Kohima
63. Parivara, Talwara and Siddi tribes are recently seen in NEWS, residing in which of the following state?  
 (A) Kerala (B) Andrapradesh (C) Telangana (D) Karnataka
64. Which of the following organization compiled Seventh Economic Census?  
 (A) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation  
 (B) Ministry of Finance  
 (C) Central Statistical Office  
 (D) Reserve Bank of India
65. Who named as TIME magazine's person of the year - 2019?  
 (A) Xi Jinping (B) Vladimir Putin (C) Donald Trump (D) Greta Thunberg
66. Where is India's first International Financial Services Centre established?  
 (A) Maharastra (B) Gujarat (C) Delhi (D) West Bengal
67. Mumbai - Nagpur Samruddhi express way named after which of the following personality?  
 (A) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (B) Chhatrapati Shivaji  
 (C) Bal Thackeray (D) Udhay Thackeray
68. Which of the following committee is appointed to recommend ways of loss prevention and minimization in General Insurance Industry?  
 (A) Lodha Committee (B) T.L. Alamelu Committee  
 (C) V.S. Sirpurkar Committee (D) Nandan Nilekani Committee
69. NASA recently mapped wind circulation of the which of the following planet?  
 (A) Venus (B) Mars (C) Saturn (D) Jupiter
70. Which state recently set up a first virtual Police Station in the country?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Telangana (C) Andra Pradesh (D) Jharkhand
71. Which state police recently Awarded Presidents colours in the recognition of meritorious service and gallantly?  
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Kerala (C) Gujarat (D) Andra Pradesh
72. Rohne and Rabodin coking coal mines are allocated to CPSEs to increase production of coking coal where are these mines located?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Chhattisgarh (C) Jharkhand (D) West Bengal
73. VoWiFi (Voice over WiFi) initiative launched by  
 (A) Vodafone (B) Jio (C) Bharti Airtel (D) TRAI
74. "Iron Union - 12" - A joint military exercise conducted between which of the following countries?  
 (A) UAE, USA (B) Saudi Arabia, USA  
 (C) UAE, Saudi Arabia (D) Japan, USA
75. How many species are added recently in IUCN "Red List of threatened species" recently?  
 (A) 1839 (B) 1840 (C) 1841 (D) 1842

76. Where is "Namaste Orchha" – a cultural festival going to be held?  
(A) Maharashtra (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Odisha
77. Accessible India Campaign related to  
(A) Entrepreneurs (B) Tax payers (C) Differently abled (D) Transgender
78. Which organization awards crystal award – 2019?  
(A) World Economic Forum  
(B) International Monetary Fund  
(C) European Union  
(D) United Nations General Assembly
79. Where is 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress going to be held?  
(A) Russia (B) Indonesia (C) India (D) Australia
80. When was International Tea Day observed?  
(A) December 13 (B) December 14 (C) December 15 (D) December 16
81. Which ministry decided to create Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) recently?  
(A) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change  
(B) Ministry of Renewable Energy  
(C) Ministry of Coal  
(D) Ministry of Power
82. Who is newly appointed as chief of the Army staff?  
(A) Bipin Rawat (B) Karambir Singh (C) Bimal Verma (D) Manoj Mukund
83. Which state police became first to introduce Trakea Software for Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)?  
(A) Punjab (B) Andrapradesh (C) Telangana (D) Haryana
84. Glory Run – A running expedition planned between which of the following cities?  
(A) Kargil to Kolkata (B) Kargil to Kohima (C) Kargil to Itanagar (D) Kargil to Agartala
85. Which gram panchayat ranked first place in the ranking of panchayats for implementing Mission Antyodaya Scheme?  
(A) Gangadevipalli (B) Molugamboondi (C) Hivere Bazar (D) Punsari
86. Where is 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Orange festival held recently?  
(A) Meghalaya (B) Manipur (C) Mizoram (D) Assam
87. When is Minorities Rights Day in India observed?  
(A) December 17 (B) December 18 (C) December 19 (D) December 20
88. Who is the author of "Honour Bound"?  
(A) Gurcharan Das (B) Shashi Tharoor (C) Sarosh Zaiwalla (D) Amartya Sen
89. Which of the following state implements Suryashakti Kisan Yojana?  
(A) Andrapradesh (B) Maharashtra (C) Tamilnadu (D) Gujarat
90. Where is Surya Kiran Military exercise held between India-Nepal?  
(A) Salijhandi - Nepal (B) Rajasthan - India  
(C) Kathmandu - Nepal (D) Lucknow - India
91. Saksham Anganwadi launched by which Ministry?  
(A) Ministry of Health and Family affairs  
(B) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(C) Ministry of Women and Children  
(D) Ministry of Human Resource Development
92. According to US National Science Foundation, which country produces most Scientific and Technology Research papers in the world?  
(A) China (B) India (C) USA (D) Japan
93. 50<sup>th</sup> World Economic Conference is going to be held in which of the following place?  
(A) Davos - Switzerland (B) Moscow - Russia  
(C) Paris - France (D) London - United Kingdom

94. When was the National Mathematics Day observed?  
 (A) 21 December (B) 22 December (C) 23 December (D) 24 December
95. What is the main objective of "Hunar Haats"?  
 (A) Double the Income of Farmers  
 (B) To support Artisans and Craftsman  
 (C) Skill Development for Teachers  
 (D) Skill Development for Students
96. Which of the following organization is going to set up 500 skill hubs and labs in Govt schools?  
 (A) Finance Ministry (B) NITI Aayog  
 (C) Ministry of Skill Development (D) Ministry of Youth Affairs
97. According to recent survey of Indian Government which of the following state tops in coverage under micro irrigation?  
 (A) Gujarat (B) Maharashtra (C) Andhra Pradesh (D) Tamil Nadu
98. In which of the following year the Current Parliament House Building was completed?  
 (A) 1919 (B) 1927 (C) 1947 (D) 1950
99. Galapagos archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage site is located in which of the following country?  
 (A) Japan (B) China (C) Ecuador (D) USA
100. Chilai-Kalan an annual winter session started in which of the following state?  
 (A) Himachal Pradesh (B) Arunachal Pradesh  
 (C) Jammu and Kashmir (D) Haryana

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	A	B	D	C	A	B	A	B	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
C	A	C	D	A	D	C	C	A	D
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
C	C	A	C	C	A	B	D	C	A
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
A	D	A	B	D	C	D	D	C	A
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
C	B	C	A	C	B	C	D	B	B
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
B	D	C	C	D	A	A	D	C	C
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
D	A	D	A	D	B	C	B	B	C
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
C	C	C	A	B	B	C	A	C	C
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
C	D	D	B	B	B	B	C	D	A
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
C	A	A	B	B	C	D	B	C	A

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