



## DECEMBER CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2019

### NATIONAL NEWS

1. 2+2 India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi to boost bilateral security and defence cooperation and to strengthen "India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership".
  - Progress made under the India's 'Act East Policy' and Japan's 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision' policies will be discussed at the meeting.
2. MITRA SHAKTI-VII 2019 - joint army exercise between India and Sri Lanka has started at Pune, Maharashtra.
3. Ministry of Minority Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, has signed an agreement with Saudi Haj Minister Dr Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benten, to completely digitalize the process of Haj Pilgrimage.
  - With this, India has become the first country in the world to 100% digitalize Haj.
  - Apps like e-Visa, Haj Mobile App, e-MASIHA (e-Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad) health facility, e-luggage pre-tagging will be used for provided prior information to Indian Haj pilgrims.
  - Haj Group organizers (HGO) have also been linked to the 100% digital tax portal.
4. A two-day Regional Conference on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was organized in Jammu by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG- under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions) in association with Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir.
  - Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat: Implemented in 2016 by PM Narendra Modi to increase cultural ties between states of India.
  - 'Sahyog Sankalp' resolution was also adopted at the conference.
  - Tamil Nadu, J&K and Ladakh are the pair for hosting events (focussed on Jal Shakti and Disaster Management) to promote each other's cultures in 2020.
5. 30th edition of Konark festival was organized in Odisha to promote the art, culture and tradition of the state.
  - Theme: eco-tourism, culture, Fairs, women empowerment, and no to plastic and heritage.
  - Another festival: 8th edition of International Sand Art Festival 2019 has also commenced in Chandrabhaga beach, Odisha.
  - Renowned sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik is the brand ambassador and chief curator of this festival.
6. 20th edition of Hornbill festival has been organized in Kohima (capital of Nagaland) by Nagaland govt.
  - Purpose: It aims to promote the tradition and culture of Nagaland to increase tourism.
  - CM of Nagaland is Neiphiu Rio.
7. 8th edition of HAND-IN-HAND joint training exercise between India and China will be held in Umroi, Meghalaya.
  - Theme for the exercise: counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate.
8. 2nd annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation talks was organized in New Delhi.



- India has committed Rs 4,500 crores assistance for development projects of Bhutan and Rs 400 crores support for transitional trade support facility during Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023).
  - Next Development Cooperation Talks 2020 will be held in Thimphu, Bhutan.
9. Under the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 (IMI-2.0), nationwide vaccination drive has begun across the country.
- Vaccines for the 8 disease - diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B - will be given under IMI 2.0.
  - IMI 2.0 aims to achieve 90% nationwide immunisation coverage by 2022 with a focus on 272 districts of 27 states and 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar among hard-to-reach and tribal populations.
  - Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014. After it, Intensified Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2017. IMI 2.0 was launched in 2019.
10. India has offered a line of credit of \$450 million (\$400 million for infrastructure and \$50 million for countering terrorism) to Sri Lanka during Gotabaya Rajapaksa's (President of Sri Lanka) visit to India.
11. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has launched the Operation Clean Art to curb illegal trade of mongoose hair across India.
- Currently, there are 6 mongoose species in India - Indian grey mongoose, Small Indian mongoose, Ruddy mongoose, Crab-eating mongoose, Stripe-necked mongoose, and Brown mongoose.
  - Out of them, Indian grey mongoose is the most hunted species and is most commonly found.
12. Andhra Pradesh has launched the YSR Aasaraa Scheme for the beneficiaries of Aarogyasri Health Insurance Scheme (launched in 2008 in Andhra Pradesh).
- Under the new scheme, Rs 5000 per month (Rs 225 per day) will be given to each person after the surgery for the prescribed relaxation time.
13. Venkaiah Naidu (Vice President of India) has launched the Bharatiya 'POSHAN Anthem'.
- Lyricist of anthem is Prasoon Joshi and its composer is singer Shankar Mahadevan.
14. Mumbai Central station (of Western Railways) has become the first station in India to receive the 'Eat Right Station' certification from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) with a 4-star rating.
- FSSAI launched the 'Eat Right India' movement in 2018.
15. Ministry of Railways has signed an MoU with the Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom for cooperating on energy and sustainability.
- Purpose: To completely electrify the railway network and transform it into "green railways".
16. Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019 has been released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which ranks a total of 152 countries.
- Parameters: 4 indicators - readiness for internet shopping, reliability of postal services & infrastructure, portion of the population using the internet and mobile-money-service provider.
  - Top Ranker: Netherland (for 2nd consecutive year)
  - Last Ranker: Niger
  - India's Rank: 73rd (up by 7 positions) with 57.0 score.

- Globally, 1.3 billion people aged 15 or above shopped online in 2017 (which is a 12% increase from 2016).
17. Odisha govt has launched an e-learning App 'MadhuApp' for providing video lectures in Odia language to the students.
- The app has been named after Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das who was the first graduate and advocate of Odisha.
18. Bharat Biotech, in association with the Department of Biotechnology, has launched world's lowest dose-volume Rotavirus vaccine called 'ROTAVAC 5D'.
- Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has supported the project in part.
19. Punjab has partnered with World Economic Forum to design a public-private pilot project on shared, clean and electric mobility (e-mobility).
- Progressive Punjab Investors Summit 2019 will be held Mohali, Punjab.
20. During the India-Sweden High-Level Policy Dialogue on Innovation Policy, both nations signed 3 agreements for cooperation in polar science, innovation and research and in maritime spheres.
- Swedish Royal Couple King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia have arrived in India for a visit.
  - AIIMS (Delhi), AIIMS (Jodhpur), and Swedish Trade Commissioner's Office (in New Delhi) have signed a Memorandum of Intent to set up a healthcare innovation centre to promote research in non-communicable diseases and enhance the participation of Indian start-ups in the health sector.
  - 2019 is the Sweden-India Year of Health as it marks 10 years of India-Sweden cooperation in healthcare.
21. India and Portugal have collaborated to set up India's first National Maritime Heritage Museum at the ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat.
- It will display the heritage of Indian inland waterways and sea trade.
  - Ministry of Shipping is implementing the project through its Sagarmala programme (which was launched in 2015 to development the port infrastructure of India for transportation).
22. PM Narendra Modi and President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih have inaugurated four development projects in Maldives via video conference.
23. Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched the first-of-its-kind Independent Director's Databank in pursuance of the rules made under Companies Act, 2013.
- Purpose: It mandates all existing independent directors of the company as well as all those who aspire to become independent directors to register themselves on this portal.
  - The portal will also provide lessons to individuals to acquire knowledge become independent directors.
  - Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA) has developed and maintained it.
24. Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched "YuWaah- (Generation Unlimited India)" initiative in association with UNICEF.
- Purpose: To create hubs of education, skilling and employment for Indian youth aged 10-24 years.
25. India's first Ganga centralised Aqualab will be set up at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, Uttarakhand as part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

- Functions: To preserve the aquatic life forms of the Ganga as well as create a baseline data of the river.
26. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Personal Data Protection Bill which imposes a penalty of Rs 15 crore or 4% of a company's global revenue and a jail term of 3-year for company executives if they violate privacy norms.
- Right to be forgotten and right to erase, correct and porting of data have been provided to the data owner by this bill.
27. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Code on Social Security Bill 2019 (4th labour code).
- It seeks to integrate 8 Central Labour Acts:
28. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Joint Declaration of Intent between India and Germany for cooperation in upgradation of Railways.
- Ministry of Railways (Indian) and Federal Ministry for economic affairs and energy, Germany have signed the agreement.
29. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an MoU signed between Election Commission of India and Election Commission of Maldives to enable cooperation on electoral management and administration.
30. National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), IIT-Gandhinagar and IIT-Kharagpur have partnered to jointly create "Gandhipedia" (to be completed by 2024).
31. Andhra Pradesh launched the YSR Law Nestham scheme on National lawyers day (3rd December).
- Under the scheme, a stipend of Rs 5,000 per month is provided to the beneficiary junior lawyers and advocates.
  - Also, the state govt has granted Rs 100 crore to lawyer's welfare fund.
32. Euro Monitor International has released the "Top 100 city destination ranking" 2019 to rank a total of 100 most popular tourist destinations in the world.
- Topper - Hong Kong
  - Indian City - Delhi is at 11th rank (and is expected to be at 8th position in the next rankings which will be for the year 2019).
  - As per the report, the number of international tourists visiting Delhi has increased by 25% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
  - 7 cities from India have been included in the list which makes India, the strongest tourist destination.
  - A total of 43 Asian cities are present in this list.
33. Phase 4 of the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme has been launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Phase-4 will focus on Hilly states, North East Region, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Islands to increase civil aviation in these areas.
  - Under the new phase, funding for the large aircrafts has been increased by 25%, operation of helicopter and sea planes have also been added.

- Ministry aims to operationalize 1000 routes and more than 100 airports in the next five years.
34. An MoU for online ticketing of National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) has been signed between Films Division and BookMyShow.
35. India is procuring Meteor air-to-air missiles from France which have with a range of 150 km and no escape zone of 60 km.
- Recently, the Indian govt has insisted France for delivering at least 10 missiles earlier than its scheduled date in late 2020.
36. 2nd Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is being organized in Goa.
- Organizer: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Ministry of Commerce and Industry)
  - Theme: 'India Opportunity- Investing in tomorrow together'
  - Purpose: To explore best practices for venture capital industry in India, identify problem areas restricting them from investing in India and evaluate ways to address those issues.
37. Avantee Mega Food Park (Steel Silo based) - first mega food park of central India - has been established in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh.
38. Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (14 million litres per day) has been inaugurated by King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurated in Uttarakhand.
- It is the first plant to be completed under Hybrid Annuity Based Public Private Partnership Model as part of Namami Gange Programme.
39. India and Russia conducted the 11th edition of joint tri-services military exercise - Indra XI - at Pune and Goa.
- Earlier, Indra was held between the navies of the two nations.
40. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued the fund of Rs 100 crore to set up women help desks at all police stations across India under the Nirbhaya Fund to help women victims.
- Nirbhaya Fund was established in 2013 with a corpus of Rs 10 billion to ensure safety of women.
  - Ministry of Finance is the nodal agency for maintaining the fund and Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency.
41. Rajya Sabha has constituted a 14-member panel, headed by Jairam Ramesh, to study the spread of pornography content online.
- The group was constituted during the zero hour. (The time period after the question hour of Lok Sabha ends.)
42. India has given 3 line of credits to Guinea where the first LoC, worth \$170 million, was given for water supply project and second LoC of \$20.22 million was given for two solar power projects in Guinea.
43. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has organized the 4th edition of the national workshop "Heat Wave 2020" in association with Karnataka govt. in Bangalore.
- Purpose: To discuss ways to enhance preparedness, mitigation and management of heat wave before the heat season begins in 2020.
  - The workshop is being conducted by NDMA since 2017.

44. India has become the first Asian country to be invited as the Guest of Honour in the 33rd edition of the Guadalajara International Book Fair 2019 held in Mexico.

- Theme of Indian Pavilion is "Let Our Lives Be Open Books" inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.
- It is the largest book fair of the Americas, and second largest book fair in the world after Frankfurt's.
- 2020 world book fair will be held in New Delhi.

45. IIT-Hyderabad has signed MoU with four Japanese institutions to conduct mutual research in earthquake engineering and other doctoral programs.

46. 4th edition of the 'Water Impact Summit' was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in New Delhi.

- Theme: 'Valuing Water - Transforming Ganga'
- 2nd Water Finance Forum was also organized during the summit to bring global investors and institutions together for resolving water issues.

47. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have signed an MoU to enhance the production of honey.

- As part of the MoU, CSIR technology products will be displayed at important KVIC outlets to increase their reach to audience.

48. 'India-Sweden Business Summit' was organised by Business Sweden to strengthen the bilateral ties between both the nations in New Delhi.

- M3M (Gurgaon based developer) has signed an agreement with the Swedish company to develop 165-acre smart city in Haryana at a cost of \$2 billion.

49. Ministry of Home Affairs has released the rankings of the Top 10 best performing Police Stations 2019.

- Total: 15,579 police stations from all over the country were assessed.
- Parameters: 19 (80% were performance based and 20% were based on infrastructure).
- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database was used for this ranking.

50. Punjab CM Amarinder Singh has launched Enable Startup Track Acceleration (ESTAC) program during the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit 2019 held in Mohali, Punjab.

- Purpose of the Summit: To promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the state.
- Under this 6-month program, 10 selected start-ups will be given the opportunity to secure pilot projects with the government of Punjab.
- Punjab state govt and the AIC (Atal Incubation Centre) Indian School of Business, Mohali have partnered for this program.

51. For the first time, Human Library (an international non-profit organization) organized the "Human Library" event in Mysuru, Karnataka.

- Purpose: The event aims to raise awareness among people to use human in place of books to increase social cohesion.
- Human Library Organization (HQ- Copenhagen, Denmark, established in 2000) is present in more than 85 countries.

52. ISRO has announced to launch the RISAT-2BR1 (2nd satellite in the RISAT series) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on December 11, 2019.
- First RISAT (Radar imaging reconnaissance satellites) was RISAT-2B satellite, launched in 2019.
  - Purpose: to boost India's surveillance of Earth for military purposes.
  - RISAT-2BR1 launch is the 50th mission of ISRO's PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle).
  - RISAT-2BR1 will be launched through PSLV-C48 which will simultaneously carry 9 other foreign satellites.
  - Among them, 'Duchifat 3' satellite, built by 3 Israeli Students named Alon Abramovich, Meitav Assulin and Shmuel Aviv Levi, will be aboard PSLV-C48.
53. According to IMD, Cyclone Pawan has formed in the southwest Arabian Sea and is moving towards Somalia.
- Kyarr, Fani, Maha, Vayu, Hikaa, Bulbul, Pabuk and Pawan are the 8 cyclones formed in the North Indian Ocean region in 2019.
  - It is the highest number of cyclones formed in a year since 1976 when 9 cyclones formed in Indian Ocean.
54. Odisha government has decided to merge its Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme (announced in 2018) with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana (launched in 2019) because of the financial constraint.
55. 3rd India-Australia Secretary-level 2+2 dialogue was organized in New Delhi.
- India, Australia, Japan and USA (members of Quad) had announced to upgrade the level of 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' (Quad) format to ministerial level in September.
  - PM Narendra Modi will deliver his inaugural address at Raisina Dialogue 2020.
  - Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference organized by Observer Research Foundation and Ministry of External Affairs every year in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.
56. India Skills Report 2019 has been jointly developed by CII, AICTE, UN Development Programme and Association of Indian University (AIU) along with scholars.
- Parameters: The report ranks 28 states and 9 UTs on two basis - availability of employment opportunities and employability of citizens.
57. 126th Constitution Amendment Bill 2019 has been introduced in Lok Sabha to amend Article 334 which gives reservation to Anglo-Indians, SCs and STs.
- An extension of 10 years for reservation has been sought by this bill. The reservation would expire in 2020.
  - This is the 126th amendment bill but if passed, it will become 104th amendment act.
58. India and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have signed an agreement for participating in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), which will be conducted by the OECD in 2021.
- PISA (launched in 2000) is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
  - Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) had set up a committee to review the matter.

59. Code on Wages will amalgamate the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Note:- Central govt will soon notify the rules for the Code on Wage Bill.

60. Human Development Report (Index) 2019 has been released by UN Development Program.

- Title of the Report: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century.
- Top Ranker: Norway (0.954)
- Bottom Ranker: Niger (score 0.377)
- India's Rank: 129 (up from 130 in 2018) with a score of 0.647.
- Total: 189

Facts About India in HDI 2019:

- India lifted 27.1 crore people out of poverty from 2005-06 to 2015-16.
- South Asia was the fastest-growing region with 46% growth in 1990-2018, followed by East Asia and the Pacific at 43%.
- South Asia has the widest gender gap on the HDI.

61. International Symposium on Lighting has been organized by International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) at its headquarters in Manesar, Gurugram.

- This year's symposium aims to create a knowledge sharing platform ensuring the flow of information.

62. 6th edition of Asian Dendrochronology Conference is being held, for the first time, in India at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, UP.

- Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings that hold a wealth of information about not only a tree's past but also that of the ecosystem in which it lives.

63. Private sector companies in Karnataka must give priority to Kannadigas in recruitment to their clerical and shop floor jobs.

- Govt has directed companies under the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules 1961.

64. 20th GeoSmart India conference 2019 was organized in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- Theme: "Ignite - Innovate - Integrate"
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded with the 'Leadership in Rejuvenation and Protection of Fresh Water Systems in India' at the conference.

65. WHO and UNICEF released a report which mentions that India has the world's 2nd highest number of unvaccinated children against measles.

- In 2018, 2.3 million children were not vaccinated in 2018 (2.9 million in 2017).
- Nigeria has topped the list with 2.4 million unvaccinated children (4 million in 2017).
- The study was published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).
- Globally, there were at least 140,000 cases of measles.
- Five countries—the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Madagascar, Somalia and Ukraine—accounted for almost half of all measles cases in 2018
- In 2018, USA has recorded the most measles cases in 25 years.

66. 'Digital Exhibition on History of Constitution of India' has been organized in New Delhi.



- Organizers: Department of Personnel & Training, in collaboration with Parliament Museum & Archives of Lok Sabha Secretariat and Bureau of Outreach and Communication.
67. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched a pilot project - FASTag 2.0 - for using FASTags (provided by ICICI bank) for parking purposes at Hyderabad Airport in 1st phase.
- After getting successful, it will be launched at Delhi Airport also in the 2nd phase.
68. Anti-Maritime bill has been presented by Ministry of External Affairs in Lok Sabha to curb piracy and attacks on sailors.
- Section 3 of the bill pronounces the punishment of imprisonment and death for persons involved in the act of piracy, if such person in committing the act of piracy causes death or an attempt thereof.
69. India and Japan have reviewed their Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement during Japanese Trade Minister Mr Hiroshi Kajiyama and Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal's meeting.
- Japan has committed to invest Rs 13,000 crores in the Indian North-Eastern region.
70. 17th BioAsia 2020 will be organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industries in Hyderabad by the Telangana govt.
- Theme: Today for Tomorrow
  - Partner country for BioAsia: Switzerland
71. 4th edition of 'NAVARMS-19' - International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems - will be held at Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi.
- Theme: "Make in India - Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives"
72. Parliament has cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 to grant citizenship to the non-Muslim illegal immigrants who arrived in India on or before December 31, 2014 from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura (schedule-VI states), and Inner Line Permit states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland have been excluded from the bill.
  - 6 religions - Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Christians, Buddhists and Parsi - who have left their country due to religious intolerance of the state will get citizenship.
  - Time period: The 6 religions mentioned above will be given citizenship within 5 years of their stay in India whereas 11 years' time is for Muslims.
  - Citizenship Act, 1955 is replaced by this bill.
73. For the first time in India, Pashu Kisan credit cards have been distributed to 101 animal farmers by the Haryana government to farmers of Bhiwani district.
- Purpose: to promote animal husbandry and agribusiness.
  - Haryana govt has also set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by March 2021.
74. An amendment to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA), 2016 has been passed to ensure the security of the tenants as well as the citizens of the state and to stop illegal immigration into the state.
- Now, registration on entry through an inner line permit (ILP) is mandatory for visitors who intend to spend more than 24 hours in the state.



- ILP is an official travel document required by Indian citizens residing outside certain "protected" states while entering them.
  - Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland and President Ram Nath Kovind has extended ILP in Manipur also.
75. Mongla and Chattogram (both in Bangladesh) have been declared as Ports of Call under "Coastal Shipping Agreement" between India and Bangladesh.
- An MoU and Standard Operating Procedure for using Chattogram and Mongla Ports for goods movement between India and Bangladesh has been signed.
  - Mongla port is under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) whereas Chattogram port is not a part of PIWT&T.
76. DuPont de Nemours has partnered with AGNii (Accelerated Growth of New India's Innovations) initiative to support the implementation of this initiative across industries.
- AGNii initiative has been launched by the Principal Scientific Advisor to Central Government and is executed by Invest India.
  - AGNii aims to promote innovation in industrial sector of India.
77. Dell technologies and UNESCO- MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace) have partnered to improve educational quality at school level by using AI technology to fulfil SGD 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education).
- The partnership will train 4,000 Indian teachers.
  - Dell's Aarambh and FramerSpace platform have developed the technology for training the teachers.
  - The work under this partnership will be done in three phases: 1st phase in Andhra Pradesh, followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.
78. Indian Culture Web Portal has been launched by the Ministry of Culture and was developed by IIT-Bombay.
- Data on this portal has been organized by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).
79. Parliament has passed the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to amend the Arms Act, 1959.
- The bill reduces the number of permitted firearms under Arms Act, 1959 from 3 to 1 (including licenses given on inheritance basis).
  - The excess firearms will be delicensed within 90 days from expiry of 1-year period.
  - Validity of a firearm license has been increased from 3 years to 5 years.
  - Punishment between 7 years and life imprisonment has been approved in this bill.
  - New offences include have been added in the bill are:
  - forcefully taking a firearm from police or armed forces has a punishment with imprisonment between 10 years and life imprisonment and a fine.
  - using firearms in a celebratory gunfire which endangers human life/personal safety of others has an imprisonment of up to 2 years, or fine of up to Rs.1 lakh rupees, or both.
80. Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between India and Japan to form an 'India-Japan Steel Dialogue' to strengthen cooperation in steel sector.
- High grade steel manufacturing will also be promoted in India as part of this MoC.
  - An MoU signed between India and Japan Coal Energy Center for power supply has also been approved by the cabinet.

81. "International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming systems" for BIMSTEC countries has been organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in New Delhi.
- Purpose: to improve tropical small holder farming system that are resilient to climate change.
  - The summit is an outcome of the 4th BIMSTEC summit held at Kathmandu, Nepal in August 2019.
82. Union Cabinet has approved the Aircraft (Amendment) bill, 2019 to amend the Aircrafts act, 1934.
- The bill increases the punishment from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore for companies which fail to comply with the safety norms, prescribed by the Government of India.
  - It enables 3 regulatory bodies - Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).
83. Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed between Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and Saudi Food and Drug Authority for regulating the market of medical products.
- The MoU will increase India's export of medical products to Saudi Arabia.
84. Union Cabinet has approved the Agreement on Social Security signed between India and Brazil to protect the interests of the professionals and skilled workers living abroad.
85. Andhra Pradesh cabinet has approved the A.P. Disha Bill, 2019/ Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (amendment) Act 2019 which mandates to settle cases of atrocities against women in 21 days and pronounces death penalty for rape and gang-rape.
- The bill amends Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and Section 173 and 309 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
  - Also, new sections 354-E and 354-F have also been inserted in the Indian Penal Code to tackle online harassment of women and children.
  - "A.P. Special Court for Specified Offences against Women and Children Bill, 2019" has also been introduced to create special courts for dealing with offences against child and women.
86. FSSAI and NASSCOM have partnered to launch a mobile app and a helpline number to restrict the food wastage and promote food donation in India.
- Initially, 81 Indian Food Sharing Alliance (IFSA) will be a part of this mobile platform.
87. Rajya Sabha has passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 by voice vote to replace Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- The bill aims to include 3 tribes namely- Parivara, Talwara and Siddi communities of Dharwad and Belagavi districts of Karnataka.
88. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) to Indian Navy.
- GRSE is developing 8 LCUs for Indian Navy and it is the 7th LCU.
  - LCU is an amphibious ship used to deploy main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.
89. India will host 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi in 2020 to discuss the future policy in the field of geosciences.

- Theme: 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for Sustainable Development'.
  - Organizer: Ministry of Mines.
  - Financers of the event: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and National Science Academies of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
  - Geological Survey of India is the nodal agency of the event.
  - The conference is held in every 4 years. India is the only Asian country which is hosting this event for the 2nd time. Earlier, it was held in 1964.
90. FICCI ARISE Conference on School Education 2019 was organized by FICCI in New Delhi to discuss measures on making India- a knowledge and human resource hub.
- Theme: 'Future Ready Learners and Schools'
91. USA has designated NAVIC (NAVigation with Indian Constellation) system of ISRO as an "allied" navigational satellite system at par with Galileo (Satellite System of European Union) and QZSS (Quasi-Zenith Satellite System of Japan).
- The tag has been given in the conference report released under National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2020.
  - However, USA has designated Russia' GLONASS and Chinese Beidou systems as a "non-allied system" which means that USA will not share any data with them.
92. Kerala has launched 'Vijayamritham' and 'Sahachari' schemes for PwD students.
- Vijayamritham: Under it, Rs 8,000 will provided to UG students from Arts who score 60% and science - 80% marks.
  - Rs 10,000 will be given PG students scoring 60% or above.
  - Sahachari: It is for NCC/NSS/SPC units which offer services to PwD students in schools. Rs 10,000 each will be given to the 3 best units.
93. Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment in Odisha has been included in the "Mo Sarkar" (My Government) scheme as an expansion of its '5T' initiative.
- Mo Sarkar initiative was launched in 2019 to provide quality service with dignity to citizens.
  - 5T - teamwork, technology, transparency, time leading to transformation aims to provide quality governance to the people.
94. India Design Council and National Institute of design, Ahmedabad have launched two Initiatives - Chartered Designs of India (CDI) and Design Education Quality Mark (DEQM).
- Purpose - To address 5 challenges of scale, quality of design, quality of education for design, raising the priority for design in industry and design for a public purpose.
  - CDI - would set professional standards of design practice in India.
  - DEQM - would set design education programs to aware industries, institution etc. about the quality marks and will accord DEQM to institutions that meet the provisions of the published standard.
95. UNESCO-Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), Andhra Pradesh govt and Ministry of Human Resources Development have jointly organized the 3rd edition of Transforming Education Conference for Humanity (TECH) 2019 at Visakhapatnam.
96. India and Vietnam signed an MoU for cooperation in the field of education and scientific research.

- Purpose - To discuss the importance of sports and digital education in establishing a peaceful and sustainable society.
97. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department will organize 'Namaste Orchha 2020' (a 3-day cultural festival) in Orchha, MP.
98. During the first meeting of the National Ganga Council in 2019, PM Modi urged states to shift focus from Namami Gange to Arth Ganga (which means to earn by increasing religious tourism on Ganga through environment-friendly method).
- Purpose: To ensure adequate and uninterrupted flow of the river.
  - The Council has also planned to launch organic farming on the banks of the river.
99. Ministry of Coal has announced to set up the Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) to promote environment-friendly coal mining.
- Purpose: For promoting sustainable coal mining in the country and address environmental concerns at closure of mines.
100. Ministry of External Affairs hosted organized the 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue and 11th Delhi Dialogue (Delhi Dialogue XI) in New Delhi.
- Theme of Indian Ocean Dialogue: "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography"
  - Theme of Delhi Dialogue XI: "Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific"
  - Organizers: Indian Council for World Affairs organized 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue and Research and Information System for developing Countries organized the Delhi Dialogue XI.
  - The Indo-Pacific policy of India has been expanded to include Gulf states (Arabian Sea) and Africa (western Indian Ocean).
- Other events organized in New Delhi during these two dialogues:
- Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Science and Technology hosted the first meeting of the expert group of Indian Ocean Rim Association on Academics, Science and Technology.
  - The leaders discussed the implementation of IORA Action Plan (2017 - 2021) in the Priority Area of Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation (ASTC) within IORA.
  - The Ministry also hosted the 25th Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group meeting.
  - External Affairs Minister - S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Indonesia - Retno Marsudi co-chaired the 6th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting.
- About IORA:
- Headquarters: Mauritius
  - Secretary General: Nomvuyo N. Nokwe
  - Members: 22
  - Estb. In: 1997
101. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and NABARD have signed an MoU for conducting research to promote sustainable agriculture and climate resilient farming systems.
- Also, the ICAR aims to provide the financial support to the young agri-entrepreneurs with the help of NABARD.
102. 37th National Symposium of Heads of Police Training Institutions had been organized by Bureau of Police Research and Development in New Delhi.
- Theme: 'Optimal Utilization of Resources-Through Sharing and Networking'.

103. Haryana has become the first state in India to implement Trakea' - barcoding system of Forensic Science Laboratory - for ensuring the security of evidences in forensic labs.
- Trakea has recently won the National SKOCH Police Silver Award.
104. 3rd Military Literature Festival was held in Chandigarh, Punjab.
105. During the 6th Joint Commission Meeting of the External Ministers of India and Maldives, both countries have agreed to strengthen their maritime security and boost their anti-terror cooperation for Indian Ocean Region.
- The projects for setting up of a Composite Training Centre to train defence forces of Maldives and Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS) in Maldives, are also going on.
  - MoU for cooperation were signed between election commissions, Financial Intelligence Units of the two countries.
  - An Instrument of Ratification for the treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters of India and Maldives was also signed.
  - Both countries agreed to extend National Knowledge Network (NKN) into Maldives.
  - 7th JCM meeting will be held in Maldives in 2021.
106. World Design Organization (WDO) has announced to launch the 'World Design Protopolis' programme in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The announcement about the World Design Protopolis was made at 3-days Kochi Design Week (India's largest design conclave) held in Kerala.
  - The project aims for implementing holistic progress in mega cities across the world and to make them sustainable.
107. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released the Regulation of vintage motor vehicles order, 2019 to regulate the registration of old vintage vehicles (more than 50 yrs.).
- Under this new order, 'VA' letters signifying 'Vintage' vehicle will be a part of the number plates of these vehicles.
108. Bureau of Energy Efficiency and International Energy Agency have organized an International Workshop on 'Energy Efficient Cooling' in New Delhi as part of the 'Energy Conservation Week' (9- 14 December 2019).
- It was organized under the Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) initiative of Clean Energy Ministerial.
109. Gujarat (Police) has become the 7th state to receive 'President's Colours' (also called as Nishaan) by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura and Assam are the 6 states which have got President's colors.
110. Indo-Tibetan Border Police has become the first among the Central Armed Police Forces to start a matrimonial site for its staff.
111. Confederation of Indian Industry has also organized the "Steeling India 2019: Driving metal intensity in key sectors" conference to increase steel contribution in key sectors.

- In September, Minister for Steel and Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the "ISAPTI IRADA" campaign that aims to increase the usage of steel in India.
- P V Sindhu is the brand ambassador of ISAPTI IRADA and Ministry of Steel.

112. Government has extended the deadline for Accessible India Campaign to March 2020.

Note: - The scheme is covered in the government schemes document.

113. 2nd edition of the "Digital States of India - A Comparative Analysis" has been released by the Coeus Age Consulting (1st edition was published in 2017).

- Parameters: All the States and UTs are ranked on the basis of their 'policy and infrastructure readiness' and 'mission mode project's performance' which were divided into 128 indicators.
- States and UTs were divided into 4 groups - Leading (7), emerging (9), promising (12), and lagging digital states (9).
- Top Ranker: Chhattisgarh
- Maharashtra is at 2nd, Haryana at 3rd, Andhra Pradesh at 4th and Madhya Pradesh at 5th position. Madhya Pradesh was the top ranker in the 2017 edition of the report.
- Haryana witnessed the highest improvement from 10th to 3rd position.

114. Rankings of the top 10 Gram panchayats on the basis of implementation of Mission Antyodaya scheme has been released.

- Top ranker - Molugamboondi of Tamil Nadu at 1st place followed by Bambhaniya GP of Gujarat at 2nd place.
- 269 panchayats from 15 states were ranked in the top 10 places.
- Gujarat has maximum entries in the top 10 with 99 Gram panchayats, followed by Punjab with 66, Kerala with 69 and Tamil Nadu with 21 entries.
- 112 parameters were used in 2019 as against 46 used in 2018.

115. 16th edition of the Orange Festival was held at Tamenglong district in Manipur.

- Tamenglong district is the largest grower of oranges in the state.

116. 95th Tansen Samaroh 2019' (classical music festival) was organized in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh by Ustad Alaaddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy and state govt of MP.

- The festival is observed to commemorate Mian Tansen - a vocalist of 16th century.
- National Tansen Award 2019 was given to Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas by MP govt.

117. Philippines has confirmed to sign the contract with India for medium range supersonic Brahmos Cruise Missiles in 2020.

118. Central Government has extended the deadline of its AMRUT - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation - scheme by two more years to 2022.

- The scheme was launched in 2015 for providing the 139 lakh water connections and 145 lakh sewer connections by 2020.

Note: - The scheme is covered in detail in Government Schemes document.

119. International Astronomical Union has named a white yellow star in Sextans Constellation as "Bhibha" and its planet as "Santamasa".

- Bhibha has been named after Indian Woman Scientist Bhibha Choudhury. She is the discoverer of subatomic particle pi-meson.

120. National Informatics Centre has developed the Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) - a communication system for govt employees for inter and intra organization communication.

- It is in the testing stage.

121. Minister for Communications, Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the National Broadband Mission. Objectives of the mission are:

- Broadband access to all villages by 2022 and improve quality of mobile & internet services
- Incremental 30 lakhs route km of Optical Fiber Cable will be laid and tower density will be increased from 0.42 to 1.0 tower per thousand of population by 2024
- Develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) to measure the availability of digital communications infrastructure and conducive policy ecosystem within a State/UT.
- Create a digital fiber map of the Digital Communications network and
- infrastructure, including Optical Fiber Cables and Towers, across the country
- Investment from stakeholders of USD 100 billion including Rs 70,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

122. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.

Features of the Act:

- It amalgamates Shipbreaking Code (revised), 2013 and provisions of the Hong Kong Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.
- It prohibits the use of hazardous material on ship (except on warships or non-commercial ships of govt) and existing ships will be given 5-year period to remove the hazardous material.
- It aims to ensure environment friendly recycling of ships and also to meet 10% of India secondary steel needs.
- It has set a target of increasing India's market share to 60% in the global ship market from the present 30%.
- It also aims to increase the contribution of the recycling ships' to \$2.2 billion in GDP against the present \$1.3 billion.
- Gujarat's Alang (world's largest shipyard) is ready to meet the target.

123. India's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) have signed an MoU for bilaterally promoting scientific and technological research.

124. Chairman of Government e-Marketplace (Anup Wadhawan) has launched the national outreach program 'GeM Samvaad' in New Delhi.

- The program will be held from December 2019 - February 2020 to facilitate on-boarding of local vendors on this marketplace.
- Anup Wadhawan is also the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

125. Greater Chennai Corporation has launched India's first waste exchange platform to buy and sell recycled and reusable products online on a pilot basis in 3 months.

126. Madhya Pradesh police has launched an 'MP e-cop' application to ensure the safety of women.



127. 3rd phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched which will focus on connecting rural areas with the Gramin Agricultural Markets by consolidating 1.25 lakh km roads for the period of 2019-20 to 2024-25.

- The cost will be shared in 60:40 ratio between centre and state. In north-eastern states and Himalayan region, the ratio is 90:10.
- This scheme was launched in 2000.

Note: - The scheme is covered in detail in govt scheme document.

128. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Jalsathi' programme under the 5T initiative to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state.

- Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) and women federations in Bhubaneswar signed an MoU for implementation of this programme.
- Odisha Cabinet has also approved an agricultural policy named as "SAMRIDHI" for 2020.
- SAMRIDHI stands for Science & Technology, Adaptation, Market, Resource, Infrastructure, Diversification, Human Resource and Institutions.

129. Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has released braille edition of 'Exam Warriors' book written by PM Narendra Modi.

- Publisher: 'Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh'.

130. 11th edition of the Regional Quality Conclave has been organized at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand by Quality Council of India and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

- Theme: Advance Manufacturing with Quality, Innovation & Technology Interventions.
- Purpose: to aware the participants about the importance of quality culture in businesses.
- Also discussions on Industry 4.0 (4th industrial revolution characterized by technology) would be held.

131. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has provided Rs.436 crore for Future Skills PRIME (Programme for Reskilling/Upskilling of IT Manpower for Employability) which will run over a period of 3 years.

- 4.12 lakh IT professionals will be trained by MeitY and NASSCOM.
- Rs 12,000 will be given to every learner in his 'skills wallet' from the central govt as incentive into their skills wallet.
- Future Skills Initiative was launched in 2018.

132. Wipro and NASSCOM have jointly launched the 'Future Skills' platform to train 10,000 students from over 20 engineering colleges in India about new technologies.

- This platform is a part of Wipro's CSR programme called 'TalentNext' which prepares faculty and academic leaders to train students.
- NASSCOM aims to include 9 crore techies to the industry by 2030.

133. CJI Sharad Arvind Bobde has created a 2-Judge Committee including Justice Subhash Reddy and Justice MR Shah to ensure speedy disposal of rape cases.

- As per National Crime Records Bureau data of 2017, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against women while Madhya Pradesh witnessed the highest number of rape cases.

134. According to the US National Science Foundation (NSF) data, China has published the highest

number of science and engineering articles in 2018, followed by USA and India at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

- Globally, the number of scientific papers published worldwide increased from over 17.5 lakh in 2008 to more than 25.5 lakh in 2018.

135. Jammu and Kashmir has signed an MoU with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve the supply of vaccines through Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (e-VIN).

- e-VIN is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNDP.

136. Pinaka missile (a modified version of Pinaka Mk-II rocket) has been test fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

- India started manufacturing Pinaka missiles (artillery missiles) in 1984.
- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM developed by DRDO) was also test-fired from here.

137. Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard have jointly conducted an anti-hijacking exercise named as 'Apharan' at Cochin port in Kerala.

138. Jignesh Patel has launched India's first 'Vaccination On Wheels' Clinic in Pune, Maharashtra in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- VOW is a moving clinic to vaccinate children in residential areas where the vaccination rate is low.

139. Indian Coast Guard has conducted a pollution response exercise called as 'Swachchh Samundra NW-2019' at sea off the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat.

- Purpose: To create awareness and a response mechanism to tackle sea pollution from oil spillage.

140. National Rail Transport Institute (a deemed university) signed an MoU with University of Birmingham (England) to set up first Centre of Excellence of NRTI for Next Generation Transportation Systems.

- Indian Railways will be the founding member of this centre.

141. Afghanistan has become the world's first nation to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

- IP is an official standards book prescribing the standards for drugs manufactured and marketed in India. Standards are provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission in IP.
- IP is published by Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

142. As per the recent data released by Ministry of Jal Shakti on water supply, nearly 3 lakh rural households are deprived of the minimum prescribed provision of 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of potable quality drinking water.

- Jal ministry aims to provide 55 lpcd by 2024.
- Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttarakhand are the States which face the water quality issues.

143. Prof. Krishnasamy Vijay Raghavan (Principal Scientific Adviser to Central Govt), has launched "EChO Network" program.

- Purpose: To increase the research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.
- Director of EChO Network: Prof. Shannon Olsson.
- Funding partners: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hindustan Unilever Limited, RoundGlass, India Climate Collaborative, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms.

144. Second meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementing trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran was hosted by India in New Delhi.

- New Ports: Mormugoa (Goa), New Mangalore Port (Karnataka) will be included under the Chabahar Agreement.
- 3rd follow up meeting and 2nd Coordination Council meeting will be held in India in 2020.
- It was also decided that Freight Forwarder's Association will conduct a study in India to streamline the cargo transit in the country.

145. Andhra Pradesh has topped the list for organising Fit India Week in as many as 13,839 schools and also received the highest number of Fit India flag.

- Andhra Pradesh was followed by Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh at 2nd and 3rd ranks respectively.

146. 2nd National Conference on Uniformed Women in Prisons Administration was held at Central Academy for Police Training in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- Madhya Pradesh Jail Department and the Bureau of Police Research and Development have organized the conference.

147. 92nd Annual Convention of FICCI was held in New Delhi.

- Theme: "India: Roadmap to a \$5 trillion economy".

148. Election Commission of India has organized the National Workshop on Accessible Elections 2019 in New Delhi.

- During the workshop, a booklet 'Crossing the Barriers - I Got Inked' has been released by the Chief Election Commissioner - Sunil Arora.
- "Accessibility Report 2019" was also released here.

149. 5th edition of the ARTECH (Army Technology) seminar has been organized by the Indian Army in New Delhi on the theme of "Technologies for Non-contact Warfare".

- Major Anoop Mishra has received the "Army Design Bureau Excellence Award" at the Seminar for developing the bullet-proof jacket named 'Sarvatra Kawach'.

150. During the regional conference on "Improving Public Service Delivery" organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in Nagpur, "Nagpur Resolution" was adopted. Objectives of the resolution:

- To promote transparency, citizen centricity and participation in line with 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.
- For good governance, Shillong Declaration and Jammu Resolution have been adopted earlier.
- The Conference has resolved that central and state government of Maharashtra shall collaborate to deliver:

151. Andhra Pradesh has launched "Nethanna Nestham" scheme to provide Rs 24,000 per annum to each handloom weaver family.
- It would provide financial aid to about 85,000 families for a period of 5 years.
  - Besides, an ex-gratia payment of Rs 3.5 crores would be given to the families of 57 weavers from Anantapur district (who committed suicide).
152. Women Entrepreneurs hub (WE) has partnered with Start-up India (under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) to launch the WING (Women Rise Together) program in Telangana.
- WING is the flagship program of Start-up India.
  - Implementation partner: Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)
  - WE hub, in association with Startup India, will give National Start-Up Award 2020 to recognize and reward women-led startups in Telangana.
153. Department of fisheries, NABARD and Tamil Nadu have signed 1st tripartite Memorandum of Agreement to implement Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).
- Rs 7522 crores has been set aside for this fund to develop the infrastructure of fisheries sector and to increase exports from this region.
154. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has declared that Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-Urban has achieved its target of becoming Open Defecation Free in urban areas of 35 states (including UTs).
- As per the MoHUA, 65.81 lakh households toilets were constructed against the target of 59 lakhs.
  - MoHUA had also launched ODF+ and ODF++ protocols to achieve this target.
  - Apart from this, Water+ protocol had been launched by MoHUA to ensure that untreated waste water is not discharged into water bodies.
  - Ministry has partnered with Google to map all public toilets on Google maps.
155. For the first time, Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with GEER foundation, has organized an annual meeting of states' agencies which are implementing the Ecoclub programme in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- The ministry has launched this programme in 2001-2002 to aware children about the environmental problems.
  - During the event, "Glimpses of Ecoclubs" book and a handbook on International Environment Conventions and Programmes were released.
  - The participants are referred to as National Green Corps (NGC) students.
156. Indian Railways, in collaboration with Airo Guard, has opened an 'Oxygen Parlour' at Nashik railway station in Maharashtra to tackle the rising air pollution.
- The parlour (planned to be spread to all railway stations) has 1500 air cleaning plants to provide clean air to the commuters.
157. Website of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has released the data on states measuring the coverage of area under 'micro-irrigation' (MI) in 2019.
- State with highest area under MI: Tamil Nadu (1.39 lakh hectares, i.e., 38% of the total 3.64 lakh hectares land under MI across India).
  - Gujarat is at 2nd, Andhra Pradesh at 3rd, Maharashtra at 4th, and Uttar Pradesh at 5th position in terms of area under MI.

- Tamil Nadu aims to increase its area under MI by 1 lakh to 2.5 lakh by March 2020.
- Under the PM Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-Kusum) scheme, 17,500 solar agricultural pump sets were installed in Tamil Nadu.

Note: - PMKSY is covered in Government schemes document - Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare Part 2 and PM-KUSUM Scheme is covered under Government Schemes 2019-PDF.

158. Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM), with a range of 30 km, has been test fired from the Integrated test range in Chandipur, Odisha.

- This is the last test of the weapon which will be delivered to the army by 2021.
- QRSAM has been developed by DRDO in partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army.

159. Union cabinet has approved to name the Rohtang tunnel (under Rohtang Pass located in Himachal Pradesh) will be named as 'Atal Tunnel' after former PM and BJP Leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- Rohtang tunnel is the world's longest tunnel (8.8 km) above a height of 3,000 metres, connecting Manali, Himachal Pradesh with Leh, Ladakh and Jammu Kashmir.
- Chenab, Beas and Chandra are the three rivers in the region of the pass.

160. CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) has developed a security ink to curb the printing of fake passports and currency notes.

- This ink will work on the concept of fluorescence-phosphorescence phenomena in order to protect the notes against duplicity.

161. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has introduced a new e-vehicle policy to tackle air pollution by providing subsidies to electric vehicles which ensures that 25% of new vehicles registered are electric by 2024.

162. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) and Cipla have partnered to develop new drugs and conduct repurposing of drugs for domestic and international markets.

- Drug repurposing refers to identifying new uses of existing drugs.

163. Union Cabinet has approved to sign the Protocol to amend the Agreement between Swiss Federal Council of Switzerland and India about the air services.

- The agreement decides the number of airlines and destinations which the one country can operate into another.
- The new amendments allow multiple airlines to conduct operations between India and Switzerland against the present limit of only two.

164. Central Government has launched a central sector scheme- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) to recharge of ground water sources and revive surface water bodies by involving people at the local level.

- The scheme was introduced by the govt in 2018 and world bank had also approved it in the same year.
- Total outlay of the scheme is Rs 6,000 Crore.
- It is proposed to be implemented over a period of five years 2020-21- 2024-25 with World Bank assistance.
- It is implemented under the 'Ministry of Jal Shakti'.

Features of the scheme



- States covered: It is implemented in selected over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in seven States (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh). It will cover 78 districts, 193 blocks and nearly 8,350-gram panchayats across the mentioned states.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana will be implemented through Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- These states represent about 25% of the total number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks in terms of ground water in India.
- Fund management: 50% of the cost of the scheme will be borne by the Government, while the other 50% will be funded by the World Bank in the form of a loan.

165. Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between India and Brazil for cooperation in the field of Bioenergy.

- The MoU was signed in 2016.
- USA is world's largest producer of fuel ethanol and biodiesel followed by Brazil at the second position (based on the production quantum of 2017).
- As per the National Biofuel Policy 2018, India has a target to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol and 5% biodiesel blending in diesel by 2030.

166. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Centre for Good Governance have released the "Good Governance Index 2019" which ranks the states and UTs on the basis of 10 sectors (which are sub-divided into 50 indicators).

- The index divides states and UTs in 3 categories - 'big states', 'north-eastern & hilly' areas and 'UTs'.
- The index was released on 'Good Governance Day' on December 25 on the birth anniversary of the 10th PM of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was established in 2014.

NOTE: - Jammu and Kashmir has been taken in the category of North-east and Hilly states because, while preparing the index, the data was available for the state of J&K and no separate data was available for Ladakh as UT.

Parameters of this index:

167. Union Cabinet has approved the reforms into the management of railways.

- The govt has announced to invest Rs 50 lakh crore in Railways over next 12 years. Reforms are:
  - A. Merger of 8 "Group A" services
    - Purpose: to bring effectiveness in the management and to also to end 'departmentalism'.
    - Name of the new service - "Indian Railway Management Service".
    - 8 services are: traffic, accounts, personnel, engineering, stores, electrical engineering, signal engineering and mechanical engineering.
    - Recruitment procedure: to be decided by Department of Personnel Training and Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
  - B. Renaming of Indian Railway Medical Service as "Indian Railway Health Service"
  - C. Reforms on lines of Functional Services
    - Now, Chief of the railway board will be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the railway board who will be responsible for the whole cadre.
    - Number of members in the board has been reduced from 7 to 4 with some independent members.

Extra Facts:

- The reforms were decided on the 2-day conference "Parivartan Sangoshthi".



- Unification of services has been recommended by various committees for reforming Railways including - the Prakash Tandon Committee (1994), Rakesh Mohan Committee (2001), Sam Pitroda Committee (2012) and Bibek Debroy Committee (2015).

168. Union Government has approved Rs 8,754 crore for conducting Census of India, 2021 (1st digital census of India) and Rs.3,941 crore for updating National Population Register (NPR).

- Registrar General and Census Commissioner (operating under Ministry of Home Affairs) is responsible for preparing and maintaining the census.
- NPR will be updated for all over India except Assam, where National Register of Citizens has already been prepared.

What is National Population Register?

169. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its ex-post facto approval to the Adaptation of Laws (Amendment) Order, 2019 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 372 of the Constitution to amend the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations (BEFR), 1873.

- Purpose: the rules will extend the boundary of Bengal to Manipur to give protection to its indigenous people from the provisions of Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

170. Union Cabinet has approved the agreement between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of Security Cooperation.

- Also, the MoU between India and Bangladesh for cooperation in the field of youth affairs was approved.
- Cabinet also approved the agreement between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and International terrorism.

171. On the Good Governance Day (December 25), foundation stone of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University was laid in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- A 25 feet statue of Vajpayee (built by artist Rajkumar Pandit) in the UP government building.
- New collectorate building in Dehradun, Uttarakhand will be named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

172. 33rd edition of National Conference of All India Induction Furnace Association of India (AIIFA) on Secondary Steel Sector was organized in New Delhi.

- Theme: "Most advantageous route of Environment friendly steel making through Electric Induction Furnace and its global acceptance".

173. Ministry of HRD has released 5 documents (prepared by UGC) to infuse the culture of human values and ethics in educational institutions. Following frameworks were discussed by MHRD and UGC:

- SATAT- Framework for Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Campus development in Higher Educational Institutions.
- CARE - UGC aims to set up a Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC- CARE) to continuously monitor and identify quality journals across disciplines.
- Mulya Pravah - This framework set guidelines for inculcating human values and professional ethics in higher educational institutes.
- Guru-Dakshata - It is a guide to Faculty Induction Programme (FIP) to sensitise and motivate the faculty to adopt learner centred approaches.
- 'Evaluation Reforms in Higher Educational Institutions in India' report was also released.

174. Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, has released a postage stamp on Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

- Purpose: To commemorate the contributions of DRI in protecting India by preventing smuggling activities across the country.
- DRI (estb. in 1957) is also the lead agency for S-CORD - Anti-Smuggling National Coordination Centre.

175. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, has launched India's 1st CNG Bus which can travel for 1000 Kms in one time fill.

- Developers: Indraprastha Gas Ltd. in partnership with Mahindra & Mahindra, and Agility Fuel Solutions (USA).

176. Indian Railways has, for the first time, started a 'Him Darshan express train' between Kalka (Haryana) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).

177. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. has commissioned India's 1st Lignite thermal power plant based 500 MW thermal unit in Tamil Nadu.

- The power plant is owned by the NLC India Ltd.

178. India's 1st transgender university will be established in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

179. During the annual Akashvani (officially known as All India Radio) awards in New Delhi, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has declared to launch the Digital Radio in 2024.

180. Indian Air Force is decommissioning the last squadron of MiG-27 fighter jet aircraft (also known as 'Bahadur') at Jodhpur base in Rajasthan.

- MiG 27 was procured in 1984-85 from Soviet Union.

181. Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh, has launched the "DEFEXPO 2020" mobile app to assist visitors of 11th DefExpo 2020 (to be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh).

182. Ministry of Finance has made Aadhaar mandatory for beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).

- The Ministry has issued the notification under Aadhaar Act, 2016.

Note: - The scheme is covered in detail in ESI folder>> Government scheme>> Ministry of Finance document.

183. Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of India's first transit- oriented development project in Karkardooma in East Delhi.

- Under the project a state-of-the-art infrastructure zone, including national capital's tallest tower, will be built in east Delhi.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing the project. Phase 1 of the project will be implemented by National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- A 48-storey signature tower (about 161 m) will built as Delhi's tallest tower.

184. Losar Festival or the Tibetan New Year will start on 24 February and end on 26 February 2020.





185. National Tribal Dance Festival 2019 has started, for the first time, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
186. Haryana has launched the following initiatives.
- A. 2020 will be observed as "Susashan Sankalp Varsh" (good-governance year)
  - B. Launch of Lokyukta portal
  - C. Launched Digilocker
    - To keep government documents safe.
  - D. Launch of Web-Halris
    - It is a web-enabled integrated solution for deed registration and land record management.
  - E. Completed pilot project of Sirsi village
    - The village has become the first one in the state to become 'Lal Dora free'.
    - Meaning of Lal Dora: It came into being during the British regime in 1908 to delineate the village population from the nearby agricultural land for revenue records.
  - F. Websites for 22 districts created
  - G. Launched additional 42 services on Antyodya Saral portal
    - Now, the total number of services on this portal is 527.
    - Saral portal is a service delivery portal for providing the fast-track services to citizens
187. Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Raj Kumar Singh, declared that India is expected to cross 100 GW energy capacity in 2020.
- Currently, India has 86 GW of installed renewable energy generation capacity.
188. NTPC Ltd is planning to add 10 GW energy generation capacity by 2022 at a cost of Rs 50,000 crores.
- NTPC is planning to generate 130 GW by 2032 with 30% renewable energy.
189. Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi CM) launched the 'Mukhyamantri Aawas Yojana' for slum-dwellers in Delhi to provide a pucca house to them.
- Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) conducted the survey to assess the number of nominees to be covered under the scheme.
190. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray has approved the "Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme" and "Shiv Bhojan" - a subsidized meal scheme.
- Under the Loan Waiver Scheme, short-term crop loan up to Rs 2 lakh (taken till September 2019) will be waived off.
  - Shiv Bhojan scheme will be implemented as a pilot project for 3 months at a cost of Rs 6.4 crore to provide food at Rs 10. Under this scheme, 1 canteen will be opened in every district headquarters.
191. Knight Frank has released the "Global House Price Index Q3 2019" (Oct-Dec) report, which ranks a total of 56 countries based on the residential prices.
- Top ranker: Hungary
  - Bottom ranker: Australia
  - India's rank : 47th
  - Housing prices in India grew by only 0.6% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis between Q3 of 2018 and Q3 of 2019.
  - Housing prices in the world grew at an annual rate of 3.7%.

192. For the first time, Mandu festival 2019 has been organized in Mandu in Madhya Pradesh to increase tribal tourism.

193. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has formed a Standing Committee On Economic Statistics (SCES) of 28 members, headed by Pronab Sen, to develop methodologies for conducting surveys on industry, services sector and employment.

- 4 standing committees - on Labour Force Statistics, on Services Sector, on Industrial Statistics and on Services Sector and Unincorporated Sector Enterprises - will be subsumed under this committee.

194. NITI Aayog has launched the 2nd edition of SDG India Index along with the Dashboard of 2019-20.

Key Facts of the report:

- India's composite score on SDGs has improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019.
- The maximum improvements have been made in Goals 6, 7 and 9.
- Top Ranker - Kerala (states) and Chandigarh (UT) with 70 score each
- Bottom Ranker - Bihar (state) and Ladakh (UT) with 50 and 59 scores respectively
- Most Improved - Uttar Pradesh (moved up to 23rd rank from 29th), Orissa (23rd to 15th), and Sikkim (15th to 7th).
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Goa, and Sikkim moved up from 'Performer' to 'Front Runner' category.
- All 3 states - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam - that were in the Aspirant category have moved up to the 'Performer' category.

17 SDG Goals (to be achieved by 2030) are:

About the Index:

- Launched in 2018, the SDG India Index measures the progress made by states towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at sub-national level.
- Developers: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), United Nations in India and Global Green Growth Institute.
- Index and Dashboard 2019 covers 16 out of 17 SDGs and a qualitative assessment on Goal 17.
- Parameters: 100 indicators taken from MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (the framework consists of 306 indicators).
- SDG India Index score has been classified as follows:
- Aspirant: 0-49
- Performer: 50-64
- Front Runner: 65-99
- Achiever: 100

Note: - In this year's index, no state is in the 'Aspirant' category and 'Achiever' category.

195. Madagascar and Comoros have been included by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in its Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Division.

- Earlier, these two nations were in the East and South Africa Division of the MEA.
- IOR division looks after India's relations with its Indian ocean neighbours.

Extra Facts:

Madagascar and Comoros are also the members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and International Solar Alliance.

Comoros is a member of Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC)

196. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of ISRO has launched two Rohini (RH) 200 sounding rockets from Kerala to study the changes in the earth's upper atmosphere during the solar eclipse.
197. Ravi Shankar Prasad (Minister of Department of Telecom) has launched a web portal 'Central Equipment Identity Register' (CEIR) to trace the stolen mobiles in Delhi.
- The portal was first launched in Mumbai and will be expanded to the rest of India later on.
  - Developed by: Center for Development of Telematics
198. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released the 16th edition of the biennial "India State of Forest Report" (ISFR) 2019.
- Published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), the report was started in 1987, to assess the forest and tree resources of India.
  - Total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.73 million hectare in 2019 which is 24.56% of the total geographical area of the country.
  - Increased in forest and tree cover:
  - Largest forest cover:
  - 765 sq km (0.45 per cent) of forest cover has been decreased in the northeast India region except Assam and Tripura due to the traditional farming practice of Shifting Cultivation.
  - Other findings:
199. Indian Government has signed an MoU with Flipkart for selling products made by women self-help groups under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- Punjab govt has also signed 2 MoU with Amazon and Flipkart to enable access to new markets for the Punjab-based MSMEs.
- Note: - DAY-National Urban Livelihoods Mission is covered in ESI folder>> Government scheme >> Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs document.  
DAY-National Rural Livelihoods Mission is covered in Ministry of Rural Development document.
200. For the 1st time, 27th National Children's Science Congress 2019 was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Theme: "Science, Technology and Innovation for a clean, green and healthy nation".
  - Organizers: Kerala state council for science, technology and environment (KSCSTE) and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
201. Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah has launched the new logo of "Garuda", sword and shield for security branch of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He also laid the foundation stone of Directorate General Building of CRPF in New Delhi.
202. 'Dhanu Jatra' world's largest open-air drama festival (recorded in Guinness World Records) has begun in Odisha.
- The festival is based on the story of Lord Krishna and his uncle Kansa.
203. Ministry of Railway has renamed Railway Protection Force (RPS) as the Indian Railway Protection Service (IRPS) and accorded Organised Group 'A' status to it.
204. Haryana has launched the 'Atal Kisan Mazdoor canteen' in Karnal to provide meals to farmers and labourers Rs 10.
- A 14-foot statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was built at the Atal Park in Haryana.

205. Odisha government has launched an 'e-certificate portal' and 'e-PAUTI App' under its 5T initiative.
- E-certificate portal allows the citizens to get certificates online whereas e-PAUTI app allow farmers to register their land revenue online.
206. Illegal farming of Bt brinjal has been confirmed in Haryana recently.
- In order to protect the crops from pests and pesticides, cry1Ac gene (which produces insecticidal protein) is injected into the brinjal, which creates a new genetically modified brinjal named as Bt Brinjal.
  - Bt Brinjal was banned in 2010 due to its unknown health impact.
207. CSIR- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants has developed a new technology to produce Geranium saplings under the Aroma Mission. Geranium can be used as an anti-inflammatory and anti-septic medicine.
- Aroma Mission was launched in 2017 by CSIR to increase the production of aromatic plants.
208. All India Radio (AIR) has organized the National Symposium of Poets 2020 which is broadcasted on Republic Day every year.
- Poets of all 22 languages (recognized by the constitution) participate in symposium.
209. In January 2019, Ministry of Civil Aviation had released the draft of Drone Policy 2.0 (also known as Civil Aviation Regulations 2.0).
- The Drone Policy 1.0 was released in 2018.  
Key Recommendations of the policy (draft)
- A. It allows drone operations to be conducted beyond the currently stipulated limit of 400 ft. beyond the visual line-of-sight.
  - B. It provides for creating "Drone Corridors" - distinguished airspace solely for flying drones, distinct from the airspace in which manned aircrafts operate.
  - C. It proposes to create a "Drones Directorate" under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for dealing with the regularities pertaining to drones.
  - D. It provides for creating UAS (unmanned aerial system) Traffic Management systems, especially in the Drone Corridors.
  - E. Create "Droneports" for take-off and landing of the UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles).
  - F. It allows for commercialization of drones.
  - G. 100% FDI under the automatic route has been proposed in UAVs and Remotely Piloted Aircraft System-based commercial civil aviation services.
- Under Drone policy 1.0, there was no mention of FDI.
210. A National Survey to collect State wise Data on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use was conducted in the country during the year 2018.
- The report presents major findings of the survey in terms of proportion of Indian population in the group of 10-75 years using various substances and those affected by substance use disorders.
  - Categories of substances: analyse eight categories of psychoactive substances: Alcohol, Cannabis, Opioids, Cocaine, Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS), Sedatives, Inhalants and Hallucinogens.
  - Most common psychoactive substance: Alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians. After Alcohol, Cannabis and Opioids are the next commonly used substances in India.

- As per the report, prevalence in percentage of substance use in the different age group is given below.
211. "The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance" (TIPRA) is the new apolitical party formed by the Tripura state Congress president and royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma.
- Purpose: to protect the rights of indigenous people of Tripura.
212. 'Committee of External Eminent Persons/Experts' has been formed by the govt. for resolving the disputes in oil and gas sector to boost investment.
- The committee has a tenure of 3 years and will comprise GC Chaturvedi (former oil Secretary), Bikash C Bora (Oil India Ltd former head) and Satish Pai (MD of Hindalco Industries Ltd).
213. India and Oman signed a Maritime Transport Agreement to expand India's reach in the western Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and east Africa.
- This is the India's first pact with any Gulf country.
  - Both nations signed an agreement to develop Little India (a tourism complex) in Duqm (town in Oman) worth \$748 million.
- Oman is playing the role of mediator between the US and Iran and between Iran and the Gulf powers.
214. 11th edition of the "National Street Food Festival" (NSFF) is being organized by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) and FSSAI in New Delhi.
- Theme of the festival: 'Healthier Diets'.
  - Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan, launched 'Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition' (NetSCoFAN) – a network of research and academic institutions which are working in the field of food and nutrition.
  - FSSAI also organised the 2nd 'National Eat Right Mela' here.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Saudi Arabia is the first country from Arab world to hold G20 presidency for 2020. Saudi Arabia will host 15th edition of G20 summit in 2020 in Riyadh.
  - Theme: "Realising Opportunities of the 21st Century for All"
  - Focus of the 2020 summit: empowering people, safeguarding the planet, and shaping new frontiers.
2. Roger Federer (tennis player from Switzerland) has become the 1st living person in Switzerland who has been honoured by engraving his image on the Swiss coin.
3. Typhoon Tisoy (Kammuri) has hit Philippines.
4. World Health Organization released the "World malaria report 2019" which mentions that African Region (213 million or 93%) followed by the South-East Asia Region with 3.4% and Eastern Mediterranean Region with 2.1% cases are the worst affected regions.
  - Currently, the malaria case incidence is 57 cases per 1000 population at risk in 2018.
  - Plasmodium falciparum (parasite causing malaria) is most commonly found in WHO African Region (99.7%).
  - WHO African Region recorded 94% of all malaria deaths in 2018. Total 4,05,000 deaths were recorded globally.



- WHO implemented the Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030 to eliminate Malaria by 2030.

What facts does the report mention about India?

- India and Uganda were the only two countries out of the 11 high burden to high impact (HBHI) countries which have witnessed highest reduction in the number of cases by 2.6 million and 1.5 million respectively in 2018.
- Despite reduction, India is the only non-African country in the list of top 11 countries with highest burden of malaria.
- Out of the total deaths globally, 85% were concentrated in African Region's 20 countries and India in 2018.

5. 15th edition of "Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2020" has been released by Germanwatch on the sidelines of COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit.

- Title of the report: Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events? Weather- Related Loss Events in 2018 and 1999 to 2018.
- Total Countries: 181
- Parameters: impacts of climate change
- Top Ranker with highest climate risk: Japan (5.50 score)
- Bottom Ranker with lowest climate risk: Qatar
- India's rank: 5th (score 18.17) with over 1,000 casualties in 2018 caused by disasters.

6. 70th edition of the NATO Summit 2019 was held in London, United Kingdom.

- The summit was chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
- All the leaders decided to spend 2% or more of their GDP on defence. About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):
- Member countries- 29 (American and European)
- Established- 1949
- Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

7. Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 is held in Hawaii, USA.

- Theme: 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'.
- Objective: To enhance cooperation among air defence force of participating countries.
- USA is the host and 20 countries from Indo-Pacific region participated in it.

8. 7th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting was held in Vienna, Austria.

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) President: Manuel Salvador Quevedo Fernandez

9. Comparitech (a tech research firm based in Britain) has conducted a study on invasive use of Biometrics and prepared a list of 50 countries based on 5 different aspects like visas, biometric systems and quality of data management.

- Rank 1 - China (score 24 out of 25)
- Rank 5 - India, sharing its position with Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines with a score of 19 each.
- Rank 50 - Ireland and Portugal (score 11)
- Purpose - To compare the usage of Biometrics among different countries.



10. During the COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit (in Madrid, Spain), "Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate" was released.
- As per the report, mean sea level has increased from 1.4 mm in 1901-1990 to 3.6 mm in 2006-2015 worldwide.
  - Ocean warming has also increased from 700 to 2000 metres of ocean layers being warmed up between 1993 and 2017.
  - Nairobi Work Programme, which was launched in 2005, was also reviewed at the conference.
- Other Developments at the COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit:
- A. 73 countries joined Climate Ambition Alliance
- The alliance was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 in New York
  - It is led by Chile in 2019
  - It will achieve net zero emissions target by 2050 through nationally determined contributions by member nations.
- B. COP 26 of UN Climate Change Summit will be held in Glasgow, UK.
- C. India achieved 21% emission reduction:
- Minister for Environment- Prakash Javadekar has announced that India has reduced GHG emission intensity of its GDP by 21%
  - 35% emission reduction will be achieved by 2030.
  - India's target: 175 GW renewable energy by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030
- D. BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) also hosted their meet here.
- E. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency launched "Green Window":
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has announced to set up a "Green Window" to provide low risk financing to renewable energy projects.
  - The window will work in association with the private sector. The corpus of the window will be \$100 million (\$20 million by IREDA and \$80 million by other agencies.
- F. IUCN added 1,840 new species to its "Red List of Threatened Species".
- In 2020, IUCN will host two global gatherings, first in Marseille (France) in June and second is UN Biodiversity Conference on Biodiversity (CBD COP15) in Kunming (China) in October 2020.
- G. Licypriya Kangujam (India's Greta Thunberg) submitted memorandum to UN Sec-Gen-Antonio Guterres:
- She is an 8 year old girl from Manipur.
  - She submitted the memorandum on behalf of the children of the world.
  - To insists global leaders to act on climate change.
11. Climate Change Performance Index 2020 has been released at COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit held in Madrid, Spain.
- Total: 57 evaluated countries and the EU
  - Top Country (with lowest climate change): Sweden at 4th position
  - Bottom Country (with highest climate change): USA at 61st position
  - India's rank: 9th
  - Parameters: 14 indicators within the four categories "GHG Emissions", "Renewable Energy" and "Energy Use", and "Climate Policy".
12. European Space Agency (ESA) has approved the HERA mission which will go hand-in- hand with Double Asteroid Redirect Test (DART) mission of NASA.

- In 2021, NASA will launch DART mission (on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket) towards Didymos (a binary asteroid system) to crash it. Primary aim of DART is to redirect asteroids coming towards Earth for collision.
  - When the craft reaches Didymos in 2022, it will slam into the smaller of the asteroids, Didymoon.
  - ESA will then launch the Hera spacecraft in 2024, with the goal of reaching the asteroids in 2027.
  - During its course, Hera will assess the damage DART inflicted upon Didymoon by deploying a pair of CubeSats to study the asteroid.
13. According to a report published by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, arms sales has increased by 4.6% throughout the world in 2018.
- In terms of production, USA was the top manufacturer of defence goods with a 59% market share with a turnover of \$246 billion.
  - Russia (8.6%), UK (8.4%) and France (5.5%) were the other top 3 countries respectively.
  - Globally, turnover of 100 biggest arms manufacturers accounted for \$420 billion.
  - Overall, India ranked at 10th position.
  - Weapons sales of top three Indian companies has declined by 6.9% from 2017 to stand at \$5.9 billion in 2018.
14. International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 10th Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) Meeting was held in Sabah, Malaysia to discuss measures to protect Asian Elephants.
- IUCN AsESG is a global network of specialists gathered together for conservation of Asian Elephants.
15. New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) nuclear arms control treaty between Russia and USA is going to expire in Feb 2021.
- The treaty limits the number of strategic nuclear weapons deployed by both countries.
  - Official name of the treaty is 'Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms' and was signed in 2010.
  - It had replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT).
16. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, has announced a "Contract for the Web" to make online world safe and empowering for everyone as well as to govern the behavior of both internet giants and governments.
- The goal is to create a standard policy for a Web that benefits all.
  - Principles: The Contract consists of nine principles — three each for governments, private companies, and individuals and civil society to endorse.
  - Representatives: created by representatives from over 80 organisations, including governments, companies, civil society activists, and academics.
17. German parliament has passed its first climate action law named as Climate Protection Act to reach its climate target by 2030.
- From 2021, diesel, petrol, heating oil and natural gas companies will need to obtain pollution rights for the amount of greenhouse gases they emit.
  - The aviation tax will be increased.
18. UN committee has passed a Russian-led resolution on a global cybercrime treaty which will act as an alternative to the US-led Budapest Convention.
- A. Provisions of the new convention:



- A committee has been created by this conventions which will convene in August 2020 in New York to establish a new treaty to prevent cybercrime
  - India voted in favour of Russian-led UN resolution
- B. Provisions of the Budapest Convention:
- Council of Europe's (CoE) Cybercrime Convention (also known as the Budapest Convention) was signed in 2001 and came into force in 2004.
  - It is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime.
  - As of September 2019, 64 states have ratified the convention.
  - India is its non-member but decided not to sign the convention
- C. Reasons for not to sign the convention by India:
- Article 32b of the convention allows for sharing of data across borders which infringes on national sovereignty.
  - The regime of the Convention is not effective as the members can also refuse to cooperate and share data.
19. For the first time, UN has included funding for the investigation of war crimes in Syria and Myanmar in its operational budget of \$3.07 billion for 2020.
- UN will also fund an observer mission in Yemen.
20. European Union (EU) has become the first multilateral bloc to declare climate emergency.
- A resolution in this regard was recently passed to pressurize EU governments to adopt a commitment for all of the EU to reduce emissions to net zero.
  - Also, European Investment Bank, EU's financing department, has announced to stop funding fossil fuel projects at the end of 2021.
21. New Zealand has passed the 'Zero Carbon Bill' to make the country carbon neutral by 2050.
- The bill requires all greenhouse gases except methane from animals to be reduced to net zero by 2050.
  - This is the first legislation in the world to make a legally binding commitment to living within 1.5° Celsius of global warming.
22. Australia has developed the world's first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and has a 3G and 4G cellular network.
- The FrogPhone will allow researchers to dial these devices remotely, and analyse the data later.
23. World's First 100% electronic flight was tested from Vancouver, Canada.
24. Bougainville (largest island of the Solomon Islands' Archipelago) has become independent from Papua New Guinea.
- The island has world's largest copper deposits and Halia is the most widely spoken language in the country.
  - Godman Nithyananda (from India) has also created a new country called "Kailassa" near Ecuador in South America.
  - However, both countries need diplomatic recognition from United Nations. Both the new countries also need North America and South America's assent on Montevideo Convention.
  - Montevideo Convention is a treaty, signed in 1933, that defines rights and duties of statehood and prohibits the use of military force to gain sovereignty.

25. Poland has exited the 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of the European Union because the nation was demanding more funds to support economic transition and also insisted to extend the deadline to 2070.
- Climate Neutrality Plan is an important commitment under Paris Agreement 2015.
  - The plan has a corpus of 100 billion Euro to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.
  - It is also called European Green Deal or Europe's man on the moon moment.
26. 'Global Migration Report 2020' has been released by International Organization for Migration's (IOM).
27. 'Birth Registration for Every Child by 2030: Are we on track?' report has been released by UNICEF, which shows that highest improvement in terms of number of birth registration is witnessed in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Birth registration levels in these regions has almost tripled from 23% to 70% in the last two decades.
  - The report analysed the data from 174 countries.
  - Globally, the proportion of registered infants U-5 years has increased from 63% in 2008 to 75% in 2019 and is expected to increase to 87% if the progress is accelerated and 83% if the present trends continue by 2030.
28. UAE and USA have conducted their bilateral exercise 'Iron Union 12'
29. World's 1st liquid hydrogen transport ship named as 'Suiso frontier' has been launched by the Japanese company - Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. It will be completed by 2020.
- The ship is capable of carrying liquid hydrogen at minus 253° C from south coast of Australia to Kobe (Japan).
30. World Economic Forum has released the Global Gender Gap Report 2020.
- Total: 153
  - Parameters: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.
  - Top Ranker: Iceland
  - Bottom Ranker: Yemen
  - India's Rank: 112<sup>th</sup>
31. Glaciologists of University of California Irvine have discovered the Deepest canyon on Earth in the Denman glacier in East Antarctica.
- The research was led by Mathieu Morlighem.
  - The research was presented at the American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting which was held in San Francisco.
  - Meaning of Canyon: It is a narrow valley (also called gorge) between hills or mountains, typically with steep rocky walls and a water stream running through it.
32. During the COP 25 of UN Climate Change Summit, "Chile-Madrid Time for Action" declaration was passed to improve the current pledges made by countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- This was the longest climate COP meeting ever in 25 years.

33. A resolution has been introduced in the US Congress urging India to end the communication clampdown, which is in place since August, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The resolution has been introduced by an Indian-American democrat Pramila Jayapal.
  - The resolution will not be put to vote in the Senate and does not have the force of law.
34. World's first Global Refugee Forum has been organized in Geneva, Switzerland by UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- The forum focuses on 6 areas: Education, Solutions, Energy and Infrastructure, Protection Capacity, Jobs and Livelihoods and Arrangements for burden and responsibility-sharing.
  - In 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), aiming to strengthen the rehabilitation of refugees, was signed.
35. Donald Trump has become the 3rd President in the history of USA to be impeached by the US Congress.
- Reason: for misusing his political powers against his rival Joe Biden.
  - Prior to him, President Bill Clinton and President Andrew Johnson were impeached.
  - Article 2 of the US constitution defines the procedure of impeachment of the president.
36. Second edition of the 2+2 security dialogue between India and United States was held in Washington.
- An MoU on water resources will also be signed between Ministry of Jal Shakti and US Geological Survey on quality assessment and management of water.
  - USA has become a part of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
  - India and USA have decided to exchange information on Space Situational Awareness.
  - Both nations have decided to create a Young Innovators Internship Program in areas of science and economy for the young entrepreneurs.
- General Security of Military Information Agreement between India and USA
- India and US are planning to sign Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) which will provide a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries.
  - Currently, under GSOMIA, such information is exchanged between the Government authorities of the two countries but not between private parties.
  - It will enable greater industry-to-industry collaboration for co-production and co-development in the defence sector to promote Make in India in the defence sector.
37. released by the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution which is based on The Lancet Commission on pollution data.
- Data from the Institute for Health Metric's 2017 Global Burden of Disease Study has been used.
  - Modern pollution (urbanization) is now responsible for 5.3 million deaths a year worldwide.
- Ranking of countries on deaths per 1 lakh population
38. International Astronomical Union has named a star and its exoplanet as "Sharjah" and "Barjeel" respectively.
- The star has been named as Sharjah in recognition of the achievements of the capital city of the emirate of the same name i.e., Sharjah.
  - Barjeel refers to a wind tower that were used by UAE people in summers as a renewable source of energy.

39. World's oldest fossil forest (386 million years old) has been found by the Cardiff University (UK), Binghamton University (USA) and New York State Museum in a sandstone quarry in Cairo, New York.
- The discovery has been in journal 'Current Biology'.
  - Till now, only two types of trees - Cladoxylopsids and Archaeopteris - have been discovered in this forest.
40. "2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis" has been World Health Organization has launched the 1st biosimilar medicine called as Trastuzumab - to treat breast cancer.
41. US President Donald Trump has launched 'Space Force' - US military for space operations (war).
42. World Health Organization has released Global Tobacco use trends 2000-2025 third edition report which mentions that the number of tobacco users has declined by 60 million between 2000 and 2018.
43. Ethiopian Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (ETRSS-1/Ethiopia's first satellite) has been launched on a Chinese Long March 4B carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in China.
- Ethiopia is the 11th African country to put a satellite into space whereas Egypt was the first in 1998.
44. China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite-4A (CBERS-4A) was also launched from long march 4B carrier, which will collect high-resolution pictures of Earth.
- It was the sixth satellite developed under the China-Brazil Earth Resource Satellite program, which began in 1988.
45. On the sidelines of World Economic Forum's 50th annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, 3,000 world leaders will meet to discuss actions to create a sustainable world.
- Theme of annual meeting is "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World".
46. 8 West African nations will change the name of their common currency from 'CFA franc' to 'Eco' to outdo any influence of France (colonial ruler of 7 out of these 8 nations).
- 8 West African countries are- Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau (not a colony).
  - Besides, these nations have decided to stop holding 50% of reserves in French Treasury and there will no longer be a French representative on the currency union's board.
47. India-EU (European Union) Summit 2020 will take place in Brussels, Belgium.
48. Russia is the world's first country to create hypersonic nuclear capable missile equipped with the 'Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle'.
- Avangard will first be mounted on Soviet-built RS-18B intercontinental ballistic missiles, code-named SS-19 by NATO.
  - The missile flies 10 times faster than the speed of sound, has a range of more than 2,000 Km (1,250 miles).
49. Typhoon Phanfone (also known as "Typhoon Ursula" in Philippines) has hit Philippines.

50. 5th India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in Tokyo, Japan to deepen their maritime cooperation.
  - 8th India-Japan bilateral consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control was also held in Tokyo.
51. 19th Joint Commission Meeting 2019 between India and Iran was held in Tehran, Iran.
52. Tropical Cyclone Sarai has hit the Coastal area of Fiji (Pacific island nation).
53. China has launched its largest carrier rocket - Long March-5 rocket (also known as CZ-5) from Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan Province.
  - The rocket has carried "Shijian-20" (means Practice) - China's heaviest and most advanced communications satellite into orbit.
  - The satellite weighs more than 8 tonnes.
54. The Netherlands has dropped its nickname 'Holland' and also adopted a new logo featuring capitalised letters 'NL' in place of the orange tulip w.e.f., January 2020.
  - Reason: 'Holland' represented only 2 of the 12 provinces of the Netherlands.
55. Christina Koch (NASA astronaut) has become the first woman to stay the longest in space, for more than 300 days, on the longest single spaceflight by a woman.
  - Previously, NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson held this record for spending 288 days in space in 2016-17.
  - For men, NASA astronaut Scott Kelly holds this record for staying 340 days in space in 2015-16.
56. Myanmar had signed an MoU with China for developing the railway line between Kunming (China) and Muse (Myanmar).
  - It is one of the largest road-and-railway projects in the Southeast Asian country.
  - Also, Muse-Mandalay-Kyaukphyu railway line (part of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and the larger Belt and Road Initiative) is also being developed.
57. Russia, China and Iran have conducted a joint naval exercise off the Chabahar port in Gulf of Oman and India Ocean region.
58. Sri Lanka has released its national policy framework titled as "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor".
  - Aim of the policy: To maintain GDP growth rate of Sri Lanka at 6.5% and increase per capita GDP to USD 6,500 during 2020-25.

## APPOINTMENTS

1. Soma Roy Burman has been appointed as the 24th Controller General of Accounts under Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
  - Burman is also the 7th female CAG in this department.
2. Hari Mohan has been appointed as chairman of Ordnance Factory Board.

3. Masatsugu Asakawa has been elected as the 10th President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) till 2021.
  - Current President of ADB Mr Takehiko Nakao has resigned.
  - Headquarters of ADB: Manila, Philippines
4. Sanna Marin (aged 34) has become the world's youngest prime minister as well as the youngest PM of Finland.
  - She belongs to Social Democratic party.
  - Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest PM of India at 40 years of age in India.
5. Prithviraj Roopan has been elected as the President of Mauritius.
6. Sundar Pichai, current CEO of Google has been appointed as the CEO of Alphabet Inc (parent company of Google).
7. Hage Geingob has been appointed as the President of Namibia for a 2nd term.
  - He is the current President of South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) political party.
8. Rajendran Chinna Veerappan has been re-appointed as the MD and CEO of Catholic Syrian Bank.
9. Ripu Daman Bevli (Plogger) has been appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India by Minister of State for Sports Kiren Rijiju.
  - Plogging Ambassador Mission was also launched by the minister to nominate Ploggers from cities, towns or districts as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.
  - Plog run, a part of Fit India Movement, is a way of picking up garbage while jogging. First plog run started on October 2, 2019.
10. Girish Chandra Chaturvedi has been appointed as the Chairman of National Stock Exchange.
11. Arnab Goswami has been appointed as the President of governing board of the News Broadcasters Federation.
  - R. Jai Krishna has been appointed as the 1st secretary-general of NBF.
  - NBF was formed in July 2019 to bring in transparent self-regulation on content. 78 news channels in 14 languages, representing broadcasters from 25 States are members of it.
12. Sunil Shetty has been appointed as the brand ambassador of National Anti-Doping Agency.
13. Sunil Chhetri has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PUMA for 3 years.
14. Rohit Sharma has become the first Indian and world's first non-footballer brand ambassador of La Liga (Spanish men's football league).
15. Sushil Kumar Modi (Deputy CM of Bihar) has been appointed as the head of the Group of Ministers on the Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) by the GST council.
  - He has replaced Nirmala Sitharaman.

16. Lt General Manoj Mukund Naravane has been appointed as the next chief of the Indian army as the current Chief Bipin Rawat retires on Dec 31.
17. Sridhar Patra has been appointed as the new CMD of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).
18. Ravindra Narayana Ravi (Governor of Nagaland) has been given the additional charge as Governor of Meghalaya by the President of India.
  - Ravi will act as governor in the absence of Tathagata Roy (previous Governor of Meghalaya).
19. Mallika Srinivasan (Chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited - TAFE) has been appointed as one of the board members of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
20. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has reappointed former Tata group Chairman Cyrus Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Group.
  - He was sacked because from his position because of his mismanagement.
21. Devesh Srivastava has been appointed as the CMD of the General Insurance Corporation India.
22. Sethuraman Panchanathan (Indo-American computer scientist) has been appointed as the director of National Science Foundation (NSF) of America.
23. Miguel Diaz-Canel (Cuban President) has become the first prime minister of Cuba in more than 40 years.
  - In 1976, Fidel Castro (last PM of Cuba) had scrapped the post of Prime Minister in the country.
24. C V Ramulu (former high court judge) has been appointed as the first Lokayukta of Telangana and retired Justice G Chandraiah has been appointed as the Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission.
  - The state government has amended Telangana Lokayukta Act 1983 to appoint retired judges.
25. Dr Sangita Reddy has been appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20.
  - Uday Shankar (President of Walt Disney Company APAC and Chairman of Star & Disney India) has been appointed as the Senior Vice President of FICCI.
  - Sanjiv Mehta (CMD of Hindustan Unilever Limited) has been appointed as the Vice President of FICCI.
26. Dr. Monisha Ghosh (Indo-American) has been appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the Federal Communications Commission of USA.
  - Chairman of the FCC: Ajit Pai (Indo-American)
27. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala has got a 6 months extension by the govt as chairman of NABARD.
28. Niranjana Hiranandani has been appointed as the President of ASSOCHAM.
  - ASSOCHAM stands for Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.
29. P R Ravi Mohan has been appointed as the Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank.



- ESAF (which began as an NGO in Kerala) stands for Evangelical Social Action Forum.
30. Hemant Soren has been elected 11th CM of Jharkhand.
31. Former Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has been appointed as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India till 2022.
- The post has been created by govt on the recommendations of Kargil Review Committee (formed in 1999) which is led by K. Subrahmanyam.
  - In 2012, the Naresh Chandra Task force had recommended to create a permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
  - A high-level committee, headed by Ajit Doval, to finalise responsibilities of the CDS.
  - According to Minister of State for Defence, Shripad Naik, CDS would come under the ambit of the Right to Information Act.
32. David Calhoun (Chairman of Boeing) has been appointed as the CEO of Boeing.
- Dennis Muilenburg (former CEO) has resigned.
33. Abdelaziz Djerad has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Algeria.
- President of Algeria - Abdelmadjid Tebboune
  - Capital- Algiers and Currency- Algerian dinar, franc and budju
34. Ajit Pawar (Nationalist Congress Party leader) has been appointed as the Deputy CM of Maharashtra.
- Maha Vikas Aghadi (Great Development Front) is a political coalition (incumbent) in Maharashtra formed by Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena and Indian National Congress along with other political parties after the 2019 Assembly election.
35. Rohan Shah has been appointed as the India's Representative and Governor on the board of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for a period of 3 years.
- ERIA board meets in every 6 months in Indonesia (in Jakarta) and in Japan.
  - Rohan Shah has won the Tax lawyer of the year 2019 award from Legal Era.
36. Surjeet Singh Deswal has been given the additional charge as the Director-General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF - world's largest paramilitary force).
- Deswal is also the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
37. Harjeet Kaur Joshi is the first woman to be appointed as the Chairperson and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

### IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Ministry of Labour and Employment is observing the Pension Week from November 30 to December 6 to increase the number of beneficiaries up to 1 crore under the PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) and 50 lakh under National Pension Scheme for traders and self-employees (NPS-Traders) by March 2020.

Note: PM Shram Yogi Maan-dhan is already covered in detail in govt scheme document.



2. Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on November 30 by the UN.
  - Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) works to eliminate the use of chemical weapons in wars.
  - Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in 1993 and implemented in 1997 by the OPCW to completely curb the usage of chemical weapons.
  - OPCW HQ: Hague, Netherlands
  - OPCW Director-General: Mr Fernando Arias
  - OPCW Member: 193 countries
  
3. 10th Indian Organ Donation Day is observed on November 30 by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO).
  - Between 2018-2019, Maharashtra has conducted the highest number of organ transplant in India (total 153) of the deceased persons.
  - India performed 2nd largest number of transplants in the world, preceded by USA, according to Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation's data.
  - NOTTO has presented awards for performing well in organ donation at an event organized by Ministry of Health.

About NOTTO:

  - NOTTO was established under the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011.
  
4. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on 2nd December by UN.
  
5. World AIDS day is observed on December 1 by UN. AIDS full form is Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.
  - Theme: "Communities make the difference".
  - National AIDS Control Organization of India organized an awareness event in New Delhi on the theme of 'Communities make Difference'.
  - India aims to end AIDS as a public threat by 2030 through its National Strategic Plan (NSP) for 7 years i.e., 2017 - 2024.
  
6. National Pollution Control Day is observed on December 2 in commemoration of martyrs of Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984.
  - The tragedy was caused by Methyl isocyanate leak from Union Carbide India Limited plant.
  
7. World Computer Literacy Day is observed on December 2 by the National Institute of Information Technology of India (NIIT HQ- Gurugram, India).
  
8. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3 by UN.
  - Theme: 'Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda'.
  - 'National Awards for Outstanding Work Done towards Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2019' have been conferred by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to celebrate this day.
  - The award is given in 14 categories.

9. Indian Navy Day is observed on December 4 every year in commemoration of Operation Trident launched by the Indian Navy in Pakistan's Karachi harbour during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.
10. International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is annually observed on December 5th by United Nations.
  - Theme: "Volunteer for an inclusive future".
  - The day aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal -10 (Reduced inequalities) and to promote equality and inclusion through volunteerism.
11. World Soil Day is observed on December 5 by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of UN.
  - Theme (Campaign): "Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future".
12. International Civil Aviation Day is observed every year on 7 December by United Nation.
  - Purpose: To highlight the importance of international civil aviation and the role that the ICAO plays in international air transport.
13. Armed Forces Flag Day (also known as Flag Day India) is observed on 7th December annually by Ministry of Defence to honour the sacrifice of armed forces and their families.
  - Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave was organized in New Delhi.
14. International Day of Anti-Corruption is observed on 9 December by United Nations.
  - Theme: United Against Corruption
15. National Energy Conservation Week is observed from December 14-20 all over India.
  - Apart from this, National Energy Conservation Day is observed on December 14 by Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
  - National Energy Conservation Awards were also given in 56 sub-sectors across industry and institutions.
  - India's energy demand would double to approx. 1500 million tons between 2013 and 2030.
16. International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed on December 9 by UN.
  - Aim: To raise awareness about the Genocide Convention (implemented in 1951 by UN), which aims to curb genocidal crime.
17. 35th edition of SAARC charter day is celebrated on December 8, 2019. SAARC was established in 1985.
18. International Human Rights Day is observed on December 10 by UN.
  - Theme: 'Youth Standing up for Human Rights'
  - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), was adopted in 1948 by UN to set up a standard for protecting human rights across the globe.
19. International Mountain Day is observed on December 11 by United Nations.
  - Theme: Mountains matter for youth
20. International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on December 12 by UN.

- Theme: "Keep the promise"
  - A high level meeting on universal health coverage was also organized during the UN General Assembly 2019 meeting in New York.
  - Theme of the meeting was "Universal Health Coverage: Moving together to build a healthier world."
21. International Day of Neutrality is observed on December 12 by the UN.
- Neutrality is a legal status of a country that arises when it does not participate in any war and maintains an attitude of impartiality towards the aggressive countries.
  - The day was first observed in Turkmenistan.
22. Adhering to India's request, UN has designated 'May 21' as International Tea Day.
- India made the proposal at FAO's Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea in 2015.
  - Currently, International Tea Day is observed every year on the December 15 in major tea producing states but this is not an official day recognized by UN.
23. 48th edition of the Vijay Diwas was observed on December 16, 2019.
- The day celebrates India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.
24. International Migrants Day is observed on December 18 by UN.
- Theme: "We Together"
  - Theme: Social Cohesion, Celebrating the integration of migrants into communities around the world
  - International Conference of Migration 2019 was organized in Bangkok by the International Labour Organization on the theme of 'Migration and SDGs: ASEAN and Beyond- A pathway to 2030 agenda'.
- Note: - There is a confusion over the theme of this day as on the official website of UN-International Organization for Migration, both of the themes are mentioned. You can verify the theme from here - <https://www.iom.int/migrantsday>
25. India's National Commission of Minorities observes the Minorities Right Day on December 18.
26. World Arabic Language Day is observed on December 18 by UNESCO.
- Theme: "Arabic Language and Artificial Intelligence"
  - On this day in 1973, UN General Assembly adopted Arabic as its 6th official language.
  - 2019 celebration of this day was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.
27. International Human Solidarity Day is observed on December 20 every year by the UN.
28. India observes the National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas on December 23 since 2001 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Choudhary Charan Singh (5th Prime Minister of India).
29. National Consumer Rights Day is observed on December 24th every year.
- Theme: Alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal.
  - World Consumer Rights Day is observed on March 15.
  - Theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2019: Trusted Smart Products

30. National Mathematics Day is observed on December 22 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan (mathematician, born in 1887).

- In September, SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2019 was given to Adam Harper by Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) University.
- Royal Society of England has published 'Ramanujan's Legacy: The work of SASTRA prize winners' paper.

31. Accession Day is observed in Jammu and Kashmir on 26 October every year.

- Reason: to commemorate 26 October 1947 when Maharaja Hari Singh signed off the Instrument of Accession to assimilate J&K in India.
- Now, people of J&K will have a public holiday on October 26.

### AWARDS

1. Tony Joseph (English author) has won the 12th 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2019' for 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From' book.

- The award is given by Shakti Bhatt Foundation to new writers for exceptional writing in all genres in South Asian countries.

2. Joaquin Rafael Phoenix (American Actor) has been awarded with PETA's 'Person of the Year' Award 2019 for being a vegan since the age of 3.

- PETA stands for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

3. Lionel Messi (Argentinian Football player) has won his 6th Ballon d'Or awards (meaning Golden Ball) for the 2019.

- Now, he has the highest number of Ballon d'Or awards so far.
- The annual football award is given by France Football (French weekly magazine).

4. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has instituted first ever National Startup Awards 2020.

- Purpose: to recognize as well as reward start-ups which are doing exception work in leaving a social impact.

5. Arun Jaitley (former Finance Minister) has been awarded with Economic Times's Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service 2019.

6. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has awarded Uttar Pradesh with the National award for Excellence for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.

- Uttar Pradesh has also received the award for implementing the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (launched in 2015).

7. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has presented the 1st ever VATAVARAN - 2019 Short Film Awards during the green festival to documentaries and films on Environment.

- The awards are termed as Asia's biggest green film festival, is focusing on the theme "Celebrating Himalayas".

8. New Zealand cricket team has won the Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award 2019 given by Marylebone Cricket Club's.
  - In memory of Christopher Martin-Jenkins, former MCC president, the spirit of cricket award was created in 2013 by MCC and BBC.
9. Zozibini Tunzi (from South Africa) has been crowned as the Miss Universe 2019 at the 68th edition of Miss Universe pageant.
10. 15th edition of Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2019 has been presented by Harmony Foundation.
  - Mother Teresa Memorial Awards ceremony was held on the theme 'Combating Contemporary Forms of Slavery'.
  - Total 12 people/organizations were awarded.
11. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2019 to 36 nurses in three different categories from across the country.
  - Lini Sajeesh from Kerala, was one of the awardees, who died while taking care of a Nipah virus infected patient.
  - World Health Organization has declared 2020 as the Year of Nurse and Midwife to honour the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale (founder of modern nursing).
  - India has instituted this award in 1973 to honour nurses for their contributions.
12. Greta Thunberg (Swedish climate activist) has been chosen as the 'Time magazine's 2019 person of the year'.
13. 'Diwali - Power of One' award for diplomats were given to 4 people who have worked at United Nations' missions for a secure and peaceful world.
  - Winners: Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan), Nicholas Emiliou (Cyprus), Frantisek Ruzicka (Slovakia), and Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine).
  - Co-organisers of this year's awards:- Permanent Missions of Belarus, Georgia and India to UN, along with 32 co-sponsors.
  - The award (also known as 'Oscars of Diplomacy') was established by Diwali Foundation USA in 2017 to honour people who work towards implementing the ideals of humanity of UN Charter.
14. Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been honoured at Festival International Du Film De Marrakech (FIFM) 2019 held in Marrakesh, Morocco for completing 20 years in Cinema.
  - The film festival is organized Marrakech International Film Festival Foundation in Marrakech, Morocco.
15. Odisha has won the 'World Habitat Award' for its Jaga Mission (also called Odisha Livable Habitat Mission - OLHM) by the World Habitat and UN-Habitat.
  - Jaga Mission (started in 2018) aims to transform the slums into liveable habitats. The mission has also received the India Geospatial Excellence Award.
  - Karnataka has also won a gold prize for its 'Restoration of Dignity and Human Rights of Indigenous Tribal Community' project.
  - The project (launched in 2000) is executed by ActionAid India, Koraga Federation and Samagra Grameena Ashrama.

16. Abu Dhabi (capital of UAE) has been selected as the World's Leading Sports Tourism Destination by the 26th edition of World Travel Awards (WTA) 2019 held in Oman.

- Abu Dhabi has also been selected as the West Asia's Leading Business Tourism Destination at the West Asia edition of WTA.
- Also Abu Dhabi has been selected as the Best City Break at the UK's Selling Travel Agents' Choice Awards.

17. 'Zuri' (a satellite based app created by the Indian startup - Blue Sky Analytics) has won the Copernicus Masters Award (also called 'Space Oscars') in the category of 'Social Entrepreneurship'.

- The award is presented by the Earth observation program of European Commission (a part of European Union) in partnership with the European Space Agency.

18. FICCI India Sports Awards 2019 were organized by FIT India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and FICCI.

- FICCI also organized the 9th edition of the Global Sports Summit 'TURF' 2019 in New Delhi at FICCI's headquarters.

Note: - The award has been provided in various categories but only the important ones have been mentioned here.

19. 26th Annual Crystal Awards 2020 has been presented by World Economic Forum to honour the contributions of exceptional artists to the society.

20. Nuad Thai (2000-year-old massage of Thailand) has been added to the UNESCO's prestigious heritage list.

- This massage has travelled from India to Thai 2500 years ago.

21. 16th edition of the Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women List 2019" has been released.

- Parameters: 6 categories - business, technology, finance, media & entertainment, politics, and philanthropy were used in this ranking.

22. Wharton-QS Stars Reimagine Education Award 2019 (also known as "Oscars of Education") has been given to International Changemaker Olympiad (ICO) under "Sustainability" category.

- ICO - an annual international competition for young students - has been developed by Rahul Adhikari (alumni of IIT-Roorkee).
- The award was given during the Reimagine Education Conference & Awards 2019 which was organized by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), The Wharton School of Business & Wharton's Alfred West Jr. Learning Lab in London.
- 2020 Reimagine Education Conference and Award Ceremony will be held at the San Francisco Hyatt Regency in USA.

23. Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Payer Awards 2019 have been announced:

24. Toni-Ann Singh (Jamaica) has been crowned as the Miss World 2019 at 69th Miss World competition 2019 held in London, UK.

- India's Suman Rao has been crowned as the Miss World Asia 2019.
- 2020 Miss World Competition will be held in Thailand.

25. UNESCO has recently removed 'Carnival of Aalst' of Belgium from its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity List.
  - Reason: 2019 carnival had racist and anti-Semitic representations.
  - The carnival was included into the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2010.
26. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has announced its sports awards for 2019.
27. International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards 2019 have been announced.
28. B P Raju has been given the 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019' award by NASSCOM- DSCI (Data Security Council of India) during Annual Information Security Summit held in Gurgaon, Haryana.
29. Amitabha Bagchi (author) has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019 for his novel 'Half the Night is Gone'.
  - The DSC Prize is given to writers who write on South Asian themes.
30. Fortune India 500 list 2019 has been released.
31. United World Wrestling has presented the awards for 2019.
32. Sahitya Akademi has announced the awards for 2019 for 24 languages (award for 24th - Nepali language will be announced later).
  - MP Sarojni Hembram (from Odisha) recently became the first person to use Santhali language in the Rajya Sabha.
33. Forbes India Top 100 celebrity list 2019 has been released based on the earnings of celebrities.
  - Virat Kohli has become the first sportsperson to be ranked at the first position with a total earnings of Rs 252.72 crore.
34. 18th National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting was organized by the Indian Coast Guard in New Delhi.
  - During the meeting, SAR (Search and Rescue) awards were given:
35. During the 2nd meeting of National Committee for Commemoration Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary, Portuguese PM Antonio Costa has announced to set up a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize.
  - Antonio Costa is the only foreign PM who is a part of this committee.
  - The award will be based on a different theme every year, inspired by Gandhi's beliefs, and the 1st edition of the award will be themed on "animal welfare".
36. Mujtaba Hussain (Urdu author) has announced to return his Padma Shri award (received in 2007) to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.
37. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd Foundation has conferred Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Samman 2019 upon 17 individuals and 10 organisations in the field of social development.
  - Rashtriya Swayamsiddh Jeevan Samman for lifetime achievement has been given to Seturam Gopalrao Neginhal (a pioneer of urban forestry).



38. Sharad Ponkshe (actor and film writer) has been given the Janakavi P Sawlaram Memorial Award 2019 in recognition of his contribution in cinema.
  - Usha Naik (Marathi Actress) has won the Ganga-Jamuna Award 2019.
  - The award is jointly given by the Thane Municipal Corporation and the Janakavi P Savlaram Kala Samiti.
39. UNICEF has awarded Kamareddy district of Telangana for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in 2019.
  - District collector: N. Satyanarayana.
40. Kerala Sahitya Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the year 2018 were presented:
  - Fellowship was given to Prof K G Sankarapillai and M Mukundan.
  - Awards were given to 11 people in different categories.
41. Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) has presented the Best Performing Award for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes to Andhra Bank for 2018-19.
  - Andhra Bank has established in 14 RSETIs till now in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Kerala.
42. Krishnamachari Srikanth (former cricket team captain) and Anjum Chopra (former women's Cricket team captain) have been chosen for BCCI's CK Nayudu Lifetime Award for 2019.
43. Malala Yousafzai has been named as "the most famous teenager in the world" by UN in its 'Decade in Review' report.
44. Dr Santosh Gajanan Honavar has become the first Indian Ophthalmologist (eye's doctor) to win the Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO).
  - Reason: his great contributions to the Academy and ophthalmology.
45. Bhalchandra V. Nemade (Marathi writer) and Gynanranjan (Hindi writer) have received the Akashdeep Sanman award 2019.
  - This award is instituted by Amar Ujala (media house).
46. Sanjay Gupta (editor of 'Jagran') has been chosen for the award of "Lokmanya Tilak National Journalism Award" for his contribution in the field of Journalism.
  - The award has been instituted by Kesari-Maratha Trust.
47. After 27 years, Aayushi Dholakia has become the first Indian to win Miss Teen International 2019 pageant.

## SPORTS

1. India has won the tie match of Davis cup 2020 (tennis) against Pakistan held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
  - Indian player Leander Paes has become the world 1st tennis player to win 44 doubles matches of Davis Cup. He has broken his own record of 43 wins.
  - Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal won in the two singles' matches.



2. Minister of Sport, Kiren Rijiju, has launched the logo, players jersey, mascots and theme song of the 3rd Khelo India Youth Games to be organized in Guwahati, Assam.
  - Cycling and Lawn Bowls are the two new games added into the 3rd Khelo India Youth Games.
  - Khelo India is the biggest ever national biggest sporting event which was launched in 2018.
3. Steve Smith (Australian) has become the fastest man in the world to score 7000 runs in test matches in just 126 innings of 70 matches.
  - Previously, the record of 7000 runs was held by Wally Hammond (English cricketer) in 1946.
  - He achieved the record in the test match against Pakistan held in Australia.
4. 21st Asian Archery Championship 2019 was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
5. BWF World Rankings 2019:
  - Sourabh Verma has been ranked at 29th rank along with other 5 Indian players in the top 30 list.
6. 13th edition of the South Asian Games (SAG) are being held in 3 cities of Nepal that are Kathmandu, Pokhara and Janakpur.
  - Official Mascot of the SAG: Krishnasar (a blackbuck antelope).
  - Indian athletes will be led by Tejinder Pal Singh (shot-put) and P U Chitra. Tejinder Pal Singh is India's flag-bearer at the SAG.
  - 7 South Asian Nations: Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka are participating in SAG.
7. Caroline Wozniacki (tennis player of Denmark) has announced her retirement from professional tennis.
  - She will play her last match - WTA Australian Open 2020 only.
8. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa (aged 14 and 3 months) has won the London Chess Classic FIDE Open 2019 (organized by FIDE).
  - Praggnanandhaa has become world's 2nd youngest and India's (1st) youngest chess player to cross 2600 ELO ratings of 2600.
  - John Burke of USA is the youngest player in the world to cross 2600 Elo points (at the age of 14 years and 2 months old).
9. Manav Thakkar has won U-21 men's singles title at the ITTF Challenge Plus Benemax- Virgo North American Open Series held in Markham, Canada.
  - International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland
  - ITTF President: Thomas Weikert
10. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has banned Russia from the Olympics and World Championships for 4 years for trying to hide the evidences against Russian athletes' mass doping.
11. Wasim Jaffer has become the first cricketer in India to play 150 Ranji Matches.
12. India has topped the medal tally with 312 medals (174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze) at the 13th South Asian Games held in Nepal.

13. Ravi Kumar (shooter) and Sumit Sangwan (boxer) have been banned for 2 years by National Anti-Doping Agency.
14. Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi has become the 1st woman referee in the Men's ODI match in the opening match between USA and UAE of the 3rd series of World Cup League 2 held in UAE.
  - World Cup League 2 is the series of qualifying matches, which will run between 2019-22, for the upcoming ODI World Cup 2023.
15. International Hockey Federation has revealed a new World Ranking System effective from 2020.
  - Feature: It will have match-based instead of tournament-based calculations.
  - Criteria: three factors namely the result of the match, relative ranks of the team and significance of the match.
16. Abid Ali (Pakistan) has become the world's first cricket player to score a century in his debut Test and ODI match.
17. HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2019 was held in Guangzhou, China.
  - Men's singles: Kento Momota (Japan)
  - Women's singles: Chen Yu Fei (China)
18. Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia) won the first title while Koneru Humpy (India) won the 2nd position in the FIDE women's Grand Prix 2019 held in Monaco.  
Women's FIDE Grand Prix Series 2019-2020 consist of four tournaments:
  - 1st - Skolkovo, Russia (September 2019)
  - 2nd - Monaco, Monaco country (December 2019)
  - 3rd - Lausanne, Switzerland (March 2020)
  - 4th - Sardinia, Italy (May 2020)
19. ICC Test Ranking 2019:
20. Laura Marsh (England cricketer) announces her retirement.
21. Roy Jorgen Svenningsen (aged 84) has become the oldest person to complete the Antarctic Ice marathon 2019 (of 42 Km).
  - William Hafferty (USA) has won the Antarctic Ice marathon.
22. International Tennis Federation has awarded 11 people in its annual awards for 2019:
23. ICC T20I Women's rankings 2019 has been released:
24. Pat Cummins (Australia) has become the most expensive overseas player in Indian Premier League (IPL).
  - He was sold to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for Rs 15.50 crore.
  - Piyush Chawla is the most expensive Indian player as he was purchased by Chennai Super Kings (CSK) for Rs 6.75 crore.
25. Mirabai Chanu (weightlifter) has won gold medal in women's 49kg category at the 6th Qatar International Cup being held in Doha, Qatar.

26. 6th Qatar Weightlifting International Cup 2019 (last qualification event for Tokyo Olympics 2020) has been organized in Doha, Qatar.
  - Organizers: Qatar Weightlifting Federation under the aegis International Weightlifting Federation.
27. Vernon Philander (South African) has announced retirement from all forms of Cricket
28. For the 1st time, Liverpool has won the 16th FIFA Club World Cup 2019 title in Doha, Qatar.
29. Leander Paes (India) has announced his retirement from professional tennis in 2020.
30. ICC Test Ranking (men's) has been released:
31. FIFA has declared Belgium as FIFA's Team of the Year 2019, for a 2nd consecutive time.
  - Title of Mover of The Year was given to Qatar (which gained 138 rankings points).
32. Seema (Indian Weightlifter) has been banned by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for 4-years.
33. Koneru Humpy has become FIDE Women's World Rapid Champion 2019 held in Moscow, Russia.
  - Magnus Carlsen (Norwegian) won Men's World Rapid Championship 2019 title.
  - Humpy is the second Indian to win gold in this current format after Vishwanathan Anand.
34. Mujeeb Ur Rahman (Afghanistan) has become the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in T20 cricket.
35. Peter Siddle (Australian) has announced his retirement from international cricket.
36. '5 Wisden Cricketers of The Decade List' has named 5 cricketers - Virat Kohli, Steve Smith (Australian), Dale Steyn (South African), AB de Villiers (South African) and Ellyse Perry (Australian).
  - Kohli has also been named as the captain of Wisden's Test team of the decade.
  - MS Dhoni has been named as the captain of Wisden's ODI team of the decade
37. Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah are the only two Indians to be included in the Wisden's T20I team of the decade.
38. Mohammad Hafeez (Pakistan) has been suspended from bowling from all English cricket's domestic competition.
  - Reason: his action was found to be illegal.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Note: - Only remembering the name, profession and country of the deceased would be sufficient for the exam.

1. 'The Legacy of Militancy in Punjab: Long Road to Normalcy' book has been written by Inderjit Singh Jaijee and Dona Suri.

- Publisher: SAGE
2. Ashwin Sanghi's book 'The Vault of Vishnu' will be released in the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) by Westland publications.
    - It is the World's largest free literature festival to be held in 2020.
    - Keepers of Kalachakra, The Rozabal Line, Chanakya's chant, The Krishna Key and The Sialkot Saga are other famous books of Ashwin Sanghi.
    - He is the co-author of '13 steps to Bloody Good Marks', '13 steps to Bloody Good Wealth' and '13 steps to Bloody Good Parenting', '13 Steps To Bloody Good Luck' etc.
  3. 'Borderman' (yearly magazine) has been released by Minister of State for Home Affairs- Nityanand Rai on the occasion of 55th raising day of Border Security Force (BSF) on 1st December.
  4. "Kaleswaram project: Telangana Pragathi Ratham" (Kaleswaram project: The Telangana Development Chariot) book has been written by Sridhar Rao Deshpande.
  5. A new species of wasp, named Idris Elba, has been discovered in Mexico.
    - The wasp was found living as a parasite in the eggs of another insect, known as the bagrada bug, which is a major pest of cruciferous vegetables.
    - Genus Idris contains over 300 species.
  6. Urbi Bhaduri has translated Abanindranath Tagore's book 'Nalak' into English.
  7. 'Shikari Auratein' book of Saadat Hasan Manto (published in 1955) has been translated into English by an Indian author Saba Mahmood Bashir as 'Women of Prey'.
  8. NASA has announced to launch its 'MARS 2020' rover from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida around July-August 2020.
    - The rover is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
    - Purpose: It will explore 'Jezero Crater' among other things. The duration of the mission will be about 687 Earth days.
  9. Viswanathan Anand's autobiography 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life' has been launched.
    - It has been co-authored by Susan Ninan.
  10. Tara Sinha (first woman to establish a national advertising agency named as 'Tara Sinha Associates' in 1985 in India) has passed away.
    - She is also the founder of Clarion ad agency.
  11. 'Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years' book is authored by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan.
  12. "Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games" book has been written by Boria Majumdar and Nalin Mehta which chronicles India's Olympic journey.
  13. Sanjay Dharwadker has written the "Diamond In My Palm" book.

14. "Politics of Opportunism" book is authored by RNP Singh.
15. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered the earliest Sanskrit inscription (of the Saptamatrika cult) of South India in Chebrolu village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
  - The inscription is almost 200 years.
  - Before this, Nagarjunakonda inscription of Ikshavaku king Ehavala Chantamula was the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India.
16. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has released "The Renaissance Man-The Many Facets of Arun Jaitley" book on 28th December 2019 on 67th birth anniversary of Jaitley.
  - The book has been compiled by Deepa Venkat and Muppavarapu Harshavardhan (children of Naidu).
17. As per PM Modi's announcement on the 60th episode of "Mann Ki Baat", ISRO is planning to launch Aditya satellite in 2020 to study sun.
18. World's Oldest Rhino - Fausta (a female black rhino) has died in Tanzania at the age of 57.
19. Ramachandran Guha has written "Gandhi: The Years that Changed the World 1914-1948".
20. For the first time, NASA has prepared the global wind map of the pattern of wind circulation (showing 'Ripple effect') in the upper atmosphere of Mars at 120 to 300 Km above Mars' surface.
  - The study was published in the journal Science.
  - Data was collected by Natural Gas and Ion Mass Spectrometer (NGIMS) installed on the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) orbiter.
  - Collaboration: University of Maryland (USA) reprogrammed the NASA's MAVEN spacecraft to study wind patterns on Mars.
  - Wind waves on Mars are called "orthographic waves," which do not change for a long period of time.