



Current Affairs January 2020

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DELHI: +91-8920-180-477

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National

Swachh Survekshan League 2020: Indore tops ranking among cities having 10lac+ population On December 31,

2019 the union minister of State (MoS- Independent Charge) Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, has announced the results of **Swachh Survekshan (SS) League 2020** (Quarter 1 and Quarter 2) at an event in New Delhi. During the event, the **5th edition** of the Swachh Survekshan (urban cleanliness survey), which is to commence from 4 January 2020 by MoHUA was also rolled out.



Rank	City	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
1	Indore	1	1
2	Jamshedpur	2	2
3	Surat	3	3
4	Chennai	4	4
5	Bhubaneswar	5	5
6	Coimbatore	6	6
7	Thiruvananthapuram	7	7
8	Guwahati	8	8
9	Agartala	9	9
10	Dispur	10	10

- **>10lakh population:** Among the cities with more than 10 lakh population category, Indore ranked 1st in both quarter 1 and quarter 2.
- **1-10 lakh population:** Among cities with 1-10 lakh population, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) ranked 1st in both quarter 1 and quarter 2.
- **Quarter 1:** Among the cantonment board rankings in quarter 1, Tamil Nadu (St. Thomas Mount Cantt.) ranked 1st which was followed by Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi Cantt.) and New Delhi (Delhi Cantt.).
- **Quarter 2:** in Quarter 2, Delhi ranked 1st, followed by Uttar Pradesh (Jhansi Cantt.) and Punjab (Jalandhar Cantt.).

Kerala became 1st State to pass resolution against citizenship Amendment Act

On December 31, 2019, the state govt. of **Kerala** became the **1st state** in the country to pass a **resolution scrapping** the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA). The resolution was moved by Kerala's Chief Minister Shri Pinarayee Vijayan and was seconded by the Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala.

Key Points:

- It was also stated in the assembly that when the Citizenship Act was passed in 1955, it followed all international conventions. But the present act passed by the central govt was claimed to have not followed the international conventions.
- Several other chief ministers of West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi have also announced for not implementing CAA in their states.

Government creates new Department of military affairs headed by Bipin Rawat

On December 30, 2019, the government has created a new '**Department of Military affairs (DMA)**' in the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** to be headed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat. The new department works for the unity of the three forces Army, Navy and Air Force and will also monitor the services except for capital acquisitions according to prevalent rules and procedures. The DMA is the **5th** department in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and was created after a change in **Government of India (Allocation of Business), Rules 1961**.



Key Points:

- The other existing 4 departments under MoD are the Department of Defence, the Department of Defence Production, the Department of Defence Research and Development and the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare.

Pragati Maidan metro station renamed as Supreme Court metro station in New Delhi

On 31st December 2019, The Delhi Government's renaming committee has renamed **Pragati Maidan metro station** as **Supreme Court metro station**. The demand was made by the Supreme court in September 2019.

Key Points:

i. The committee has also decided to rename Mukarba Chowk and its flyover after Kargil war martyr Captain Vikram Batra, MB Road as Acharya Sri Mahapragya Marg and The Lajpat Nagar flyover to Jhulelal Setu.

Indian Railways launches integrated helpline number 139 for passengers

On 3rd January 2020, The Indian Railways launched an integrated helpline number 139 for quick grievance and enquiries by the passengers during journeys.

Key Points:

- i. It is an integrated form of existing helpline numbers (except 182) particularly to avoid the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers and will be easy to connect with Railways for all their needs during travel.
- ii. The helpline number will be available in 12 languages and it will be based on an interactive voice response system and it can also be used for general complaints, accidents and safety issues.

Odisha govt launches India's 1st e-Gazette portal for all gazette notifications

The State Government of **Odisha** has launched an online platform called “**e-Gazette portal**”(<http://egazetteodisha.nic.in>), a first-of-its-kind initiative in India designed and developed by the NIC(National Informatics Centre) for all departments. With this, the Gazette notifications are now available as error-free and paperless under one platform.

Key Points:

- i. The portal was launched by Odisha Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy as a part of state's 5T initiatives (Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation).
- ii. Now, the departments will upload their notifications which will be screened by the Government Press. The number & date of the gazette will also be there on the portal & for a better and secure authentication, electronic signature (e-sign) has been introduced.
- iii. Since e-publication is covered under Section- 8 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, it will save the transportation of trucks of papers & reduce wastage.

ISRO to set its 2nd launch port in Thoothukodi district of Tamil Nadu

On January 1, 2020, during the press conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka with ISRO Chairman K. Sivan, it has been announced that the second launch port of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) will be established in Thoothukodi district of Tamil Nadu to launch small satellite vehicles. This will come up in 2300 acres.

Key Points:

- i. Also, following the GPS navigation system developed by America, the Indian navigation system called Navic with the indigenous atomic clock will be operational with mobile phone manufacturers coming forward to install the regional navigation device.
- ii. Chandrayaan 3 mission to the moon, comprising of a lander and a rover is approved by the Government.

Gaganyaan Mission:

i. India's first manned mission to outer space **Gaganyaan** is targeted to launch in **2022**. Selection of Astronaut is over and four men selected from Indian Air Force will leave to Russia for the training.

Delhi gets First 20-feet-tall Smog Tower to Help Tackle Rising Levels of Air Pollution at Lajpat Nagar

Delhi gets its first 20-ft tall smog tower, which is used to purify the air, has been installed at south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar market. It can remove up to 80% of the particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM10).

India welcomes highest number of New born babies on first day of 2020, Surpasses China: UNICEF

As per UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), India has recorded the highest number of births of 67,385 children on the first day of 2020 in the world. A Total of 3,92,078 babies were born around the world.

Uttar Pradesh became 1st state to shortlist migrants for citizenship

On January 05, 2020 **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** became the **1st state** in India to conduct an exercise to **shortlist migrants** from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan for eligibility under the new Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019. This exercise will also eventually identify the people living illegally in UP.

Key Points:

- i. All the 75 district magistrates of UP have been asked to track down migrants from the above three countries who have settled without citizenship for decades. Migrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh were reported to be found mainly in Lucknow, Hapur, Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Noida and Ghaziabad cities of UP.
- ii. The state government will also update the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) on illegal Muslim migrants in the state and they could also be deported back to their countries.

2019 recorded 7th Warmest Year In India Since 1901: IMD

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), India has recorded 7th warmest year (2019) since 1901, however it was lower than the highest warming, that was observed in 2016.

J&K registers highest Inpatient Department (IPD) care in the country

On January 7, 2020 **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**, Union territory of India has registered the **highest Inpatient Department**, IPD care in the **country**. The state-wise fact sheets were released by National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), New Delhi. Overall, all women in J&K are availing Antenatal Care Services (ANC).

Key Points:

- i. The report says that about 96% of IPD care in rural areas of J&K is provided by Public Health Services (PHS) which is highest against the country's average of 85%.
- ii. J&K had surpassed Kerala as the state with the highest life expectancy in India for all ages barring life expectancy at birth in the year 2016.

BEE: New Energy Performance Standards for ACs set; default AC temp at 24°C from Jan 1, 2020

On January 06, 2020 the central govt in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has notified new energy performance standards for room Air Conditioner (AC) on 30th October 2019. Under the ambit of BEE star-labelling program vide the notification, the default temperature **setting for all ACs** has been made **mandatory** at **24°C** with effect from **January 1, 2020**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released a book 'Karmayoddha Granth' on the life of PM Modi

On January 7, 2020, at New Delhi Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the book '**Karmayoddha Granth**' on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book states that the politics of appeasement, casteism, and dynasty, the three curses of Indian Politics, were removed by the PM Modi after 2014.

Key Points:

- i. Considered as the epitome of selfless service to the nation, Modi laid the foundation of New India based on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', from Gujarat and brought the concept of good governance.

Visakhapatnam to host naval exercise 'MILAN' in March 2020

The **Vishakhapatnam** city of Andhra Pradesh will host International naval exercise '**MILAN**' in March 2020. The theme of the exercise for the year 2020 is '**Synergy Across the Seas**'. Milan exercise which will be hosted by Eastern Naval Command (ENC) aims to enhance professional interaction between foreign navies and also make use of the best practices in the maritime domain.

Key Points:

i. 41 navies of different countries were invited so far, of which 30 navies have confirmed their participation in MILAN 2020.

ii. Visakhapatnam previously hosted International Fleet Review (IFR) in February 2016.

NCRB 2018: 50 lac crimes registered & is 1.3% more than 2017; UP tops in economic offence

On January 09, 2020 National Crime Record Bureau's (NCRB) report on Crime in India for the year **2018** was released. The report finds that over **50 lakh crimes** have been registered in 2018 which is **1.3% more** than that of 2017. The report findings in detail are as follows:

- The report stated that **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** accounted for the **maximum** number of **economic offences in 2018** with 22,822 cases recorded. It was followed by Rajasthan (21,309 cases), Maharashtra (14,854 cases), Telangana (10,390 cases) and Bihar (9,209 cases) in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th rank respectively.
- **Crimes in 2018:** Totally 50,74,634 cognizable crimes were committed in 2018. It included 31,32,954 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 19,41,680 Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes.
- **IPC crimes:** crimes under IPC have increased by 2.3% and stood at 61.7% in 2018.

India's 1st indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant to be commissioned by early 2021

On January 8, 2020 The **manufacturing** of the country's first **indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant** is likely to be commissioned by early **2021**. Vikrant is currently under phase three of construction which involves setting to work of machinery and other equipment like power generation, propulsion and machinery.

Key Points:

i. This carrier is being built at the **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** Kochi, Kerala.

Chenab bridge: World's highest rail bridge by Indian Railways to connect Kashmir to rest of India by 2021

January 9, 2020 Government of India set a new deadline for the completion of the world's highest railway bridge- **Chenab bridge**. **Kashmir will be connected to the rest of India** by Indian railways by December 2021.

Konkan railway is the implementing agency of this project.

The Chenab bridge will be **35m taller than the Eiffel Tower** in Paris, France.



Key Points:

- Once completed, it will surpass the **record** of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (**275 m**) in China.
- The massive arch-shaped structure being constructed in hostile-terrain, have used over 5462 tonnes of steel will be **359 meters** above the chenab river bed.
- It is designed to withstand the wind's speeds of up to 260km per hour.
- The 1.315-km-long 'engineering marvel' will connect Bakkal (katra) and Kauri (Srinagar).

'Wings India 2020' to be held at Begumpet Airport of Telangana in March 2020

Wings India 2020, an international exhibition and conference on civil aviation sector, will be held at **Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, Telangana** from **March 12-15, 2020**. The theme of the event is "**Flying for all**". The biennial event will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi in presence of Minister for

Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

Key Points:

i. Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA), Federation Of Indian Chambers Of Commerce And Industry (FICCI), Airports Authority of India (AAI) are the organizers of the event.

1st time India to host SCO heads meeting; Statue of unity included in 8 wonders of SCO

The secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Vladimir Norov who is on a 4-day visit to India to attend the **Raisina dialogue 2020** in new Delhi from January 14-16, 2020, has announced that **India** has been selected to host the **SCO's annual meeting of council of heads of government** for the **1st time**.

SCO members: The members of the SCO include China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan. Thus there totally 8 member nations of SCO....

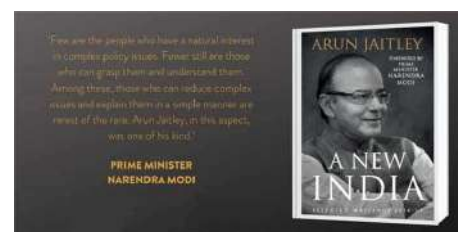


Indian-American Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is among NASA's new astronauts: set to conquer Moon, Mars

An Indian-American US Air Force colonel, **Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari** (41), is among 11 new NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) graduates who are all set to be a part of the space agency's ambitious future missions to the International Space Station (ISS), Moon and Mars.

New India: Selected Writings 2014-19 of Arun Jaitley, Foreword by PM Modi to be released in Feb

Juggernaut Books publishing house New Delhi, India has announced a new book of compilation of selected writings by former finance minister **Arun Jaitley**, namely "**New India: Selected Writings 2014-19**" which offers readers with the late's politicians sharp insight on topics including GST (Goods and Services Tax), demonetisation and Kashmir.



Key Points:

- i. The book is an authoritative account of the policies and decisions made by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi government during his first period (2014-19). It will hit the stands in February.
- ii. As a former finance minister he rolled out the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 the biggest tax reforms after Independence.

Union External Affairs Minister recently launched a book titled 'PAX SINICA: Implications for the Indian Dawn'

Union External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar launched a book on **China** titled '**PAX SINICA: Implications for the Indian Dawn**' authored by **Samir Saran and Akhil Deo** and published by Rupa Publications India.

Key Points:

- i. **PAX SINICA** presents a comprehensive view of how President Xi Jinping's, China will implicate the world order in the 21st century.
- ii. **Samir Saran:** Author Samir Saran is the President of Observer Research Foundation (ORF), one of Asia's most influential think tanks and also commissioner of The Global Commission on the stability of Cyberspace, member of the World's Economic Forum's South Asia advisory board and Global Future Council on Geopolitics.



Arunachal Pradesh becomes the 1st state in India to initiate IUCN's red-listing of orchids

On January 17, 2020, **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)** has become the **1st State** in India to initiate the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**'s '**red listing**' of **orchids** at the state level after it has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Itanagar, AR.

Features of the agreement:

i. According to the MoU, the state government of Arunachal Pradesh will cooperate with IUCN and conduct a red-list evaluation of orchids in the state.

IUCN Red List: IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species is an important indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. This list is serving as a powerful tool to inform and catalyze action for biodiversity conservation and policy change. The IUCN has estimated that these are complications for protecting natural resources.

Bahadurpur and Kheri Viran to become India's first model sports villages

Two villages namely **Bahadurpur** and **Kheri Viran** of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has set to become India's first '**Model Sports villages**' as a part of Institute of Management Technology (IMT) Ghaziabad, UP '**Adarsh Khel Gram**' program in association with NGO(Non Governmental Organization) 'Sports: A Way of Life' to evolve sports culture and increase sports literacy in the country.

Gujarat leads in water efficiency survey 2019 under National hydrology project, Delhi among worst performing states

According to the rankings of '**Central and state governmental water departments based on their efficiency targets for 2019**' released by **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, **Gujarat** ranked the **best** for parameters on efficiency targets, while National Capital Territory of Delhi remains in the worst-performing state category.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet clears the Proposal for three capitals: Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, Kurnool

Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has passed **Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive development of All Regions Bill-2020** for the tri-capital system. The bill proposes to make **Visakhapatnam** as the executive capital, **Amaravati** as the legislative capital and **Kurnool** as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh.

i. The aim behind this bill is decentralised administration that will result in socioeconomic progress at equal levels. Now the bill is presented before the legislative council.

ii. The state cabinet also decided to increase the ex-gratia paid to the farmers of Amaravati from Rs.2,500 per month to Rs.5,000 per month.

iii. The cabinet also approved the proposal of establishing the Amaravati Metropolitan Development Authority (AMDA) in the place of AP Capital Regional Development Authority (APCRDA) by repealing the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Act....

Panel headed by Amit Shah to create tougher law against sexual harassment at work

the Group of Ministers(GoM) headed by Union Minister of Home Affairs(MoHA) Shri **Amit Shah** constituted to further strengthen **legal frameworks to prevent sexual harassment** at the workplace, has now finalised the

recommendations for it. The recommendations in brief are as follows:

Recommendations finalised by the GoM:

- Addition of new provision in the Indian Penal Code(IPC) was recommended by the panel and will be put up for public comments. The amendments proposed will be largely based on the **Vishaka guidelines** which was laid down by the Supreme Court(SC) in **1997** based on which the above mentioned 2013 sexual harassment act was formed.
- The existing laws on sexual harassment at the workplace would be incorporated when the overhaul of the IPC was complete. MoHA is also working to reboot the IPC which was introduced by the British in 1860.
- **Sections to be amended:** Various sections in the IPC as well as Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. PC) are to be amended and several retired judges, legal luminaries and State governments are being consulted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) for this purpose. After amendment, the sections on crime against women will also be amended.
- The GoM also reviewed **Jagdish Sharan Verma committee** which was constituted after the Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder in 2012.

Jharkhand' Jharia is the most polluted Indian city & Lunglei, Mizoram least polluted: Greenpeace India report 2018

The **Greenpeace India report** for **2018** was released based on the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), on January 21, 2020. **Jharia** in Jharkhand which is known for Coal-belching is the **most polluted** Indian city with 322 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter) of PM₁₀ (Particulate matter) pollutants in 2018, according to the report analysis of 287 cities across the country. Out of 287 cities 231 cities were severely polluted.

i.Dhanbad in **Jharkhand** which is known for its rich coal reserves and industries, is the **second-most** polluted Indian City with 264 un/m³ of PM₁₀ pollutants.

ii.By taking marginal improvement in reducing air pollution, **Delhi** had jumped to the **10th** position in the analysis . It was at the 8th position in the last report.

iii.Lunglei in **Mizoram** is the **least** polluted followed by Meghalaya's Dowki.It is also the only Indian city with PM levels under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) prescribed level of 20/ug/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter).

Food delivery startup Zomato acquires Uber Eats in all-stocks deal for \$350 mn

Zomato, an Indian restaurant aggregator and food delivery startup has acquired Uber's food delivery business in India, **Uber Eats** in an all-stocks deal valued at about **\$350 million (Rs 2,485 crore)**.

Key Points:

i.As a part of the deal, Uber will now hold only 9.99 % shares of Zomato & UberEats will discontinue operations and direct restaurants, delivery partners. Further, all of Uber Eats' customers will be directed to Zomato platform.

Xenobots: World's first living, self-healing robots

Scientists of the **University of Vermont** and **Tufts University** have created the world's first living and self-healing robots **Xenobots**, using stem cells from frogs. It is named after the African clawed frog, **Xenopus laevis** from which they take stem cells.

Key Points:

- i. Xenobots are new class of artifact: a living, programmable organism, which don't look like traditional robots. These are machines which are less than a millimeter (0.04 inches) in width and are small enough to travel inside human bodies. They can walk and swim, survive for weeks without food, and work together in groups.
- ii. Xenobots could be used to clean up radioactive waste, collect microplastics in the oceans, carry medicine inside human bodies, or even travel into our arteries to scrape out plaque.

India's first e-waste clinic opens in Bhopal

India's first e-waste clinic was opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The e-waste clinic was inaugurated by **C K Mishra** (Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, MoEFCC). The e-waste clinic was jointly set up by the **Central Pollution Board Control -CPCB** and **Bhopal Municipal Corporation -BMC**.

Key Points:

- i. The e-waste clinic is a **3-month project** and if the project becomes successful then it will be established in other parts of the country also.
- ii. The process includes segregation, processing, and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
- iii. The electronic waste will be collected door to door or could be deposited directly at the e-waste clinic while CPCB will provide technical support.
- iv. The e-waste clinic consists of low floor bus and TV is installed displays documentary films on "Environmental damage caused by e-waste".

WGC: RBI ranked 6th among central banks in buying gold abroad; China's central bank tops

India's central bank i.e., the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has been ranked **6th** largest buyer of sovereign gold abroad after it purchased 25.2 tonnes in the first 10 months of 2019 according to World Gold Council(**WGC**) report titled "**Outlook 2020: Global economic trends and their impact on gold**". The central banks of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Poland have purchased more gold than India in 2019. The report in detail are as follows:

- **RBI gold purchase:** In **October 2019**, **7.5 tonnes** of gold was bought by **RBI** buttressing (supporting) its foreign exchange reserves (forex) to \$450 billion.
- **Forex reserves crosses \$450 billion:** To be more precise, the Forex reserves surged to a new high of **\$451.7 billion** as of December 3, 2019, which is the largest in recent years.
- **Current holdings in gold:** RBI currently holds **625.2 tonnes** of gold, that forms 6.6% of its forex reserves. The gold consumption in India slipped in 2019 as against the level in 2018...

India ranked 8th among the top 10 nations receiving FDI in 2019, US tops: UNCTAD report

According to the "**Global Investment Trend Monitor report 2020**" released by **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, **India** ranked **8th** among the top 10 countries attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019. During this period FDI in India grew by 16 % to **\$ 49 billion** (bn). This led to a surge in FDI growth in South Asia (SA), which recorded a 10% increase in FDI to \$ 60 billion.

Top 3: The **United States (US)** remained the largest recipient of FDI in flow, attracting \$251 billion, followed by China with flows of \$140 bn & Singapore with \$110 bn.

- **Global FDI:** Foreign direct investment globally fell by 1% to \$1.39 trillion. In 2018 it stood at \$ \$1.41 trillion. The report noted that investment has declined due to weakness in macroeconomic performance and uncertainty on policy front including trade stress.

Reliance Jio becomes 1st telecom operator to launch UPI payments feature

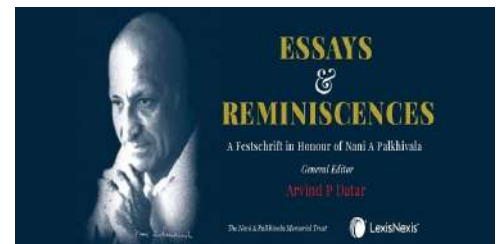
telecom operator **Reliance Jio** of the Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has become the **1st Indian telecom operator** to launch **UPI** (Unified Payments Interface) **payments** space. Thus Reliance Jio will now compete with other private UPI payment providers such as Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe.

Key points:

i. As of now, Reliance Jio is India's largest telecom operator.

Book 'Essays and Reminiscences: A Festschrift in Honour of Nani A Palkhivala' released on noted jurist and economist Nani A Palkhivala

The book '**Essays & Reminiscences: A Festschrift in Honour of Nani A Palkhivala**' was released to mark the birth centenary anniversary of Indian Jurist and Economist **Nanaboy "Nani" Ardeshir Palkhivala**. The book is published by LexisNexis publications.



Key Points:

- The book was commissioned by the Nani A Palkhivala Memorial Trust and edited by the senior advocate Arvind Datar.
- The book primarily divided into two parts essays written in honour of Palkhivala on a variety of subjects and reminiscences of those who knew and interacted with the late jurist.
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram G Rajan, Industrialist Ratan N Tata, Jurists Fali S Nariman, Soli J Sorabjee and K Parasaran and Justice (retired) S Ranganathan are some of the important contributors of the book.

Ashwani Kumar's latest book, Human Dignity – A purpose in perpetuity, launched by Manmohan Singh

Former Union Minister of Law and Justice, Ashwani Kumar authored the book title "**Human Dignity – A purpose in perpetuity**", which was released by Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a book launch event at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The book was published by US(United States) based publisher LexisNexis.



Key Points:

- The book portrays the author's view on issues related to freedom, dignity and justice faced in society.
- Former Vice-President Mohammad Hamid Ansari also took part on this occasion.

Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's new novel 'Balwa' to be released

The Union **Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** will soon release his Hindi novel **Balwa**, a fiction story based on the happenings in India in the 1990s. It will be published by **Diamond Pocket Books**.

Key Points:

- i. The book revolve the concepts of society misleding by religious, political and administrative machinery.
- ii. Also, Naqvi has written a Hindi novel 'Raj Lila', which based on the story of tribal woman's struggles & Cyber Supari will also be released soon.

Ministry of Tourism to fund the travel expenses of the tourist who visit 15 destinations of our country in 1 year

The **Ministry of Tourism** (MoT) will fund the travel expenses of the tourist who submits the photos in tourism websites after visiting **15 destinations** of our country in a year. It was announced by the Union Tourism Minister, Prahald Singh Patel during the concluding ceremony of the two-day **National Tourism Conference** held at Konark, Odisha. This conference was organised by Odisha government in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

India's first underwater metro, 'Kolkata metro' to be opened by March 2022

On January 28, 2020 **Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation** (KMRC) has set to completed its **East-West Project**, which runs partly under the **Hooghly river**, West Bengal, by March 2022. It will be India's first underwater metro. The new metro rail is expected to carry about **900,000** people daily & will take less than a minute to cross a 520-meter underwater tunnel. 74% of the East-West metro project is owned by India's Railway & remaining 26% by the nation's Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Rajya Sabha panel submits report on child porn

An ad hoc committee of the **Rajya Sabha (RS)** headed by Congress parliamentarian **Jairam Ramesh** submitted its report on child pornography to Vice President (VP) and Rajya Sabha Chairman Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu.

Key Points:

- i. In it, 40 recommendations have been made to strictly prohibit the promotion and access of child pornography and related content through social media. This includes amendments to POSCO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012 and IT (Information Technology) act, 2000 & to control children's access to such content containing generation and dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

World's largest meditation centre opened in Hyderabad, Telangana

World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at **Kanha Shanti Vanam** in Hyderabad, Telangana to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heartfulness Institute. The center is dedicated to the first guide of Heartfulness Lalaji Maharaji. It can accommodate **1 lakh** practitioners at a time.

Key Points:

- i. The meditation center is built in 30 acres with a central hall and eight peripheral halls.
- ii. To celebrate the 75th anniversary, special sessions will be addressed by **President Ram Nath Kovind** on February 2, 2020 and social activist **Anna Hazare** on February 8, 2020.

SC allows govt to bring African cheetah to suitable wildlife habitat in India

On January 28, 2020 the Supreme Court(SC) has allowed the govt. to **introduce African Cheetah** in a suitable wildlife habitat in India including Kuno-Palpur (Kuno National Park) in Madhya Pradesh. The decision was taken after a petition was filed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to introduce the African Cheetah

from **Namibia** as the rare Indian Cheetah that has become almost extinct in India.

Key Points:

i.3-member panel: A 3-member committee was set up to take a decision on this issue. The committee comprised of former Director of Wildlife Trust of India(WTI) Shri Ranjit Singh; Director General(DG) of Wildlife of India Shri Dhananjay Mohan; and Deputy Inspector General(DIG), Wildlife under the Ministry of Environment and Forests(MoE&F).

ii.Report submission: According to a bench comprised by Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, the court will monitor the project where its committee will have to submit its report every 4 months.

NITI Aayog's Aspirational district ranking : Chandauli of UP tops in December 2019

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), a policy think tank of the Government of India (GoI), released the ranking of **Aspirational Districts** of the country for the month of **December 2019**.

- The ranking is based on the progress made in 5 development areas in 112 aspirational districts across India in December 2019. The rankings focus on progress in Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion& skill development and Basic infrastructure

Top 3 states in Aspirational Districts ranking:

Rank	State	District	Score (November-2019)	Score (December-2019)	Delta Score (Incl. Saturated Indicators)
1	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli	54.6	57.6	3.002
2	Odisha	Balangir	51.1	53.9	2.796
3	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.	62.9	65.2	2.310

Telangana tops in best performing state in sustainable growth: UNDP India

As per the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India**, India's youngest state **Telangana** has emerged as Number 1 state in the '**Decent work and economic growth**' category with the score of 82 on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India index** in **2019**.

- Telangana was followed by states of Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Karnataka together with a score of 72.
- This ranking is according to UNDP & NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog statistics, which was released on December 31, 2019.
- There are a total of 17 SDG listed & telangana has witnessed a dramatic improvement in many of them in just one year (8 out of 17 SDGs). However, in overall Telangana ranked 3rd after Kerala & Himachal Pradesh. Telangana also moved from the 'Performer' category (50 – 64 points) to 'Front Runner' category (65 – 99 points).

New mission launched by NASA & ESA to take first pics of Sun's poles

NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration) and **ESA** (European Space Agency) will jointly launch a new spacecraft- "**The Solar Orbiter Spacecraft**" to take first pictures of Sun's north and south poles. It's outlay is **\$1.5 billion**. The spacecraft will be launched from Cape Canaveral, United States (US) on Feb 7, 2020 on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) **Atlas V** Rocket.

Mission: The solar orbiter mission has 7 year lifetime and will reach 24 degrees above the sun's equator increasing to 33 degrees with additional 3 years extended mission operations. The spacecraft will pass within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of the sun which is the nearest approach. Solar Orbiter will pass inside the orbit of Mercury carrying 4 in-situ instruments and six remote sensing imagers.

The European Space Operations Center (ESOC) in Germany will operate Solar Orbiter after launch. Solar Orbiter is built by **Airbus Defense and Space**, and contains 10 instruments: 9 provided by ESA member states and ESA. NASA provided one instrument suite, SoloHI(Solar Orbiter Heliospheric Imager), detectors and hardware for three other instruments.

Government of India has decided to sell 100 percent stake of Air India

On January 27, 2020, Indian Government has decided to sell its **100** percent stake of **Air India** (AI) under the reconstituted **Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM)** for re-initiated strategic disinvestment of Air India. It includes its 100 percent stake in low-cost airline Air India Express and 50 percent shareholding in joint venture AI SATS Airport Services Private Limited.

Key Points:

- i. The deadline for submitting the interest to bid Air India is March 17, 2020. The net worth of the parties interested in bidding for Air India should be Rs 3,500 crore.
- ii. AI's debt is slashed from Rs 62,000 crore to Rs 23,286 crore.

26 new Indian English words featured in 10th Oxford dictionary; Aadhaar, hartal among them

On January 24, 2020 the **10th** edition of the **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** was launched. In this latest edition **26 new** Indian languages words namely Aadhaar, Chawl, dabba, hartal, shaadi were included. Several incorporate words like chatbot, fake news, microplastic & over 1000 new words were included. Out of the 26 Indian language words, 22 are figured in printed dictionary while the remaining 4 words (looter, current, looting and upazila) are in the digital version

Key Points:

- i. The new edition having a total of 384 Indian English words, has online support namely the new iSpeaker and iWriter features through Oxford Learner's Dictionaries website and an app.
- ii. The dictionary was originally published in Japan in 1942 and was 1st brought out by Oxford University Press(OUP) in 1948.

Andhra Pradesh cabinet approves proposal to abolish legislative council

On January 27, 2020, The **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** cabinet chaired by the chief minister (CM) **Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy** has approved the **abolition of the legislative council** which the government feels is a major hurdle for passing crucial bills.

Key Points:

i. This approval came after AP government failed to pass 2 important bills (Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive development of All Regions Bill-2020 for the tri-capital system & and the AP Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Act (Repeal) Bill) in the upper house of the legislature.

‘Relentless’ autobiography by Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha released by Pranab Mukherjee

Former president of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee released the autobiography of former Finance Minister Shri **Yashwant Sinha** titled “**Relentless**” at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The book describes Sinha’s journey from a normal life to a high political powered life. The book is **published** by **Bloomsbury** Publishing India Pvt Ltd.

Key Points:

i. Sinha served as the Union Minister of Finance (MoF) from 1990-1991 during the then Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar govt’s rule. He also served as finance minister from March 1998 to July 2002 under the then Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

West Bengal becomes 4th state to scrap CAA resolution

West Bengal became the fourth state to pass a resolution against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA), prior to it, three states have scrapped controversial CAA law which are Kerala, Rajasthan and Punjab.

International

17-year-old intern at NASA, Wolf Cukier discovers new planet 'TOI 1338b' 1300 light years away Wolf Cukier.

a 17-year-old boy from **New York** (United States), has discovered a planet named “**TOI 1338b**” that is 1,300 light years away & about 6.9 times larger than Earth, on the 3rd day of his internship at **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)**. He used NASA’s alien-hunting space telescope **TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite)** for his record breaking discovery.



Key Points:

i. Another special thing is that the planet, which lies in the Pictor constellation, orbits 2 stars, one of which is 10 % larger than our Sun, while the other is much smaller and less bright. The planet orbits the pair of stars every 93 – 95 days.

Pacific Island Nation Palau becomes first nation in the world to ban 'reef-toxic' sun cream

Palau has become the first nation to ban sun cream which damages the coral reefs, sea life and are toxic to juvenile wildlife species. It is the Pacific Island country in the Western Pacific Ocean near Philippines.

Key Points:

- i. The sun cream consists of **oxybenzone** and **octinoxate** absorbs UV (UltraViolet) rays which causes water more acidic, makes corals susceptible to bleaching and agitating fish stocks.
- ii. Following Palau, Hawaii bans sun cream comes into effect from 2021.

Top Iran general Qassem Soleimani killed at Baghdad airport in US airstrikes

On January 03, 2020 **Iran's** most powerful military commander, General **Qassem Soleimani**, who was the head (since 1998) of the Quds Force, a unit of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was killed in an **American drone airstrike** at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq. The airstrike was conducted by the order of United States(US) President Donald Trump. Soleimani was seen as the 2nd most powerful person in Iran after Iran's supreme leader Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei.

- **New Iran Military general:** An Iranian general **Esmail Ghaani** replaced Qassem Soleimani as the next military commander of Iran. After taking over the position, he also called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil.
- **Iraqi commander killed:** Apart from Soleimani, at least seven people were believed to have been died which also included Iraqi militia leader **Mujahideen Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis**. Abu Mahdi was an Iraqi-Iranian politician and military commander who was the deputy chief of Iraq's paramilitary Hashd Shaabi forces.

EIU survey 2015-20: 3 of world's 10 fastest-growing cities in Kerala; Malappuram tops list

On January 08, 2020 latest ranking based on **fastest growing urban regions/ fastest growing cities** in the world was released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). as per the report 3 of the cities in Kerala were ranked in the top 10 places. **Malappuram** city of **Kerala** was ranked 1st in the list, while Kerala's Kozhikode and Kollam cities were ranked in the 4th and 10th place respectively.

- **List preparation:** The list was compiled on the basis of the data provided by the United Nations Population Division (UNPD).
- **Top rankers:** Malappuram was followed by Can Tho region in Vietnam at 2nd spot and Suqian in China in the 3rd spot.
- **Other indian cities:** Thrissur city of Kerala was ranked at the 13th spot with a growth rate of 30.2%. Surat (Gujarat) was ranked at 27th spot and Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu) at the 30th spot

Henley Passport Index 2020: India ranks 84th in worlds most powerful passport list;Japan tops

On January 08, 2020 the Henley passport Index 2020 was released by Henley & Partners. As per the index based on the data obtained from International Air Transport Association (IATA), **Indian passport** ranked at the **84th** spot among the world's most powerful passports list, which is a drop by 2 places as it ranked 82nd in 2019. The list was **topped by Japan**.

- India ranks at 84th place which is tagged along with Mauritania and Tajikistan.
- Singapore ranks 2nd (190); Germany and South Korea at 3rd(189).
- Afghanistan's passport is the world's worst passport and is followed by Iraq (mobility score-28) and Syria (mobility score- 29) in the 2nd and 3rd place respectively

India ranks 34th on World Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2019

India was ranked at 34th place in **World Economic Forum (WEF)'s World Travel, Tourism Competitiveness Index for the year 2019**, a great hike from its previous ranks (i.e.65th rank in 2013, 52nd rank in 2015, 40th rank in 2017).The report was released on September 2019.

Reason behind the rise in India's Rank:

To boost tourism sector, Government of India has taken so many initiatives.They are as follows,

i.'Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan':The scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India. It was launched in September 2017 on World Tourism Day.

ii. Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat programme:This aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.It was launched in the year 2015.

Top 3 countries of the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s World Travel, Tourism Competitiveness Index for the year 2019 are:

- Spain.
- France.
- Germany.

SIPRI report:China is the world's 2nd-biggest weapons producer

As per the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China is the world's second largest producer of munitions behind the United States (US) and ahead of Russia. The report has covered the period from 2015 to 2017.



Nepal, the 1st South Asian Nation to mediate between India and Pakistan

Nepal became the first South Asian nation, which has offered to “mediate” between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism, as the 2020 SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit to be held in Islamabad, has been Postponed since 2016.

EU moves resolutions against India over CAA, Kashmir

European Union(EU) parliament has decided to make a debate and conduct vote on the **resolution against** the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, and on the **annexation** of occupied **Kashmir** by India after abrogating Jammu and Kashmir’s special status. The decision taken after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan’s global campaign against CAA and the Kashmir issue, cited that the annexation of Kashmir was in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

Resolution against CAA 2019 and Kashmir issue:

- Out of the total 751 EU parliament members, 626 have **moved** a total of **6 draft resolutions** related to both of the above mentioned issues. The debate will be conducted on January 29, 2020 with the voting on January 30th in the parliament in Brussels, Belgium.
- **Resolution purpose:** The resolution condemns implementation of CAA citing that the act is seen as a discrimination against Muslims. The resolution calls on to promote implementing the UNSC resolution on Kashmir. Engagement in a peaceful dialogue by India with various sections of the population is required as per the resolution.
- This need for a resolution by the EU against India comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Brussels, Belgium for the **15th India-EU summit in March, 2020.**

9th Tomtom Traffic Index 2019: Bengaluru has world’s worst traffic; 4 Indian cities in top 10 list

Dutch multinational developer & creator of location technology and consumer electronics Tomtom has released its **9th** edition of **Tomtom Traffic Index 2019**. As per the index, **Bengaluru** (Karnataka) emerged as the worst traffic congested cities in the world. Along with Bengaluru, 3 more Indian cities were ranked in the top 10 list. The index in brief are as follows:

- **Indian cities in top 10 list:** The other Indian cities ranked in the top 10 places were **Mumbai** (Maharashtra), **Pune** (Maharashtra) and **New Delhi** in the 4th 5th and 8th places respectively.
- **Top cities with worst traffic:** Bengaluru was followed by Manila (Philippines) and Bogota (Colombia) in the 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Moscow (Russia), Lima (Peru), Istanbul (Turkey) and Jakarta (Indonesia) were ranked in 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th places respectively.
- **Least congestion level capital:** **Abu Dhabi** in the United Arab Emirates(UAE) was the least congested national capital, it had just 10% congestion level in 2019....

Coronavirus declared as a global health emergency by WHO

World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared novel **Coronavirus(nCoV)** as a global health emergency during the second meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the

outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019 held in Geneva, Switzerland. The outbreak which was more prominent in China has now continued to spread to other countries too.

Key Points:

i. So far 213 people in China mostly from Hubei city have died from the virus, with almost 10,000 cases nationally. The WHO has identified 98 cases in 18 other countries other than China.

ii. **CoV:** Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). nCoV is a new strain of the virus.

10th World Future Energy Summit 2020 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE; CLIX sustainability summit held

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

3rd Climate Innovations Exchange:

Alongside the World Future Energy Summit, **3rd** edition of the **Climate Innovations Exchange, ‘CLIX’** in short and the Future Sustainability Summit was also held in Abu Dhabi. The event showcased innovative ideas related to energy, food, agriculture and sustainability in space

WEF's 1st Global Social Mobility Index 2020: India ranks 76th & Denmark tops the list

the World Economic Forum (WEF) released **1st edition** of a report titled “**The Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative**”. The global social mobility index (GSMI) of 82 countries were launched in this report. As per the Index, **India** ranked at the **76th** position with a score of 42.7 while **Denmark** **topped** the list. The key findings in the report are as follows:

- India is among the 5 countries namely China, the United States(US), Japan and Germany which stands to gain most from boosting social mobility score. India ranks 41st in lifelong learning while it ranks 53rd in working conditions. It has the second-highest level of workers in vulnerable employment behind Saudi Arabia.
- **Improvement needed areas:** Social protection and fair wage distribution are the areas in which India needs improvement. It ranks 76th in social protection and 79th in fair wage distribution.
- **Top 5 countries in the index:** Denmark is followed by Norway (score 83.6), Finland (score 83.6), Sweden (83.5) and Iceland (82.7) in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively. It is to be noted that the top 5 countries are all Nordic countries.

Oxfam Report: India's richest 1% people's Wealth is 4 times of 70% of population

rights group **Oxfam International** released a report titled ‘**Time to Care: Unpaid and underpaid care work and the global inequality crisis**’. As per the report, **India's richest 1%** of the population has **more than 4 times of wealth** held by 953 million people making up for the bottom 70% of the country's population. 2,153 of total billionaires globally in 2019 had more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up **60%** of the planet's population. The report in detail are as follows:

Report on India:

- **Indian billionaires' wealth:** Total combined wealth of **63 Indian billionaires** is higher than the country's total Union Budget for the fiscal year 2018-19 which stood at Rs 24,42,200 crore.
- **Unpaid care work of Indian females:** Women and girls put in 3.26 billion hours of unpaid care work every day which marks a contribution to the Indian economy of at least Rs 19 lakh crore a year.

Hyderabad ranked 14th globally in Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q3, 2019, Budapest in Hungary tops

In the Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q3 (Quarter) 2019, **Hyderabad** has ranked 14th among 150 cities in the world with an appreciation of 9% in residential prices on a YoY (Year-over-Year) basis.

i. In this index, **Budapest** in Hungary is at the first place with the highest annual growth rate of 24%, followed by **Xi'an** and **Wuhan** in China at 15.9% and 14.9%.

ii. According to the report, Indian cities that have seen an appreciation in home prices are **New Delhi** at the 73rd rank globally with a 3.2% rise, **Bengaluru** at the 94th rank with a 2% appreciation and **Ahmedabad** at the 108th rank with a 1.1% growth.

iii. Indian cities which have seen de-growth in home prices are Kolkata at the 130th rank with a decline of 2%, Mumbai at the 135th rank with a de-growth of 3% and Chennai at the 136th rank with a fall of 3%.

iv. **Pune** was the lowest-ranked Indian city standing at the 138th spot, registering a 3.5% decline in home prices

EIU's 12th edition of Democracy Index 2019: India slips 10 ranks to 51st position, Norway tops

According to the 12th edition of the '**Democracy Index 2019: A year of democratic setbacks and popular protest**', released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, **India** has slipped 10 ranks to **51st spot** with the score of 6.90 in this index, which provides a blueprint for the current state of democracy in 165 independent states and two territories. India's score in the year 2018 were 7.23, which has come down to 6.90, the lowest level in 13 years. As per the report, India's democracy scores have declined due to lack of civil liberties, especially the removal of Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and the enforcement of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019.

- While considering Asia and Australasia region, India ranks 8th behind Taiwan and Timor-Leste.

Top 3 & Bottom 3 countries in the Index:

Rank	Country	Score
51 st	India	6.9
1	Norway	9.87
2	Iceland	9.58
3	Sweden	9.39
167	North Korea	1.08

Switzerland tops the Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020, India ranks 72nd

the **Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020 (GTCI)** report was launched by Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD), a partner and sponsor of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Tent in Davos, Switzerland along with Adecco Group & Google. **India** has moved up eight places to the **72nd**

position from 80th position in GTCI 2019. In list of 132 countries **Switzerland tops** the list.

i. According to the report the **United States (USA)** is at the **2nd** position followed **Singapore**.

Swiss bank Julius Baer report 2020: Mumbai among cheapest cities in the world for luxury goods, Hong Kong most expensive

According to the 1st ‘**Global Wealth and Lifestyle Report 2020**, released by Swiss private bank **Julius Baer**, India’s financial capital **Mumbai** was ranked last (**28th**) in a list of the world’s 28 most expensive cities for luxury living.

Top 5: Hong Kong was the world’s most expensive city in the list followed by Shanghai (China), Tokyo (Japan), New York (US) and Singapore.

23rd CEO survey: India 4th best market for global companies looking for growth abroad; US tops

The **23rd** edition of the PwC’s Annual **Global CEO Survey** was launched on the 1st day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. As per the survey based on the confidence of CEOs over worldwide economic growth, India ranked 4th while it was topped by United States(US). China and Germany ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Corruption Perception Index 2019: India ranks 80th; Denmark and New Zealand top the list

The Corruption Perception Index 2019 was released by Transparency International. As per the Index **India** ranks **80** out of 180 countries with a score of 41 out of 100. Last year India’s rank was 78 with the same score. The list was topped by **Denmark** and **New Zealand**.

i. **Top 3 countries:** Denmark & New Zealand were followed by Finland.

ii. **Least ranked countries:**

Somalia ranked at 180th position (least ranked country), it follows South Sudan that ranked at 179th and Syria at 178th.

Highlights of 50th WEF annual meeting 2020 held in Davos, Switzerland

The 50th edition of the 2020 World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting was held in Davos-Klosters, in Switzerland from January 21-24, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was “**Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World**”. The WEF summit aims to engage world leaders to collaborate for global, regional and industrial development etc. The highlights of the summit in detail are as follows:



- The **1st** ever public **blockchain** track and trace platform built to help businesses respond to the demands of customers for ethical and environmentally friendly products.
- **1st global consortium** was formed and it works on designing a framework for **digital currency governance** that also includes stablecoins.
- The republic of **India** has joined as a **founding govt member** of the WEF’s ‘**Reskilling Revolution**’.
- **Madhya Pradesh(MP)** govt has made **investments** worth **Rs. 4,125 crores** at WEF from various investors.

- The govt of **Karnataka** signed a pact with WEF to start “**Centre for Internet of ethical things**”.
- The **Tata steel Kalinganagar (TSK)** in Jajpur district of Odisha, was honoured at the WEF 2020 for its recent admittance to the **Global Lighthouse Network(GLN)** of WEF.
- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** was honoured with 26th Crystal award 2020....

European Commission, Council Presidents sign Brexit agreement

The **presidents of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen & the European Council Charles Michel**, have signed the Brexit deal agreed in the month of October 2019 .

- It will be placed before the European Parliament on 29 January,2020 for approval. Then the Diplomats from European Union (EU) member states will give written approval to the agreement on 30 January,2020.

This will ensure Britain’s separation from the European Union in the prescribed manner from midnight on 31 January,2020.

- This will bring to an end 47 years as a member of the pan-European partnership.
- After Brexit, the 28 member states will come down to 27, but the withdrawal deal provides for an 11-month transition period for Britain until the end of 2020.

Defence

12th naval exercise 'Naseem-Al-Bahr' between India and Oman held in Goa

On January 05, 2020 2 ships of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) arrived at Mormugao Port in **Goa** to participate in the **12th** edition of the **Indo-Oman** bilateral naval exercise '**Naseem-Al-Bahr**'. The meaning of the biennial exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr that has been conducted since 1993 between India and Oman is sea breeze.

Key Points:

i. Participating ships: Among the Indian Navy ships (INS) Beas and Subhadra are participating while 2 naval ships of the RNO i.e, RNOV (Royal Navy of Oman Vessel) Al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab are participating.

1st tri-dimensional expedition 'Maha-Navy Connect 2020' launched by Indian Navy in Maharashtra

On January 5, 2020, the first tri-dimensional expedition '**Maha-Navy Connect 2020**' was launched by Indian Navy in Mumbai. It aims to promote the heritage of Indian Navy and to spread awareness about Coastal Security amongst the coastal communities in Maharashtra.

Key Points:

i. It was flagged off by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command Vice **Admiral Ajit Kumar P.**

ii. The expedition continues till January 11, 2020.

iii. The tri-dimensional expedition consists of yachting, running and cycling teams of 50 naval personnel.

India lands LCA Tejas on INS Vikramaditya for the first time **the** Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

Tejas has made a successful landed on the India's biggest warship **INS Vikramaditya**. The maiden landing was conducted by **Commodore Jaideep Maolankar**.

Key Points:

i. For the first time an indigenous fighter aircraft has been landed on an aircraft carrier.

ii. India becomes **sixth nation** to master the art of an arrested landing and ski-jump take off on the deck of a carrier after Russia, the United States (US), France, the United Kingdom (UK) and China.



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

Russia has announced to deliver **5 units of S-400 air defence** systems to **India by 2025** while its production has already begun. The announcement was made by Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin. India and Russia signed a **deal of \$5.43 billion** for the procurement of these S-400 systems during the 19th edition of India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit held in New Delhi in 2018.

RIC meet:

It was also announced that the Union Minister of External Affairs (MEA) Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, will visit Russia on March 22&23 to attend the Russia-Indian-China (**RIC**) trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in **Vladivostok**, Russia.

- **S-400:** It is an upgraded version of the S-300 missiles that were previously available only to the Russian defence forces and is manufactured by **Almaz-Antey** and has been in service in Russia since 2007

1st unmanned mission will be launched in December 2020 as a preparation for 'Gaganyaan': ISRO

According to the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), chairman **Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan**, ISRO would launch **2 unmanned missions** in **December 2020** and **June 2021** in view of the launch of India's first manned spacecraft "Gaganyaan" in December 2021.



- The ISRO has prepared **women robot 'Vyom Mitra'** (means a friend in Sky) for sending into space under the 1st unmanned Gaganyaan mission.
- **Indian flight surgeons** are being **trained** in **France** to take care of the health of astronauts selected for Gaganyaan

9th India-Bangladesh joint military exercise SAMPRITI-IX to be conducted in Umrong, Meghalaya

As part of ongoing defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh, **9th** edition of the **joint Indo-Bangladesh military exercise** named **SAMPRITI-IX** will be conducted at Umroi, **Meghalaya** from February 03-16, 2020. Both nations will work together in a counter terrorism environment under the United Nations (UN) charter.



Key points:

- A Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX) will be conducted during SAMPRITI-IX.
- The training will be concluded with a final validation exercise where both the army's troops will perform counter terrorist operation in a controlled and simulated environment.

DRDO to showcase indigenously-developed military systems at DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow UP

The **11th** edition of 'DefExpo 2020' will be held on February 5 to February 9, 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh with theme "**India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub**". It will be organized by the department of defence production, Ministry of Defence. The DRDO will exhibit more than 500 products from all technology clusters in the five-day mega expo in line with the theme of the event "**Digital Transformation of Defence**".

Key Points:

- As the part of DefExpo live demonstration of Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun MK IA, Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), Counter Mine Flail, 15m Advanced Composite Modular Bridging System (ACMBS) and modular bridge will be conducted.
- To showcase the combined strength of DRDO, Public and Private sectors defence manufactures, nearly 23 Indian Pavilion products will be showcased in DefExpo.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Hyderabad Scientist Dr. Bipul Saha elected as IUPAC bureau member

Dr. Bipul Bihari Saha of Hyderabad, India has been elected as a bureau member of the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) for the period 2020-23. Saha is the only second Indian after “Bharat Ratna” Professor Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao (CNR Rao), to be elected (1979) for this position in a century.



Key Points:

- i. The Bureau Member are elected considering his/her scientific contribution in the field of Chemistry, his leadership qualities etc.,
- ii. Saha is a **Chief Director of R&D** (Research and Development) L.R Research Laboratories is a wholly owned subsidiary of NACL (Nagarjuna Agrichem Limited) Industries Limited, Hyderabad.

About IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry):

IUPAC has the responsibility of **naming all new elements and compounds**, declare atomic weights and physical constants, update Periodic Table and carry out research Projects.

Tsai Ing-Wen wins Taiwan's Presidential election for the second time

Taiwan's President **Tsai Ing-wen** has won the **presidential election** for second time with **57.1%** of total votes. She belongs to **Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)**. She defeated Han Kuo-yu of the rival Nationalist Party.

About Tsai Ing-Wen:

- i. 63-years-old Tsai Ing-Wen joined DPP in 2004 and nominated for the presidential election in 2012 and 2016.
- ii. In 2016 she won the Presidential election for the first time.



Haitham bin Tariq Al Said appointed as the new ruler of Oman

Haitham bin Tariq Al Said (66) was appointed as the new ruler of the Oman after the death of **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said** who ruled the country from 1970.

Key Points:

- i. Haritham bin Tariq Al Said who is the cousin of the deceased Sultan Qaboos, was the Cultural and Heritage Minister of Oman.
- ii. In 2013 he was appointed by the Sultan Qaboos to chair the main committee responsible for Oman's development.
- iii. Haritham bin Tariq was an Oxford graduate who spent 16 years in various roles with the Foreign Ministry from 1986.



A P Maheshwari appointed as the new DG of CRPF

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer **A P Maheshwari** appointed as Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He took the charge from Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) **DG Surjeet Singh Deswal** who was given an additional charge as the



head of CRPF after the retirement of **DG Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar** on December 31, 2019.

Key Points:

- i. A P Maheshwari is 1984-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer who worked previously as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Union Home Ministry.
- ii. He will be in the post till **February 28, 2021**, the date of his superannuation.

Michael Debabrata Patra appointed as fourth Deputy Governor of RBI

Michael Debabrata Patra has been appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). After the resignation of **Viral V Acharya** the post was lying vacant from July 2019. He will be the fourth Deputy Governor of the RBI appointed for a period of **three years**.



Key Points:

- i. The Appointments committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Michael Debabrata Patra as a Deputy Governor of the RBI. He had applied for the role in 2017 and the date of appointment has not been specified yet.
- ii. He pursued his PhD from IIT Mumbai, Joined RBI in 1985. Before moving to the monetary policy department in 2005 he served in the Department of Economic Analysis and Policy in charge of international finance, money and banking.

Deputy Governors– N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain

Lt General Girish Kumar reappointed as the Surveyor General of India for one year

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the re-appointment proposal of **Lt General Girish Kumar** as the Surveyor General of India in Survey of India, the national survey and mapping organization of the country, for a period of one year on contract basis w.e.f. January 1, 2020.



Key Points:

- i. Earlier on **September 30, 2017** he was appointed as **Surveyor General of India** under the Survey of India.

Mikhail Mishustin becomes the new Prime Minister of Russia

The **Russian** lawmakers have approved Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposed candidate **Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin** (53), the head of the Federal Tax Service, as the next **prime minister** of the country. He replaced **Dmitri Anatolyevich Medvedev** who resigned from his post.



- **Mass resignation:** Putin proposed major changes in the constitution of Russia that would spread political power more evenly. Shortly after the proposed changes by Putin, Dmitri Medvedev resigned as Prime Minister (PM). Along with Medvedev the Russian cabinet also made a mass resignation.
- **Medvedev as deputy head of security council:** Soon after the resignation of Medvedev as the prime minister of Russia, Putin has appointed as the deputy head of the country's Security Council. The council acts as an advisory board to the president.

Prof Suresh Chandra Sharma was appointed as the 1st Chairman of NMC

Delhi AIIMS' Professor **Suresh Chandra Sharma** appointed as the **1st** ever **Chairman of NMC** (National Medical Commission). Sharma was the head of ENT(ears, nose, throat) head-surgery department of AIIMS(All India Institute of Medical Sciences) in New Delhi. The Committee also appointed **Dr Rakesh Kumar Vats**, Secretary-General, Board Of Governors, Medical Council of India as **Secretary of NMC**. The Chairman and the Secretary of NMC will serve for a period of 3 years or till the age of 70 years.



AIIMS' Prof Suresh Chandra Sharma appointed as first chief of National Medical Commission

- On August 8, 2019, National Commission Bill 2019 was introduced which replaces the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.
- In this Commission 33 member will be appointed by the Central Government which includes Chairman, President and Director's.
- The bill also hold National Exit Test for the medical students which obtain the license for practice....

Hillary Rodham Clinton appointed as 11th and 1st female Chancellor of UK's Queen's University

On 2 January 2020, 72-years-old **Hillary Rodham Clinton** appointed as the first female Chancellor of United Kingdom's Queen's University. She succeeds **Tom Moran**. Clinton is the 11th Chancellor of the University and will serve for a period of five years from January 1, 2020. She will act as an advisor to the vice-chancellor Prof Ian Greer and senior management.

About Hillary Clinton:

- In 2018, she received an honorary doctorate from the Queen's University.
- She was the Democratic Presidential nominee in 2016 US election.
- In 2009 she was appointed as the United States Secretary of State by President Barack Obama.

About Queen's University:

- Queen's University was opened in 1849 in Belfast, UK.
- It is one of the leading universities in the UK and Ireland with a distinguished heritage and history.

Hillary Clinton



Former PM Zoran Milanovic wins Croatia presidential polls

Zoran Milanovic, 53 years old won Croatia's presidential election. Zoran Milanovic is Croatia's **center-leftist former Prime Minister**.

Key Points:

- He defeated center-right incumbent Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic(51 years old), who was the first female president of Croatia.
- The Presidential election was held on 22 December 2019.
- Milanovic belongs to the Social Democratic Party(SDP) won 52.7% vote while Grabar-kitarovic of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) won 47.3%.



Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez re-elected as the PM of Spain

Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon (47), a Spanish politician & Socialist leader took the oath as **Spanish prime minister (PM)** before Spanish King Felipe VI. He is serving as the PM since June 2018. He is Secretary-General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE).

Key Points:

- He assumed his office after his proposal to form a leftist coalition



government with support from smaller parties by narrowly won a parliamentary confidence vote. The Vote, by a simple majority of MPs (member of parliament), went 167 in the 350-seat assembly.

ii. The new Cabinet under Pedro Sanchez will have members of the anti-austerity United We Can party, including party leader **Pablo Iglesias** as **deputy prime minister**.

Lokpal Member and the Former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Dilip B Bhosale resigns

On January 9, 2020 Lokpal Member and the Former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Justice **Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale** has resigned from his post due to some personal reasons. He was appointed by Lokpal Chairman Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose on March 27, 2019. 63-years-old Bhosale was the acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from 2015-2016. He also served as a judge of the high courts of Bombay and Karnataka.

Harish Salve appointed Queen's Counsel for courts of England & Wales Indian Senior Advocate Harish

Salve has been appointed the Queen's counsel for the courts of England and Wales. The appointment was announced by Queen Elizabeth II on the advise of the Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland.



Key Point:

- i. The title of **Queen's Counsel QC** is awarded to those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.
- ii. Salve and other appointees will be formally appointed as QC on March 16, where the Lord Chancellor will preside over the appointment ceremony at Westminster Hall, London, United Kingdom (UK).

SC appoints former apex court judge Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre as head of road safety committee

The Supreme Court will appoint one of its retired judges Justice **Abhay Manohar Sapre** as the Chairman of the committee on road safety since the panel's current head and former top court judge Justice K.S.P. Radhakrishnan expressed his difficulty in continuing the position.

Key Points:

- i. The decision in this regard has been given by a bench headed by **Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde**.
- ii. The bench has also appointed Sanjay Mitra, former Defence Secretary as a member of the committee replacing the former secretary of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways S Sundar, who has found it difficult to continue as a member of the committee due to ill-health.

Lt. General Satinder Kumar Saini appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff

Southern Army Commander Lieutenant General **Satinder Kumar**

Saini appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS). He will take charge on January 25, 2020. He succeeded Lieutenant General **Manoj Mukund Naravane**, who was promoted as the 28th Chief of Army Staff.



Key Points:

- i. The appointment was made by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) headed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **General Bipin Rawat** and this was the first order of a senior military appointment made through DMA.
- ii. In 1981, General Saini was commissioned into the Jat Regiment.

Arjun Munda becomes President of Archery Association of India (AAI)

Arjun Munda (Jharkhand), Minister of Tribal Affairs elected as the President of the suspended Archery Association of India (AAI) for **4 years** term. The elections were held as per the Delhi High Court order. Arjun Munda got the support from former AAI President Vijay Kumar Malhotra and defeated B V P Rao by a margin of 34-18 votes.



i. Captain Abhimanyu Sindhu (Maharashtra) was elected senior vice-president while **Pramod Chandurkar** (Maharashtra) became the secretary-general, and **Rajendra Singh Tomar** (Uttarakhand) was elected as treasurer.

Katerina Sakellaropoulou becomes Greece's first woman president

Independent candidate **Katerina Sakellaropoulou** (63 years), became the **1st Woman President** of Greece elected by Greece's Parliament for a period of 5 years. She will be officially sworn in as Greece's **13th President** in April, 2020. She will succeed Prokopis Pavlopoulos, the current president.



About Katerina Sakellaropoulou:

- i.** Katerina is the Council of State (Supreme Administrative Court of Greece) studied law in Athens (Greece) and completed her postgraduate studies at the Sorbonne in Paris, France.
- ii.** She was born on 30 May 1956 in Thessaloniki, Greece and the daughter of Supreme Court Judge.
- iii.** She is an expert in constitutional and environmental law and defender of human rights.

Gita Sabharwal of India appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand

Gita Sabharwal of India was appointed as the UN (United Nations) Resident Coordinator (RC) of Thailand by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

About UN Resident Coordinator:

The UN Resident Coordinator is the highest ranking representative of the UN development system at country level and representatives of UN Secretary-General.

Key Points:

- i. Sabharwal** has 25 years of experience in development, peacebuilding, governance & social policy across 5 Asian countries, including Maldives.
- i.** Gita Sabharwal recently served in UN, Sri Lanka as the Peacebuilding and Development Adviser for 7 years.
- ii.** Sabharwal holds a master's degree in development management from University of Wales, UK



Joao Vale de Almeida appointed as the 1st ambassador of EU to United Kingdom & Northern Ireland

Veteran diplomat **Joao Vale de Almeida** appointed as the **first ambassador of European Union (EU) to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**. He will assume the office on February 1, 2020 the day after 28



the Brexit(Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union).

Key Points:

- i.62-years-old diplomat was born on January 29,1957 in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ii.He joined European Commission in 1982 after working as a journalist for seven years.
- iii.He also served as the first EU Ambassador to the United States of America, from 2010 to 2014 and then served as the bloc's ambassador to the UN between 2015 and 2019.

About EU:

The European Union is a political and economic union of 28 (after brexit 27) member states that are located primarily in Europe. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as India's Ambassador to US

diplomat **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** has been appointed as India's **Ambassador** to the **United States of America** (USA). He succeeded **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** who will take charge as the **next foreign secretary**. The appointment was confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Key Points:

- i.1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer (IFS), Taranjit Singh Sandhu currently serves as the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka.

Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani appointed as new PM of Qatar

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar appointed **Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani** as new **Prime Minister** (PM) of Qatar, Doha. He is the successor of Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani who has resigned from the post. Sheikh Khalid is currently serving as the chief of the Amiri Diwan, the emir's office.



Key Points:

- i.Sheikh Khalid was born in Doha in 1968 and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in the United States of America in 1993.
- ii.He worked at Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited, until 2002.
- iii.He later served in the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2002 and 2006.

Honours/ Awards

Telangana's mountaineer Malavath Poorna: 1st and youngest tribal women in the World to scale 6 mountain peaks in 6 continents

18-years-old **Malavath Poorna** from Telangana scaled **Mt Vinson Massif**, the highest mountain peak in Antarctica at **4,892** meters and becomes the **first and youngest tribal women in the World** to scale six mountain peaks in six continents.

i. She is the daughter of agriculturist of Pakala tribal hamlet of Nizamabad district in Telangana.

ii. 'Poorna', a biography of Poorna Malavath was written by Aparna Thota.

iii. At the age of 13 years she became the world's youngest girl who scaled Mt. Everest.

iv. She scaled Mt. Everest in 2014, Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) in 2016, Mt. Elbrus (Russia) in 2017, Mt. Aconcagua (Argentina) in 2019, and Mt. Carstensz (Indonesia) in 2019.



Cristiano Ronaldo bags best men's player title at 11th Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019 in Dubai

Famous Portuguese professional football player **Cristiano Ronaldo** was awarded by **11th Dubai Globe Soccer Awards 2019** as the best men's player of the year in the international football function held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Ronaldo has won the award **six times** out of its nine years of its existence and also marked 4th consecutive time.

KeyPoints:

- England international Lucy Bronze was awarded the best women's player of the year.
- The award has been presented in 15 categories.



About Globe Soccer Awards:

The Globe Soccer Awards are the annual awards given for excellence in football. EFAA (European Association of Player's Agents) and the ECA (European Club Association) organize the Globe Soccer Awards.

Highlights of 77th Golden Globe Awards 2019 held in Beverly Hills, California, US

On 5th January 2020, the **77th Golden Globe Awards** honouring the best films and television of the calendar year 2019 was held at Beverly Hills, **California** in the USA (United States of America). English stand-up comedian, actor, writer, director, producer, and musician **Ricky Gervais** hosted the ceremony for the fifth time. The highlights, in brief, are as follows:

- **Film with most awards:** The film *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* won the most awards for the ceremony with three, including Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy. In television, *Succession*, *Fleabag*, and *Chernobyl* were the most awarded, with two awards each.
- **Cecil B. DeMille Award:** American actor and filmmaker Thomas Jeffrey Hanks familiarly known as **Tom Hanks** won the Cecil B. DeMille Award for 2019.
- **Carol Burnett Award:** American comedian, television host, actress, writer, and producer **Ellen Lee DeGeneres** won the Carol Burnett Award for 2019.

Forbes India's "20 people to watch in 2020" list: 7 Indians featured; Indian origin Hassan Minhaj from US tops

On January 7, 2020, According to the Forbes India's prestigious list of '20 people

to watch in the 2020s', 7 Persons from India named in the list. Two persons

from Bihar namely **Prashant Kishor-12th** place (Poll strategist and JD(U)

national vice-president) & **Kanhaia Kumar -16th** (former JNU Students' Union president) were the biggest name in the list.



Prashant Kishor Kanhaia kumar

Other Indians in the list include **Aditya Mittal -2nd** place (Group CFO and

CEO, ArcelorMittal Europe), the **Godrej family-6th** (of Adi Godrej), **Dushyant**

Chautala -7th (deputy chief minister, Haryana), **Mahua Moitra -9th** (Lok Sabha

member, Trinamool Congress), and **Garima Arora -14th** (Chef, the first Indian woman to receive a Michelin star).

Key Points:

i. A US (United States) based Indian origin -Hasan Minhaj, comedian & political commentator, is on the 1st position in the list, while Kenya's Marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge is on the 20th place.

Top 3 & Indians in Forbes India's '20 people to watch in the 2020s' list:

Rank	Name	Designation
1	Hasan Minhaj	Comedian, political commentator
2	Aditya Mittal	ArcelorMittal Europe Group CFO and CEO
3	Peter Buttigieg	Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, US

India-born author Jasbinder Bilan bags UK Costa Children's award, 2019

Indian born-author **Jasbinder Bilan's** (UK resident) debut novel '**Asha and the Spirit Bird**', focusing on the readers of age range 9 years and above, beat the competition and named as the winner of 2019 UK (United Kingdom) children's book award named **Costa Children's Award**.



Key Points:

i. Bilan will receive **5,000 pounds** for the award, which is open to the authors resident in the UK and Ireland.

ii. The award will be presented annually across 5 categories of "First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book".

iii. The story is about eleven-years-old Asha, who is empowered with spiritual connections to her grandmother as she journeys through the wild and dangerous Himalayas with her best friend Jeevan.

MS Swaminathan & Dr. Gutta honoured with 1st Venkaiah Naidu National Awards in Hyderabad

On January 09, 2020 Eminent Agricultural Scientist Dr M S

Swaminathan has been selected as the 1st recipient of the **Muppavarapu**

Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence while renowned social

worker **Dr. Gutta Muniratnam** has been selected as the 1st recipient of the

Muppavarapu National Award for **Social Service**. The award was given at a



Prof.M.S.Swaminathan

Dr.G.Muniratnam

function in Hyderabad, Telangana.

This award which is given for the 1st time has been instituted by Muppavarapu Foundation for award for excellence while the one for social service was launched by Swarna Bharat Trust, in Hyderabad, Telangana.

BCCI annual awards 2018-19 announced: Jasprit Bumrah receives Polly Umrigar award

The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Annual Awards** were presented in **25 different categories** for the **2018-19** season in Mumbai, Maharashtra to honor all the legendary cricketers.

- Indian pacer **Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah** has received the highest prize of Indian cricket – the prestigious **Polly Umrigar Award** for the best international cricketer (2018-19) in men's category. The award carries a citation, trophy & cheque for Rs. 15 lakh.
- Former India captains **Krishnamachari Srikkanth** and **Anjum Chopra** were awarded the **Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award** and the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for women respectively.

Football player Mbappé named as the most valuable player at €265 million: CIES Football Observatory

Switzerland based International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) Football Observatory has released a list of the most valuable football players in the world. Paris Saint-Germain striker **Kylian Mbappe** topped the list with **€265 million**.

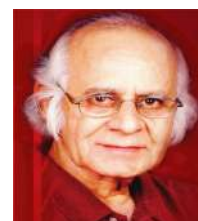


Key Points:

- Raheem Sterling** from Manchester City listed second with **€223.7 million** and **Mohammed Salah** from Liverpool was the third position with **€175.1 million**.
- The six-time Ballon d'Or winner **Lionel Messi** was at **eighth position** with **€125.5 million**.
- 21-year-old Mbappe has registered 19 goals and 11 assists in contrast with 32-year-old Messi has managed 16 goals and 9 assists in all competitions in the season.

Sindhi writer Vasdev Mohi to be conferred with 29th Saraswati Samman 2019

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



Key Points:

- Saraswati Samman carries a cash award of 15 lakh rupees**, a citation, and a plaque.
- Besides Saraswati Samman, two other awards- the **Vyas Samman** (for Hindi works by Indian citizens) and **Bihari Puraskar** (for Hindi/Rajasthani works by Rajasthani writers) have been given by the KK Birla Foundation, a literary and cultural organization.

16th edition of ICC awards 2019 announced ; Rohit sharma named ODI cricket of the year

the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced the list of **ICC award** winners for the year **2019** to recognize and honor the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months. Indian opener **Rohit Gurunath Sharma** became **ODI (One Day International) Cricketer** of the Year for the first time. At the same time, **Virat Kohli** bagged **Spirit of Cricket award**.

- England's World Cup winning all-rounder **Ben Stokes** won the prestigious Sir **Garfield Sobers trophy** for the Cricketer of the Year, While Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins became the best Test cricketer of the year, taking 59 wickets in 2019.
- The women's awards were announced on 17 December 2019, with Indian women's cricket player Smriti Mandana named in both ICC women's ODI and T20 (twenty twenty) teams of the year.

17th edition of Crossword Books Awards held in Mumbai, Maharashtra

the 17th edition of Crossword Book Awards was held in Mumbai.

- Twinkle Khanna won the Popular Best Fiction Award for her novel 'Pyjamas Are Forgiving'.
- Krishna Trilok won the Popular award in the Biography category for Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman.

Singer Suman & music director Kuldeep Singh to get MP's Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2017 & 2018 respectively

noted Indian singer **Suman Kalyanpur** was chosen for the **2017 National Lata Mangeshkar Award** of the state govt. of Madhya Pradesh(MP) while Indian Music composer **Kuldeep Singh** has been chosen for the same Mangeshkar award for the year **2018**. They have been chosen for this award for their contribution in the field of music and will be awarded in February 2020 at an event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



Key Points:

- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a shawl, a citation and a 'shreephal' (coconut).
 - About the award:** The award has been instituted by MP in 1984-85 in honour of renowned singer Lata Mangeshkar (90 years). MP is the birthplace of the Lata.
- Music director Naushal Ali was the 1st person to be conferred with the award in 1984-85.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: 4th Indian to receive highest Australian civilian honour

Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the **Order of Australia honour** to **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, founder and chairperson of biopharmaceutical company **Biocon** and appointed as an honorary member in the general division of the Order of Australia by Australia's High Commissioner to India Ms. Harinder Sidhu at a ceremony in Leela Palace, Bengaluru, Karnataka. She is the **fourth Indian** citizen to be awarded Australia's highest civilian honour.



Award contribution: The award is given to foreign nationals who have extraordinarily contributed to Australia or for humanity.

Key Points:

- i. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw was an alumnus of Federation University, Australia.
- ii. The Australian civilian honours from India are star batsman Sachin Tendulkar in 2012, Former Attorney General of India Soli Jehangir Sorabjee in 2006 and Mother Teresa (Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) of Kolkata in 1982.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee Confers ‘Champions of Change 2019’ Award to Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

Jharkhand CM (Chief Minister) **Hemant Soren** was conferred with ‘**Champions of Change Award-2019**’ for **social welfare** (Aspirational Districts) by Former President **Pranab Mukherjee** at a function in New Delhi.

Award Contribution: The award is contributed to Hemant for his work in the Barhait and Dumka assembly constituencies in the state.



Assam, Jal Shakti Mission & NDRF wins the best tableaux awards for 71st Republic Day Parade 2020

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

distributed the awards for best tableaux which was conducted on January 26, 2020, during the 71st Republic Day event. There were a total of **22 tableaux** including 16 from various states and union territories and the remaining 6 from various ministries and departments.



Best Tableaux Awards (States and Union territories):

- i. **Assam's** tableaux displayed the theme ‘Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture’, had showcased the Xattriya tradition in the form of Bhortal Nritya was chosen as the best tableaux.
- ii. The second position was tied between Odisha which depicted Lord Lingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra, and Uttar Pradesh which showcased the culture of Sarva Dharma Samabhav.

Best Tableaux Awards Ministry/Departments

Among the six tableaux from different ministries/departments, **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** won joint best Tableaux award for showcasing the cutting-edge technology and instruments used by the force to carry out daring rescue operations in flood-hit and disaster-hit areas line with its motto ‘Aapda Sewa Sadaiv’ along with **Jal Shakti Mission** who won best tableaux for government's new initiative, ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’, which aims at providing functional tap connection to every rural household by 2024.

Special Prize: **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** won a special prize for the theme “Kashmir se Kanyakumari”.

‘Samvidhaan’ named as Oxford Hindi Word of the Year for 2019

the Oxford University Press (OUP) has named ‘**Samvidhaan**’ (constitution) as the **Oxford Hindi Word of the Year (HWOTY) for 2019**. This name received widespread attention in August 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370 and article 35(A) of the Indian Constitution on August 05, 2019. The articles removed special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Points:

- i. The Oxford dictionaries team invited entries for the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year through Facebook and was finally selected by the Oxford Dictionaries team in India with help from panel of language experts.
- ii. The 2019 Sabarimala verdict, floor test in Maharashtra etc also led to the widespread usage of the word Samvidhaan.
- iii. **Samvidhaan:** It is defined as a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organisation is acknowledged to be governed.

Environmentalist Pavan Sukhdev and Prof. Gretchen C. Daily won the Tyler Prize 2020 for Environmental Achievement

The Indian environmentalist and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) **Pavan Sukhdev** won **Tyler Prize 2020 for Environmental Achievement** for his groundbreaking “green economy” work along with conservation biologist **Gretchen C. Daily** from United States (US).



- i. The winners will be awarded at the private ceremony on **May 1, 2020** in presence of the Tyler Prize Executive Committee and distinguished members of the international environmental community at the Intercontinental Barclay Hotel in New York City, United States (US).
- ii. On April 30, 2020 Pavan Sukhdev and Gretchen C. Daily will deliver public presentation of their work at the New York Academy of Science in New York, US....

Noted Theatre artist Sanjna Kapoor gets French honour ‘Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters’ in New Delhi

Sanjna Kapoor (52), an **Indian theatre personality** and former British film actress of Indian and British descent, was awarded the prestigious **French honour** of ‘**Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)**’ for her outstanding contribution to the field of theater.



Key Points:

- i. She was honored by French Minister of Culture Franck Riester, who was currently on an official visit to India.
- ii. Kapoor, a daughter of Hindi film actor Shashi Kapoor and British actress Jennifer Kendal, made her debut with Aparna Sen’s 36 Chowringhee Lane’(1981). She was the lead actress in ‘Hero Hiralal’ (1989) and also appeared in Meera Nair’s Salaam Bombay (1988).

About Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres:

French government instituted this award in 1957 to honor people who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the fields of art or literature, or for their contribution to promoting the arts and literature in France and throughout the world.

Past recipients of this award include Shahrukh Khan, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Aishwarya Rai, Raghu Rai, etc.

Padma Shri awardee Rani Rampal became 1st hockey player worldwide to win World Games Athlete of the Year 2019

Indian Hockey women's team captain and 2020 Padma Shri awardee **Rani Rampal** became the 1st ever hockey player to win the **2019 'World Games Athlete of the Year'** award. The announcement was made by the world games. Hailing from Haryana, Rani has obtained 1,99,477 votes from fans worldwide.



Key Points:

- i.** In 2019, India won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) series finals where Rani was named Player of the Tournament.
- ii. About award:** The award is an initiative of IWGA (International World Games Association) that recognizes and honours an athlete or a team for their outstanding performance or for their social commitment or particularly, fair behaviour. 2019 was the 6th edition of the IWA.

Journalist & Hindu group chairman N Ram honoured with Kerala's national media award

popular **journalist** and **Chairman** of the **Hindu Group** of Publications **Shri N Ram** was honoured by Kerala Media Academy's National media award as part of its 40th anniversary of formation. He was awarded for his outstanding contribution to journalism. The award carried a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a citation and a memento.

Key Points:

- i. Award presentation:** The award will be presented by the chief minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan by the end of March 2020.
- ii. Jury members:** The selection was done by a jury which comprised of former Kerala state Education Minister M A Baby, senior journalist Thomas Jacob, general education department secretary A Shajahan, and others.

English actor Andy Serkis to get BAFTA award for outstanding British contribution to cinema in Feb 2020

Andrew Clement Serkis (55), an **English actor and film director**, will receive the **Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema Award 2020**, one of the British Academy's top honours from **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)** at the 73rd EE British Academy Film Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held on February 2, 2020 in **London, UK (United Kingdom)**.

Key Points:

- i.** Serkis got his credit with the creation of characters such as Gollum in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit series, Caesar in the Planet of the Apes trilogy, the titular gorilla in 2005's King Kong.
- ii.** Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema award is presented annually in honour of Michael Balcon, the British film producer best known for his work with Ealing Studios. Previous recipients are Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley, co-founders of Number 9 Films, Ridley and Tony Scott, Film4 Productions, etc.

Dr. Partap chauhan honoured with Ayurveda ratan award 2020 in Brussels, Belgium

Dr. Partap Chauhan, the pioneer of **Ayurvedic Telemedicine**, has Conferred with Prestigious **Ayurveda Ratan Award 2020** in **Brussels, Belgium** during Ayurveda Day Celebration at the European Parliament.

Key Points:



- i. The All-Party Parliament Group on Traditional Medicines organized a meeting at in Brussels, Belgium with the aim of formulating a roadmap to legalize Ayurveda in Europe and to integrate it with their healthcare systems.
- ii. Indian Ambassador to European Union (EU), Gaitri Kumar & Geoffrey Charles Van Orden, the British Conservative Member of European Parliament, Ayurveda practitioners and enthusiasts, policymakers, academicians, and several officials and delegates from EU nations were participated in the event.
- iii. On November 21, 2018, Ayurveda Day was 1st celebrated at the European Parliament .

The Padma awards

One of the highest civilian awards of the country, are conferred in three categories — Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

- i. The awards are given in various disciplines/fields of activities such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil service. The Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service. The awards are announced on Republic Day every year.
- ii. The award has been conferred on the former politicians in the field of public affairs. The seven are George Fernandes, Arun Jaitley, Anerood Jugnauth GCSK, M.C. Mary Kom, Chhannulal Mishra, Sushma Swaraj and Sri Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri Pejvara Adhokhaja Matha Udupi.
- iii. Former Defence minister Manohar Parrikar, Industrialists Anand Mahindra and Venu Shrinivasan, Olympian badminton player P V Sindhu, former Nagaland chief minister S C Jamir and Jammu and Kashmir politician Muzaffar Hussain Baig have been awarded Padma Bhushan award.
- iv. The Padma Vibhushan for this year has been awarded to a total of seven prominent personalities, while 16 have been given the Padma Bhushan, 118 have been given the Padma Shri on the 71st Republic Day this year,
- v. Gloria Areria, a resident of Rio De Janerio in Brazil is a pioneer in Sanskrit and Vedanta and has dedicated herself to the teaching and promotion of Advaita Vedanta in the traditional manner in Portugese language. Lia Diskin, who is of Argentinian origin, has stayed in Brazil for over 30 years and has admiration for India, its people and culture.

Sports

MS Dhoni named captain of ESPNCricinfo's ODI and T20 teams of past decade; Virat as captain of their test team

On January 1, 2020, Former Indian Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, 38 years old named as captain of ESPNCricinfo's ODI(One Day International) and Twenty20 teams of the decade. Virat Kohli was named the leader in Tests. On the other hand, Former skipper **Mithali Raj** and fast bowler **Jhulan Goswami** were named in the same women's team picked for both the ODIs and T20s. Australia's inspirational cricketer, Meg Lanning was named the captain of the side.

Keypoints:

i. The criteria was set up by the 23 member panel, for a selection was a minimum of 50 Tests or six active years in the traditional format while it was 75 ODIs and 100 T20s for the limited-overs teams.

India's Manav Thakkar, jumped 9 spots to No.1 in U-21 table tennis category

Manav Thakar (19), an Indian table tennis player from **Uttar Pradesh** jumped nine places and become the world's **No.1 player U-21** (Under-21) Men's single category rankings released by the **IITF (International Table Tennis Federation)**. Thakar won the U-21 men's singles title at the ITTF Challenge Plus Benemax-Virgo North American Open in Markham, Canada by defeating Argentina's player Martin Bentancor, in December 2019.



Achievements:

- i. He is the fourth Indian to win U-21 title, after Harmeet Desai, G Sathiyam and Soumyajit Ghosh.
- ii. Thakar also achieved in World's No1 U-18 ranking.

Key Points:

- i. Among other Indians, **Sathiyam** has retained his 30th spot in the senior category, while **Achanta Sharath Kamal** ranked at 33rd position.
- ii. Among women, India's **Manika Batra** was static at the 61st position.

India's all-rounder cricketer Irfan Pathan announces retirement

35 years old, all rounder cricketer from Vadodara, Gujarat, **Irfan Pathan** (nicknamed **Guddu**) has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

Key Points:

- i. He played last match for India against Sri Lanka in 2012.
- ii. Irfan Pathan is currently performing the role of mentor-cum-coach for the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket team.

Achievements:

- i. Pathan picked up 3 wickets in his four overs against Pakistan in finals and was named as man-of-the-match in T-20 World Cup 2007.
- ii. Pathan is a left-arm medium-fast bowler featured in 29 Tests, 120 ODIs (One Day International) and 24 T20Is (Twenty 20 International) for India.



Indian Sports Ministry gave 'in principle' approval to hold shooting and archery in 2022 CWG

On January 4, 2020, the Sports Ministry has given '**in principle**' approval to hold the Commonwealth Games shooting and archery events in India. These events will be held under the aegis of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) Friendship Program in March 2022.

Key Points:

- i. Last year CWG has decided to exclude shooting event in 2022 CWG but the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was against the decision.
- ii. India won 66 medals including 26 golds in 2018 CWG in Gold Coast, Australia and also won 16 medals in Shooting event.

About CWG 2022:

Place- Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK)

Mascot- Mistar Urdd

Motto- Are you Game?

New Zealand batsman Leo Carter becomes seventh cricketer to hit six sixes in an over

Leo Carter, the first New Zealand batsman, became the seventh player in world cricket to hit 6 sixes across all formats in both domestic and international levels and only the fourth batsman to achieve the feat in T20(Twenty20) Cricket.

Bhubaneswar to host 1st edition of Khelo India University Games 2020

Bhubaneswar, Odisha has been selected to host the **1st** edition of the **2020 Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** which will be held from February 22nd to March 1, 2020, at Bhubaneswar's **KIIT**

University (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University). The Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju and Odisha's Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiled the logo and jersey of Khelo India University Games during a event in Bhubaneswar.



- **Mascots:** the mascots unveiled at the launch event were named as mascots 'Jay and Bijay'.
- **Participants & events:** Over 4000 athletes from 100 universities will be participating in the game events having 17 disciplines.

Sachin Tendulkar nominated in Laureus's list for most inspiring sporting event of last 20 years

Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been nominated in Laureus's list for the most inspiring sporting event in the last twenty years. Apart from Tendulkar, England's Andrew Flintoff is the only other cricketer to feature in the list.

Tennis legend Novak djokovic defeats Nadal to make Serbia winner of 1st ATP Cup 2020 held in Sydney, Australia Serbian professional tennis player, Novak Djokovic has defeated Rafael Nadal of Spain to make Serbia the champion of 1st edition of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Cup i.e. **ATP Cup 2020** held at Ken Rosewall Arena in **Sydney, Australia** from 3–12 January, 2020.

India finish 2019 as number one shooting nation in world: ISSF

In 2019 according to International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), **India** is the top Shooting Nation in the World with 21 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze. India secured first position in all the Rifle-pistol World Cups and Finals in the year.

Key Points:

- i. **China** is at the second position with 11 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze.
- ii. The **United States (US)** is at the third position with 6 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze.



Jacqueline Williams of Jamaica becomes the 1st woman third Umpire in men's T20I

Jacqueline Williams of Jamaica becomes the first woman third umpire in men's international cricket match. The 43-year-old Jamaican woman oversaw all 3 matches of the Twenty20 International (T20I) series in Grenada, West Indies between West Indies and Ireland.

Key Points:

i. 43-years-old Jacqueline Williams stood as umpire in 2015 ICC Women's World Twenty20 Qualifier tournament.

ii. In 2017, she was one of the four umpires in Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier. In 2019, she stood in her first One Day International (ODI) match between the United States (USA) and Papua New Guinea in the 2019 United States Tri-Nation Series.

iii. In May 2019, India's **Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi** became the first woman to be appointed onto the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and oversaw the third series of the Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), becoming the first woman match referee in men's ODIs.



India won the ODI series against Australia held from January 14–19, 2020

The **Indian men's cricket team** played **3 ODIs (One Day Internationals)** against **Australia** from January 14-19, 2020. The ODI was part of the **Australia tour of India, 2020** that consists of 3 ODIs matches, which were held at Wankhede Stadium, **Mumbai**, Maharashtra; Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, **Rajkot**, Gujarat; M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.

The **Indian team** defeated Australian team in the 3 match ODI series by winning 2 matches (2-1).

The match highlights are as follows:

- Kuldeep Yadav became the 3rd fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 wickets in ODI
- Rohit Sharma breaks Hashim Amla's record as fastest batsman to score 7000 ODI runs as opener
- Virat Kohli became the fastest captain to complete 5000 ODI runs, broke MS Dhoni's record; Kohli also the fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in ODI cricket
- ICC ODI rankings 2020: Virat Kohli tops in **Batting Ranking**, Bumrah also on top as bowler

Sania Mirza wins 2020 doubles title at 27th WTA Hobart International Trophy in Australia

Indian Tennis Player **Sania Mirza** and her Ukrainian partner **Nadiia Kichenok** have won the 2020 women's doubles title of the 27th **WTA (World Tennis Association) Hobart International Trophy** held in Hobart, Australia.

Cash Award: Sania and Nadiia received a cash award of \$13580 as prize money.



Key Points:

i. In final, they defeated Shauli Peng and Shuai Zhang of China 6-4, 6-4.

ii. **Achievement:** It is Sania's 42nd WTA doubles title and first since Brisbane International Trophy in 2007 with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

About 2020 Hobart International:

i. The 2020 Hobart International was a women's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts.

Overview of 3rd Khelo India youth games 2020 held in Guwahati, Assam

The 3rd edition of **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2020** was held at Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam** with the participation of over 10,000 students. **Vijay the Tiger** and **Jaya the Blackbuck** were the **mascots** of the tournament.



Maharashtra clinched Khelo India Youth Games 2020 champions trophy with a collection of **256 medals** (78 gold, 77 silver and 101 bronze).

Organized by Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports & conducted in partnership with the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Assam State government, it was held from January 9-22, 2020.

Top 3:

Rank	State	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Medal Tally
1	Maharashtra	78	77	101	256
2	Haryana	68	60	72	200
3	Delhi	39	36	47	122

Highlights:

- Sprinter Hima Das was the torchbearer of the opening ceremony of KIYG 2020
- Pugilist Harsh Bhagwan wins Daman and Diu's first medal at KIYG 2020
- Tamil Nadu girls won the under-17 basketball title
- Maharashtra wins U-17 gold in Kho Kho

Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal loses in Pittsburgh Open 2020 final held in US

Indian squash player Saurav Ghosal missed out on winning his first title in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour event 2019-20. He suffered a 7-11, 4-11, 9-11 defeat to Fares Dessouky of Egypt in the finals of the **Men's Pittsburgh Open 2020** held in Rivers Club, **Pittsburgh, United States (US)**.

Key Points:

- Earlier, he defeated Egypt's Omar Mosaad Abouzid with 11-6, 16-18, 11-7, 12-10 scores in the semi-finals.
- Saurav became the 1st Indian squash player to reach the quarterfinals of the World Championship held in 2013. In 2014, he won the silver medal (individual singles) in the 17th Asian Games at Incheon, South Korea. He was the first Indian squash player to do so.

India won the T20 series during '2020 Sri Lanka tour of India' held in Indore, Guwahati and Pune

The Indian Men's cricket team played T20I (twenty twenty International) bilateral series against Sri Lanka during the 2020 **Sri Lanka tour of India**. **India** defeated Sri Lanka in final T20I to **win** three-match **T20I series** for 2-0. The three T20I matches were held in Guwahati(Assam), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Pune(Maharashtra). The first match was in Guwahati but was abandoned due to rain. The highlights of the match are as follows:

- Indian cricketer Virat Kohi surpassed India's Rohit Sharma to become the **highest run scorer** in the T20I.
- India's **Jasprit Bumrah** became the **highest wicket-taker** in the T20 match against Sri Lanka. He has now **53** T20 wickets under his name from 45 T20I matches overall.

- Virat Kohli made another achievement by becoming the quickest to reach **11,000** international runs as a **captain**.

Bala Devi: 1st Indian woman to sign up for foreign football club, 'Rangers FC' of Scotland

Ngangom Bala Devi, 29 years old from Manipur, has become the **first Indian woman footballer** to get a professional contract from Scotland's Women Premier League club Rangers (Football Club) for 18-months and to play for jersey No.10 after a successful trial in November, 2019. The formal announcement was made by Rangers FC and Bengaluru FC at Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka.



Key Points:

- Bala Devi is the Ranger's first-ever Asian footballer.
- She is the current top-scorer for India, netting 52 times in 58 games & also the top international goal scorer in the South Asian region.
- Bala Devi was named as AIFF Women's Player of the Year twice (2015 & 2016) and has been top-scorer in the Indian Women's League for 2 seasons.

Canada's Christine Sinclair becomes all-time top scorer with 185 goals in international soccer Christine Margaret Sinclair

36 years old, Canadian soccer player, became the all-time top scorer with 185 goals in international soccer. Sinclair surpassed the record of American Abby Wambach (original name Mary Abigail Wambach) who scored 184 goals.



Key Points:

- Sinclair scored her 185th goal against St. Kitts & Nevis national football team. She achieved this feat during 5th CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Championship 2020 at H-E-B Park (stadium in Edinburg), Texas, United States (US).
- She made her first international goal in March 2000 when she was 16 years old.
- CONCACAF- Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football.

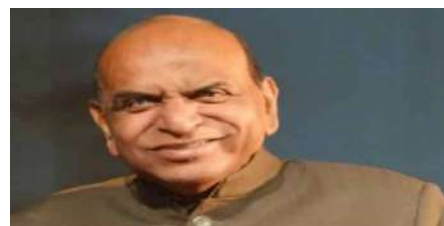
Obituaries

NCP leader Devi Prasad Tripathi passed away at 67

General Secretary of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and former Member of Parliament (MP) **Devi Prasad Tripathi** passed away after battling with cancer in New Delhi. He was the former MP of Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- i. He was born on November 29, 1952, in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ii. He was educated at Allahabad University and also was the president of Jawaharlal Nehru University student union and started his political career in 1999.
- iii. He was one of the founders of NCP along with Sharad Pawar and P.A. Sangma. He was also the **Editor-in-Chief** of the quarterly journal **Think India**.



NBA mastermind David Joel Stern of New York, US dead at 77

David Joel Stern born in **New York**, United States (US), the former commissioner of the **NBA (National Basketball Association)**, passed away due to brain haemorrhage at the age of 77 in New York.

Key Points:

- i. He took the NBA's growth into a global sports powerhouse.
- ii. He served as commissioner of the NBA for 30 (1984-2014) years.
- iii. In 1978 he joined NBA as general counsel and became executive vice president of the NBA in 1980.



Former Karnataka Governor and Padma Vibhushan awardee T N Chaturvedi passes away at 90

Former Karnataka Governor **Triloki Nath Chaturvedi** passed away in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He was 90. He served as the Governor of Karnataka from 2002-2007.

About T N Chaturvedi:

- i. Born on January 18, 1929 in Tirwaganj town of Uttar Pradesh, he was an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer and held the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 1984 to 1989.
- ii. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1991.



Former MP of India's 1st Lok Sabha, Bahadur Singh passed away at 94 in Bihar

Former Member of Parliament (MP) of the country's 1st Lok Sabha – constituted in 1952 and **last maharaja** of erstwhile **Dumraon Raj** (zamindari estate) **Kamal Bahadur Singh** passed away at the age of 94 in Buxar district of Bihar due to old age ailments.

Key Points:

- i. Kamal Bahadur Singh was the only surviving MP of the first Lok Sabha of India. After the independence movement Kamal Singh contributed mainly to the education and social development sectors in Shahabad city of Uttar Pradesh.
- ii. He was elected as MP as an independent candidate from Shahabad in 1st general election after independence. Kamal Singh also won the second Lok Sabha election held in 1957 as an independent candidate from Buxar parliamentary constituency which then came into existence.



Former Western Army Commander Lt Gen PN Hoon passes away at 90

On January 6, 2020, Former Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Prem Nath Hoon, 90 years old, passed away in Chandigarh. He was born at Abbottabad in Pakistan and commissioned into the army in 1947. He is one of the most senior military veterans in the country.



Key Points:

- i. He led the '**Operation Meghdoot**' the code-name for the Indian Armed forces to capture the Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region. He also served during 1965 in the India-Pakistan war.
- ii. He also served as director-general military operations and retired in 1987 as Army Commander, Chandimundir.
- iii. In October 2015, he had launched his book "**The Untold Truth**" in which he claimed that there was a plot to topple Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1987.

Odisha's Gajapati dynasty head former MP Gopinath Gajapati Narayan Deo passes away at 76

Odisha's Gajapati dynasty head and the former MP **Gopinath Gajapati Narayan Deo** passed away due to prolonged illness in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was 76.



About Gopinath Gajapati Narayan Deo:

- i. He was born on March 6, 1943 in Paralakhemundi town of Gajapati district in Odisha.
- ii. He was member of Indian National Congress (INC) representing the Berhampur parliamentary constituency.
- iii. He later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1998 and moved to Biju Janata DAL (BJD) in 2009.

Omani leader Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said passes away at 79 Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

the Omani leader who was ruling the country from 1970 has passed away after suffering from colon cancer. He was 79. He was succeeded by the Culture Minister Haritham bin Tariq Al Said.

About Qaboos bin Said al Said:

- i. He was born on November 18, 1940 in Salalah, Oman.
- ii. He was the fourteenth-generation descendant founder of the House of Al Said and the longest serving leader in the Middle East and Arab world.



Mohapatra passed away at 69

Manmohan Mohapatra, Odisha's legendary filmmaker and director, passed away at the age of 69 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Mohapatra is considered as the '**Father of New Wave Odia Cinema**' and consecutively won eight national awards for '**Best Feature Odia film**'.

Key Points:

- i. Mohapatra's first movie "**Seeta Raati**" released in 1981 that fetched him national award for Best feature film in Odia and also the first Odia film to be selected by the prestigious 'Indian Panorama' section of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), New Delhi.



ii.His last film “**Bhija Matira Swarga**” got him the award for the **Best Director** and bagging award for **five more categories** including Best Film at the 30th Odisha State Film Awards,2019.

WWE legend Rocky Johnson, father of Dwayne Johnson, passes away at 75

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) legend Rocky Johnson, passed away at 75 in Lutz, Florida, United States. He was the father of Hollywood actor and retired wrestler Dwayne Johnson (The Rock).

China’s 1st and oldest female tractor driver Liang jun dies at 90

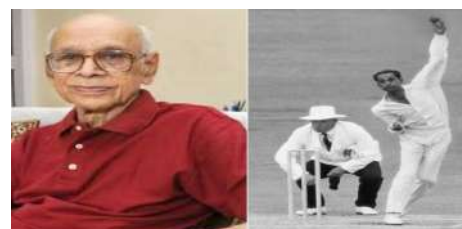
Liang Jun, a woman who **became China’s 1st female tractor driver**, and eventually, a national icon, has passed away after a brief illness. She was 90.

i.Born in 1930 in Mingshui County, Heilongjiang Province of China, Liang enrolled in a training class for tractor drivers in 1948 and became the only female in China to take up the job at the age of 18.

ii.Liang’s image was featured on China’s one-yuan Renminbi currency notes, which featured a smiling Liang holding a steering wheel with her hair flowing in the wind. In October 1949, she joined the Communist Party of China.

Former India all-rounder cricketer Bapu Nadkarni passed away at 86

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



Key Points:

i.Nadkarni played 41 tests in which he scored 1414 runs and grabbed 88 wickets with 6/43 as his best bowling figures.

Former Haryana Congress Chief Shamsher Singh Surjewala passes away at 87

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



Key Points:

i.Shamsher Singh won from Narwana, Haryana in 1967, 1977, 1982, 1991, and 2005 (Kaithal) to be elected in Haryana Legislative Assembly and in 1992 he was elected to the Rajya Sabha as Member of Parliament (MP).

ii.He was the father of Congress national media in-charge and national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Bhopal’s titular queen Saleha Sultan passed away at

Princess Saleha Sultan also known as **Dimpu**, the “titular queen of Bhopal” passed away in Hyderabad due to brain haemorrhage at the age of 80. She was born on 14 January 1940 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.



She is the eldest child of Nawab Iteqar Ali Khan Pataudi and Begum Sajida Sultan of the princely state of Bhopal and titled ‘Begum of Bhopal’

She is the sister of Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the cricket legend and the wife of Nawab Bashir Yar Jung.

Nagaland's first MP to Rajya Sabha & Padma Shri awardee Melhupra Vero passed away at 86

Melhupra Vero, Former Rajya Sabha MP(Member of Parliament) passed away in Dimapur, Nagaland at the age of 86. He was the **1st person from Nagaland** to become a member of the Rajya Sabha(Upper House). Vero was a member of the Upper House of Parliament for 2 years from 1964 to 1974. Born in 1934, he hailed from Runguzu village in Phek district, Nagaland.

Honours:

i.The Government of India awarded him the 4th highest civilian honour of **Padma Shri**, in 2006, for his contributions to society.

American basketball legend Kobe Bean Bryant and his daughter dies in a helicopter crash

American basketball legend Kobe Bean Bryant has died along with his 13-years-old daughter Gianna in a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter crash near Calabasas in Southern California. He was 41.

Key Points:

i.Bryant is the fourth-leading scorer in National Basketball Association (NBA) history and selected to the all-star 18 times and earned a Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in 2008.

ii.He was a 12-time member of the all-defensive team and retired in 2016.

iii.He was one among the several high-profile nominees for the NBA's 2020 Hall of Fame class.



Important Days with theme

World Health Organisation designated 2020 as International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

The executive board of the World Health Organisation(WHO) has designated **2020** as **International Year of Nurse and Midwife** in honour of 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. The WHO will also launch first-ever State of the World's Nursing report in 2020 prior to the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly.

World Braille Day 2020 is observed on January 4

World Braille Day is being observed on **January 4** every year across the world to mark the remembrance of **Louis Braille** who invented Braille script which helps the visually disable persons to read as well as to write. The day is celebrated by the United Nations (UN) and other organizations.

Keypoints:

i.Aim: The aim is to spread awareness among society about the plight and cause of people with visual abilities.

ii.Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809 in the town of Coupvray in Northern France. **iii.**He lost his eyes just at the age of 3. This led to the invention of language with 6 dots- Braille script.



16th NRI Day (Pravasi Bharatiya Divas) is observed on January 9

2020Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on January 9. This year its 16th edition was celebrated. It is also called NRI (Non-Resident Indian) day. The date was chosen because on January 9, 1915, **Mahatma Gandhi**, the greatest Pravasi **came to India** from South Africa and led India's freedom struggle.



Key Points:

i.AIM: The purpose of the day is to recognize the overseas Indian who have contributed to the development of India and to promote unity of people overseas with government of India.

ii. On this occasion Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) are conferred by the President of India to NRIs or PIOs(Person of India Origin) or an organization established by PIOs or NRIs for outstanding contributions in supporting, promoting and building India's links overseas.

World Hindi day celebrated on January 10, 2020

On **January 10, 2020**, **World Hindi Day (WHD)** is celebrated across the world with the aim to promote the use of Hindi language abroad.

i. The 1st World Hindi Conference was organized on 10 January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra by then Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi. It was attended by 122 delegates from 30 countries. The day was 1st celebrated in 2006. Since then every year 10th January is being observed as the WHD.

ii. 'National Hindi Day' / Hindi Divas is being celebrated on September 14 every year to promote Hindi across India



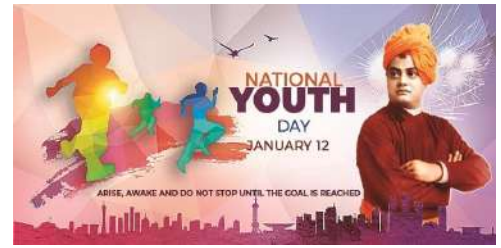
National Youth Day is observed on January 12, 2020; PM marks 157th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda at Belur Math

The National Youth Day is observed on January 12 every year to mark the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**.

i. On January 13, 2020 PM Modi visited **Belur Math**, the headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission in Howrah district of West Bengal to mark the **157th** birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

ii. The Theme of National Youth Day 2020 is “**Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building**”.

iii. National Youth is also famously known as **Yuva Diwas**



72nd Army Day 2020 observed on January 15

On January 15, 2020 India celebrated its **72nd Army Day** in New Delhi. Every year Army Day is observed on January 15 in India to honour soldiers who sacrifice their lives for the country. The date marks the day on which First Indian General **Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa** took charge as the first commander-in-chief of the Indian Army in 1949 from General Francis Butcher, the last British Chief.

Captain **Tania Shergill** from Punjab, became the **first woman parade adjutant** in the history of the Indian Army who led all the men-contingents during the 2020 Army Day parade in New Delhi, India. She will also be the first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day parade, 2020.



2nd edition of International Day of Education observed on 24 January 2020

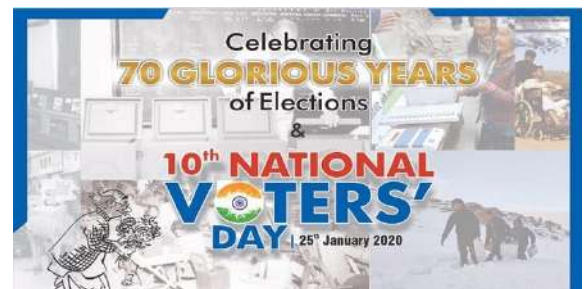
The 2nd edition of **International Day of Education** observed with the aim to celebrate the role of education for peace and development. The **theme** for the year 2020 is ‘**Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace**’. The day was organized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in partnership with the CRI (Centre for Research and Interdisciplinarity), Paris, France.

10th National Voters’ Day is observed on January 25, 2020

On 10th National Voters’ Day (NVD) was celebrated across the country over 10 lakh locations (including Polling Stations, District and State headquarters).

President Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest of the National Voters Day organized by Election Commission of India (ECI) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. NVD 2020 theme was “**Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy**” to focus on voter education & renewal of citizens’ faith in the electoral process.

The National Voters’ Day was being celebrated since 2011 to mark the Foundation Day of the ECI which was established on 25th January 1950 and completes 70 years of its journey.



Highlights of India’s 71st Republic Day

On January 26, 2020 India celebrated its 71st Republic Day. The day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect i.e. on 26 January 1950. The highlights of the republic day functions are as follows:



- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attended as chief guest.
- A total of **16** states and Union Territories(UTs) and 6 central ministers participated in the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath in New Delhi. Jammu & Kashmir participated in the parade for the 1st time as a union territory.
- 4th generation army officer Captain **Tania Shergill** (26 years) who became the **1st** woman officer as Parade Adjutant on Army Day Parade, led the corps of signals under the motto '**Teevra Chaukas**' (swift and alert).
- **Dhanush gun system** Army Air Defence marching contingent took part for 1st time.
- Indian Army's (IA) Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir) based 15 corps commander Lt Gen **Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon** was awarded with **Uttam Yudh Seva Medal**.

World Leprosy Day observed on Jan 30, 2020,

World Leprosy Day is observed annually on the last Sunday of January every year. This year, the day was observed on January 26, 2020. In India, it is celebrated on January 30 every year to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1948. This year 2020 marked the 72nd death anniversary of **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**.

Theme: "Leprosy isn't what you think"



72nd National Martyrs' Day/Shahed Divas observed on Jan 30, 2020

The **National Martyr's Day** is observed annually on **January 30**. The year 2020 marks the **72nd** anniversary of the Martyr's Day or **Shahed Divas** to pay homage to the freedom fighters who lost their lives for India's Independence from British rule. This day also marks the 72nd death anniversary of India's Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on Jan 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.

