Centre passed e-Cigarette Bill

Centre passed CAB 2019

RBI releases 5th biannual Monetary policy

Messi received Ballon d'Or award

1st Week Current Affairs December 2019
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BANKING & FINANCE

The 15th Finance Commission submitted the report for 2020-21 FY

The 15th Finance Commission submitted the report of the Commission for the financial year 2020-21 for further action. It was submitted by Chairman Shri N.K. Singh, members S/Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand, Anoop Singh and Secretary Shri Arvind Mehta of the commission. The final report for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 will be submitted by 30 October 2020.

15th Finance Commission:
The Commission was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution on 27 November 2017. The commission was formed to make recommendations for a period of five years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025.

Rates remained unchanged in RBIs 5th Monetary Policy

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the apex body, released the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20. The policy was prepared by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)-led by Governor Shaktikanta Das. Both the RBI and government are working in coordination to achieve growth.

Monetary Policy for 2019-20:
The repo rate remains the same as 5.15%. It was not changed due to inflation pressure.
The regulator did not reduce the MPC rate but wait for maximum impact.
RBI stated the initial discussions to launch its own digital currency.
RBI is discussion to find out the directions in the case of HDFC Bank's technical glitch
RBI lowered its real GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 6.1% in the October policy to 5%.
The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for 4-6 February 2020.

RBI released Guidelines for on tap Licensing of SFBs

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in the Private Sector after making few changes. The
previous guidelines were released on 27 November 2014.

**New Changes:**

Major changes from the earlier Guidelines on Small Finance Banks are:

The new guidelines stated that the minimum paid-up voting equity capital or net worth requirement should be **Rs.200 crore**

As per the new guidelines, licensing window will be **open on-tap**

For **Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**, which want to transit into Small Finance Banks (SFBs), the initial requirement shall be Rs.100 crore. It should be increased to Rs.200 crore within five years from the date of commencement of business.

Upon the commencement of operations, the SFBs will be given scheduled bank status immediately and will have general permission to open banking outlets.

**Payments Banks** can be transit into SFB after five years of operations if they are otherwise eligible as per these guidelines.

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**RBI allows 24X7 NEFT transactions from 16 December**

RBI has said that the online money transfer allowed online money transfer through **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** will be available 24x7 from 26 December 2019. The move by RBI aims to promote digital transactions in the Country.

**NEFT timings:**

The new **NEFT transfer system** will be available on all days of the year, including holidays.

RBI has set the NEFT transactions in hourly batches.

For weekdays, the timing set for the the batches are from 8.00 am to 7.00 pm.

On the first and third Saturdays, the settlement will be allowed from 8 am to 1 pm.

The first settlement will take place after 00:30 hours on 16 December 2019 (night of December 15, 2019).

The RBI has asked the participating member banks to keep adequate liquidity in their current account with the regulator at all times in order to facilitate the successful posting of NEFT batch settlements.

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**OPEC countries to cut oil production**
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) group of oil-producing countries and their allies including Russia is to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels per day. The decision was made in a meeting in Vienna, Austria.

Cut in Oil Production:
The countries agreed to reduce production to stem pressure on prices from abundant reserves and weak global economic growth. It will be effective from 1 January 2020. This will reduce the production 1.7 million barrels per day below October 2018 levels.

The group, mainly Saudi Arabia, is to continue their additional voluntary contributions. It will lead to an overall production cut to 2.1 million barrels per day. OPEC and its partners would conduct a special meeting on 6 March 2020 to review oil production.

Oil prices surged following the announcement, with US benchmark WTI and its European counterpart Brent crude by about 2% higher.

Kerala Bank was launched by CM Vijayan
The Kerala Bank, the biggest in the State, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 6 December 2019. Under this, 13 district co-operative banks (DCBs) of Kerala were amalgamated with Kerala State Co-operative Bank to form the Kerala Bank.

Kerala Bank:
The move aimed to transform the banking sector of the state. It was initiated by the Kerala State government to form a state cooperative bank. It will provide unlimited opportunities for the state. It will facilitate transactions in other countries with a considerable population of Keralites.

All the DCBs barring the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank controlled by the United Democratic Front (UDF) have approved the government's proposal for amalgamation in their respective general body meetings. The RBI has already approved the proposal regarding the amalgamation of the DCBs.
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

IFC to invest USE 200 million to support MSME

International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank Group, has anchored an investment round of $200 million in Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services. Among the investment, IFC has invested $75 million from its own account and is mobilizing another $125 million as parallel loans.

Aim:
The investment aims to create a dedicated pool of financing for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in low-income states.

IFC's investment:
Among the total of $200 million, a sum of $100 million will be earmarked for women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This amount will be supported by blended finance from the IFC-Goldman Sachs' Women Entrepreneurs Opportunity Facility.

In the financial year 2018-19, IFC lends more than $19 billion in long-term financing for developing countries to boost the private sector to end extreme poverty.

International Finance Corporation (IFC):
Formed on: 20 July 1956
Headquarters: Washington, U.S.
Membership: 184 countries
Executive Vice President & CEO: Philippe Le Hourou
Parent organization: World Bank Group
INTERNATIONAL

Putin and Xi launched first ever Russia-China gas pipeline

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Siberia pipeline project. The pipeline will transport natural gas from Siberia to northeast China. The move aims to boost the economic and political ties between Russia and China.

Siberia pipeline:
The pipeline project shows Russia's attempts in helping China from the financial sanctions imposed by the US over China's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea.
It is a 3,000-km-long Power of Siberia pipeline.
It will transport gas from the Chayandinskoye and Kovytka fields in eastern Siberia.
The project will generate $400 billion for Russian state coffers.
The project began in October 2012 and it was commissioned on 2 December 2019.

Russia's other plans:
Russia is planning to launch two other major energy projects. One project, the Nord Stream 2 undersea Baltic gas pipeline to Germany and the other, TurkStream pipeline to Turkey and southern Europe.

Roopun selected as the President of Mauritius

Mauritius Lawmakers selected former arts and culture minister Pritivirajsing Roopun as the President of the country. He will take over the position which was lying vacant since March 2018.

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim:
Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, the former President of Mauritius, resigned in March 2018 after the scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.

Pritivirajsing Roopun:
Roopun was first elected to the National Assembly in 2000. He has served as the Minister of regional administration, social integration, and arts and culture.

2019 Mauritius general election:
In November 2019, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth won the general election. The country attained freedom from Britain in 1968. After Independence, it has become
one of the most stable democracies in Africa. Mauritius is striving to reach high-income status by 2025.

**Note:**
In Mauritius, the President is head of state but has no executive role. He is considered the guardian of the constitution. the Prime Minister is head of the government. He holds most political power.

**Mauritius:**
President: Pritvirajsing Roopun
Prime Minister: Pravind Jugnauth
Capital: Port Louis
Currency: Mauritian rupee (MUR)

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**Narendra Modi to participate in 2020 India EU Summit**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to visit Brussels in 2020 for the India-EU Summit 2020. He was invited to participate in the 2020 EU-Summit by the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

**India-EU partnership:**
India-EU partnership is based on shared values such as multilateralism, democracy, respect for rule of law, rules-based trade and international order. The summit is aimed at expanding strategic partnership with Europe.
It aims to identify issues, including maritime security, renewable energy, climate change, connectivity, addressing radicalization and terrorism, as the European Commission president's priority areas.

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**Japan to invest Rs.13,000 crore to North Eastern state project of India**

Japan has decided to invest an amount of **Rs.13,000 crore** in several ongoing and new projects in the North-Eastern states of India. The announcement was made by the DoNER Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh after the discussion with the Japanese delegation which was led by Ambassador Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu

**India-Japan collaborated Project:**
Japan is to collaborate on some of the Indian Projects including Northeast Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project spread over Assam and Meghalaya, Sustainable Forest Management Project in Tripura, Guwahati.
Water Supply Project and Guwahati Sewage Project in Assam, Bio-diversity Conservation and Forest Management Project in Sikkim, Bamboo-related collaboration, Technical Cooperation Project for Sustainable Agriculture & Irrigation in Mizoram, Forest Management Project in Nagaland, etc. Japan has contributed its effort to the development and transformation of the North-Eastern region in the past 3-4 years.

Climate emergency has been named as the 2019 Word of the Year

Oxford Dictionaries has named climate emergency as the 2019 Word of the Year. The word was chosen from an all-environmental shortlist that also included climate action, climate denial, eco-anxiety, extinction and flight shame.

Word of the Year:

The Word of the Year citation highlights a word or expression that is shown through usage evidence to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year.

The word will have lasting potential as a term of cultural significance. The words that were chosen recently include toxic, youthquake, post-truth and vape.

India provided USD 500 million Line of Credit to Bangladesh

India provided a $500 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh on 5 December. The funding is for defence-related procurement in Bangladesh.

Soft loan facility agreement:

RBI said that under the soft loan facility, financing of export of eligible goods and services from India would be allowed subject to the Foreign Trade Policy.

Under the agreement, out of the total credit by Exim Bank, the goods and services of the value of at least 75% of the contract price shall be supplied by the seller from India. The rest 25% of goods and services can be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India, including Bangladesh.

But the eligible goods and services supplied by the seller from India can be reduced from 75% to 65% based on the nature of the procurement and further reduction may be considered on a case-to-case basis.

EXIM Bank's agreement with Bangladesh:

On 11 April 2019, the Exim Bank signed an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed
Forces Division. The agreement was to provide India-supported line of credit (LoC) $500 million to Bangladesh. The agreement under the LoC came to effect from 7 November 2019.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Government launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 on 2 December

Government has launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0 on 2 December 2019. The IMI 2.0 will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.

**Aim:**

The drive aims to prevent eight diseases under the mission. The scheme ensures the children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women are immunized against eight vaccine-preventable diseases.

**IMI 2.0:**

The IMI 2.0 targets full immunization coverage in **272 districts spread over 27 States.**

The IMI covers vaccines for whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B.

In selected areas, vaccines for **Japanese encephalitis (JE) and Hemophilus influenza** are also provided.

**MSME sector has contributed over 29 percent of GDP**

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises reported that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector has contributed over **29% of Gross domestic product (GDP)** and over **49% of Indian exports.** The report was submitted by the Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari.

**Government's measure:**

The Indian government has taken many initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs.

Government has introduced various schemes like Micro and Small EnterprisesCluster Development Programme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS), Procurement and Marketing Support and support for MSMEs to participate in international exhibitions and trade fairs.

It has also conducted many conferences, summits, workshops, etc, to enhance the sector.
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME):
Headquarters: New Delhi
The Ministry formulates and frames the rules, regulations, and laws for the micro, small and medium enterprises in India. The Minister responsible for the Ministry of MSME is Nitin Gadkari and the Minister of State (MoS) is Pratap Chandra Sarangi.

Kerala mandates helmets for pillion riders

Kerala State government implemented the High Court directives of making helmets mandatory for pillion riders. Transport Commissioner of the State has directed strict checking of vehicles.

Implementation:
In the initial phase, the police will warn the pillion riders to wear a helmet before levying the fine.
Police of the State will check the vehicles to ensure that the two-wheeler riders are adhering to the new directives.
The violators should pay a penalty Rs.500.
The State Police are also planning to conduct an awareness programme before the strict implementation of the new rule.

Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the Multi Media Exhibition at World War II museum

Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the Multi-Media Exhibition at the World War II museum at the Hornbill festival, Kisama, Nagaland. The museum was organized by the Bureau of Outreach & Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The exhibition commemorates the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This is the first time the Hornbill festival is hosting such an event.

Multi-Media Exhibition:
The aim of the exhibition event is to present Gandhian values and principles to the people of the nation. It aims to renew the commitment to the goals of a just, honest and fair society in the country.
ECI to implement Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System (PPRTMS). ECI has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties. The new guidelines will be effective from 1 January 2020. The guidelines are available on the ECI's website https://eci.gov.in. PPRTMS will be implemented through an online portal.

Features of PPRTMS:

The portal will track the status of application by applicants. The applicant who applies for the party registration from 1 January 2020 onwards will be able to track the progress of the application.

The candidate will get status update through SMS and email.

The applicant must provide the contact mobile number and email address of either the party or the applicant in his application if he/she wishes to track the progress of the application.

Law Ministry launched a drive on fundamental duties

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched a programme to create awareness of their fundamental duties among the citizens. The year-long drive is a part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Constitution Day that was celebrated on 26 November.

Drive on fundamental duties:

The department will conduct activities such as online quizzes, essay competitions, and preamble pledge signing contest. It will be organized to educate them about their constitutional responsibilities.

The Ministry has outlined which duties should be handled by each ministry and asked them to prepare a calendar of activities.

Fundamental Duties:

The Fundamental Duties were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd amendment. Article 51-A describes 11 Fundamental Duties. In 2002, one more duty was added by the 86th amendment. It was borrowed from USSR.

The Fundamental Duties are:

Abide by the Indian Constitution and respect the national flag and National Anthem.
Follow ideals of the freedom struggle
Protect sovereignty & integrity of India
Defend the country and render national services when called upon
Sprit of common brotherhood
Preserve composite culture
Preserve natural environment
Develop scientific temper
Safeguard the public property
Strive for excellence
Duty of all parents or guardians to send their children in the age group of 6-14 years to school

Govt. launched Independent Directors Databank portal

The government has introduced the Independent Director's Databank. It was launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It has commanded that all the existing independent directors should register themselves in the databank within three months from 1 December 2019.

Independent Director's Databank Portal:
The databank portal was developed and maintained by the Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA).
The portal aimed to provide a platform for the registration of existing independent directors and the individuals aspiring to become independent directors.

The databank portal can be accessed at www.mca.gov.in or www.independentdirectorsdatabank.in.
The present independent directors and the aspirants should pass a basic online proficiency self-assessment test which will available from March 2020.
The portal also has an Integrated Learning Management System. The system will act as e-learning capsules to enable individual users to easily acquire knowledge from diverse resources. It will help them to develop distinct skills and assess their understanding of company operations, regulations, and compliances.

Background:
In October 2019, the government announced that it is to introduce an online proficiency self-assessment test for independent directors. IICA announced that it will conduct the test from 1 December 2019. The test aimed to ensure that
independent directors are qualified for the task.

According to the announcement, the individuals should pass the test within one year from the date of inclusion of their names in the independent directors' databank.

Upon failing, IICA will remove the name of the individual from the data bank.

Independent directors who have a minimum of ten years of experience in a company are exempted from the test.

Ministry of Power introduces a new method to revive the power sector

The Ministry of Power, Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) has introduced a methodology to help reduce stress in the power sector.

**Aim:**

The new method is expected to revive stressed power stations. It will enable the deepening of the power market being traded through power exchange.

**New Methodology:**

As per the new method, the Ministry of Power, CIL, SCCL will mark power plants that do not have power purchase agreements (PPAs) and supply to such plants. They will also conduct auctions every quarter.

Under this method, the plants that are earmarked will start getting coal supplies or linkages under auctions from CIL and SCCL in few months.

Earlier, PPA was a prerequisite to get coal linkage. But, the Central government has relaxed the norms under SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) policy from March 2019.

The methodology will now allocate coal for sale of power through the short-term and day-ahead market (DAM) in power exchange. Previously, the coal was allocated to medium-term and long-term PPA holders.

As per the method, by **16 January 2020**, CIL and SCCL will earmark areas and mines within their subsidiaries that will be allocated for use as per these guidelines. The selected plants will be published on their websites indicating the quality of coal, the quantum of coal available, the period for which such coal shall be made available and the schedule for the start of supply of coal.

Auctions for coal linkage will be carried out every quarter by CIL and SCCL. It aims to cater to the dynamic requirements and demand variations in short-term and
day-ahead markets.
CIL and SCCL will publish an annual calendar that shows the months in which the
auctions will be held.
The quantity of coal linkage will not be more than 2,600 kilocalories/kilowatt-
hour. It will be decided according to the heat rate for the untied capacity of the
plant, for which the PPA is not signed.

**PK Sinha committee:**
A high-level committee headed by the then Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha
recommended to make coal available for short-term to stressed power plants. The
panel submitted its report in November 2018.

**Note:** Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) is an agreement between the one who
generates electricity (the seller) and the one who purchase electricity (the buyer).

**Himachal Pradesh approved to sell Yamuna water**

The Himachal Pradesh State Cabinet approved to sign the memorandum of
understanding (MoU) to sell the water of River Yamuna from Maharashtra's share
at Tajewala corridor. The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram
Thakur. With this decision, the State would earn Rs.21 crore per annum.

**Yamuna river:**
The Yamuna is the longest tributary in India. It originates from the Yamunotri
Glacier. It is the second-largest tributary river of the Ganges. The rivers cross
several states namely Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar
Pradesh.

**Himachal Pradesh:**
State formed on: 25 January 1971
Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
Chief Justice: Lingappa Narayana Swamy
Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
Official language: Hindi
The state borders with:
UN Jammu and Kashmir and Ut Ladakh on the north
Punjab on the west
Tibet on the east
Uttarakhand on the southeast
Haryana on the southwest
Uttar Pradesh on the south (southern most tip)

**Government to establish first maritime museum at Lothal**

The government is to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum, at Lothal, a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat. The move aims to boost the underwater or marine archaeology. Lothal site is one of the oldest ports in India dating to the Bronze Age.

**National Maritime Heritage Museum:**

The Maritime Museum is being set up with technical help from the Portuguese Maritime Heritage Museum.

The government has appointed the first Director-General for the museum. The DG will be attached to the Maritime Board of the Gujarat government.

The Museum will be an independent research centre of underwater archaeology for the reconstruction of maritime history, the archaeology of boat building and materials traded.

The museum will display salvaged material from shipwreck sites in the Indian Ocean waters.

*Note:* Underwater archaeology is the study of archaeology that involves recovering submerged remains such as shipwrecks, ports, and studying proxy records of maritime activity from archaeological excavations, archival and historical records.

**AICTE approves IRS to rank higher educational institutions**

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Executive Committee approved the India Rankings Society (IRS) to develop and evolve methodologies and systems to rank higher educational institutions. The decision was made at the 127th meeting of the AICTE Executive Committee. The announcement was made by the HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishaank'.

**Aim:**

The aim of the IRS is to rank the higher educational institutions and based on such methodologies, rank and rate them under various categories, domains, and sub-domain.

**NIRF:**
Currently, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is used to rank institutes on five different parameters namely:
- teaching, learning, and resources
- research and professional practice
- graduation outcomes
- Outreach and Inclusivity
- perception

Indian Higher Educational Institutes are ranked by the Indian Ranking 2019, into nine categories namely University, Management, Engineering, College, Law, Architecture, Pharmacy, Medical, and Overall. These rankings are aimed to create an environment of excellence.

Cabinet approved JDI signed between India and Germany to strengthen Indian railways

The Union Cabinet assessed and approved the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany. The JDI was aimed at strengthening the cooperation on strategic projects in the field of Railways. The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed in the month of November 2019.

**JDI Benefits:**
Under the agreement, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany will provide a platform to Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the field of Railways.

The agreement will conduct the exchange of information expert meetings, seminars, technical visits and implementation of jointly agreed cooperation projects.

**Government's measure to enhance Railways:**
The Ministry of Railways has signed various Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC), Administrative Arrangements and Joint Declarations of Intent (JDI) for the technical cooperation in the rail sector with various foreign Governments and National Railways with respect to the identified areas of cooperation. It aims to speed up railways, increasing the speed of the existing routes, development of world-class stations, heavy haul operations and modernization of rail infrastructure, etc.
Cabinet approved ECIs proposal to sign MoU with the Election Commission of Maldives

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Election Commission to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Election Commission of Maldives on cooperation in the area of electoral management and administration.

**Proposed MoU:**
- The proposal includes the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of organizational and technical development of the electoral process
- It also aims to support exchanging information, institutional strengthening and capacity building, training of personnel, holding regular consultations, etc.
- It will promote bilateral cooperation and build technical assistance & capacity support for the Election Commission of Maldives
- It also aims to enhance cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

UP approved Noida-Greater Noida Metro construction project

Uttar Pradesh State government approved the construction of an extension line of the Noida-Greater Noida Metro. The State also allocated a sum of Rs.2,682 crore for the project. The decision was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The announcement was made by Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC).

**Noida-Greater Noida Metrolink:**
- The extension metro link will be of length 14.95 km.
- The project will be funded by the Central government, the Uttar Pradesh government and the authorities of Noida and Greater Noida.
- The line will comprise of nine stations between Noida Sector 71 and Greater Noida Knowledge Park-V.
- The link will connect the twin cities in Gautam Buddh Nagar district adjoining Delhi.
- It will also connect Gaur City and Noida Extension to the Aqua Line and the adjoining Blue Line metro network. The Blue Line metro network connects Noida with Delhi.
The Metrolink project is expected to be completed in the next three years.

**Aqua Line of the metro:**
The Aqua Line of the metro was inaugurated in January 2019. It connects Noida and Greater Noida. The metro line covers a distance of almost 30 km.

**Cipla Foundation introduced MSL to provide quality education**

*Cipla Foundation* has introduced a *mobile science lab* (MSL) under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) with its Agastya International Foundation. It implemented the *Agastya International Foundation*.

**Aim:**
It aims to provide quality education to the students in Sikkim. The initiative also aimed to create awareness of science among children and teachers.

**Mobile Science Lab:**
The mobile science lab is expected to reach out to 1,400 students across 10 schools in the periphery of the Golden Cross Unit.
- The Lab will maximize the potential of every child.
- Learning is the most important investment in one's future.
- The students can learn through the mobile science lab and use the opportunity to prepare for state-level science workshops.

**Cipla Foundation:**
- **Founded:** 1935
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
- **Chairman:** Y.K. Hamied

Cipla Limited is a multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company. It develops medicines to treat diabetes, weight control, depression, cardiovascular disease (CVD), respiratory and arthritis.

**Centre has banned more than 14,500 NGOs in the last 5 years**

*Ministry of Home Affairs* reported that more than 14,500 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been banned in the last five years. Those NGOs were registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The report was submitted by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

**FCRA registration:**
The Ministry has also cancelled FCRA registration of 1,808 NGOs so far. The certificates have been cancelled for non-submission of mandatory annual returns for 2017-18.

The FCRA and rules provide that all FCRA NGOs and associations should file annual returns on time. The non-compliant NGOs are issued notices and reminders through the online mechanism.

The FCRA registered NGOs in India have been given a total of **Rs.2,244.77 crore** in 2018-19, as on 28 November 2019, and Rs.16,902.41 crore in 2017-18.

**Punjab partnered with WEF to promote electric mobility**

**Punjab** State government partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to design a **Public-Private pilot** on shared, clean and electric mobility. The move aims to combat the growing problem of environmental pollution in the state.

**WEF Partnership:**

The state is preparing its own EV policy to support the adoption of e-vehicles. WEF chose Punjab, as it is well-positioned for shared EV transition. WEF has already housed an existing auto component manufacturing base, besides having skilled labour and being a power surplus.

The public-Private pilot will examine how Public and Private sectors can interplay to offer the most robust and successful EV ecosystem. It is a part of the collaboration to be formulated at the WEF annual meeting in Davos in January 2020.

**President Kovind is visiting Rajasthan and Odisha**

President **Ram Nath Kovind** is visiting **Rajasthan and Odisha** from 6-8 December 2019.

**Agenda:**

On 6 December 2019, the President will attend the **National Convention on Empowerment of Women for Social Transformation** at the headquarters of Brahma Kumaris in Mount Abu.

On 7 December 2019, he will participate in the 2nd convocation of **AIIMS, Jodhpur**. He will inaugurate the new building of Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur.

On 8 December 2019, the President will lay the foundation stone of the memorial
of Paika Vidroh at Barunei Hill in Khurda, Odisha. He will address the closing ceremony of the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Utkal University in Bhubaneswar.

In 2018 India recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths

A report by Lancet Global Health said India recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths in 2018.

**Report Highlight:**

The report titles Estimates of incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in 2018: a worldwide analysis said that the global cervical cancer cases reported in India and China together contributed 35% of the global cases in 2018.

**India** contributed with 97,000 cases and 60,000 deaths and **China** recorded over 106,000 cases and 48,000 deaths.

The report stated that China had the highest number of cases, and India had the highest number of estimated cervical cancer deaths.

The researchers used data from 185 countries in the Global Cancer Observatory 2018 database.

The report said that the global scaling up of HPV vaccination and HPV-based screening has the potential to make cervical cancer a rare disease in the future.

**Cervical cancer:**

Cervical cancer occurs in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. Various strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV) play a role in causing most cervical cancer. HPV is a sexually transmitted infection. Squamous cell carcinoma and Adenocarcinoma are the two main types of cervical cancer. This type of cancer is a preventable disease if it diagnosed earlier at a long pre-malignant phase through regular screening.

**HDFC ERGO launched my health Woman Suraksha policy**

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched my:health Woman Suraksha policy to address all health-related concerns.

**my:health Woman Suraksha policy:**

The policy has been designed to cover women against numerous illnesses and contingencies they may face during their lifetime.
The policies aim to provide financial aid in case of **medical contingencies**.
The National Health Portal of India said that the women in India face many health issues like breast cancer, malnutrition, lack of maternal health. This policy will cover various types of cancers & related surgeries, pregnancy and neonatal complications and assaults and burns.

The policy will also cover women from critical illnesses like Cardiac ailments, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and others along with post-diagnosis support like Molecular Gene profiling test, Second Medical opinion and counselling to support women through the illness.

The policy provides counseling on stress management, pregnancy care, work-life balance, etc, to the new age women.

The policy is offered to women between 18-65 years of age and offers a sum insured ranging from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1 crore.

**Government to introduce AI as a subject in the next academic year**

Centre is has introduced **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** as a subject in **class IX** from the **session 2019-20** in the schools affiliated with the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. Centre has also launched a twelve hours Inspire module in which schools can take up with the students of class VIII. The announcement was made by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

**Aim:**
The move aims to enhance the multidisciplinary approach in teaching-learning and to sensitize the new generation.

**AI for students:**
The study material for teaching **AI in classes VIII and IX** has already been provided to schools through the CBSE's website http://cbseacademic.nic.in/ai.html.

To implement the idea, CBSE has collaborated with several organizations such as IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Private Schools, etc.

Centre conducted **41 training programmes** in schools affiliated with CBSE in various parts of the country. Around 1690 participants including principals and teachers were trained.

Artificial Intelligence has been introduced in classes VIII, IX and X in schools affiliated with CBSE.
The decision to introduce Artificial Intelligence in the States and Union Territories will be taken by the respective Boards.

Centre sanctions Rs.100 crores to set up Women Help Desks in Police Stations

The central government has sanctioned a sum Rs.100 crores from Nirbhaya Fund to set up and strengthen Women Help Desks in Police Stations. The scheme will be implemented by the States and Union Territories.

Women Help Desks:

Women Help Desks will focus on making the Police Stations more women-friendly and approachable.

The government has considered that it would be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station.

Lady police officers will be deployed at these help desks.

The officials of Women Help Desk will be trained to be sensitive towards women.

These help desks will have a panel of experts like psychologists, lawyers, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to facilitate counseling, legal aid, shelter, rehabilitation, and training, etc.

Sarai 14MLD Sewage Treatment Plant was inaugurated

The 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Sarai in Haridwar, Uttarakhand started its functioning on 5 December 2019. The plant was completed before its scheduled timeline.

It was inaugurated by their Majesties, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr. Maja Fjaestad, Secretary of State, Sweden, Mr. KlasMolin, Ambassador of Sweden to India, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, NMCG, and Ms. Monika Kapil Mohta, Ambassador of India to Sweden.

Sarai 14MLD Sewage Treatment Plant:

The Sarai 14 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant is the first STP that was completed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) based Public-Private Partnership Model. The cost of the project was Rs.41.40 crores.
The Plant is based on an advanced aerobic biological process which is capable of removing the nutrients during treatment. It is a 100% eco-friendly project. The plant will meet the highest standards of output parameters. The plant is expected to be maintained and operated for a period of 15 years by the same developer for efficient performance and for meeting output parameters. The Municipal sewage is being tackled through 150 Sewerage projects at a cost of more than Rs.23,000 crores.

Mongla and Chattogram port declared as Ports of Call

Centre has declared Port of Mongla and Chattogram as Ports of Call under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between India and Bangladesh. Mongla and Chattogram are declared as Ports of Call under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh. An MoU, Agreement and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was signed between India and Bangladesh on the use of Chattogram Port & Mongla Ports for the movement of goods to and from India.

Ports of Call:
The Ports of Call in India are Kolkata, Haldia, Pandu, Karimganj, Silghat, Dhubri. Similarly,
In Bangladesh, the Ports of Call are Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla, Sirajganj, Ashuganj, and Pangaon.

Port of Call: Port of call is an intermediate stop for a ship on its scheduled journey for cargo operation.

Mysore University to set up separate Department of Disabilities and Rehabilitation Studies

The University of Mysore (UoM) is to set up a separate Department of Disabilities and Rehabilitation Studies (DDRS) on its campus at Manasagangotri. It was approved by the University of Mysore Academic Council. The announcement was made by the Vice-Chancellor G Hemantha Kumar. With this, UoM became the first varsity in the state to introduce the course, as per the directives of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.
(MHRD) and the University Grants Commission (UGC).

**Aim:**
The University aims to help the welfare of disabled persons. The students can study the course along with the PG departments in Psychology, Food Science and Nutrition, Physical Education and Master of Social Work (MSW). It encourages the studies in disabilities.

**DDRS in University of Mysore:**
DDRS will come into effect from the next academic year **2019-20**.
It will be set up in the Department of Studies in Physical Education and Sports Sciences.
The University will offer **Rs.500 per month** as stipend to students who join the course.

**CCEA approved Rs.150 crore for 39 Government Medical Colleges and Institutions**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposal for the up-gradation of the **39 Government Medical Colleges and Institutions (GMCIs)** in the third phase of PMSSY on 7th November 2013. It also approved a cost of Rs.150 crore each, Rs.120 crore for the Central Contribution and Rs.30 crore for the State Share.
Total outlay in respect of each of the 39 GMCs is Rs.150 crore: (Center share-Rs.120 cr) + (State share-Rs.30 cr)

**PMSSY:**
The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was approved in **March 2006**. The scheme aims to correct the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.

**Harsimrat inaugurated Central Indias first Mega Food Park**
The Union Minister for food processing **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated **Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas**, Madhya Pradesh. This is the **first food park** in Central India.

**Aim:**
The Food park aims to establish a direct linkage from farm to processing and then to consumer markets. It will be connected through a network of collection centres and primary processing centres.

**Avantee mega Food Park:**
The cost of the Food park is about **150 crore rupees**.
The park is spread over 51 acres.
The food park is in line with the Union Ministry of Food Processing initiative of creating Mega Food Parks in India.
It is expected that the Mega Food Park will create more job opportunities.
Various processes like processing of gram, wheat, soybean, other grains, and vegetables will be carried out in the park.
In the next phases of the project, warehouses will be opened in Agar, Dhar, Indore, and Ujjain.

**Cabinet approved the creation of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund**

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for the creation of the Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). Under the approval, Bharat Bond will create an additional source of funding for Central Public Financial Institutions (CPFIs), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), and other government organizations. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.

**Aim:**
The move aimed to deepen the corporate bond market and reduce the cost of borrowing in India.

**Features of Bharat Bond ETF:**
The Bharat Bond ETF is issued by CPSE or CPSU or CPFI or any other Government organization Bonds will be tradable on the exchange, Transparent NAV (during the day), Transparent Portfolio. The small unit size of the ETF is Rs.1,000. It will be of low cost, of **0.0005%**.

**Benefits:**
The introduction of Bond ETF will expand the investor base through retail and High Networth Individuals (HNI) participation which can increase demand for their bonds.
Bond ETF trading will improve better price discovery of the underlying bonds. ETF will increase retail investors' participation in bond markets who are not currently participating due to liquidity and accessibility constraints.

**Mahuamilan railway station became the 5,500th station to get the free WiFi facility**

Jharkhand's Mahuamilan railway station has become the 5,500th station to get the facility free WiFi provided by the Railways has provided across the country. Midnapore Railway station of South Eastern Railway zone was the 5000th station in the country to have public Wi-Fi.

**Wi-Fi service:**
Indian Railway of the Ministry of Railways is providing free Wi-Fi service to passengers under RailWire.

The Railways WiFi free service began the service of providing free WiFi at its stations from January 2016 from Mumbai Central station.

Indian Railways mandated RailTel to provide free high-speed Wi-Fi at the Railway stations. The move is to transform the Railway stations into the hub of Digital inclusion.

CMD of RailTel in October 2019 said a total of 1.5 crores user logins in RailWire Wi-Fi services have been established across all stations.

Free access to high-speed Wi-Fi will help in bridging the digital divide between rural and urban India.

**RailTel:**

RailTel Corporation, a Mini Ratna Category-I, is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India. It was established in September 2000 by Indian Railways. It is headquartered at Gurgaon, Haryana. RailTel owns a Pan-India optic fiber network on exclusive Right of Way (ROW) along the Railway track.

RailTel provides nationwide Broadband Telecom & Multimedia Network connections across India. The free WiFi was provided in addition to the modernization of Train operations and administration network systems.

**Assam launched anti Depredation Squads of Forest Department**
Assam State government has launched **anti Depredation Squads of the Forest Department** in the State. The department will deal with human-elephant conflict. It was launched by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at a ceremony.

**Anti Depredation Squads:**

15 Anti Depredation Squads of Forest Department was launched in Assam. It will be stationed in 15 major human-wildlife conflict districts in order to mitigate the problem. The squads will ensure the safety of both humans and wildlife. Forest Department has trained 50 frontline staff to handle conflict situations. 100 more staff will be trained in the future. The anti depredation squads is equipped with all the logistics that are required for mitigating the conflict. Currently, there are 150 number of 12 Bore pump action guns and 15,000 rounds of rubber bullet ammunition are at the disposal of the squads.

**Centre to set up 7 FM transmitters in SSB premises**

Government has approved seven projects to set up **Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitters** in the premises of **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. The announcement was made by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar.

**Aim:**
The aim of the approval of FM transmitters is to strengthen FM coverage along the Indo-Nepal border.

**Implementation:**
The projects would be in three states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The transmitters will be set up in:
- Narkatiaganj (West Champaran), Bathnaha (Araria), Sitamarhi in Bihar,
- Champawat, Uttarakhand,
- Nanpara (Bahraich), Gadaniya (Lakhimpur Kheri), and Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh.

**SC ruled that no pension will be given for govt staff who resign**

The Supreme Court (SC) ruled that an **employee will become ineligible for a**
pension when he resigns because he forfeits his past service. It was passed under the Central Civil Services Pension Rules (CCS Pension Rules).

**SC's verdict:**
SC's move is to make a distinction between voluntary retirement and resignation. This cause impacts the pensionary benefits under the Rules while deciding a case relating to the resignation of an employee.

The apex court stated that the decision to resign results in the legal consequences that flow from a resignation under the applicable provisions. These consequences are different from the consequences that are caused by voluntary retirement and the two may not be substituted for each other based on the length of an employees tenure.

The Court said that the CCS Pension Rules will apply to the government servants including civilian government servants in the Defence Services appointed before 31 December 2003.

**TCS introduces new insurance benefits that include the LGBT employees**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees, a same-sex relationship. TCS became the first Tata Group companies to bring the change.

**New Health insurance policy of TCS:**
The change in health insurance policy will benefit all bisexual, lesbian, gay, and transgender or LGBT employees in the company.

The new health policy of the IT services major redefines spouse as a partner.

The insurance policy will cover up to 50% cost of sex or gender reassignment surgery.

**Other companies:**
Other companies including Accenture, Capgemini India, Godrej Group, IBM India, Citibank, and RBS India, have already offered similar policies to the members of the LGBT community.

**BLR airport started its function on the new South Runway**
The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru started its operations on
the new South Runway. The operation began with the landing of the first flight on the 4,000-metres long and 45-meters wide airstrip.

South Runway:
With this, the BLR Airport has become the first in the country to operate independent parallel runways. It enables aircraft to land or take-off simultaneously on both runways.
The new Runway will begin with limited landings and takeoffs before gradually scaling up flight operations
The South runway will have CAT I certification in the beginning. After operations get stabilized, the runway will progressively manage CAT III B operations. It will enable the landing and takeoff in extremely low visibility conditions.

Background:
The first runway of BLR airport was opened a decade back. It became a linchpin for the region's economic development during the last decade. The aviation industry in India is set for exponential growth. The two operational runways is expected to provide the thrust required to cater to this demand and boost growth of Karnataka and India.

Delhi govt launched booklet for student on Ambedkars teachings
The Delhi government launched a booklet on the life and teachings of Dr. BR Ambedkar for students of class 6-8 in government schools. The booklet was launched on Ambedkar's 63rd death anniversary.

Booklet:
It is a three-part booklet. It explores the life and education of Ambedkar, his social reforms initiatives, contribution to women empowerment.
It also ponders on his roles and efforts on writing the Constitution of India and his contributions to social and gender justice.
The third part of the booklet talks about the contribution of Ambedkar in parliamentary democracy and government.
The booklet was prepared by the social welfare department of the Delhi government with the help of three scholars and experts from Delhi University, Shashi Rani, N. Sukumar, and Mani Sagar.
ISRO to launch RISAT 2BR1 on 11 December

ISRO has planned to launch sharp-eyed surveillance satellite RISAT-2BR1 (Radar Imaging Satellite-2) with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) on 11 December 2019.

RISAT-2BR1:
RISAT-2BR1 is a radar imaging satellite.
It is dubbed as a spy satellite.
It can take pictures of the earth during day and night even under cloudy conditions.
The satellites will help 24/7 border surveillance along with checking infiltration
It will keep an eye on terror or anti-national activities across the borders
ISRO also plans to launch radar imaging satellite 2BR2 with synthetic aperture radar after the launch.

ISRO to set up space technology cells in Indian premier engineering and science colleges

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the setting up of five Space Technology Cells (STCs) at India's premier engineering and science colleges. The Indian Space Agency aims to build new applications, conduct space research, and high-end technology.

ISRO has established STCs at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campuses in, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras and Kharagpur, Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and at the Joint Research Programme with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).

ISRO-IITs:
ISRO relies on the development of cutting edge technology in collaboration with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the areas of space science, space applications and space technology.
Apart from IITs in Bombay, Kanpur, Madras, and Kharagpur, ISRO is working with IISc and Pune University.
ISRO is also working with startups such as Bellatrix Aerospace, Aniara Communications, Satsure.
ENVIRONMENT

Government launched the Operation Clean Art

Government launched the **Operation Clean Art** across India. The operation aimed to crackdown illegal trade in the mongoose hair. This is the first time such an operation is happening in India. It was initiated by the **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**.

**Mongoose:**
The mongoose is a small carnivoran found in southern Eurasia and mainland Africa. It is listed in **Schedule II (Part II)** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. As per the act, smuggling Mongoose or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed Mongoose on the **Least Concern category** in the Red List.

**Operation Clean Art:**
The operation included raid and check on organized factories that make paintbrushes with mongoose hair.
Raids were carried in Uttar Pradesh, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Mumbai, and Pune in Maharashtra, and in Kerala.
Under the operation, 54,352 brushes and 113 kg of raw hair.

**Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):**
Formed on: 2006
Headquarters: New Delhi, India
WCCB was established by the Government of India. It functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It combats against the organized wildlife crime.

**Scientists identified the metallophilic archaeon thrives on eating meteorites**

Astrobiologist Tetyana Milojevic from the University of Vienna found that the **Metallosphaera Sedula** feeds on meteorites.

**Metallosphaera Sedula:**
Metallosphaera Sedula, the **metalophilic archaeon** is known to thrive on the minerals. These Chemolithotrophic microorganisms derive their energy from inorganic sources.
The team selected a rocky type of meteorite called **Northwest Africa 1172**, a 120-kilogram mineral chunk uncovered back in 2000.

The microorganism seemed to be benefitted from the meteorite than a diet on terrestrial mineral sources.

It is expected that the meteorites may have delivered a variety of essential compounds the facilitated the evolution of life.

They assessed the biogenicity based on extraterrestrial materials. It is also expected that the extraterrestrial bioinorganic chemistry might have occurred in the Solar System. This has lead one step more in the field of meteorite biogeochemistry.
BILLS & ACTS

Rajya Sabha passed the Prohibition of E Cigarettes Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019. The bill seeks to prohibit the production, trade, transport, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in the country. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha in November 2019. The bill will replace the ordinance issued to ban e-cigarettes in September.

Provisions of the Bill:

The bill refers to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) as the electronic devices that heat a substance to create vapour for inhalation.

The bill bans e-cigarettes in order to protect the youth from a new intoxication.

It makes the production, manufacturing, transport, sale, import, export, distribution, storage or advertisements of such alternative smoking devices a cognizable offence.

The offence will attract a jail term and a fine.

The violators will get a penalty of jail term up to 3 years and fine up to Rs.5 lakh for violations.

The violators will have to penalty of jail term up to one year and a fine up to Rs.1 lakh for the first time.

For repeat offenders, jail term might extend up to three years and a fine up to Rs.5 lakh.

Any individual who stores e-cigarettes will also be punished with jail up to 6 months or fine up to Rs.50,000 or each.

Rajya Sabha passed the SPG Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 27 November 2019. With this amendment, the SPG will provide cover officially only for the Prime Minister.

The amendment to the act focuses on the core mandate, as the security of the prime minister is of paramount importance for the government, governance and national security.

Special Protection Group (SPG):

Special Protection Group was formed in 1988 by an act of the Parliament of India.
It is headquartered in New Delhi. The special force provides security to the Prime Minister of India and the former Prime Ministers of India. The Director of SPG is Arun Kumar Sinha.

Cabinet approves 2019 Personal Data Protection Bill

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. It was announced by the Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. It will now be introduced in the 2019 winter session of the Parliament.

Provisions of the Bill:

- The Bill will lay down a framework including the processing of personal and private data by public and private entities.
- It will provide broad guidelines on the collection, storage, and processing of personal data.
- The law will also include the consent of individuals, penalties and compensation, code of conduct and an enforcement model.
- The Bill will provide protection to regulate the use of individual data by the government and private companies.
- The draft of the Bill was prepared by a high-level expert group chaired by former Supreme Court judge B.N. Srikrishna in 2018.
- The inter-ministerial consultation delayed the passing of the Bill.

Cabinet passed the 2019 Citizenship Amendment Bill

The Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 4 December 2019. The bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955. The Bill will now be introduced in the 2019 winter session of the Parliament. The announcement was made by the Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha in January 2019 but lapsed without being cleared in Rajya Sabha.

Provisions:

- The Bill will grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who came to India before 31 December 2014.
- The Bill will provide citizenship to six communities namely Hindus, Christians,
Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis.
It will help the minority communities who face religious persecution.

**Rajya Sabha passed a bill to merge Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu**

Rajya Sabha passed the Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019 on 3 December 2019. The Bill aims to merge two Union territories Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli into one unit. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on 27 November 2019.

**Provisions of the Bill:**
- The Bill aims to strengthen the administrative efficiency and the development of the two union territories.
- The merger will reduce the administrative cost of the two Union Territories.
- The merged Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu will be named as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

**Lok Sabha passed the 2019 Recycling of Ships Bill**

Lok Sabha passed the Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 on 3 December 2019. The Bill was introduced by the Minister of State for Shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya in the lower house. It seeks the restriction of the use of hazardous material on ships and regulates the recycling of ships by establishing a National Authority.

**Provision:**
- The Bill seeks to regulate the recycling of ships as per international standards.
- The Bill will help the ship recycling industry and generate more jobs in the country.
- The Bill prohibits the use of hazardous materials of recycled ships. Use hazardous materials in a ship will be punishable with imprisonment of up to **three months or a fine of up to Rs.5 lakh or both.**
- The National Authority will be the nodal agency to administer, supervise and monitor the recycling operations.
- The Bill states that every Ship Recycler must prepare a ship recycling plan which should be approved by the Competent Authority. Only after getting the recycling certificate can the ship be recycled.
- The Bill is applicable to:
  - any new or existing ship which is registered in India,
the ships entering a port or terminal in India or the territorial waters of India
other ship owned and operated by an administration or any warships that are used
on government non-commercial service
ship recycling facilities operating in India.
BSF celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December 1965. PM Modi greeted the BSF personnel on the day. The event was graced by Minister of State of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai attended the Raising Day celebrations of Border Security Force (BSF) on 1 December. During the occasion, he reviewed the passing out parade of BSF.

Border Security Force (BSF):
Formed on: 1 December 1965
Director-General: V K Johri

It ensures the security of the borders of India by acting as the First Line of Defence against smuggling, infiltration, and military assault. BSF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). BSF is the world's largest border guarding force. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Minister responsible for BSF is Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs.

Exercise Mitra Shakti VII began in Pune

The seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 commenced on 1 December 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is held between Indian and Sri Lanka. The exercise is a part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

Aim:
The exercise aims to enhance the interoperability and operational efficiency between the Indian Army and Sri Lanka Army. It promotes positive relations between the two armies by focusing on sub-unit-level training on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in urban and rural environments.

Features of the exercise:
The exercise signifies the strength of India-Sri Lanka relations in the field of military cooperation and engagement.

The joint exercise has been designed to incorporate the current dynamics of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The exercise provides practical and comprehensive discussions and tactical exercises.
The exercise includes fieldcraft, battle drills, and procedures to operate jointly with seamless interoperability. The countries will gain joint operability and enhanced military and diplomatic association.

Mitra Shakti is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between the Indian army and Sri Lanka army.

**Shivangi became the first naval woman pilot in India**

Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi of the Indian Navy became the first naval woman pilot in India. She joined operational duties at the Kochi naval base on 2 December 2019. Shivangi received the qualification wings from Vice Admiral AK Chawla, the chief of Southern Naval Command. She will fly the Naval Dornier.

**Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi:**

Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi is from Muzzafarpur in Bihar. She was inducted into the Indian Navy as Short Service Commission (SSC) (pilot). It is a part of the 27 NOC course in the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala. She was commissioned in June 2018.

**Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 to commence from 7 December**

Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya. The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate. The exercise will be held from 7-20 December 2019.

**Theme:**
The aim of the Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain. The theme of the 14-day long training exercise is Counter-terrorism.

**Participants:**
From the Chinese side, the Tibet Military command comprises 130 personal who will be participating in the event. From the Indian Contingent, more than 100 personnel will participate in the training exercise.

**Events:**
The exercise will be held at the company level. Respective Battalion Headquarters will control the training.
The exercise will have various lectures and drills associated with counter-terrorist handling and firing with each other's weapon. Special heliborne operations and case studies of various operations will be carried out in a counter-terrorism environment. The exercise will have two tactical exercises: one on counter-terrorism scenario and the other on Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

India successfully test fired Prithvi II missile

India successfully conducted a night test-trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile off complex-3 of Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha coast. The test of the short-range ballistic missile was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command.

**Prithvi-II missile:**
- The surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile has a strike range of 350 km.
- It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads. It is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- The missile was inducted into the Indian defence forces in 2003.
- The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) of the Ministry of Defence.

Exercise INDRA 2019 to be conducted from 10 December

Exercise INDRA 2019 is a joint, tri-services exercise held between India and Russia. The exercise will be conducted in India from 10-19 December 2019. It will hold simultaneously at Babina, Pune, and Goa.

**Aim:**
The exercise will facilitate further strengthening of bonds between the defence forces of India and Russia. It will focus on combatting the threat of global terrorism nations and by countries around the world.

**Events:**
The historic occasion for two of the world's greatest Armed Forces are participating in the exercise.
- The exercise will consist of a five-day training phase consisting of a
comprehensive training curriculum.

Training phase:
The exercise will include tactical operations end drills such as cordon house intervention, handling, and neutralization of improvised Explosive Devices, measures to prevent arms smuggling through the sea route and anti-piracy will be practiced.

Validation exercise:
The exercise will include a 72-hour validation exercise.
The exercise also included an Integrated Fire Power demonstration.
The contingents of both countries will share expertise and their professional experience.

Participants:
Contingents, fighter and transport aircraft and ships of respective Army, Air Force, and Navy will be participating in the 10-day long exercise.

Exercise INDRA:
Exercise INDRA series began in 2003. The First Joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. It will boost cooperation and interoperability between the Indian and Russian navies.

CG can now Visit, Board, Search and Seize suspicious vessels

Ministry of Defence has empowered Indian Coast Guard (CG) has to board, search any vessel and arrest people for offences within the maritime zone of the country. The powers were vested on CG under the Coast Guard Act, 1978. The announcement was made by the Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.

Aim:
The move aims to empower the Indian Coast Guard and enhancing coastal security.

Background:
Since 2009, the Indian Coast Guard sought more powers under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone, and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976 through which they could board and search suspicious vessels.
Earlier, the CG did not have the power to board any vessel passing through India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It used the provisions of the Customs Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and other relevant acts to board
and seize vessels in the EEZ.

**Indian Coast Guard:**

**Founded on:** 18 August 1978  
**Headquarters:** New Delhi  
**Director-General:** DG Krishnaswamy Natrajan

The Coast Guard was formed under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978.** It functions under the Ministry of Defence. Additional Director General: Additional DG Krupa Ram Nautiyal

It is a part of the Indian Armed forces. It is responsible to protect the maritime interest of India.
**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**Ajit Doval was awarded the honorary doctorate at HNBCIJ**

Ajit Doval, the National Security Advisor (NSA), was awarded the honorary doctorate at the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Central University (HNBCIJ) convocation ceremony held at Srinagar. Around 414 students and scholars were awarded. Among them, 45 students received gold medals for scoring excellent marks.

**Ajit Doval:**
Ajit Doval is the 5th National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister of India. He assumed office on 30 May 2014. In 2004-05, he served as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau. He is considered as an important person in Indian revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. He has received Police Medal, President's Police Medal awards for his meritorious service. In 1988 he was awarded the Kirti Chakra. He became the first police officer to receive the medal.

**Awards for the first ever VATAVARAN 2019 were presented**

The Awards for the first-ever VATAVARAN-2019 Short Film Competition and Festival on Environment was presented in New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS). The awards were presented by Shri Ravi Agrawal, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC at the culmination of the four-day festival where all the shortlisted films were showcased. The Jury comprising Shri Ramesh Sippy, Shri Rahul Rawail, Ms. Manju Borah and Ms. Agnimitra Paul selected the final awardees for the competition.

The award was presented in **three categories** namely:
- School students
- Amateur and College students
- Professionals

**Under School students category:**
345 film entry was received and 35 was nominated

**Under Amateur and College students category:**
173 film entry was received and 42 was nominated
Under Professionals category:
82 film entry was received and 35 was nominated

President Kovind presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards

The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel in New Delhi on 5 December 2019. The event will be held from 5-6 December 2019.

The nurses play a vital role in delivering quality and cost-effective healthcare, addressing multiple health challenges and responding to the health needs of individuals, families, and communities. The nurses are a symbol of seva, karuna, and shushrusha. Nurses are the face of healthcare services for the patients and their families.

India:
There is an increasing number of elderly people who deserve and require proper geriatric care. In India, the elders are taken care of their old age parents. Professional caregivers are in demand to take care of the elderly. It should be noted that the nursing training institutions can consider developing short training programs for such care-givers too.

Note: World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

Mumbai Central railway station certified as Indias first Eat Right Station

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certified Mumbai Central railway station as India’s first Eat Right Station. It rated the station with four stars rating. The move comes under the Eat Right India initiative started by FSSAI in 2018.

Eat Right Station:
Indian Railways (IR) launched the Eat Right Station as a part of efforts to help passengers make a healthy and right food choice.

Mumbai Central Railway Station has been judged on the basis of compliance of food safety and hygiene, food handling at preparation, availability of healthy diet, food waste management, transshipment and retail, and serving point, promotion of local and seasonal food.
The station aims to create awareness on food safety and a healthy diet. FSSAI in partnership with Western Railways (WR) and Indian Railways Catering Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has trained food handlers, both in base kitchens and canteens.

FSSAI officials inspected catering establishments at the station as per the procedure, rated and certified the standard of food.

**Eat Right India movement:**

The movement aims to engage, and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being. The movement is based on two basic foundations namely 'Eat Healthy and Eat Safe'. The movement was initiated by FSSAI. The collective effort ensures that both demand and supply-side interventions occur through the key stakeholders.

On the **demand side**, it focuses on the behavioural and social change of the consumers. It is expected to lead them to make the right food choice.

On the **supply side**, it encourages the people involved in the food business to reformulate their products. It directs them to provide more nutritional awareness to the consumers, including matters like proper water disposal, hygiene maintenance, and following safe food practices.

**Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):**

- **Formed on:** August 2011
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Preeti Sudan
- **CEO:** Pawan Kumar Agarwal
- **Parent Organization:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

It is established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.** FSSAI protects and promotes public health by continuous regulation and supervision of food safety.

**Ministry of Information called entries for the 8th National Photography Awards**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has invited entries for the **8th National Photography Awards.** It released the guidelines for the awards. The awards are organized by the Photo Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**Aim:**
The award aims to promote the medium of photography with the various facets of the country such as arts, people, society, culture, development, heritage, history, life, and traditions and to encourage professional and amateur photographers across India.

**Theme:**
The theme of 8th National Photography awards:
For Professional Category, it is **Life and Water**
For Amateur Category, it is the **Cultural Heritage of India**

**Categories:**
The award will be given under:

* **Lifetime achievement award**
  * 8th National Photography Awards under the professional category
  * Professional Photographer of the Year
  * Special Mention Award (Professional)

* **8th National Photography Awards under amateur category**
  * Amateur Photographer Of The Year
  * Special Mention Award (Amateur)

The Ministry said the entries must be submitted by up to 6.00 PM on the last date 31 December 2019. The late entries will not be accepted.
**SPORTS**

**Lewis Hamilton won the 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix title**

British racing driver [**Lewis Hamilton**](https://www.formula1.com) won the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019**. He clocked 1:34:05 to clinch the title. He defeated Belgian-Dutch racing driver Max Verstappen. This victory is 84th in his career and 11th in 2019.

**Result:**

- **First:** United Kingdom racing driver [**L. Hamilton**](https://www.formula1.com)
- **Second:** Netherlands racing driver [**M. Verstappen**](https://www.formula1.com)
- **Third:** Monaco racing driver [**C. Leclerc**](https://www.formula1.com)

**2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix:**

The **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix** is a **Formula One (F1)** motor race. The race was held for the first time on 1 November 2009. The 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix was held at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 1 December 2019. It was the final round of the 2019 Formula One World Championship.

**New Delhi to host 2020 National Sikh Games**

New Delhi is to host the **National Sikh Games (NSG) 2020**. The game will be held from 9-11 January 2020 across various venues in New Delhi. NSG is a modelled replica of **Australian Sikh Games**. The announcement was made by Manjinder Singh Sirsa, President Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Committee. NSG is dedicated to the **550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev**.

**Aim:**

NSG aims to bring sports to the heart of the Sikh community and tap in a unique sporting talents of Sikh Youths. The game aims to tackle the problem of obesity, drug menace among Sikh children through sports and physical activities.

**Organized by:**

NSG is organized by Delhi based philanthropic Jap Jaap Sewa Trust in association with Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and various sports, cultural associations.

**Participants:**

Around 2,500 athletes from 10 States are expected to participate in the NSG. Around 16 sports competitions are to be held in the National Sikh Games.
Lionel Messi was conferred the Ballon d'Or award

Lionel Messi was named the best player and was awarded the **2019 Ballon d'Or award** in Paris. He created a world record by receiving the award for the sixth time. He broke the record set by Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the trophy five times. He Cristiano Ronaldo stands third in the men's rankings behind Liverpool's Virgil Van Dijk.


Megan Rapinoe won the Ballon d'Or as the world's best player. She beat Lucy Bronze and Alex Morgan to claim the title. In July 2019, the United States to the World Cup title.

**Ballon d'Or award:**
Ballon d'Or award is an annual association football award. The award is presented to the world's best men's players. It is one of the most prestigious individual honours in world football.

The 13th South Asian Games began in Kathmandu

The **13th South Asian Games (SAG)** began at the newly constructed Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on 1 December 2019. The multi-sport event was inaugurated by the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari. The games will be held from 1-10 December in three cities namely, Pokhara, Kathmandu, and Janakpur.

**Participants:**
In 2019 SAG, athletes from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka are participating in 26 different sports. More than 2,000 athletes will compete for 1119 medals.

**South Asian Games (SAG):**
SAG was held for the first time in September **1984** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The games are held once every 2 years. It is held among the Asian athletes. South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) is the governing body of SAG. The 8 members of SAG are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
Third edition of Khelo India Youth Games logo was launched

Guwahati is to host the third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games. It is expected to be held from 10 January 2020. The announcement was made by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju at the launched ceremony. The third edition of **Khelo India Youth Games 2020 Logo** was launched by the Assam Chief Minister Sarbanada Sonowal.

**Guwahati:**

The youth of the Assam state are working hard in the field of sports to establish themselves as a powerful global contender. Recently, Guwahati has emerged as one of the top sporting cities in India.

**Organized by:**

The 2020 Games is conducted in partnership with the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Assam STate government.

**What's new?**

In the third edition, **Cycling and Lawn Bowling** events were added. 1,000 of the best performing participants will ve awarded an annual scholarship of Rs.5,00,000 for 8 years in order to prepare them for international sporting events.

**Participants:**

More the 12,000 players are expected to participate in the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games.

**Note:** Khelo India is a national level multidisciplinary grassroots game in India. It is held for two categories, mainly U-17 years school students and U-21 college students.

New Zealand cricket team was awarded 2019 MCC CMJ Spirit of Cricket Award

**New Zealand cricket team** was awarded with the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ) Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019. The New Zealand team defeated the World Cup final against England to win the cup. The team displayed a level of sportsmanship in the event.

**CMJ Spirit of Cricket award:**

The CMJ Spirit of Cricket award was instituted by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC in 2013. It was instituted in memory of former MCC President and BBC Test Match Special commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins. CMJ
was passionate about promoting the spirit of the game.

**GS Lakshmi has become the first woman match referee to oversee a mens ODI**

Former India cricketer GS Lakshmi has become the first woman match referee to oversee a men's One Day International (ODI). She officiated the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**Achievements of Lakshmi:**

Lakshmi will oversee the match between the UAE and the US at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

The competition aimed to provide development opportunities for sports officials. This is the second significant achievement for Lakshmi in 2019. The first achievement of Lakshmi was her appointment as the first woman onto the ICC International Panel of Match Referees in May. Lakshmi, 51, was first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket matches in 2008-09. She has now overseen 16 men's T20 Internationals, 3 women's ODI matches, and seven women's T20 Internationals.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 began on 2 December

The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 began on 2 December 2019. The conference will be held from 2-13 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. It will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile. Also, the Government of Spain provides logistical support to the conference.

Focus:
The aim of the conference is to complete several matters with respect to the full operationalization of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Events:
The conference is expected to take the next crucial steps in the UN climate change process.
The pre-sessional period of the event was held from 25 November-1 December 2019.
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 51 or Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 51 is to take place from 2-9 December 2019.
The conference will discuss the impacts of climate change and provide a roadmap from the point.

India-Sweden High-Level Dialogue on Innovation Policy was held

An India-Sweden High-Level Dialogue on Innovation Policy was held in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by PM Modi, King Carl XVI Gustaf It aims to provide overall strategic direction for joint innovation policy.

Aim:
The High-Level Dialogue aims to create a platform with key stakeholders in a triple helix format from the government, private sector, and academia.

Dialogue on Innovation Policy:
The dialogue focused on jointly formulating and implementing the short-term and long-term projects in strategic areas including digital health, circular economy, sustainable energy, artificial intelligence (AI), and future mobility.
During the meeting, a bilateral project to convert agriculture waste to
Bio-coal was announced. The project was established by the support of the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali in partnership with Bioendev, Sweden. The plant converts paddy straw into high energy bio-coal.

India-Sweden Innovation Partnership:
In April 2018, India and Sweden signed a joint innovation partnership. It aimed to deepen the collaboration between the two countries and contribute to sustainable growth and new job opportunities. The agreement was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Sweden. Under the agreement, the countries agreed to explore optimize the formal bilateral collaboration mechanisms, enable the exchange of experiences, increase synergies between policy areas, and best practice regarding innovation policies.

The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit to be held in Goa

The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is to be held from 6-7 December 2019 in Goa. The summit aims to support the Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital Firms.

Organized by:
The Summit is organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the government of Goa.

Aim:
The Summit aims to provide an opportunity for Indian startups to meet the Top Global Investors to get business guidance and to discuss investment opportunities.

Theme:
The theme of the Summit is India Opportunity-Investing in tomorrow together. The summit aims to mobilize global capital for innovation in India.

Events:
The summit will showcase India’s opportunity in the sectors of MedTech, Enterprise Software, E-mobility, FinTech, EdTech, Genomics and Lifesciences. Discussions will be held to increase the capital flow for Indian Startups. It will also hold discussions to increase the capital flow for Indian Startups by showcasing high-quality tech and non-tech startups to the global investor.
Participants:
Over 350 representatives of leading Global Venture Capital Firms, Limited Partners, High-Network Individuals, Family Offices, Government of India officials, top Corporates, and select innovative Startups are expected to participate in the event.

Background:
The first edition of the Summit held last year in Goa brought together over 250 participants from over 9 countries and showcased the venture capital opportunities in India and facilitated a rich exchange of ideas on various aspects of the investor world.

The 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave is held in New Delhi

The 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave began held in New Delhi. The conclave was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal along with Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, Som Parkash.

Organized by:
The two-day conclave is organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The two-day deliberations an actionable agenda will emerge that will facilitate work contracts in the form of tenders to be made available on the GeM portal in the future.

Further, he urged that, in order to take the GeM portal to the next level, it may be examined how to facilitate a purchase from the GeM platform by contractors and sub-contractors of public sector undertakings, Ministries and Departments.

The conclave will make improvements in the GeM platform particularly in the process of accessing, onboarding and navigating through the platform. It is expected that the platform will lead to more transparency and availability of better quality of products and services.

The conclave will enable the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women entrepreneurs and the smallest of enterprises in the remotest corner of India to onboard products and services on GeM.

It will create a level playing field that promotes fair business practices and genuine
competition among buyers.

Karnataka govt. and NDMA conducts workshop on 2020 Heatwave

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka, organized a two-day national workshop titled on Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management of Heat Wave in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Events:
The workshop is conducted to emphasize the importance of Climate Change that has led to the rise of average summer temperature by 0.5 deg C in the past five years.
A range of topics from the impact of Climate Change to emerging technologies, and from lessons learnt from the past to inter-agency co-ordination will be discussed in the meeting.

Fourth India Water Impact Summit was held in New Delhi

The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Organized by:
The Summit was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT Kanpur.

Theme:
The theme of the 2019 summit is Valuing Water | Transforming Ganga. The theme focuses on the Financing of High Impact Projects in the water sector.

Events:
The 2019 Summit focused on integrated water resources management in urban and rural settings
It focused to achieve the Centre's goal to provide water to every household in the next 5 years.
The summit aimed at creating new methods and ideas that are required for the significant policy and behavioral shift in managing water resources.
It hosted the 2nd Water Finance Forum that gathers the global financial institutions and investors keen on investing in the rejuvenation of the largest
environmental programme.
It also witnessed the showcase of technologies to solve water-related solutions from around the world.

**CM YS Reddy launched the YSR Law Nestham scheme**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Law Nestham scheme at Tadepalli, Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Bar Council Chairman Manika Rama Rao, Vice Chairman Ramajogeshwar Rao, Senior Advocate Nitreshwar Rao, R Madhavi, Bar Council of India member A Ramireddy, and Bar Council members BV Krishna Reddy, V Brahmareddy participated in the launching ceremony.

**YSR Law Nestham scheme:**
Under the YSR Law Nestham scheme, a stipend of Rs.5,000 has been credited in the accounts of beneficiary junior lawyers.

Earlier, the State government allocated Rs.100 crore to Lawyers' Welfare Fund.

**Annual summit between Modi and Shinzo Abe to be held on 15-17 December**

The annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe is to take place between 15-17 December 2019. The announcement was made by the External Affairs Ministry. The summit is expected to take place in Guwahati, Assam.

**Venue:**
Many high-level visits have taken place outside the national capital under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The venue cities are carefully chosen for their historical and current relevance to the guest country. Guwahati is to be chosen as Japan has invested in the development of India's Northeast projects with its historical ties. Japan has committed Rs.13,000 crore for the purpose.

Previously, the annual summit was held at Varanasi, Modi's own constituency. It was a city that Japan has partnered with for the Smart City mission. Varanasi is also an important Buddhist site.

**Modi-Xi meeting:**
The informal summit with Chinese premier Xi Jinping was held in Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu.
India and US to a defence technology sharing pact at 2 plus 2 dialogue

India and the US are planning to sing a defence technology-sharing pact. The two countries will sign a deal at the 2+2 dialogue on 19 December in Washington, the US. The Indian side will be led by defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar to the dialogue.

**Agreement benefits:**

The agreement will lead the participation of aviation majors in the contest to manufacture and supply **114 combat jets** to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Both the countries say that the **$20 billion deal worth procurement** can be done only through a government-to-government deal to enable Make in India and technology-sharing.

The dialogue will be focusing on the **renewed efforts to take forward** the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) to include light-weight arms, drone warfare, and virtual augmented reality.

The agreement will enable the transfer of key high-end technology pieces regulated under US law.

It will ensure that the information is protected **under Indian law**.
SCHEMES

Government launched the 4th phase of Regional Connectivity Scheme

The government launched the **fourth phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** to stimulate air connectivity in an affordable way. Ministry of Civil Aviation has invited bids for the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN. The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of civil aviation (MoCA)**. The scheme is a part of the government's vision to operationalize over 100 airports in smaller towns and cities over the next five years.

**Aim:**
The scheme focuses to introduce connectivity to priority areas like North East India, UT Jammu and Kashmir, UT Ladakh, hilly states in other parts of the country, and islands.

**Regional Connectivity Scheme:**
The scheme was launched in **2017**. The Regional Connectivity Scheme is also known as **UDAN or Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik**.

The airlines compete to win subsidies to operate flights that link small airports with bigger airports in the country.

In the fourth phase, the operation of the helicopter and seaplane would be allowed. It also promotes short-haul routes in the fourth phase of the scheme.

In this phase, the government will develop airports and operationalize the routes that were auctioned during the previous phase of the RCS scheme.

Under the RCS Scheme, currently, only 232 routes across 43 cities and towns of the 688 routes have been connected with 137 small cities.

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Odisha to merge Kalia scheme with PM Kisan scheme

The **Odisha** government is to merge the State's **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme** with the Centre's **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana** due to financial constraint.

**KALIA Scheme:**
KALIA Chhatravritti scheme was launched by the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen
Patnaik in December 2018.

Under the scheme farmers, mostly small and marginal cultivators will get **Rs.10,000** in two installments for two crops in a year. The landless agricultural farmers eligible to get Rs.12,000 per annum for three years.

**PM-Kisan scheme:**

Under the PM-Kisan scheme, the central government is providing annually **Rs.6,000** in three equal installments to about 14 crore farmers.

**New guidelines:**

Of the announced annual financial assistance of **Rs.10,000**, the state government will give **Rs.4,000** to farmers while the rest will be provided from the Centre's scheme. Landless farmers will get **Rs.12,000** per year under the Kalia scheme.

**First Pashu Kisan credit cards were launched in Haryana**

The **First Pashu Kisan credit cards** in India were distributed to **101 animal farmers** in Bhiwani, Haryana on 6 December at the Animal Farmers Credit Card Scheme launching ceremony. The State government has set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by **March 2021**. The State aims to double the income of farmers in the state.

**First Pashu Kisan credit cards:**

Using the cards, one can buy cow-buffalo and other animals.

TVs, mobile phones and fridges can also be purchased

Under the Scheme, banks will give Rs.40783 for a cow and Rs.60249 for a buffalo.

The credit amount for goat and sheep each is Rs.4063.

The credit amount for pig under the scheme is Rs.16337 per pig.

For Hens, it is to give Rs.720 per layer and Rs.161 per broiler hen.
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Hari Mohan took charge as the chairman of OFB

Senior officer Hari Mohan took charge as the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). He replaced Saurabh Kumar who was superannuated from the services.

Hari Mohan:
Hari Mohan is a 1982-batch Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS) officer. He topped at University of Allahabad and University of Pune post-graduate degree in mechanical engineering.

With his almost four decades of service, Mohan contributed significantly at various positions including Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Haridwar, Ordnance Factory Chanda and Ordnance Factory Dehu Road, Maharashtra, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Engine Factory Avadi, Heavy Vehicle Factory Avadi, Ammunition Factory Khadki, Ordnance Factory Bolangir, Odisha, OFB New Delhi Office and Ministry of Steel & Mines.

Ordnance Factory Board (OFB):
Founded on: 1712
Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
Director-General and Chairman: Saurabh Kumar

The Indian Ordnance Factories organization is a family of 41 Ordnance Factories. It possesses 200 years of experience in defence production. OFB is engaged in the marketing, research, testing, and logistics of a comprehensive product range in the areas of air, land, and sea systems. OFB functions under the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Soma Roy appointed as the new Controller General of Accounts

The government appointed Soma Roy Burman as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 1 December 2019. Ms. Burman is the 24th CGA of India. She is the seventh woman to hold this position.

Soma Roy Burman:
She is a 1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service Officer. In her three decades of experience, she has held various cadre positions at different levels in ministries.

She has served as the Additional Controller General of Accounts in the office of CGA. She has handled critical areas of accounting rules, financial reporting, policy and reforms, data analytics, cash, and budget management.

**Controller General of Accounts (CGA):**

Controller General of Accounts (CGA) heads the Indian Civil Accounts Organisation under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. CGA is the central accounting and reporting agency for the government. CGA is assisted by the officers of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).

**Lt Gen Rajeshwar took charge as CINCAN**

Lt Gen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar took charge as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) on 1 December 2019. He is the 14th CINCAN. Before the appointment, he served as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).

**Lt Gen Rajeshwar:**

Lt Gen Rajeshwar is a graduate of the Indian Military Academy (IMA). In December 1980, he was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Army War College and National Defence College in New Delhi and Philippines.

Lt Gen Rajeshwar served on various staff assignments and also been UN Military Observer in Mozambique and Rwanda. He was a part of the Operation Meghdoot and Operation Rakshak. He has commanded a Medium Regiment in Operation Parakram, the Counter Insurgency (Romeo) Force in Jammu & Kashmir and a Corps in the Desert sector.

**Ursula took charge as the President of European Commission**

Ursula von der Leyen took charge as the President of the European Commission. She replaced Jean-Claude Juncker. She is the first woman to become the President of the European Commission.

**Ms. Ursula:**

Ms. Ursula, the 60-year-old gynecologist, started her political career at her early age
of 40. In 1990 she joined Angela Merkels Christian Democratic Union party (CDU) and worked for 14 years. Leyen moved to the Labor Ministry in 2009. She became the first female defense minister in 2014.

**Masatsugu Asakawa elected as the President of ADB**

Masatsugu Asakawa has been elected as the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by the Bank's Board of Governors. Mr. Asakawa is currently serving as the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. He will be assuming the office on 17 January 2020. He will be the 10th President of ADB. He will replace Takehiko Nakao. Mr. Nakao is on 16 January 2020. Mr. Asakawa will finish the unexpired term of President Nakao that ends on 23 November 2021.

**Masatsugu Asakawa:**
Mr. Asakawa, 61, has extensive and diverse experience in international finance and development sector. He has a career spanning experience in the field for close to four decades. He has held a range of senior positions at the Ministry of Finance of Japan, including Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs. He has a good professional experience in development policy, foreign exchange markets, and international tax policy. He served as Finance Deputy for the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit and the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Fukuoka, Japan.

**Ravneet Singh took charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy**

Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh took charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 2 December 2019. He replaced Vice Admiral R Hair Kumar. He will be heading the Personnel Branch of the Indian Navy. He will be responsible for all personal issues of Service and Civilian manpower of the Navy including training, induction, discipline, career management, pay, and allowances.

**Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh:**
Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh is a qualified flying instructor with Master Green Instrument Rating. He was commissioned on 1 July 1983. He served as a Flag Officer. He has held various appointments as Assistant Controller Warship Production in the Assistant Controller Carrier Project and Acquisition at IHQ
MoD(N), Flag Officer Goa Area, Flag Officer Naval Aviation at Goa, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet at Mumbai, Chief of Staff at Headquarters Western Naval Command at Mumbai, and Director General Project Seabird at IHQ MoD(N).

**Other appointment:**
Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar has been appointed as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee at HQIDS.

**Sundar Pichai has become CEO of Alphabet**

Pichai Sundararajan has been appointed as the CEO of Alphabet. He will replace company co-founder Larry Page as CEO of parent Alphabet Inc. Larry Page stepped down as head of Alphabet, Google's parent company. The co-founders of Google Page and Sergey Brin will continue as co-founders, shareholders, and members of the Alphabet's board of directors.

**Sundar Pichai:**
Sundar Pichai was born in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. He is an alumnus of Wharton, Stanford University and IIT Kharagpur. He worked at McKinsey & Co before joining Google in 2004. Pichai took over Android business from its founder Andy Rubin as he was credited for making the Google Chrome browser. He was appointed CEO of Google in August 2015.

**K Vijay Kumar is appointed as a Senior Security Advisor in the Home Ministry**

K Vijay Kumar is appointed as a Senior Security Advisor in the Union Home Ministry. He will be advising the Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah on security-related matters of Union Territory of JK and Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

**K Vijay Kumar:**
K Vijay Kumar, 67, is a 1975-batch officer of the Indian Police Service (IPS). He served as the Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Director of the National Police Academy in Hyderabad. He was the chief of the Tamil Nadu police special task force that killed forest brigand Veerappan in 2004. He was the former advisor to the Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was retired from service and as DG, CRPF in 2012.
Ripu Daman Bevli is appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India

Ripu Daman Bevli has been appointed as the **Plogging Ambassador of India**. The appointment was announced by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju on the **Fit India Plogging Run**. The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.

**Ripu Daman Bevli:**
Ripu Daman Bevli is India's first plogger. His mission is to **Run to make Litter Free India** which is in line Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign.

**Fit India Plogging Run:**
Fit India Plogging Run was launched on 2 October 2019. The event concluded at Delhi's Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. The run covered 50 cities across the country. Over 36 lakh people from 62,000 locations participated across the country. It was organized jointly by Sports Authority of India (SAI), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS), NGOs, KendriyaVidalaya and several other organizations.

**Plogging Run:** It is a combination of jogging while picking up litter. Indian has pledged its support by organizing the Fit India Plog Run.
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Pollution Control Day was observed on 2 December

The National Pollution Control Day is observed on 2 December. It is celebrated every year. The day is observed in order to honor the lives that were lost because of the Bhopal gas calamity. On this day, the Pollution Control Department will organize several programs in this regard in the education institutions.

**Aim:**
The day aims to spread awareness among the people about pollution and its control measures. The day also creates awareness about the problem caused by increasing pollution.

**Bhopal gas:**
The Bhopal gas tragedy happened on the night of 2nd and 3rd December of 1984. The tragedy occurred because of the unintentional discharge of the poisonous Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) and some other chemicals released from the Union Carbide Chemical Plant in Bhopal.

The Madhya Pradesh State government reported that 8,000 to 10,000 people died in that accident and 25,000 people died later due to the gas-related diseases. The Bhopal gas tragedy was identified as the biggest industrial pollution disaster in world history.

**Preventive measures by the government:**

**National Pollution Control Board (NPCB)** is the governing body of pollution in India. It regularly conducts checks on industries if the industries are following environmental regulations or not.

**Pollution Control methods:**
Pollution can be controlled by treating sewage and managing solid waste
Various Urban Waste-water treatment and reuse project
Treating electronic waste and reducing the waste generation
Introducing projects on Clean Development Mechanism
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on 2 December

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on 2 December. On this day people share their view towards slavery in writings through opinion pieces, poetry, interviews, short stories, feature articles, and other published material.

Aim:
The day aims to raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery. The day highlights the importance to eliminate slavery including sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, forced marriage, child labour, etc.

Modern slavery:
A report by the United Nations stated that 40.3 million people are in modern slavery. Slavery includes 24.9 in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriage. For every 1000 people in the world, there are 5.4 victims of modern slavery. The report also said the 1 in 4 victims are children. Women and girls are affected by forced labour which accounts for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry and 58% in other sectors.

History:
On 2 December 1949, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed resolution 317(IV) and adopted Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The day was marked by the UN to eradicate the contemporary forms of slavery including forced labour, child labour, and trafficking.

Nagaland celebrated 57th statehood day on 1 December

Nagaland celebrated its 57th statehood day on 1 December 2019. Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963. On 1 December 1963, Dr. S Radhakrishnan inaugurated Nagaland as the 16th state of the country. The State government organized various events and functions during the occasion.

Nagaland:
Formed on: 1 December 1963
Governor: R.N. Ravi
Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
Capital: Kohima
Literacy: 80.11%
Nagaland borders with:
Assam to the west
Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to the north
Myanmar to the east
Manipur to the south

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on 3 December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on 3 December every year across the world. The day aims to raise awareness and develop an understanding to accept people with disabilities.

Aim:
The Day promotes acceptance and compassion on the disability issues of the disabled person. The day aims to provide support for the self-respect, rights and better living of disabled persons.

Theme:
The theme for the year 2019 is Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda. The theme focuses on empowering the disabled persons for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development as anticipated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

History:
In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed the resolution 47/3. The resolution aimed to promote the rights and well-being of disabled persons in all aspects of society. The day was designated to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. UNGA announced 1983-1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

Labour Ministry celebrated Pension Week

Ministry of Labour and Employment has designated to celebrate 30 November 2019 - 6 December 2019 as the Pension Week. The week focuses on enrolments
under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders).

**Pension Schemes:**
The pension schemes and initiatives in India are simple and hassle-free.
In order to enroll to avail pension, only **Aadhar and savings bank or Jandhan** account is required.
With the required credentials, one can enroll easily under the Pension Schemes.

**Implementation:**
As a part of the observation of the Pension week, the Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment Mr. Santosh Gangwar inaugurated a central function that aims to enroll Minister of State(I/C) for Labour and Employment.
The pension scheme awareness campaign will be organized among 10 crore Ayushman beneficiaries, 11 crore MGNREGA workers, 4-5 crore Building and Other Construction (BOC) workers, 2.5 crore Self Help Group (SHG) members, 40 lakh Anganwadi workers and 10 lakh Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers. These campaigns will make them aware of the pension schemes.

**President Kovind paid homage to Dr. Prasad on his Jayanti**

**President Ram Nath Kovind** paid homage to Dr. **Rajendra Prasad** on his birth anniversary, **3 December**, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also paid tributes to the first President of India on his Jayanti.

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad:**
Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born on 3 December 1884 in Bengal Presidency, British India. He was a lawyer by training and an Indian political leader. He gave up his profession and fought to free his motherland. As the first move toward freedom struggle, he volunteered in the 1906 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. He officially became a member of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1911.
He was elected to the **All India Congress Committee (AICC)**. He gave a wholehearted support Gandhi's various movements like Champaran Satyagraha, Non-cooperation movement. In 1921, he started the National College in Patna.
After independence, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the first President of India.
He was awarded the Bharat Ratna. He died on 28 February 1963.
Indian Navy Day is observed on 4 December

Indian Navy Day is observed every year on 4 December. The day commemorates the Operation Trident. The Day celebrates the achievements and role of the Indian naval force in the country.

Theme:
The theme for the 2019 Navy day is Indian Navy-Salient, Strong and Swift. The theme celebrates the courageous Navy personnel for their valuable service and sacrifice that made the nation stronger and safer.

History:
The Navy Day was first observed on 4 December 1971. The day was designated in order to work towards securing marine borders and strengthen relationships with other countries through joint exercises, humanitarian missions, and relief operations.

Operation Trident:
Operation Trident was held on 4-5 December 1971. The first offensive operation was launched against Pakistan's port city of Karachi during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 by the Indian Navy. During the operation, Indian suffered no loss whereas Pakistan's 3 ships sunk, 1 ship badly damaged, and the Karachi harbour fuel storage tanks destroyed. INS Nipat, INS Nirghat and INS Veer played an important role in the attack.

Note: The Maratha Emperor, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle, is considered as the Father of the Indian Navy.

World Soil Day is observed on 5 December

World Soil Day is observed on 5 December 2019. It is observed every year. It highlights the problem due to population expansion. It raises the profile of healthy soil. The day encourages governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to work towards improving soil health and its conservation.

Aim:
The day aims to encourage people around the world to engage proactively to improve the health of the soil. The day aims to create awareness about the importance of soil on Earth.

Theme:
The theme for the 2019 World Soil day is Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future. The day raises awareness on the importance of human well-being and sustaining healthy ecosystems. It focuses on the growing problem regarding soil as the Earth's population continues to expand.

**History:**
In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended the observation of the World Soil Day annually on 5 December. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported the institution of the day with the support of the Kingdom of Thailand. In June 2013, the day was endorsed by FAO. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 5 December 2014. The first World Soil Day was observed in 2014.

5 December was chosen it corresponds with the official birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. He was one of the main proponents of this initiative.

**International Volunteer Day is observed on 5 December**

International Volunteer Day is observed on 5 December every year. The day provides a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values. It also promotes the work by various communities, United Nations agencies, government authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

**Aim:**
The day is observed to increase the awareness of the important contribution of volunteer service. It aims to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

**History:**
On 17 December 1985, the United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution A/RES/40/212 to observe the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. The day was instituted to provide a chance for individual volunteers, communities, and organizations to join with the UN to promote their contributions to development at the local, national and international levels. On 22 November 2002, the UNGA directed the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to ensure that the potential of International Volunteer Day is fully realized.
Civil Defence Day is observed on 6 December

**Civil Defence Day** is celebrated on 6 December 2019 in India. Day is observed every year. The day aims to make aware of the citizens and highlight the importance of Civil Defence.

**Roles:**
Civil Defence being a voluntary Organisation. It acts as a protector to the civilian population during the crisis. The **Civil Defence and Home Guards** are the twin Voluntary organizations for the cause of defence to the nation. These organizations are based on the concept of safety of the common man.

**History:**
The Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence was established on **17th November 1962**. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India. Initially, there were only four sections namely Fire Section, Civil Defence, Home Guards, and Communication Section. It was re-designated as Director-General, National Emergency Response Force, and Civil Defence on 2nd September 2004. It was then re-designated as Director-General, National Disaster Response Force & Civil Defence on 1st December 2006. On 26 February 2014, it was re-designated as Director General, Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards.

The 2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated on 5 December

The **2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day** was celebrated on 5 December 2019 at the Heritage, Old DC Bungalow, Kohima, Nagaland. It aims to give more effort to continue on mission for more production of honey and to make Nagaland a Honey destination.

**Theme:** The theme of the Honey Bee Day is **Save Bee Save Life**.

**Organized by:**
The program was organized by Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) with support from North East Council (NEC).

**Events:**
The Nagaland State Government declared 5 December as the Nagaland Honey Bee Day.
On the program, the State Level and District level Best Beekeepers and Best Village Beekeeping committee were awarded a cash prize of Rs.10,000 and citations.
A short documentary film was screened on rearing of stingless bees in Nagaland title My Bees are Stingless.

**International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December**

**International Civil Aviation Day** is observed on 7 December 2019. It is celebrated every year. The day aims to celebrate the unique role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.

**Aim:**
The Day aims to create awareness about the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States.

**History:**
In 1944, the observation of International Civil Aviation Day was proposed at the Chicago Convention. The International Civil Aviation Day was celebrated on 7 December 1994 for the first time as a part of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation by ICAO.
In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/51/33 and declared the observance of the International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December.

**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):**
ICAO was formed in 1944. It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada. It functions under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. The specialized agency manages the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation or Chicago Convention.

**Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7 December**

**Armed Forces Flag Day** is observed on 7 December. It is observed every year in India. The day is observed to honor the martyrs and the men of the Armed Forces who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard India's honor.
**Events:**

On this day, the three branches of the Armed Forces of India, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Navy, organized a variety of programmes to showcase their efforts towards national security.

On this day, small flags are distributed to the general population and in return collect donations. The fund collected will be used for the welfare of serving personnel and ex-servicemen and also to rehabilitate battle causalities. Small flags are distributed on the day in return for donations.

**History:**

After Independence, the government set up a committee on 28 August 1949, to strengthen and manage the welfare of its defence personnel. The Day has been observed since 1949.
AGREEMENTS MOU

India, Sweden signed MoU for Healthcare Innovation Centre

India and Sweden have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for **India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre** in New Delhi. The MoU aims to deepen the collaboration in the field of innovation through the strategic innovation partnership.

**MoU:**
The innovation Centre aims to develop an ecosystem of open innovation.
Also, the start-ups and the healthcare delivery stakeholders can collaborate and address current and future challenges in the healthcare sector.
The MOU focuses on creating new partnerships within the public, private and academic sectors.

**India-Sweden partnership:**
India-Sweden partnership has been active as the **Joint Working Group** has met ten times since 2009. The government is also planning to launch 22 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and 157 new Medical Colleges are at the development stage.

ADB and India signed MoU to provide infrastructure in India

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a **$206 million** loan on 2 December. The aim of the MoU is to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu. It will strengthen the capacities of **urban local bodies (ULBs)** for improved service delivery.

**Water supply and sewerage project:**
The project aims to improve the lives of the urban people in the identified cities of Tamil Nadu.
It will provide universal access to water supply and sanitation, improve sewage treatment and drainage systems.
The projects will help the state to develop the requisite ecosystem for economic growth.
The project will benefit residents, workers, and industries of Tamil Nadu.
The economic corridors will build industrial competitiveness and generate job
opportunities.

5 beneficiary states of Tamil Nadu:
The project targets four cities namely Tiruchirappalli, Ambur, Tiruppur, and Vellore to develop sewage collection and treatment and drainage systems.
Under the project also focus to set up or rehabilitate sewage treatment plants, pumping stations.
It will connect all the households in the project area to the sewerage network, including below poverty line households.
It also aims to improve water supply systems in the cities of Madurai and Tiruppur by commissioning of over 1,260 km of new distribution lines. It will connect nearly 190,000 households with metred water supply, including below poverty line households.
The project will strengthen the capacity of the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration in Tamil Nadu.

ICAI MoU KAAA signed MoU to offer technical training programs
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) on 4 December 2019.
MoU Highlights:
Under the MoU, the ICAI will offer technical training programs in collaboration with the KAAA to employees of the Kuwait government, Kuwait nationals and members of the KAAA.
The MOU will strengthen the relationship between the two organizations.
It will establish areas of cooperation for the benefit of the two organizations and enhance their reputation and global influence.
The proposal for the MoU between the ICAI and the KAAA was approved by the union cabinet on 23 October.
Under the agreement, Financial services has been selected as one of the 12 champion sectors for export promotion by the government.

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):
Formed on: 1 July 1949
Headquarters: New Delhi, India
President: Prafulla Chhajed
CSIR signed MoU with BHEL to push Make in India initiative

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) signed an MoU with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on 5 December 2019. The MoU will be effective for five years' duration.

MoU Highlights:
The MoU was aimed to cooperate, collaborate and pursue industrial application-oriented research programmes and its commercialization on a large scale.
The indigenously developed technologies by CSIR will be commercialized and implemented jointly by BHEL and CSIR in the country.
The first joint project under the collaboration will be used for commercialization by BHEL of various water purification and sewage disposal related technologies developed by CSIR.
The MoU will be in line with the Make in India initiative of the government.

IEPFA signed MoU with Bank of Baroda for Investor awareness

Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) signs MOU with Bank of Baroda on 4 December 2019 for information dissemination and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.

MoU Benefits:
The exercise aims to help various investors who often fall prey to tempting offers for investments and Ponzi schemes.
The MoU will spread customer awareness and investor education by strengthening ties with IEPFA.
The MoU is expected to inculcate the habit of educating oneself among the stakeholders and potential investors.
It will form a strategic partnership to help people to refrain from falling prey to fraudulent schemes.

Note:
Ponzi scheme:
Ponzi scheme is a form of fraud which attracts the investors and pays profits to
earlier investors by using funds obtained from more recent investors.
UNEP gas emissions reports say achieving 1.5 deg C is almost impossible

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) released the 2019 Emissions Gap Report. The reported stated that even if the current climate commitments are met, the world is on course to exceed 3C in global temperature rise. The report assesses the emissions gap. The report focuses on energy transition. The report was released in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-25).

Report highlights:
The report said that in order to limit temperature rise, annual emissions in 2030 should be maintained at 15 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent lower than current unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) imply for the 2C goal. It stated that Green House Gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise, despite scientific warnings and political commitments.

Many countries have announced net-zero GHG emission targets for 2050. But only a few countries have formally submitted long-term low-emission development strategies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) so far.

Recommendation of UNEP:
The report highlighted that renewables and energy efficiency along with electrification of end uses are key to a successful energy transition. It will drive down energy-related CO2 emissions. Strengthening of the NDCs is needed in 2020. All the countries are recommended to increase their NDC ambitions threefold to achieve the well below 2C goal and more than fivefold to achieve the 1.5C goal.

Note: Emissions gap: The gap between anticipated emission levels in 2030 and levels consistent with a 2C/1.5C target.

India ranked 73rd in the 2019 E-commerce Index

India ranked 73rd in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019. The ranking was conducted for 152 countries. The Netherlands topped the index for the second consecutive year.

Report highlights:
The survey was conducted among **152 countries**. The index measured an economy's preparedness to support online shopping. The index marked the readiness of the countries that are engaged in online commerce.

The survey also included a parameter where the portion of every country's population that uses the internet and has an account with a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider.

The least developed countries occupy 18 of the 20 bottom positions. Among the 20 economies that ranked the lowest value in the 2019 index, 18 are the least developed countries.

Comoros, Burundi, Chad, and Niger holds the last positions in the index.

**India:**

India has slightly improved its position from 80 in 2018 and 83 in 2017. India Internet shoppers as a share of Internet users were 11% and Internet shoppers as a share of population of 3% in 2017.

Countries are measured on the access to secure internet servers, the reliability of postal services and infrastructure.

**Top 10 countries of the list:**

1) Netherlands
2) Switzerland
3) Singapore
4) Finland
5) The United Kingdom
6) Denmark
7) Norway
8) Ireland
9) Germany
10) Australia

**UNCTAD:**

**Formed on:** 30 December 1964

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Secretary-General:** Mukhisa Kituyi

**Parent organization:** United Nations General Assembly

UNCTAD deals with investment, trade, and development issues. It formulates
policies for the development including trade, transport, finance, and technology.

**India stands as fifth worst country in terms of biometric use**

The Britain-based tech research firm Comparitech reported that India is the fifth worst country in terms of extensive and invasive use of biometric data. Before India stands China, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the US. India shared the fifth position along with Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

**Report highlights:**

The researchers analyzed 50 countries to find out where biometrics are being taken, the reason for the collection of the biometric data, and the process of the data storage.

The countries were marked out of 25.

A high score secured by a country shows an extensive and invasive use of biometrics and surveillance.

A low score shows better restrictions and regulations regarding biometric use and surveillance.

The researchers also checked whether the country failed to introduce a law to protect biometric data.

The report said that despite knowing the sensitiveness of the biometric data, many countries accepted as the biometric use.

**India:**

India scored 19 out of 25. The country ranked relatively lower in the list of worst countries for biometric data collection. India does not permit law enforcement to get access to the national biometric database known as Aadhaar.

**Top 5 countries of the list:**

The top 5 best countries in terms of collection, storage and use of biometric data as per the report are:

1) Ireland
2) Portugal
3) Cyprus
4) The UK
5) Romania
Hornbill Festival is being celebrated in Nagaland

The **10-day-long Hornbill Festival** of Nanagaland began at Kisama, Nagaland on 1 December 2019. The 20th edition of the Hornbill festival was inaugurated by the State Governor R.N. Ravi.

**Aim:**
The festival aims to pay rich tribute to the Naga leaders, who under extremely challenging circumstances, secured for the people, the Nagaland State with special status.

**Organized by:**
The Hornbill festival is organized by the **Nagaland State Government**. It is an annual tourism promotional event

**Hornbill festival:**
The festival showcases Nagaland's traditional and rich cultural heritage in all its ethnicity, diversity and grandeur.

The festival reminds the rich cultural heritage of Naga tribes.
It highlights the need to correct certain uncharitable distortions to Nagas' history by some colonial administrators.

The State government along with Eastern Air Command (IAF) Shillong organized a display of **Sukhoi aircraft** flying over Kisama site and headquarter, Eastern Air Command (IAF) Shillong.

Stalls were put up at Kisama at the festival.

The festival will witness the cultural performance of different tribes of Nagaland and Northeastern States, art exhibition, indigenous games, night carnival, city tour, photo-fest, among others.
QUIZ CORNER

1) When did the Border Security Force (BSF) celebrate its rising day?

A. 15 July  
B. 22 October  
C. 12 November  
D. 1 December

Answer D

Explanation Border Security Force (BSF) personnel celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December 1965. PM Modi greeted the BSF personnel on the day.

2) Nagaland was the _________ state of India.

A. 10th  
B. 12th  
C. 14th  
D. 16th

Answer D

Explanation Nagaland celebrated its 57th statehood day on 1 December 2019. Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963. On 1 December 1963, Dr. S Radhakrishnan inaugurated Nagaland as the 16th state of the country.

3) Who won the 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix?

A. M. Verstappen  
B. Charles Leclerc  
C. Michael Schumacher  
D. Lewis Hamilton

Answer D

Explanation British racing driver Lewis Hamilton won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019. He clocked 1:34:05 to clinch the title. He defeated Belgian-Dutch racing driver Max Verstappen.
This victory is 84th in his career and 11th in 2019.

4) Nagaland does not border with ________.
A. Arunachal Pradesh  
B. Tripura  
C. Assam  
D. Manipur  

Answer B

Explanation Nagaland borders with Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to the north, Myanmar to the east, Manipur to the south. It does not border with Tripura.

5) When was the Border Security Force (BSF) formed?
A. 1 December 1958  
B. 1 December 1965  
C. 1 December 1972  
D. 1 December 1980  

Answer B

Explanation The Border Security Force (BSF) was formed on 1 December 1965. It ensures the security of the borders of India by acting as the First Line of Defence against smuggling, infiltration, and military assault. BSF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

6) Who is the governor of Nagaland?
A. R.N. Ravi  
B. Neiphiu Rio  
C. Jagdish Mukhi  
D. Najma Heptulla  

Answer A

Explanation Ravindra Narayana Ravi from Bihar currently serving as the Governor of Nagaland. He was retired as a special director of the Intelligence Bureau in 2012.
7) Where is the UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 being held?

A. Stockholm  
B. Vienna  
C. Davos  
D. Madrid

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25 began on 2 December 2019. The conference will be held from 21 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. It will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile. Also, the Government of Spain provides logistical support to the conference.

8) When was the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix held for the first time?

A. 2009  
B. 2010  
C. 2014  
D. 2015

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix is a Formula One (F1) motor race. The race was held for the first time on 1 November 2009. The 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix was held at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 1 December 2019. It was the final round of the 2019 Formula One World Championship.

9) The Border Security Force (BSF) _________ rising day on December 2019.

A. 48th  
B. 50th  
C. 52nd  
D. 55th

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Border Security Force (BSF) personnel celebrated the 55th raising day on 1 December 1965. PM Modi greeted the BSF personnel on the day.
10) Which State celebrates the Hornbill festival?
A. Assam  
B. Manipur  
C. Bihar  
D. Nagaland  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 10-day-long Hornbill Festival of Nagaland began at Kisama, Nagaland on 1 December. The 20th edition of the Hornbill festival was inaugurated by the State Governor R.N. Ravi.

11) Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII is to be held between _________.
A. India and Singapore  
B. India and Thailand  
C. India and Indonesia  
D. India and Sri Lanka  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 commenced on 1 December 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is held between Indian and Sri Lanka. The exercise is a part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

A. 15th  
B. 17th  
C. 20th  
D. 25th  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 10-day-long Hornbill Festival of Nagaland began at Kisama, Nagaland on 1 December. The 20th edition of the Hornbill festival was inaugurated by the State Governor R.N. Ravi.
13) When is the National Pollution Control Day observed?

A. 25 November  
B. 2 December  
C. 1 December  
D. 15 December

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The National Pollution Control Day is observed on 2 December. It is celebrated every year. The day is observed in order to honor the lives that were lost because of the Bhopal gas calamity. On this day, the Pollution Control Department will organize several programs in this regard in the education institutions.

14) Which edition of the Exercise Mitra Shakti began on 1 December 2019?

A. 2nd  
B. 4th  
C. 7th  
D. 10th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 commenced on 1 December 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is held between Indian and Sri Lanka. The exercise is a part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

15) The National Pollution Control Day marks ________.

A. BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
B. Dust Bowl  
C. Arctic Methane Releases  
D. Bhopal gas Tragedy

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The National Pollution Control Day is observed on 2 December. It is celebrated every year. The day is observed in order to honor the lives that were lost because of the Bhopal gas calamity. On this day, the Pollution Control Department will organize several programs in this regard in the education institutions.
16) Where is the 2019 Exercise Mitra Shakti held?
A. Visakhapatnam  
B. Gwalior  
C. Pune  
D. Mhow  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The seventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti-VII 2019 commenced on 1 December 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is held between Indian and Sri Lanka. The exercise aims to enhance the interoperability and operational efficiency between the Indian Army and Sri Lanka Army.

17) Soma Roy Burman is the _________ Controller General of Accounts (CGA) of India.
A. 7th  
B. 15th  
C. 24th  
D. 32nd  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The government appointed Soma Roy Burman as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 1 December 2019. Ms. Burman is the 24th CGA of India. She is the seventh woman to hold this position.

18) When was the Bhopal gas tragedy happened?
A. 1966  
B. 1976  
C. 1984  
D. 1992  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Bhopal gas tragedy happened on the night of 2nd and 3rd December of 1984. The tragedy occurred because of the unintentional discharge of the poisonous Methyl Isocyanate.
(MIC) and some other chemicals released from the Union Carbide Chemical Plant in Bhopal.

19) **Who took charge as the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)?**

A. Hari Mohan  
B. Saurabh Kumar  
C. Soma Roy Burman  
D. Dinesh Karthik  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Senior officer Hari Mohan took charge as the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). He replaced Saurabh Kumar who was superannuated from the services.

20) **Who heads the Indian Civil Accounts Organisation under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance?**

A. Controller General of Accounts  
B. Comptroller and Auditor General  
C. Auditor General  
D. Solicitor General  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Controller General of Accounts (CGA) heads the Indian Civil Accounts Organisation under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. CGA is the central accounting and reporting agency for the government. CGA is assisted by the officers of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS).

21) **Which gas was released in Bhopal gas tragedy?**

A. polymethyl isocyanide  
B. methyl isocyanate  
C. polyethyl isocyanide  
D. ethyl isocyanate  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bhopal gas tragedy happened at a Union Carbide subsidiary pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India. On the night of 2-3 December 1984, the plant released approximately 40
tonnes of toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas, exposing more than 500,000 people to toxic gases.

22) Who is appointed as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 1 December 2019?

A. Soma Roy Burman
B. J. P. S. Chawla
C. Taranjit Singh
D. Sh S. G. Dastidar

Answer A

Explanation The government appointed Soma Roy Burman as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) with effect from 1 December 2019. Ms. Burman is the 24th CGA of India. She is the seventh woman to hold this position.

23) In which state is Bhopal located?

A. Chhattisgarh
B. Madhya Pradesh
C. Maharashtra
D. Bihar

Answer B

Explanation Bhopal is a city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's one of Indias greenest cities. There are two main lakes, the Upper Lake and the Lower Lake.

24) When was the Nagaland State formed?

A. 1 December 1962
B. 1 December 1963
C. 1 December 1964
D. 1 December 1965

Answer B

Explanation Nagaland celebrated its 57th statehood day on 1 December 2019. Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963.
25) When was the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery observed?

A. 10 October
B. 14 October
C. 14 November
D. 2 December

**Answer D**

**Explanation** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed every year on 2 December. On this day people share their view towards slavery in writings through opinion pieces, poetry, interviews, short stories, feature articles, and other published material.

26) When did the United Nations adopt Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others?

A. 1935
B. 1949
C. 1952
D. 1963

**Answer B**

**Explanation** On 2 December 1949, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed resolution 317(IV) and adopted Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The day was marked by the UN to eradicate the contemporary forms of slavery including forced labour, child labour, and trafficking.

27) Nagaland celebrated ________ statehood day on 1 December 2019.

A. 65th
B. 63rd
C. 57th
D. 52nd

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Nagaland celebrated its 57th statehood day on 1 December 2019. Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963. On 1 December 1963, Dr. S Radhakrishnan inaugurated Nagaland as the 16th state of the country. The State government organized various events and functions.
during the occasion.

28) Ajit Doval is the _________ National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister of India.

A. 5th  
B. 7th  
C. 9th  
D. 14th  

Answer A  
Explanation Ajit Doval is the 5th National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister of India. He assumed office on 30 May 2014. In 2004-05, he served as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau.

29) Nagaland was carved out from ________.

A. Assam  
B. Arunachal Pradesh  
C. Manipur  
D. Myanmar  

Answer A  
Explanation Nagaland celebrated its 57th statehood day on 1 December 2019. Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963. On 1 December 1963, Dr. S Radhakrishnan inaugurated Nagaland as the 16th state of the country.

30) Which state celebrated the Indigenous Faith Day on 1 December?

A. Bihar  
B. Odisha  
C. Assam  
D. Arunachal Pradesh  

Answer D  
Explanation The Indigenous Faith Day (IFD) 2019 was celebrated on 1 December in Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh. The Day aims to preserve the rich culture and identity of the State. The
function was presided by Tezu legislator Karikho Kri. The programme was organized by the Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh (IFCSAP) of Tezu.

31) Which Ministry awarded the first-ever VATAVARAN-2019 Short Film Competition?

A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
B. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
C. Ministry of Science and Technology
D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer A

Explanation The Awards for the first-ever VATAVARAN-2019 Short Film Competition and Festival on Environment was presented in New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS).


A. World Environment Organization
B. UN Environment Programme
C. Global Pollution Board
D. Asian Global Warming Monitor

Answer B

Explanation UN Environment Programme (UNEP) released the 2019 Emissions Gap Report. The report stated that even if the current climate commitments are met, the world is on course to exceed 3°C in global temperature rise. The report assesses the emissions gap. The report focuses on energy transition. The report was released in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-25).

33) Russia launched the Siberia pipeline which transport natural gas from Siberia to ________.

A. South Ukraine
B. Poland
C. Northeast China
D. South China
Answer C

Explanation Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Siberia pipeline project. The pipeline will transport natural gas from Siberia to northeast China. The move aims to boost the economic and political ties between Russia and China.

34) How many member countries are there in the South Asian Games?

A. 8
B. 12
C. 13
D. 15

Answer A

Explanation SAG was held for the first time in September 1984 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The games are held once every 2 years. It is held among the Asian athletes. South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) is the governing body of SAG. The 8 members of SAG are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

35) When did Centre pass the ordinance to ban e-cigarettes?

A. January 2019
B. March 2019
C. July 2019
D. September 2019

Answer D

Explanation Centre passed the ordinance to ban e-cigarettes in September 2019.

36) Who is the governing body of South Asian Games (SAG)?

A. South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC)
B. South Asian Games Association (SAGA)
C. Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)
D. South Asian Sports Federation (SASF)

Answer A
Explanation South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) is the governing body of SAG. The 8 members of SAG are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

37) What is the length of the Siberia pipeline?

A. 1500 km  
B. 2000 km  
C. 2500 km  
D. 3000 km

Answer D

Explanation Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Siberia pipeline project. The pipeline will transport natural gas from Siberia to northeast China. The move aims to boost the economic and political ties between Russia and China. It is a 3,000-km-long Power of Siberia pipeline.

38) Who is the President of Nepal?

A. Abhisit Vejjajiva  
B. Bidhya Devi Bhandari  
C. Krishna Bahadur Mahara  
D. KP Sharma Oli

Answer B

Explanation Bidhya Devi Bhandari is a Nepalese politician who is the current President of Nepal. She is the first woman to hold the office. She was the vice-chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal and chair of the All Nepal Women Association before winning the presidential election on 28 October 2015.

39) When is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed?

A. 30 November  
B. 1 December  
C. 3 December  
D. 28 November

Answer C
Explanation International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on 3 December every year. The day aims to raise awareness and develop an understanding to accept people with disabilities.

40) Who took charge as the President of the European Commission?

A. Jean-Claude Juncker  
B. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka  
C. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi  
D. Ursula von der Leyen

Answer D

Explanation Ursula von der Leyen took charge as the President of the European Commission. She replaced Jean-Claude Juncker. She is the first woman to become the President of the European Commission.

41) What is the theme of the 2019 International Day of Persons with Disabilities?

A. Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want to promote 2030 Sustainable Development Goals  
B. Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all  
C. Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality  
D. Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda

Answer D

Explanation International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on 3 December every year. The theme for the year 2019 is Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda.

42) Lionel Messi broke the record set by Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the 2019 Ballon d'Or award for the ________ time.

A. 4th  
B. 5th  
C. 6th  
D. 7th
Answer C

Explanation Lionel Messi was named the best player and was awarded the 2019 Ballon d'Or award in Paris. He created a world record by receiving the award for the sixth time. He broke the record set by Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the trophy five times.

43) Which year was announced as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons?

A. 1983-1992  
B. 1986-1995  
C. 1991-2000  
D. 1995-2004

Answer A


44) Who won the 2019 Ballon d'Or award as the world's best male player?

A. Cristiano Ronaldo  
B. Virgil Van Dijk  
C. Ronaldinho  
D. Lionel Messi

Answer D

Explanation Lionel Messi was named the best player and was awarded the 2019 Ballon d'Or award in Paris. He created a world record by receiving the award for the sixth time.

45) Ministry of Labour and Employment has designated to celebrate the Pension week from ________.

A. 25 November-1 December 2019  
B. 30 November-6 December 2019  
C. 1-7 December 2019  
D. 4-10 December 2019
Ministry of Labour and Employment has designated to celebrate 30 November 2019 - 6 December 2019 as the Pension Week. The week focuses on enrolments under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS-Traders).

46) In order to enroll to avail pension an individual needs ________.

A. Aadhar and savings bank account  
B. Aadhar and PAN ID  
C. Aadhar, savings bank account and last payslip from firm/workplace  
D. Voter ID and PAN ID

**Answer A**

The pension schemes and initiatives in India are simple and hassle-free. In order to enroll to avail pension, only Aadhar and savings bank or Jandhan account is required.

47) Who won the 2019 Ballon d'Or award as the world's best female player?

A. Lucy Bronze  
B. Megan Rapinoe  
C. Alex Morgan  
D. Abby Wambach

**Answer B**

Megan Rapinoe won the Ballon dOr as the world's best player. She beat Lucy Bronze and Alex Morgan to claim the title. In July 2019, the United States to the World Cup title.

48) The National Sikh Games is to be held in ________.

A. New Delhi  
B. Mumbai  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Cochin

**Answer A**
Explanation New Delhi is to host the National Sikh Games (NSG) 2020. The game will be held from 9-11 January 2020 across various venues in New Delhi. NSG is dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

49) ________ has partnered with India for a bilateral project to convert agriculture waste to bio-coal.
A. Netherlands
B. China
C. Sweden
D. Germany

Answer C

Explanation An India-Sweden High-Level Dialogue on Innovation Policy was held in New Delhi. During the meeting, a bilateral project to convert agriculture waste to bio-coal was announced. The project was established by the support of the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali in partnership with Bioendev, Sweden.

50) ________ has partnered with India for a bilateral project to convert agriculture waste to bio-coal.
A. Netherlands
B. China
C. Sweden
D. Germany

Answer C

Explanation An India-Sweden High-Level Dialogue on Innovation Policy was held in New Delhi. During the meeting, a bilateral project to convert agriculture waste to bio-coal was announced. The project was established by the support of the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali in partnership with Bioendev, Sweden.

51) National Sikh Games is a modelled replica of ________ Sikh Games.
A. American
B. Australian
C. Canadian
D. Chinese

**Answer B**

**Explanation** New Delhi is to host the National Sikh Games (NSG) 2020. The game will be held from 9-11 January 2020 across various venues in New Delhi. NSG is a modelled replica of Australian Sikh Games. The announcement was made by Manjinder Singh Sirsa, President Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Committee.

52) **What is the penalty set by the Kerala state for the one who violates the High Court directives for pillion riders to wear helmets?**

A. Rs.250
B. Rs.400
C. Rs.500
D. Rs.1000

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Kerala State government implemented the High Court directives of making helmets mandatory for pillion riders. The violators should pay a penalty Rs.500.

53) **Who became the first naval woman pilot in India?**

A. Sub-Lieutenant Divya Arora
B. Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi
C. Sub-Lieutenant Mitali
D. Sub-Lieutenant Harita Kaur

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Sub-Lieutenant Shivangi of the Indian Navy became the first naval woman pilot in India. She joined operational duties at the Kochi naval base on 2 December 2019. Shivangi received the qualification wings from Vice Admiral AK Chawla, the chief of Southern Naval Command.

54) **The _______ South Asian Games (SAG) was inaugurated by the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari.**
A.13th  
B.15th  
C.17th  
D.20th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 13th South Asian Games (SAG) began at the newly constructed Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on 1 December 2019. The multi-sport event was inaugurated by the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari. The games will be held from 1-10 December in three cities namely, Pokhara, Kathmandu, and Janakpur.

55) **Which State has mandated helmets for pillion riders?**

A.Telangana  
B.Uttar Pradesh  
C.Karnataka  
D.Kerala

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Kerala State government implemented the High Court directives of making helmets mandatory for pillion riders. Transport Commissioner of the State has directed strict checking of vehicles.

56) **Where is the 2019 South Asian Games (SAG) held?**

A.New Delhi, India  
B.Beijing, China  
C.Kathmandu, Nepal  
D.Istanbul, Pakistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 13th South Asian Games (SAG) began at the newly constructed Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on 1 December 2019. The multi-sport event was inaugurated by the President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari.

57) **Who took charge as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN)?**
A. Lt Gen Vijay Singh
B. Lt Gen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar
C. Lt Gen RP Singh
D. Lt Gen R K Jagga

Answer B

Explaination Lt Gen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar took charge as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) on 1 December 2019. He is the 14th CINCAN. Before the appointment, he served as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).

58) When was the South Asian Games (SAG) held for the first time?
A. 1965
B. 1976
C. 1984
D. 1992

Answer C

Explaination SAG was held for the first time in September 1984 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The games are held once every 2 years. It is held among the Asian athletes. South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC) is the governing body of SAG.

59) Where is the Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 held?
A. Assam
B. Meghalaya
C. Manipur
D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer B

Explaination Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya. The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate. The exercise will be held from 7-20 December 2019.

60) Where will the third edition of Khelo India Youth Games be held?
A.Guwahati  
B.Pune  
C.Mumbai  
D.Gurugram  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Guwahati is to host the third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games. It is expected to be held from 10 January 2020. The announcement was made by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju at the launched ceremony. The third edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2020 Logo was launched by the Assam Chief Minister Sarbanada Sonowal.

**61) Where is the Umroi military station located?**

A.Bihar  
B.Odisha  
C.Assam  
D.Meghalaya  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Umroi military station located in Meghalaya.

**62) Who is organizing the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games?**

A.School Games Federation of India (SGFI)  
B.Indian Olympic Association (IOA)  
C.Assam State government  
D.All the above  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Guwahati is to host the third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games. It is expected to be held from 10 January 2020. The 2020 Games is conducted in partnership with the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Assam State government.

**63) When is Dr. Rajendra Prasad Jayanti celebrated?**
A. 30 November
B. 3 December
C. 11 December
D. 20 December

Answer B

Explanation Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born on 3 December 1884 in Bengal Presidency, British India. He was a lawyer by training and an Indian political leader.

64) Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is held between __________.

A. India, US
B. India, Russia
C. India, China
D. India, Thailand

Answer C

Explanation Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya. The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate. The exercise will be held from 7-20 December 2019.

65) Which Article of Indian Constitution describes the Fundamental duties?

A. Article 48-A
B. Article 49-A
C. Article 50-A
D. Article 51-A

Answer D

Explanation The Fundamental Duties were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd amendment. Article 51-A describes 11 Fundamental Duties. In 2002, one more duty was added by the 86th amendment. It was borrowed from USSR.

66) Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is the ________ edition of the India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate.

A. 5th
Exercise HAND-IN-HAND 2019 is to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya. The 8th India-China joint training is held under the United Nations mandate. The exercise will be held from 7-20 December 2019.

67) Which State has decided to sell the Yamuna water?

A. Haryana  
B. Himachal Pradesh  
C. Uttarakhand  
D. Uttar Pradesh  

Answer B  

Explanation The Himachal Pradesh State Cabinet approved to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sell the water of River Yamuna from Maharashtra's share at Tajewala corridor. The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. With this decision, the State would earn Rs.21 crore per annum.

68) India is planning to set up Healthcare Innovation Centre in __________.

A. Patna  
B. New Delhi  
C. Kolkata  
D. Mumbai  

Answer B  

Explanation India and Sweden have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in New Delhi. The MoU aims to deepen the collaboration in the field of innovation through the strategic innovation partnership.

69) Which is the largest tributary of Ganga?

A. Yamuna
B. Gomti  
C. Ghaghara  
D. Kosi  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The largest tributary of Ganga is the Ghaghara. It meets before Patna, in Bihar and bears much of the Himalayan glacier melt from Northern Nepal. The Gandak, which comes from near Katmandu, is another big Himalayan tributary.

**70) With which country did India sign MoU to establish the Healthcare Innovation Centre?**

A. Australia  
B. Sweden  
C. Germany  
D. Austria  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India and Sweden have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in New Delhi. The MoU aims to deepen the collaboration in the field of innovation through the strategic innovation partnership.

**71) Which is the longest tributary in India?**

A. Mahananda  
B. Gandak  
C. Yamuna  
D. Kosi  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Yamuna sometimes called the Jamuna or Jumna, is the longest and the second largest tributary river of the Ganges (Ganga) in northern India.

**72) Which of the following aimed to crackdown illegal trade in the mongoose hair?**

A. Operation Clean Art
B. Operation Mongoose
C. Operation Trade care
D. Operation Herpestes

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Government launched the Operation Clean Art across India. The operation aims to crackdown illegal trade in the mongoose hair. This is the first time such an operation is happening in India. It was initiated by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

**73) Which state does not border with Himachal Pradesh?**

A. Rajasthan
B. Punjab
C. J&K
D. Uttarakhand

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The state borders with Himachal Pradesh are UN Jammu and Kashmir and Ut Ladakh on the north, Punjab on the west, Tibet on the east, Uttarakhand on the southeast, Haryana on the southwest and Uttar Pradesh on the south (south most tip).

**74) When was the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) established?**

A. 1998
B. 2001
C. 2006
D. 2010

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was established in 2006. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

**75) Where does the government plan to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum?**

A. Kalibangan
B. Lothal
C. Dholovira
D. Suktagendor

Answer B

Explanation The government is to establish a National Maritime Heritage Museum, at Lothal, a Harappan site on the Saurashtra coast in Gujarat. The move aims to boost the underwater or marine archaeology. Lothal site is one of the oldest ports in India dating to the Bronze Age.

76) Mongoose has been placed under the ________ category of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list?

A. Least Concern
B. Endangered
C. Vulnerable
D. Critically Endangered

Answer A

Explanation International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed Mongoose on the Least Concern category in the Red List.

77) Where is Lothal located?

A. Gujarat
B. Rajasthan
C. Haryana
D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer A

Explanation Lothal was one of the southernmost cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, located in the Bhl region of the modern state of Gujarat.

78) Mongoose was listed in Schedule ______ (Part II) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

A. X
B. VI
C. IV
D.II

Answer D

Explanation The mongoose is a small carnivoran found in southern Eurasia and mainland Africa. It is listed in Schedule II (Part II) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. As per the act, smuggling Mongoose or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence.

79) Which organization has proposed to develop and evolve methodologies and systems to rank higher educational institutions?

A. Indian University Ranking
B. Hyderabad Ranking Organization of India
C. India Rankings Society
D. University Grants Commission

Answer C

Explanation The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Executive Committee approved the India Rankings Society (IRS) to develop and evolve methodologies and systems to rank higher educational institutions. The decision was made at the 127th meeting of the AICTE Executive Committee.

80) With which country did India sign the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) to strengthen the cooperation on strategic projects in the field of Railways?

A. Sweden
B. Russia
C. Germany
D. Italy

Answer C

Explanation The Union Cabinet assessed and approved the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany. The JDI was aimed at strengthening the cooperation on strategic projects in the field of Railways. The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed in the month of November 2019.

81) Which Methodology does the Ministry of Human Resource Development use to rank institutions of higher education in India?
A. Indian Higher Educational Ranking Method
B. Indian Ranking Framework
C. University & Institute Ranking Framework
D. National Institutional Ranking Framework

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is a methodology adopted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India, to rank institutions of higher education in India. The Framework was approved by the MHRD and launched by the Minister of Human Resource Development on 29 September 2015.

82) Election Commission has proposed to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Election Commission of ________ for cooperation in the area of electoral management and administration.

A. Thailand
B. Maldives
C. Sri Lanka
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Election Commission to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Election Commission of Maldives on cooperation in the area of electoral management and administration.

83) Who has been selected as the President of Mauritius?

A. Pritivirajsing Roopun
B. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
C. Pravind Jugnauth
D. Navin Ramgoolam

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Mauritius Lawmakers selected former arts and culture minister Pritivirajsing Roopun as the President of the country. He will take over the position which was lying vacant
since March 2018.

84) A high-level expert group chaired by former Supreme Court judge __________ drafted the Personal Data Protection Bill.

A. R.S. Sarkaria  
B. Ajay Prakash Misra  
C. B.N. Srikrishna  
D. K.T. Thomas  

Answer C

Explanation The draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was prepared by a high-level expert group chaired by former Supreme Court judge B.N. Srikrishna in 2018.

85) __________, the former President of Mauritius, resigned in March 2018 after the scandal over the use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.

A. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim  
B. Ameenah Gurib  
C. Anerood Jugnauth  
D. Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo  

Answer A

Explanation Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, the former President of Mauritius, resigned in March 2018 after the scandal over her use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.

86) When was the Personal Data Protection Bill drafted?

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019  

Answer C

Explanation The draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was prepared by a high-level expert group chaired by former Supreme Court judge B.N. Srikrishna in 2018. The inter-ministerial consultation delayed the passing of the Bill.
87) What is the capital of Mauritius?

A. Port Louis  
B. Curepipe  
C. Quatre Bornes  
D. Grand Baie

Answer A

Explanation Port Louis is the capital city of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. It's known for its French colonial architecture and the 19th-century Champ de Mars horse-racing track.

88) Which Bill will provide protection to regulate the use of individual data by the government and private companies?

A. Personal Data Protection and Security Bill, 2018  
B. Personal Data Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2018  
C. Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019  
D. Personal Data Protection and Security (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Answer C

Explanation The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. It was announced by the Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. The Bill will provide protection to regulate the use of individual data by the government and private companies.

89) When was the Special Protection Group formed?

A. 1982  
B. 1985  
C. 1988  
D. 1992

Answer C

Explanation Special Protection Group was formed in 1988 by an act of the Parliament of India. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The special force provides security to the Prime Minister of India and the former Prime Ministers of India. The Director of SPG is Arun Kumar Sinha.
90) What are the communities that will be granted citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019?

A. Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis  
B. Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists  
C. Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis  
D. Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 4 December 2019. The Bill will provide citizenship to six communities namely Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, and Parsis.

91) Who is the Director of the Special Protection Group?

A. Arun Kumar Sinha  
B. Manish Shanker Sharma  
C. Asra Garg  
D. Sanjukta Parashar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** IPS officer Sh. Arun Kumar Sinha is the Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG).

92) Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 will amend _________.

A. Citizenship Act, 1950  
B. Citizenship Act, 1955  
C. Citizenship Act, 1960  
D. Citizenship Act, 1965

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 4 December 2019. The bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955. The Bill will now be introduced in the 2019 winter session of the Parliament.
93) Which Bill will grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who came to India before 31 December 2014?

A. Citizenship Bill, 2018  
B. Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2018  
C. Citizenship Bill, 2019  
D. Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet headed by PM Modi cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 4 December 2019. The Bill will grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who came to India before 31 December 2014.

94) The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019 will provide cover officially only for the __________.

A. PM and former Prime Minister  
B. President  
C. Prime Minister  
D. President, Vice President, Prime Minister  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Rajya Sabha passed the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 27 November 2019. With this amendment, the SPG will provide cover officially only for the Prime Minister.

95) When introduced in January 2019, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was __________.

A. was not introduced in Lok Sabha  
B. passed in Lok Sabha  
C. was not introduced in Rajya Sabha  
D. passed in Rajya Sabha  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed in Lok Sabha in January 2019 but lapsed without being cleared in Rajya Sabha.
96) Japan is to invest an amount of _______ in several ongoing and new projects in the North-Eastern states of India.

A. Rs.5,000 crore  
B. Rs.7,000 crore  
C. Rs.10,000 crore  
D. Rs.13,000 crore  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Japan has decided to invest an amount of Rs.13,000 crore in several ongoing and new projects in the North-Eastern states of India. The announcement was made by the DoNER Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh after the discussion with the Japanese delegation which was led by Ambassador Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu.

97) The government launched the ________ phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to stimulate air connectivity in an affordable way.

A. second  
B. third  
C. fourth  
D. fifth  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The government launched the fourth phase of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to stimulate air connectivity in an affordable way. Ministry of Civil Aviation has invited bids for the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN.

98) When was the Regional Connectivity Scheme launched?

A. 2015  
B. 2016  
C. 2017  
D. 2018  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Regional Connectivity Scheme was launched in 2017. The scheme is a part of the government's vision to operationalize over 100 airports in smaller towns and cities over the next
99) Which Bill aims to merge Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu?

A. Merging of Union territories Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Amendment) Bill, 2018
B. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2018
C. Merging of Union territories Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Amendment) Bill, 2019
D. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019

Answer D

Explanation Rajya Sabha passed the Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019 on 3 December 2019. The Bill aims to merge two Union territories Daman & Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli into one unit. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on 27 November 2019.

100) Which Bill prohibits the use of hazardous materials in a ship with imprisonment or penalty or both?

A. Recycling of Ships (Amendment) Bill, 2018
B. Prohibition of hazardous materials and Recycling of Ships (Amendment) Bill, 2018
C. Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019
D. Prohibition of hazardous materials and Recycling of Ships (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Answer C

Explanation Lok Sabha passed the Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 on 3 December 2019. The Bill was introduced by the Minister of State for Shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya in the lower house. The Bill prohibits the use of hazardous materials of recycled ships. Use hazardous materials in a ship will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to Rs.5 lakh or both.

101) Asian Development Bank and the Indian government signed a ________ loan agreement to provide the infrastructure to Tamil Nadu.

A. $152 million
B. $183 million
C. $206 million
102) How much did the Uttar Pradesh approve the construction of an extension line of the Noida-Greater Noida Metro?

A. Rs.1,586 crore
B. Rs.2,682 crore
C. Rs.3,500 crore
D. Rs.3,878 crore

Answer B

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh State government approved the construction of an extension line of the Noida-Greater Noida Metro. The State also allocated a sum of Rs.2,682 crore for the project. The decision was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The announcement was made by Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC).

103) When was the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) established?

A. 1 March 1948
B. 1 June 1950
C. 1 July 1949
D. 1 August 1955

Answer C

Explanation: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) established on 1 July 1949. It is headquartered at New Delhi, India.

104) Who is elected as the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

A. Takehiko Nakao
B. Jin Liqun
C.Tedros Adhanom
D.Masatsugu Asakawa

Answer D

Explanation Masatsugu Asakawa has been elected as the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by the Bank's Board of Governors. Mr. Asakawa is currently serving as the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

105) Who conferred the 2019 National Florence Nightingale Awards?

A.President
B.Vice President
C.Prime Minister
D.Minister of Home Affairs

Answer A

Explanation The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel in New Delhi on 5 December 2019.

106) In which State does the Aqua Line Metro run?

A.Noida, Uttar Pradesh
B.Chennai, Tamil Nadu
C.Bengaluru, Karnataka
D.Patna, Bihar

Answer A

Explanation The Aqua Line of the metro was inaugurated in January 2019. It connects Noida and Greater Noida. The metro line covers a distance of almost 30 km.

107) World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced ________ as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

A.2020
B.2022
C.2024
D.2025
Answer A

Explanation World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

108) Takehiko Nakao was the ________ President of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
   A. 6th
   B. 9th
   C. 12th
   D. 15th

Answer B

Explanation Masatsugu Asakawa has been elected as the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by the Bank's Board of Governors. Mr. Asakawa is currently serving as the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. He will be assuming the office on 17 January 2020. He will be the 10th President of ADB.

109) ________ State government partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to design a Public-Private pilot on shared, clean and electric mobility.
   A. Kerala
   B. Telangana
   C. Punjab
   D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer C

Explanation Punjab State government partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to design a Public-Private pilot on shared, clean and electric mobility. The move aims to combat the growing problem of environmental pollution in the state.

110) In which year was/will be the Aqua Line Metro inaugurated?
   A. 2017
   B. 2018
   C. 2019
D.2020

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Aqua Line of the metro was inaugurated in January 2019. It connects Noida and Greater Noida. The metro line covers a distance of almost 30 km.

111) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) signed an MoU with ________ to cooperate, collaborate and pursue industrial application-oriented research programmes and its commercialization on a large scale.

A.IIT-Guwahati
B.BHEL
C.BEL
D.DRDO

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) signed an MoU with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on 5 December 2019. The MoU will be effective for five years' duration. The MoU was aimed to cooperate, collaborate and pursue industrial application-oriented research programmes and its commercialization on a large scale.

112) How much did the Centre allocate for the NGOs that are registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2018-19?

A.Rs.2,244.77 crore
B.Rs.3,221 crore
C.Rs.1,235.55 crore
D.Rs.1,872.78 crore

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The FCRA registered NGOs in India have been given a total of Rs.2,244.77 crore in 2018-19, as on 28 November 2019, and Rs.16,902.41 crore in 2017-18.

113) Where was the 2019 National Public Procurement Conclave held?

A.New Delhi
B.Hyderabad
The 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave began held in New Delhi. The conclave was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal along with Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, Som Parkash.

114) Which organization is to introduce a mobile science lab (MSL)?

A. Piramal Enterprise  
B. Cipla Foundation  
C. Lupin Ltd  
D. Sun Pharmaceutical

Answer B

Explanation Cipla Foundation has introduced a mobile science lab (MSL) under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) with its Agastya International Foundation. It implemented the Agastya International Foundation.

115) The ________ edition of National Public Procurement Conclave aims to emerge that will facilitate work contracts in the form of tenders to be made available on the GeM portal in the future.

A. 3rd  
B. 5th  
C. 7th  
D. 18th

Answer A

Explanation The 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave began held in New Delhi. The two-day deliberations an actionable agenda will emerge that will facilitate work contracts in the form of tenders to be made available on the GeM portal in the future.

116) Who took charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy?

A. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar
B. Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh  
C. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh  
D. Vice Admiral Pradeep Singh  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh took charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 2 December 2019. He will be responsible for all personal issues of Service and Civilian manpower of the Navy including training, induction, discipline, career management, pay, and allowances.

117) **Who organized the 2019 National Public Procurement Conclave?**  
A. Institute of Career In Financial Market (ICFM)  
B. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)  
C. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)  
D. B&C  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** The 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave began held in New Delhi. The two-day conclave is organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

118) **When is the World Soil Day observed?**  
A. 2 Dec  
B. 3 Dec  
C. 4 Dec  
D. 5 Dec  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** World Soil Day is observed on 5 December 2019. It is observed every year. It highlights the problem due to population expansion. It raises the profile of healthy soil.

119) **Ravneet Singh replaced __________ as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy.**  
A. Vice Admiral Krishna Kumar
B. Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar  
C. Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar  
D. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar  

Answer D

**Explanation** Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh took charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 2 December 2019. He replaced Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar. He will be heading the Personnel Branch of the Indian Navy.

120) What is the theme of the 2019 World Soil Day?  
A. Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life  
B. Be the solution to soil pollution  
C. Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future  
D. Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground  

Answer C

**Explanation** The theme for the 2019 World Soil day is Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future. The day raises awareness on the importance of human well-being and sustaining healthy ecosystems. It focuses on the growing problem regarding soil as the Earth's population continues to expand.

121) Who recommended the observation of World Soil Day?  
A. United Nations Environment Programme  
B. International Union of Soil Sciences  
C. World Soil Conservation Commission  
D. International Soil Research Centre  

Answer B

**Explanation** In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended the observation of the World Soil Day annually on 5 December.

122) Who is appointed as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee?  
A. Vice Admiral Arun Prakash  
B. Vice Admiral Harish Singh
C. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar
D. Vice Admiral Jaya Prakash

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar has been appointed as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee at Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS).

123) 5 December was chosen for the celebration of the World Soil Day as it corresponds with the official birthday of the ________

A. late Nguyen Phuc Vinh Thuy, King of Vietnam
B. late Qin Shi Huang, King of China
C. late Sultan Muhammad V of Kelantan, King of Malaysia
D. late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand

**Answer D**

**Explanation** 5 December was chosen for the celebration of the World Soil Day as it corresponds with the official birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. He was one of the main proponents of this initiative.

124) IFC has anchored an investment of _________ in Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services to create a dedicated pool of financing for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in low-income states.

A. $70 million
B. $150 million
C. $200 million
D. $240 million

**Answer C**

**Explanation** International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank Group, has anchored an investment round of $200 million in Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services. Among the investment, IFC has invested $75 million from its own account and is mobilizing another $125 million as parallel loans. The investment aims to create a dedicated pool of financing for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in low-income
125) When was the first World Soil Day observed?

A. 1990
B. 1994
C. 2008
D. 2014

**Answer D**

**Explanation** In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) recommended the observation of the World Soil Day annually on 5 December. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported the institution of the day with the support of the Kingdom of Thailand. In June 2013, the day was endorsed by FAO. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 5 December 2014. The first World Soil Day was observed in 2014.

126) When was the International Finance Corporation (IFC) established?

A. 1945
B. 1956
C. 1963
D. 1975

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was established on 20 July 1956. It is headquartered in Washington, U.S.

127) ________ has anchored an investment in Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services to create a dedicated pool of financing for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in low-income states.

A. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
B. International Development Association (IDA)
C. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
D. Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

**Answer C**
International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank Group, has anchored an investment round of $200 million in Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services. The investment aims to create a dedicated pool of financing for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in low-income states.

128) Where is the headquarters of International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

A. New York, US  
B. London, UK  
C. Stockholm, Sweden  
D. Washington, US

Answer D

Explanation: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was established on 20 July 1956. It is headquartered in Washington, U.S.

129) When is the International Volunteer Day observed?

A. 10 July  
B. 12 August  
C. 8 October  
D. 5 December

Answer D

Explanation: International Volunteer Day is observed on 5 December every year. The day provides a unique chance for volunteers and organizations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values.

130) _________ is the parent organization of International Finance Corporation (IFC).

A. International Monetary Fund  
B. World Bank Group  
C. Asian Development Bank  
D. Reserve Bank of India

Answer B
The International Finance Corporation is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries. The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States.

131) When did the United Nations General Assembly passed its resolution to observe the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development?

A.1985  
B.1987  
C.1992  
D.1994  

Answer A

Explanation On 17 December 1985, the United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution A/RES/40/212 to observe the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.

132) Who is appointed as the CEO of Alphabet?

A.Pichai Sundararajan  
B.Larry Page  
C.Satya Nadella  
D.Sergey Brin  

Answer A

Explanation Pichai Sundararajan has been appointed as the CEO of Alphabet. He will replace company co-founder Larry Page as CEO of parent Alphabet Inc. Larry Page stepped down as head of Alphabet, Google's parent company.

133) The ________ edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit organized.

A.2nd  
B.4th  
C.7th
D.10th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is to be held from 6-7 December 2019 in Goa. The summit aims to support the Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital Firms.

134) Who organized the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit?

A. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade  
B. Government of Goa  
C. Government of Punjab  
D. A&B  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is to be held from 6-7 December 2019 in Goa. The Summit is organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the government of Goa.

135) Who is the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission of India?

A. Ramesh Chand  
B. Ashok Lahiri  
C. N.K. Singh  
D. Anoop Singh  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 15th Finance Commission submitted the report of the Commission for the financial year 2020-21 for further action.

136) Where is the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit held?

A. Pune  
B. Patna  
C. Goa  
D. Delhi
The 2nd edition of the Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is to be held from 6-7 December 2019 in Goa. The summit aims to support the Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital Firms.

137) The ________ Finance Commission submitted the report of the Commission for the financial year 2020-21 for further action.

A. 10th
B. 12th
C. 15th
D. 20th

Answer C

The 15th Finance Commission submitted the report of the Commission for the financial year 2020-21 for further action. It was submitted by Chairman Shri N.K. Singh, members S/Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri, Ramesh Chand, Anoop Singh and Secretary Shri Arvind Mehta of the commission. The final report for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 will be submitted by 30 October 2020.

138) What is the theme of the 2019 Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit?

A. Inclusive, Future-ready, and Intelligence-led
B. India Opportunity-Investing in tomorrow together
C. Developing an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem
D. Indian Startups: Global Footprint

Answer B

The theme of the 2019 Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit is India Opportunity-Investing in tomorrow together. The summit aims to mobilize global capital for innovation in India.

139) Under which article was the Finance Commission of India established?

A. Article 260
B. Article 280
C. Article 301
D. Article 317

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Commission was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution on 27 November 2017. The commission was formed to make recommendations for a period of five years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025.

140) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed an MoU with the ________ to offer technical training programs to employees of the government, nationals, and members of the organization.

A. Cyprus Accountants and Auditors Association (CAAA)
B. Saudi Arabia Accountants and Auditors Association (SAAA)
C. Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA)
D. Abu Dabhi Accountants and Auditors Association (ADAAA)

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association (KAAA) on 4 December 2019. Under the MoU, the ICAI will offer technical training programs in collaboration with the KAAA to employees of the Kuwait government, Kuwait nationals and members of the KAAA.

141) Which country topped the E-commerce Index 2019?

A. Netherlands
B. Switzerland
C. Singapore
D. Finland

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Netherlands topped the index for the second consecutive year.

A.28th  
B.54th  
C.73rd  
D.80th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India ranked 73rd in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2019. The ranking was conducted for 152 countries.

143) **The National Convention on Empowerment of Women for Social Transformation is to be held in ________.**

A. Gujarat  
B. Rajasthan  
C. Odisha  
D. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The National Convention on Empowerment of Women for Social Transformation is to be held in Rajasthan.

144) **Under which Scheme Centre is to fund to set up Women Help Desks in Police Stations?**

A. Modernization of State Police Forces  
B. Fortified Police Station Implementation Scheme  
C. Nirbhaya Fund  
D. Samudayak Police Yojna

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The central government has sanctioned a sum Rs.100 crores from Nirbhaya Fund to set up and strengthen Women Help Desks in Police Stations. The scheme will be implemented by the States and Union Territories.

145) **India stands ________ worst country in terms of biometric use.**
A. 4th
B. 12th
C. 8th
D. 5th

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Britain-based tech research firm Comparitech reported that India is the fifth worst country in terms of extensive and invasive use of biometric data. Before India stands China, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the US.

**146) How much did the Centre allocate to set up Women Help Desks in Police Stations?**

A. Rs. 50 crores
B. Rs. 100 crores
C. Rs. 200 crores
D. Rs. 300 crores

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The central government has sanctioned a sum Rs. 100 crores from Nirbhaya Fund to set up and strengthen Women Help Desks in Police Stations. The scheme will be implemented by the States and Union Territories.

**147) Which country ranked first in the list of worst countries for biometric data collection?**

A. Ireland
B. Portugal
C. Cyprus
D. The UK

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Ireland ranked first in the list of worst countries for biometric data collection.

**148) Where is the Sarai 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) located?**
A. Uttar Pradesh
B. Uttarakhand
C. Madhya Pradesh
D. Odisha

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Sarai in Haridwar, Uttarakhand started its functioning on 5 December 2019. The plant was completed before its scheduled timeline.

149) Which country recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths in 2018 as per the Lancet Global Health report?

A. The US  
B. India  
C. China  
D. Taiwan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** A report by Lancet Global Health said India recorded the highest estimated number of cervical cancer deaths in 2018. India contributed with 97,000 cases and 60,000 deaths and China recorded over 106,000 cases and 48,000 deaths.

150) What was the cost of the Sarai 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) project?

A. Rs.29.75 crores  
B. Rs.35.80 crores  
C. Rs.41.40 crores  
D. Rs.75.92 crores

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 14 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Sarai in Haridwar, Uttarakhand started its functioning on 5 December 2019. The cost of the project was Rs.41.40 crores.
151) Which country recorded the highest number of cases of cervical cancer deaths in 2018 as per the Lancet Global Health report?
A. China  
B. India  
C. The United States  
D. Indonesia  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A report by Lancet Global Health said China had the highest number of cases. China recorded over 106,000 cases and 48,000 deaths.

152) Under which Model was the Sarai 14 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant constructed?
A. Sewage Grit Removal Model  
B. Oxygen Uptake Model  
C. Sewage Sludge Treatment  
D. Hybrid Annuity Model  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Sarai 14 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant is the first STP that was completed under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) Based Public-Private Partnership Model. It is a 100% eco-friendly project.

153) Which bank launched the my:health Woman Suraksha policy?
A. HDFC  
B. ICICI  
C. Yes Bank  
D. Bank of Baroda  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched my:health Woman Suraksha policy. The policy has been designed to cover women against numerous illnesses and contingencies they may face during their lifetime.
154) After the merger of KALIA scheme and PM-Kisan scheme, how much will the Odisha farmers receive from the State government?
A. Rs.4,000
B. Rs.6,000
C. Rs.10,000
D. Rs.12,000

Answer A

Explanation The Odisha government is merging the State's Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana due to financial constraint. Of the announced annual financial assistance of Rs.10,000, the state government will give Rs.4,000 to farmers while the rest will be provided from the Centre's scheme. Landless farmers will get Rs.12,000 per year under the Kalia scheme.

155) Which port has been declared as the Port of Call under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) in December 2019?
A. Narayanganj
B. Sirajganj
C. Ashuganj
D. Mongla

Answer D

Explanation Centre has declared Port of Mongla and Chattogram as Ports of Call under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT&T) between India and Bangladesh. Mongla and Chattogram are declared as Ports of Call under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh.

156) Exercise INDRA 2019 will be held between India and _________.
A. The US
B. China
C. Russia
D. Thailand

Answer C
Explaination Exercise INDRA 2019 is a joint, tri-services exercise held between India and Russia. The exercise will be conducted in India from 10-19 December 2019. It will hold simultaneously at Babina, Pune, and Goa.

157) When is the Mongla Port located?

A. India
B. Sri Lanka
C. Bangladesh
D. Vietnam

**Answer C**

Explaination The Port of Mongla is the second busiest seaport of Bangladesh. It is located in Bagerhat District in the southwestern part of the country.

158) When was the Exercise INDRA series began?

A. 2000
B. 2003
C. 2009
D. 2015

**Answer B**

Explaination Exercise INDRA series began in 2003. The First Joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. It will boost cooperation and interoperability between the Indian and Russian navies.

159) In whose memory was the CMJ Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019 located?

A. Caleb Matthew-Jayden
B. Connor Mark-Jamie
C. Christopher Martin-Jenkins
D. Charles Mason-Jacob

**Answer C**

Explaination New Zealand cricket team was awarded with the Marylebone Cricket Club’s (MCC) Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ) Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019. The New Zealand team
defeated the World Cup final against England to win the cup. The team displayed a level of sportsmanship in the event.

160) When was the Exercise INDRA, the first Joint Tri-Services Exercise conducted?
A. 2005
B. 2008
C. 2013
D. 2017

Answer D

Explanation Exercise INDRA series began in 2003. The First Joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017. It will boost cooperation and interoperability between the Indian and Russian navies.

161) When was the CMJ Spirit of Cricket award 2019 instituted?
A. 2013
B. 2015
C. 2017
D. 2019

Answer A

Explanation The CMJ Spirit of Cricket award was instituted by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and the BBC in 2013.

162) Where will the Exercise INDRA 2019 be held?
A. Babina
B. Pune
C. Goa
D. All the above

Answer D

Explanation Exercise INDRA 2019 is a joint, tri-services exercise held between India and Russia. The exercise will be conducted in India from 10-19 December 2019. It will hold
simultaneously at Babina, Pune, and Goa.

163) Which University is to set up a separate Department of Disabilities and Rehabilitation Studies (DDRS)?

A. IIT-Guwahati  
B. Mysore University  
C. JNU University  
D. IGNOU

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The University of Mysore (UoM) is to set up a separate Department of Disabilities and Rehabilitation Studies (DDRS) in its campus at Manasagangotri. It was approved by the University of Mysore Academic Council. The announcement was made by the Vice-Chancellor G Hemantha Kumar.

164) Centre is has introduced ________ as a subject in class IX from the session 2019-20 in the schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

A. Robotics  
B. Ergonomics  
C. Artificial Intelligence  
D. Emotional Intelligence

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Centre is has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a subject in class IX from the session 2019-20 in the schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Centre has also launched a twelve hours Inspire module in which schools can take up with the students of class VIII.

165) Which team won the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ) Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019?

A. England  
B. Australia  
C. New Zealand
New Zealand cricket team was awarded with the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ) Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019. The New Zealand team defeated the World Cup final against England to win the cup. The team displayed a level of sportsmanship in the event.

166) Which State is to merge Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana?

A. Odisha  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Bihar  
D. Tamil Nadu

Answer A

The Odisha State government is merging the State's Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) yojana due to financial constraint.


A. 3rd  
B. 4th  
C. 5th  
D. 2nd

Answer C

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20. The policy was prepared by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)-led by Governor Shaktikanta Das. Both the RBI and government are working in coordination to achieve growth.

168) When is the Civil Defence Day celebrated?
A.31 November
B.2 December
C.5 December
D.7 December

Answer C

Explanation Civil Defence Day is celebrated on 6 December 2019. Day is observed every year. The day aims to make aware of the citizens and highlight the importance of Civil Defence.

169) What is the repo rate announced the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20?

A.5.05%
B.5.075%
C.5.15%
D.5.20%

Answer C

Explanation Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20. The policy was prepared by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)-led by Governor Shaktikanta Das. The repo rate remains the same as 5.15%. It was not changed due to inflation pressure.

170) When was the Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence established?

A.1953
B.1962
C.1968
D.1972

Answer B

Explanation The Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence was established on 17th November 1962. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India

171) In its 5th Monetary policy, RBI lowered its real GDP growth forecast for
2019-20 from _______ in the October policy to 5%.

A. 5.3%
B. 6.1%
C. 6.7%
D. 7.0%

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20. In its 5th Monetary policy, RBI lowered its real GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 6.1% in the October policy to 5%.

172) How many sections were there initially in the Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence?

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 5

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence was established on 17th November 1962. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India. Initially, there were only four sections namely Fire Section, Civil Defence, Home Guards, and Communication Section.

173) The _________ Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated in Kohima.

A. first
B. second
C. third
D. fourth

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated on 5 December 2019 at the Heritage, Old DC Bungalow, Kohima, Nagaland.
174) Who is appointed as the Senior Security Advisor in the Home Ministry?

A. K Vijay Kumar  
B. S Raja Balan  
C. T V Karthick Subramaniyan  
D. Sandeep Kumar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Former advisor to the Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, K Vijay Kumar, is appointed as a Senior Security Advisor in the Union Home Ministry.

175) Who organized the Nagaland Honey Bee Day?

A. Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)  
B. North East Council (NEC)  
C. Nagaland North-Eastern Council (NNERC)  
D. A & B

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated on 5 December 2019 at the Heritage, Old DC Bungalow, Kohima, Nagaland. The program was organized by Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) with support from North East Council (NEC).

176) Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence functions under _______.

A. Ministry of Home Ministry  
B. Ministry of Defence  
C. Ministry of Public Works and Welfare  
D. Ministry of Disaster Management

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Directorate General Fire Services, Civil Defence was established on 17th November 1962. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India.

177) The Nagaland State Government declared _________ as the Nagaland
Honey Bee Day.

A. 15 November  
B. 28 November  
C. 5 December  
D. 12 December 

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Nagaland State Government declared 5 December as the Nagaland Honey Bee Day.

178) How much did the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approve for the up-gradation of the 39 Government Medical Colleges and Institutions (GMCIs)?

A. Rs. 100 crore  
B. Rs. 150 crore  
C. Rs. 375 crore  
D. Rs. 400 crore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposal for the upgradation of the 39 Government Medical Colleges and Institutions (GMCIs) in the third phase of PMSSY on 7th November 2013. It also approved a cost of Rs. 150 crore each, Rs. 120 crore for the Central Contribution and Rs.30 crore for the State Share.

179) What is the theme of the 2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day?

A. Help Save The Bees Eat Organic!  
B. Let Us Get Together, And Save The Pollinators  
C. Save Bee Save Life  
D. Help Keep The World Sweet

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 2nd Nagaland Honey Bee Day was celebrated on 5 December 2019 at the Heritage, Old DC Bungalow, Kohima, Nagaland. The theme of the Honey Bee Day is Save Bee Save Life.
180) When was the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana approved?

A. 2001  
B. 2003  
C. 2006  
D. 2010  

Answer C

Explanation  The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was approved in March 2006. The scheme aims to correct the imbalances in the availability of affordable healthcare facilities in the different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.

181) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certified ________ as India's first Eat Right Station.

A. Chennai Central railway station  
B. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj railway station  
C. Mumbai Central railway station  
D. Bengaluru Central railway station  

Answer C

Explanation  Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certified Mumbai Central railway station as India's first Eat Right Station. It rated the station with four stars rating. The move comes under the Eat Right India initiative started by FSSAI in 2018.

182) When was the Eat Right India initiative started by FSSAI?

A. 2014  
B. 2015  
C. 2016  
D. 2017  

Answer D

Explanation  Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certified Mumbai Central railway station as India's first Eat Right Station. It rated the station with four stars rating. The
move comes under the Eat Right India initiative started by FSSAI in 2018.

183) Which bank signed an agreement of line of credit (LoC) $500 million with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division?

A. Exim bank  
B. DBS bank  
C. RBI  
D. SEBI  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance
On 11 April 2019, the Exim Bank signed an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division. The agreement was to provide India-supported line of credit (LoC) $500 million to Bangladesh. The agreement under the LoC came into effect from 7 November 2019.

184) The annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe is to take place in ________.

A. Arunachal Pradesh  
B. Assam  
C. Manipur  
D. Shillong  

**Answer B**

**Explanation**
The annual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe is to take place between 15-17 December 2019. The announcement was made by the External Affairs Ministry. The summit is expected to take place in Guwahati, Assam.

185) How much did India provide as a Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh?

A. $200 million  
B. $350 million  
C. $500 million  
D. $600 million
**Answer C**

**Explanation** India provided a $500 million Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh on 5 December. The funding is for defence-related procurement in Bangladesh.

**186) Where is the 2+2 dialogue between India and the US to be held?**

A. New Delhi  
B. Washington  
C. New York  
D. Mumbai  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India and the US are planning to sign a defence technology-sharing pact. The two countries will sign a deal at the 2+2 dialogue on 19 December in Washington, the US. The Indian side will be led by defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar to the dialogue.

**187) Who is to lead India in the upcoming 2+2 Dialogue?**

A. Rajnath Singh  
B. S Jaishankar  
C. Amit Shah  
D. A&B  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India and the US are planning to sign a defence technology-sharing pact. The two countries will sign a deal at the 2+2 dialogue on 19 December in Washington, the US. The Indian side will be led by defence minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister S Jaishankar to the dialogue.

**188) How much did Japan invest for various North-Eastern India's project?**

A. Rs.10,000 crore  
B. Rs.13,000 crore  
C. Rs.15,000 crore  
D. Rs.16,000 crore
Answer B

Explanation Japan has invested in the development of India's Northeast projects with its historical ties. Japan has committed Rs.13,000 crore for the purpose.

189) When did the Exim Bank sign an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division?

A. April 2019  
B. May 2019  
C. June 2019  
D. July 2019

Answer A

Explanation On 11 April 2019, the Exim Bank signed an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division. The agreement was to provide India-supported line of credit (LoC) $500 million to Bangladesh. The agreement under the LoC came to effect from 7 November 2019.

190) Where is the Avantee mega Food Park located?

A. Madhya Pradesh  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Bihar  
D. Odisha

Answer A

Explanation The Union Minister for food processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. This is the first food park in Central India.

191) When did the Indian government set up a committee to strengthen and manage the welfare of its defence personnel after independence?

A. 1949  
B. 1950  
C. 1952  
D. 1954
Answer A

Explanation After Independence, the government set up a committee on 28 August 1949, to strengthen and manage the welfare of its defence personnel. The Day has been observed since 1949.

192) What was the cost of the Avantee mega Food Park located?

A. Rs.100 crore
B. Rs.150 crore
C. Rs.200 crore
D. Rs.250 crore

Answer B

Explanation The Union Minister for food processing Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Avantee mega Food Park in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. This is the first food park in Central India. The cost of the Food park is about 150 crore rupees.

193) When was the Indian Armed Forces Flag Day first observed?

A. 1947
B. 1948
C. 1949
D. 1950

Answer C

Explanation After Independence, the government set up a committee on 28 August 1949, to strengthen and manage the welfare of its defence personnel. The Indian Armed Forces Flag Day has been observed since 1949.

194) Who is the Union Minister of food processing?

A. Dharmendra Pradhan
B. Arvind Ganpat Sawant
C. Pralhad Joshi
D. Harsimrat Kaur Badal

Answer D
**Explanation** Harsimrat Kaur Badal is an Indian politician serving as the Union Cabinet Minister of Food Processing in the Government of India and Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Bathinda. She is a member of Shiromani Akali Dal Party.

195) What is the theme for the Amateur Category of the 8th National Photography awards?

A. Terrestrial life and Earth  
B. Cultural Heritage of India  
C. Mother Nature  
D. Guardian of the nature

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The theme of 8th National Photography awards For Amateur Category, it is the Cultural Heritage of India.

196) Ministry of Defence has empowered __________ has to board, search any vessel and arrest people for offences within the maritime zone of the country.

A. Coast Guard  
B. Guards of Sea  
C. Indian Ocean Police  
D. IOR Safety Guards

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Ministry of Defence has empowered Indian Coast Guard (CG) has to board, search any vessel and arrest people for offences within the maritime zone of the country.

197) What is the theme for the Professional Category of the 8th National Photography awards?

A. Life and Water  
B. Cultural Heritage of India  
C. Deep Blue sea  
D. Prosperous Green Cover

**Answer A**
The theme of 8th National Photography awards for the Professional Category is Life and Water.

198) Who is the first plogger of India?

A. Shradha Sharma  
B. Ripu Daman Bevli  
C. Harsh Agarwal  
D. Nandini Shenoy

Answer B

Explanation Ripu Daman Bevli is India's first plogger. His mission is to Run to make Litter Free India which is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign.

199) When was the Indian Coast Guard established?

A. 1954  
B. 1963  
C. 1978  
D. 1992

Answer C

Explanation The Indian Coast Guard was established on 18 August 1978. The Coast Guard was formed under the Coast Guard Act, 1978. It functions under the Ministry of Defence. Additional Director General: Additional DG Krupa Ram Nautiyal

200) When was the first Fit India Plogging Run launched in India?

A. April 2019  
B. June 2019  
C. September 2019  
D. October 2019

Answer D

Explanation Fit India Plogging Run was launched on 2 October 2019. The event concluded at Delhi's Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. The run covered 50 cities across the country. Over 36 lakh people from 62,000 locations participated across the country. It was organized jointly by Sports
Authority of India (SAI), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS), NGOs, Kendriya Vidalaya and several other organizations.

201) When is the International Civil Aviation Day observed?

A. 1 Dec  
B. 3 Dec  
C. 7 Dec  
D. 14 Dec  

Answer C

Explanation: International Civil Aviation Day is observed on 7 December 2019. It is celebrated every year. The day aims to celebrate the unique role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.

202) OPEC group of oil-producing countries and their allies including Russia is to cut oil production by ________ barrels per day.

A. 200,000  
B. 500,000  
C. 700,000  
D. 1,000,000  

Answer B

Explanation: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) group of oil-producing countries and their allies including Russia is to cut oil production by 500,000 barrels per day.

203) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to conduct the _______ National Photography Awards in 2019.

A. 6th  
B. 12th  
C. 10th  
D. 8th  

Answer D
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has invited entries for the 8th National Photography Awards. It released the guidelines for the awards. The awards are organized by the Photo Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

204) Which Station became the 5,500th station to get the free WiFi facility?

A. Adhartal railway station  
B. Mahuamilan railway station  
C. Burhar railway station  
D. Raoti railway station  

Answer B

Jharkhand's Mahuamilan railway station has become the 5,500th station to get the facility free WiFi provided by the Railways has provided across the country. Midnapore Railway station of South Eastern Railway zone was the 5000th station in the country to have public Wi-Fi.

205) When did the UNGA pass the resolution to observe the International Civil Aviation Day?

A. 1944  
B. 1968  
C. 1972  
D. 1996  

Answer D

In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/51/33 and declared the observance of the International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December.

206) Which State government launched the First Pashu Kisan credit cards in India?

A. Karnataka  
B. Andhra Pradesh  
C. Haryana  
D. Punjab
Answer C

Explanation The First Pashu Kisan credit cards in India were distributed to 101 animal farmers in Bhiwani, Haryana on 6 December at the Animal Farmers Credit Card Scheme launching ceremony. The State government has set a target to issue 10 lakh Pashu Kisan Credit cards by March 2021. The State aims to double the income of farmers in the state.

207) Where was the India Water Impact Summit held?
A. Srinagar
B. Leh
C. New Delhi
D. Shimla

Answer B

Explanation The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Summit was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT Kanpur.

208) When was the International Civil Aviation Day observed for the first time?
A. 1944
B. 1962
C. 1978
D. 1996

Answer A

Explanation In 1944, the observation of International Civil Aviation Day was proposed at the Chicago Convention. The International Civil Aviation Day was celebrated on 7 December 1994 for the first time as a part of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation by ICAO.

209) Which State launched the anti Depredation Squads of the Forest Department?
A. Manipur
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Assam  
D. Uttar Pradesh

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Assam State government has launched anti Depredation Squads of the Forest Department in the State. The department will deal with human-elephant conflict. It was launched by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at a ceremony.

**210) Who organized the India Water Impact Summit in 2019?**

A. Ministry of Jal Shakti  
B. Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) by IIT Kanpur  
C. cGanaga IIT Guwahati  
D. A&B

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Summit was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) led by IIT Kanpur.

**211) Who became the first woman match referee to oversee a men's ODI?**

A. Ramya Sankar  
B. GS Lakshmi  
C. Pavithra Devi  
D. NS Priya Kumari

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Former India cricketer GS Lakshmi has become the first woman match referee to oversee a men's One Day International (ODI). She officiated the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**212) When was the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) established?**

A. 1932  
B. 1944
C. 1956
D. 1963

**Answer B**

**Explanation** International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was formed in 1944. It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada. It functions under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

**213) Government is to set up _______ Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitters in the premises of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).**

A. 3
B. 7
C. 9
D. 10

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Government has approved seven projects to set up Frequency Modulation (FM) transmitters in the premises of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). The announcement was made by Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar.

**214) The _______ India Water Impact Summit, 2019 focused on integrated water resources management in urban and rural settings.**

A. 4th
B. 10th
C. 25th
D. 33rd

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The 2019 Summit focused on integrated water resources management in urban and rural settings.

**215) When is the Indian Armed Forces Flag Day observed?**

A. 15 January
Answer D

Explanation Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on 7 December. It is observed every year in India. The day is observed to honor the martyrs and the men of the Armed Forces who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard India's honor.

216) What is the theme of the 2019 India Water Impact Summit?

A. Valuing Water | Transforming Ganga
B. Clean Ganga for a safe life
C. Make In India - Transformation for a Clean World
D. Clean Ganga - Wealth of Mother India

Answer A

Explanation The 4th India Water Impact Summit was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme of the 2019 summit is Valuing Water | Transforming Ganga. The theme focuses on the Financing of High Impact Projects in the water sector.

217) ISRO is to set up of ________ space technology cells (STCs) at India's premier engineering and science colleges.

A. 5
B. 6
C. 7
D. 8

Answer A

Explanation The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the setting up of five space technology cells (STCs) at India's premier engineering and science colleges. The Indian Space Agency aims to build new applications, conduct space research, and high-end technology.

218) Who is appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India?

A. Amit Agarwal
Ripu Daman Bevli has been appointed as the Plogging Ambassador of India. The appointment was announced by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju on the 50th Fit India Plogging Run. The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region.

219) Who won the Siu-Ka-Pha Award in 2019?

A. Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi
B. Dr. Solipuram Madhusudhan Reddy
C. Dr. Satish Chandra Maheshwari
D. Dr. Deepak Acharya

Answer A

The Siu-Ka-Pha Award was presented to noted educationist, Botanist and folklore researcher Dr. Padmeswar Gogoi. It was presented at a programme held at Siu-Ka-Pha Samannay Kshetra in Golaghat. The award recognized his effort and contribution in the field of botany and science.

220) As per Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) new health insurance policy will cover up to ________ cost of sex or gender reassignment surgery.

A. 40%
B. 50%
C. 65%
D. 70%

Answer B

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees. The insurance policy will cover up to 50% cost of sex or gender reassignment surgery.
221) 6 December 2019 marked _________ death anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar.

A. 50th  
B. 58th  
C. 63rd  
D. 75th  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** 6 December 2019 marked the 63rd death anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (14 April 1891–6 December 1956), popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement and campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables (Dalits), while also supporting the rights of women and labour.

222) Which Airport started its operations on the new South Runway with the landing of the first flight on the 4,000-metres long and 45-meters wide airstrip?

A. Indira Gandhi International Airport  
B. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport  
C. Kempegowda International Airport  
D. Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru started its operations on the new South Runway. The operation began with the landing of the first flight on the 4,000-metres long and 45-meters wide airstrip.

223) Which state's central committee of different ethnic groups and organizations instituted the Siu-Ka-Pha Award?

A. Manipur  
B. Assam  
C. Tripura  
D. Arunachal Pradesh  

**Answer B**
Explanation Siu-Ka-Pha Award was instituted by the central committee of different ethnic groups and organizations of Golaghat district, Assam.

224) Which State launched the booklet on the life and teachings of Dr. BR Ambedkar for students of class 6-8 in government schools?

A. Goa  
B. Delhi  
C. Bihar  
D. Tamil Nadu

Answer B

Explanation The Delhi government launched a booklet on the life and teachings of Dr. BR Ambedkar for students of class 6-8 in government schools. The booklet was launched on Ambedkar's 63rd death anniversary.

225) ________ of Tata Group companies announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees.

A. Tata Motors  
B. Tata Steel Ltd  
C. Tata Power  
D. Tata Consultancy Services

Answer D

Explanation Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced changes in its health insurance policy in order to provide benefits to employees involved in LGBT employees, a same-sex relationship. TCS became the first Tata Group companies to bring the change.

226) Where is the Kempegowda International Airport located?

A. Hyderabad  
B. Bengaluru  
C. Amaravati  
D. Goa
Answer B

Explanation Kempegowda International Airport is an international airport serving Bangalore, the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. Spread over 4,000 acres, it is located about 40 kilometres north of the city near the village of Devanahalli.

227) Which word was named as the 2019 Word of the Year by Oxford Dictionaries?

A. youthquake
B. post-truth
C. vape
D. climate emergency

Answer D

Explanation Oxford Dictionaries has named climate emergency as the 2019 Word of the Year. The word was chosen from an all-environmental shortlist that also included climate action, climate denial, eco-anxiety, extinction and flight shame.
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