Wipro - skilling platform to train 10,000 engineering students

India test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System

China successfully launches largest carrier rocket

Oxygen Parlour inaugurated at Nashik Railway Station

4th Week Current Affairs December 2019
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BANKING & FINANCE

Google searches for Operation Twist surge in India

Google searches for Operation Twist surge in India. The announcement came after the central bank announced its version of the U.S. Federal Reserve unconventional monetary policy. The searches for the term came from Delhi, Maharashtra. Central Bank of India. The central bank buys long-term bonds while simultaneously selling short-term government securities to cheapen long-term borrowing and boost bank lending. Reserve Bank of India buys longer-tenor bonds to sell for shorter debt. The Operation Twist in 2011-2012 to cheapen long-term financing and spur bank lending. It is India's central bank that controls the issue and supply of the Indian rupee. RBI is the regulator of entire Banking in India. It plays an important part in the Development Strategy of the Government of India.

Bank Of Baroda Partners With Gujarat Govt To Provide MSME Loans

The flow of credit in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Bank of Baroda signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government.

The credit will be provided to the MSME sector for greenfield projects, startups, women entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs from backward areas under the Gujarat Single Window Clearance Act 2017 & Ordinance Number 1 of 2019 dated October 24, 2019.

The customers can register their request on the link available on the Gujarat governments single window portal from where Bank of Baroda will initiate further action after receiving the details.

The MoU with the Gujarat government is a step forward for MSME entrepreneurs. The state government is committed to supporting the MSME sector in the state for economic development, and this is a significant initiative taken by the government whereby exemption provided to the entrepreneurs from certain approvals and inspections before the establishment of units. This MoU would speed up the process of credit offtake as well as industrial development.

Bank of Baroda
It is the third-largest public sector bank in India with a business mix of close to US$225 billion.
**CEO**: P. S. Jayakumar
**Headquarters**: Alkapuri, Vadodara

**ADB 490 million dollars loan to upgrade Indian state roads**

Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a **490 million dollar loan** for public-private partnerships. Around thousand six hundred kilometers of state highways and major district roads from single-lane to two-lane widths in Madhya Pradesh. The 286 million dollars investment mobilized through private sector participation under the PPP modality. The rural roads and national highways and up-gradation of these roads under the project will improve rural and peri-urban connectivity in the state and improve access to markets and better services.

The project continues ADBs engagement with the states road sector since 2002 open a new partnership by introducing PPP through the hybrid-annuity model, thereby leveraging government financing and improving the sustainability of capital investments. Hybrid-Annuity Model is a mix of engineering, procurement, construction, and build-operate-transfer. This passes the responsibility of design, implementation, and operation and maintenance obligations. The government release 60 percent of the total project cost during construction. The concessionaire arranges the remaining **40 percent** in the form of equity and commercial debt. The project will upgrade 750 kilometers of state highways and 850 kilometers of major district roads to two-lane and all-weather standards with road safety features. It will also develop an e-maintenance system that can record defects or required maintenance, along with a training program to develop capacity on contract implementation and project finance in the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation.

**Airtel Payments Bank enables 24x7 NEFT transfers**

Airtel Payments Bank announced its customers will now be able to use the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) any time of the day in-line with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. The facility will be available to customers
on a 24x7 basis even on holidays. Customers can enable them to receive or send funds to any bank from anywhere, anytime.

**Airtel Payments Bank**
It receives a payment bank license from the Reserve Bank of India and it became the first live payments bank in the country.
**Headquarters:** New Delhi
**Founded:** 2019

**What is the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)?**
It is an electronic fund transfer system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India. It is started in November 2005. It is a nation-wide payment system facilitating one-to-one funds transfer.

**Government to infuse Rs 8,655 crore to Allahabad Bank, IOB and UCO Bank**
The government of India approved the release of Rs 8,655 crore as fresh capital to three public sector banks. The bank includes **Allahabad Bank**, **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** and **UCO Bank**. The infusion did for preferential allotment of shares. The Fresh capital amounting to Rs 2,153 crore allocated to Allahabad Bank, Rs 2,142 crore to UCO Bank and Rs 4,630 crore to Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for preferential allotment of shares.

**Allahabad Bank**
It is a nationalised bank with its headquarters in Kolkata, India. It is the oldest joint stock bank in India.

**Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)**
Indian Overseas Bank is a major public sector bank based in Chennai

**MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank:** Karnam Sekar.

**Karnataka Bank launches tab banking service**
Karnataka Bank digital initiative launched **KBL Xpress SB Accounts** a digitized version for opening Savings Bank account through **TAB Banking** on the spot. The TAB banking account opening process, the Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account. The Bank official visit the customer's place and open the account using the TAB and issue the pre-activated Debit Card and Mobile and Internet Banking will be activated instantly.
KBL Xpress SB Accounts
The Bank already rolled out digital sanctions of its retail loan to meet the expectations of the millennial clients. Karnataka Bank to introduce KBL Xpress SB Accounts TAB banking facility, a digitized version of account opening. The introduction of TAB banking for SB account opening, the customers can be boarded by the Bank within a short span of 10 minutes and instantaneously debit card issued extending Mobile Banking and Internet Banking facilities. Initially, this will be launched in Bangalore on a pilot basis and will be expanded to Pan India. The strong presence of Karnataka Bank across India, this unique feature will give us an opportunity to expand our base and to connect to our prospective customers. It is headquartered at Mangalore.

Reserve Bank of India large cooperative banks to report all exposures of Rs 5 crore

Reserve Bank of India directed large cooperative banks to report all exposures of Rs 5 crore and more to the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) at early recognition of financial distress.

Reserve Bank of India created a CRILC of commercial banks all India financial institutions, and individual non-banking financial companies with multiple objectives, which, among others, include strengthening offsite supervision and early recognition of financial distress. RBI announced that to bring UCBs with assets of Rs 500 crore and above under the CRILC reporting framework.

The Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) having total assets of Rs 500 crore and above on all borrowers having aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore and above with them to CRILC maintained by the Reserve Bank. The total exposure will include all fund-based and non-fund based exposure (like partial credit enhancement), including investment exposure on the borrower. The UCBs will be required to submit the CRILC report on a quarterly basis with effect from December 31, 2019.
**BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

**Wipro to launch skilling platform to train 10,000 engineering students**

Wipro partnered with Nasscom to launch a skilling platform for new-age technologies like AI that will reach 10,000 students over 20 engineering colleges in India. Future Skills will bridge the industry-academia skill gap and help students keep pace with emerging technologies. It is a part of Wipro's Corporate Social Responsibility program, TalentNext.

**Aim**

The quality of engineering education by preparing faculty and academic leaders to train students.

The Future Skills is a platform built to bridge the industry-academia skill gap with the emerging technologies Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, and Internet of Things (IoT). This will create a talent pool of students, certified by Wipro and Nasscom. The magic of this platform is that it allows content and people to come together. It will enable learning at one's own pace. The aim to add 90 million working professionals to the industry by 2030 and the partnership with Wipro will ensure they possess the right skills to be employed.

**Union Cabinet approves transfer of administrative control of Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the transfer of administrative control of Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL). The central Public Sector implementing the Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP) from the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Feedstock subsidy to BCPL for 15 years of plant operation to maintain minimum Internal Rate of Return (IRR) of 10% (post-tax).

BCPL estimated feedstock subsidy of approximately Rs.4600 crore for the project for 15 years of plant operation. BCPL will submit the proposal on a yearly basis from the next financial year onwards and the administrative Ministry / Department devise a mechanism to examine the proposal in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to make firm arrangements through concerned PSUs for the supply of committed quantity and quality of feedstock to
the project as envisaged in the earlier CCEA approval of 2006. The project is seen as a part of the implementation of the Assam Accord and would give impetus to the development of the north-eastern region of the country and improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of Assam through increased employment.

**NTPC to invest 50,000 crores for 10 GW solar capacity**

NTPC planning to add 10 GW of solar energy generation capacity by 2022. An investment of 50,000 crores to be funded mainly by green bonds.

NTPC installed renewable energy capacity of 920 MW, which constitutes mainly solar energy. It formulated a long-term plan to become a 130 GW company by 2032 with 30% non-fossil fuel or renewable energy capacity. The company will tender 2,300 MW of solar energy capacity by the end of this fiscal. NTPC plans to add 10 GW solar energy capacity assume significance in view of Indias ambitious target of having 175 GW of clean energy by 2022. The power would set up some of its solar energy projects under a scheme to keep the tariff below the 3-per-unit level. The company will also set up solar energy projects without long-term (25 years) power purchase agreements as it aims to sell the electricity to industrial as well as commercial consumers and also at energy exchanges. The Central Electricity Regulatory Authority approved the real-time power market and 48 sessions of half an hour each in a day to allow consumers to get the desired power supply within an hour.

**ONGC gets green nod for Rs 3,500 cr onshore exploration project in Assam**

State-run ONGC received environment clearance (EC) for carrying out onshore exploration, development and production of oil and gas in 100 locations in the non-forest area of Assam, that would entail an investment of Rs 3,500 crore, according to official documents. The company to carry out drilling in 100 locations to evaluate the hydrocarbon potential of 21 different onshore Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) blocks in a non-forest area covering 944.39 km in Assam and Assam Arakan Basin covering whole of the Upper Assam North in Sivasagar district. The company put
the field under development and production. The cost is estimated to be Rs 3,500 crore. According to ONGC, there is still a lot of scopes in exploring new subsurface structures in Assam for hydrocarbons.

**North Assam Shelf**
The total area of Sivasagar district PML is 957.73 square kilometre in which Lake, Rudrasagar, Geleki and its adjoining areas are important oil-producing fields in North Assam Shelf of Sivasagar district. More than 500 wells (including exploratory wells and development wells) drilled in this field with depths ranging from 2,400 metres to 4,200 metres. The current EC granted for exploratory drilling of 100 wells which is a part of ongoing exploration efforts in various PML areas falling within the three main blocks of North Assam Shelf in Sivasagar district. India is dependent on imports for crude oil, and the government is encouraging the exploration and production of oil and gas. Around 70 per cent of the country's crude oil and 60 per cent of its natural gas.

**ONGC**
It is an Indian Multinational Crude Oil and Gas Corporation. Its registered office now in New Delhi.

**Bharat Heavy Electricals commissions India first lignite based 500 MW thermal unit**

**Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** commissioned the first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit of the 2x500 MW Neyveli New Thermal Power Project in Tamil Nadu. The country's first lignite-fired 500 MW power plant, but also its highest-rated pulverized lignite-fired thermal unit commissioned.

**Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)**
The plant is based on the Once-Through and Tower Type Boiler design adopted for the first time in the country for a lignite-based thermal unit. It is located in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district, the project is owned by NLC India Ltd. The second unit of the project an advanced stage of commissioning. NLC placed the order for a Boiler, Turbine & Generator (BTG) package for the two units with BHEL. BHEL's scope of work envisaged design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning, along with the associated civil works of BTG, and associated auxiliaries and electricals, besides Controls & Instrumentation (C&I) and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs).
The project manufactured by BHEL at its Haridwar, Tiruchi, Hyderabad, Ranipet, Bhopal and Bengaluru works, while the construction of the plant undertaken by the company's Power Sector - Southern Region, Chennai. It successfully delivered higher-rated units of 600 MW, 660 MW, 700 MW, and 800 MW thermal sets with a high degree of indigenization. Its strength of an installed base of over 1,85,000 MW of power plant equipment coupled with its vast experience with Indian coal and conditions.

**Ashok Leyland signed two-year deal with YES Bank for vehicle financing**

Hinduja group flagship firm **Ashok Leyland** inked a pact with **Yes Bank** for vehicle finance for a period of two years. The companies inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the partnership. Yes, Bank and Ashok Leyland will help the company design customized financial solution and the combined pan-India reach will help customers to choose the financial solution.

**Ashok Leyland**
Ashok Leyland is an Indian automobile company headquartered in Chennai, India owned by the Hinduja Group.
**Headquarters:** Chennai
**Founder:** Raghunandan Saran

**CCI approves acquisition of shares in My Home Industries by My Home Constructions**

**Competition Commission of India** (CCI) approves the acquisition of shares in My Home Industries Private Limited by My Home Constructions Private Limited. The combination acquisition of 50% of the shareholding of My Home Industries Private Limited (My Home Industries) by My Home Constructions Private Limited (MHCPL), Jupally Real Estate Developers Private Limited (JREDPL) and Dr. Rameswar Rao Jupally. MHCPL and JREDPL part of My Home Group based out of Hyderabad, Telangana. The real estate development, manufacturing and supply of grey cement, power consultancy, power generation, power trading, transportation and logistics, media and broadcasting, pharmaceutical, and education. **Home Industries**
Home Industries is a **50:50 joint venture** between CRH India Investments B.V.
and the Acquirers. It is engaged in the manufacturing and supply of grey cement under the brand name Maha Cement in India. It is present in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Union Territory of Puducherry, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. The company totally deal with the power generation activities from waste heat and solar power sources for captive consumption.

**Ratan Tata Gautam Adani among India's top 10 most Googled business tycoons**

Tata Sons chairman **Ratan Tata** emerged as India's most searched business tycoon on Google in 2019. Google released a Year in Search 2019 report shows what was trending on the world's largest search engine during the year in India. Here is the top 10 list of trending searches for business personalities in India.  

1) **Ratan Tata:** The Tata Group patriarch Google's most searched Indian business personality in 2019. He heads the Tata Group for 21 years credited with transforming the group from a conventional corporate house into a $100 billion global conglomerate with high-profile acquisitions abroad.  

2) **Azim Premji:** The Indian IT industry who turned Wipro from a cooking oil company into an $8.5 billion IT behemoth retired this July as the conglomerate's chairman and managing director. The third richest Indian with a wealth of 1,17,100 crore according to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List.  

3) **Lakshmi Mittal:** LN Mittal-led global steel giant ArcelorMittal concluded a 42,000 crore acquisition of debt-laden Essar Steel.  

4) **Cyrus S. Poonawalla:** Cyrus Poonawalla is not only one of the richest men in India, one of the most popular on Google. The 77-year-old runs the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest vaccine manufacturer, by several doses produced and sold. In one of the largest real estate deals in Mumbai, the billionaire had bought Lincoln House in the Breach Candy area of south Mumbai for a mind-boggling sum of 750 crore.  

5) **Anand Mahindra:** One of the few industrialists to pour his heart out on Twitter almost daily. Mahindra & Mahindra chairman Anand Mahindra will transition to the role of non-executive chairman from 1 April 2020.  

6) **Shiv Nadar:** HCL Technologies is now an $8.6 billion global IT company. He is also known for his philanthropic initiatives.  

7) **Gautam Adani:** A college dropout, the billionaire, is known as the ports tycoon of India.  

8) **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw:** He is among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2010, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the
Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon, Asia's leading bio-pharmaceuticals enterprise. **9) Uday Kotak:** The 60-year-old billionaire banker is the managing director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank. **10) Radhakishan Damani:** The retail king of India runs Avenue Supermarts operates D-Mart retail stores. A college dropout, Damani had started his career as a stockbroker.
INTERNATIONAL

French President appeals to transport unions to suspend strikes

President Emmanuel Macron appealed to transport unions to suspend strikes that threaten travel chaos over the Christmas holidays. The strikers should observe a truce out of respect for families and family life. The Two weeks of strikes over planned pension reforms have caused widespread disruption across France. The services would be severely disrupted. The usual number of high-speed trains operated yesterday, and half the metro lines in Paris. The national rail operator also announced plans to inform passengers in advance about cancellations and to offer ticket exchanges. Travellers and tourists in the country struggled to reach their destinations as ongoing strikes.

India and Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar development

India and Iran agreed to accelerate work on the strategic Chabahar project as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held wide-ranging talks with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Chabahar port jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade with central Asian nations by the three countries. It is located on the Indian Ocean in the Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran. Iran and Afghanistan inked a pact the establishment of Transit and Transport Corridor among the three countries using Chabahar Port as one of the regional hubs for sea transportation in Iran, besides multi-modal transport of goods and passengers across the three nations. India is closely working with Afghanistan and Iran to create an alternative, reliable access routes for trade in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi. Iran is India's third-largest oil supplier behind Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Iran supplied 18.4 million tonnes of crude oil during April 2017 and January 2018 (the first ten months of 2017-18 fiscal).

China Russia and Iran to hold naval drills in Gulf of Oman

China, Russia and Iran hold trilateral naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman. The move done by three countries in the volatile Middle East.
About the Trilateral Exercise

The trilateral exercise will be held in the Gulf of Oman from December 27 to 30. The Chinese Navy sent a guided missile destroyer to participate in the drills adding that the exercise aims to deepen the exchanges and cooperation between the navies of the three countries and demonstrating the goodwill and ability of the three parties to jointly maintain world peace and maritime security. The Gulf of Oman borders Iran and Pakistan on the north, Oman on the south, the United Arab Emirates on the west and faces the Gujarat coast. Wu declined to directly respond to a question whether the drills were anyway connected to recent tensions in the region and US naval drills.

This joint maritime exercise is normal military arrangement of these countries. The commentaries in the western media on the trilateral drill focussed on tensions between Iran and the US, Iran and Saudi Arabia as well as ties among Iran, China and Russia, all identified as competitors by the US as the three powers showcase their unity.

Aim of the Exercise

The regional shipping lanes and holding forces that threaten regional security in awe. It should not be interpreted and hyped in a geopolitical sense. China has no intention to be involved in the disputes in the Middle East, let alone picking a side in the region. No country should require China to develop a cooperative relationship that is exclusive.

Japan carries out first execution of foreigner in 10 years

Japan executed its first foreigner in 10 years on a Chinese man convicted in the 2003 murder and robbery of a family of four. Wei Wei, 40 hanged in Fukuoka more than 16 years.

Wei was convicted of robbing and killing a clothing store owner and his wife and two children at their home in Fukuoka. Chinese accomplices dumped the bodies into the ocean after attaching weights to them. Japan maintained the death penalty despite growing international criticism.

Japan have 112 people on death row including 84 seeking retrials. The executions are carried out in high secrecy in Japan prisoners not informed of their fate until the morning hanged. Japan begun disclosing the names of those executed and some details of their crimes disclosures are still limited. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
returned to power in 2012 executed 39 people. Japan hanged 15 people and also the guru of the Aum Shinrikyo.

Nepal Bans Indian Vehicles On Pokhara Roads Ahead of New Year

Nepal banned vehicles with Indian number plates from running in the tourist hub of Pokhara ahead of the new year.

Aim:
To attract two million tourists mostly Indians

Pokhara
Pokhara is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the country on Christmas and the new year. They decided to ban Indian vehicles in consultation with the district administration of Kaski to ease traffic congestion during celebrations. The administration has requested Indian visitors to cooperate with the temporary provision and urged them to use local vehicles. Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) planned to increase the number of Indian tourists visiting the Himalayan country by up to 25 percent in 2019. Around 2,00,000 tourists from India visited Nepal. NTB launched the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign in June to achieve two million arrivals from across the world by 2020 and a daily spend of over $75.

China liberalizing financial system scraps benchmark lending rate

Chinas central bank ordered to adopt a new loan-pricing regime for all credit from next year, marking an end to the previous benchmark and another a step toward liberalizing the financial system. The financial institutions should stop using the old lending rate as the pricing reference for all credit from January. The one-year lending rate provided the previous anchor for loans across the economy.

The move could lower costs for some of the 152 trillion yuan ($21.7 trillion) in yuan-denominated outstanding loans held by financial institutions and boost economic growth, even though it wont involve a straightforward cut to interest rates.

Revamped Rate - Central Bank
The new loans based on the interest rate for one-year loans that 18 banks offer their best customers. The Banks submit the quoted price each month in the form of a spread over the rate of the PBOCs medium-term loans.
The new rates when all borrowing is based on the LPR, the supply of central bank funding of medium-term loans will, in theory, push down the LPR, and reduce the cost of all lending to businesses.

**Old System of Banking**
The central banks govern the price of money in an economy where the banks are charged to borrow cash over short time periods. The reverse repurchase agreements and medium-term lending facility. The interest rate of home mortgages should be converted to the LPR.

**UN gives green light to draft treaty to combat cybercrime**

**UN General Assembly** approved it will start the process of drafting a new international treaty to combat cybercrime over objections from the European Union, the United States, and other countries. Russian-drafted resolution was approved by the 193-member world body by a vote of 79-60 with 33 abstentions. The resolution establishes an expert committee representing all regions of the world to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. There is no consensus among member states on the need or value of drafting a new treaty.

Russia's representative underscored that the resolution requires that the new committee must take into account the results of the work of the expert group on cybercrime, expected next year, which Moscow supports.

The substantive work on the new convention will begin in 2021.

**UN General Assembly**
United Nations General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

**Headquarters:** New York
Indian Railways to Procure 44 Rakes of Vande Bharat Trains from ICF

Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat trainset on New Delhi - Varanasi route on 15th February 2019. The trainset service between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Katra flagged off by Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 3rd October 2019. Integral Coach Factory published for the supply of electrical equipment and other items for 44 Trainsets of 16 coaches each. The procurement process promotes transparency, accountability, speed of delivery. It ensures compliance with RDSO specifications and vendor neutrality to allow maximum potential bidders to provide competitive rates. The two packet Global Competitive bids to procure 3 Phase propulsion equipment (electrics) with passenger and operator related peripheral items suitable for maximum service speed 160 kmph speed with 50% powering (8 Motor Coaches out of 16 cars in the formation as per clause no. 1.3.12 of RDSO Specification no. RDSO/PE/SPEC/EMU/01962019 (Rev.0). The conference will be held on 23/01/2020 at 10.30 Hrs.

Railway Project

The passenger throughput by way of higher acceleration/ deceleration and reduction in turnaround time, Indian Railways have planned to introduce passenger train sets with distributed powering, working on 25000 V single phase 50 Hz OHE system. This project is driven by the corporate mission of providing semi high-speed trains with a service speed of 160 KMPH having world-class technology and passenger amenities. All coaches in Train set will be Chair Car type for day travel. All the Train sets will be provided with cab AC in DTCs, above roof HT equipment, 25 KV Roof through HT cable assembly with associated accessories like insulators, jumper cables. The fully air-conditioned passenger compartment with vestibule arrangement, automatic plug doors with retractable footsteps, automatic intercommunication door, PAPIS consisting of in coach displays, speakers, side destination boards luggage racks with reading lamps, direct lighting (for passengers) and diffused lighting (for luggage racks), continuous LED light fixtures, modular pantry equipments and GPS antenna in all coaches, Mobile/laptop charging sockets in the passenger seats, CCTVs and Emergency talkback units with networking system in all coaches. The revised specification takes care of the improvements pointed out by Chief Commissioner for Railway Safety in the
prototype rake and will provide more reliable service along with ease of operations and improved passenger comfort. These weight energy efficient trainsets will have a ride index of less than 3.5 against the earlier value of less than 4, which will enhance passenger comfort even for longer journeys. These optimized trainsets will also be suitable for operations in Jammu and Kashmir, and the electrics will be tested for continuous services at 160 mph. A residual acceleration value of 0.1 ms\(^2\), which is double the earlier value of 0.05 ms\(^2\), will enable the trainset to reach the top speed of 160 mph in a maximum of 140 seconds. The new trainsets will provide an actual saving of 20% in journey time, and all equipment is suitable for flooding conditions. The trainset interiors will have improved fire safety as per EN 45545 HL2 and improved electrical protection and security with a well-defined protection scheme for High Voltage roof cable, Automatic fire detection, and alarm. The trainset provided with explosion-proof, lightweight lithium-iron-phosphate batteries specified to provide back up for the duration of 3 hours, state of the art aluminum body roof-mounted packaged unit (RMPU) type air-conditioning units with thermal comfort based Microprocessor controller.

**Central government to organize 100 Hunar Haats in next five years**

Union Government decided to organize a hundred Hunar Haat across the country in the next five years. **Aim**
The market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, artisans, and traditional culinary experts. The 100 Hunar Hubs in different parts of the country wherein training is being provided to master artisans, artisans, and traditional culinary experts. Around two lakh 65 thousand artisans and craftsmen employed Hunar Haat in the last two years. **Hunar Haat**
The first Hunar Haat organized in Jaipur in August-September this year. Around 200 artisans and culinary experts including a large number of women artisans from every corner of the country, participated in this Hunar Haat. Several Hunar Haats organized in different parts of the country. Hunar Haat held in New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Dehradun, Patna, Indore, and other places.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed mega rally in New Delhi**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed a rally at **Ramlila Maidan** in New
Delhi. The 1,731 unauthorized colonies in Delhi gave ownership rights of their properties among those who attended the Rally.

The Act does not take away anybody's citizenship rights. Prime Minister urged the youth to go through the details of the Act which passed by parliament. CAA and NRC will not take away the rights of any Muslim in India.

The NRC brought in parliament for discussion. The opposition for speaking a falsehood campaign through social media over this Act. Prime Minister also hit out at protestors for damaging public properties during their protests.

Prime Minister hailed the role of police personnel in protecting people's lives in the country.

**Uttar Pradesh government targeting MSME loans worth Rs 62,000 cr in 2019-20**

**Uttar Pradesh government** to facilitate business loans worth more than Rs 62,000 crore to the beleaguered **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME)** in the current financial year 2019-20. The figure of Rs 62,000 crore is 20 percent higher than the target of Rs 51,808 crore in MSME lending fixed for commercial banks in UP for 2019-20. The commercial banks in the UP sector to the tune of Rs 40,750 crore is more than 78 percent of the targetted figure of Rs 51,808 crore. In 2018-19, the corresponding sectoral advances during the same period stood at Rs 29,782 crores compared to the target of Rs 41,401 crore, thus achieving 72 percent of the annual goal.

The commercial banks to hike their annual **MSME** credit target in UP by at least 20 percent to more than Rs 62,000 crore. The **ODOP** scheme aimed at reviving UPs indigenous industries through financial, marketing, and training support with the help of banks, knowledge partners, and private marketing entities, including eCommerce. The MSME sector accounted for 80 percent of the states exports worth Rs 1.14 trillion in 2018-19. MSMEs generate nearly 60 percent of the annual industrial output and rank second after agriculture in the highest employment generation. The MSME does not have access to institutional capital, and they largely depend upon the unorganized players for meeting their financial needs. The UP government has drawn up a roadmap of organizing loan melas or credit camps across all 75 districts.

The state asking banks to improve the credit flow to the MSME sector in UP and
lamented that the loaning process was quite cumbersome despite the new guidelines issued by the central regulatory authorities. The MSME export promotion council (MSME EPC) 100 percent growth in the sector with a total number of units jumping from 4.4 million in 2015-16 groups to 9 million in 2017-18.

India constructs Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School at Kirtipur

Govt. of India constructed Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School, Kirtipur. Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar inaugurated hostel building at Kirtipur in Kathmandu district. Mayor of Kirtipur Municipality, senior officers of Nepal Armed Police Force and political, community leaders also attended the inaugural ceremony. Nepal Armed Police Nepal Armed Police Force (APF) School is an academic institution created under the APF Welfare Service Centre of Nepal Armed Police Force. The school established in 2005 by over 21 percent of girls students. The infrastructure constructed with the Government of India's grant assistance of 40.42 million Nepali Rupees is a two-storied girls hostel. It comprises 32 rooms, including a dormitory, warden room, bathroom, sanitation facilities for girls on each floor and furniture. The built infrastructure expected to boost the learning environment of students. The government of India to be associated with the project complements the effort of the Government of Nepal in augmenting infrastructure in the field of education.

Sikkim CM laid the foundation stone two IPUs of Sikkim IFFCO

Sikkim laid the foundation stone of Integrated Organic Food Processing units of Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd. in Rangpo, East Sikkim. Sikkim IFFCO

It is a joint venture between the world's biggest fertilizer Cooperative, IFFCO, and Government of Sikkim. Aim: The main aim to promote and market the organic produce of the country and especially from Sikkim and other north-eastern states of India. The commercial crops in which Sikkim IFFCO will operate are ginger, turmeric, large cardamom, and buckwheat.

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre confers the National ICT Awards 2017
Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre conferred National ICT Awards to 43 School Teachers for the year 2017. The awards are presented for the innovative integration of ICT in promoting students learning in New Delhi. Shri Sanjay Dhotre congratulated the national awardees through their commitment to school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

Department of School Education and Literacy MHRD Shri Amit Khare the technology becomes a vital element in the enhancement of quality in education. The ICT would help transform the process of teaching and learning from the traditional instructional teacher-centered Endeavour to a learner-centered approach. The awardee teachers are the inspiration for other teachers in the country and it is their responsibility to guide other teachers in regional centers.

**Haryana approves Rs 5.5K cr projects**

**Haryana State Level Sanctioning Committee** of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana approved projects of Rs 552.73 crore. The projects forwarded to the Government of India for sanctioning.

The projects approved to provide water in every field increase crop production, development of watershed, and realize the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to double the income of farmers by 2022.

The State Level Sanctioning Committee for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana presided over by Chief Secretary, DS Dhesi. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Haryana got funds from Central Government in 2019-20 for state irrigation schemes included Rs 186.19 crore for irrigation department, Rs 205 crore for canal area development authority, Rs 50 crore for district rural development agency, Rs 60.14 crore for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rs 51.40 crore for horticulture.

**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana implemented in the state from 2015. Under the scheme, the agriculture department declared a nodal department for schemes of various departments. The Central Government has a 60 percent share in the implementation of the scheme, whereas the State Government has a 40 percent share. The subsidies are being directly transferred in the accounts of farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
Under the scheme, small dams are created for sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation, and water conservation.

**First Annual Meet of State Nodal Agencies for Ecoclub programme conducted**

The **Annual Meet of the State Nodal Agencies** implements the National Green Corps Ecoclub program of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The Ministry’s Environment Education Division organizes it in collaboration with the GEER Foundation, Gujarat, held from 20th to 21st December 2019 in Kevadia, Gujarat. The Senior officers from 22 States and UTs implementing the program, along with about 200 Ecoclub students from Gujarat, participated. An exhibition also showcased the projects, resource material, handicraft items. It is prepared by the Eco-club students across the States/UTs. The event witnessed a huge footfall, even of other tourists and visitors.

**Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT)** It is an established central sector scheme of the Ministry continuing since 1983-84. The main aim is to promote environmental awareness and mobilize students participation in environment conservation. National Green Corps (NGC) Ecoclub program to impart knowledge to school children through hands-on experience about their immediate environment, interactions within it.

**Main Aim:**
The program aims to inculcate proper attitude towards the environment and sensitize children on issues related to environment and development.

The meeting acknowledged the contributions made by the State/UT Governments in implementing the NGC Ecoclub program, and certificates of appreciation were given to agencies. The Best Ecoclub Award at the National level awarded to the students of the Eco club from Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Telangana, who secured First, Second and Third position respectively and Consolation prizes awarded to Eco clubs from Gujarat, Sikkim, and Karnataka. The publication developed by the Environment Education Division for the Eco-club students released, namely Glimpses of Eco clubs Handbook on International Environment Conventions and Programmes and Handbook on Important Days of Environmental significance. The scheme is continuing to build young cadres of students and trigger their sensitivity towards environment protection and conservation. The Eco clubs enhanced from about 1.5 lakh at present to 2 lakh in the ensuing year 2020-21.
Nagpur Resolution adopted at regional conference organized by DARPG

Nagpur Resolution adopted during a Valedictory session of a regional conference organized by DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances). The meeting was on Improving Public Service Delivery and attended by officials from the Ministries of MSME, Road transport, northeast development, and officials from the prime minister office. The Conference resolved to empower citizens.

Important Aspects

- To provide services to the citizens through policy and implementation of citizen charters.
- To reduce the timelines of grievance redressal.
- To focus on dynamic policy, work towards long-term engagements, and
  publication of useful governance index.

Important Initiatives

The GoI launched certain initiatives to achieve Minimum Government and Maximum Governance. The launch of portals, discontinuation of interviews for junior level posts, self-attestations The Fastag system launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The PM Excellence Awards are now awarded based on the implementation of priority programs. The Grievance Redressal System launched the complaints lodged have gone from 1.5 lakhs (at the time of launch) to 16 lakhs in 2019.

Modernization of signaling systems in Indian Railways

Four works of total 640 Route KM at a total cost of Rs. 1810 Crores sanctioned as pilot projects in Supplementary WP 2018-19 for extensive trials of Modern Train Control System. Indian Railways decided to modernize its Signalling system on its entire network by implementing Modern Train Control system with LTE based MTRC. The Indian Railways, which envisages up-gradation of a signaling system for improving safety, Line Capacity, and to run trains at a higher speed. Modernization of Signalling system on the entire Indian Railway network included in Works Programme 2018-19 for Rs. 77,912 Crores implemented after approval of NITI Aayog, Extended Board for Railways (EBR), and sanction of CCEA. The work includes the provision of Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System
Electronic Interlocking System
Remote Diagnostic & Predictive Maintenance System
Long Term Evolution (LTE) based Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) System
Centralized Traffic Control System (CTC) /Train Management System

Modernization Work
The modernization work of the signaling system on a pan-India basis, four jobs of total 640 Route KM at a total cost of Rs. 1810 Crores sanctioned as pilot projects in Supplementary WP 2018-19 for extensive trials. The four sections are Renigunta (RU) Yerraguntla (YA) section on South Central Railway, Vizianagaram (VZM) Palasa (PSA) section on East Coast Railway, Jhansi (JHS) Bina (BINA) Section on North Central Railway and Nagpur (NGP) Badnera (BD) Section on Central Railway. These are some of the busiest routes on Indian Railways with heavy traffic. The raising of speed up to 160 kmph to reduce travel time from existing 18 hours to 12 hours on Delhi Mumbai and Delhi Howrah High-Density routes, Modern Train Control system shall be implemented on these two routes separately.

First Tripartite Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund

First tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed between the department of Fisheries Government of India, NARBARD for the implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF). Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry dedicated fund created, namely the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund, a total of Rs. 7522.48 crore to address the infrastructure requirement for the fisheries sector. The coastal states to pay attention to deep-sea fishing, post-harvesting, cage culture, and export promotion.

The cooperatives, individuals, and entrepreneurs for the development of identified fisheries infrastructure. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NARBARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) scheduled banks are Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs) to provide concessional finance under the (FIDF).

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the FIDF provides interest subvention up to 3% per annum for providing the concessional finance by the NLEs at the interest rate not lower than 5% per annum.
Government of Tamil Nadu signed the first Tripartite MoA for availing the initial concessional finance of Rs 420 crore from NARBARD for development of three fishing harbors in the State namely, (i) Tharangampadi in Nagapattinam District, (ii) Thiruvotriyur Kuppam in Tiruvallur District and (iii) Mudhunagar in Cuddalore District. These will create safe landing and berthing facilities for a large number of fishing vessels plying in the area, augment fish production in the regions, facilitate hygienic post-harvest handling of fish, stimulate the growth of fisheries-related economic activities and employment opportunities.

NABARD, as one of the Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs), provides concessional finance for the development of fisheries infrastructure facilities through State Governments/State Entities under the FIDF after the execution of the Tripartite MoA. Proposals to the tune of Rs.1715.04 crore received from various State Governments, and other Eligible Entities (EEs) recommended as the date by the Central Approval and Monitoring Committee constituted in the Department for consideration under FIDF. The Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh for the development of fishing harbors in their respective States form a significant part of these recommended projects.

Smt Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Chairman, NABARD, Dr. J Balaji, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Principal Secretaries and Secretaries in charge of fisheries of various States and other senior officials in the Department of Fisheries present during the function.

**Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Foreign Secretary**

Narendra Modi government approved the appointment of Indian ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla as the next foreign secretary. He replaced Vijay Gokhale. He is the 33rd foreign secretary of the country. Harsh Vardhan Shringla would take over next month after the completion of Vijay Gokhale's two-year term on January 28, 2020.

A 1984-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and a fluent French speaker, Harsh Vardhan Shringla served as an ambassador to Bangkok from 2014 to 2016 and later as a High Commissioner to Dhaka for two years. Harsh Vardhan Shringla has also served at UNESCO in France, the UN in New York besides Vietnam, Israel, and South Africa.
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as Joint Secretary for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives and understands the neighborhood well. Harsh Vardhan Shringla will be superseding three foreign service officers: Ruchi Ghanashyam (1982) who is currently the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Rajeev Chander (1983) who is now the Indian envoy to the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva, and Amita Nair (1983) who is serving as India's ambassador to Chile.

**Shri Anurag Thakur holds Pre-Budget Consultation with representatives from Health, Education and Rural Development Sectors**

Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Thakur took 10th and final Pre-Budget Consultation meeting with the leading representatives from Health, Education, and Rural Development Sectors in connection with the forthcoming General Budget 2020-21.

The main areas of the discussion by the representatives related to improving efficiency in the delivery of health services devising innovative ways to reach primary health care facilities for marginalized sections. The gender equality with the bottoms up methodology; ways to boost the economic and social infrastructure of the rural sector and ways to eradicate unemployment and poverty through the development of agriculture and the allied industry as well as the non-farm sector.

The Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Thakur, attended meeting along with Shri Rajeev Kumar, Finance Secretary; Shri Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, DEA; Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Deptt. of Health & Family Welfare; Shri Amit Khare, Secretary (Addl. Charge), Department of School Education and Literacy; Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development; Shri Balram Bhargava, Secretary, DHR & DF, ICMR, Shri V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Shri Pramod Chandra Mody, Chairman, CBDT; Dr. K.V. Subramanian, CEA, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Finance.

The Health, Education and Rural Development Sectors were benefits of child budgeting; a dedicated National Fund for protection of children; eradication of child labor, The augmenting pre-conception, antenatal and postnatal nutrition; employment generation with skill matching for youth in urban areas; focused skill development training for Adivasi and Dalit women; attracting more talent to aspirational districts with provision of tax holiday and a more effective monitoring of funds at Centre-State level.
The major participants in the previous meeting included Shri Abhinav Prakash, CSR Initiatives, Rashtriya Sewa Bharati; Shri Ambrish Rai, National Convenor, Right to Education Forum; Shri Vijay Thadani, Past Chairman, CII Education Council; Smt. Ankita Upreti, Board Member, SEWA Bharat; Shri Anshu Tiwari, Senior Manager, Prayas; Shri Ashok Bharati, Chairman, NACDOR; Shri Adikanda Singh, National Co-ordinator, Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights.

**Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani adds $18 billion to his fortune in 2019**

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, The Indian tycoon added almost $17 billion to his wealth about $61 billion n comparison, Alibaba Group founder Jack Mas net worth grew $11.3 billion, while Jeff Bezos lost $13.2 billion. Mukesh Ambanis fortune fueled by a 40% jump in the shares of his Reliance Industries. The plans include a stake sale in Reliances oil-to-chemicals business to Saudi Arabian Oil Co., listings of the telecommunications and retail units within five years, sale of tower assets, and strategic partners for a digital platform linked to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., the phone company. Reliances shares had almost tripled since the end of 2016. Reliance Jio entered the Indian market with free calls and cheap data and forced some heavily indebted incumbents to exit or merge with rivals. Around 350 million users, unlisted reliance jio reported a net income of 9.96 billion rupees ($140 million) for the September quarter while the other two private sector operators amassed record losses.

**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attends Integrated Financial Advisors Workshop**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed Integrated Finance as the backbone of any ministry. The desired objectives can be achieved when a department can manage within its budgetary resources without compromising on operational needs. The Integrated Financial Advisors Workshop in New Delhi commended the Finance Division in the Ministry of Defence and Controller General of Defence Accounts for meeting the needs of the three Services and other allied organizations. The Defence Ministry has been able to fully utilize its allocations, ending the trend of on-utilization of funds due to substantial delegation of financial powers.
The financial powers have been delegated for capital and revenue procurement so that the Armed Forces can make the own procurement of up to 300 to 500 crore rupees.

Centre Approves Rs 453 Crore Loan To Tamil Nadu For Building Fishing Harbours

The central government approved a **Rs 453-crore loan** at a subsidized interest rate of five percent to the Tamil Nadu government for setting up three fishing harbors. The funds released from the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** has a corpus of Rs 7,522 crore. An agreement signed between the Union fisheries ministry. **Tamil Nadu government** and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in the presence of Fishery Minister Giriraj Singh.

Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Mizoram, Assam, and Kerala have submitted proposals seeking a total loan of Rs 2,751 crores.

The loan is given for a tenure of 12 years, and there would be a moratorium of two years on repayment of principal. The Centre is providing interest subvention of 3 percent on loan released from the FIDF.

Under the FIDF, Nabard will provide the fund to the tune of about Rs 2,600 crore through state governments for developing only public infrastructures like the fishing harbour, fish landing centers, modernized state fish seed farms, fish markets, disease diagnostic labs, and aquatic quarantine facilities.

The FIDF to private sector players given through commercial banks. So far, the Centre has not received any proposals from individual players.

The Tamil Nadu government submitted a proposal a loan of Rs 836.80 crore form this fund. Andhra Pradesh government found Rs 1,295 crore, Telangana Rs 265 crore, Jammu and Kashmir Rs 104.96 crore, Maharashtra Rs 99 crore, Assam Rs 21.65 crore, Kerala Rs 19.42 crore and Mizoram Rs 8.57 crore.

The senior officials from the ministry as well as from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Harayana, and Jammu and Kashmir governments were present at the event.

**GeM Samvaad takes off in Four States**

GeM **Samvaad** launched on 17th December 2019 to reach out to stakeholders
across the country and also local sellers to facilitate the on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace while catering to specific requirements and procurement needs of buyers. The outreach program began from 19th December 2019, and during the launch week, the States of Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh are being covered. The outreach program will be on till 17th February 2020 and will cover all the States and UTs. The arrangements for the outreach programs include the respective State Governments make logistics. The target is to reach out to all stakeholders and learn from their experiences on their usage of the GeM portal. Through this outreach program, GeM expects to make the actual users aware of the new features and functionalities of the entrance and collect feedback, which is the first step towards GeMs Voice of Customer initiative. State Departments and Organizations and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have been using GeM for their buying needs. Sellers from the States are also benefitting through access to the national Public Procurement market using the portal. Through GeM Samvaad, the marketplace is looking forward to receiving feedback from users, which shall be used for making improvements and advancements in the system. GeM more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services, more than 3 lakh registered sellers and service providers, and more than 40,000 Government buyer organizations. In its short journey of three years, GeM has processed more than 28 lakh orders worth Rs. Forty thousand crores in Gross Merchandise Value out of which MSMEs have transacted 50%.

Andhra Pradesh CM launched Netanna Nestham welfare scheme for weavers

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the latest scheme in a series of welfare schemes promised during his election campaign. **YSR Netanna Nestham** The YSR Netanna Nestham (weavers friend) scheme provides an annual incentive of Rs 24,000 for handloom weavers in the state. CM launched the scheme in Dharmavaram, a town in Anantapur district is known for its handloom sarees and is home to a large community of weavers. Around 85,000 handloom weaver families will benefit from the scheme. Over five years, each weaver family will be given Rs 1.2 lakh in total. Across Andhra Pradesh, whether its Dharmavaram, Mangalagiri, Venkatagiri, Chirala, Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Yemmiganuru, Uppada or anywhere else, the condition of handloom weavers has been the same. They have been in a state of the financial crisis and are stuck in
NITI Aayog to Launch SDG India Index

NITI Aayog will launch the second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index. The progress made by Indias States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets, on 30 December 2019 at NITI Aayog, New Delhi. **SDG India Index**

The SDG India Index and Dashboard 201920 developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, in the presence of Members Dr. Ramesh Chand, Dr. VK Paul and Dr. VK Saraswat, CEO Amitabh Kant, UN Resident Coordinator Renata Lok-Dessallien, MoSPI Secretary and Chief Statistician of India Pravin Srivastava, and NITI Aayog Adviser (SDGs) Sanyukta Samaddar. The SDG India Index, where the first edition launched in December 2018, was the primary tool developed by any vast country to monitor the progress towards achieving SDGs at the sub-national level. The SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019 tracks the progress of and ranks all States and UTs on 100 indicators drawn from MoSPIs National Indicator Framework, comprising 306 indicators. The States and UTs currently are on SDG implementation and charts the distance to be traveled to reach the SDG targets. The Index covers 16 out of 17 SDGs and a qualitative assessment on Goal 17. This marks an improvement over the 2018 Index, which included only 13 goals.

India pays homage to Shaheed Udham Singh on his 120th birth anniversary

India pays homage to the great revolutionary, **Shaheed Udham Singh** on his 120th birth anniversary. He was born on this day in 1899 in the **Sangrur district** of Punjab.

Udham Singh present in the Jallianwala Bagh Amritsar on the fateful **Baisakhi Day** of 13 April 1919. He avenged the massacre by killing General O Dwyer in March 1940 and hanged by the British in London.

**Baisakhi Day**

Vaisakhi known as Baisakhi, Vaishakhi is a historical and religious festival in Hinduism and Sikhism. It is celebrated on 13 or 14 April every year.
Vice President made policy makers to place citizen welfare at the center of governance

Vice President of India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu called upon policymakers to place the welfare of the citizens at the center of governance and strive to uplift the poor and downtrodden sections of society. Improving the service delivery mechanism so that the benefits of schemes one of the important aspects of good governance. Vice President witnessed the Telugu poetry recital performance by Shri Sharat Chandra during the event Padya Vaibhavam at Swarna Bharat Trust. The best way to preserve or promote any language was to use it extensively in everyday life. He stressed the need to protect and preserve Indian languages and said the language was lifeline of a culture.

**Padyam**

Padyam as an invaluable asset inherited by Telugu People, the Vice President said that legendary poets like Nannaya, Potana, and others have taught life lessons, values, and ethics through their writings. The tradition of poetry recital dates back to thousands of years specialty of Telugu poems lies in their ability to reach literary geniuses and masses at the same time. The Padyam and the tradition of Telugu Poetry for a better understanding of Telugu literature and heritage. The Vice President inaugurated a medical camp organized by Capital Hospitals at Swarna Bharat Trust.

Union Cabinet approves creation of CDS single-point military adviser to govt

**Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** approved the chief of defence staff (CDS) point military adviser by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999. The department of military affairs headed by the CDS will be created under the defence ministry. The CCS approved the report of a high-level committee. It is headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, which finalised responsibilities and the enabling framework for the CDS.

**About Chief of defence staff (CDS)**

The cabinet approved the creation of defence staff. The CDS is a four-star general who will also head the department of military affairs. The CDS will be first among equals among service chiefs. The main aim of the CDS to ensure jointmanship among the three services. This includes powers to work on setting up a few theatre commands as well as allocating military assets among the services to synergise
their operations. The three services coordinate their work under the framework of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS). The CDS will act as a single-point military adviser to the prime minister and defence minister on key defence and strategic issues.

A high-level committee set up to examine the gaps in the country's security system in the wake of the Kargil war. The national security system favoured appointing a CDS. Naresh Chandra Taskforce recommended creating the post of a permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at Ramayapatnam

Andhra Pradesh government proposed to set up a Greenfield seaport at Ramayapatnam in Prakasam district. It is an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore. The meeting held by an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment. RITES Ltd in the field of transport infrastructure made an application for necessary permissions to prepare Terms of Reference (ToR). They plan to develop a greenfield port at Ramayapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to meet the ever-increasing cargo demand in the State. They planned to develop the port as an all-weather port with world-class terminal facilities to meet the present and future needs of the trades and also suitable to develop as a major port.

Ramayapatnam port

Ramayapatnam port will be developed over an area of 802 acres during the first phase and 3,437 acres for the ultimate projected traffic for the creation of permanent marine facilities for mechanized cargo handling, transportation and storage/retrieval to meet the demands of trade and shipping activities.

Digital Radio to be launched in 2024

Centre government planning to revamp All India Radio officially known as Akashvani by introducing Digital Radio in India by 2024. The country will be technologically-equipped for it. The announcement in this regard was made by Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Prakash Javadekar at the 2019 Akashvani Annual Awards in New Delhi. Digital Radio launched by the year 2024, there will be more clarity as the audio of digital radio. There will be four
times radio stations.

**All India Radio**

It is officially known since 1956 as Akashvani, is the national public radio broadcaster of India and is a division of Prasar Bharati. It was founded on 1936.

**India first Transgender University to come up in Uttar Pradesh**

Indias first university for the transgender community will be opened in the Fazilnagar block of the Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh. The transgender community members will be able to get an education. The university is being built by Akhil Bhartiya Kinnar Siksha Seva Trust (All-India transgender education service trust). The university will facilitate its members to study right from class 1 to Post Graduate (PG) and even do research and get a PhD degree. The Members of the transgender community will get an education and will be able to give a new direction to the country. From 15 January 2020. The two children who are brought up by community members will get admission and from February and March 2020 other classes will start.

**Telangana Govt Raises Retirement age of TSRTC Employees to 60 Years**

Telangana government increased the retirement age from 58 to 60 for state-run transport corporation employees. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao signed on the file pertaining to the increase in the retirement age for the employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC). The state cargo and parcel services will be used to shift books to institutions, medicines to ships, goods to various departments, liquor to wine shops and other goods across the state and country. TSRTC a profit-making corporation, implementation of the promises given to the workers and employees, strengthening the goods transportation network and other issues.

A TSRTC welfare board will also be constituted and will comprise 202 persons, two each from a depot and head office including 94 from backward classes, 73 women, 38 scheduled castes, 26 scheduled tribes and 44 from other classes. The plans made to increase the frequency of buses to Chennai, Nagpur, Mumbai, and other places. The chief minister will be extended to places like Mumbai, Nagpur, Sholapur, Bhivandi, Jagdalpur, and others where there are a substantial number of
Telugu people.

**WCD Ministry Invites Applications for Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019**

Women and Child Development invited applications for *Nari Shakti Puraskar* for the year 2019. The National Award is given annually to individuals, groups, institutions in recognition of their exceptional work towards the cause of women empowerment, especially for vulnerable and marginalized women. Around **40 Nari Shakti Puraskar** will be given away on International Women's Day observed on 8th March 2020. The main details of eligibility criteria and guidelines are available on www.narishaktipuraskar.wcd.gov.in portal. Applications/nominations must be submitted online on the portal for consideration. The last date for submission of applications/nominations is 7th January 2020. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the welfare of women celebrating International Women's Day every year by felicitating eminent organizations and institutions for the distinguished services rendered by them in the field of women empowerment with the Nari Shakti Puraskar.

**Sign boards in Chinese language set up at 5 ASI protected archaeological sites**

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (IC) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel confirmed the sign boards in the Chinese language to put up at **5 ASI protected archaeological sites** located in Uttar Pradesh. They include the archaeological site at Sarnath, the Buddhist relics at Chaukhandi Stupa, Kushinagar and the Mahaparinirvana Temple, Piparahwa and Shravasti.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) that signboards of foreign languages will be installed at all the iconic archaeological sites in India where more than 1 lakh tourists from a particular country visit those places. A total of 5 such foreign country languages can be included in it. The work of installing signboards in the Sinhala language completed in November 2019 in view of the large number of Sri Lankan tourists visiting Sanchi. The main objective is to increase the number of tourists both foreign and domestic under the Prime Minister's Vision 2020. Prime Minister is the biggest brand ambassador in our country.

**Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates second edition of Eat Right Mela**
Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare inaugurated the second edition of the Eat Right Melaat Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. The Eat Right Mela of FSSAI is a commendable effort and outreach activity for citizens towards eating right. The under-nourishment resulting in infirmities such as wasting and stunting and on the other side, there is another critical area of concern to be addressed i.e. obesity, which is apparently the result of excessive consumption of junk food, wrong choices of food, overeating, and lack of exercise. The rise of diet-related diseases suggests that people are eating less healthy food than they were eating a decade ago. In this context, the movement of Eat Right India started by FSSAI is a timely initiative. Union Minister launched The PURPLE Book a handbook on diets for diseases. The book provides general guidelines for hospitals on suitable diets for common medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, gut disorders and so on in a simple format and has been developed and vetted by experts in the field of food and nutrition. This book is available for free download on www.fssai.gov.in.

NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition), a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition along with the NetSCoFAN directory, covering detailed information of various heads/Directors and lead scientists of lead and associated partnering institutions. NetSCoFAN comprises of eight groups of institutions working in different areas viz. biological, chemical, nutrition & labeling, food of animal origin, food of plant origin, water & beverages, food testing, and safer & sustainable packaging. FSSAI has identified eight Nodal Institutions who would develop a Ready Reckoner will have an inventory of all research work, experts and institutions and would carry out and facilitate research, survey, and related activities. It would identify research gaps in respective areas and collect, collate and develop a database on food safety issues for risk assessment activities. Around over 3 mobile food testing vans to Shri. D N Singh, the Commissioner of Food Safety, Government of NCT, Delhi during the inaugural ceremony.

**HRD Minister launches five documents developed by UGC**

Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched the five documents developed by the University Grants Commission, UGC covering the 5 verticals of Quality Mandate in New Delhi. The five documents cover
evaluation reforms, eco-friendly and sustainable university campuses, human values and professional ethics, faculty induction and academic research integrity. The main aim is to improve the quality in Higher Educational Institutions, UGC has adopted the Higher Education Quality Improvement Programme Mandate. The quality mandate aims at evolving higher education system to equip countrys next-generation with vital skills, knowledge and ethics for leading a rewarding life. The evaluation plays a crucial role in improving the quality of Higher Education in the country. The main order to make student assessment more meaningful, effective and linked to Learning Outcomes.

The SATAT- Framework for Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Campus development in Higher Educational Institutions. The framework encourages universities to adopt reflective policies and practices to enhance the environmental quality of the campus and to adopt sustainable green and sustainable methods in its future. The streamline the process that helps to infuse the culture of human values and ethics in educational institutions, UGC developed a policy framework- MulyaPravah - Guidelines for Inculcation of Human values and Professionals Ethics in Higher Educational Institutions.

The Guidelines for Guru-Dakshta - A guide to Faculty Induction Programme will fulfill its main objective to sensitize and motivate the faculty to adopt learner-centered approaches, ICT integrated learning and new pedagogic approaches to teaching-learning, assessment tools in higher education.

The importance of promoting high-quality research and the creation of new knowledge by faculty members. UGC efforts for setting up a Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE) to continuously monitor and identify quality journals across disciplines. The CARE website and Reference List of Quality Journals useful to create more awareness and help the cause of promoting academic integrity.

**India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020**

India set to cross the 100-GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020 and will gain 175 GW clean energy target by 2022 provided the government. The government needs to promote storage to ensure a 24x7 clean energy supply as coal-fired thermal power still remains the base load in the country. The issues hampering the growth of renewables in India are lack of interest or the financial institution to
fund renewable energy projects, safeguard duty on imported solar panels, ambiguity over goods and services tax (GST) on solar equipment and low investor sentiment due to delayed or non-payment by discoms to clean energy developers.

**India - Renewable Energy**
India installed renewable energy generation capacity touched around 86 GW by November-end. This includes solar, wind, small hydro, biomass, waste to energy and others. Around 30 GW renewable capacity, including 18 GW solar and 10 GW wind energy, is under implementation. Around 40 GW including 36 GW solar and 3.4 GW wind energy being tendered. Together with other schemes being implemented by the government.

**Dr Harsh Vardhan and Sh Kiren Rijiju meet for convergent thrust to Fit India movement**
Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, and Youth Affairs and Sports giving thrust to the national **Fit India** movement launched by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier this year to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives. Dr. Harsh Vardhan met Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS (I/c) Youth Affairs and Sports for charting the convergent actions of the two Ministries for greater visibility and synergy towards popularising fitness in the country in various age groups.

The Health Ministry along with other medical institutions and organizations such as IMA to create nationwide consciousness about fitness and wellness. The Ministry shall also actively engage with the state governments, the state Health Ministers and principals of various medical colleges. The people to adopt a healthy lifestyle with healthy eating habits has been one of the primary focus of the Health Ministry. Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Shri Radheyshyam Julaniya, Sports Secretary, Shri Pawan Agarwal, CEO (FSSAI) and senior officers of the Health Ministry present during the meeting.

**Fit India**
Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.

**India Japan hold 5th round of maritime dialogue**
India and Japan planned to deepen maritime cooperation and made consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control. The 5th Round of India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue held in Tokyo with the Indian delegation led by Indra Mani Pandey, Additional Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, while Japanese delegation was led by Ambassador Yamanaka A Osamu, Deputy Assistant Minister, Deputy Director-General in Foreign Policy Bureau.

India-Japan Relations

Both the countries reiterated the importance of the dialogue as an important mechanism between the two countries for consultations on issues of mutual interest in maritime affairs and agreed to hold the next round of talks on a mutually convenient date in India. The 8th Round of India-Japan bilateral consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control was held in Tokyo on December 23. The Indian side led by Pandey, while Japanese delegation was headed by Ambassador Hisajima Naoto, Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. India and Japan will hold talks yearly called JIMEX (Japan-India Maritime Exercise).

JIMEX - Japan-India Maritime Exercise

Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) conducted in waters off the Indian coast is scheduled in the Bay of Bengal from 19th December to 22nd December 2013. The Indian Navy represented built stealth frigate INS Satpura, the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvijay and missile corvette INS Kuthar. The Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) two Guided Missile destroyers, JS Ariake (with Commander Escort Division 7 embarked), and JS Setogiri.

Indian Railways launched Him Darshan Express

The Indian railways started a seven coach glass-enclosed vista dome train on the heritage Kalka-Shimla route. The red-colored train decorated with balloons, chugged off from the Kalka railway station in Haryana railway official at the Kalka station Him Darshan

The Him Darshan train a seating capacity of over 100 passengers and the bookings are full over the next few days because of the peak tourist season and New Year round the corner. The Indian Railways only one vista dome coach on the narrow-gauge route, but in view of the huge response and entire train such coaches. The
few Railways in the world tourists headed to Shimla able to experience snow and rainfall in these glass-enclosed coaches. The vista dome coaches tastefully decorated with plush interiors and tourists will also get a chance to feel close to nature on the 95.5 km route with big glass windows in the air-conditioned train.

**Rajnath Singh launches mobile app for DefExpo 2020**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the mobile app of the forthcoming DefExpo 2020.

**Main Features of App**

The main features of the app are inform, engage and feedback. The app provides detailed information about the day-to-day events; participating exhibitors; Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), guest speakers of seminars, webinars; publications about electronic brochures and e-books; maps and directions of the venues and city weather. The app developed by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence (MoD) to engage with the visitors as well as exhibitors. Business-to-Business Exhibitor Connect; Exhibitor Chat; Ticket booking; accommodation in Tented City; Push notifications and social media are some of its salient features. The feedback mechanism in the app is essential feature to further improve operations during the event.

**DefExpo 2020.**

The exhibition space booked by exhibitors gone up by 52 per cent nearly 41,000 square metres compared to the last edition. Foreign delegations at level of Defence Minister and Service Chief confirmed from 18 countries. The DefExpo 2020 to be held in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow between February 05-08, 2020. The theme of the expo is *India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub*.

**Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates the National Workshop of HRD Ministry**

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated the Social Media Outreach and Communication. Nearly 200 Social Media Champions from various Centrally funded educational institutions participated in the workshop. Every institution to promote their excellent work through multiple media platforms. The scale and quality of research, innovations,
and new studies taking place in IITs, IISERs, IISc. The social media champions play a significant role in improving perception. The information and tips you get to know here by experts, participants have to use them and prove that they all are real social media champions. The participants received a participation certificate at the end of the workshop.

**Dr Jitendra Singh chairs review meeting of Ministry of DoNER**

Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a review meeting of the activities of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). The Secretary (DoNER), Dr. InderJit Singh, and senior officers of the Ministry of DoNER and **North Eastern Council (NEC)**.

The Ministry of DoNER, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, will organize a workshop cum exhibition on 'Bamboo - A wonder grass: Opportunity for Sustainable Development in Jobs' in Jammu in January next year. The workshop organized through **Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Assam** and Department of Social-Forestry, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The workshop will focus on NE experience with bamboo in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. This will help them in their economic development and job opportunities. The Bamboo Industrial Park approved to be set up in the **Dima Hasao district** of Assam. The status of JNU hostel, Dwarka and Rohini project discussed.

**North Eastern Council (NEC)**

North Eastern Council is a statutory advisory body constituted under the NEC Act 1971.

**Headquarters**: Shillong

**CSIR Institute created new technology to boost production of Geranium**

**Geranium plant**

Geranium plant has substantial medicinal value, and their essential oil works as an anti-inflammatory and anti-septic agent. The production of the Geranium boost under the Aroma mission. Scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial
Research- **Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow** developed a new low-cost technology to prepare Geranium saplings and make this available for the farmers too. The one-acre around four thousand saplings can be cultivated. For this, 50-60 square meter poly house to be built that costs around 8-10 thousand rupees. The technology we can lower down the cost of the sapling production by 2 rupees per sapling, which earlier used to be 35 rupees. The plant prepared from the saplings of Geranium. The institute will cultivate an area of about **50 hectares of plant material of Geranium** this year, which is expected to extract about 750 kg of aromatic oil by June 2020. A crop of just four months costs about 80 thousand rupees, while the profits from this area up to about 1.50 lakh rupees. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, and **North Eastern regions**. November month is suitable for sowing, and loamy soil is good for its cultivation. Mother plants are being provided by the **CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP)** to promote the cultivation of Geranium under the Aroma Mission.

**Nirmala Sitharaman launches common e-auction platform for assets attached by banks**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched **eBkray**, an online platform to increase the transparency in auctioning of assets attached by banks. The platform is equipped with property search features, and navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites provide single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction as well as a facility for comparison of similar properties photographs and videos of uploaded properties.

A total of 35,000 properties uploaded on the platform by **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, Finance Ministry have attached assets worth over 2.3 lakh crore in the last three fiscal years. The Toxic assets in the banking sector have been at the epicenter of the stress in the economy. The extensive reforms carried out by the government have helped banks reduce bad loans. The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of PSBs have declined from 8.96 lakh crore in March 2018 to Rs. 7.27 lakh crore in September 2019, with their provision coverage ratio rising to their **highest level** in seven years.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

President Ram Nath Kovind releases mobile app of Red Cross Society of India

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Secunderabad, Telangana, his annual southern sojourn at Rashtrapati Nilayam from December 20 to 28, 2019. President launches a mobile app of the Indian Red Cross Society, Telangana State Branch at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad. On December 25, 2019, President will visit the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra in Kanniyakumari. The President will host a reception for senior dignitaries. **Mobile App:** The mobile app of the Red Cross Society of India in Hyderabad. This app developed by the Telangana Centre for Good Governance in less than three months. The mobile app is accessible in all languages. The developers informed that access to the blood bank and Red Cross membership become comfortable with the launching of the mobile app. Around 13 lakh members, including junior red cross members, downloaded the app. The developers informed that the access to blood bank and Red Cross membership would become easy with the launching of the mobile app.

Nityanand Rai inaugurates DNA Analysis Centre at CFSL Chandigarh

Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai inaugurated a State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Centre at CFSL, Chandigarh. This new Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis Lab set up under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme with an allocation of Rs.99.76 crores. The State-of-the-art facility for
- Sexual Assault and Homicide Unit
- Paternity Unit
- Human Identification Unit and
- Mitochondrial DNA Unit.

**Directorate of Forensic Science Services**

DFSS ensured that this Centre fully equipped with modern DNA Profiling tools and equipment. The Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis facility capacity of examining 2000 cases per year. This facilitates a modern, responsive criminal justice system. The specialized training in the collection of forensic evidence undertaken by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD). The highest priority to
women safety in the country and apart from introducing stringent penalties in law several measures initiated in this regard include operationalization of 112 universal emergency services in 28 States/UTs of Safe City. The Directorate of Forensic Science Services under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFLs) in the country. These are situated at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Chandigarh, Guwahati (Assam), Hyderabad (Telangana), Pune (Maharashtra), and Kolkata (West Bengal). The latest developments in basic sciences for forensic analysis and disseminate this information to the other Forensic Science Laboratories. About 200 invitees including Directors of Central and State FSL from the entire country, Senior Police/Judicial Officers, Professors, Doctors from various Universities/Hospitals, Senior Officers from the scientific organizations participated in this event.

**Oxygen Parlour inaugurated at Nashik Railway Station**

An Oxygen Parlour opened at Nashik railway station to combat air pollution.

**Aim:**

To provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters. The initiative comes with the efforts of the Air Guard in collaboration with the Indian Railways. The Oxygen Parlour totally based on the recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASA conducted a study in which they identified some plants that better absorb the five most harmful pollutants from the air. The reach of this initiative and help improve the air quality across the country. The commuters at the railway station also commended the effort as a positive step towards combating air pollution in the cities across the country. This is a reasonable effort towards improving air quality. I think that there should be such parlors in all the polluted areas and railway station.

**India test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System**

**Quick Reaction Surface** to Air Missile QRSAM system by Defence Research and Development Organisation. DRDO successfully flight-tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha coast. The missile flight-tested with the full configuration in deployment mode intercepting the target mid-air, meeting the mission objectives. The entire event monitored by Ground Telemetry Systems,
Range Radar Systems, Electro-Optical Tracking System.

**QRSAM Weapon System**

The QRSAM weapon system comprises of fully automated Command and Active Array Battery Surveillance Radar, Active Array Battery Multifunction Radar, and Launcher.

The system is compact with a minimum number of vehicles for a firing unit. The single-stage reliable propelled missile has a midcourse inertial navigation system with a two-way data link, and a terminal active seeker developed indigenously by DRDO. The missile successfully engaged the aerial target establishing its capability. Director General (Missiles and Strategic Systems) MSR Prasad was present during the trial.

The developmental trials of the weapon system completed, and the weapon system expected to be ready for induction by 2021. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams involved in the flight trials and development of QRSAM.

**Last solar eclipse of decade to be observed in parts of country**

The annular *solar eclipse* the last one for the decade began at 7:59 this morning. It is referred to as the *ring of fire - the solar eclipse or Surya Grahan* initially be visible as a partial eclipse and can be viewed first from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. India's partial eclipse will be visible from parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Delhi.

The partial eclipse, the annular solar eclipse was visible from 9:04 am (IST). The maximum eclipse will be visible at 10.47 am and the full eclipse will be seen at the last location at the Pacific Ocean's Guam at 12:30 pm (IST). In India, the maximum duration of the annular solar eclipse will be just over 3 minutes. A solar eclipse occurs the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun for a viewer on Earth. Most years have two solar eclipses and in rare cases, there can be up to seven eclipses in a year.

India, the eclipse will be visible in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

**Vasu bagged Young Scientist Awards and Best Research Paper award in**
ISSAR National Conference

KVASU bagged Young Scientist Awards and Best Research Paper award in XXXV ISSAR National Conference held at VCRI, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu. Different talents and young scientists participated in the event. Dr. Abhilash R. S., Assistant Professor, CVAS, Mannuthy won the best research paper- in reproductive biotechnology session (RBT) oral. Dr. Rakshita, PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy won young scientist-RBT session -oral. Dr. Niyas. E, Ph.D scholar, CVAS, Mannuthy won young scientist infertility in bovine session-oral. Dr. Gayatri.P, PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy won young scientist- infertility session- poster. Dr. Vidya V.K, PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy won young scientist- canine, pet, and equine session-poster. Dr. Vinayak B., PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy won young scientists- small ruminants and swine reproduction (SRS) sessions. Dr. Vinayak B., PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy bagged young scientist-SRS session-Poster. Dr. Nayana. Devarajan, PG Student, CVAS, Mannuthy young scientist won clinical case session- oral. Dr. C. Ibraheemkutty, Ph.D scholar, CVAS, Pookode won the best research paper-SRS session- Oral.

BMTC launches new app with trip planner live bus tracking

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation BMTC run bus service for Bengaluru and its periphery launched its new official mobile app titled My BMTC. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation BMTC App

The app is developed by Bengaluru school student Nihar Thakkar previously made a similar app. The app made by Nihar previously relied on public information put out by the BMTC Nihars app shut down in July 2019 after being operational for two years. The app was shut down after the BMTC stopped sharing its data publicly over concerns misuse of data by taxi aggregators. The new app provides the estimated time of arrival of buses at a specific bus stop and shows the nearby bus stops along with route-based search options. The app also has a trip planner option, which allows commuters to plan their journey from and to locations they choose to set in the app, similar to Google Maps. Buses can also be live-tracked through the app. The daily ridership of BMTC steadily fallen over the years, from 51.3 lakh in
2014-15 to 36 lakh in 2018-19. The length of canceled routes increased almost 200% over four years from 241.6 lakh km in 2013-14 to 717.9 lakh km in 2017-18. The app has an SOS feature for women passengers, fare chart indicator, facility to buy passes, and can be used to book BMTC buses on a casual contract basis. The feedback mechanism will also be set up, where customers can give complaints or suggestions to improve the service. The full version of the app will be ready by the end of January 2020, and will also be available in Kannada.

**Japan govt to send warship patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in Middle East**

Japan's government cleared that it will send a warship and patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in the Middle East from which it sources nearly 90% of its crude oil imports, remains volatile. The rare overseas deployment will be limited to intelligence-gathering.

**Japanese Merchant Ships**

The Japanese merchant ships and help maintain peace and stability in the region. The decision follows a series of attacks on oil tankers in the region, one was Japanese-operated. The deployment includes one destroyer, equipped with helicopters, and at least one of two P-3C patrol planes currently engaged in antipiracy operations near Somalia. The mission authorized for one year extended. The announcement follows a meeting last week in Tokyo between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Hassan Rouhani of Iran among the United States blamed for attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The United States called for an international coalition to protect ships in the region, but only a few of its allies have joined that mission.

**Russia deploys its first Avangard Hypersonic missile system**

Russia's first missile unit equipped with Avangard Hypersonic glide vehicle. Russia's defence ministry new hypersonic weapon with the latest strategic missiles of the intercontinental-range became operational. The nuclear-capable missiles can travel more than 20 times the speed of sound. The Avangard can carry a nuclear weapon of up to 2 megatons. Avangard is designed using new composite materials to withstand temperatures of up to 2,000 Celsius resulting from a flight through the
atmosphere at hypersonic speeds. **Avangard**

Avangard is known as Objekt 4202, Yu-71, and Yu-74. It is a Russian hypersonic glide vehicle that can be carried as a MIRV payload by the UR-100UTTKh, R-36M2 and RS-28 Sarmat heavy ICBMs.

**China successfully launches largest carrier rocket**

China successfully launched the largest carrier rocket of the country, **Long March-5** from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province.

**Long March-5 Rocket**

The rocket known as CZ-5 blasted off with more than 1,000 tonnes of thrust at 8.45 pm, Xinhua reported. The Chinese space authorities declared the mission a complete success just over half an hour after the lift-off when the Shijian-20 satellite it carried entered its designated orbit. The country attempted the third time to launch the rocket. The first attempt made in 2016. During the first attempt, the rocket failed to reach the speed required for the early phase of the flight. The second attempt also failed when a turbopump that injected fuel into the combustion chamber malfunctioned and the main engine died minutes after take-off. The Long March-5, China's most powerful rocket and a critical ingredient in the nation's ambitious space programme, can carry a maximum payload of 25 tonnes into low Earth orbit and 14 tonnes into geosynchronous orbit.

**Launch in 2020**

The successful launch is a major step forward for its planned mission to Mars in 2020. It will demonstrate its heat transfer technology based on cryogenic loop heat pipes, an efficient thermal control device for space applications. The satellite will test the controllable deformation of shape memory polymers which are used for the development of large variable space structures. The satellite-ground communication tests using Q/V bands, which lie between 33-75 GHz, within the extremely high frequency (EHF) area of the radio spectrum. These frequencies are used mainly for satellite communications. The test is key to the development of the next generation of high throughput satellites capable of delivering 1Tbps bandwidth for ultrafast speeds.

**BSNL gets 770 cr from Bharat Broadband Nigam to clear BharatNet vendor dues**
Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited to set up an optical fiber network under the BharatNet Project paid around 770 crores in advance to BSNL to help the telecom firm clear dues of vendors involved in the project.
The debt-ridden state-run telecom firm had requested BBNL to pay 1,033 crores earlier this month to clear the dues of vendors engaged in the BharatNet project.
Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) allocated around 70 percent of rural broadband network roll-out work to BSNL. BSNL requested payment of 1,033 crores out of which around 770 crores cleared by BBNL. BSNL requested payment of 1,033 crores from BBNL as an advance to clear the pending liabilities of UP East and MP Circles of 716 crores along with telecom factory liabilities of 40 crores earlier this month. The vendors will be getting paid for invoices raised in December and some for the invoice raised in March 2019.
IAF Chief to visit Egypt for bilateral talks

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of Air Staff, is on a bilateral goodwill visit to Egypt from 24 to 28 December. Air Chief Marshal, scheduled to various operational and training establishments of the Egyptian Air Force, interact with senior officials of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Defence cooperation between the two Air Forces, as well as strengthening the long-standing bilateral relations between India and Egypt.

Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
He is the current Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force and assumed office on 30 September 2019 after superannuation of Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

India Related Exercises
Egypt did not participate in individual military exercises with India. It participated in joint military exercises with other African nations. India hosted defence exercise for African called AFINDEX-19. African countries participated in the exercise include Egypt, Niger, Ghana, Uganda.

Nirmala Sitharaman releases postage stamp to mark service of DRI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a postage stamp to commemorate distinguished service and glorious contribution of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in protecting the nation. The officers of DRI in using technology and data analytics to be able to inspire the confidence of citizens and deter smugglers. The DRI continues to play an immense role in countering smuggling as well as in preserving the cultural heritage and environment of the country. The challenges faced by the organisation continue to grow with the adoption of innovative modes of smuggling for increasing the concerted efforts of DRI, the statement said.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
DRI formed on December 4, 1957 to function as an apex intelligence agency of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Custom. DRI established as the premier intelligence agency commanding the trust of international and national agencies with its intelligence inputs on myriad subjects inter alia ranging from fake Indian...
currency note, narcotics, gold, arms & ammunition, wildlife, cultural heritage, and commercial fraud. It is an Indian intelligence agency and chief anti-smuggling intelligence, investigations, and operations agency.

**Indian Air Force Bids farewell to MiG 27**

MiG-27, an ace attacker during the 1999 Kargil War through the skies for one last time after serving the Indian Air Force for over three decades. The swing-wing fighter the backbone of a ground-attack fleet of the Air Force for several decades to its squadron of seven aircraft from Jodhpur Air Base. Veteran air warriors, along with serving air warriors in large numbers, are taking part in the ceremony. Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief South Western Air Command Air Marshal SK Ghotia presiding over the wind-down ceremony. The upgraded variant of last swing-wing fleet the pride of the IAF strike fleet since 2006. MiG-23 BN, MiG-23 MF, MiG-27. The fleet earned its glory in the historic Kargil conflict when it delivered rockets and bombs with accuracy on enemy positions. The fleet took an active part in Operation Parakram. **Number 29 Squadron** The Number 29 Squadron unit in the IAF operating the MiG-27 upgrades. The upgraded version participated in numerous national and international exercises. The Squadron raised on March 10, 1958, at Air Force Station Halwara with Ouragan (Toofani) aircraft. The Squadron equipped with numerous types of fighters such as MiG-21 Type 77, MiG-21 Type 96, MiG-27 ML, and MiG-27 upgrade. The lethal aircraft for their role during the 1999 Kargil War earned the moniker Bahadur from IAF pilots.
**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**SASTRA Ramanujan Award for Warwick University faculty**

The International Conference on number theory at the **SASTRA Deemed University** campus at Kumbakonam and the **SASTRA-Ramanujan Award to Adam Harper**, Assistant Professor, University of Warwick, England. Professor Krishnaswamy Alladi of the University of Florida and SASTRA-Ramanujan Award Committee chairman quoted that the recognition of the Royal Society at England December 2019 special issue of the Philosophical Transactions to commemorate the Centenary of Ramanujans election as FRS published a paper titled Ramanujans Legacy. This years SASTRA-Ramanujan Award presented to Mr. Harper for his outstanding contributions to the probabilistic number theory. **SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** Shanmugha Arts found it, Science, Technology and Research Academy (SASTRA) located near Kumbakonam, India, The age limit for the prize has set at 32 (the age at which Ramanujan died), and the current award is $10,000. **University of Warwick** is a public research university on the outskirts of Coventry between the West Midlands and Warwickshire, England. It is founded in the year 1965 as part of a government initiative to expand higher education.

**Indian Archaeologist honoured in Bangladesh**

**Echo Network program** to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India. The main focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment launched in New Delhi by Prof. K VijayRaghavan, Principal. India recently took national-level efforts to promote ecological and environmental research on the subcontinent. The trained scientists with interdisciplinary skills and collaborative mindset. The new generation of educators and students can identify and solve problems in a multidisciplinary manner. India faced unprecedented threats to its human environmental and ecosystems, explaining which requires a confluence of Indias strong technical expertise and knowledge of the natural world itself. They develop a national network to catalyze a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology with no precedent for such a network anywhere in the world. **About the Program**
program will train postdoctoral leaders in research and outreach on these topics incorporating current public and private efforts into a national network. International distributed institute comprising individuals housed within the industry, government, private, and academic sectors, combining their expertise and resources collectively to tackle significant scale problems. This is a mission of hope remarked Prof. Olsson at the launch program. The leaders who are trained to communicate across different sectors of society, this is the goal of the EChO Network.

Vice President of India honours winners for outstanding contributions in Films at 66th National Film Awards

Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu conferred National Film Awards for the year 2018 in various categories at its 66th edition, held at New Delhi. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting (I&B), Shri Prakash Javadekar Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Shri Ravi Mittal Chairperson, Feature Film Category, Shri Rahul Rawail; Chairperson, Non-Feature Film Category, Shri AS Kanal; Chairperson, Best Writing on Cinema, Shri Utpal Borpujari and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Winners - National Film Awards

The winners in various categories for this year National Film Awards include the Gujarati film Hellaroin Best Feature Film category. Badhaai Ho bagged the award for Best Popular Film, Hindi movie Padman was awarded Best Film on Social Issues, Aditya Dhar won Best Director Award for Uri: The Surgical Strike, Ayushman Khurana and Vicky Kaushal won Best Actor Award for their performances in Andhadhun. Keerthy Suresh bagged Best Actress trophy for her performance in Telugu movie Mahanati. Marathi movie Naal got the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director while another Marathi movie Paani won the award for Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation. Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration given to Kannada film OndallaEradalla and Uttarakhand awarded the Most Film Friendly State.

Major Anoop Mishra awarded Army Design Bureau Excellence Award

Major Anoop Mishra developed bullet-proof jacket Sarvatra to develop his
bulletproof jacket the day hit by a stray bullet during an operation. Mishra hit by a ball on his coat during deployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Army officer stressed that the full-body protection jacket could withstand a sniper bullet from even 10 meters. The jacket developed at the College of Military Engineering in Pune and can provide full-body protection against sniper rifle bullets. The officer awarded the Army Design Bureau Excellence Award by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat at the Army Technology Seminar for indigenously developing the bullet-proof jacket.

The sniper attacks the Line of Control and Kashmir valley the full-body protection be provided to the soldiers. The jacket tried and tested by the Infantry at their test facilities.

Indian Army expected to issue a tender for these full-body protection bullet-proof jackets, which would be produced by one of the selected Indian defence industry partners.

**Kamareddy won Unicef-2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation**

Kamareddy district of Telangana secured the United Nations International Childrens and Education Fund (Unicef)-2019 Award. The district won the award for the effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in water sanitation.

**Kamareddy district**

Kamareddy district on top in the country among other districts in construction of individual sanitary lavatories, swachh darpan wall paintings, swachh survekshan, swachh sundar shouchalay and many other activities.

**Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign**

It launched on 2 October 2014 on Gandhi Jayanti, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing 90 million toilets in rural India at a projected cost of 1.96 lakh crore.

**Slogan:** One step towards cleanliness
SPRINGS

Virat Kohli Becomes First Sportsperson To Top Forbes India Celebrity 100 List

Virat Kohli Bollywood's biggest A-listers to top the Forbes India Celebrity 100 List in 2019 become the first sportsperson to do so since its inception eight years ago. The top position with actors before Kohli, who earned Rs 252.72 crore between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019. Akshay Kumar rose in the rankings to the second spot with Rs 293.25 crore in the period of consideration, and Salman Khan, at the top of the list since 2016 completed the top three.

Former India captain MS Dhoni and batting legend Sachin Tendulkar make the top 10 in the list at the fifth and ninth positions, respectively. Rohit Sharma broke into the top 10 as well, jumping from the 23rd spot to 11th following a stellar year with the bat across all formats. The men's cricket team in the list include Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Ravindra Jadeja, and Kuldeep Yadav.

Women cricketers Mithali Raj, Smriti Mandhana, and Harmanpreet Kaur in the top 100 list. Forbes India Celebrity 100 List are shuttlers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, wrestler Bajrang Punia, boxer Mary Kom, tennis player Rohan Bopanna, footballer Sunil Chhetri and golfer Anirban Lahiri.

Rafael Nadal Ashleigh Barty named ITF World Champions for 2019

Ashleigh Barty and Rafael Nadal named International Tennis Federations (ITF) World Champions. These awards will be given at the 2020 ITF world champions 2nd June, in Paris. Categories

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Womens Wheelchair Diede de Groot (Netherland)
Quad Dylan Alcott (Australia)

ITF Men's Circuit
It is a series of professional tennis tournaments around the world that are organized by the International Tennis Federation. The circuit represents the lowest rung of the men's professional tennis ladder.

Virat Kohli named in Wisden cricketers of the decade list
Indian captain Virat Kohli named in the Cricketers of the decade list along side four others by the Wisden Cricketers Almanac. South African duo of Dale Steyn and AB de Villiers, Australia's Steve Smith and women's all-rounder Ellyse Perry added in the list. Kohli scored 5,775 more international runs than anyone else in the last 10 years, has arguably been the best batsman over the last decade.

His achievements
Kohli scored 7,202 runs in Tests including 27 hundred and the Indian skipper amassed 11,125 runs in ODIs and 2,633 runs in T20s. He won more than 50 in all formats already amassed 70 international hundreds and is only behind Ricky Ponting (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (100). He is the third in the list of leading run-scorers of all time with 21,444 runs, behind Ponting (27,483) and Tendulkar (34,357).

Abhinav Lohan wins Bengaluru Open Golf Championship
Abhinav Lohan lifted PGTI title securing a narrow one-shot triumph at the Bengaluru Open golf championship. Lohan shot four-under 68 his four-day total to 13-under-275 with seven birdies. It was Lohan's first title on the TATA Steel PGTI and his second win of the year emerged victorious at the PGTI Feeder Tour event in Lucknow.

Chandigarh's Karandeep Kochhar with 71 finished runner-up at 12-under-276. Bengaluru duo of M Dharma and Rahil Gangjee 71 won third and fourth places with totals of 11-under-277 and 10-under-278. Lohan became the fourth Indian golfer to register his maiden title on the TATA Steel PGTI this season following
the likes of Kshitij Naveed Kaul, Priyanshu Singh, and Veer Ahlawat.

**Abhinav Lohan**

Abhinav Lohan finished 13th on the Rolex Ranking in 2015 to three top-10s during the season. He came at the Western India Oxford Masters (runner-up) and CG Open (tied third). Lohan delivered eight top-10s in the 2014 PGTI season to finish seventh in the Rolex Rankings.
SCHEMES

Narendra Modi launches Atal scheme on groundwater

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the worlds longest mountain tunnel and launched a groundwater conservation mission after Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the latter's 95th birth anniversary. **Atal tunnel** is an underground passage of strategic importance beneath Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh cuts the road distance between Leh in the Union territory of Ladakh and Himachals Manali by 46 hours and reduces travel time between Leh and Manali by five hours. It will increase the country's all-weather access to Leh, Ladakh, Kargil and other remote parts of Jammu Kashmir. **Construction**

The decision to construct a strategic tunnel below Rohtang Pass was taken on June 3, 2000. The 8.8-km-long tunnel is the world's longest, and located above an altitude of 3,000 meters took over 19 years to complete. The tunnel will facilitate the quicker movement of material and manpower across destinations in Jammu and Kashmir. **Atal Bhujal Yojana** will be known by its shorthand Atal Jal, which Modi announced, is a centrally sponsored project to improve groundwater levels in seven critically water-depleted states. These are Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. The Atal Jal Yojana is an important step in the direction of fulfilling the Jal Jeevan mission of water for all by 2024. The government has identified 1,592 blocks in 256 districts that face a menacing water shortage. The Atal Bhujal Yojana approved by the Cabinet on the outlay of 6,000 crores to be implemented over a period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25). The total outlay, 50% in the form of a World Bank loan by the Centre. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from budgetary support. The World Banks loan component and Central Assistance shall be passed on to States as Grants.

Maharashtra Cabinet approves farm loan waiver, meal scheme for poor

Shiv Sena-led government in **Maharashtra** approved the farm loan waiver scheme announced a subsidized meal scheme for the poor. The state cabinet approved the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme under which crop arrears pending till September 30, 2019, will be waived. The cabinet gave its approval to
launch the Shiv Bhojan programme, Chief Minister's Office (CMO), short-term crop loan up to Rs 2 lakh taken by farmers between April 1, 2015-March 31, 2019, and short-term restructured crop loan arrears up to September 30, 2019, will be waived under the scheme.

The government seek information from banks on accounts where crop loan and restructured crop loans.

Shiv Bhojan scheme
The Shiv Bhojan scheme incur an expenditure of Rs 6.4 crore for starting a pilot project that will run for three months. The canteen will be started at district headquarters. The canteen will serve 500 thalis (plates), the statement.

Shiv Bhojan thali available at Rs 10 each consist of two chapatis, one vegetable, rice and dal. The scheme will be extended to other parts of the state. The customer will have to pay just Rs 10 per thali, the actual cost of the food will be Rs 50 each in urban centres and Rs 35 in rural areas. The balance amount will be given as grant to the district collectorate.

These canteens will function at places where poor persons work or live like markets, district hospitals, bus stations, railway stations, and government offices. A high-powered committee headed by the chief secretary will monitor the implementation of the scheme. To make the scheme a success, cross-subsidy and public-private partnerships will be considered by the panel. The Sena-led government had announced a loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers with the cut off date of September 30, 2019. The new scheme comes over two years. The 34,000-crore loan waiver announced by the then BJP-Sena government in June 2017. The chief minister promised the scheme will require minimum documentation and will be hassle-free. The waiver will need to approach their bank only with the Aadhaar card. Members of Parliament, legislators, and government employees will not receive the benefit of loan waiver, Patil had said, adding the scheme will cover farmers who cultivate fruit trees and sugarcane as well as conventional crops.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches welfare scheme for students
Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the state government's Abhinandan scheme during a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati.
Abhinandan scheme
This scheme emphasis on one-time subsidy against education loans availed by the students for an amount of Rs 50,000 each to 1,546 students. Abhinandan scheme extend cooperation to students in pursuing higher education and to fulfil the dreams. The students to work towards putting Assam in the list of front-ranking states of the country with their hard work, knowledge and their service to society. Their academic activities seriously to shine in today’s competitive world. The united efforts to develop a positive and healthy environment in the society. The Numaligarh Refinery Limited from 3 MMT to 9 MMT opened new opportunities for the youth in Assam and urged the youth to avail the benefits through improving their skills. The students who did not apply under this scheme can avail the benefit of the government subsidy by applying now.

Digit Insurance Launches Health Insurance approves DIY Doctor Approved and Simplified by Kids
Digit Insurance awarded the General Insurance Company of the Year 2019 in Singapore by Asia Insurance Review Award named the Fastest Growing General Insurance Company in the world with a 1% market share (Q2 FY2019-20) fortified their product portfolio with the launch of retail Health Insurance product Digit Health Care Plus. The uniqueness of this launch is that the benefits in this health insurance product customized for different age groups and their health needs, along with the help & approval of an Ex-AIIMS Director. The Digital Work collaborated with 15-year old kids sought their help to simplify the health insurance documents so that the coverages and exclusions are explained in simple terms without jargons and is easy to read and comprehend.

Health Insurance
Health Insurance offered as a one size fits all cover with standard products. This look at the health needs of different age groups and customizing the benefits accordingly, almost like a DIY Health Insurance wherein people can choose the coverages that make sense to them. To help us further in this relevance check, we also roped in doctors, including an Ex All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director.
**APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN**

**Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation**

Shiv Das Meena assumed the charge of Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation Limited (PMRC). He belongs to the 1989-Batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre and an additional secretary and CVO in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Meena took charge of Chairman, PMRC, on December 14, 2019. He served as Chairman of NBCC (India) Limited, Joint Secretary, MoHUA, and Ministry of Urban Development, Principal Secretary Public & Rehabilitation Department, Government of Tamilnadu, and Principal Secretary to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister among others. The central government nominated three more officers as a member of Patna Metro Rail Corporation. The Ministry of Railways will appoint the fourth member.

The **Bihar** government nominated five members in the Board of directors of PMRC, including principal secretary Chaitanya Prasad who is acting as the Managing Director. The state government needs to get prior approval of the Central government in future decisions related to the Patna Metro rail project.

**Monisha Ghosh named as first woman CTO at FCC in US**

Indian-American **Dr Monisha Ghosh** appointed as the first woman Chief Technology Officer at the US governments powerful Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Indian-American Chairman of the FCC Ajit Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues, and work closely with the Office of Engineering and Technology. Dr Ghosh will take charge on January 13. She replaces Dr Eric Burger.

**Federal Communications Commission**

Federal Communications Commission is an independent agency of the United States government created by statute to regulate interstate communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable.

- **Founder**: Franklin D. Roosevelt
- **Founded**: 19 June 1934
- **Headquarters**: Washington
Sangita Reddy appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) announced the appointment of Uday Shankar, APAC President, and Chairman The Walt Disney Company. He is also the chairman of the FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee. He served as the chairman and CEO of 21st Century Fox for Asia before his association with Walt Disney.

Uday Shankar
Shankar, who joined FICCI as vice president in December 2018, helped transform the media and broadcast industry. He has also led many initiatives, including self-regulation and digitization, which reformed the industry. Shankar, who is a journalist at the forefront of many initiatives in the television news sector. The first 24-hour news channel in India. He was also instrumental in launching Aaj Tak and Headlines Today.

FICCI named Sangita Reddy, managing director of Apollo Hospitals Group as president, and Sanjiv Mehta, HUL chairman, and MD as vice president.

Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as Assocham President

Niranjan Hiranandani took over as the new president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (Assocham), the country's apex organization of industry and trade. He succeeds Balkrishan Goenka, the Welspun Group Chairman. Niranjan Hiranandani is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of the Hiranandani Group of Companies.

Hiranandani Group of Companies.
It is one of the Top Real Estate Builders in Mumbai. It is an Indian billionaire entrepreneur, co-founder and managing director of Hiranandani Group. He is ranked by Forbes among the 100 richest Indians.

Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM on December 29

Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu will take the oath of office to chief minister-designate Hemant Soren on December 29. Governor Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath to Hemant Soren as chief minister on December 29 at Morabadi Ground (in Ranchi). Soren called on the governor at the Raj Bhavan on December 24 to claim to form the government and submitted a letter of support of
50 MLAs. The governor invited Soren to take oath as the chief minister. The JMM-Congress-RJD alliance stormed to power in Jharkhand on December 23, ousting the BJP in yet another state in the Hindi heartland after the saffron party's stupendous performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The three-party alliance bagged 47 seats in the 81-member state Assembly. The JMM won 30 seats, Congress 16 and the RJD one.

JVM(P) with its three MLAs extended unconditional support to Soren to form the government. The BJP clinched 25 seats, AJSU Party two, the CPI-ML(Liberation) and the NCP one each. The results of the election held in five phases between November 30 and December 20 announced on December 23.

**Former Kolkata Police Chief Rajeev Kumar appointed as Principal Secretary in West Bengal**

West Bengal government appointed former Kolkata Police commissioner Rajeev Kumar as principal secretary in the Information, Technology and Electronics Department.

The IPS officer replaces Debasish Sen, who was holding additional charges of the department as the additional chief secretary.

**Debasish Sen**

Debasish Sen will be CMD of the West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HIDCO) with additional charge of Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority as its chairman. It was part of Special Investigation Team set up by the state government to investigate the Saradha chit fund scam along with other chit-fund cases. Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of Rs 2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.
IMPORTANT DAYS

National Farmers Day observed on December 23

National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas observed every year in India on the 23rd of December. 23rd December chosen to honor the birth anniversary. The birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. He played a pivotal role in the Agricultural Sector of India by drafting and enacting various bills for farmers reforms. He introduced many policies to improve the lives of Indian farmers.

Aim:
To promote awareness among the citizens to understand the importance of the contributions of the farmers to the society. The backbone for Indias economic development, as more than 40% of the total employment in India, is employed in the Agricultural sector.
S Gurumurthy releases book titled Politics of Opportunism

Political Analyst S Gurumurthy released a book titled **Politics of Opportunism** at a function in New Delhi. The book written by **R P N Singh** throws light on the subject related to the rise of regional parties and Centre -States relation. The Citizenship Amendment Act grants citizenship to the minority communities faced religious persecution in three neighbouring countries. The granting citizenship to such minority communities stands of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

**Politics of Opportunism**

It refers to maintain political support, or increase political influence relevant ethical or political principles.
AGREEMENTS MOU

UAE and Oman sign MoU to enhance trade and economic cooperation

UAE national export credit company, Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Export Credit Guarantee Agency of Oman (Credit Oman)

Aim
To enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The sign took place during the 10th AMAN UNION General Assembly, held in Muscat.

The MoU signed by Massimo Falcioni, CEO at ECI and Sheikh Khalil bin Ahmed Al-Harthy, recently appointed CEO at Credit Oman in the presence of senior officials. ECI and Credit Oman form a collaborative task force to explore work streams that include commercial information and credit opinion sharing on companies located. The volume of non-oil trade between the two countries in 2017 registered about AED 36 billion, a growth rate of 12.4 per cent over the year 2016. Non-oil trade between the UAE and Oman in Q3 2018 reached AED 32.5 billion.

AMAN UNION
It is a professional forum assembling Commercial & Non-commercial Risks Insurers & Reinsurers in Member Countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Ashok Leyland, Citicorp Finance ink MoU for commercial vehicles financing

Hinduja Group's flagship firm Ashok Leyland partnered with Citicorp Finance India Ltd for financing commercial vehicles. The company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Citicorp Finance to enter into a strategic financing partnership for two years, to offer customized financial solutions to customers across India.

Under the MoU, Citicorp Finance will be a preferred financier for providing finance to the customers buying Ashok Leyland vehicles. Citicorp Finance will work in close coordination with the authorised dealers of Ashok Leyland to provide financial solutions to customers. Both the organisations can leverage their strengths for the mutual benefit of the customers.

Ashok Leyland
Ashok Leyland is an Indian automobile company headquartered in Chennai, India. The company is owned by the Hinduja Group.
INDEX / LIST

Good Governance Index launched by Jitendra Singh TamilNadu

Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Good Governance Index at an event organized by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, on the occasion of Good Governance Day.

What is Good Governance Day?
Good Governance Day is observed for former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The 15th edition of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP) launched the Handbook for the Retiring Central Government Employees and the Smart Card facility for Department Canteen of DoPT. He released a booklet on major initiatives/achievements of DoPT and Strategic Initiatives of the Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW).

Good Governance Index
Good Governance Index scientifically designed on various parameters of governance. The GGI would plan to determine the status of governance. They provide a reference threshold for future documentation of good governance index is our effort in the direction to carry forward Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modis vision for good governance.


Big States- Tamil Nadu topped the Good Governance Index.
The poor performers are Odisha, Bihar, Goa, and Uttar Pradesh with Jharkhand finishing last in the group.

North-East and Hill States- Himachal Pradesh topped the index, followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram, and Sikkim.
The poor performers in this group are Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, with Arunachal Pradesh Union Territories - Puducherry topped the index followed by Chandigarh and Delhi. Lakshwadeep is the worst UT.
India ranks 47th in house price appreciation during July, September

India ranks 47th in the world in terms of appreciation in housing prices as rates grew by only 0.6 percent during the July-September quarter over the year-ago period on slow demand, global property consultant Knight Frank.

India stood at 11th position in the April-June quarter of 2019, with a 7.7 percent year-on-year rise in home prices.

Knight Frank

Knight Frank released its latest report Global House Price Index Q3 2019 tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide using official statistics. India at the 47th spot among the 56 countries/territories tracked, in terms of appreciation in residential real estate prices, with a marginal 0.6 percent year-on-year (YoY) rise in home prices.

The regulations imposed by the government to ensure accountability in the system such as the Real Estate (Regulations and Development) Act, 2016, Goods and Services Tax Act, and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 laid the foundation for a healthy end-user market.

Country List

Hungary leads the index this quarter with 15.4 percent annual price growth, followed by Luxembourg at 11.4 percent and Croatia at 10.4 percent. Slovakia is at number four with the home price rising by 9.7 percent, followed by Latvia (9 percent), Czech Republic (8.7 percent), China (8.5 percent), Jersey (8.5 percent), Mexico (8.4 percent) and Russia (8.1 percent). The prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide rose at an annual rate of 3.7 percent on average, which marks the index's slowest rate of growth for over six years. The majority of the countries and territories registered a static or positive growth in the year to September 2019. During the last four years, the increase in residential prices in most of the top eight cities of India below retail inflation growth.

Ratan Tata Gautam Adani among India's top 10 most Googled business tycoons

Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata emerged as India's most searched business tycoon on Google in 2019. Google released a Year in Search 2019 report shows what was trending on the world's largest search engine during the year in India. Here is the top 10 list of trending searches for business personalities in India. 1) Ratan Tata: The
Tata Group patriarch Google's most searched Indian business personality in 2019. He heads the Tata Group for 21 years credited with transforming the group from a conventional corporate house into a $100 billion global conglomerate with high-profile acquisitions abroad.2) Azim Premji: The Indian IT industry who turned Wipro from a cooking oil company into an $8.5 billion IT behemoth retired this July as the conglomerate's chairman and managing director. The third richest Indian with a wealth of 1,17,100 crore according to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List.3) Lakshmi Mittal: LN Mittal-led global steel giant ArcelorMittal concluded a 42,000 crore acquisition of debt-laden Essar Steel.4) Cyrus S. Poonawalla: Cyrus Poonawalla is not only one of the richest men in India, one of the most popular on Google. The 77-year-old runs the Serum Institute of India, the world's biggest vaccine manufacturer, by several doses produced and sold. In one of the largest real estate deals in Mumbai, the billionaire had bought Lincoln House in the Breach Candy area of south Mumbai for a mind-boggling sum of 750 crore.5) Anand Mahindra: One of the few industrialists to pour his heart out on Twitter almost daily. Mahindra & Mahindra chairman Anand Mahindra will transition to the role of non-executive chairman from 1 April 2020.6) Shiv Nadar: HCL Technologies is now an $8.6 billion global IT company. He is also known for his philanthropic initiatives.7) Gautam Adani: A college dropout, the billionaire, is known as the ports tycoon of India.8) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw: He is among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2010, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon, Asia's leading bio-pharmaceuticals enterprise.9) Uday Kotak: The 60-year-old billionaire banker is the managing director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank.10) Radhakishan Damani: The retail king of India runs Avenue Supermarts operates D-Mart retail stores. A college dropout, Damani had started his career as a stockbroker.
National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur

National Tribal Dance Festival begun in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, The inaugural function presided over by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

National Tribal Dance Festival

The National Tribal Dance Festival organized in Chhattisgarh for the first time. Around 1300 participants from 25 states & UTs of the country and six countries participating in this three-day dance fest. These folk dance teams will present their respective folk art cultures. The three days, 29 tribal troupes present more than 43 styles of four different dance forms.

Significance

The National Tribal Dance Festival is an annual festival celebrated by the aborigines and tribal of India in the National Capital Region, of India i.e. New Delhi. This Tribal Dance Festival annually during the month of December. It is organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with IGRMS, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Mandu Festival begins at Mandu Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh, the 5-day Mandu festival, started in Mandu, a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state. The Mandu festival will redefine the essence of the city & bring about the joy of establishing a new tourism hub in the state. The Mandu festival celebrated till January 1. The rich classical and traditional folk arts of dance, singing, and playing once again come alive through the Mandu festival. The idea of Khojne Me Kho Jao, the Mandu festival, is offering an eclectic mix of performing arts, workshops, nature trails, food, architecture, and music to the visitors. The trail on cycling tours, walking tours, or jump onto the Hop-In-Hop-Out buses to dive deep into the rich history of the city.
QUIZ CORNER

1) How many rakes of Vande Bharat Trains from ICF brought to Indian Railways?

A. 46
B. 44
C. 48
D. 50

Answer B

Explanation Indian Railways to Procure 44 rakes of Vande Bharat Trains from ICF.

2) Which search engine got Operation Twist surge in India?

A. Yahoo
B. Google
C. Ask.com
D. Bing

Answer B

Explanation Google searches for Operation Twist surge in India.

3) When National Farmers Day observed?

A. August 25
B. December 23
C. November 16
D. September 25

Answer B

Explanation National Farmers Day observed on December 23.

4) How many Hunar Haats to be organised in next five years by Central government?
A.89
B.100
C.95
D.93

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Central government to organize 100 Hunar Haats in next five years.

5) Which country along with Oman signed MoU to enhance trade and economic cooperation?

A. Iran
B. UAE
C. France
D. Pakistan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** UAE and Oman sign MoU to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

6) Which university won SASTRA Ramanujan Award?

A. Stanford University
B. Warwick University
C. University of Cambridge
D. University of Oxford

**Answer B**


7) Who is appointed as Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation?

A. Rajesh Sharma
B. Shiv Das Meena
C. Ramsh Kumar
Shiv Das Meena is appointed as Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation.

8) Who became the first Sportsperson To Top Forbes India Celebrity 100 List?

A. MS Dhoni  
B. Virat Kohli  
C. Ravindra Jadeja  
D. Mohammed Shami

Answer B  
Explanation Virat Kohli became the first Sportsperson To Top Forbes India Celebrity 100 List.

9) Which bank partners With Gujarat Govt to Provide MSME Loans?

A. Dena Bank  
B. Bank of Baroda  
C. Axis Bank  
D. Canara Bank

Answer B  
Explanation Bank Of Baroda Partners With Gujarat Govt To Provide MSME Loans.

10) Which state government targetting MSME loans worth Rs 62,000 cr in 2019-20?

A. Rajasthan  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala

Answer B  
Explanation Uttar Pradesh government targetting MSME loans worth Rs 62,000 cr in 2019-20
11) Which country agreed with India to accelerate Chabahar development?

A. Pakistan  
B. Iran  
C. Russia  
D. Denmark

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India and Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar development.

12) Which company launched skilling platform to train 10,000 engineering students?

A. Wipro  
B. Infosys  
C. Cognizant  
D. CTS

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Wipro to launch skilling platform to train 10,000 engineering students.

13) How many crores did Uttar Pradesh government targetting MSME loans worth in 2019-20?

A. 62,000 crores  
B. 54,000 crores  
C. 58,000 crores  
D. 53,000 crores

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Uttar Pradesh government targetting MSME loans worth Rs 62,000 cr in 2019-20.

14) Which state partnered with Bank of Baroda to Provide MSME Loans?

A. Tamil Nadu
B.Kerala
C.Gujarat
D.Andhra Pradesh

Answer C

Explanation Bank Of Baroda Partners With Gujarat Govt To Provide MSME Loans

15) Indian Archaeologist honoured in _____________

A.Bangladesh
B.Iran
C.Pakistan
D.Afghanistan

Answer A

Explanation Indian Archaeologist honoured in Bangladesh

16) Which country constructed Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School at Kirtipur?

A.Pakistan
B.India
C.Iran
D.Bangladesh

Answer B

Explanation India constructs Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School at Kirtipur.

17) Wipro to launch skilling platform to train _____________ engineering students

A.8,500
B.10,000
C.9,600
D.9,000
Answer B

Explanation Wipro to launch skilling platform to train 10,000 engineering students.

18) How many dollars did Asian Development Bank loan to upgrade Indian state roads?

A. 485
B. 490
C. 480
D. 482

Answer B

Explanation ADB 490 million dollars loan to upgrade Indian state roads.

19) Who will present the National ICT Awards 2017?

A. Shri Vikram Krishna
B. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
C. Shri Dinesh kumar
D. Shri Ramesh krishna

Answer B

Explanation Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shri Sanjay Dhotre confers the National ICT Awards 2017.

20) India constructs Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School at

A. Pokhara
B. Kathmandu
C. Birgunj
D. Kirtipur

Answer D

Explanation India constructs Girls Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School at Kirtipur.
21) Which country joined with Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar development?

A. Pakistan  
B. India  
C. Russia  
D. New Zealand  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India and Iran agree to accelerate Chabahar development.

22) Central government to organize 100 Hunar Haats in next __________ years

A. 5  
B. 4  
C. 3  
D. 2  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Central government to organize 100 Hunar Haats in next five years.

23) Shiv Das Meena appointed as ________ of Patna Metro Rail Corporation

A. Vice President  
B. Chairman  
C. Vice Chairman  
D. Executive  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation.

24) UAE and ____ sign MoU to enhance trade and economic cooperation

A. Saudi Arabia  
B. Oman  
C. Iraq
D.Iran

**Answer B**

**Explanation** UAE and Oman sign MoU to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

**25) Google searches for Operation Twist surge in ____________**

A. USA  
B. India  
C. Pakistan  
D. Russia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Google searches for Operation Twist surge in India.

**26) What is the age limit for the prize SASTRA Ramanujan Prize?**

A. 26  
B. 30  
C. 28  
D. 32

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The age limit for the prize set at 32 (the age at which Ramanujan died), and the current award is $10,000.

**27) Who is named as first woman CTO at FCC in US?**

A. Sudha Srinivasan  
B. Monisha Ghosh  
C. Vinitha Sridhar  
D. Reshmi Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Monisha Ghosh named as first woman CTO at FCC in US
28) When Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises was founded?
A. 2008  
B. 2007  
C. 2010  
D. 2012  

**Answer B**


29) Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman of _________Metro Rail Corporation
A. Patna  
B. Kolkata  
C. Noida  
D. Jaipur  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Shiv Das Meena appointed as Chairman of Patna Metro Rail Corporation.

30) Who is the President of Asian Development Bank?
A. Masatsugu Asakawa  
B. Takehiko Nakao  
C. Jin Liqun  
D. K. V. Kamath  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Takehiko Nakao is the President of Asian Development Bank.

31) Virat Kohli Becomes First Sportsperson To Top Forbes India Celebrity _________List
A. 102  
B. 100  


Virat Kohli Becomes First Sportsperson To Top Forbes India Celebrity 100 List.

32) Who laid the foundation stone two IPUs of Sikkim IFFCO?
A. Pema Khandu
B. Prem Singh Tamang
C. Nitish Kumar
D. K.V. Kamath

Answer B

Explanation Prem Singh Tamang laid the foundation stone two IPUs of Sikkim IFFCO

33) When Federal Communications Commission was founded?
A. 1935
B. 1934
C. 1936
D. 1937

Answer B

Explanation Federal Communications Commission is an independent agency of the United States government created by statute to regulate interstate communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. It is founded in the year 1934.

34) When National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was founded?
A. 1985
B. 1982
C. 1984
D. 1986

Answer B
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was founded on 1982.

35) Who won the Men Singles title in ITF World Champions for 2019?
A. Novak Djokovic
B. Rafael Nadal
C. John McEnroe
D. Pete Sampras

**Answer B**

Explanation Rafael Nadal won the Men Singles title in ITF World Champions for 2019.

36) Who honoured the winners for outstanding contributions in Films at 66th National Film Awards?
A. Shri Venkaiah Naidu
B. Shri Suresh Menon
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar
D. Shri Nitish Kumar

**Answer A**

Explanation Shri Venkaiah Naidu honoured the winners for outstanding contributions in Films at 66th National Film Awards.

37) Which State approves Rs 5.5K cr projects?
A. Tamil Nadu
B. Haryana
C. Kerala
D. Bihar

**Answer B**

Explanation Haryana approves Rs 5.5K cr projects.

38) Who organised the Nagpur Resolution adopted at regional conference?
A. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture  
B. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances  
C. Department of Food & Civil Supplies  
D. Director General of Income Tax

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Nagpur Resolution adopted at regional conference organized by DARPG.

**39) How many crore projects are approved by Haryana Govt?**

A. 6.2 K  
B. 6.0 K  
C. 5.8 K  
D. 5.5 K

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Haryana approved Rs 5.5K cr projects

**40) Who released the mobile app of Red Cross Society of India?**

A. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
B. Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
C. Shri Dinesh gupta  
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind releases mobile app of Red Cross Society of India

**41) Who is appointed as appointed as Foreign Secretary?**

A. Shri Dinesh Kumar  
B. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla  
C. Shri Vikram Sharma  
D. Shri Rajesh Sharma

**Answer B**
Explanation Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla is appointed as appointed as Foreign Secretary.

42) Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani adds __________ to his fortune in 2019

A.$ 18 billion  
B.$ 15 billion  
C.$ 16 billion  
D.$ 19 billion  

Answer A

Explanation Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani adds $18 billion to his fortune in 2019.

43) Who attends Integrated Financial Advisors Workshop?

A.Shri Rajnath Singh  
B.Shri Rajesh Sharma  
C.Shri Vikram Singh  
D.Shri Prakash Javedakar  

Answer A

Explanation Shri Rajnath Singh attended Integrated Financial Advisors Workshop

44) Who inaugurated DNA Analysis Centre at CFSL Chandigarh?

A.Vikram Sharma  
B.Sudha Rajesh  
C.Nityanand Rai  
D.Dinesh Kumar  

Answer C

Explanation Nityanand Rai inaugurates DNA Analysis Centre at CFSL Chandigarh.

45) Who is appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20?

A.Sudha Krishnan  
B.Sangita Reddy
C.Laksmi Kumar
D.Vidya Balan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Sangita Reddy is appointed as the President of FICCI for 2019-20

**46) Who added $18 billion to his fortune in 2019?**

A.Azim Premji
B.Ratan Tata
C.Gautam Adani
D.Mukesh Ambhani

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani adds $18 billion to his fortune in 2019

**47) When Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances was founded?**

A.1963
B.1965
C.1964
D.1968

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances was founded on 1964.

**48) Where was Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry located?**

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

**Answer B**
Explanation Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry located at New Delhi.

49) Oxygen Parlour inaugurated at ______Railway Station

A. Abhaipur  
B. Nashik  
C. Ahmadnagar  
D. Allahabad  

Answer B

Explanation Oxygen Parlour inaugurated at Nashik Railway Station.

50) Where Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) located?

A. Hyderabad  
B. Mumbai  
C. Chennai  
D. Secunderabad  

Answer A

Explanation Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) located at Hyderabad. The Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, which fulfills the forensic requirements in the country.

51) When Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry founded?

A. 1928  
B. 1927  
C. 1929  
D. 1926  

Answer B

Explanation Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is an association of business organisations in India. It is founded in the year 1927.
52) Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as ____________ UN in Geneva

A. Vice Chancellor
B. Vice Secretary
C. General Secretary
D. Foreign Secretary

**Answer D**

*Explanation* Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as Foreign Secretary along the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva, and Amita Nair (1983) who is serving as India's ambassador to Chile.

53) When Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics was founded?

A. 1992
B. 1991
C. 1990
D. 1993

**Answer C**

*Explanation* Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) is an Indian Biotechnology research centre, located in Hyderabad, India. It is operated by the Department of Biotechnology which is established at 1990.

54) Where National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development located?

A. Chennai
B. Mumbai
C. Secunderabad
D. Patna

**Answer B**

*Explanation* National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is an Apex Development Financial Institution in India. It is headquartered at Mumbai.

55) When Indian Red Cross Society founded?
A.1923
B.1922
C.1920
D.1924

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian Red Cross Society is a voluntary humanitarian organization to protect human life and health based in India. It is Founded as 1920.

56) **What is the total cost of Four works of total 640 Route KM?**

A. Rs. 1820 Crores
B. Rs. 1815 Crores
C. Rs. 1810 Crores
D. Rs. 1825 Crores

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Four works of total 640 Route KM at a total cost of Rs. 1810 Crores sanctioned as pilot projects in Supplementary WP 2018-19 for extensive trials of Modern Train Control System.

57) **Vice President of India honours winners for outstanding contributions in Films at ______ National Film Awards**

A. 68
B. 65
C. 66
D. 69

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Vice President of India honours winners for outstanding contributions in Films at 66th National Film Awards.

58) **What was the approximate overall budget of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana?**

A. 53 billion
B. 56 billion  
C. 55 billion  
D. 54 billion  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana to improve farm productivity and ensure better utilization of the resources in the country. The budget of 53 billion in a time span of one year 2015-2016 allocated to this scheme.

59) Where is the headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Red Cross Society is a voluntary humanitarian organization to protect human life and health based in India located at New Delhi.

60) How many crores did Centre approves Loan to Tamil Nadu For Building Fishing Harbours?

A. 454  
B. 456  
C. 453  
D. 457  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Centre Approves Rs 453 Crore Loan To Tamil Nadu For Building Fishing Harbours

61) GeM Samvaad takes off in _______ States

A. 5  
B. 4  
C. 6
62) Which country did IAF Chief visited recently for bilateral talks?
A. Saudi Arabia  
B. Egypt  
C. France  
D. England  

Answer B
Explanation IAF Chief to visit Egypt for bilateral talks.

63) Which country test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System?
A. Australia  
B. India  
C. Russia  
D. Iran  

Answer B
Explanation India test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System.

64) Which state launched Netanna Nestham welfare scheme for weavers?
A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Bihar  
C. Kerala  
D. Tamil Nadu  

Answer A
Explanation Andhra Pradesh CM launched Netanna Nestham welfare scheme for weavers.

65) When NITI Aayog was formed?
A.2016  
B.2014  
C.2013  
D.2015

**Answer D**

**Explanation** NITI Aayog is a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim to achieve sustainable development goals. Established in 2015.

**66) Who is awarded Army Design Bureau Excellence Award?**
A. Suresh Sharma  
B. Anoop Mishra  
C. Dinesh Kumar  
D. Vikram Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Major Anoop Mishra awarded Army Design Bureau Excellence Award

**67) Which state got approved rs 453 Crore for Fisheries?**
A. Kerala  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Bihar  
D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Centre Approves Rs 453 Crore Loan To Tamil Nadu For Building Fishing Harbours

**68) How much did the annual incentive for Netanna Nestham welfare scheme?**
A. 25,000  
B. 24,000  
C. 26,000  
D. 28,000
Answer B

Explanation  Andhra Pradesh CM launched Netanna Nestham welfare scheme for weavers.

69) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation headquarters located ?
   A. Chennai
   B. New Delhi
   C. Hyderabad
   D. Secunderabad

   Answer B

Explanation  Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation headquarters located at New Delhi.

70) What is the operational range of QRSAM?
   A. 30 km
   B. 28 km
   C. 32 km
   D. 33 km

   Answer A

Explanation  Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) is a missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The operational range is 30 km.

71) When Indian Air Force was founded?
   A. 1933
   B. 1932
   C. 1934
   D. 1935

   Answer A

Explanation  Indian Air Force is of the Indian Armed Forces complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks. It is founded on the 1932.
72) When the Royapuram fishing harbour was constructed?

A. 1972  
B. 1975  
C. 1973  
D. 1974

Answer B

Explanation The Royapuram fishing harbour was constructed in the year 1975.

73) Who is the chief of IAF?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Dinesh Gupta

Answer B

Explanation The current CAS is Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria who took office on 30 September 2019.

74) India pays homage to Shaheed Udham Singh on his _______ birth anniversary

A. 119  
B. 120  
C. 116  
D. 118

Answer B

Explanation India pays homage to Shaheed Udham Singh on his 120th birth anniversary.

75) Who made policy makers to place citizen welfare at the center of governance?
A. Shri Narendra Modi  
B. Shri Venkaiah Naidu  
C. Shri Rajesh Sharma  
D. Shri Ramesh Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Vice President made policy makers to place citizen welfare at the center of governance.

**76) Who launched Atal scheme on groundwater?**

A. Shri Suresh Sharma  
B. Shri Narendra Modi  
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
D. Shri Venkatesh Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shri Narendra Modi launched Atal scheme on groundwater.

**77) When Ministry of Defence was founded?**

A. 1952  
B. 1947  
C. 1948  
D. 1950

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ministry of Defence is equipped with coordinating and supervising all agencies. It is founded on 15 August 1947.

**78) The solar eclipse as a partial eclipse and can be viewed first from**

A. Russia  
B. Saudi Arabia  
C. India
D. France

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The ring of fire - the solar eclipse or Surya Grahan initially be visible as a partial eclipse and can be viewed first from Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

79) Which company to invest 50,000 crores for 10 GW solar capacity?

A. NTPC  
B. BHEL  
C. BEL  
D. Ashok Leyland

**Answer A**

**Explanation** NTPC to add 10 GW of solar energy generation capacity by 2022. An investment of 50,000 crores to be funded mainly by green bonds.

80) Which state government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at Ramayapatnam?

A. Bihar  
B. Andhra Pradesh  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at Ramayapatnam.

81) NTPC to invest 50,000 crores for ___________ solar capacity

A. 15 GW  
B. 10 GW  
C. 20 GW  
D. 25 GW

**Answer B**
NTPC to invest 50,000 crores for 10 GW solar capacity.

82) Which state Good Governance Index on big states?
A. West Bengal
B. Kerala
C. Tamil Nadu
D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer C

The Big States of Good Governance Index. Tamil Nadu topped the Good Governance Index. The poor performers are Odisha, Bihar, Goa, and Uttar Pradesh with Jharkhand finishing last in the group.

83) Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs _________ cr at Ramayapatnam
A. 12 k
B. 15 k
C. 12k
D. 10k

Answer D

Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at Ramayapatnam.

84) Who bagged Young Scientist Awards and Best Research Paper award in ISSAR National Conference?
A. Ramesh Kumar
B. K Vasu
C. Rajesh Kumar
D. Vikram Sharma

Answer B

K Vasu bagged Young Scientist Awards and Best Research Paper award in ISSAR National Conference.
85) Which state Cabinet approves farm loan waiver, meal scheme for poor?

A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Goa

**Answer C**

Explanation Maharashtra Cabinet approves farm loan waiver, meal scheme for poor.

86) Who took over as Assocham President?

A. Lakshmi Mittal  
B. Niranjan Hiranandani  
C. Adi Burjorji Godrej  
D. Ch. Raghvendra Singh

**Answer B**

Explanation Niranjan Hiranandani takes over as Assocham President.

87) Which year the Digital Radio will be launched?

A. 2023  
B. 2024  
C. 2025  
D. 2026

**Answer A**

Explanation Digital Radio to be launched in 2024.

88) India first Transgender University to come up in ____________

A. Kerala  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Himachal Pradesh
India first Transgender University to come up in Uttar Pradesh.

89) Which Metropolitan Transport Corporation launches new app with trip planner live bus tracking?
A. Noida
B. Bangalore
C. Karnataka
D. Kerala

Answer B

Explanation Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's new service for Bengaluru and its periphery launched its new official mobile app titled My BMTC.

90) Which state government Raises Retirement age of TSRTC Employees to 60 Years?
A. Kerala
B. Teleganna
C. TamilNadu
D. Bihar

Answer B

Explanation Teleganna Govt Raises Retirement age of TSRTC Employees to 60 Years

91) How many Nari Shakti Puraskar will be given away on International Womens Day?
A. 45
B. 42
C. 40
D. 48

Answer C

92) Who inaugurated second edition of Eat Right Mela?
A. Shri Ramesh Kumar  
B. Shri Harsh Vardhan  
C. Shri Rajesh Kumar  
D. Shri Harsh Vardhan  

Answer D  
Explaination  Shri Harsh Vardhan inaugurated second edition of Eat Right Mela

93) Which Indian cricketer name got listed in the Wisden cricketers of the decade?
A. Suresh Raina  
B. MS Dhoni  
C. Virat Kohli  
D. Rohit Sharma  

Answer C  
Explaination  Virat Kohli named in Wisden cricketers of the decade list.

94) Who won Bengaluru Open Golf Championship?
A. Rashid Khan  
B. Abhinav Lohan  
C. Shankar Das  
D. Chiragh Kumar  

Answer B  
Explaination  Abhinav Lohan won Bengaluru Open Golf Championship.

95) Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at
A. Ghaziabad
B. Ramayapatnam
C. Gopalganj
D. Hyderabad

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Andhra Pradesh government proposes seaport worth Rs 10k cr at Ramayapatnam.

96) How many crores did NTPC planned to invest for 10 GW solar capacity?

A. 55,000
B. 50,000
C. 52,000
D. 58,000

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NTPC to invest 50,000 crores for 10 GW solar capacity.

97) When ASSOCHAM was founded?

A. 1920
B. 1921
C. 1928
D. 1925

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India one of the apex trade associations of India founded on 1921.

98) Who won the best research paper- in reproductive biotechnology session (RBT) oral?

A. Suresh
B. Mannathy
C.Rajesh Sharma
D.Vikram

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Assistant Professor, CVAS, Mannuthy won the best research paper in reproductive biotechnology session (RBT) oral. KVASU bagged Young Scientist Awards and Best Research Paper award in XXXV ISSAR National Conference held at VCRI, Namakkal.

99) Which north east state topped the Good Governance Day?

A. Manipur  
B. Himachal Pradesh  
C. Meghalaya  
D. Nagaland

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Himachal Pradesh topped the index, followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram, and Sikkim in the Good Governance Index.

100) When NTPC Limited was founded?

A. 1973  
B. 1975  
C. 1972  
D. 1971

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NTPC Limited was founded in the year 1975.

101) When Shaheed Udham Singh was born?

A. 1898  
B. 1899  
C. 1891  
D. 1893

**Answer B**
Explanation Shaheed Udham Singh was born in the year 1899. He was a revolutionary belonging to the Ghadar Party best known for his assassination in London.

102) Who is the governor of Uttar Pradesh?

A. Viral Acharya  
B. Anandiben Patel  
C. N. K. Singh  
D. Duvvuri Subbarao

Answer B

Explanation Anandiben Patel is the governor of Uttar Pradesh.

103) When Nari Shakti Puraskar was first awarded?

A. 1996  
B. 1998  
C. 1999  
D. 1997

Answer C

Explanation It is a Woman Power Award for recognising the achievements and contributions of women.

104) All India Radio officially known Akashvani from _____________

A. 1959  
B. 1958  
C. 1956  
D. 1962

Answer C

Explanation All India Radio is officially known since 1956 as Akashvani

105) When Ministry of Women and Child Development was founded?


A.2007
B.2006
C.2008
D.2009

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ministry of Women and Child Development was founded in the year 2006. Ministry of Women and Child Development is a body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations.

**106) HRD Minister launches ___________documents developed by UGC**

A. Three
B. Five
C. Second
D. Six

**Answer B**

**Explanation** HRD Minister launches five documents developed by UGC.

**107) China Russia and Iran to hold naval drills in _________________**

A. Gulf of Aden
B. Gulf of Oman
C. Gulf of Fonseca
D. Gulf of Burgas

**Answer B**

**Explanation** China Russia and Iran to hold naval drills in Gulf of Oman.

**108) Which country set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020**

A. Saudi Arabia
B. India
C. Pakistan
D. Russia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020.

109) For which state Hemant Soren will take oath as Chief Minister?

A. West Bengal  
B. Jharkhand  
C. Tamil Nadu  
D. Kerala

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM on December 29.

110) India set to cross _______ renewable energy capacity mark in 2020

A. 120 GW  
B. 105 GW  
C. 110 GW  
D. 100 GW

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020.

111) Who released the postage stamp to mark service of DRI?

A. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
B. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman  
C. Smt Smriti Irani  
D. Shri Suresh Prabhu

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Smt Nirmala Sitharaman released the postage stamp to mark service of DRI.

112) Which country carried out first execution of foreigner in 10 years?
A. China  
B. Japan  
C. Pakistan  
D. Netherlands  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** Japan executed its first foreigner in 10 years on a Chinese man convicted in the 2003 murder and robbery of a family of four.  

113) Which company got nod for Rs 3,500 cr onshore exploration project in Assam?  
A. Larsen and Turbo  
B. ONGC  
C. Ashok Leyland  
D. Reliance Limited  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** ONGC gets green nod for Rs 3,500 cr onshore exploration project in Assam. State-run ONGC received environment clearance (EC) for carrying out onshore exploration, development and production of oil and gas in 100 locations.  

114) Japan carries out first execution of foreigner in _______ years  
A. 8 years  
B. 4 years  
C. 7 years  
D. 10 years  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** Japan carries out first execution of foreigner in 10 years.  

115) Which state CM launched Abhinandan scheme?  
A. Punjab  
B. Bihar
C. Assam
D. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches welfare scheme for students. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the state government's Abhinandan scheme during a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati.

116) Who is appointed as Principal Secretary in West Bengal?

A. Suresh Sharma
B. Rajeev Kumar
C. Rajesh Kumar
D. Vikram Singh

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Former Kolkata Police Chief Rajeev Kumar appointed as Principal Secretary in West Bengal.

117) Who meet Sh Kiren Rijiju for India movement recently?

A. Suresh Kumar
B. Dr Harsh Vardhan
C. Suresh Prabhu
D. Vikram Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Dr Harsh Vardhan and Sh Kiren Rijiju meet for convergent thrust to Fit India movement.

118) Which company ink with Citicorp Finance for commercial vehicles financing?

A. Reliance limited
B. Ashok Leyland
C. Larsen and tourbo Company
D.Tech Mahindra

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Ashok Leyland company ink with Citicorp Finance for commercial vehicles financing

119) Which payments bank enables 24x7 NEFT transfers?

A. Airtel Payments Bank  
B. Paytm Payments Bank  
C. India Post Payments Bank  
D. Fino Payments Bank

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Airtel Payments Bank enables 24x7 NEFT transfers

120) India Japan hold ______ round of maritime dialogue

A. 5th  
B. 4th  
C. 3rd  
D. 2nd

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India and Japan hold 5th round of maritime dialogue.

121) Which express was launched by Indian Railways?

A. Maharashtra Sampark Kranti Express  
B. Him Darshan Express  
C. Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani Express  
D. Jan Sadharan Express

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Indian Railways started a seven coach glass-enclosed vista dome train on the heritage Kalka-Shimla route.
122) National Tribal Dance Festival begins in ___________

A. Raipur  
B. Jodhpur  
C. Buxar  
D. Gopalganj

**Answer A**

**Explanation** National Tribal Dance Festival begins in Raipur.

123) Who won Unicef-2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Kama Reddy  
C. Dinesh Gupta  
D. Vikram Sharma

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Kama Reddy won Unicef-2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation.

124) How many crores did the Government to infuse to Allahabad Bank, IOB and UCO Bank?

A. 8654  
B. 8655  
C. 8658  
D. 8659

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The government of India approved the release of Rs 8,655 crore as fresh capital to three public sector banks. The bank includes Allahabad Bank, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and UCO Bank.

125) When Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign was launched?

A. 2015
B.2014
C.2016
D.2018

Answer B

Explanation Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign launched on 2 October 2014 on Gandhi Jayanti, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing 90 million toilets in rural India at a projected cost of 1.96 lakh crore.

126) ONGC gets green nod for __________ onshore exploration project in Assam
A.3560
B.3500
C.3550
D.3590

Answer B

Explanation ONGC gets green nod for Rs 3,500 cr onshore exploration project in Assam.

127) Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM on ___________
A.December 28
B.December 29
C.December 30
D.December 31

Answer B

Explanation Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM on December 29.

128) India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in ___________
A.2022
B.2020
C.2021
D.2023
India set to cross 100GW renewable energy capacity mark in 2020. The government needs to promote storage to ensure a 24x7 clean energy supply as coal-fired thermal power.

129) When JIMEX - Japan-India Maritime Exercise was conducted?
A. 2014
B. 2013
C. 2015
D. 2016

Answer B

Explanation Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) conducted in waters off the Indian coast is scheduled in the Bay of Bengal from 19th December to 22nd December 2013.

130) Japan carries out first execution of foreigner in ______ years
A. 8
B. 10
C. 7
D. 6

Answer C

Explanation Japan carries out first execution of foreigner in 10 years.

131) Who conferred with the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) highest award Life Achievement honor?
A. Dr. Dinesh Kumar
B. Dr. Santosh G Honavar
C. Dr. Vikram Shama
D. Dr. Rajesh Sharma

Answer B

Explanation Dr. Santosh G Honavar, India's ophthalmologist conferred with the American
Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) highest award Life Achievement honor. He is the first Indian chosen for the honor. The award presented to Dr. Honavar recently at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology held in San Francisco.

132) Who launched mobile app for DefExpo 2020?
A. Shri Vikram Sharma
B. Shri Rajnath Singh
C. Shri Rajesh Sharma
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

Answer B

Explanation Rajnath Singh launches mobile app for DefExpo 2020. The main features of the app are inform, engage and feedback. The app provides detailed information about the day-to-day events; participating exhibitors; Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), guest speakers of seminars, webinars; publications about electronic brochures and e-books; maps and directions of the venues and city weather.

133) Who released the book titled Politics of Opportunism?
A. Ravi Shankar
B. S Gurumurthy
C. Dinesh Kumar
D. Vikram Sharma

Answer B


134) Which country planned to send warship patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in Middle East?
A. China
B. Japan
C. India
D. Indonesia
Answer B

Explanation Japan govt to send warship patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in Middle East. The rare overseas deployment will be limited to intelligence-gathering.

135) Bharat Heavy Electricals commissions India first lignite based ________ MW thermal unit
A. 550 MW  
B. 560 MW  
C. 500 MW  
D. 580 MW  

Answer C

Explanation Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) commissioned the first lignite-based 500 MW thermal unit in Neyveli New Thermal Power Project in Tamil Nadu. The countrys first lignite-fired 500 MW power plant, but also its highest-rated pulverized lignite-fired thermal unit commissioned.

136) Which bank launched tab banking service?
A. Vijaya Bank  
B. Karnataka Bank  
C. Dena Bank  
D. Canara Bank  

Answer B

Explanation Karnataka Bank launched tab banking service. The TAB banking account opening process, the Bank can on-board the prospective customer and open the Savings Bank Account.

137) Which company signed two-year deal with YES Bank for vehicle financing?
A. Tech Mahindra  
B. Ashok Leyland  
C. Larsen and tourbo  
D. Reliance Limited
Answer B

Explaination Ashok Leyland signed two-year deal with YES Bank for vehicle financing. The companies inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the partnership.

138) Which insurance launched Health Insurance approves DIY Doctor Approved and Simplified by Kids?

A. Tata AIA Life Insurance
B. Digit Insurance
C. PNB MetLife Life Insurance
D. DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance

Answer B

Explaination Digit Insurance launched Health Insurance approves DIY Doctor Approved and Simplified by Kids.

139) Which bank signed two-year deal with Ashok Leyland for vehicle financing?

A. State Bank of India
B. Corporation Bank
C. Canara bank
D. Yes Bank

Answer D

Explanation Ashok Leyland signed two-year deal with YES Bank for vehicle financing.

140) Which country banned Indian Vehicles On Pokhara Roads Ahead of New Year?

A. Nepal
B. Bangladesh
C. Pakistan
D. Sri Lanka

Answer A
Nepal banned vehicles with Indian number plates from running in the tourist hub of Pokhara ahead of the new year.

### 141) When Competition Commission of India was founded?

A. 2004  
B. 2003  
C. 2005  
D. 2006  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Competition Commission of India is a governing body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002. It is established on 14 October 2003.

### 142) Which country ranks 47th in house price appreciation during July, September?

A. Pakistan  
B. India  
C. Indonesia  
D. Saudi Arabia  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India ranks 47th in house price appreciation during July, September. India stood at 11th position in the April-June quarter of 2019, with a 7.7 percent year-on-year rise in home prices.

### 143) Which country deployed its first Avangard Hypersonic missile system?

A. Indonesia  
B. Russia  
C. Iraq  
D. Cambodia  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Russia deploys its first Avangard Hypersonic missile system.
144) Who inaugurates the National Workshop of HRD Ministry?

A. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal  
B. Shri Arun Jaitley  
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
D. Shri Rajesh Sharma

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates the National Workshop of HRD Ministry.

145) Which country successfully launched largest carrier rocket?

A. China  
B. Russia  
C. Pakistan  
D. Indonesia

**Answer A**

**Explanation** China successfully launches largest carrier rocket.

146) Who chaired the review meeting of Ministry of DoNER?

A. Dr Suresh Kumar  
B. Dr Jitendra Singh  
C. Dr Prakash Javedakar  
D. Dr Naresh Kumar

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a review meeting of the activities of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

147) Ratan Tata Gautam Adani among India's top _______most Googled business tycoons
ata Sons chairman Ratan Tata emerged as India's most searched business tycoon on Google in 2019. Google released a Year in Search 2019 report shows what was trending on the world's largest search engine during the year in India.

148) Reserve Bank of India large cooperative banks to report all exposures of Rs ________ crore

A.8  
B.5  
C.7  
D.6

Answer B

Explanation Reserve Bank of India large cooperative banks to report all exposures of Rs 5 crore. Reserve Bank of India created a CRILC of commercial banks all India financial institutions, and individual non-banking financial companies with multiple objectives, which, among others, include strengthening offsite supervision and early recognition of financial distress. RBI announced that to bring UCBs with assets of Rs 500 crore and above under the CRILC reporting framework.

149) Which institute created new technology to boost production of Geranium?

A. Indian Institute of Architects  
B. All India Institute of Medical Sciences  
C. Indian Institute of Chemical Technology  
D. CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology

Answer D

Explanation CSIR Institute created new technology to boost production of Geranium. Geranium plant has substantial medicinal value, and their essential oil works as an anti-inflammatory and
anti-septic agent.

150) BSNL gets _______ cr from Bharat Broadband Nigam to clear BharatNet vendor dues

A. 778  
B. 770  
C. 768  
D. 750

Answer B

Explanation BSNL gets 770 cr from Bharat Broadband Nigam to clear BharatNet vendor dues.

151) Who launches common e-auction platform for assets attached by banks?

A. Ramesh Kumar  
B. Nirmala Sitharaman  
C. Prakash Javedakar  
D. Suresh Prabhu

Answer B

Explanation Nirmala Sitharaman launches common e-auction platform for assets attached by banks.

152) Who obtained first place in India's top 10 most Googled business tycoons?

A. Mukesh Ambhani  
B. Ratan Tata  
C. Lakshmi Mittal  
D. Azim Premji

Answer B

Explanation Ratan Tata obtained first place in India's top 10 most Googled business tycoons. Tata Group patriarch Google's most searched Indian business personality in 2019. He heads the Tata Group for 21 years credited with transforming the group from a conventional corporate house into a $100 billion
153) Where is the headquarters of BSNL located?

A. New Delhi  
B. Pune  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Bangalore

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company. The company headquartered in New Delhi.

154) When CSIR Institute was established?

A. 1941  
B. 1942  
C. 1943  
D. 1944

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research established by the Government of India in September of 1942 autonomous body emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India.

155) Where was Reserve Bank of India located?

A. Chennai  
B. Mumbai  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Bangalore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Reserve Bank of India is India's central bank, which controls the issue and supply of the Indian rupee.

156) Where was HCL Technologies headquarters located?
A. New Delhi
B. Noida
C. Bangalore
D. Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** HCL Technologies Limited is multinational information technology service and consulting company headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

157) What is the satellite-ground communication tests using Q/V bands of Long March-5 Rocket?

A. 38 - 76 GHz
B. 33-75 GHz
C. 40 - 80 GHz
D. 50 - 70 GHz

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The satellite-ground communication tests using Q/V bands, which lie between 33-75 GHz, within the extremely high frequency (EHF) area of the radio spectrum.

158) Where was the headquarters of Kotak Mahindra Bank located?

A. Chennai
B. Mumbai
C. Bangalore
D. Pune

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The headquarters of Kotak Mahindra Bank located at Mumbai.

159) How many days did Mandu Festival take place?

A. 5 days
B. 4 days
C. 3 days
D.2 days

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Madhya Pradesh, the 5-day Mandu festival, started in Mandu, a world-famous picturesque tourist destination located in Dhar district of the state.

160) Where was Tech mahindra headquarters located?

A. Pune  
B. Bangalore  
C. Chennai  
D. Ranchi  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Tech Mahindra Limited, Indian multinational subsidiary of the Mahindra Group. Tech mahindra headquarters located at Pune.

161) Which country liberalizing financial system scraps benchmark lending rate?

A. Pakistan  
B. China  
C. Russia  
D. Saudi Arabia  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** China liberalizing financial system scraps benchmark lending rate.

162) Which company commissions India first lignite based 500 MW thermal unit?

A. Bharat Heavy Electricals  
B. Bajaj Electrical Ltd  
C. Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd  
D. Havells India Ltd  

**Answer A**
Explanation Bharat Heavy Electricals commissions India first lignite based 500 MW thermal unit.

163) S Gurumurthy releases book titled _____________

A. The Oxford Companion to Politics
B. Politics of Opportunism
C. The Indian Conservative
D. Society and Politics in India

Answer B


164) Where was the headquarters of Karnataka Bank located?

A. Mangalore
B. Bangalore
C. Chennai
D. Pune

Answer A

Explanation Karnataka Bank Limited is India's twelfth largest private sector bank. Its headquarters is Mangalore.

165) How many year deal was signed between Ashok Leyland and YES Bank?

A. 4
B. 2
C. 3
D. 5

Answer B

Explanation Ashok Leyland signed two-year deal with YES Bank for vehicle financing.

166) Avangard, previously known as ____________
A.Objekt 4204
B.Objekt 4202
C.Objekt 4206
D.Objekt 4205

Answer B

Explanation Avangard, previously known as Objekt 4202, Yu-71 and Yu-74, is a Russian hypersonic glide vehicle, that can be carried as a MIRV payload.

167) When Indian Air Force was founded?

A.1935
B.1932
C.1934
D.1936

Answer B

Explanation Indian Air Force is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. It is founded on 1932.

168) When Competition Commission of India was originated?

A.2004
B.2003
C.2005
D.2006

Answer B

Explanation Competition Commission of India is a statutory body of the Government of India. It was originated in 2003.

169) What is the Parent organization of Ashok Leyland?

A.Hinduja Group
B.Tata Group
C.Adani Group
D.Aditya Birla Group
Answer A

Explanation Ashok Leyland is the parent organisation of Hinduja Group
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